



PASSENGER JET MISTAKENLY HIT IN BID TO GET GADDAFI

Amato fingers France in '80 downing

Macron urged to deny or confirm

ROME, Sept 3, (AP): A former Italian premier, in an interview published on Saturday, contended that a French air force missile accidentally brought down a passenger jet over the Mediterranean Sea in 1980 in a failed bid to assassinate Libya's then leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Former two-time Premier Giuliano Amato appealed to French President Emmanuel Macron to either refute or confirm his assertion about the cause of the crash on June 27, 1980, which killed all 81 persons aboard the Italian domestic flight.

In an interview with Rome daily La Repubblica, Amato said he is convinced that France hit the plane while targeting a Libyan military jet.

While acknowledging he has no hard proof, Amato also contended that Italy tipped off Gaddafi, and so the Libyan, who was heading back to Tripoli from a meeting in Yugoslavia, didn't board the Libyan military jet.

What caused the crash is one of modern Italy's most enduring mysteries. Some say a bomb exploded aboard the Itavia jetliner on a flight from Bologna to Sicily, while others say examination of the wreckage, pulled up from the seafloor years later, indicate it was hit by a missile.

Radar traces indicated a flurry of aircraft activity in that part of the skies when the plane went down.

"The most credible version is that of responsibility of the French air force, in complicity with the Americans and who participated in a war in the skies that evening of June 27," Amato was quoted as saying.

NATO planned to "simulate an exercise, with many planes in action, during which a missile was supposed to be fired" with Gaddafi as the target, Amato said.

In the aftermath of the crash, French, U.S. and NATO officials denied any military activity in the skies that night.

According to Amato, a missile was allegedly fired by a French fighter jet that had taken off from an aircraft carrier, possibly off Corsica's southern coast.

Macron, 45, was a toddler when the Italian passenger jet went down in the sea near the tiny Italian island of Ustica.

"I ask myself why a young president like Macron, while age-wise extraneous to the Ustica tragedy, wouldn't want to remove the shame that weighs on France," Amato told La Repubblica. "And he can remove it in only two ways - either demonstrating that the thesis is unfounded or, once the (thesis) foundation is verified, by offering the deepest apologies to Italy and to the families of the victims in the name of his government."

Amato, who is 85, said that in 2000, when he was premier, he wrote to the then presidents of the United States and France, Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac, respectively, to press them to shed light on what happened. But ultimately, those entreaties yielded "total silence," Amato said.

When queried by The Associated Press, Macron's office said Saturday it wouldn't immediately comment on Amato's remarks.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni called on Amato to say if he has concrete elements to back his assertions so that her government could pursue any further investigation.

Amato's words "merit attention," Meloni said in a statement issued by her office, while noting that the former premier had specified that his assertions are "fruit of personal deductions."

Assertions of French involvement aren't new. In a 2008 television interview, former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, who was serving as premier when the crash occurred, blamed it on a French missile whose target had been a Libyan military jet and said he learned that Italy's secret services military branch had tipped off Gaddafi.

Gaddafi was killed in Libya's civil war in 2011. A few weeks after the crash, the wreckage of a Libyan MiG, with the badly decomposed body of its pilot, was discovered in the remote mountains of southern Calabria.



Left: Minister of Finance, Fahad Al-Jarallah and (right) Minister of Education, Adel Al-Manea take the oath in front of HH the Deputy Amir.

Two ministers appointed

A decree was issued Sunday appointing Dr. Adel Al-Manea as Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research and Fahad Al-Jarallah as Minister of Finance.

His Highness the Prime Minister must inform the National Assembly about the decree and issue it in the official Gazette.

His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who presented to His Highness Dr. Adel Al-Manea as the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

His Highness the Prime Minister also presented Fahad Al-Jarallah as the Minister of Finance and both ministers took the oath in front of His High-

ness the Deputy Amir on the occasion of their appointment to these posts.

His Highness Deputy Amir Sheikh Mishal advised the new ministers to double efforts for service of the homeland, underscoring necessity of cooperation with the legislative authority to face challenges and stimulate development.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by the Head of the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Undersecretary and Director of the AMIR Bureau Ambassador Ahmad Al-Fahad, Director of the Crown Prince Bureau (retired Lieutenant General) Jamal Al-Dhiabi and Undersecretary of the Foreign Affairs at the Bureau of the Crown Prince, Mazen Al-Issa. (KUNA)

Kenya opens climate summit

Poor forecasting keeps Africans underprepared

NAIROBI, Sept 3, (AP): Much of the world takes daily weather forecasts for granted. But most of Africa's 1.3 billion people live with little advance knowledge of what's to come. That can be both deadly and expensive, with damage running in the billions of dollars.

The first Africa Climate Summit opens Monday in Kenya to highlight the continent that will suffer the most from climate change while contributing to it the least. Significant investment in Africa's adaptation to climate change, including better forecasting, will be an urgent goal. At the heart of every issue on the agenda, from energy to agriculture, is the lack of data collection that drives decisions as crucial as when to plant - and when to flee.

The African continent is larger than China, India and the United States combined. And yet Africa has just 37 radar facilities for tracking weather, an essential tool along with satellite data and surface monitoring, according to a World Meteorological Organization database.

Europe has 345 radar facilities. North America, 291.

"The continent, at large, is in a climate risk blind spot," said Asaf Tzocher, a researcher at the Center for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge. In August, he and colleagues warned in a commentary for the journal Nature that climate change will cost Africa more than \$50 billion every year by 2050. By then, Africa's population is expected to double.

The widespread inability to track and forecast the weather affects key development choices, their commentary said: "There is no point investing in smallholder farms, for example, if floods are simply going to wash them away."

Kenya, the host of the climate summit, is one of the few countries in Africa seen as having a relatively well-developed weather service, along with South Africa and Morocco. Kenya has allocated about \$12 million this year for its meteorological service, according to the national treasury. In contrast, the U.S. National Weather Service budget request for fiscal year 2023 was \$1.3 billion.

The vast expanse of the 54-nation African continent is relatively unserved and unwarned.

"Despite covering a fifth of the world's total land area, Africa has the least developed land-based observation network of all continents, and one that is in a deteriorating state," the WMO said in 2019.

And because of a lack of funding, the number of observations by atmospheric devices usually used with weather balloons decreased by as much as 50% over Africa between 2015 and 2020, a "particularly serious issue," the WMO said in a report last year.

Fewer than 20% of sub-Saharan African countries provide reliable weather services, the report said. "Weather stations are so far apart that their data cannot be extrapolated to the local level due to the varying terrain and altitude."

Now, 13 of the most data-sparse African countries, including Ethiopia, Madagascar and Congo, are getting money to improve weather data collection and sharing from a United Nations-created trust fund, the Systematic Observations Financing Facility. An older funding mechanism with many of the same partners, Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems, has supported modernizing meteorological systems in a half-dozen West and Central African countries.

And it's not just forecasting. As climate shocks such as Somalia's worst drought in decades become more common, better recording of weather data is a critical need for decision-making.

"For many people in the West, accurate weather forecasts often make lives more convenient: 'Shall I take an umbrella along?' In Africa, where many people depend on rain-fed agriculture, that is all a bit sharper," said Nick van de Giesen, a professor of water resources management at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. "With a changing climate, traditional methods to determine, say, the onset of the rainy season are becoming less reliable. So farmers regularly sow after a few rains, after which rains may fail and seeds will not germinate."

That can be devastating during the current global food security crisis.

Van de Giesen is the co-director of the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory, a project that has helped to set up about 650 low-cost local weather monitoring stations in collaboration with schools and other entities across 20 African countries. Not all of those surface monitoring stations are operational because of issues including threats by extremist groups that limit access for maintenance in areas such as Lake Chad.

"To be clear, TAHMO can never be a replacement of efficient and effective national weather services," van de Giesen said, adding that many African governments still don't have the needed resources or funding.

In countries like Somalia and Mozambique, with some of the continent's longest and most vulnerable coastlines, the lack of effective weather monitoring and early warning systems have contributed to thousands of deaths in disasters such as tropical storms and flooding.

After Cyclone Idai ripped into central Mozambique in 2019, residents told The Associated Press they had received little or no warning from authorities. More than 1,000 people were killed, some swept away by floodwaters as loved ones clung to trees.

Cyclone Idai was the costliest disaster in Africa, at \$1.9 billion, in the period from 1970 to 2019, according to a WMO report on weather extremes and their economic and personal tolls.

The lack of weather data in much of Africa also complicates efforts to link certain natural disasters to climate change.

Sweden lauds decision

Iran among uninvited to Nobel award ceremony

STOCKHOLM, Sept 3, (AP): The Nobel Foundation on Saturday withdrew its invitation for representatives of Russia, Belarus and Iran to attend this year's Nobel Prize award ceremonies after the decision announced a day earlier "provoked strong reactions."

Several Swedish lawmakers said Friday they would boycott this year's Nobel Prize award ceremonies in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, after the private foundation that administers the prestigious awards changed its position from a year earlier and invited representatives of the three countries to attend, saying it "promotes opportunities to convey the important messages of the Nobel Prize to

everyone."

Saturday's announcement was widely praised in Sweden by politicians. Even the Swedish Royal House reacted with spokeswoman Margareta Thorgren saying, as quoted by newspaper Aftonbladet, that "we see the change in the decision as positive." She added that King Carl XVI Gustaf was planning to hand out this year's Nobel awards at ceremonies in Stockholm "as before."

This year's Nobel prize winners will be announced in early October. The laureates are then invited to receive their awards at glittering prize ceremonies on Dec. 10, the anniversary of award founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.



Displaced families arrive after being rescued by boat from a flooded area of Buzi district, 200 kilometers (120 miles) outside Beira, Mozambique, Saturday, March 23, 2019. (AP)

'Always go forward, always progress'

Papal shout-out to 'noble' Chinese

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia, Sept 3, (AP): Pope Francis sent a special greeting to China's "noble" people on Sunday, giving them a special shout-out at the end of a Mass celebrated in neighboring Mongolia during the first-ever papal visit that was largely overshadowed by Beijing and its crackdown on religious minorities.

Francis brought up to the altar the retired and current bishops of Hong Kong, Cardinal John Hon Tong and Cardinal-elect Stephen Chow, clasped their hands and told the crowd that included many mainland Chinese pilgrims that he wished them all well.

"I want to take advantage of their presence to send a warm greeting to the noble Chinese people," Francis said. "To all the

(Chinese) people I wish the best and to always go forward, always progress."

"I ask Chinese Catholics to be good Christians and good citizens," he added, to cheers from the crowd in the Steppe Arena, in the capital, Ulaanbaatar.

It was the first and only time that Francis has publicly mentioned China during his four-day visit, despite the large shadow that Beijing has cast over the trip and Mongolia.

China's ruling Communist Party has been waging a years-long, sweeping crackdown on religion, tightening controls, especially on Christianity and Islam that are viewed as foreign imports and potential challengers to Communist authority.



Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh (right), stands next to Pope Francis signing the honor book as they meet, Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, at the State Palace in Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar. Pope Francis arrived in Mongolia on Friday morning for a four-day visit to encourage one of the world's smallest and newest Catholic communities. (AP)



Italian Interior Minister Giuliano Amato looks on next to an empty seat, during a press conference after a cabinet meeting in Rome's Palazzo Chigi premier's office, Friday March 16, 2007. (AP)

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations in the Army has called on sea-goers -- fishermen and hiking enthusiasts to be careful, given that the Naval Force will be carrying out exercises with live ammunition with the participation of the Air Force, from September 5 to 7, from seven in the morning until six in the evening, at the naval shooting range -- 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Julaiah, extending to Qarwa Island, and 6 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Zour, extending to Umm Al-Maradim Island, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations has called on citizens and residents who go to the sea not to approach the aforementioned area during the announced period, out of concern for everyone's safety.

KUWAIT CITY: The British authorities have addressed their Kuwaiti counterparts in Kuwait, inquiring why there is no request for disbursement of money seized from some British banks for the benefit of Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The sources indicated that the British authorities confirmed some money in British banks belonging to Kuwaiti citizens have been seized or have been frozen and to be returned to the Kuwaiti authorities in return.

This is done in line with the judicial prosecutions carried out by Kuwait against a number of those convicted in criminal cases and live outside the country.

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday he wants Eritrean migrants involved in a violent clash in Tel Aviv to be deported immediately and has ordered a plan to remove all of the country's African migrants.

The remarks came a day after bloody protests by rival groups of Eritreans in south Tel Aviv left dozens of people injured. Eritreans, supporters and opponents of Eritrea's government, faced off with construction lumber, pieces of metal and rocks, smashing shop windows and police cars. Israeli police in riot gear shot tear gas, stun grenades and live rounds while officers on horseback tried to control the protesters.

The violence on Saturday returned to the fore the issue of migrants, which has long divided Israel. Its resurgence comes as Israel is torn over Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan, and supporters cite the migrant issue as a reason why the courts should be reined in, saying they have stood in the way of pushing the migrants out. (AP)

RIYADH: GCC Secretary General Al-Budaiwi lauded on Sunday the efforts of the Saudi Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), an entity geared towards achieving global sustainable development within the digital domain especially digital economy.

The GCC Secretariat said that Al-Budaiwi's statement came during his visit to the DCO's headquarters in Riyadh.

Al-Budaiwi affirmed that the DCO and the GCC should cooperate within the digital sphere to achieve common goals and benefit the region as a whole. (KUNA)

INVESTMENT

Business Plus



A view of Warsaw, the capital of Poland a new investment horizon



KINGSTONE
REAL ESTATE



Above, right, Trei buildings

Rentals niche an investment draw

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Trei Real Estate GmbH ("Trei"), an international developer and asset manager and KINGSTONE Real Estate ("KINGSTONE"), an investment management group for institutional capital, is in the process of establishing an exclusive long-term collaborative venture for shaping tomorrow's landscapes and developing rental housing projects in major Polish cities. In the near term, it is intended to create an investment vehicle for the onboarding of interested investors.

KINGSTONE is tasked with managing the fundraising efforts, which entails identifying and engaging potential investors. They will also establish the appropriate investment framework and assume responsibility for fund and asset management.

Meanwhile, Trei will participate as a co-investor and developer. Their role encompasses acquiring the land parcels, overseeing the entire construction process, and working in tandem with KINGSTONE to facilitate the eventual sale of investments upon project completion. Specific parcels of land in Warsaw and Poznan have already been designated for this collaborative venture.

Pepijn Morshuis, the CEO of Trei Real Estate, says, "Demand for modern rental apartments is definitely strong in Poland, where-



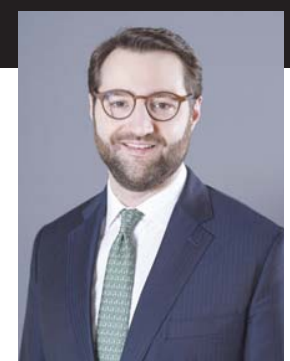
as supply is very tight. The vast majority of Poles own-occupy their homes, as the private rented sector is only just beginning to evolve.

Yet the younger generation prefers to rent modern, high-quality apartments over owner-occupancy in order to remain mobile and to keep from tying up their capital.

However, demand for rental apartments outpaces supply, especially in the major cities. The shortfall on the Polish housing market is estimated to approximate 1.5 million rental apartments, which compares



Sattam Al-Jarallah



Philipp Schomberg

Park it in Poland

to a present stock of about 10,300 as-new rental apartments – highlighting the urgent need for investments."

A pipeline with the first secured projects to be developed within the scope of the collaborative venture is already in place. Here, Trei and KINGSTONE concentrate on the development of smaller apartments in inner-city locations that are tailored to the needs of young professionals, students, expats and young families.

With successful ownership apartment projects already completed and ongoing developments in Łódź, Wrocław and Warsaw, Trei is now moving ahead with its first rental apartment developments in the next step. Its initial two rental housing projects in Warsaw and Poznan have progressed to an advanced stage. Actual construction will start in Poznan in Q4 2023 and in Warsaw during the first half of 2024. Other cities with high potential for rental apartment developments include Krakow, Wrocław, Łódź, Katowice and Gdansk.

Poland's private rental housing market offers serious growth opportunities. The main reason for this is that it accounts for just one percent of the entire housing market, and that it therefore plays so far a negligible role in the formerly socialist country. Until the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, all housing was municipally owned, and nearly all of it began to be sold off as ownership apartments in the 1990s.

Continued on Page 3

More information available at: www.kingstone-group.de

www.treirealestate.com and www.trei-wohnen.de

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editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:05	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	05:26	Maghrib ..	18:08
Zohr	11:47	Isha	19:27

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:
By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

Kuwait Airport	43	30
Abdaly	44	29
Jahra	46	31
Salmiyah	41	34
Ahmadi	40	35
Nuwaisib	42	29
Wafra	43	29

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

Investment

Continued from Page 2

Philipp Schomberg, co-founder and executive partner of KINGSTONE, added: "The collaboration of KINGSTONE and Trei, which both have their principal places of business in Germany while maintaining branch offices with on-site staff in Poland, generates genuine value-added for interested investors. We are aware of enormous potential on the Polish rental housing market, yet there have been few projects so far that investors could actually invest in. Our plan is to present the rental housing projects of Trei as a platform to investors in order to generate a total investment volume ranging in the triple-digit millions."

KINGSTONE Real Estate is an institutional, owner-managed real estate investment manager offering a range of products and investment strategies in the German & Central European markets, covering the entire risk-return spectrum from Core to Opportunistic. Our focus is on ESG products in the Residential, Office and Health Care sectors. In addition, we can also offer investment solutions in the field of real estate debt.

More information available at: www.kingstone-group.de

Trei Real Estate GmbH, a German real estate company with registered office in Düsseldorf, acquires, develops and manages customized and sustainable residential and retail properties. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Tengelmann Group, it focuses on real estate investments and developments in Germany, Poland and the United States within the framework of its long-term strategy. In addition to c. 1.3 billion euros in assets under management, Trei Real Estate GmbH has c. 2.0 billion euros worth of developments in the pipeline. In Poland, the company develops, raises and lets retail parks under the Vendo Park brand.

Also active on Germany's housing market, e.g. in Berlin, Trei currently develops residential quarters combined with commercial premises as well as student apartments under the Quartillion brand. The company's residential activities outside Germany include development projects in Poland and in the United States.

More information available at: www.treirealestate.com and www.trei-wohnen.de.

Arab Times: Who is KINGSTONE and what makes you stand out?

Philipp Schomberg: We (KINGSTONE Real Estate) are an owner-managed real estate investment management group founded by the Schomberg family and Pegasus Capital Partners with primary focus on Germany, Austria and CEE. We serve institutional and professional investors with innovative investment solutions and regulated fund strategies for residential, office and healthcare properties.

With our local teams in Germany, Poland and satellite local offices in the Netherlands and the UK, consisting of highly qualified experts, we offer tailor-made investment solutions to our clients.

In the Middle East we have a trustful advisory cooperation with Mr Sattam Al-Jarallah, Senior Advisor, MENA region.

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AT: What's the story behind Poland? Why exactly are you setting up a product in this country? How did your team identify the specific market where you decided to implement this strategy?

PS: After living in the UAE for over 6 years, working for one of the Abu Dhabi based Sovereign Wealth Funds (Abu Dhabi Investment Council), I decided to move on and set-up a real estate investment business. The business, which is owned by my family, is also active in Poland as we see Poland as one of the major growth markets in Europe.

Currently, we see that companies are drawing their consequences from the supply bottlenecks during the pandemic and are moving their factories and production plants to Poland in order to mitigate their supply-chain risks. The young and very well-educated population in Poland represents an extremely attractive environment for these companies. The foreign investments, coupled with the steadily advancing urbanization leads to a drastic increase of the demand for rental apartments in major Polish cities.

As of today, there is a supply gap of about 1.5m apartments in Poland, mostly in the major cities. Historically Poland has one of the highest home ownership rates in Europe. But the preferences of especially young Poles are shifting in favor of renting modern, good quality apartments operated by institutional landlords, because mobility and liquidity rationales are becoming more important.

Together with our strategic partner, we aim to meet this demand through the development of modern and ESG compliant residential units.

AT: Can you give us an overview of this strategy and what makes it unique in the market?

PS: KINGSTONE established a cooperation with TREI – a well-known German Developer, subsidiary of the Tengelmann Group, to develop modern Residential for Rent properties across Polish metropolitan and major regional markets, with a view to stabilize high-yielding assets in the PRS (Private Rental Sector) that may be disposed of or held long term.

The strategy fills a gap in this sector with products of high standard and specification tailored to the needs of young professionals, students, expats and young families. The Polish market is characterized by virtually no vacancy in the residential market which combined with strong demand creates a very favorable market environment for the strategy.

AT: Can you describe your cooperation with TREI? Why are you working together? How does this partnership enhance the overall effectiveness of the strategy?

PS: The long-term partner TREI, an established developer in both Germany and Poland, is acting as a holistic developer of the properties. They acquire the plots for the PRS Developments and execute the entire construction, including the monitoring and project management.

KINGSTONE on the other hand is the first point of contact for potential investors and responsible for the capital sourcing, structuring and the ongoing fund and asset management. Together we follow an "Economies of Scope"-approach, to combine the expertise of both parties to deliver exceptional results.

AT: How could interested investors from the Middle East get involved in this strategy?

PS: Institutional investors and professional family offices could invest via tailor-made investment solutions through the KINGSTONE platform. We would be happy to introduce interested investors to the strategy in more detail. Our service encompasses the full value chain of real estate investment management including structuring, acquisition, asset management, risk management, reporting and final disposition of the investments. We are working on behalf of the investors to achieve the best possible risk-return outcome.

Move hinders sale of Jleeb homes

MP queries status of citizens convicted abroad

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: MP Osama Al-Zaid has proposed the inclusion of Bioinformatics to the list of courses in the overseas scholarship plan of the Higher Education Ministry starting from the next academic year.

He suggested categorizing Bioinformatics as a rare specialization in the first five years of its inclusion in the annual overseas scholarship plan of the ministry. He said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) should specify the job title for Bioinformatics graduates.

Meanwhile, MP Fayez Al-Jomhour has forwarded queries to State Minister for Municipality Affairs and Communications Fahd Al-Shulah about the decision of Kuwait Municipality to refrain from issuing description certificates to the owners of houses in Jleeb Al Shuyoukh. He wants to know the rationale behind such a decision, considering it prevents the owners of houses in the aforementioned area from selling the properties. He argued this is a violation of the Constitution and it is a big problem for many Kuwaiti families currently staying in Jleeb Al Shuyoukh who want to sell their houses in order to relocate to other areas due to the social and security issues and other problems in Jleeb.

He asked if the State Ministry for Municipality Affairs took measures to determine the prices of real estate properties in Jleeb in order to buy them and then modernize the area. If yes, he wants to know the date of completing these measures.

He also inquired if Al-Shulah carried out studies to determine and address the worsening problems in Jleeb, including the deterioration of infrastructure and the security issues.

MP Osama Al-Zaid asked Al-Shulah to provide him with the number of male and female Kuwaitis in and outside the country, as well as the number of male and female expatriates in the country as of Dec 31, 2022 according to the records of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) and Central Statistics Bureau (CSB).

He wants to know if there are Kuwaitis who have no address, if CSB carries out its tasks as per the relevant law such as unifying the statistical data of all public institutions, if there is an automated link between CSB and other concerned institutions like the Births and Deaths Central Registry, Land Borders General Department and PACI.

He also asked if CSB has recorded individuals without identification documents – whether valid or expired and issued by Kuwait or foreign authorities; way of dealing with these individuals if any; and if CSB reported them to the concerned authorities.

MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari forwarded the same queries to Deputy Prime Minister, State Minister for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari; as well as Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba about the news that Al-Jarida daily published Sunday quoting reliable sources as saying: "The British authorities asked their Kuwaiti counterparts why the latter did not request for the confiscated and frozen financial assets of Kuwaiti citizens as per the request of Kuwait because of court verdicts against some Kuwaitis staying abroad for committing various crimes."

The lawmaker wants to know why the concerned Kuwaiti institutions did not deny the news if it is erroneous, if there are correspondences between the British and Kuwaiti authorities on this issue including the names of convicted Kuwaitis abroad, and copies of such correspondences if the response is in the affirmative.

MP Dawoud Ma'arafi asked Minister of Health Ahmad Al-Awadhi to provide him with the list of ministry employees under the following categories: children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis, Bedouins and expatriates.

He inquired about the manpower needs of the ministry, number of Kuwaiti graduates recruited since 2020 till date including their specializations, number of vacant supervisory positions, and number of expatriate and Kuwaiti consultants at the offices of the minister and assistant undersecretaries including their nationalities.

On the other hand, MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf commented on the response of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to his queries on the resignation of Finance Minister Mnaif Al-Hajri, and the strategy for putting public authorities and institutions under the supervision of ministers. He expressed dismay over the premier's response, which he considers arrogant and indicates that the premier does not respect the parliamentary tools granted to MPs as per the relevant laws and the Constitution. He quoted the premier as saying that assigning public authorities and institutions to ministers is not part of the general policy of the State and that such queries should be forwarded to the concerned ministers. He retorted, "if this is not the task of HH the Prime Minister, who is responsible then?" He pointed out that the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has been under three different ministers in the government of Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf.

He added that during the tenure of HH the late Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah as Prime Minister and Crown Prince, he was asked about the resignation of a minister in his government and he responded to the query.

Al-Mudhaf said the response of Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf indicates that he is not aware of his responsibilities and the limits of the authority granted to him. He added this attitude indicates that the rumor about the government being managed by someone else is true.

HH Amir congratulates San Marino on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a congratulatory cable to both Captains Regent of San Marino Alessandro Scarano and Adele Tonnini, on their country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished them good health and wellbeing, and for San Marino and its people full scale progress and prosperity.

His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a congratulatory cable to both Captains Regent of San Marino Alessandro Scarano and Adele Tonnini, on their country's National Day.

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His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a congratulatory cable to both Captains Regent of San Marino Alessandro Scarano and Adele Tonnini, on their country's National Day.

CP receptions: His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Furthermore, His Highness received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs meeting with senior Interior Ministry officials.

Deal firmly with criminals: Sheikh Talal

Minister calls for 24/7 security watch

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): On Sunday, Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who serves as both the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, issued a directive to enhance 24-hour security surveillance across the entire country.

He emphasized the need to firmly deal with individuals who break the law while considering the humane aspect in the execution of plans and procedures.

This directive was communicated through a press release from the General Department of Security Relations and Media, following Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled's regular meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Interior.

During this meeting, they discussed the latest security developments, and it was attended by Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas, the Ministry's Undersecretary, along with several assistant undersecretaries and security leaders.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled expressed his confidence in the Ministry of Interior's staff and their ability to carry out their assigned responsibilities. He urged all Ministry employees to maintain their high level of competence and preparedness.

The Minister also commended the outstanding efforts of the criminal security sector and the General Administration of the Coast Guard for recent successful operations and emphasized the importance of promptly establishing a system for government agencies to collaborate in collecting debts owed by foreigners to the state.

Additionally, during the meeting, the Minister of Interior received updates on the sectors' preparations for the upcoming academic year. They discussed the coordination mechanism with the Ministry of Education for conducting security and traffic awareness campaigns and raising awareness about the dangers of drugs in schools and universities.



Lt Gen Al-Barjas

Conditions for higher studies

Scholarships tailored for job needs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The scholarship programs are being meticulously tailored to fit the specific needs and requirements of government agencies for employees interested in pursuing further education which is an ongoing process, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the daily, an informed source emphasized that the scholarship program is individually customized for each entity, with close alignment between the stipulations laid out in the scholarship regulations and the additional conditions deemed necessary by the government entity including the granting of study leaves.

These conditions are vital given the objectives for sending its employees to further their education, whether within the country or overseas.

Furthermore, the source noted that the Civil Service Commission is actively engaged in the enhancement, examination, and revision of the scholarship regulations to incentivize employees who aspire to continue their education both domestically and internationally. Currently, the semi-final formulation and drafting of these amendments

are in progress, having received preliminary approvals from the relevant authorities regarding new benefits and conditions.

In response to inquiries about financial benefits, it was clarified that such considerations are taken into account, with scholarship students receiving increased benefits funded by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Regarding the appointment of leadership positions, the source explained that the procedures for selecting leaders are conducted in a phased manner, commencing with the requirement that candidates meet specified criteria, including years of service and accomplishments accrued over their tenure.

This initial step falls under the jurisdiction of the CSC, which subsequently presents the list of candidates for evaluation.

The CSC carries out additional steps before endorsing the nominated individuals. The source stressed that these procedures and stages require some time, while also mentioning that certain leadership appointments have been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the competent authority.

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Al-Duaij inspects progress of work at new Jahra Hospital

Financial and administrative attachés to take up foreign postings soon

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Ministry of Health has finalized the names of financial and administrative attachés to work in health offices abroad.

The sources told Al-Jarida that all the names of the financial and administrative attachés to work in Egypt, Britain, Germany and France have been identified by the Ministry of Health but are awaiting approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A few days ago, the Minister of Health had issued a number of decisions appointing health attachés for Kuwaiti offices abroad, and the decisions included naming Dr. Muhammad Awaida Al-Ajmi, head of the health office in Egypt, and Dr. Tariq Al-Kandari, health attaché to the London office, and Dr. Ahmed Al-Moussawi, health attaché to the Germany office, and Dr. Mahdi Al-Fadhli, health

attaché to the France office.

On the other hand, the Director of the Jahra Health District, Dr. Jamal Al-Duaij checked on the work progress in the departments and units of the new hospital, including the pharmacy, accident departments and police stations with the aim of finding mechanisms to develop work in the hospital and improve the health services provided to citizens.

Informed health sources said the district director discussed the challenges facing work in hospital facilities, with the aim of developing urgent solutions to develop work for the benefit of patients and visitors.

The district director a few days ago met with officials and technical and ad-

ministrative staff of the Jahra Hospital, to discuss plans and projects related to the region after he was assigned to assume the duties of district director.

It is worth noting that the Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad, visited the Al-Jahra Hospital a few days ago, where His Highness met with patients who singled out to the minister the problem of medicine shortages, the accumulation of appointments, overcrowding in outpatient clinics, and other problems.

His Highness also listened to the comments made by some employees, who confirmed that the hospital suffers due to shortage of administrative employees, and lack of information signboards due to which movement within the hospital's departments and units is hampered.

Government to fortify strategic food & commodity stocks to prevent shortage

Move reassures citizens on availability of items in long run

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: In a government move to fortify the strategic food and commodity stocks to prevent shortage and reassure citizens on the availability of these items in the long run, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban issued three decisions within the framework of a comprehensive strategy regarding warehouses in the country, reports Al-Rai daily.



One of Kuwait's warehousing market facilities.

Al-Aiban formed a committee task to work on mechanisms for ensuring ample supply of food and other commodities with Tariq Al-Sharrah as Chairman, Saleh Al-Dhafri as Vice-Chairman, and Faisal Al-Ansari, Ghazwa Al-Anzi and Ibrahim Al-Sultan as members while Saad Al-Adwani serves as a

member and rapporteur.

The committee, whose work period is set at three months, will study the mechanisms in place to maintain food and commodity stocks, lay down a comprehensive vision for maintaining and developing stocks in cooperative societies and parallel markets, and organize

public awareness campaigns on the need to rationalize food consumption and reduce waste.

Provision

In addition, the minister formed an 11-member committee that will follow up the contents of the report of the Government

Performance Follow-Up Agency regarding the provision of strategic areas for the establishment of warehouses and setting up a manual of procedures for organizing and supervising these areas.

According to the decision, the committee will lay down a plan and create an automated system to monitor the strategic stock and link it with the Kuwait Flour Mills and catering companies, as well as coordinate with Kuwait Municipality and other concerned authorities to allocate plots for the construction of multi-storey buildings for selling and distributing subsidized and discounted supplies.

The committee will be in charge of following up and facilitating procedures for establishing the government company for strategic stocks, studying the new supply centers project and proposing the best practices for the implementation of the project.

Al-Aiban also issued a decision to restructure the Standing Committee, consisting of nine members, for the selection and inclusion of food and discounted items in the ration card system.

PPP project making significant progress

'Sanitation projects' in Kuwait keep pace with development, says MEED

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The developer of the largest independent public-private partnership project in the Gulf region is making significant progress in the field of wastewater treatment, as clips of the Kuwait branch of the German company WTE Wassertechnik, the main private developer and contractor in the Umm Al-Hayman wastewater treatment plant project, show that sections of various projects could be approaching the operating stage, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting MEED.

The magazine said that the facility was designed to treat wastewater from the southern part of Kuwait, to supply agriculture and various other industries with highly treated wastewater (TSE).

Capacity

MEED added the wastewater treatment plant, which has an initial capacity of 500,000 cubic meters per day and can be expanded to 700,000 cubic meters per day, is being developed on the basis of the build-operate-transfer (B.O.T) system, and the huge network of wastewater pipelines are being laid to carry sewage pipes to pumping stations and tanks on the BDO model.

WTE will operate and maintain the Umm Al-Hayman wastewater treatment plant for 25 years, and the canal network for three years.

MEED indicated that at the time of signing, the Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Plant was the second project to be awarded under Kuwait's current public-private partnership law, after the contract to develop the North Al-Zour 1 Independent Water and Power Project was awarded in 2012.

The magazine added, the project demonstrates the ability of stakeholders in the public and private sectors to implement a huge infrastructure project in a country where successful partnerships between the public and private sectors are still few and far between.

It is worth noting that other sanitation projects are moving forward in Kuwait as well.

Companies recently submitted bids to expand and develop the sewage treatment plant in North Kabd, affiliated with the Ministry of Public Works. Unlike the Umm Al-Hayman wastewater treatment plant project, this long-awaited scheme is being developed using the traditional engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) route.

The Ministry of Public Works also recently called on technically qualified companies to submit their commercial bids for the contract to build the sewage treatment plant project in South Al-Mutla'a by October 29.

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KUNA photo

Kuwaiti volunteers handed over food parcels to Syrian and Palestinian refugees as well as impoverished Lebanese families.

Kuwait volunteers aid needy in Lebanon

Kuwaiti volunteers on Saturday handed over food parcels to Syrian and Palestinian refugees as well as impoverished Lebanese families.

Tareq Al-Issa, in charge of public relations at Al-Najat charity, told KUNA that the relief action targeted in particular the orphans and wid-

ows, clarifying that the assistance was delivered in the eastern border region of Ersal and the southern city of Sidon.

The Kuwaiti teams, in addition to delivering food and toys to children, gave a hand in repairing tents damaged in stormy weather. (KUNA)

Ministry already passed critical stage

MEW to set up three main power stations to serve Google centers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Assistant Undersecretary for the Electricity Transmission Networks Sector in the Ministry of Electricity and Water Eng Faisal Al-Sumait has revealed that the ministry, Kuwait Direct Investment Public Authority (KDIPA) and some other concerned entities are currently coordinating to establish three main power stations to serve three Google centers that the global company intends to open in the country soon, reports Al-Rai daily.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening of the first summer electricity exhibition with the theme: "Oh, our sweet heritage," Al-Sumait disclosed: "The three stations will have a total capacity of 72 megawatts. Google requested for 60 megawatts - 20 megawatts for each center."

Agreement

He affirmed an agreement has been reached to establish Google centers in three locations - Sulaibiya Agricultural Area, South Saad Al-Abdullah City and South Al-Mutlaa City.

Regarding the tariff that will be calculated for the company, he said: "The tariff will be studied and evaluated by experts in the ministry to determine the appropriate value, followed by coordination with the concerned authorities."

On the status of electricity consumption this summer, Al-Sumait confirmed that the ministry already passed the critical stage - when power consumption records were broken. He pointed out there are only 10 days left in summer, stressing the ministry started the maintenance works at the beginning of September and will continue until the end of April next year.

He added the power consumption decreased significantly in recent days, indicating the consumption index recorded 15,140 megawatts last Sunday - 1,800 megawatts lower than the highest recorded on Aug 2 (16,940 megawatts).

KFAED launches program to enhance newly grad's skills

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development declared on Saturday start of receiving applications for joining its program for training and habilitating newly graduated architects and engineers as of tomorrow Sunday.

It said in a statement that applications can be posted on the website: www.Kuwait-fund.org. Applicants should come to the fund headquarters as of tomorrow until September 17.

The program kicks off on December 13 and proceeds for 13 months. It includes workshops and field training in Kuwait and abroad.

The statement affirmed that the program is of paramount significance for it backs up human resources' development in Kuwait. Since its onset in 2004, participants acquired added skills and potentials, paving the way for them to meet the local market employment needs.

Moreover, it backs up the government efforts, as well as the private sector, at this level. Up to 36 batches, comprising young architects and engineers, had been graduated - bulk of whom joined the domestic private sector. He stated that "at the end of each summer, a committee consisting of experts conducts an evaluation including the number of outages, overload percentage, expected and actual consumption, projected consumption for the next summer and plans for summer 2024."

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Expansion of the BRICS group ... connotations and repercussions'

"THE process of expanding the BRICS group, through the accession of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Emirates, Iran, Ethiopia and Argentina, in January 2024, represents a turning point in the history of international relations at various levels. After the inclusion of these pivotal countries, BRICS has become the largest economic organization in the world, whose membership -- until now -- is limited to the countries of the East and South and the rising non-Western power. It includes approximately half of the world's population, and its economy represents approximately 30% of the global economy," columnist **Dr Noura Saleh Al-Majim** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



Dr Al-Majim

"So we are facing a radical historical transformation in the system and map of international balances and alliances that have emerged since the end of World War II. For the first time in the international system, since the end of World War II, a giant non-Western global bloc has emerged, and even surpasses it in all aspects of comprehensive capabilities. Thus, BRICS also consolidates true pluralism in the international system away from the single Western hegemony led by the United States that has emerged since the end of the Cold War.

"The BRICS expansion process was carried out with strong support and backing from China, the group's de facto leader, to serve many strategic purposes. BRICS represents the pressing force to achieve the joint endeavor of China and Russia, for which BRICS was established, which is the establishment of a multipolar international system, with China being the leader of one of the powerful poles in this system.

"BRICS also represents one of the most important aspects of China's strength to confront the American alliances, which have grown during the Biden era to weaken China, such as the Quad and Oaks alliance. Moreover, through BRICS, China opens more markets for its products. The five countries that have joined the BRICS, in addition to the original BRICS countries, represent a huge market to absorb Chinese products.

"The expansion of BRICS will certainly have many positive and negative repercussions as well, and it will also face many challenges. Most of the positives come from breaking Western hegemony over global political and economic interactions, as BRICS will establish a broad global trading system -- anti-Western -- from which developing countries and emerging markets will benefit greatly. Perhaps this explains the rush of most developing countries to join the group.

"Among the strategic goals of BRICS is to alleviate the absolute dominance of the dollar in international trade transactions, and to consolidate barter in local currencies in trade between members of the group. Thus, developing countries reduce the burden of trade and debts in US dollars, and have a wider scope and more markets for export and import. Perhaps the Ukrainian war has proven the disasters of the absolute dominance of the dollar in the international system.

"The expansion of BRICS, or to say the enormous power of BRICS, will contribute to creating the balance that is now needed in the maritime navigation and trade system, and controlling the strategic markets, energy and natural resources. It will also pave the way for small and medium-sized countries in the world to have more independence in foreign political and strategic decisions.

"The negative repercussions mainly lie in the possibility of intensification of the cold war between Washington and Beijing, and the widening of the gap of tension between Beijing and the West in general. The expansion of BRICS and pulling the rug of economic and political dominance from under the feet of the West will not go unnoticed, as the West will seek to form opposing blocs and will deliberately provoke wars and tensions with Beijing, especially on the commercial, economic and technological levels. Certainly, Western countries, led by Washington, will put pressure on the BRICS members among its allies, such as India, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia, to reduce their cooperation through BRICS or withdraw from it.

"The BRICS also faces a number of challenges, including the chronic historical conflict between China and India. Perhaps this issue is the main weakness of BRICS. India and China within BRICS unite on key issues, the most important of which is the expansion of global trade liberalization, but they differ on many issues.

"India will never accept absolute Chinese leadership over the BRICS, nor will it accept raising tensions with the United States, its main ally. Therefore, the muted Indo-China conflict within BRICS is likely to hinder the advancement of the group's power. In the same vein, it is also not unlikely that Moscow will accept absolute Chinese hegemony over the BRICS, as well as push the group in directions that do not serve Russia's strategic interests.

"Among the main challenges is also the extreme

difficulty in establishing a unified currency for the group -- as BRICS plans -- as well as creating comprehensive economic integration between the countries of the group similar to the European Union."

Also:

"Today's thieves are not like their predecessors who used to break the locks of homes and break into their windows to loot what was light in weight and expensive. The new generation of these people is able to climb the walls of banks and penetrate their impenetrable fortresses," columnist **Riyad Abdullah Al-Mulla** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"They penetrated the accounts of the wealthy and plundered the funds of ordinary citizens, engaging in perilous schemes and thrilling episodes that kept banks on edge, diverted the attention of police stations, and spurred investigations. As of the time of writing this article, these "thieves" continue to tamper with financial institutions, eroding confidence in the banking systems and the custodians of bank deposits.

"The zeroing of bank balances and illicit cash withdrawals, which encompass embezzlement, robbery, intrusion, and exploitation of citizens, residents, youth, and retirees, calls for officials from relevant authorities to convene around a discussion table. They must scrutinize the vulnerabilities in the fortresses of wealth and shield customers from the clutches of robbery and fraud syndicates.

"Incidents of misappropriation of people's finances unfold before us daily, adopting various tactics and disguises. These range from impersonating individuals, banks, and corporations, employing deceptive communications filled with false business propositions to coax clients into revealing their account details for theft. This culminates in the presence of counterfeit websites resembling government platforms on the internet, exploiting payment irregularities or transaction fees to obtain account numbers and siphon away savings.

"The responsibility for addressing this escalating crisis, akin to a snowball gaining momentum, should be shouldered by multiple stakeholders involved in overseeing money transfer and transaction operations. They must grasp the reins on which account thieves ride, decipher the codes of organized criminal networks, bring them to justice, and confine them to their rightful place -- maximum security prisons.

"Telecommunication companies should also assume responsibility by disconnecting phone lines of individuals who have permanently left and combating the illicit sale of numbers and lines on social media platforms without proper registration of owner information and identities. Those who steal our funds often employ Kuwaiti numbers to make contact.

"Banks should recognize that, while customer awareness is crucial, it is no longer sufficient to prevent financial theft today. They should establish a mechanism in coordination with the Central Bank to halt repetitive withdrawals or transfers during specific hours, freeze any reported financial transactions, and heighten the sensitivity of smart applications.

"These apps should technically and automatically block any suspicious transactions until customer identity is verified with clarity, including voice and facial recognition, and they should restrict large transfers except through the bank or direct communication with its management, or via more precise and discreet techniques.

"The responsibility of tracking, assessing, and patching vulnerabilities in the websites of institutions and ministries lies with technical and information technology organizations. They should employ the latest technologies and highly skilled experts to address these issues.

"The Ministry of Commerce must take measures to prevent the dissemination of commercial offers from local companies and Instagram accounts. It should also restrict the use of "KNET" payment links to only those with registered and documented approval, accompanied by verifiable and authentic reference numbers.

"In conclusion, we call upon the responsible authorities at the Central Bank, amid this alarming situation in our local landscape, to organize effective forums and focused workshops in collaboration with local banks, the Ministry of Interior, and the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

"They should also coordinate with central banks in Gulf and Arab countries to combat these financial crimes that have victimized the savings of citizens and residents. It may be imperative to establish a 24/7 operations center and provide an electronic reporting platform for illegal financial withdrawals. Immediate freezing or suspension of transferred funds should be implemented if reported within a short timeframe.

"In closing, I extend my gratitude to Abdul Wahab Al-Faris, the appointed director of the Cooperatives Union, for responding to my request and the demands of many to display commodity prices for public monitoring. Al-Faris' actions distinguish him as a young individual who cares deeply for his nation, works diligently, and is attuned to the needs of the public. Thank you, and may there be more like you."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

Mol foils bid to smuggle huge quantity of drugs into country

Female doctor dismissed, fined KD 300,000

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior, in a statement, said the anti-drug squads detained a gang -- a citizen, five nationals of an Asian country and two illegal residents.

The personnel were first tipped about a bid by a couple of persons trying to smuggle narcotics into the country by the sea. After monitoring them round the clock, a warrant was issued and they were nabbed and that they confessed to trying to smuggle five bags packed with 120-kg of hashish and 50,000 Capatagon pills into Kuwait.

Moreover, they received information about an incoming ship boarding narcotics.

After watching the vessel sailing into the Kuwait waters, it was intercepted and four persons of an Asian country were nabbed for trying to bring in illicitly 20 kgs of hashish. Furthermore, two illegal residents who were waiting for the ship upon anchoring were arrested and 30 grams of "shabu" were found in their possession.

Agencies add:

Female doctor dismissed: The Court of Cassation recently issued a ruling on the dismissal of a female Kuwaiti doctor from the Ministry of Health and fined her KD300,000 for forging her university certificate, through which she worked as a doctor for six years and received the salary she does not deserve, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged the accused, in her capacity as a public sector employee, of unlawfully receiving public funds by submitting the forged certificate to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and she received a total salary of KD150,000 based on the forged document.

The accused also forged a 'To Whom It May Concern' supposedly issued by the Ministry of Higher Education affirming that her university certificate is authentic. She used the forged 'To Whom It May Concern' certificate to obtain the equivalency

Attempt to end his own life

35-yr-old kills his girlfriend

By **Munif Nayef**
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: A horrifying incident unfolded in the Omariya area, where a 35-year-old Filipina resident tragically lost her life at the hands of a 35-year-old Indian expatriate. The assailant brutally stabbed her multiple times, resulting in her untimely demise, after which he attempted to end his own life using a knife. He was subsequently rushed to Farwaniya Hospital, where his health condition remains critically unstable.

According to a reliable security source, the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received a distressing report, alerting

them to a murder that had occurred in the Al-Omariya area. In response, security personnel and ambulances were immediately dispatched to the reported location. Upon arrival, it was determined that the Indian expatriate had fatally attacked the Filipina woman, who was in a relationship with him, leading to her tragic demise.

Both sources have confirmed that detectives have initiated a thorough examination of the surveillance cameras within the house, which have captured the heinous crime and the perpetrator's entry into the premises where the crime occurred. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

of the bachelor's degree she obtained from Pakistan.

In addition, she provided incorrect data and used illegal methods, which resulted in her being granted a license to practice the medical profession unlawfully.

The Criminal Court previously sentenced the accused to seven years in prison, but the Court of Appeals refrained from imposing such punishment and then fined her twice the salary she obtained illegally. She was obligated to submit a pledge of good conduct for two years and was released on KD3,000. The Court of Cassation upheld the decision of the Court of Appeals.

'Enforcing A62 vital': The Kuwaiti Entrepreneurship Association (KEA) has expressed its appreciation for recent legal judgments that have favored the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who participated in government tenders through legitimate means, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

In this regard the association has highlighted a verdict issued by the Court of Appeal underlining the

importance of enforcing Article 62 bis of the Tenders Law, which mandates the acceptance of bids submitted by SME owners as long as they meet the specifications and conditions, with prices not exceeding 20 percent above the lowest accepted bids."

The association emphasized that government agencies cannot disregard awarding tenders to SME companies, particularly when the judiciary upholds the plaintiff's right to both material and moral compensation, in addition to calling for the implementation of the ruling in favor of the plaintiff.

Furthermore, the association noted that the ongoing exclusion of SMEs by government agencies and the failure to adhere to legal provisions in government tenders exacerbates financial losses for the state in terms of legal compensation.

To mitigate these losses, it is imperative to carefully review the tenders and submitted proposals while ensuring that the rights of SME owners are respected, thereby preventing financial losses at the expense of public funds.

MoE to receive complaints via WhatsApp, e-mail

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The concerned authorities in the Ministry of Education have intensified their efforts to complete the work related to readying the schools as the new 2023/2024 scholastic year is set to kick in next Sunday, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In this context, educational sources said the Ministry has allocated an "online" communication center to receive any complaints from school administrations regarding maintenance and air conditioning units, explaining that receiving written notes is done via WhatsApp and email for the establishments sector.

The sources pointed out the phone numbers of maintenance engineers in all educational areas have been provided to all schools and one engineer has been allocated to each area who will be responsible for following up on maintenance and air conditioning work in these schools who can be contacted directly by school

administrations.

The sources stated that complaints numbers have been allocated for each of the two educational districts to report any observations in the event of failure to take action or inaction by those responsible for school maintenance, pointing out that the school administrations have more than one means of reporting breakdowns and necessary maintenance to ensure its completion in the required time.

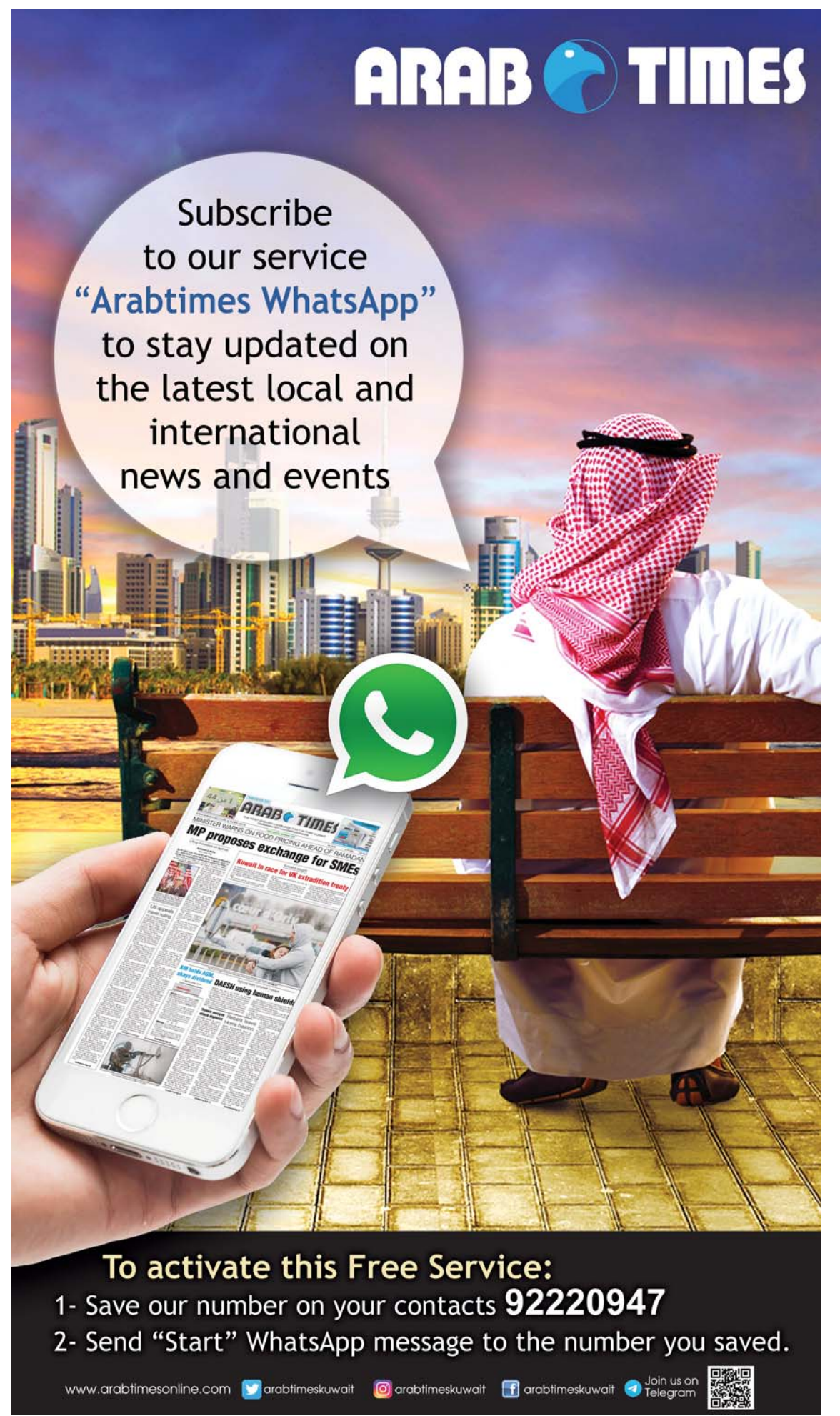
Regarding air conditioning maintenance work, the sources confirmed that companies are currently working to complete air conditioning maintenance in schools, whether with the "central" system or separate units and "chillers," pointing out that according to reports the completion rates have exceeded 85% of the total number of air conditioning devices.

The sources added all work on air conditioning units is expected to

be completed before the end of this week. The sources stated that the existence of air conditioning contracts contributed to solving the problems of maintenance and operation of the devices.

Regarding the maintenance of water coolers, the sources it is ongoing and water filters have been delivered to schools which will be replaced prior to the beginning of school to ensure that the water tanks are cleaned well before installing the new filters.

The sources indicated that the facilities sector is working with all its crews of engineers and assistant engineers in cooperation with the companies responsible for implementing contracts to ensure the completion of maintenance and air conditioning work, pointing out that the teams formed by the public education sector from school administrations for follow-up have a responsibility in this aspect.



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Bitay announces strategic expansion into UAE's burgeoning crypto market

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has an impressive 99% internet penetration rate according to a McKinsey study, welcomes Bitay, a cryptocurrency platform from Turkey. This move aligns with the UAE's growing stature as a global digital hub and its emphasis on blockchain technology and cryptocurrency.

Kickstarted by a government research grant, Bitay has been

operational in Turkey since 2018 and expanded its services globally in 2021. The platform is licensed as a Money Services Business (MSB) in 16 US states and offers services in multiple countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Niyazi Yilmaz, General Manager of Bitay Technology, stated, "The UAE provides a stable regulatory environment for crypto exchanges. It will serve

as more than just a market for Bitay; it will be our technology base, central to our global blockchain strategy."

Bitay offers a diverse portfolio with over 350 crypto assets. Unique to Bitay is AEDD, a stable coin pegged to the AED. It aims to provide a competitive edge by offering a low bid/ask price difference. Yilmaz added, "AEDD is not just a stable coin, but a testament to the investment and trust

we place in the UAE's digital future."

Bitay prioritizes user satisfaction, key differentiator in a competitive market. Its Bitay+ loyalty programme offers users benefits such as low commission rates, personalized campaigns, and even crypto staking with APR rates that adjust based on the user's level.

The platform also plans to launch an "Advantageous 2nd

Sales Period" campaign to mark its entry into the UAE and celebrate the first anniversary of Bitay Coin. This limited-time offer features up to 25% off the current Bitay Coin price and up to 30% bonus earnings on USDT investments, highlighting Bitay's ambition to be a dominant player in the region.

Bitay Coin, the native asset of Bitay's ecosystem, has recorded a 330% gain in its first year, out-

performing notable assets like Bitcoin, gold, and even shares of global brands like Apple and Tesla.

Bitay's entry into the UAE amplifies the region's robust digital and crypto landscape. As the UAE continues to attract young, tech-savvy populations and major players in the crypto sector, it solidifies its role as a focal point for financial innovation. (Business Wire)

Market Movements

03-09-2023

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

Business

Eurozone inflation stopped slowing in August

US labor data shows both resilience and moderation

By National Bank of Kuwait
United States

Signs of Easing in the US Labor Market

Non-farm employment change came in at 187,000 versus an expected figure of 170,000 marking the 39th month of job creation in the US. The report offered fresh signs that hiring has not been as strong as previously reported. The previous two month figures were revised significantly lower by a combined 110,000.

Labor participation, which measures the share of population that is working or seeking work, rose to 62.8%, its highest level since February 2020. The figure indicates that the supply-demand dynamics are coming into balance which might help soften wage pressures. Average hourly earnings were up 0.2% on a monthly basis lower than the expected 0.3% and the previous 0.4%. Annually, wages grew at 4.3% as expected and lower than the previous figure of 4.4%. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate climbed to 3.8% from 3.5%, largely reflecting an increase in participation.

JOLTS Job Openings

The number of available jobs in the US shrank for the third consecutive month, dropping below 9 million for the first time since early 2021. Job openings fell to a seasonally adjusted 8.827 million, from 9.165 million in June, reaching the lowest level of total openings since March 2021. Economists expected openings would drop to 9.465 million. For the Federal Reserve, signs the labor market is continuing to cool might push the central bank to end its campaign of rate increases sooner.

ADP Non-Farm Employment Change

ADP non-farm employment in the US slowed down significantly more than expected in August, with the figure coming in at 177,000 jobs added versus an expectation of 200,000 and a previous figure of 371,000 jobs.

Unemployment Claims

The number of Americans filing for unemployment claims dropped to 228,000 from an upwardly revised 232,000 amid a series of mixed employment data coming over the week.

Consumer Confidence Eases

US consumer confidence fell more than expected in August after marking two straight monthly increases. The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index dropped to 106.1 this month from a downwardly revised 114.0. The decline in confidence is mainly attributed to renewed concerns regarding inflation.

US GDP Revised Lower

Second quarter GDP in the US was revised lower to a 2.1% increase down from 2.4% reported last month. This still represents a slight increase from the first quarter GDP growth of 2.0%, in a sign that despite 525bps

- Non-farm employment change came in at 187,000 but figures of the previous two months were revised significantly lower by a combined 110,000.
- US labor market participation increased indicating less pressure to increase wages, and the unemployment rate increased.
- Market participants continue to see the Fed leaving interest rates unchanged this month, and they also lowered the probability of a hike in November.
- Eurozone inflation stopped slowing in August, presenting European Central Bank officials with a dilemma as they evaluate whether pressures are too persistent to risk a pause in interest-rate hiking.
- China increased efforts to stimulate the economy and support its currency, as investor concerns over the growth outlook continue.

worth of rate hikes, consumer spending and the labor market remained largely robust and resilient. Additionally, personal saving was revised upward by \$22.7 billion to \$892.3 billion, as employers scramble to keep a hold of their employees following troubles hiring due to COVID by increasing their annual wages. Consumer spending continues to be the lifeblood of economic growth, and was revised up to 1.7% from 1.6% initially.

Market Reaction

On Friday, treasury yields, equity futures and the dollar traded in a volatile manner following a US jobs report that offered a mix picture of both a resilience and moderation in the labor market. Market participants continue to see the Fed leaving interest rates unchanged this month, and they also lowered the probability of a hike in November. US 10-year yields initially dropped to a low of 4.054% only to recover significantly and closed the week at 4.178%. The Dollar Index lost some grounds initially, as data continues to moderate but managed to close the week higher at 104.26 as yields recovered.

The Euro took a hit last week as worsening activity data put a dent on the bloc's economic outlook, mounting pressures on the European Central Bank's rate path. The prospect of a less hawkish ECB weighed on the Euro, causing it to pull back sharply after reaching weekly highs against the US Dollar. The single currency closed the week at 1.0777.

Similarly, Sterling closed the week lower at 1.2591 amid worsening data and demand for the safety of the greenback. The Japanese Yen, the most sensitive to US interest rates, gained to 144.45 on Friday. The Yen lost

Rates - September 3rd, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0796	1.0772	1.0945	1.0776	1.0600	1.0900	1.0838
GBP	1.2578	1.2563	1.2746	1.2591	1.2400	1.2800	1.2600
JPY	146.44	144.45	147.37	146.23	144.00	148.00	144.07
CHF	0.8847	0.8745	0.8874	0.8857	0.8700	0.9000	0.8749

most of its gains on Friday and closed the week at 146.23.

Europe

Inflation Remains Sticky

Eurozone inflation stopped slowing in August, presenting European Central Bank officials with a dilemma as they evaluate whether pressures are too persistent to risk a pause in interest-rate hiking. Consumer prices rose 5.3% from a year earlier, holding more than 2.5 times above the 2% goal sought by policymakers, mainly on the back of rising energy prices. Meanwhile, economists had anticipated weakening. The core figure which strips out volatile items slowed to reach 5.3%, in line with expectations and lower than the previous 5.5%. Markets are currently pricing in an 80% chance of a pause for the September ECB meeting as officials vow to remain data dependent.

United Kingdom

UK Manufacturing PMI Contraction Continues

British factories in August underwent their weakest month since the COVID-19 crisis, with orders dropping dramatically due to the rise in interest rates at home and abroad. The S&P Global/CIPS UK manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dropped for a sixth month in a row, falling to 43.0 from 45.3 in July. It was the lowest reading in 39 months, although it was slightly above the estimated 42.5. The figure marks the 13th month in a row the PMI has stayed below the 50 mark delimiting growth from contraction.

China

China Manufacturing PMI

China's manufacturing contraction eased slightly in August, providing some hope that the worst of the sector's slump may be ending. The official manufacturing

purchasing managers' index rose to 49.7, topping estimates and edging closer to the 50 level that would signal activity has stopped contracting. While market reaction to the figures was muted, they offered tentative evidence that targeted efforts to shore up the economy are having some effect.

The nation's manufacturers have been struggling for months because of a slump in global demand and subdued domestic spending. Policymakers have so far been reluctant to roll out massive stimulus, with some economists suggesting the official annual growth target of about 5% is at risk.

China Continues to Gradually Unveil Stimulus Measures

China increased efforts to stimulate the economy and support its currency, as investor concerns over the growth outlook continue. The central bank will reduce the amount of foreign currency deposits banks are required to hold as reserves for the first time this year, the People's Bank of China said Friday. The move came hours after authorities announced fresh stimulus for the struggling property sector and unveiled plans to expand tax breaks for child and parental care and education. The steps are the latest efforts to shore up confidence in the world's second-largest economy, which is sagging under the weight of the persistent housing crisis, waning global demand and rising unemployment. Authorities have so far resorted to a drip-feed of targeted measures, avoiding the bazooka style stimulus approach they deployed during the 2008 global financial crisis amid concerns over elevated debt levels.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30785.

HSBC sees great trade 'prospects' between China and MENAT region

Business and investment flows to accelerate

SHANGHAI/DUBAI, Sept 3: The economic corridor between China and the Middle East, North Africa and Türkiye (MENAT) region is set to see business and investment flows accelerate substantially in the coming five years according to a new HSBC report titled, 'The China-MENAT Corridor: Unlocking Growth Potential.'

The report was released at HSBC's China-MENAT Summit in Shanghai and Beijing, where HSBC's Regional Chief Executive for MENAT and senior members of the bank's regional leadership team, presented their expert view on the Middle East's economic transformation to clients, including entrepreneurs, sovereign wealth funds, investment agencies and government representatives.

Leaders

Addressing business leaders, Stephen Moss, Regional Chief Executive, Middle East North Africa and Türkiye (MENAT), HSBC Bank Middle East, said: "The MENAT region is witnessing unprecedented economic change and transformation, led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and we're seeing robust growth momentum driven by a vision to diversify economies and spearhead energy transition. This is an opportune time for Chinese investors and businesses to make inroads into the Middle East, to capture inbound and outbound investment opportunities. HSBC's long heritage and strong presence in both markets, and our international network covering more than 90% of global GDP, trade, and financial flows, put us at the forefront of connecting clients to the exciting



Stephen Moss

opportunities emerging in capital markets, international investments, technology, infrastructure, and energy transition along this vibrant economic corridor."

HSBC's report presents the current state of trade and investment between MENAT and China. It details the growth in trade between MENAT and China and the foreign direct investment flows between them, while considering how their respective energy resource and manufacturing strengths offer scope for increased economic and business collaboration.

Trade between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and China surpassed GCC trade with the US and Euro Area combined for the first time in 2021, and there is US\$178 billion in untapped trade potential between China and MENAT between now and 2027. China is Saudi Arabia's largest trading partner in the Middle East, and bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$106 billion in 2022. The UAE stands as China's second-largest trading partner in the Arab world with the value of non-oil trade between the two countries exceeding US\$72 billion in 2022, reflecting an 18 per cent growth from 2021.

Mark Wang, President and Chief

Executive Officer of HSBC China, said: "We have seen growing interest from Chinese clients in tapping into MENAT's tremendous market potential when innovation and sustainability continue to drive growth across the region, particularly in the burgeoning new economy sectors. There's synergy between the two emerging markets with Chinese corporates bringing in expertise in digital innovation, climate tech and new business models, as MENAT's investor base, demand for renewables and a growing young population offer essential capital and market opportunities."

HSBC has a long-standing heritage in both MENAT and China, with its roots in China dating back to 1865 when it was established in Hong Kong and Shanghai, and its origins in the Middle East traced as far back as 1889. Today HSBC has a significant presence in MENAT in eight markets: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and the UAE, and is also a leading international bank in China. In Saudi Arabia, HSBC is a 31 per cent shareholder of SAB (formerly known as Saudi British Bank) and a 51 per cent shareholder of HSBC Saudi Arabia for investment banking in the Kingdom. As the largest



Mark Wang - HSBC China CEO

international bank in Saudi Arabia, HSBC is ideally positioned to serve the multi-dimensional needs of Chinese businesses looking to invest in the Kingdom's fast-growing economy.

HSBC in the MENAT region:

HSBC is the largest and most widely represented international banking organisation in the Middle East, North Africa and Türkiye (MENAT), with a presence in nine countries across the region: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates. In Saudi Arabia, HSBC is a 31% shareholder of Saudi British Bank (SABB), and a 51% shareholder of HSBC Saudi Arabia for investment banking in the Kingdom. Across MENAT, HSBC had assets of US\$71bn as at 31 December 2022. www.hsbc.ae

HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited:

HSBC was one of the first foreign banks to locally incorporate its operations in mainland China, establishing HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited in April 2007. HSBC China's network currently comprises about 140 outlets across more than 50 major cities. HSBC China's head office is based in Pudong, Shanghai.



NBK Final Visual Print Adaptation

Sultan, NBK reward customers with more savings and benefits

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Sultan Center Food Products Co. (Sultan) and National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), today announced new reward schemes for customers who shop at Sultan using NBK's Credit and Prepaid Cards. Customers will now earn 5% of NBK Rewards Points when spending a minimum of KD 20 at Sultan using their NBK cards, when shopping at any Sultan Express and Sultan Concept stores located in Al Adailiya, Salwa, Jabriya, Al Kout Mall, Souq Sharq, and Salmiya.

Customers with NBK Cards who are part of Sultan's Kaneez loyalty program are also rewarded with additional coins based on their Kaneez membership tier, furthering their savings and benefits when shopping at Sultan.

Sultan Partnership Manager, Abdullah Al Shanfa stated: "We are pleased to be part of the NBK Rewards Program and provide new exclusive rewards for our customers. At Sultan, we strive to always provide an enhanced and rewarding shopping experience that includes exclusive benefits and ongoing offers, making us the preferred choice in terms of experience, quality, value, and product range."

NBK Head of Merchant Relations, Shoug Al Ali stated: "The NBK Rewards Program is Kuwait's largest loyalty program with more than 900 partner outlets across Kuwait. Today, we are excited to announce Sultan is part of our market-leading

program. Sultan is renowned for its leadership in Kuwait's retail market and for its popularity among customers of all ages and backgrounds. We are confident that our customers will be eager to use their NBK Cards at Sultan's nation-wide stores."

Sultan's Kaneez is a leading digital loyalty program that provides a personalized shopping experience in-store, online, and via the Sultan application. Kaneez members earn and redeem their "coins" through shopping and tailored coupons based on their buying habits. Coins are instantly credited and can be redeemed immediately offering valuable savings.

About Sultan

Sultan Center Food Products Company is the largest independent retailer listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange that owns and operates a series of supermarkets across the Middle East. It operates 47 stores in Kuwait, spanning from Jahra to Nwaiseeb, through three distinct store formats. This includes 6 flagship stores, which cater to daily needs in every neighborhood; 12 Sultan Market stores; and 29 Sultan Express stores, which offer quick and convenient shopping options. Additionally, there are 12 Sultan stores in Jordan, 3 stores in Bahrain, and 8 stores in Oman.

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Democratizing access to quantum computing

IQM Quantum Computers launches 'IQM Spark' for universities and labs

ESPOO, Finland/MUNICH, Sept 3, (Business Wire): IQM Quantum Computers (IQM), the European leader in building quantum computers, today launched "IQM Spark," comprising a superconducting quantum computer and tailored learning experiences for universities and research labs worldwide.

IQM Spark comes pre-installed with a 5-qubit quantum processing unit, with more options available allowing for a wide variety of research experiments.

To help universities kick-start their quantum program, in addition, universities will have free maintenance for one year, and IQM will also provide training for running the system and learning materials accessible through IQM Academy, a user-friendly online platform. With IQM Spark, students of all levels (bachelor, master, and PhD) will have the opportunity to learn hands-on about quantum computing.

Additionally, universities can also provide their students with the skillset needed for a quantum-enabled future by leveraging both hardware and software within the learning materials. With its technical track record and world-class expertise, IQM is also committed to collaborating with universities to drive advancements in quantum science.

, said: "Since our inception, we've invested in and promoted quantum education and the advancement of research, and it's apparent that universities around the globe need critical tools like IQM Spark to train the workforce needed for the next generation. Given the potential of quantum computing, the ecosystem will require a wide range of talent across electronics, chip fabrication, hardware design, and software en-

gineering. We are confident that our system will facilitate the learning experience and engage students with the physical system."

"We've designed this offering for universities and research labs to build up their quantum expertise and we believe that our system will not only perform fundamental quantum experiments and raise interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) but we will also advance university science around quantum computing in general, while addressing the shortage of talent and providing value for the job market," points out

Delivered

IQM has already delivered 5-qubit quantum computers to some universities and research institutions, including the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre in Germany. The quantum computer at VTT has been connected to LUMI, Europe's most powerful supercomputer, hosted by the CSC - IT Center for Science.

"VTT and IQM successfully collaborated in delivering Finland's first quantum computer in 2021. The 5-qubit quantum computer enables users to take the first steps in developing quantum algorithms and learn how to utilize the new technology in practice", said , .

"On-premises quantum hardware is only available from a very limited number of vendors. This fact alone makes it hard for us to provide this leading-edge hardware to our scientists. Pricing and missing learning resources make it even harder to make this leading-edge technol-

ogy available for educational purposes for our students," said , which caters to all universities of Bavaria in Germany.

"IQM Spark will address three major challenges: availability, learning resources, and affordability. In that way, universities can give practical experience to the next generation of quantum computing experts," he added.

"Making on-premises quantum computer hardware available to our scientists and students as a low-barrier resource will give a boost to scientific progress and educate the next generation of quantum experts. This paves the way for students in Bavarian universities, such as Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU) and Technical University of Munich (TUM) students, to become entrepreneurs in the field of quantum technologies and live up to the excellence claim of the Munich universities," he concluded.

IQM is the European leader in building quantum computers. IQM provides on-premises quantum computers for supercomputing centres and research labs and offers full access to its hardware. For industrial customers, IQM delivers quantum advantage through a unique application-specific, co-design approach. IQM's commercial quantum computers include Finland's first commercial 54-qubit quantum computer with VTT, IQM-led consortium's (Q-Exa) HPC quantum accelerator in Germany, and IQM processors will also be used in the first quantum accelerator in Spain. IQM has over 280 employees with offices in Paris, Madrid, Munich, Singapore and Espoo.



Abdulaziz Althawab

Bid to raise awareness on environ sustainability

KIB launches campaign with 'Al Bohayra Farm'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: As part of its ongoing efforts to embed the principles of environmental sustainability into society, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced launching an awareness campaign in collaboration with AlBohayra Farm, one of the leading agri-tourism farms in the Middle East. Under the slogan 'Plant Life with KIB', the campaign comes as part of the Bank's comprehensive social responsibility program.

Commenting on the new collaboration, Abdulaziz Althawab, Marketing and Corporate Communications Specialist at KIB, said: "This special collaboration with AlBohayra Farm is a testament to KIB's unwavering dedication to furthering environmental sustainability, enhancing community prosperity, and contributing to economic growth. The Bank realizes how important it is to support local businesses as part of its strategy to increase environmental sustainability in society through various initiatives that contribute to the United Nations Goals for Sustainable Development and Kuwait Vision 2035, and fall in line with KIB's 'Bank for Life' slogan."

Althawab further explained: "Under the collaboration, KIB cardholding customers will be eligible for a 20% discount on the farm's offerings, which include a diverse selection of produce, planting equipment, and more. To enjoy the exclusive discounts, customers need to present their KIB cards at the farm or upon making an online purchase from its website."

In addition to the discount, the partnership will find the Bank's social media platforms posting a series of environmental awareness videos featuring AlBohayra's owner Abdulrahman Ibrahim Al-Awadi, where he will share his knowledge and expertise regarding choosing the right indoor plants, growing them, and

caring for them.

It is worth noting that KIB continues to foster strategic collaborations that aim to provide its customers with not only exceptional banking services, but also the chance to access a healthy, modern lifestyle. The Bank is also dedicated to offering innovative financial solutions that are in line with its environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) strategy, and its vision for the sustainable development of the Kuwaiti economy.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

Chicony picks Ambient Photonics to power its sustainable 'next-generation' keyboards

World's most sustainable keyboard eyed

Shareefah Monthly Winner of 1KG of KFH Gold

KFH announces winners of Al-Rabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 31st and 32nd week of 2023. KFH announced Shareefah Al-Refaei as the monthly winner of 1 kilo Gram of KFH Gold for the month of July 2023.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Talal Al-Naser, Abeer Al-Jurawi, Abdulaziz Al-Azmi, Saad Al-Maie, Khamees Al-Mutairi, Athbah Al-Subaie, Eman Al-Bannay, Aiydah Al-Mraished, Mohammed Zohairuddin, Sulaiman Al-Habeeb, Fahad Al-Azmi, Randa Radwan, Abdelzاهر El-Shalkani, Mohammad Ismail, Salman Al-Daihani, Ibraheem El-Habibi, Maram Al-Shammari, Mohammad Ali, Jaser Al-Mutairi, Hatem El-Sayed.

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a sal-



KFH AlRabeh Campaign visual

ary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not

be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.

Wa'ed Ventures leads a US \$27m Series A Round for Rewaa, with Participation from STC's CIF

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 3, (Business Wire): Saudi's leading omnichannel inventory management system, accounting, and POS platform for the retail industry, announced that it raised \$27 million in Series A funding round led by, a VC fund wholly owned by Aramco.

participated in the round alongside Silicon Valley's Graphene Ventures, Sadu Capital, Vision Ventures, Khwarizmi Ventures, RZM Investment, Derayah VC, and Abdulrahman

Sulaiman Al Rajhi & Sons Investment Company.

According to the founders, the company processed over \$2 billion in transaction value to date, making it one of the fastest-growing SaaS companies in MENA, serving more than 7,000 retailers in Saudi and abroad, and creating over 250 jobs.

"This investment propels us toward our vision of becoming the optimal tech partner for SMBs in the retail sector. By

contributing to the industry's digital transformation, we aim to make an impact on retail merchants, enabling them to increase efficiency," said Mohammed Alqasir, Co-Founder and CEO at Rewaa.

Foundation

Since its foundation in 2018 by Mohammed Alqasir and Abdullah Aljadhari, Rewaa provides a cloud-based solution that interlaces online and physical store inventory.

While offering point-of-sale (POS) and accounting modules for an integrated platform, Rewaa aims to become the retailers' tech partner by providing advanced technical solutions to manage inventory, sales, and payments.

"Rewaa's revolutionary approach to digitizing and optimizing operational processes based on efficiency and scale-up goals for SMEs perfectly addresses the needs of the typically-scattered retail industry,"

said Fahad Alidi, Managing Director at Wa'ed Ventures.

He adds: "We had the privilege of knowing Mohammed and Abdullah since their early days as founders. We are proud to back their growth today as they transform Rewaa from a simple digital tool to the go-to cloud-based POS and inventory management platform for local and regional retailers."

"We are pleased to invest in Rewaa, which has proven itself through the tremendous growth

it has achieved in recent months and thanks to the great team behind these achievements.

Through our investment in this company, we seek to participate in developing technologies supporting the retail market, including Rewaa's company," commented Majed AlJarboua, General Manager at stc corporate funds & entrepreneurship.

More information can be found here <https://www.rewaatech.com/en/rewaa-series-a/>



A flyer AI Danah monthly draw.

Gulf Bank announces winners of AIDanah monthly draw

The last chance to deposit and qualify for the KD 2 million grand draw is November 30, 2023. As part of its ongoing commitment to reward its customers and account holders, Gulf Bank has announced the 10 monthly winners of the AIDanah account draw for the month of August 2023. The lucky winners who will be taking home a prize of KD 1,000 each, are:

- Bader Mohammed Al Sarraf
- Huda Abdullah Sulaiman Alfaresi
- Dalal Adel Salem Alrashed
- Sarah Bader Mubarak Alhajraf
- Sabah Sultan Salem Alfadhli

- Hala Dheyaa Haidar Abu Alhasan
- Abdullah Hussien Wahba
- Hussain Mohammed Fakeih
- Michelle Natasha Johnson
- Feras Hussain Jassim Akbar - minor

The last opportunity to deposit and qualify for the grand draw prize of KD 2 million, is November 30, 2023, which is set to happen on January 18, 2024, in the presence of representatives from both the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young. The AIDanah account is one of the most rewarding savings accounts in Kuwait, with its pe-

riodic draws that award valuable prizes and multiple benefits for account holders. Gulf Bank's AIDanah account offers monthly opportunities to win KD 1,000 to ten lucky winners, in addition to two quarterly draws with KD 100,000 prizes each, a semi-annual draw prize of KD 1 million and a grand draw prize of KD 2 million. Gulf Bank's AIDanah account is the only account in Kuwait, that rewards customers for their loyalty by providing loyalty chances, and transfers your chances of winning from the previous year to the next year, as part of a program that rewards customers for their loyalty to Gulf Bank.

In line with the key objectives behind the 'upgrade' educational initiative

stc honors participants in first phase of the Master Class Academy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, attended the ceremony, as part of its main sponsorship role, held to honor the first participants to complete the first phase of the Al-Qabas Master Class Academy.

The Company's participation in the ceremony was attended by the General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, Danah Al-Jasem, who delivered a speech to the participants in the Academy where the objectives of this initiative falls under the Company's educational 'upgrade' umbrella.

The honoring ceremony was held

to recognize the participants who have completed the first phase of the program and was attended by Mr. Nasser Al-Moumen, Executive Director of Al-Qabas Media Corporation, and Mr. Tariq Al-Othman, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of "HumanSoft Holding Company.", along with the various participating institutions, including members from stc's Corporate Communications team.

Through her role, AlJasem addressed the attendees during her message, recognizing the fruitful collaboration between all entities to organize an initiative aimed at empowering the youth. She emphasized stc's pride in participating in such initiatives that shine a positive light on the community, while

encouraging young individuals to participate in educational programs that can sharpen their skills and support their future career paths.

Furthermore, AlJasem highlighted the various collaborations between stc and Al-Qabas, while commending the successful turnout of the first phase of the Al-Qabas Master Class Academy. She expressed the vast network that stc has built over the years with private and public institutions to play its constructive role in the community. stc has progressively expanded its sustainable corporate social responsibility framework over the years, with one of its key pillars focusing primarily on empowering the youth and supporting local entrepreneurs. AlJasem also thanked all the participants in the academy that

will hopefully leave a lasting impact on their professional journey.

Organized by Al-Qabas, the Master Class is held in two different phases, with the first phase now complete, over the course of 4-weeks at AUM with over 150 participating students. The program is designed to assist students in enhancing their skills in line with the highest professional and creative standards in the local market. Students get a chance to learn about various subjects and develop their competencies through the influence of seasoned professionals.

During the first phase of the Al-Qabas Master Class Program, stc provided an overview with key insights on the future of cybersecurity led by Engineer Issa Al Suwaid,

General Manager of Cybersecurity at stc. Al Suwaid covered the current trends and developments that are occurring globally with cybersecurity, while highlighting the future demand for stronger and more agile security measures due to advancing technologies. Al Suwaid also presented some of the innovative solutions offered by stc in cybersecurity, as well as the fundamental pillars that must be considered when safeguarding digital data.

As for the second phase of the program, stc will be participating in two discussions. Noura AlBshaier, Director of Sustainability at stc, will be presenting on the importance of sustainability in the private sector. Whereas Anfal Alkandari, Public Relations and Social Media Special-

ist at stc, will be presenting on the importance of communicating with the community through corporate communications.

stc's participation in the program is in line with its commitment to education, a key pillar of its extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. As part of its educational 'upgrade' initiative, stc focuses on supporting the youth within the community to enable a brighter and more prosperous future.

To find out more about stc's events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow stc's official social media platforms, visit one of stc's branches, download mystc mobile application, visit www.stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.



A group photo of the male and female trainees participating in the academy.

Survey reveals only 6% of companies have policies for responsible use of AI

73% recognize the importance of clearly established guidelines

SAN MATEO, Calif., Sept 3, (AP): Conversica, Inc., the leading provider of conversational AI solutions for enterprise revenue teams, has announced the results of its newest survey conducted with business owners and leaders to get a perspective on enterprise preparedness regarding AI Ethics and Corporate Responsibility.

While governing bodies around the world are still considering AI-specific regulations, giving AI providers the power to launch services and products with various degrees of reliability, almost every organization is falling short of formulating in-house, well-defined principles and guidelines for their own responsible and ethical implementation of this technology. But this is inevitable, as business leaders need to get ahead of potential risks and issues given the disruptive possibilities of this technology.

For organizations already adopting AI, a whopping 86% agree on the critical importance of having clearly established guidelines for the responsible use of AI; the percentage was 73% among all respondents.

However, only 6% of companies have policies in place for the responsible use of AI. And among organizations planning to adopt AI in the next 12 months, it's even lower: 5% have policies.

One in five business leaders at companies that use AI have limited or no knowledge about their policies concerning critical AI issues including security, transparency, accuracy, and ethics.

The main concerns for companies who adopted AI are: the lack of transparency (22%), false information (21%), and the accuracy of data models (20%).

The survey data shows that companies that already utilize AI or those with plans for its adoption within a year are more likely to acknowledge the importance of having clear ethical guidelines for the responsible use of the technology.

86% of business leaders at organizations already adopting AI say that having AI ethics policies in place is crucial, compared to 73% of the overall group. However, despite being more likely to recognize the importance of these policies, only 5% of the leaders at companies adopting AI currently have clear guidelines in place.

One in five business leaders at companies who use AI have limited or no knowledge about their company's policies concerning the critical issues associated with the use of AI including security, transparency, accuracy, and ethics. Even more alarming, 36% claim to be only 'somewhat familiar' with these issues. This is a widening risk factor that businesses will have to address in the near future, especially those already using AI, as they likely are already experiencing the challenges and opportunities posed by this technology.

"From an enterprise perspective, these figures are concerning, especially considering the vast array of AI products and services expected to become available in the coming years and the potentially significant impact they will have on the future of business," said Jim Kaskade, CEO of Conversica. "This could represent a problematic trend for companies that haven't started planning to enforce responsible and ethical use of AI. Business leaders must get ahead of

these issues now."

According to respondents, the most challenging aspects of making informed decisions about the use of AI in their companies are the lack of resources for data security and transparency (43%), and difficulty with finding a provider that has ethical standards that are aligned with those of the company (40%).

"The main elements business leaders should be looking for are the safe, brand-protective, and compliant use of AI that protects their end users. The minimum AI factors include governance, diverse and representative training data, bias detection and mitigation, transparency and accuracy," said Kaskade.

Within the following year, business leaders said they intend to use AI for "external engagement", i.e. customer service/support, and marketing/sales outreach (39%). 'Insights' including fraud detection, data analytics, and predictive modeling came in at a close second (36%).

Currently, the top concerns about AI vary according to where their companies are in adopting the technology. Among those that have already adopted the technology, the top three concerns about its use are the lack of transparency (22%), the accuracy of data models (20%), and false information (21%).

Respondents whose companies had no plans to adopt AI-powered services in the next year mostly said they don't have any concerns about AI (29%). For the respondents who did express a concern, their top choice was 'legal implications, patent infringements, plagiarism, and copyright violations' (11%).

When asked to what extent they viewed false information generated by AI as a significant concern for their company, 77% of total respondents

rated this as either 'Concerning' or 'Very concerning.' This figure was higher - 88% - for respondents whose companies already have AI-powered solutions in place, indicating that business leaders with more business experience with AI have better awareness of the possible brand risks associated with improper usage.

When it comes to employee use of popular AI-based tools like ChatGPT, the majority of respondents (56%) said that their company either already has rules in place, or is considering implementing a usage policy.

"When we talk about the use of AI, disclosure is power. The more companies are transparent and upfront about how they use AI, deploy vigilant systems, and include humans in the loop, the more they can significantly reduce the risks associated with its adoption and protect their brands, employees and end users," added Kaskade.

The survey was conducted online using a random sample of 500 business owners and leaders within the United States by SurveyMonkey on behalf of Conversica in July 2023.

Conversica's Revenue Digital Assistants™ (RDAs) supercharge workforces such as marketing, sales, and customer success teams to acquire untapped revenue through perfectly structured conversations. With billions of human interactions spanning more than a decade, Conversica's RDAs have learned to influence and persuade customers and prospects throughout the customer journey lifecycle. Unlike chatbots, Conversica RDAs are Powerfully Human and can hold meaningful conversations at every touchpoint to create brand loyalty and maximize every revenue opportunity. The result is increased operational efficiencies, reduced costs, and improved customer experiences.

Soni, Sourav win Men's Doubles
KCICAI organizes tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: KCICAI (Kuwait Chapter of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) organized a Badminton Tournament-Singles/Doubles on 25th August 2023, exclusively for its members and their families at I Smash Badminton Academy, Ahmadi, Kuwait. The Tournament received an overwhelming response from over 150 members and their families. It was held in multiple categories (Men's-Doubles, Women's-Doubles, Boy's 8-11 Years Category, Boy's-Teen Category and Girl's-Single) with Winners and Runners Up in each category being awarded trophies.

CA Umesh Soni & CA Sourav Pachisiwere the winners of Men's-Doubles while CA Rajeesh Chinnan & CA Joseph Thomas were runners up in this category.

CA Ann Vinaya Joseph & Roshni Gonsalves (W/O CA Rabin Gonsalves) were winners of Women's doubles followed by CA Nisha Jalan & Sumita Agrawal (W/O CA Nishank Agrawal) as runners up.

Krish Neotia (S/O CA Rahul Neotia) was the winner in Boy's-Teen category with R. Ramanna (S/O CA S. Ramachandran) as runner up. Ryan Thomas Joseph (S/O CA Joseph Thomas) was the winner in Boy's8-11 Years category with Aarush Bindal (S/O CA Avinash Bindal) as the runner up.

In Girl's-Singles, Maryam Chorghay (D/O CA Yusuf Chorghay) emerged as the winner while Mahi Bindal (D/O CA Deepak Bindal) ended up as the runner up.

CA Rabindranath Gonsalves, Chairman of ICAI Kuwait Chapter, congratulated all the winners and participants for their participation and in making the event successful and mentioned that such events will promote the spirit of sportsmanship and bonding among members and their families. It was a fun filled day and the members and their families enjoyed the evening. The presentation ceremony was conducted by CA Aditya Dhanuka, and the trophies were handed over by the Advisory Members (CA Sanjiv Pabrai & CA Kaizar Shakir), Chairperson, Immediate past Chairperson, and the Committee Members.

KCICAI is a professional association of Indian Chartered Accountants with a strength of more than 450 members and its objective is to provide the members with professional and social networking opportunities. It regularly conducts continuing professional education programs and various sports and social activities for the benefit of its members. Membership is open for all Indian Chartered Accountants. The chapter would like to thank our annual sponsors, Al-Mulla Exchange, NBK and Oracle.



Winners of the badminton tournament.

EMKOO, GS3 EMZOOM released in Saudi Arabia

GAC MOTOR is firing on all cylinders in the Middle East, rapidly expanding their product matrix in the region with a double release of award-winning models in Saudi Arabia.

On August 16 at the Crowne Plaza RDC Riyadh, an invitational launch party celebrated the Saudi Arabia release of the EMKOO and the GS3 EMZOOM. Zeng Hebin, General Manager of GAC International, delivered a speech at the event. Wu Jian, President of GAC Research Institute, and Zhang Fan, Vice President of GAC

Research Institute, introduced the products to the audience and emphasized that GAC Group will continue to be committed to providing better and smarter travel experience for consumers around the world, especially in Saudi Arabia, ushering in the future mobility experience with cutting edge technology.

A large group of media representatives, online influencers and content creators were given an up-close preview of these newest regional releases, as well as a detailed explanation of GAC MO-

TOR's new brand strategy and the latest industry trends. The result was an excited buzz around GAC MOTOR's rapidly expanding brand power and the cutting-edge automobiles now made available for purchase in Saudi Arabia.

The new models now available to Saudi Arabian buyers include the sleek 5-seater EMKOO, positioned as a "next-generation SUV" that counts the China Automotive Technology Research Center's "Best Bodywork" and "Best Workmanship" awards amongst its accolades. (AP)



GAC MOTOR officially launched EMKOO and the GS3 EMZOOM in Saudi Arabia.

Expo to discuss revolution of intelligent transportation

SCE 2023 showcases China's innovations in Intelligent Connected NEVs

CHONGQING, China, Sept 3: A news report from iChongqing- The 2023 Smart China Expo (SCE 2023) is primed to roll out from September 4 to 6 at the Chongqing International Expo Center, with annual topics including Intelligent Connected New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) and Digital China, as announced in a recent press conference.

This year's Expo discusses the revolution of intelligent transportation through enhancements like real-time traffic scheduling, intelligent parking, and the digital management of vehicles. Spanning 12 sub-fields, including power batteries and intelligent cockpits, the Expo also brings together over 310 industrial magnates such as Changan and Seres.

Attendees can expect insights from top Chinese academicians and industry leaders from giants like STMicroelectronics, Dassault Systemes, and Ford. A dialogue session featuring senior executives from Microsoft, IBM, and Tencent will also be held to delve into AI models' commercial applications and industry growth concerning intelligent networks.

The Intelligent Equipment and Manufacturing section will spotlight technological breakthroughs in smart robots and high-precision sensors, featuring 69 industry giants like China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation Limited and China Electronics Technology Group Corporation.

A particular emphasis on Big Data, AI, and cloud computing

China's 10,000-ton photovoltaic green hydrogen pilot project completed

KUQA, China, Sept 3: China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (HKG: 0386, "Sinopec") completed the construction of the Sinopec Xinjiang Kuqa Green Hydrogen Pilot Project (the "Project"), China's largest photovoltaic green hydrogen production project lately. It is put into operation to produce an annual green hydrogen of 20,000 tons at full capacity, a significant breakthrough in China's scaled industrial applications of green hydrogen.

The green hydrogen produced by the Project will supply to Sinopec Tahe Petrochemical to replace the existing natural gas and fossil energy used in hydrogen production, realizing the low-carbon development of modern oil processing and green hydrogen coupling.

The Project is China's first large-



China's first 10,000-ton photovoltaic green hydrogen pilot project now fully built and put into production.

scale utilization of photovoltaic power generation to produce green hydrogen directly. Utilizing the

abundant solar resources in Xinjiang, the Project has an electrolyzed water hydrogen plant with an annual

capacity of 20,000 tons, a spherical hydrogen storage tank with a hydrogen storage capacity of 210,000 standard cubic meters, and hydrogen transmission pipelines with a capacity of 28,000 standard cubic meters per hour.

The Project, as the first scaled application of green hydrogen refining, is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 485,000 tons a year. Sinopec has tackled multiple bottlenecks, including flexible hydrogen production under the scenario of new energy power fluctuation, and achieved localization of major equipment and core materials.

With a focus on hydrogen transportation and green hydrogen refining, Sinopec is accelerating its hydrogen development with the establishment of more than 100 hy-

drogen refueling stations, owning and operating the largest number of hydrogen refueling stations in the world to date.

In the field of green hydrogen refining, Sinopec has been vigorously advancing centralized wind power and photovoltaic development, laying out mega-scale projects integrating renewable energy power generation, hydrogen production, storage, and utilization.

In addition to the Project, Sinopec's green hydrogen project in Ordos, which will produce 30,000 tons annually began construction in February 2023, while the Ulanqab project is now in the planning stage. Towards the "dual-carbon" goals, Sinopec is committed to reducing carbon emissions and continually supporting and promoting green, low-carbon development.

drives the New Generation of IT section, assembling 43 key enterprises, including Huawei, Alibaba, and China Unicom. This sector talks about the use of technologies in advancing cities, healthcare, and education in reality.

The Expo solicits global auto part leaders, including Bosch and CATL, and titans from the NEV sphere, like BMW, BYD, and NIO, to participate. Moreover, 27 country ambassadors representing nations such as Mexico and Argentina are set to be a part, with

a highlight of the Sino-Swiss Business Incubation Competition featuring over 20 global teams.

Singapore has actively co-sponsored SCE since 2020 and will continue its partnership from 2023 to 2025. "Singapore, co-hosting

the event this year, will display its technological prowess with a 1,000-square-meter booth," said Chu Bin, Deputy Director of the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity Administrative Bureau.

Visitors are in for a treat with nearly 3,000 innovations from over 480 industry leaders and behind-the-scenes revelations of NEVs. Since its inception in 2018, the SCE has been a resounding success for five years.

Erdogan hopes to revive the agreement

What's at stake when Turkey's leader meets Putin on Black Sea grain deal

ISTANBUL, Sept 3, (AP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will meet with Vladimir Putin on Monday, hoping to persuade the Russian leader to rejoin the Black Sea grain deal that Moscow broke off from in July.

Here are some key things to know and what's at stake:

The meeting in Sochi on Russia's southern coast comes after weeks of speculation about when and where the two leaders might meet.

Erdogan previously said that Putin would travel to Turkey in August.

The Kremlin refused to renew the grain agreement six weeks ago. The deal - brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July 2022 - had allowed nearly 33 million metric tons (36 million tons) of grain and other commodities to leave three Ukrainian ports safely despite Russia's war.

However, Russia pulled out after claiming that a parallel deal promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honored.

Moscow complained that restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade, even though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

Renew

Since Putin withdrew from the initiative, Erdogan has repeatedly pledged to renew arrangements that helped avoid a food crisis in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on.

The Turkish president has maintained close ties to Putin during the 18-month war in Ukraine. Turkey hasn't joined Western sanctions against Russia following its invasion, emerging as a main trading partner and logistical hub for Russia's overseas trade.

NATO member Turkey, however, has also supported Ukraine, sending arms, meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and backing Kyiv's bid to join NATO.

Erdogan angered Moscow in July when he allowed five Ukrainian commanders to return home. The soldiers had been captured by Russia and hand-

Biggest round of deals

Taliban signs mining contracts worth \$6.5 bln in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan, Sept 3, (AP): Afghanistan's ruling Taliban government said it signed seven mining contracts Thursday amounting to \$6.5 billion in investment, in the biggest such round of deals since seizing power two years ago.

The seven contracts are with locally based companies, many of whom have foreign partners in countries including China, Iran, and Turkey. They include the extraction and processing of iron ore, lead, zinc and gold in four provinces: Herat, Ghor, Logar and Takhar.

A statement on the contracts from Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund gave few details, but said they would create thousands of jobs and significantly improve the economic situation of the country.

Any figures given for the deals could be misleading unless they lead to fully realized mining operations on the ground, which could take years, said Javed Noorani, an expert in Afghanistan's mining sector.

"The Taliban know Afghanistan has minerals and this is cash, but it's not easy cash," Noorani told The Associated Press. "Mineral mining is an incredibly complicated operation. It requires a proper framework, strategies, institutions and infrastructure. You open up the sector slowly and start with low-hanging fruit."

Nobody from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum was available to provide further information on the contracts or the companies. The AP contacted the Kabul-based Sahil Middle East Mining & Logistics Ltd, which signed an iron ore deal according to the official statement, but received no immediate response.

The Taliban have been courting foreign investment to revitalize the economy since their takeover.

Nearly 80% of the previous, Western-backed Afghan government's budget came from the international community. That money, now largely cut off, financed hospitals, schools, factories and government ministries.

ed over to Turkey on condition they remain there for the duration of the war.

Putin and Erdogan - both authoritarian leaders who have been in power for more than two decades - are said to have a close rapport, fostered in the wake of a failed coup against Erdogan in 2016 when Putin was the first major leader to offer his support.

Traditional rivals Turkey and Russia grew closer over the following years as trade levels rose and they embarked on joint projects such as the Turkstream gas pipeline and Turkey's first nuclear power plant. Ankara's relations with Moscow have frequently alarmed its Western allies. The 2019 acquisition of Russian-made air defense missiles led to Washington kicking Turkey off the

US-led F-35 stealth fighter program.

Russia-Turkey relations in fields such as energy, defense, diplomacy, tourism and trade have flourished despite the countries being on opposing sides in conflicts in Syria, Libya and Nagorno-Karabakh. Since Erdogan's reelection in May, Putin has faced domestic challenges that may make him appear a less reliable partner, most notably the short-lived armed rebellion declared by late mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin in June.

The Sochi summit follows talks between the Russian and Turkish foreign ministers on Thursday, during which the West would have to take in order for Ukraine's Black Sea exports to resume.



Al Marjan Island to feature Marriott International's second hospitality offering on its shores: W Al Marjan Island

W Al Marjan Island to open early 2027

Al Marjan Island to feature Marriott 2nd hospitality offering on its shores

RAS AL KHAIMAH, United Arab Emirates, Sept 3: Marjan, the master developer of freehold properties in Ras Al Khaimah, has announced the launch of a W Hotel on Al Marjan Island on the back of a collaboration between Marriott International, Inc., and Dalands Holding.

Slated for a grand opening early 2027, W Al Marjan Island is poised to achieve a dual distinction, not only as Marriott International's second hospitality venture on the island, but also as W Hotel's first property in Ras Al Khaimah, bringing the brand's bold design, outstanding service and always-on programming to the northern emirate.

Destined to be located on Marjan's flagship archipelago island, set against the picturesque backdrop of the Arabian Peninsula, and enclosed by the Yanas and Jais Mountains, the hotel will further elevate the appeal of this thriving leisure destination to

globetrotters.

Featuring an inventory of 300 hotel rooms and suites with sweeping sea views, this magnificent property is anticipated to include signature spaces such as the Living Room, WET deck, W Lounge, AWAY Spa, and FIT fitness centre along with three restaurants and retail spaces.

Tourism

Abdulla Al Abdouli, Chief Executive Officer, Marjan, said: "As Ras Al Khaimah rightfully solidifies its position on the global tourism landscape, we take pride in our significant contribution to enhancing its credibility and attractiveness among international investors. This commitment has led to a myriad of prestigious projects, as exemplified by the launch of W Al Marjan Island."

"We are excited to work with Dalands Holding to bring W's invigorating energy and dynamic design to

Al Marjan Island," said Saahil Latit, Vice President - Development, Middle East, Marriott International. "Ras Al Khaimah continues to be a sought-after leisure destination attracting global travellers to its idyllic beaches and attractions."

Saurabh Gupta, CEO, Dalands Holding, said: "We believe this one-of-a-kind development will be immensely popular for its iconic design, luxurious accommodation and trendy culinary options. Like the other luxury hotels in our portfolio, we are developing W Al Marjan Island around the perceived needs of our future guests by curating exceptional offerings and unforgettable experiences."

Endowed with white sandy beaches stretching over 7.8 km and a 23 km waterfront, an array of activities, and water sports, Al Marjan Island is reimagining luxurious waterfront living in Ras Al Khaimah.

Group remains committed to attracting more investors

Adani Group's stocks, financials unaffected by misleading reports

AHMEDABAD, India, Sept 3: The misleading reports on Adani Group, India's largest critical infrastructure developer that has undertaken several projects which are of strategic priorities for the country's development have been unsuccessful in having any substantial impact on the group's business performance as well as its ability to create shareholder value.

The Adani Group's stocks have rebounded strongly since the release of a short-selling report in January 2023. Four of the group's largest companies-Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, Adani Green, and Adani Power-have gained over 100% from their lows. Adani Ports, the most widely held institutional stock in the Adani portfolio, is now trading above its pre-report price. Likewise, Adani Power is also trading above pre-report price levels. Despite the recent reports, the leading group stocks closed in the green

on Friday, indicating a lack of trust in these misleading reports.

Significant investments by large global institutions in recent months, including a sovereign wealth fund, have bolstered confidence in the group's businesses. It is worth noting that these investors which include Qatar Investment Authority and QGQ Partners are repeat investors which were already large shareholders in the group's businesses. Furthermore, none of the long-only investors including France headquartered Total Energies, Abu Dhabi based IHC, Qatar based QIA and US headquartered QGQ Capital Partners have exited their investments from the group businesses and have continued to support, some through increased participation. This is because the group has been a huge value creator for each of these investors.

Stake sales to these investors have also enhanced li-

quidity at the promoter level, which can be utilized for strategic priorities. The group has raised nearly USD 10.5 billion through strategic stake sales to long-only investors. Around USD 5 billion is posted in the short-seller report. The Adani Group remains committed to attracting more such investors as part of its 10-year capital program initiated in 2016 to participate in the world's largest and fastest-growing infrastructure development platform.

In addition, the rating agencies have reaffirmed the ratings of all the listed group companies. This has allowed continued market access. In the first quarter of the current financial year alone, the group has raised INR 17949 crore from international as well as domestic banks and capital markets.

The trust and confidence demonstrated by these investors underscore the strength of the group's businesses and its commitment to high governance standards. Financially,

the group continues to perform well, reporting record profits in the first quarter of FY24 following the short-seller report. The group's portfolio of listed companies achieved an EBITDA of INR 23,532 crore, a 42% increase year-on-year, almost matching the entire FY19 EBITDA of INR 24,780 crore.

For FY23, EBITDA reached INR 57,210 crore, a 42% YoY increase, with improved debt metrics, boasting a net-debt to EBITDA ratio of three times. The portfolio companies also held INR 42,115 crore in total liquidity.

Importantly, the Adani Group operates within the bounds of the law and under the scrutiny of regulatory authorities in respective jurisdictions. The allegations are based on false information and only targeted to malign the group's image but have no substantial impact on the group's day-to-day operations.

Nectar Life Sciences opens first brick-and-mortar allergy clinic in NYC

Allergy Center provides comfort, helps patients improve quality of life

NEW YORK, Sept 3: Nectar Life Sciences, the trusted health technology company behind the first hybrid, vertically-integrated allergy care platform, has announced the grand opening of its flagship Nectar Allergy Center, located in New York City. The clinic expands Nectar's platform from virtual care offerings to the physical realm, creating a hybrid model that treats both adults and children wherever it's convenient for them. Nectar's care offerings are now expanding from environmental allergies to more complex allergic conditions, including asthma, food allergies, and eczema.

As part of this launch, the company is significantly bolstering its clinical and scientific expertise by adding new board-certified allergists to the leadership team. Nectar Life Sciences has appointed Dr. Shyam Joshi, M.D., as the company's first Chief Scientific Officer and hired Dr. Tania Elliott, M.D., as Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Akansha Ganju, M.D., has also joined the company as Medical Director of the Nectar Allergy Center.

Nectar Life Sciences is transforming allergy care with comprehensive, data-driven clinical innovation at a time when allergies are the #1 chronic condition in the US. More than 120 million Americans suffer from allergies and related conditions that make their lives difficult and affect their overall health. Nectar's proprietary research found that 70% of allergy sufferers mask their symptoms with antihistamines and other over-the-counter products that may provide temporary relief but don't solve the root cause - and 45% have never seen an allergist.

Accessibility

As part of the company's mission to change those numbers by empowering and educating patients, the Nectar Allergy Center is a 3,250-square-foot facility at 176 3rd Avenue near Manhattan's Union Square. The clinic took inspiration from the design and experience of inviting hotels and restaurants, rather than traditional medical offices. Increasing accessibility to comprehensive allergy care is a core part of Nectar Life Sciences's mission, so the Allergy Center is strategically located near many subway and bus stops. The space was thoughtfully designed with modern, hypoallergenic decor to maximize efficiency, safety and functionality while accommodating a comfortable relationship between providers and patients. The clinic features a fully digital check-in, examination rooms set up for shared decision-making with educational flatcreens for patients, and relaxing observation areas where patients can catch up on work during longer treatments.

"As a native New Yorker who was born and raised in Washington Heights, where I suffered from severe allergies for decades, I'm extremely proud to establish our first Nectar Allergy Center in my hometown," said Dr. Kenneth Chahine, Ph.D., J.D., Co-Founder & CEO of Nectar Life Sciences. "Opening this clinic represents a significant milestone in our mission to make transformative allergy care more accessible to the community, using the power of science and technology. Many New Yorkers are dreading the fall allergy season that's just around the corner, as 90% of people with allergies have stayed home from work, school or other activities due to their symptoms. Our team is eager to provide comfort and help patients improve their quality of life, so they don't have to miss out on the moments that truly matter."

The center's offerings expand upon Nectar's at-home allergy testing and treatment solutions, which launched in February to detect and treat up to 40 indoor and outdoor allergies, with test sales growing by 50% each month since then. Nectar is the first allergy care platform with a vertically-integrated business model that allows the

company to maintain quality control throughout the entire patient journey. In addition to the new clinic, the integrated ecosystem includes a compounding pharmacy, CLIA-certified and CAP-accredited lab testing facility, and telehealth network of allergists.

Nectar's proprietary offering, Nectar Allergy Drops, is an evidence-based, safe, and cost-effective treatment that provides lifelong relief from allergies by treating the root cause with sublingual immunotherapy drops that are administered under the tongue. Nectar's team of seasoned healthcare executives and innovators developed a unique, patent-pending protocol using FDA-approved single allergens to create Allergy Drops that are customized to each patient and treat multiple allergies simultaneously. As a result, survey data shows a vast majority of patients report experiencing improvement in allergy symptoms within a few months of starting Nectar.

Dr. Shyam Joshi, who has been an integral member of the Nectar Life Sciences team for the past two years, brings experience as an allergist and principal investigator in various clinical trials to his new role as Chief Scientific Officer. He is board certified in Allergy & Immunology and will continue to support Nectar's clinical research and validation. Dr. Tania Elliott, a nationally recognized healthcare leader who is also board certified in Allergy & Immunology, has stepped into the Chief Medical Officer position. She will drive clinical strategy and quality across the company, while serving as the public face of Nectar to educate people about allergies and empower them with accessible treatment options. Dr. Elliott was previously Chief Medical Officer, Virtual Care at Ascension, one of the nation's largest healthcare systems, and has held leadership roles at Aetna, a CVS Health Company; EHE Health, where she ran concierge clinics across 44 states; and Doctor on Demand (now Included Health). Dr. Akansha Ganju has newly joined the Nectar Allergy Center team, after completing a fellowship in Allergy & Immunology at UCLA Health, where she treated patients at UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, and the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System.

Symptoms

"Nectar Life Sciences's groundbreaking work aligns with my passion for hybrid care, where patients can have an enjoyable and comprehensive clinic experience and continue care from the comfort of their homes, without interruptions to their daily lives," said Dr. Tania Elliott, Chief Medical Officer at Nectar Life Sciences. "As an allergy sufferer myself, it was very difficult to determine the root cause of my symptoms until someone took the time to get a comprehensive history and understand my triggers. At the time, convenient treatment options were not available and the healthcare system was hard to navigate. With Nectar, all of that has changed - our care is thorough, accessible, cutting-edge, and allows people to feel like their best selves."

Nectar Life Sciences is the trusted health technology company behind Nectar, the first hybrid, vertically-integrated allergy care platform. By focusing on data-driven clinical innovation, research and a modernized patient experience, Nectar is transforming comprehensive care for allergies and related conditions, with the goal of long-term relief. Nectar's patent-pending, at-home allergy testing and treatment protocol empowers patients to detect and treat up to 40 indoor and outdoor allergies without leaving their homes. Nectar Allergy Drops are evidence-based, safe, cost-effective and customized to each patient as they treat allergies at their source through sublingual immunotherapy administered under the tongue.

DVCR and Clario to deliver innovative cardiac assessments in clinical trials

'State-of-the-art telemetry system'

OVERLAND PARK, Kan, Sept 3: Dr. Vince Clinical Research (DVCR), an early phase Clinical Research Organization (CRO), has announced a new collaboration with Clario, a leading healthcare research and technology company that delivers leading endpoint technology solutions for clinical trials.

The partnership will extend access to Clario's clinically proven Early Precision QT (EPQT) methodology. In many cases, this data can sufficiently fulfill International Council for Harmonization (ICH) E14 regulatory requirements and qualify Sponsor companies for a Thorough QT study waiver. Together, DVCR and Clario will empower more biopharmaceutical companies to obtain precise and cost-effective cardiac safety data earlier in the clinical development process.

"In order to initiate this strategic partnership, DVCR's Phase I clinical pharmacology unit underwent a rigorous evaluation process to become a Clario Certified Site," Robert Kleiman, M.D., Chief Science and Regulatory Advisor, Cardiology, Clario, commented. "It was quickly obvious that the clinical pharmacology unit built by Dr. Vince Clinical Research is exceptionally well-suited to conduct these complex trials given the site's integrated technologies, state-of-the-art telemetry system, and deep clinical experience. Their organization is already skillfully leveraging Clario's platforms to provide high-quality cardiac data to our clients."

Collection

Dr. Kleiman added, "The certification process involves collecting continuous cardiac data in a mock clinical trial environment, in accordance with Clario's guidance documents and using their standardized data collection forms. The collected data was analyzed by Clario's experts to ensure that each extraction timepoint meets their robust standards for data quality and integrity. As a result, two of DVCR's personnel were designated as 'Site Champions.'"

The partnership with Clario makes use of the latest technology. The Wi-Fi-enabled 12-lead telemetry system archives data on-site and directly uploads it to Clario's cloud-based portal. Site staff can remotely monitor tracing quality, reducing data collection interruptions, and improving the experience of study volunteers by reducing the number of electrodes placed on them, leading to improved volunteer retention.

Brad Vince, D.O., DVCR's CEO & Medical Director, stated, "The successful qualification of our Phase I unit as a Clario Certified Site represents multiple years of planning and a commitment to being a trusted partner in this space. We are excited to be working alongside Dr. Kleiman and Dr. Darpo to leverage Clario's expertise in cardiac safety."

The partnership between Clario and DVCR marks a significant milestone in the clinical research industry, setting a new standard for cardiac safety data collection during Phase I clinical trials.

Clario is a leading healthcare re-

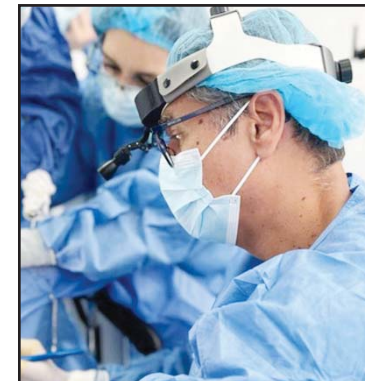
Quanta's laser improves health for women with various 'pathologies'

Treatment non-painful

LIMA, Peru, Sept 3: Genitourinary syndrome of menopause (GSM), previously known as atrophic vaginitis or vulvovaginal atrophy, affects more than half of postmenopausal women. GSM is caused, among other reasons, by low estrogen levels and can lead to vaginal dryness, itching, dyspareunia, urinary urgency, increased urinary frequency, and urinary tract infections, as stated in various scientific publications.

"As women are taking more and more care of themselves, gynecologists and doctors, in general, are facing an increase in the care of pathologies that were already known before but are now emerging differently," affirms Dr. Juan Salinas, a specialist in lower genital tract pathology, regenerative medicine, and gynecological laser and among the greatest Quanta System users worldwide. "Genitourinary syndrome of menopause, together with urinary incontinence and vaginal laxity syndrome, can imply serious problems in terms of Women's quality of life and health."

The Women's Empower survey interviewed 1858 women residing in communities in the United States and found that women do not discuss the topic with their healthcare professionals due to embarrassment or the belief that it is inappropriate. However, most would be willing to try a product for symptom relief and would appreciate information



Dr. Juan Salinas during a workshop.

and treatment suggestions from their healthcare professional.

"This means that we, gynecologists or healthcare professionals, must actively inquire about these types of problems and refer women to specialists who can help them. Women need to know that beyond creams, moisturizers, and lubricants, there are new therapeutic alternatives that can help them overcome these types of issues," says Dr. J. Salinas.

"One of these alternatives is the Youlaser MT from the Italian company Quanta System. It is a state-of-the-art laser with 2 wavelengths: 1540 and 10,600 nm. Youlaser MT works with simultaneous emission that induces tissue contraction in-depth, stimulating the cells that produce new collagen (fibroblasts) and

elastin while increasing vascularization of the vagina to restore its functionality," explains Dr. J. Salinas.

For almost forty years Quanta System, a 100% Italian company distributed worldwide, is the reference point for the research, designing and manufacture of cutting-edge laser systems for surgery, dermatology and aesthetic medicine. Designed to be used by doctors, specialised operators and restorers, today Quanta System lasers represent the "Gold Standard" thanks to a vast range of applications.

Youlaser MT can be used for vaginal atrophy but can also improve urinary incontinence with noticeable changes from the first session. This deep tissue contraction can also tighten the vagina and aid in postpartum recovery.

The hybrid laser Youlaser MT is useful for another common pathology like vulvar lichen sclerosis, a chronic inflammatory dermatological condition whose untreated progression could lead to scars and vulvar adhesions that could impact relations. The laser helps regenerate vulvar tissue and improve the symptoms of lichen sclerosis.

"When we perform laser treatments, the only thing we use is an anesthetic cream at the entrance of the vagina or the vulva," says Dr. Salinas. "Laser treatments are definitely non-painful, fast, and efficient procedures, and they are real solutions to return to a normal and better life."

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Dr. Vince Clinical Research (DVCR) is a world-class early phase CRO (Contract Research Organization) with a custom-built, green-designed headquarters and research complex encompassing three buildings in Overland Park, KS. DVCR's complex includes a 90-bed clinical pharmacology unit featuring a combination of luxurious and private research suites and a cGMP compliant pharmacy. DVCR specializes in

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Anneal Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NYSE: AMRX) ("Anneal" or the "Company") has announced that a delegation of senior members of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) together with local government officials recently visited the Company's manufacturing facility in Matoda, India. The visit followed the G20 Health Ministers' meeting in Gandhinagar, India on August 18 and 19, where health ministers from around the world met to discuss global health issues.

The delegation included Ms. Loyce Pace, the Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, who is the lead on setting global priorities and policies at the U.S. Department of HHS, Ms. Ge-

nessa Giorgi, U.S. HHS Health Attaché to India, Dr. Sarah McMullen, the India Country Director for the U.S. FDA and Dr. H G Koshia, the Commissioner for the India Food and Drug Control Agency (FDCA) in Gujarat, India. The visit to the Anneal site showcased the company's advanced automation and complex medicine capabilities, the general complexities of pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the importance of investing in technologies that ensure the availability of safe and effective medicines. Anneal's site in Matoda is one of the Company's 12 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities.

"Anneal is a global pharmaceuticals company focused on providing access to affordable, essential medicines. Across our large and diversified product portfolio, we provide key therapies to meet the needs of patients. We are proud to participate in this important visit to share our role in delivering safe and effective pharmaceuticals around the world. We look forward to continuing to engage on the key issues that impact the U.S. pharmaceutical industry's ability to serve patients, including drug shortages," said Chirag and Chintu Patel, Co-Chief Executive Officers.

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After outrage over Swift tickets, reform still slow across US

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept 3, (AP): When thousands of fans couldn't get tickets for megastar Taylor Swift's summer stadium tour, some diehards paid upwards of 70 times face value to see their favorite artist in person - an outrage that prompted congressional hearings and bills in state legislatures to better protect consumers.

After 10 months, Swift's US tour is finished, but so are most of the meaningful reforms consumer advocates and industry groups had hoped to pass this year. A proposal has so far failed to advance in the US Senate. Legislation in Colorado was vetoed by the Democratic governor at the urging of some consumer groups.

And in California, home to iconic recording studios like Capitol Records and influential clubs like the Whiskey A Go Go and Hollywood Bowl, none of the ticketing proposals will pass this year in the aftermath of an intense lobbying campaign by both industry and consumer groups.

"We should do so much better than this," said Robert Herrell, executive director of the Consumer Federation of California.

The slow progress over changing how tickets should be sold and resold highlights not just the strength of industry opposition, but the regulatory difficulties in a market upended by technology. Gone are the days of standing in line at a box office to find out what seats were available and how much they cost.

Today, nearly all tickets are sold online and downloaded to phones or other devices. Consumers often don't know how much they will pay until just before they click the purchase button and fees and charges, which can sometimes be almost as much as the ticket price, are applied.

Venues often don't say how many seats are available for a specific event, according to consumer groups, but instead release tickets in

batches, making consumers spend more out of the mistaken fear they'll miss out.

Some bad actors use software to quickly bulk-buy tickets for resale at much higher prices. They will even sell tickets before they have them, a practice known as "speculative ticketing" that consumer groups say is dangerous and does not guarantee the ticket. Some go so far as to mimic venue websites so consumers believe they are buying tickets directly.

Some states, including New York and Connecticut, have passed bills to ban hidden fees. But all of the major players in the ticketing industry have already agreed to do that, minimizing its impact.

Addressing the other problems have been more difficult. Sharp disagreements among venues, ticket sellers, consumer groups and artists have muddled what may seemingly straightforward consumer rights issues.

Inventory

Artists and venues want to restrict how fans can resell tickets, an attempt to crack down on "the secondary market to sweep the inventory, inflate the price and price gouge our fans," said Jordan Bromley, who sits on the board of the Music Artist Coalition, an advocacy group representing artists.

Consumer groups argue buyers can do what they want with their tickets, including selling them for a profit. That disagreement is partly why Colorado Democratic Gov. Jared Polis vetoed a bill earlier this year, despite the bill also containing consumer-friendly policies like banning hidden fees, price increases and speculative ticket sales.

In California, consumer groups have mostly focused their ire on

Live Nation Entertainment, the company that owns Ticketmaster and controls the bulk of ticket sales and venues in the US for touring music artists. But the debate is spreading to artists, major men's professional sports teams like the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco 49ers, and independent venues with capacity for 1,000 people or fewer, including more than 600 in California alone.

Most people are being vocal about "how this is an attempt to shoot at Ticketmaster and Live Nation," said Julia Heath, president of the California chapter of the National Independent Venue Association. "What's actually happening is they are aiming at them, but they are hitting everybody else, too."

The biggest disagreement was over whether to allow teams, venues and artists to restrict how fans could resell tickets they purchased. A bill that would have allowed restrictions on resales passed the state Senate but failed to pass the Assembly this year after drawing concerns from consumer groups.

A bill by Assembly member Laura Friedman would have banned venues and artists from restricting resales. That measure also would have required venues to disclose how many tickets were available for an event to prevent "holdbacks." Ultimately, the bill was changed to remove both of those provisions after attracting strong industry opposition.

"It's been very difficult. It had a very strong and concerted effort from the very beginning lobby against this bill," Friedman said.

California lawmakers have vowed to continue working on the issue next year. But by then, the memory of the outrage over Taylor Swift's concern tickets will have likely faded, depriving consumer advocates of the public pressure they had hoped would spur change.

Music

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures Entertainment shows Denzel Washington in a scene from 'The Equalizer 3.' (AP)

Film

Filmmaker Fuqua takes 'Equalizer' overseas

Washington's assassin goes to Italy

LOS ANGELES, Sept 3, (AP): Filmmaker Antoine Fuqua has been dreaming about taking the Equalizer abroad for years. The action franchise (very loosely based on a 1980s television series) starring Denzel Washington as the reluctant assassin Robert McCall had rooted itself in humble domestic beginnings, in Boston. But after two films and \$382.7 million in box-office receipts in the past decade, the time seemed ripe to travel.

"Denzel is an international movie star," Fuqua told The Associated Press. "We thought it would be nice to see a man of color in a story that's more international. Why not take this character around the world? Luckily, Sony loved the idea."

And there was only one place that was ever seriously on the list: Italy. Washington, Fuqua said, goes every summer and has since his kids were babies. He loves the culture, the people, the food. He even speaks some Italian.

"He just feels right there," Fuqua said. And for Fuqua, it was the stuff of filmmaking dreams to get to shoot in Cinecittà Studios in Rome and bump up against cinema history walking where Fellini and so many other greats have before him. In Naples, they found an authentically 1970s New York grittiness that required little to no production design for a pivotal showdown. And on the Amalfi coast, they stumbled on the small village of their, and McCall's, fantasies in the picturesque Atrani.

It's the kind of place you'd believe someone like McCall (or anyone really) might feel immediately tied to and protective of, which is what happens in "Equalizer 3," debuted in theaters Friday. The difference is McCall is more uniquely suited to take on the Camorra. Single-handedly, of course.

"When we went to that small town, we knew that was the place," Fuqua said. "The people were so beautiful, we were sitting around and they would just bring us coffee and espresso. We didn't even ask for it. Or big giant lemons because it was so hot. You

fall in love with the people in a town like that."

The only complaint, which isn't even really a complaint, was about the steps. One of the jewels of Atrani is a medieval church perched on the mountainside high above the beach that they decided would be perfect for an important scene between McCall and Dakota Fanning's CIA analyst. But the only way to get there is to climb up over 700 steps. It wasn't a pleasant journey with all the equipment necessary to shoot a scene, but it was a good reminder of purpose for Fuqua and his cinematographer, three-time Oscar winner Robert Richardson. They wanted to show a real place, not a vacation destination.

"It's not a travelogue," Fuqua said. "It's beautiful in the Mediterranean, but for the people who live there it's real life. The fishermen live off what they catch. They live in small houses. They walk up those steps every day."

History

The film brings together a core team with decades of history, including producers Todd Black and Jason Blumenthal. In addition to the "Equalizer" films Fuqua directed Washington in "Training Day," which would win him his first lead actor Oscar, as well as in the recent remake of "The Magnificent Seven."

And Black has produced all of the films Washington has directed as well as several others. It was Washington who introduced Black and Fuqua for the first "Equalizer", which all assumed would just be one film, not a franchise.

"You can't think about franchises, or awards, when you're making a movie. If you're making a movie to win an award, or even to get nominated, or have a franchise, you're dead in the water going in probably," Black said. "Not 100% of the time, but you shouldn't think that way."

Instead, they took it one script at a time and "let the audience decide." The audience, it seemed, liked

seeing Washington as McCall more than once. Both the first and second film made over \$190 million each against production budgets that didn't exceed \$65 million and Sony was interested in a third. It helped also that Black and Fuqua had become friends, with the priceless trust that comes along with it. Both know that on their films, everything will be safe and controlled, whether that's handling an unexpected fan situation for their star or making sure that it's not too dangerous to shoot in Naples at night.

"We've never had an incident at our movies because we are so vigilant," Black said. "And Antoine really protects actors."

Now Black and Fuqua have found themselves in the unusual situation of having to be the primary voices promoting "Equalizer 3" in lieu of their movie stars, who along with Hollywood writers, are deep into a long strike. But while some films released without the help of a star's late-night anecdotes and red carpet appearances have faltered at the box office over the past month, Black feels confident in "Equalizer 3."

"I have other movies coming out that definitely need my actors to promote them, but everyone knows Denzel Washington is the 'Equalizer,'" Black said. "We're very, very confident, thanks to Antoine for making a gorgeous film that works and that audiences love so far. We're in really good shape."

Both just mostly miss having Washington by their side for the press tour. The 68-year-old star, Black said, is much "mellow" now than years ago and is fun to do publicity with. Fuqua also observed that McCall in "Equalizer 3" might even mirror a bit where Washington is in his life too. Both are a little more quiet and a little more patient.

"He'll call me and Todd at 4 in the morning to look at the sunrise," Fuqua said. "That wasn't Denzel before. It's nice to see him really stopping and appreciating life."

Features

ARABIC TIMES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

LONDON: An independent body will unveil plans for a permanent memorial to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 2026, to mark what would have been the late monarch's 100th birthday, the government said Sunday.

The Cabinet Office said Robin Janvrin, Elizabeth's former private secretary, has been appointed as chairman of the Queen Elizabeth memorial committee to consider proposals for a "fitting tribute" to Britain's longest-reigning monarch following her death in September 2022.

The queen died in Balmoral, her beloved Scottish castle estate, at 96 years old after 70 years on the throne.

Janvrin and other officials on the committee will consider Elizabeth's life of public service and the causes she supported, and recommend plans for a national legacy program in the late queen's honor.

"It will be a unique challenge to try to capture for future generations Her Late Majesty's extraordinary contribution to our national life throughout her very long reign," said Janvrin, who worked at Buckingham Palace in various roles from 1987 to 2007.

The recommendations will be presented to Elizabeth's heir King Charles III and the prime minister.

In 1955 Elizabeth unveiled a statue of her father, George VI, on The Mall outside Buckingham Palace.

Charles III is King of the United Kingdom and the 14 other Commonwealth realms. (AP)

RENO, Nev: Authorities in Nevada were investigating a death at the site of the Burning Man festival where thousands of attendees remained stranded Saturday night as flooding from storms swept through the Nevada desert.

Organizers closed vehicular access to the counterculture festival and attendees trudged through mud, many barefoot or wearing plastic bags on their feet. The revelers were urged to shelter in place and conserve food, water and other supplies.

The Pershing County Sheriff's Office said the death happened during the event but offered few details as the investigation continued, including the identity of the deceased person or the suspected cause of

death, KNSD-TV reported.

Vehicle gates will not open for the remainder of the event, which began on Aug 27 and was scheduled to end Monday, according to the US Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the Black Rock Desert where the festival is being held.

More than one-half inch of



Elizabeth



Charles III

rain is believed to have fallen on Friday at the festival site, located about 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno, the National Weather Service in Reno said. At least another quarter of an inch of rain was expected Sunday.

The Reno Gazette Journal reported organizers started rationing ice sales and that all vehicle traffic

at the sprawling festival grounds had been stopped, leaving portable toilets unable to be serviced.

Officials haven't yet said when the entrance is expected to be opened again, and it wasn't immediately known when celebrants could leave the grounds.

The announcements came just before the culminating moment

for the annual event - when a large wooden effigy was to be burned Saturday night.

Messages left Saturday afternoon by The Associated Press from both the Bureau of Land Management and the Pershing County Sheriff's Office, the agencies that closed the entrance, weren't immediately returned. (AP)

People & Places



Armani

Armani

KEY WEST, Florida: All the world was "Margaritaville" on Saturday, from Key West to New York City and beyond, as legions of fans mourned the passing of beach-bum balladeer Jimmy Buffett at the age of 76.

Buffett's eponymous hit song has long been the anthem of Florida's Key West, where Buffett once lived and built his enduring legacy.

"Everybody equates that song with our city," said Clayton Lopez, a Key West city commissioner. "I mean, when you say Margaritaville, you're talking about the city of Key West."

The community planned a remembrance Sunday along Duval Street, home to some of Key West's most well-known eateries and music venues, including the Chart Room, a dive bar where Buffett sang early in his career.

"He's doing another show now, but it's in the sky," said Jimmy Weekley, who owns Fausto, a restaurant that is one of Key West's landmarks.

Buffett's fandom was widespread, and tributes poured in Saturday. President Joe Biden sent condolences to Buffett's family "and to the millions of fans who will continue to love him even as his ship now sails for new shores." Former President Bill Clinton wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that Buffett's "music brought happiness to millions of people." Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys wrote: "Love and Mercy, Jimmy Buffett," and Paul McCartney called him "one of the kindest and most generous people."

Matt Urben, a self-described Parrothead, as Buffett fans are known, and a Brooklyn resident, awoke to news of Buffett's death. He joined fellow fans in New York City to reminisce.

"I actually got emotional," said Urben, 32, who said he'd seen 48 Buffett concerts since his college days. "They were really special and really fun. ... Just so many stories and so many memories."

Afterward, he and a buddy headed to the Margaritaville restaurant in Times Square - part of the Buffett business empire - which describes itself as "an island-inspired oasis in the middle of New York City."

When "Margaritaville" played, Reid Johnson sang along. By no means a Parrothead, he said, "I'm very familiar with his music."

Jeanne Fetner had traveled from Northern Virginia with her daughter Avery to visit colleges in New York City when she heard the news. She went to Margaritaville to celebrate Buffett, whose ode to a beef patty and bun, "Cheeseburger in Paradise," is her favorite song.

Fetner recalled a visit to Key West

years ago on spring break.

"My friends and I went to Buffett's house and rang the bell on his door," Fetner recounted. Buffett's daughter Savannah appeared and told the group, "My dad can't come out but he wanted to thank you for coming," she said.

Tracy Smith, from Tampa,

Florida, arrived at the Times Square restaurant with her daughters in between Broadway shows. "I bought all his music," she said,

Above and below: Models for Armani present creations during the 'One Night Only Venice' fashion show coinciding with the 80th edition of the International Film Festival at the Venice Lido, Saturday, Sept. 2. (AP)

Style



Armani



Armani



Armani

Fashion

VENICE



Armani



Armani



Armani



Armani

esque and imposing colonial cities, like Oaxaca, were essentially built on the wealth derived from cochineal dye, also called carmine, and known as "grana cochinilla" in Spanish. It was much prized by the Spanish nobility, and it would go on to dye, among other garments, the British empire's 'Redcoat' military uniforms, before it began to be replaced by synthetic dyes in the 1800s.

Obtaining the dye the old-fashioned way is slow, tedious and painstaking. It comes from the crushed bodies of tiny female insects that contain carminic acid and feed on the pads of nopal cactus plants. Each insect, known as Dactylopius coccus, must be bred to a larvae stage and "planted" on a previously wounded cactus pad, and then left for months to feed and mature.

Then each must be harvested by hand, usually with a tiny brush, sifted, cleaned and left to dry in the sun. The Mixtecs of Oaxaca first developed the method to obtain the precious pigment centuries before the Spaniards arrived. A symbol of status, carmine red was already employed by the nobility of Mexico's Indigenous peoples to dye garments, and widely used in the arts, to write codices, decorate ceramics and paint murals.

Mayeli Garcia and her family run a greenhouse in the village of San Francisco Tepeyacac, east of Mexico City, which specializes in the slow, old production process.

At their greenhouse, rows of hundreds of cactus pads are held on racks suspended in the air and covered by a white powder. (AP)

in central Mexico is struggling to preserve the production of cochineal dye, an intense, natural red pigment so prized that, after gold and silver, it was probably the most valuable thing the Spaniards found in Mexico after the 1521 conquest.

For centuries, red clothing - along with purple - had been a sign of power and wealth because it was rare and expensive. An indigenous Mexican process deriving the pigment from insects gave the Spanish empire a new source of red dye.

Some of Mexico's most pictur-

"I love him and I love his vibe. He makes people happy." (AP)

SAN FRANCISCO: One family

Climate

'Extinction threat'

Study links emissions to polar bear survival

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP) — Fifteen years after polar bears were listed as threatened, a new study says researchers have overcome a roadblock in the Endangered Species Act that prevented the federal government from considering climate change when evaluating impacts of projects such as oil and gas drilling.

The act requires agencies to ensure projects they approve don't further harm listed species. But a 2008 Department of Interior legal opinion said greenhouse gas emissions didn't have to be considered because the impact from specific projects couldn't be distinguished from that of all historic global emissions.

A study published Thursday in Science's Policy Forum says scientists for the first time are able to directly quantify the impact of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions from specific sources on polar bear cub survival.



Bitz

It "just seems odd" that polar bears were listed because of the loss of sea ice due to global warming "but emissions have not been considered," said lead author Steven C. Amstrup, chief scientist emeritus at Polar Bears International and a professor at the University of Wyoming.

Polar bears, which occur in 19 subpopulations throughout the Arctic, rely on sea ice to hunt for seals. As ice melts, they either end up on land or must swim farther from shore to find ice, which hurts their ability to find food and leads to long periods of fasting that deplete fat reserves. Human-caused global warming means there are fewer days of sea ice to help build up those reserves and longer fasting periods, and scientists have said most polar bears could become extinct by the end of the century unless warming is curbed.

A 2020 study found the number of fasting days, determined by the number of ice-free days every summer, directly affected cub survival. The new study, authors said, took that a step further and quantified the number of ice-free, fasting days caused by a specific amount of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions - distinct from what's already in the atmosphere.

Projects

"What's really relevant for policy is emissions," rather than atmospheric concentrations, said co-author Cecilia M. Bitz, a climatologist and director of the climate change program at the University of Washington.

Researchers estimated the relationship between how long bears fasted and each gigaton of cumulative emissions, which they said allowed them to calculate the impact of emissions from specific projects on future polar bear cub survival.

"It's basically connecting the dots" from emissions to ice-free days to impacts on polar bears, said Amstrup, who believes the method can be applied to many other species, such as sea turtles or coral reefs. He also believes the study makes a case for rescinding the 2008 opinion barring climate considerations, because the Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to use the best available scientific data.

Interior officials could not be reached immediately for comment.

Todd Atwood, a wildlife biologist who leads the US Geological Survey's polar bear research program and was not involved in the study, said it is an important initial step in quantifying the relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and polar bear survival, and "is successful in the sense that it provides a framework for beginning to do that."

But the lack of consistent estimates of population trends and survival rates for some polar bear subpopulations, which are distributed over a very large geographic area with differences in sea ice and food sources, can be "problematic when you're trying to match for recent greenhouse gas emission trajectories with population survival rates," he said.

"This is not a critique of them, but ... there's a lot of subpopulations that are really hard to get to," he said, adding that there's not enough funding to do that.

Another expert believes the study shows a correlation between emissions and polar bear cub survival, but not a direct cause and effect.

"I think it takes us a little bit closer to understanding some of those relationships, but ... I just don't know that this paper pushes it over a new threshold," said Andrew Derocher, a polar bear expert and biological sciences professor at the University of Alberta, who believes polar bears are at risk of extinction long-term. "I just don't think that this is the smoking gun that is going to change opinion."

Dan Rohlf, a professor at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, and an expert on the Endangered Species Act, said the study makes important advances in understanding the effects of cumulative emissions on polar bears.

"I completely agree with the authors that it's essentially ludicrous that ... we list polar bears as threatened because of climate change, and then we turn around and say we can't consider the impacts of these federal actions that will increase greenhouse gas emissions," Rohlf said. "It makes no sense whatsoever."

But federal agencies will only consider emissions from one project at a time - each of which would have relatively small impacts - and won't account for cumulative emissions of federal actions, Rohlf said.

Agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service have the authority to determine that polar bears already are in jeopardy and that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced, Rohlf said. Project evaluations then could consider whether emissions are consistent with a goal of reducing greenhouse gases - but "it wouldn't fly politically."

Also:

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: Researchers have concluded there is a "rare but real risk" that an earthquake-produced tsunami could inundate parts of coastal Anchorage under certain conditions, a newspaper reported, a shift from the prior understanding of the risk posed to Alaska's largest city.

Previously, researchers said the shallow waters of Upper Cook Inlet would work to diminish the power of a tsunami wave. But that was not based on scientific modeling, said Elena Suleimani, an author of the report and a tsunami modeler with the Alaska Earthquake Center, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

"Up until now, our understanding of the risk or level of hazard exposure was just anecdotal," Suleimani said.

The findings from the study by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys stem from a first-time effort to model potential tsunami impacts on Anchorage based on various earthquake scenarios, according to the newspaper.

"A rare combination of earthquake magnitude, location, and timing must be satisfied for tsunami wave energy to reach upper Cook Inlet coincident with a natural high tide," the study states.

Part of the reasoning for the belief that Anchorage was not susceptible was that during a magnitude 9.2 earthquake in 1964, there was no observation of a tsunami in the city, the researchers said. But they found through modeling that the earthquake did produce a 10-foot (3-meter) tsunami - one that went unnoticed because it arrived at 2 a.m. during a minus-16-foot (minus-4.9-meter) low tide that resulted in the water level staying below normal high tide levels.

The modeling of future tsunami potential for Anchorage evaluates hypothetical situations involving a quake above 8.5 in magnitude.



Waitress Kelly Houde, (left), fills coffee cups for senior citizens having breakfast as part of the Meals on Wheels 'Dine Out Club' at the White Birch Cafe, Wednesday, July 19, 2023, in Goffstown, N.H. Senior participants sign up for the program and swipe credit- and keychain-style cards with QR codes for their allotted meals. (AP)

Health

Restaurant programs offer more than a meal

'Weekly meal' feeds seniors' lives

GOFFSTOWN, N.H., Sept 3, (AP) — A group of friends and neighbors meets for a weekly meal, choosing from a special menu of nutritious foods paid for by social programs meant to keep older adults eating healthy.

They're all over 60, and between enjoying butternut squash soup, sandwiches, oats and eggs, they chat and poke fun about families, politics, and the news of the day.

But if you're imagining people gathering for lunch in a senior center, think again.

Long before COVID put a pause on social gatherings, some senior centers were losing their lunch appeal. Others didn't reopen after the pandemic.

Enter this elegant solution that's gained popularity: give some of the federal and state money set aside to feed seniors to struggling restaurants and have them provide balanced meals with more choices, flexible timing and a judgment-free setting that can help seniors get together to chat and stem loneliness.

"Isolation is the new pandemic," said Jon Eriquezzo, president of Meals on Wheels of New Hampshire's Hillsborough County, which runs one such program, in addition to delivering meals to homebound seniors and senior centers. "Knocking on doors and seeing somebody who's homebound is helpful. But getting people out to do this - the mutual support - you can't beat that."

Seniors are changing. They may still be working, taking care of grandchildren, and fitting in medical appointments, unable to show up at a set time for lunch or dinner. And after years of cooking for others, it's nice to be able to sit at the restaurant and order a meal.

Target

Some restaurant programs target seniors in rural communities. Others benefit people with limited access to transportation. Some are geared toward minority communities.

"Everybody does something a little bit different when they're having a gap in services," said Lisa LaBonte, a nutrition consultant based in Connecticut.

According to information compiled by Meals on Wheels America, one in four Americans is at least 60 years old, with 12,000 more turning 60 every day. Those on fixed incomes also are living longer with less money; one in two seniors living alone lacks the income to pay for basic needs.

Debbie LaBarre looks forward to the weekly gathering with her pals at a bright, bustling restaurant a short drive from her New Hampshire apartment. The special menu at the White Birch Eatery in Goffstown lists the calories, carbohydrates and sodium content for the meals, which have to meet a dietician-approved one-third of the USDA recommended daily requirements for adults under the federal Older Americans Act Nutrition Program. LaBarre and others sign up for the program and swipe credit- and keychain-style cards with QR codes for their allotted meals. There's no charge for the meals, but donations

are encouraged. Even though she's eating out more, LaBarre, 67, lost weight as she prepared for a recent surgery. But what's most important for LaBarre is that she's interacting with others. Retired after years working as a plumbing and heating business office manager, she's concerned about Alzheimer's disease.

"My mother had it, and she was always in the house. She never left," she said. "I'm deathly afraid of it, so I said I guess I'm going to be as social as I can be."

LaBarre takes a friend - a recent widower who is blind - to a different restaurant in Merrimack, New Hampshire, that participates in the program.

"He says, 'I never go out unless you take me,'" LaBarre said.

Nutrition

From a nutrition standpoint, "we eat better in groups," nutrition consultant Jean Lloyd said. "Studies are out there that we eat healthier surrounded with people who eat healthy. And older adults are a vulnerable population."

She cited one from 2020 about the health impact of loneliness on seniors. Recently, the US surgeon general noted that widespread loneliness in the US poses health risks as deadly as smoking up to 15 cigarettes daily.

The program focuses on goals of the wide-ranging Older Americans Act - to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote the socialization, health and well-being of seniors.

Back in the 1980s, the restaurant was considered a little-explored, unpopular option to the traditional meal gatherings at senior centers and church basements. As of early this year, there were at least 26 states where some restaurants and other food providers partnered locally with an area agency on aging or a nonprofit such as Meals on Wheels.

"We get to see people and check in on them and they bring new friends, and we get to meet all new faces, sometimes," said Cyndee Williams, owner of the White Birch Eatery, which opened in March 2020, right before the pandemic shut down everything. It restarted limited operations that summer. "And then, while we have a small profit margin, that helps us, too. It keeps my staff here and working."

Restaurant partnerships in New Hampshire and in states like South Carolina, Iowa, and New Jersey, for example, started as COVID-19 restrictions were being lifted, along with the urgency of curbside pickups. Meanwhile, communities in Massachusetts, upstate New York, and northern California, which have established, pre-pandemic programs targeting rural areas and ethnic communities, are seeing additional restaurants coming on board.

"The pandemic had created an opportunity for us because it just made everyone aware of the need to think in a different way, to not provide services the way they always had in the past," said Edwin Walker, deputy assistant secretary for aging under the

Department of Health and Human Services.

Some programs offer grab-and-go options for seniors, grocery dining services, food trucks, hospital facilities, and catering at senior centers and other community locations in addition to or in place of in-house restaurant dining.

The partnerships originate at the local level. The federal Administration for Community Living, which oversees the nutrition services program and provides grants for innovative projects, does not keep data on how many restaurants and people take part and overall costs. It is working on a research project to learn more about them.

Federal funds are distributed to states based on a formula. States coordinate with local area agencies on aging and related nonprofits to distribute funds, and states provide matching funds for some programs. Nonprofits also seek out grants and donations.

Programs target services to people with the greatest economic or social need, such as low-income and minority populations, rural residents, and those with limited English proficiency.

The programs have to adjust to costs of food and labor, which can be challenging. The restaurants are reimbursed, but the funding sources are limited, especially as COVID-related emergency money has come to an end.

Donations

"For every meal we serve, we get \$8.11," Eriquezzo said. "The meal costs us \$13. We suggest a \$4 donation. Even if we get donations, we're still short 80 cents."

Restaurants might need to adjust menus, perhaps by offering smaller portion sizes, lowering the maximum monthly meals to save money and more specifically target who is using the meal programs the most.

Still, partnering with the restaurants costs less than contracting with a town hall or a church for the community dining option, said Janet Buls, nutrition director, Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging.

Bents Smokehouse & Pub in Westgate, Iowa, population 200, was the first restaurant in Bul's territory to sign on after cooking meals for Meals on Wheels recipients during the worst of the pandemic.

Before any of that happened, though, times were tough.

"We would sit here all day and not even have 100 bucks in the till," restaurant owner Sheila Bents said. "They saved us."

And it's saving seniors, too. Robert Mays, 65, started going with his wife and mother-in-law to the Lizard's Thicket in Columbia, South Carolina, for weekly "Senior Lunch Bunch" gatherings.

"It allowed people living in the same neighborhood that normally don't see one another and even different races to come together to find out that we're way more alike than we are different," he said.



A polar bear stands on the ice in the Franklin Strait in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, Saturday, July 22, 2017. A study published Thursday in Science's Policy Forum says scientists for the first time are able to directly quantify the impact of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions from specific sources on polar bear cub survival. (AP)

Discovery

2 plead guilty to smuggling: Wildlife traffickers pleaded guilty this week in federal court in California to illegally importing endangered sea cucumbers - which are prized in China for food and medicine and as a reputed aphrodisiac - from Mexico.

Zunyu Zhao and Xionwei Xiao were charged with conspiracy and illegal importation of brown sea cucumbers worth over \$10,000 from 2017 to 2019 and are scheduled to be sentenced in September and November, respectively.

Prosecutors haven't said where in the ocean the sea cucumbers were obtained. But the defendants were allegedly found with the smuggled bottom-feeders as they crossed from Mexico into the U.S. at Calexico. Zhao and Xiao agreed to pay restitution to the Mexican government's environmental protection agency. They could get up to 25 years in prison.

Attorneys for Zhao and Xiao did not respond to requests for comment.

After seizing the sea cucumbers at the border, investigators found text messages and images sent between Zhao and Xiao about the transactions. The sea cucumbers are being held as evidence by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"This office is committed to upholding the twin pillars of marine biodiversity and conservation," acting US Attorney Andrew R. Haden said in a statement. "Criminals considering poaching protected species should be aware that this office will diligently investigate, thoroughly prosecute, and seek restitution no matter the species."

Sea cucumbers are in the same family as sea stars and sea urchins and can measure up to 7 feet. Brown sea cucumbers have a smooth body dotted by warts and can grow to 2 feet.

The animals operate as a vacuum on the sea floor, breaking down particles that become part of the ocean's nutrient cycle, said Gordon Hendler, Museum of Natural History in Los Angeles curator of echinoderms.

Prosecutors haven't said where the cucumbers were headed. But a thriving black market frequently gets them to China, where they are a delicacy. They are traditionally served dried or fresh and often braised with fish, vegetables and traditional sauces. They are also sought to treat joint pain, prevent cancer and serve as anti-inflammatories - medical uses sometimes validated by science. They're also considered an aphrodisiac.

But the brown sea cucumber - *Isostichopus fuscus* - is overfished, and that's cause for regulations around their harvest. (AP)

Ex-sen accused of spending loan:

A former state senator was accused of lying in order to get a COVID-19 relief loan for his casino and using the money to buy luxury cars for himself and his wife, a Republican leader in the New Hampshire House.

The allegations against former Sen. Andy Sanborn were announced by the attorney general's office, which reviews the owners of charitable gaming businesses every five years. Sanborn owns the Concord Casino within The Draft Sports Bar and Grill in Concord and is seeking

to open a much larger venue a few miles away, but the state lottery commission is now moving to permanently ban him from operating any such business.

In an email, Sanborn said he strongly disagrees with the commission's findings and welcomes the chance to challenge them at a hearing.

In the meantime, federal authorities have been notified, and the state has begun a criminal investigation, said Attor-



Haden



Sanborn

ney General John Formella.

"This case highlights the importance of law enforcement's role in keeping illegal activity out of New Hampshire's charitable gaming industry," he said in a statement. "Our obligation to protect the public demands that we take action against any person who is found to have used their regulated casino to enrich themselves with fraudulently obtained taxpayer funds." (AP)

SPORTS

Michigan routs East Carolina

Colorado holds off TCU in back-and-forth shootout

FORT WORTH, Texas, Sept 3, (AP): After nine months of hype, Deion Sanders had Colorado ready for prime time in his much-anticipated debut as Buffaloes coach.

Shedeur Sanders, the coach's son, threw for a school-record 510 yards with four touchdowns - the winner a 46-yard catch-and-run by true freshman Dylan Edwards with 4:25 left -- and the Buffs pulled off an opening shocker with a 45-42 win Saturday over 17th-ranked TCU, last year's national runner-up.

Deion Sanders came to Boulder, Colorado, to revitalize a long-dormant program, with an unprecedented roster flip. Two-way star Travis Hunter, Edwards and Shedeur Sanders are among 87 newcomers at Colorado, which won only one game last season and has only two winning records since 2005.

Edwards caught three touchdowns **Georgia 48, Tennessee-Martin 7**
In Athens, Carson Beck overcame a sluggish first half to throw a 54-yard touchdown pass to Mekhi Mews and Georgia, the two-time defending national champion, leaned on its defense to overwhelm Tennessee-Martin.

Georgia showed it must make progress on offense if it can realize its dream of becoming the first team to win three straight national championships in The Associated Press poll era. The Bulldogs were outgained in the opening quarter and led only 17-0 at halftime against the Football Championship Subdivision Skyhawks.

Michigan 30, East Carolina 3
In Ann Arbor, J.J. McCarthy threw three touchdown passes to Roman Wilson, helping Michigan rout East Carolina.



Sanders

The Wolverines were without coach Jim Harbaugh, who began serving a school-imposed three-game suspension for breaking NCAA rules.

McCarthy completed 26 of 30 passes for 280 yards and threw a touchdown pass to Wilson in each of the first three quarters.

Ohio State 23, Indiana 3
In Bloomington, Miyan Williams rushed for two touchdowns and new quarterback Kyle McCord picked up his first victory since being named the starter for Ohio State in a win over Indiana.

The Buckeyes have won 23 consecutive season-openers and extended the FBS' longest active winning streak in a series to 28.

Indiana has lost nine of its last 10 dating to last season.

Alabama 56, Middle Tennessee State 7

In Tuscaloosa, Jalen Milroe threw three long touchdown passes and ran for a pair of scores to lead Alabama past Middle Tennessee State.

Milroe emerged on top of a three-man battle to replace Bryce Young in fall camp for the Crimson Tide, and delivered big plays and no costly mistakes in his second career start. He launched on-target touchdown passes of 47 yards to Isaiah Bond, 48 to Jermaine Burton and 29 to Amari Niblack.

Milroe easily passed his first test. He showcased his running ability in turning a terrible snap into a 21-yard touchdown on his opening drive.

Southern California 66, Nevada 14
Penn State 38, West Virginia 15

In State College, Drew Allar threw for 325 yards and three touchdowns in his first career start to help Penn State beat West Virginia.

KeAndre Lambert-Smith caught two touchdown passes - including a 72-yard dart launched with a simple flick of Allar's wrist on his second attempt of the game - while Nick Singleton added a rushing touchdown.

Washington 56, Boise State 19

In Seattle, Michael Penix Jr. threw for 450 yards and matched his career high with five touchdown passes and Washington overwhelmed Boise State.

Penix kicked off his final college season and a Heisman Trophy campaign with a terrific passing performance following a couple shaky drives in the opening moments. He connected with Jalen McMillan on two of his TD passes, and McMillan added a 19-yard touchdown run off a direct snap on the first play of the fourth quarter to give Washington a 42-19 lead.

Texas 37, Rice 10

In Austin, Quinn Ewers passed for three touchdowns and ran for another as Texas overcame a sluggish start with an overwhelming third quarter to beat Rice.

Ewers connected with Jonathan Brooks on a 37-yard TD in the first quarter and Bert Auburn kicked three first-half field goals for the Longhorns, the longest a 49-yarder.

Tennessee 49, Virginia 13

In Nashville, Joe Milton III threw two touchdown passes and ran for two other

scores as Tennessee routed Virginia.

Tennessee and Virginia marked the Cavs' first football game since a shooting left three players dead last November with a moment of silence before kickoff. The Vols also wore a sticker on the back of their helmets with the numbers of the late Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis Jr. and D'Sean Perry.

Notre Dame 56, Tennessee State 3

In South Bend, Sam Hartman passed for 194 yards and two touchdowns and Notre Dame's defense didn't allow a touchdown for a second straight game as the Irish beat Tennessee State.

Hartman completed 14 of 17 passes and delighted the Notre Dame Stadium fans in his home debut when he somersaulted into the end zone on a 5-yard run. Hartman turned things over to backup Steve Angeli with the Irish (2-0) leading 35-3 early in the third quarter.

Oregon 81, Portland State 7

In Eugene, Bo Nix threw for 287 yards and three touchdowns before heading for the bench early in the third quarter and Oregon built a 43-point halftime lead en route to a victory over Portland State.

It was the most points for the Ducks in a game in the modern scoring era, and a scoring record at Autzen Stadium.

Kansas State 45, Southeast Missouri State 0

In Manhattan, Will Howard threw for 297 yards and two scores, added touchdowns running and receiving to complete a rare trifecta, and led Kansas State past Southeast Missouri State.

DJ Giddens ran for 128 yards and Treshawn Ward, a touted transfer from Florida State, had a TD run, helping the reigning Big 12 champion Wildcats cruise past one of the better teams in the

FOOTBALL

Football Championship Subdivision.

Wisconsin 38, Buffalo 17

In Madison, Chez Mellusi ran for 157 yards and two touchdowns, Braelton Allen added 141 yards and two more scores and Wisconsin started the first season of Luke Fickell's coaching tenure with a victory over Buffalo.

Mellusi, a Clemson transfer who came to Wisconsin in 2021, had an 89-yard touchdown run in which he navigated through the defense to make it 21-10 in the third quarter. He had 13 carries.

Oklahoma 73, Arkansas State 0

In Norman, Dillon Gabriel completed 19 of 22 passes for 308 yards and two touchdowns - all in the first half - and Oklahoma beat Arkansas State.

Gabriel also ran for a score in the first half to help Oklahoma take a 45-0 lead. The Sooners gained 437 yards before the break while holding Arkansas State to 106.

North Carolina 31, South Carolina 17

In Charlotte, Drake Maye threw for 269 yards and two touchdowns, North Carolina's upstart defense had nine sacks and the Tar Heels beat border rival South Carolina in a neutral-site game.

British Brooks ran for 103 yards and Omarion Hampton added two short TD runs for the Tar Heels.

Mississippi 73, Mercer 7

In Oxford, Jaxson Dart threw four touchdown passes, including three to Tre Harris in the opening four minutes as Mississippi rolled to a rout of Mercer.

Ole Miss opened with four consecutive touchdown drives and built a 38-7 halftime lead. Dart was 11 of 11 for 237 yards in the early surge and finished 18 of 23 passing for 334 yards before yielding to Oklahoma State transfer Spencer Sanders midway through the third quarter.

Texas A&M 52, New Mexico 10

In College Station, Conner Weigman threw for 236 yards and a career-high five touchdowns in offensive coordinator Bobby Petrino's debut and Texas A&M rolled past New Mexico.

Coach Jimbo Fisher hired Petrino, a former head coach at Louisville, Arkansas and with the Atlanta Falcons, to try to beef up an offense that struggled last season as the Aggies finished 5-7.

Tulane 37, South Alabama 17

In New Orleans, Michael Pratt completed 14 of 15 passes for 294 yards and four touchdowns and Tulane beat South Alabama.

Three of Pratt's scoring passes came on deep throws. He hit Jha'Quan Jackson for touchdowns of 48 and 47 yards and connected with Lawrence Keys on a 47-yard scoring play.

Iowa 24, Utah State 14

In Iowa City, Cade McNamara threw for 191 yards and two touchdowns in his Iowa debut to help the Hawkeyes beat Utah State.

The touchdowns came on Iowa's first two offensive possessions, and the Hawkeyes didn't get into the end zone again until Kaleb Johnson's 3-yard run in the fourth quarter. Iowa, which had one of the worst offenses in the nation last season, finished with 284 yards.



Northern Arizona wide receiver Coleman Owen (6) dives for the pylon during the second half of the team's NCAA college football game against Arizona in Tucson, Ariz. Arizona won 38-3. (AP)

Pirates edge Cardinals for 5th straight victory

Judge homers again as Yanks top Astros

ST. LOUIS, Sept 3, (AP): Josh Palacios hit a pinch hit home run off Drew VerHagen in the top of the ninth inning to help the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-6 for their fifth straight win.

VerHagen (4-1) entered the game with one out in the ninth inning and hit Andrew McCutchen before Palacios, pinch hitting for Connor Joe, hit a 3-1 pitch into the right field seats for his seventh home run of the season.

Jordan Walker, Lars Nootbaar and Tyler O'Neill all homered for the Cardinals.

Cody Bolton (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth inning for his first major league win, and David Bednar surrendered a single to Tommy Edman and hit Walker with a pitch before retiring Masyn Winn, Nootbaar and Paul Goldschmidt for his 31st save.

Athletics 2, Angels 1

In Oakland, Brent Rooker hit his team-leading 23rd home run, Paul Blackburn pitched five innings for his second victory in six starts, and last-place Oakland beat Shohei Ohtani and Los Angeles.

Blackburn (4-4) allowed four hits and one run with four strikeouts, raising his season total to a career-high 90. Five relievers followed Blackburn and combined for four innings of two-hit ball, with Trevor May getting the final three outs for his 16th save.

Mike Moustakas had two hits for the Angels while Luis Rengifo extended his hitting streak to 10 games, matching his career high. Northern California native Kyren Paris got his first major league hit, a day after making his debut with Los Angeles.

Ohtani, the two-way Japanese star facing a possible second Tommy John surgery, leads the majors with 44 home runs but went 0 for 2 with three walks - two intentional.

Griffin Canning (7-5) struck out seven but allowed four hits and two runs in six innings for the Angels.

Yankees 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Aaron Judge homered for the second consecutive game and the New York Yankees got a big effort from their bullpen.

Michael Brantley hit his first home run since June 2022 for the Astros, who fell a game behind first-place Seattle and Seattle beat New York to extend its slim lead in the AL West.

Braves 4, Dodgers 2, 10 innings

In Los Angeles, Ronald Acuña Jr. homered for the third straight night at Dodger Stadium and Orlando Arcia hit a three-run shot in the 10th inning that sent streaking Atlanta to a victory over Los Angeles.

Bryce Elder pitched six effective innings and the Braves (90-45) won their sixth consecutive game, becoming the first major league club to reach 90 wins this season.

Acuña once again outshined Dodgers star Mookie Betts in their chase for NL MVP.

In the third inning, Acuña launched a 454-foot homer to center field that came off his bat like a rocket at an astounding 121.2 mph. It was the 32nd homer this year and third of the series for Acuña, the first player in big league history with 30 home runs and 60 stolen bases in a season.

In the 10th, Sean Murphy gave a two-out walk from Alex Vesia (0-5) to put two runners on. Arcia drove the next pitch to left-center to give Atlanta a 4-1 lead.

Rockies 8, Blue Jays 7

In Denver, Brenton Doyle hit a sacrifice fly to bring home Bo Naylor with the winning run after Jose Tena tied the score with a single in the 11th inning to lift Cleveland.

Rays center fielder Jose Siri had an opportunity to cut down Naylor at the plate but his throw sailed wide and Chris Devenski (3-3) took the loss in his first appearance with the team.

Tampa Bay, which has a commanding lead atop the AL wild-card standings, lost for just the third time in its last 11 games. The Rays trail Baltimore by two games in the East.

Brandon Lowe gave Tampa Bay a 6-5 lead in the top of the 11th with a sacrifice fly off Sam Hentges (3-2).

Cleveland has won four in a row and moved within 4 1/2 games of first-place Minnesota in the AL Central.

Kwan forced extra innings with a two-out single in the ninth off closer Pete Fairbanks, scoring Myles Straw.

Reds 2, Cubs 1

In Cincinnati, Elly De La Cruz hit a tying single and newcomer Hunter Renfroe beat out a double-play ball to drive in the winner as Cincinnati rallied past Chicago with two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning for the second straight night.

In a matchup of National League playoff contenders, Javier Assad pitched a season-high eight shutout innings and Jeimer Candelario launched his career-best 20th homer to help the Cubs take a 1-0 lead into the ninth.

Jake Fraley led off with a double and the Reds loaded the bases against



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Blake Snell works against a San Francisco Giants batter during the second inning of a baseball game in San Diego. (AP)

Mark Leiter Jr. (1-3) with nobody out before scoring twice to win it.

Sam Moll (1-3) worked a hitless inning for the victory.

In the second game of Friday's doubleheader, the Reds erased a 2-1 deficit in the ninth against Cubs closer Adbert Alzolay to earn a split.

Mariners 8, Mets 7

In New York, J.P. Crawford led off the ninth inning with a tiebreaking homer and Seattle beat New York to extend its slim lead in the AL West.

Crawford connected off Adam Ottavino (1-5) for the Mariners, who squandered a four-run lead but still improved to 39-16 since July 1 - the best record in the majors during that span.

Seattle moved a game ahead of second-place Houston in the division standings.

Justin Topa (5-4) got the final four outs for the Mariners. He gave up two hits in the ninth, but Daniel Vogelbach was thrown out trying to stretch a lead-off single.

Teoscar Hernandez homered and finished with three RBIs. Pinch-hitter Dominic Canzone had a two-run homer and Julio Rodríguez hit an RBI triple.

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off the game with a homer for the second straight night and J.T. Realmuto also went deep.

The Phillies had runners on third and second in the ninth when Devin Williams struck out Turner swinging at a 3-2 pitch to end the game and earn his 32nd save in 36 opportunities.

Twins 9, Rangers 7, 10 innings

In Arlington, Carlos Correa and Max Kepler had RBI singles in the 10th inning, leadoff hitter Donovan Solano matched a career high with four hits, and AL Central-leading Minnesota beat Texas.

Correa and Kepler got their hits off hard-throwing reliever Aroldis Chapman (5-4), who got the last two outs of the ninth before coming back out for the 10th. Ryan Jeffers added a sacrifice fly, his second RBI of the game, after Chapman was gone.

Brent Headrick (3-0), the eighth Twins pitcher, tossed a perfect ninth. Jhoan Duran finished it for his 24th save in 29 chances, working around an RBI single by Robbie Grossman in the 10th.

Orioles 7, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Cedric Mullins started a six-run fourth inning with a three-run blast, Kyle Bradish threw six solid innings and Baltimore beat Arizona end a two-game skid.

Adley Rutschman hit his 17th homer of the season, a solo shot in the seventh inning, and added an RBI single as the Orioles improved to an AL-best 84-51 for the season.

Bradish (10-6) gave up two runs on four hits over six innings, walking three and striking out six. It was the right-hander's fourth consecutive quality start.

Red Sox 9, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Triston Casas hit a two-run homer and Alex Verdugo finished a homer short of hitting for the cycle as Boston beat Kansas City.

Six Boston batters drove in a run and all but one Red Sox starter had a hit. Boston snapped a five-game skid with the win after allowing four runs for the 12th time in 13 games.

Tanner Houck (4-8) worked five innings and allowed four runs and seven hits while walking one and striking out five.

Padres 6, Giants 1

In San Diego, Blake Snell lowered his major league-leading ERA from 2.60 to 2.50 and struck out eight in six scoreless innings, and Juan Soto, Xander Bogaerts, Gary Sanchez and Garrett Cooper homered to carry San Diego.

Snell (12-9), who won the AL Cy Young Award while with Tampa Bay in 2018, is building a case to become the sixth player to win the trophy in both leagues. He has 201 strikeouts,



Detroit Tigers' Kerry Carpenter runs the bases on an Andre Lipcius home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox in Chicago. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 3, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Saturday.

Oakland	2	LA Angels	1
Cleveland	7	Tampa Bay	11 inn 6
Detroit	10	Chicago W. Sox	0
Boston	9	Kansas City	5
NY Yankees	5	Houston	4
Seattle	8	NY Mets	7
Minnesota	9	Texas 10 inn	7
Baltimore	7	Arizona	3
Colorado	8	Toronto	7
Miami	11	Washington	5
Cincinnati	2	Chicago Cubs	1
Pittsburgh	7	St Louis	6
Milwaukee	7	Philadelphia	5
San Diego	6	San Francisco	1
Atlanta	4	LA Dodgers 10 inn	2

American League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	84	.51	.622	—
Tampa Bay	82	.54	.603	2-1/2
Toronto	74	.62	.544	10-1/2
Boston	70	.66	.515	14-1/2
New York	67	.69	.493	17-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	71	.65	.520	—
Cleveland	66	.70	.485	5
Detroit	62	.74	.456	9
Chicago	53	.83	.390	18
Kansas City	42	.95	.307	29-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	77	.58	.570	—
Houston	77	.60	.556	1
Texas	64	.72	.471	13-1/2
Los Angeles	64	.72	.471	13-1/2
Oakland	41	.95	.301	36-1/2

National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	90	.45	.667	—
Philadelphia	74	.61	.548	16
Miami	69	.67	.507	21-1/2
New York	62	.74	.456	28-1/2
Washington	62	.75	.453	29

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	76	.59	.563	—
Chicago	72	.64	.529	4-1/2
Cincinnati	71	.67	.514	6-1/2
Pittsburgh	63	.73	.463	13-1/2
St Louis	58	.78	.426	18-1/2



Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic returns to Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Pegula outlasts Svitolina, faces Keys

Alcaraz's variety makes it tough to choose shots

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): Jessica Pegula and Madison Keys kept noticing their names near each other in tournament draws this summer.

"We were like, 'I think the world just wants us to play,'" Pegula said.

At the U.S. Open, they finally will. Pegula beat Elina Svitolina 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 on Saturday, setting up a fourth-round matchup against the No. 17-seeded Keys.

Pegula, the No. 3 seed, is still trying to advance beyond the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament. First, she'll have to get by the 2017 runner-up in Flushing Meadows who also needed three sets to move on.

Keys came back to eliminate No. 14 Liudmila Samsonova 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Pegula and Keys could have met early in both Montreal and Cincinnati, but Keys had to withdraw with a hip injury in Canada - where Pegula won the title - and lost her opening match in Ohio. So they've still played only

TENNIS

once, a victory for Pegula last year in San Diego.

"I think we kind of are opposites a little bit," Keys said. "But I mean, she's been playing some amazing tennis the past few years."

Other winners on the women's side Saturday included No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who routed Clara Burel 6-1, 6-1, and No. 23 Zheng Qinwen of China, who outlasted Lucia Bronzetti 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Pegula then found herself in a tough test with Svitolina, the No. 26 seed from Ukraine who reached the U.S. Open semifinals in 2019. It was tied 2-2 in the third set before the 29-year-old from Florida broke serve to start a run of four straight games to win the match.

That put her in the fourth round of the U.S. Open for the second time. Pegula had her best result at the tournament in 2022, falling to eventual champion Iga Swiatek in the quarterfinals. She's gone that far in each Grand Slam tournament but is still seeking to reach the final four.

"She's been showing great results," Svitolina said. "I think she's ready to do an extra step forward."

Ever since Carlos Alcaraz was 12 or so - OK, not forever ago, considering he's still just 20 - he made sure variety was a key element of his game.

Back then, he explained, there were so many options at his disposal that he might encounter a bit of trouble figuring out which to employ. And, he acknowledged, that can even be the case to this day.

Alcaraz was by no means perfect during a 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory over the 26th-seeded Dan Evans in the U.S. Open's third round on Saturday - there was that wayward set, after all - but the defending champion produced enough moments of brilliance to keep himself smiling and his many fans in New York roaring in approval.

To hear the No. 1-seeded Alcaraz explain it, "a lot of different" possibilities enter his mind in the midst of a point - "the dropshot, big forehand, go



Andrey Rublev, of Russia, returns a shot to Arthur Rinderknech, of France, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

to the net, multiple things" - before he selects which stroke to try. It can make things "difficult" on occasion, he said.

"Most of the time, I find the right one," the Spaniard said, "but sometimes I struggle to hit good shots because of that."

His opponent in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday noticed.

"If anything, he probably plays too many shots," Evans said. "He let me out of jail a few times playing the wrong shot, which was good for me."

But there also were those "How did he do that?!" highlights that Alcaraz conjures up with frequency.

One in particular helped swing Saturday's match his way for good. Evans was seemingly in control of what would become a 12-stroke point, sending Alcaraz scrambling to his left for a defensive backhand. On his follow-through, Alcaraz stumbled a bit, nearly tumbling to the blue court. But he gathered himself and quickly switched direction, sprinting to his right with seven lengthy strides before sliding wide of the doubles alley as he flicked a down-the-line forehand.

The ball caught the back of the baseline for a winner that converted a break point for a 4-2 edge in the fourth set. Evans chucked his racket toward the bottom of the net, grimaced and placed his hands on his hips. Alcaraz raised his arms, using his left index finger to make a "No. 1" gesture.

"Took the wind out my sails," Evans said.

So what's it like to play Alcaraz? Less than 12 hours after the man he's expected to meet next weekend for the title, Novak Djokovic, needed

to overturn a two-set deficit to win in a match that ended a tad after 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, Alcaraz progressed to the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the third consecutive year.

Alcaraz improved to 14-1 over his nascent career in New York and is trying to become the first man to win two titles in a row in New York since Roger Federer took five straight from 2004-08.

Matches Monday that will put the winner in the quarterfinals include No. 3 Daniil Medvedev, who won a second straight late-night match, against No. 13 Alex de Minaur; No. 8 Andrey Rublev against Jack Draper, a 21-year-old left-hander from Britain who has never been this far at a major, and No. 6 Jannik Sinner against No. 12 Alexander Zverev.

The women's fourth round No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka against No. 13 Daria Kasatkina, No. 5 Ons Jabeur against No. 23 Zheng Qinwen, and No. 9 Marketa Vondrousova against unseeded American Peyton Stearns.

Sabalenka - who won the Australian Open in January and can overtake Iga Swiatek at No. 1 in the WTA rankings depending on their results at the U.S. Open - defeated Clara Burel and has dropped a total of just 12 games through three matches so far.

Alcaraz's next foe is Matteo Arnaldi, a 22-year-old from Italy who is ranked 61st. Arnaldi, who had won a grand total of one Grand Slam match before this tournament, reached the fourth round by eliminating No. 16 seed Cameron Norrie of Britain 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

And if he were to take on Alcaraz in 23,000-seat Ashe?

Sporting rally past St. Louis

RSL end 'skid', extend Rapids' slide with win

SANDY, Utah, Sept 3, (AP): Defender Brayan Vera scored early, Cristian Arango added a second-half goal and Real Salt Lake continued to dominate the Colorado Rapids with a 2-0 victory on Saturday night.

Real Salt Lake (11-9-7) beat Colorado (3-13-10) three times in a single season for the second time in club history, also doing so in 2014. Real Salt Lake improved to 11-2-3 in its last 16 meetings with the Rapids in all competitions.

Real Salt Lake snapped a four-match losing streak in all competitions, getting off to a good start when Vera found the net unassisted in the 19th minute for his first goal of the season. Arango used an assist from Maikel Chang four minutes into the second half to score his third of the campaign.

Zac MacMath finished with three saves to earn the clean sheet for Real Salt Lake. Marko Ilic saved three shots for the Rapids.

Colorado has lost five straight and falls to 1-13-4 in its last 18 matches in all competitions. The Rapids have lost eight straight on the road and have been outscored 22-3. Colorado was shut out for the fifth straight match and for the eighth time in its last nine. The club entered play with just 16 goals in its first 25 matches. Only D.C. United, with 15 in 2013, had fewer in league history.



Portland Timbers defender Dario Zuparic (left), keeps Seattle Sounders forward Jordan Morris from a shot on goal during the second half of an MLS soccer match Saturday, Sept 2, 2023, in Seattle. The teams played to a 2-2 draw. (AP)

it stand up as Orlando City edged FC Cincinnati 1-0.

Torres scored for an 11th time this season when he took a pass from Ramiro Enrique in the 44th minute. Gallese finished with four saves to earn the clean sheet for Orlando City (13-6-8).

Cincinnati (17-4-6) shut out Orlando City in the previous two matches in the series. Cincinnati tied a record set by the 2002 San Jose Earthquakes with 37 of a possible 39 points through its first 13 home contests. San Jose also lost its 14th match. Orlando City has a league-high 25 points on the road this season with a league-low three losses.

Roman Celentano did not have a save for Cincinnati.

Cincinnati returns to action on Sept. 16 when it travels to play the Philadelphia Union. Orlando City returns home to host the Columbus Crew on Sept. 16.

Christian Benteke scored two goals and added an assist to propel D.C. United to a 4-0 victory over the Chicago Fire.

DC United (9-12-6) ended a four-match losing streak in all competitions and snapped a three-match scoreless run against the Fire (8-11-8). The two clubs played to a scoreless draw earlier this season.

Benteke staked DC United to an early lead, using an assist from Mateusz Klich in the 9th minute to score his ninth goal of the season.

Benteke picked up an assist on Theodore Ku-DiPietro's fifth goal this season, giving DC United a 2-0 advantage in the 20th minute. It was 3-0 at halftime after an own-goal by Montreal defender Gabriele Corbo.

Hernández used an assist from Diego Rossi eight minutes later to give Columbus a two-goal lead. Hernández found the net for an eighth time this season when he took a pass from Yaw Yeboah in the 43rd minute, putting the Crew up 3-0 at halftime.

Kwadwo Opoku scored in the 52nd minute to get Montreal (11-14-2) within 3-1. Jules-Anthony Vilsaint assisted on Opoku's third goal this season.

Hernández scored for a third time after drawing a foul in the 64th minute on Montreal defender George Campbell.

Vilsaint scored his first career goal to cut Montreal's deficit to two in the 68th minute. Matko Miljevic notched his second career assist on the score. Vilsaint, 20, scored in his fourth career start and ninth appearance.

Facundo Torres scored late in the second half and Pedro Gallese made

SOCCER

Alan Pulido scored twice in the first half to lead Sporting Kansas City to a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over St. Louis City.

St. Louis City (15-10-2) took a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute on a goal by Samuel Adeniran. Indiana Vassilev assisted on Adeniran's sixth netter of the season. Adeniran's goal ended a league-record run of six straight goals scored by a club's substitutes.

Pulido pulled Sporting KC (8-11-8) even in the 31st minute, taking a pass from Daniel Sallói to score his 11th goal of the campaign. Pulido used an assist from Jake Davis to score goal No. 12 in the 44th minute to give Sporting KC a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Roman Bürki turned away four shots for St. Louis City. Tim Melia had one save for Sporting KC.

Cucho Hernández scored twice in the first half and finished off a hat trick with a penalty-kick goal in the second to spark the Columbus Crew to a 4-2 victory over FC Montreal.

Columbus (13-8-6) took a 1-0 lead in the 14th minute on an own-goal by Montreal defender Gabriele Corbo.

Hernández used an assist from Diego Rossi eight minutes later to give Columbus a two-goal lead. Hernández found the net for an eighth time this season when he took a pass from Yaw Yeboah in the 43rd minute, putting the Crew up 3-0 at halftime.

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Rookie Aberg stakes Cup 'claim' with title

CRANS-MONTANA, Switzerland, Sept 3, (AP): Swedish rookie Ludvig Aberg surged to a two-shot win at the European Masters on Sunday and right into the Ryder Cup picture for Europe when the six captain's picks are announced Monday.

Aberg stunned long-time leader Matt Fitzpatrick by reeling off four straight birdies from Nos. 14 to 17 to card a 6-under 64 for a 19-under total of 261.

Fitzpatrick faded to a tie for third, three shots back, though secured direct qualification for the Ryder Cup team to face the United States on a year-long points ranking. So too did Robert MacIntyre.

The 23-year-old Aberg turned professional only in June after being named the best college player in the United States for a second straight year at Texas Tech University.

In the sun-bathed Swiss Alps on Sunday, Aberg made himself a great option for Europe captain Luke Donald for the Ryder Cup in

GOLF

four weeks' time in Rome, Italy.

"I figured a win would put me in a good position," Aberg acknowledged. "Honestly, I've done a pretty good job of not thinking about it too much."

Aberg's potential for the Ryder Cup was clear on the PGA Tour since June - four top-25 finishes including tied for fourth at the John Deere Classic. He also was tied for fourth at the Czech Masters last weekend.

Still, victory on Sunday looked unlikely until deep into the final hour of play at Crans-sur-Sierre club. Fitzpatrick had led by three strokes when he birdied the par-5 14th but just 30 minutes - and back-to-back bogeys - later, a five-shot turnaround left Aberg clear by two.

"It's a pretty surreal feeling to be honest," Aberg said of his first win after just 75 days as a pro golfer that earned him a 425,000 euros check (\$458,000). "I always had that (feeling) that I could do it."

Aberg barely missed his birdie putt on No. 18 but it did not matter. Needing eagle on the 18th to force a playoff, Fitzpatrick made bogey for a 1-under 69 and 16-under total - one behind runner-up Alexander Björk (66) - that was tied with Connor Syme (67).

Pérez, Sainz complete podium

Max wins Italian GP for record 10th straight victory

MONZA, Italy, Sept 3, (AP): Runaway Formula One leader Max Verstappen secured a record 10th straight win with victory at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday, with a Red Bull one-two on Ferrari's home track.

"That's a nice stat," Verstappen said on team radio immediately after the win.

Another flawless performance from the two-time defending champion saw Verstappen beat teammate Sergio Pérez by 6.802 seconds. Carlos Sainz Jr. was third, 11.082 behind Verstappen and just ahead of Charles Leclerc as the two Ferrari drivers battled for the final spot on Monza's iconic podium.

"I never would have believed that was possible but we had to work for it today and that made it definitely a lot more fun," Verstappen said.

Verstappen had started second, behind Sainz, but eventually got past him at the start of lap 15 and from then on - just like the rest of the season - no one could match the Red Bull pace.

The record became all but a foregone conclusion as Verstappen began to pull away, swiftly building an advantage of more than five seconds five laps later.

"Very tough, very tough. It can't get any tougher than it was today," Sainz said. "To keep up with the Red Bulls, I paid the price with the rear tires but I did everything I could to defend."

The victory also saw Verstappen increase his huge championship lead to 145 points in a crushing dominant season for the 25-year-old Dutchman.

Verstappen has won 12 of the 14 races for unbeaten Red Bull and matched Sebastian Vettel's F1 re-

cord of nine straight victories last weekend at the Dutch GP. Pérez has the other two victories.

It was a second straight victory for Verstappen at Monza. Before last year he had never finished the Italian GP higher than fifth.

His record bid got off to a slightly delayed start, however, as Yuki Tsunoda went off on the formation lap with a suspected power unit failure. There had to be an aborted start and, with the drivers effectively doing three formation laps, the race was shortened by two laps.

Ferrari was hopeful of its first win at the Temple of Speed since

2019 and Sainz, who turned 29 on Friday, got off to a great start as he held off Verstappen into the first corner - much to the delight of the thousands of passionate red-clad tifosi.

MOTOR RACING

Sainz managed to defend several attempts by Verstappen to get past in a tense battle between the two. That didn't last long, however, as Sainz locked his brakes going into the first chicane on lap 15 and that

allowed Verstappen to get past him on the exit and pull away.

Sainz was left to fend off Perez for second place but lost that battle too with four laps remaining and was then forced to fight hard again to keep Leclerc behind for the final podium place.

George Russell was fifth, ahead of Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton, who kept his place despite a five-second penalty for colliding with Oscar Piastri.

Alex Albon was seventh with Lando Norris, Fernando Alonso and Valtteri Bottas completing the top 10.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands steers his car followed by two Ferraris during the Formula One Italian Grand Prix auto race, at the Monza racetrack, in Monza, Italy. (AP)



Serbia guard Aleksa Avramovic (30) shoots the ball against Dominican Republic during their Basketball World Cup second round match at the Araneta Coliseum, Manila, Philippines. (AP)

Sports

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Italy, Latvia, Serbia & Canada clinch quarters spots

USA qualify for Paris Olympics

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 3, (AP): For the first time in 25 years, Italy is going to the quarterfinals of the Basketball World Cup. Latvia is going for the first time ever, and Serbia is on its way there as well.

So is Canada - which ousted defending champion Spain to claim the last spot.

The final spots in the knockout round were decided Sunday, with Italy, Latvia, Canada and Serbia grabbing their quarterfinal spots.

Slovenia, Germany, Lithuania and the U.S. all qualified on Friday. And Lithuania pulled off a stunner on Sunday, topping the U.S. in its second-round finale.

Stefano Tonut and Giampaolo Ricci each scored 15 points and Italy reached the World Cup quarterfinals with win over Puerto Rico on the final day of second-round play at FIBA's biggest tournament.

Italy (4-1) will play either the U.S. or Lithuania in Tuesday's quarterfinals in Manila. The Italians are assured of their best World Cup finish since placing sixth in 1998. They were ninth in 2006, 10th in 2019 and didn't qualify in 2002, 2010 and 2014.

BASKETBALL

Simone Fontecchio added 12 points and 12 rebounds for Italy, and Luigi Datome scored 11. Italy used a 15-0 run in the first quarter to take some control, wound up losing that lead in the third quarter, rallied to take a slight edge into the final period and pulled away from there.

Tremont Waters scored 13 points and had nine assists for Puerto Rico (3-2), and Jordan Howard scored 11. Puerto Rico was bidding for its first World Cup quarterfinal trip since 2002.

Indonesia, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points and Canada rallied from 12 points down entering the final quarter to not only clinch a quarterfinal berth but grab a spot in the Paris Olympics as well.

Dillon Brooks scored 22 points and RJ Barrett added 16 for Canada (4-1), which watched Alex Abrines' shot from near halfcourt bounce off the rim as time expired.

Willy Hernangomez scored 25 for Spain (3-2), Santi Aldama had 20 and Abrines added 11.

At Jakarta, Latvia - in the World Cup for the first time - ran away from Brazil in the second half to turn a close game into a rout and made the quarterfinals.

Andrejs Grazulis scored 24 for Latvia (4-1) and Arturs Zagars added 17 for the winners, who will play Germany or Slovenia in Wednesday's quarterfinals. Latvia led by three at the half, then outscored Brazil 36-21 in the third quarter.

Davis Bertans scored 14 for Latvia, which outscored Brazil 48-21 from 3-point range. Bruno Caboclo scored 20 for Brazil (3-2), which was seeking its third quarterfinals trip since 1990.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 20 points and Serbia advanced to the quarterfinals, a result that eliminated the Dominican Republic and clinched an Olympic berth for the U.S.

Serbia (4-1) had six players in double figures, with Vanja Marinkovic and Nikola Milutinovic scoring 16 and Filip Petrushev adding 14.

The Dominican Republic (3-2) was led by Karl-Anthony Towns with 25 and Jean Montero with 15. Serbia shot 66% in the game.

Lithuania made its first nine 3-pointers and knocked off the U.S. in a matchup of teams that entered the day unbeaten and already had their quarterfinal berths secured.

Anthony Edwards scored 35 points for the U.S.

Dennis Schroder scored 24 points and Germany (5-0) rolled past Slovenia in a matchup of teams that knew they were headed to the quarterfinals.

Daniel Theis added 14 points and seven rebounds for the winners.

Luka Doncic led Slovenia (4-1) with 23 points and Klemen Prepelic had 12. Germany outscored Slovenia 45-21 on 3-pointers.

Patty Mills scored 19 points and Australia had five players reach double figures in a relatively easy



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka (left), and Manchester United's Marcus Rashford fight for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Manchester United at Emirates stadium in London. (AP)

Speculation swirls about Salah future

Arsenal underline title credentials as Liverpool rout Villa

LIVERPOOL, England, Sept 3, (AP):

Arsenal underlined their title credentials after they beat Manchester United 3-1 in the Premier League at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

The visitors drew the first blood through Marcus Rashford in the 27 minute but their celebration was short lived as Arsenal struck back in less than a minute through Martin Odegaard. Decan Rice and Gabriel Jesus completed the comeback deep in injury time.

Mohamed Salah put aside intense speculation about his future by scoring again for Liverpool in its dominant 3-0 win over Aston Villa that made it three straight victories in the Premier League for Jürgen Klopp's team on Sunday.

Salah, the subject of a reported bid on Friday worth 150 million pounds (\$188 million) by Al-Ittihad in Saudi Arabia, tapped home a finish in the 55th minute to round off the scoring at Anfield as Liverpool built on recent wins against Bournemouth and Newcastle.

Dominik Szoboszlai drove in the opening goal in the third minute before Villa right back Matty Cash unwittingly guided the ball into his own net in the 22nd after Darwin Núñez hit the post and the ball rebounded out.

Liverpool stayed unbeaten and on 10 points from four games heading into the international break. By the time the Premier League returns in two weeks, Liverpool fans will be hoping Salah is still at the club.

With the transfer window not closed for Saudi clubs until Thursday, Al-Ittihad could yet come back with an even bigger bid for Salah, the Egypt superstar who is the world's most high-profile Arabic player. Liverpool insists the 31-year-old forward is not for sale but its resolve could still be tested.

Salah has scored two goals so far this season and Liverpool's attack is purring, with seven goals in its last three games. There could have been many more Sunday as the Reds repeatedly got in behind Villa's high line that was also exposed in a 5-1 opening-round loss at Newcastle.

The negative for Liverpool was the sight of Trent Alexander-Arnold limping off in the 71st minute with a leg muscle injury that could see him with-

drawn from England's squad for the upcoming games against Ukraine and Scotland.

It was Alexander-Arnold - captain for the day in the absence of the suspended Virgil van Dijk - who sent over the corner from the right that missed everyone in the area and fell to Szoboszlai, who smashed the ball left-footed and diagonally into the bottom corner. It was the Hungary captain's first goal since joining Liverpool from Leipzig in the offseason.

SOCCER

Cash scored twice for Villa at Burnley last weekend, and again in Europa Conference League qualifying in midweek, but this time found his own net after Núñez raced onto Salah's pass and struck the post.

Joel Matip headed wide from point-blank range and Núñez hit the crossbar after chipping goalkeeper Emi Martinez as Liverpool threatened more goals.

Núñez, who started after two goals as a substitute last weekend against Newcastle, was narrowly wide with a volley from Salah's cross and the two then linked up for the third goal. Núñez glanced on Andrew Robertson's corner and Salah was at the back post to tap in.



Aston Villa's Leon Bailey (left), challenges for the ball with Liverpool's Joe Gomez during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Aston Villa at Anfield stadium in Liverpool. (AP)

Odosone Edouard scored twice for Crystal Palace in its 3-2 win over Wolverhampton on Sunday, helping his team earn a second victory in the Premier League this season.

Eberechi Eze produced a sublime finish to also net for Palace in an exciting game between two sides who had scored just four goals between them in three rounds coming into the match.

Wolves equalized through substitute Hwang Hee-chan and had a consolation from Matheus Cunha in its third loss so far this campaign.

Eze played a starring role against Palace and thought he should have had a penalty early in the first half when he went down under Joao Gomes' challenge. VAR official Stuart Attwell deemed the contact was insufficient to award a spot kick.

Almost immediately, the visitors should have found themselves a goal down when goalkeeper Jose Sa's poor pass was nicked off the toes of Craig Dawson by Jefferson Lerma, who teed up Jordan Ayew. Wolves captain Max Kilman blocked the shot on the line.

Pedro Neto's effort was tipped over by Palace goalkeeper Sam Johnstone just before halftime and that was the only shot of note from Wolves before the break. The game then exploded into life after the re-

start, with all five goals coming in the second half.

A superb run and cross from Tyrick Mitchell down the left saw Edouard picked out, and the striker got between two defenders to steer the ball past Sa and give Palace a 56th-minute lead.

Wolves hit back in the 65th when Hee-chan made an immediate impact shortly after his introduction from the bench when he made contact with Neto's superb free kick with his shoulder. The ball looped over Johnstone and into the net.

But Palace always looked the more likely to score with Eze becoming all the more influential, and it was the playmaker who made it 2-1 in the 77th. His superb touch and finish from Jean-Philippe Mateta's flick put him one-on-one with Sa and Eze prodded in a finish on the stretch.

Six minutes later, Edouard wrapped up the win after Mateta's back-heel fooled the Wolves defense, with the former Celtic striker burying the ball past Sa.

Eze almost added a fourth for Palace after another jinking run into the box, but Sa saved well to his left and palmed the ball wide of the post.

Wolves pulled a goal back in the sixth minute of stoppage time when Neto's cross was met in the box by Cunha. Evan Ferguson's first career hat trick helped Brighton cap a memorable week with a 3-1 win over Newcastle that inflicted a third straight league defeat on the visitor.

The 18-year-old Irish striker curled home his second goal from range to add to a simple first-half finish. Ferguson completed his treble with the aid of a hefty deflection off Fabian Schar.

The win came a day after Brighton was drawn to face Ajax, Marseille and AEK Athens in the club's first Europa League campaign. The club pulled off a transfer coup on Friday by signing Ansu Fati on loan from Barcelona, and has won three of its opening four league games following last weekend's loss to West Ham.

Newcastle lost only five league games in all of last season but this loss came on the heels of defeats to Manchester City and Liverpool - which staged a late comeback at Anfield last weekend with 10 men.