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Pages 15 & 16

# ARAB TIMES

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## Law brandished at social media abuse

Police warn

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA):** The Ministry of Interior said it is monitoring the electronic accounts of persons who breach the public ethics or slander the civil servants, including the personnel of the security apparatus.

The civil servants and the security apparatus are entitled by law to protection against any slanderous remarks they might face while doing their duty, said a statement from the Ministry's General Directorate of Security Relations and Media.

Recent surveillance of the social media showed that some accounts used libel and morally inappropriate language to defame civil servants.

The Department of Electronic and Cyber Crime, an affiliate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations, is collecting evidence of the offending accounts as a prelude to taking a legal action against their owners.

The statement advised the social media users to abide by the law and public ethics to avoid unnecessary legal accountability.

## Iran 'slows' enrichment

**VIENNA, Sept 4, (AP):** Iran has slowed the pace at which it is enriching uranium to nearly weapons-grade levels, according to a report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog seen by The Associated Press on Monday. That could be a sign Tehran is trying to ease tensions after years of strain between it and the U.S.

The confidential report comes as Iran and the United States are negotiating a prisoner swap and the release of billions of dollars in Iranian assets frozen in South Korea. However, international inspectors also noted new challenges in trying to monitor Iran's program.

In an effort to ensure Iran could not develop atomic weapons, world powers struck a deal with Tehran in 2015 under which it agreed to limit enrichment of uranium to levels necessary for nuclear power in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. U.N. inspectors were tasked with monitoring the program.

Then-President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018, saying he would negotiate a stronger deal, but that didn't happen. Iran began breaking the terms a year later.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in its report that Iran has 121.6 kilograms (268 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60%. That means its stockpile of the fuel is growing at its slowest pace since 2021. A report in May put the stockpile at just over 114 kilograms (250 pounds). It had 87.5 kilograms (192 pounds) in February.

Uranium enriched at 60% purity is just a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

### Peaceful

Iran has long denied ever seeking nuclear weapons and continues to insist that its program is entirely for peaceful purposes, though the IAEA's director-general has warned Tehran has enough enriched uranium for "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to build them.

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

Tehran likely would still need months to build a weapon. U.S. intelligence agencies said in March that Iran "is not currently undertaking the key nuclear weapons-development activities that would be necessary to produce a testable nuclear device." The IAEA, the West and other countries say Iran had a secret military nuclear program it abandoned in 2003.

Overall, the IAEA report estimated Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile at 3,795.5 kilograms (8,367 pounds). That's a drop from the last IAEA report, which put the stockpile at 4,744.5 kilograms (10,459 pounds). The stockpile reportedly declined because Iran diluted some of its enriched uranium.

U.S. President Joe Biden has said he'd be willing to re-enter a nuclear deal with Iran, but formal talks to try to find a roadmap to restart the deal collapsed in August 2022. In the time since, Oman and Qatar have mediated indirect talks between Iran and the U.S. that led to the current planned prisoner swap and asset release.

Under that proposal, anywhere from \$6 billion to \$7 billion, depending on exchange rates, would be changed from South Korean won into euros. The cash represents money South Korea owed Iran - but had not yet paid - for oil purchased before the Trump administration imposed sanctions on such transactions in 2019.

The U.S. maintains that, once in Qatar, the money will be held in restricted accounts and Iran will only be able to use it for humanitarian goods, such as medicine and food. Those transactions are currently allowed under American sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program.

In exchange, Iran would release five Iranian-American prisoners now under house arrest. The U.S. likely will release Iranian prisoners as well, though those details remain murky.



Opening ceremony of the 15th Cultural Summer Festival.

KUNA photo

### NCCAL's Cultural Summer Festival opens

Under auspices of Minister of Information and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul-Rahman Al-Mutairi, the 15th Cultural Summer Festival (Saifi-15) of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) kicked off on the stage of Sheikh Jaber Theater on Sunday.

The event, which lasts until September 17, aims to foster the skills of youth during the summer holiday, said NCCAL's Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar in a speech on behalf of the minister.

The festival takes place three weeks after NCCAL celebrated the golden jubilee of the

issuance of the Amiri decree to found the Council," he said, noting that the event is one of the main activities on NCCAL's annual agenda.

NCCAL drew up its five-year strategy (2023-2028) in keeping with the country's vision for sustainable development based on good governance, fostering talents and innovative economy, AL-Jassar added.

The agenda of Saifi-15 includes seminars, cultural discussions on poetic and music topics, theatrical plays, and cultural and heritage exhibitions at the National Library, the National Museum and Avenues Mall. (KUNA)

### 'Unconstitutional'

## Lawmaker hits CITRA tender

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: MP Jenan Bushehri has criticized the tender floated by Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) for developing Kuwait International electronic portal.

She said the tender is against the Constitution as it is aimed at monitoring the Internet users. She cited certain points in tender book as follows:

Page 42 - CITRA is looking for a solution to expand the current inspection capacity of the Deep Packet Inspection (DPI) and make sure the Internet traffic in Kuwait is monitored.

Page 47 - CITRA aims to develop its capability to classify and control social media applications, including WhatsApp, to suspend calls on this application and allow text messages only.

Page 63 - CITRA wants to monitor the Internet users, specify the applications and kinds of devices they use, and determine their geographic location.

Page 74 - CITRA is allowed to copy the activities of users and their data, and send them to a third party.

Page 75 - CITRA wants to control the number of users who can access certain social media applications.

Bushehri pointed out that the aim of CITRA is crystal clear — to force users to utilize channels which can be monitored, stressing WhatsApp calls cannot be infiltrated.

She added the tender is aimed at monitoring and

spying on citizens; indicating that CITRA can slow down the Internet service, minimize the number of users, and gain access to a specific application in case the citizens are conducting a campaign against the government.

She wants to know the legal basis for CITRA to obtain the users' data and then send the information to a third party without the users' permission, wondering who is the third party.

She revealed she did her own research and found out that only the countries against democracy and freedom are using such technology. She warned that once this tender is settled, Kuwait will join the countries which are against freedom and democracy.

She hopes CITRA will not justify the tender by issuing manipulative and misleading statements; such as "the aim of the tender is to develop the Internet, reduce cost and prohibit suspicious websites." She said these are the justifications of governments, which adopted the technology, to conceal the actual objectives — to monitor and spy on individuals for security reasons. She asserted that the tender is unacceptable despite the positive aspects, because there is no justification for monitoring and spying on citizens.

She urged Minister of Communications Fahd Al-Shullah to fulfill his oath to defend the citizens' freedom and protect the Constitution. She advised him not to listen to the voices of those claiming that nullifying the tender is a sign of weakness. She emphasized that the cancellation of the tender is one

Continued on Page 4

## Man accused of killing Filipina dies in hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Public Prosecution said the man accused of killing a Filipina worker in Omariya, died in the hospital where he was being treated, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The prosecution said after it received a report stating that an Asian resident had stabbed another Asian domestic worker several times until she died, investigation procedures were carried out at the scene of the incident to examine the victim's body before handing over the remains to the Forensic Medicine Department.

Then suspect had allegedly stabbed himself, at the residence of his victim's sponsor in Al-Omariya.

The Prosecution added that the suspect was moved to the hospital under police guard but he died before regaining consciousness.

Earlier, the Omariya area had witnessed the horrific murder in which a 35-year-old Filipina resident was killed by her Indian boyfriend who was also 35 years old.

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### Opinion

## Until when 'Bedoun' ... without?

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

TO be frank, ignoring the Bedoun issue does not negate the fact of their existence.

If it was possible to solve this issue in the past before it turned into a snowball that threatened security and burdened the State, then seriously seeking to solve it today does not represent a dilemma. All that is needed for it to work is to have a realistic vision based on several solutions, including the one developed by the central agency for illegal residents.

In its report, the agency stated that there is a group that deserves citizenship. It also developed several solutions to this issue, similar to what the neighboring countries did to resolve this.

There is no doubt that some of them are productive, and Kuwait needs them. Many of them served the country previously.

Therefore, the continuation of this file is troubling the State and the people. It is a negative sign in the world for Kuwait. When you ask "Why are the concerned institutions not working to solve it?", you hear a lot of arguments. It seems as if someone wants to keep the wound bleeding. So why doesn't the government implement what was stated in the central agency's report?

Until the 1960s, the number of Bedoun residents did not exceed 10,000, but the State did not take any action. Over the years, their numbers grew, such that today they have reached about 120,000. This number is increasing daily. Their confinement in work, employment, medicine, and other things leads to some of them turning to crime, because hunger has no religion.

The neighboring countries, especially the Gulf ones, have dealt with this problem either by granting citizenship or some other ways.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain managed to solve their problem in this regard, and even benefited from the Bedoun labor force, especially those with advanced degrees and skills.

In Kuwait, alien decisions are being issued in this regard, such as issuing an Article 17 passport to whomever the state is content with so that he can travel and return to the country, but this is the maximum he can get.

When Germany found a need for a workforce, it amended its law and granted citizenship to about a million immigrants, especially those of working age, or with the competencies and skills, and with advanced degrees.

Continued on Page 4

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### Newswatch

**ALGIERS:** Algeria's Defense Ministry has acknowledged that its forces fired on a group of people on water scooters who strayed into Algerian waters from Morocco, and that a body was later found. The shooting has provoked national anger in Morocco.

The North African neighbors have no diplomatic relations and their maritime border has been closed since the 1990s because of long-running disputes over the territory of Western Sahara, among other issues. But deadly confrontations in the sea are unusual.

Moroccan media say Algerian forces killed two vacationers in the incident last week. France says a French citizen was among those killed and another French citizen was detained. (AP)

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**CAIRO:** The Palestinian issue will take the helm at the upcoming 160th Arab League meeting held at the ministerial level, affirmed Palestinian envoy to Arab League Muhammad Al-Alkhouk on Monday.

Al-Alkhouk further detailed that the ministerial meeting agenda encompasses discussions on the continuous Israeli aggression, practical mechanisms combating this aggression as well as enabling Palestinian people to practice their legitimate rights.

The official indicated that there will be two ministerial committees, the first presided over by Saudi Arabia and is concerned with supporting Palestinian case to attain full UN membership. (KUNA)

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**PARIS:** Tunisia's opposition Islamist party Ennahdha said that one of its senior officials has been placed under house arrest by authorities in what it called an illegal decision.

Ennahdha condemned in a statement Sunday the sanction against Abdel Karim Harouni and called for him to be released.

The National Salvation Front, Tunisia's main opposition coalition which includes Ennahdha, said in a statement that Harouni had been placed under house arrest from Saturday evening, one day before he was to take part in a meeting to prepare the party's congress scheduled in October. (AP)

□ □ □

**BAGHDAD:** The death toll from clashes that broke out Saturday in the disputed city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq has risen to four, medical officials said Sunday.

Meanwhile, the country's top court issued an order halting the planned handover of the Iraqi federal police headquarters in Kirkuk to the Kurdish Democratic Party, which had sparked tensions in the city which is home to a mixed population of Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen.

Federal forces seized Kirkuk and the surrounding oil fields in October 2017 after Kurdish regional authorities organized a referendum for Kurdish independence. The KDP vacated its headquarters in the city at the time. (AP)

### Day by Day

IN Arab culture, there is a well-known saying: "Inquire about a person, be they a king, a president, or even a shepherd. You must inquire about their companions and advisors, for therein lies the key."

There are leaders who are described as being "on the ground." They can be found everywhere within their nations, actively engaged in various matters, seeking information and understanding. They carefully assess the counsel they receive, distinguishing between sound advice and misguided recommendations, all in the pursuit of reconciliation and benefit.

On the other hand, there are nations where darkness has fallen, as their leaders have surrounded themselves with individuals driven by personal interests.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:05	Asr .....	15:20
Sunrise ..	05:27	Maghrib ..	18:07
Zohr .....	11:47	Isha .....	19:26

# Local

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

## Remarkable achievements: Awqaf official

# ‘We welcome Kuwaiti women assuming leadership positions’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4 : Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Bader Al-Mutairi affirmed that Kuwaiti women have proven their worth and have had remarkable achievements, stressing he welcomes the idea of Kuwaiti women assuming leadership positions in the ministry, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In an interview with the daily recently, Al-Mutairi said: “Ambition is a legitimate right for everyone — men and women. Women constitute half of the society. They give birth and raise the other half. Since the dawn of Islamic history, they have been playing vital roles, contributed to nation building alongside men, and held high positions. They have proven their ability to make achievements and leave indelible marks in society.”



Dr. Al-Mutairi

He continued: “Since two-thirds of the ministry’s employees are women — about 67 percent of the total workforce, we will see women in leadership posts soon and we welcome such an idea. They can serve their country and society.”

On the number of Kuwaiti Imams, he disclosed that those under the salary item totaled 51, while 666 are under the contract item and 275 are under the income. He said the ministry is currently managing 1,776 mosques in the six governorates.

Asked why the graduates of Sharia colleges are reluctant to work as imam, he cited lack of financial incentives compared to other jobs and temporal linkage to the nature of the job.

He also unveiled the plan to resume religious discourse in a manner consistent with Islamic identity and advancement of society, in line of internal and external developments.

He highlighted the efforts exerted by the Center for Promoting Moderation to protect young people from extraneous ideas; stressing that the fight against extremist ideas through several programs continues, most notably the ‘fortification’ project, which targeted 8,260 students. “This is in addition to the project to visit offices, training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and distribution of books,” he revealed. He confirmed that the US State Department praised the moderation achievements in its report on religious freedom.

About the electronic services that the ministry launched on its online portal to keep pace with the ongoing digital transformation, Al-Mutairi said these services include those related to screen allowance, transportation for the Studies Sector and training courses.

He stressed that the ministry is keen on keeping abreast with development and technical progress to improve work procedures in its sectors and departments. He said the ministry launched several services through the government platform ‘Sahel’, in cooperation with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) for the public to save effort and time, as well as complete transactions smoothly.

He added the ministry is coordinating with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) to develop its plans for digital transformation, and to benefit from the expertise of CAIT by participating in the digital transformation path initiative that the agency has established.

On Bedouns performing Umrah, Al-Mutairi confirmed that the ministry contacted Saudi Arabia’s Deputy Minister for Hajj and Umrah Abdul-Fattah bin Suleiman to allow holders of Article 17 passports to perform Umrah; in addition to discussing this issue with Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah. “By virtue of the good brotherly relationship between the two countries and in view of the humanitarian situation of our Bedoun brothers, we hope these visits and discussions will result in a breakthrough for Bedouns to perform Umrah,” he asserted.

He talked about the new mechanisms and plans for the development of Hajj, stressing the Department of Hajj and Umrah is committed to providing the best services and overcoming obstacles for the pilgrims in a bid to achieve global leadership in Islamic work, given that the automated registration link is limited to relatives; so coordination with PACI is underway to complete this link. “In this manner, registration will be done through the ‘My Identity’ application. To ensure that the pilgrim is serious in his registration, he will be required to pay an advance of 25 percent of the total Hajj cost,” he explained.

He said: “The ministry launched the electronic registration portal for Hajj, as it is keen on providing the best services. One of the goals is to control prices as the pilgrim is given the freedom to choose the best caravan for him.”

He added the ministry conducted an opinion poll of 1,113 individuals randomly chosen out of 8,000 Umrah registrants -- the authorized quota for Kuwait; indicating the results affirmed that Kuwaitis are grateful for the positive action and decisions of the ministry with an approval rating of 95 percent.

On communicating with the public to improve services in mosques, he affirmed a service will be launched soon in Sahel for the public to submit suggestions and comments about the mosques, as well as the student registration service in all educational branches -- memorization of the Holy Qur’an and Islamic studies.



KUNA photo

The 15th edition of the ‘Summer Cultural Festival’ kicked off on the stage of the Sheikh Jaber Cultural Theatre, on Monday , Sept 4 .

# Bumpy road ahead for 2 ministers

‘KAC, KIA, inflation, tourism projects heavy burden’

By Raed Youssef  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: In the two ministries that are often controversial due to their close connection with all state agencies, there seems to be more awareness in the new Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Adel Al-Mana and Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah compared to others about the thorny and complex issues awaiting them during the coming period.

The importance of these files is the fact that they are “chronic” and still difficult to resolve for several reasons, including constitutional ones related to the mechanism of approving and implementing laws, political ones related to the way the legislative authority deals and cooperates with the executive, and the ambiguity of the mechanism for appointing leaders in state institutions. There are also the regional and international developments that force Kuwait, like other countries in the world, to take unconventional measures to keep pace with these challenges.

In the Ministry of Education, the appointment of Minister Dr. Al-Mana comes at the start of the new academic year, with the concerns it brings related to the extent of the readiness of public and private schools, the competence of teachers, and the development of curricula, as well as the recurring concerns at Kuwait University and the technical institutions, and ways to secure a sound start of the Abdullah Al-Salem University.

Regarding job cadres and new schools, there are files related to placement of supervisory positions, suspended promotions, the establishment of schools in new areas and those suffering from a shortage of schools, forged and fictitious certificates, research institute appointments, scholarships in medical specialties, and many others.

In the Ministry of Finance, Minister Al-Jarallah is faced with a number of popular files that concern citizens, especially retirees, for which a very large parliamentary majority is pushing for their approval in the second session of the National Assembly, which begins next month.

At a time when the government seeks to regulate its expenditures and push for the approval of the “parliament-rejected” public debt law, enhancing non-oil revenues, supplementing the General Reserve Fund, protecting the future generations’ reserves, encouraging investments, and protecting Kuwait’s credit rating, it is considering an amendment to subsidies and fees on government services, amid parliamentary and popular concerns about the acquired rights of citizens being diminished.

The heated controversy over the performance of Kuwait Airways and the Kuwait Investment Authority, the current inflation, and the launch of huge development and tourism projects remains a heavy burden awaiting the new Minister of Finance.

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**National survey:** The Technical Guidance Department in the Education Ministry is currently coordinating with the Educational Research and Curriculum Sector to prepare questions for the national survey that will be conducted in the first week of the new academic year for primary level students in Science, Mathematics and Arabic subjects, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a source from the educational sector.

According to the source, a random sample of primary level students in all educational districts will be chosen to participate in the survey, which will most likely be conducted in October. The source disclosed this survey aims to measure the quality of primary education in the country after the Corona pandemic.

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**‘Yom Al-Bahhar’:** The Ministry of Information is now finalizing preparations for the opening of the newly renovated ‘Yom Al-Bahhar’ Village in October, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, official spokesperson of the ministry Badr Al-Enezi affirmed that the aim is to transform the village into a tourist destination for families and heritage enthusiasts through the provision of a joyful family atmosphere and authentic Kuwaiti heritage.

Al-Enezi said all those in charge of the village are keen on creating new attractions in a suitable environment as per the directive of Minister of Information, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Badah Al-Mutairi to implement the media strategy for the promotion of worthwhile activities.

He disclosed the ministry coordinated with Kuwait Oil Company to equip the area for children’s games in the village. He added a theater was established for various activities, while the museum was developed to showcase more of Kuwait’s history and traditions.

Weather			
Expected weather for the next 24 hours:			
By Day: Hot with light variable wind with speeds of 06-22 km/h.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	43	32	
Kuwait Airport	44	28	

Abdaly	46	28
Jahra	47	31
Salmiyah	38	32
Ahmadi	37	33
Nuwaisib	42	27
Wafra	44	24

## Other Voices

## Let us hold on to democracy

By Ahmad alsarraf

I am unwilling to compromise my freedom of speech, action, and behavior in exchange for towering structures, extensive highways, or impressive hospitals. Surrendering our freedom of speech can lead us down a path where we become like animals headed for the slaughterhouse.

A few years ago, a court ruling was issued and later upheld by the Court of Cassation, preventing the government from revoking a citizen’s passport, thus safeguarding their constitutional and human rights to travel and move freely. The government must heed the message from the Judicial Authority.



alsarraf

Whenever we witness governmental, parliamentary, or legislative failures, delays in developmental projects, or progress in sisterly Gulf countries, there are loud calls to abandon democracy and revert to the pre-1962 system, citing growing corruption that weakened the state, demeaned the people, hindered developmental projects, and left honest individuals disillusioned. Those advocating this view believe that sticking to democracy is not worth the sacrifices.

Unlike the majority, I am dissatisfied with the current form of the National Assembly and the somewhat questionable relationship between the Government and MPs. I believe that the Constitution needs amendment to enhance freedom.

I do not dispute the idea that we may not be inherently democratic. However, the imperfect democracy we have ensures a minimum level of freedom, a luxury not found in many other countries.

This democracy upholds justice, preserves people’s dignity, and guarantees a fair judiciary. Without democracy, any successor could oppress us, as some ancestors did. De-

spite its flaws, the current situation is preferable to an unjust dictatorship that is often uncontrollable.

At present, nothing is preventing the government from taking action, resolving disputes, addressing issues, boosting the economy, accelerating developmental projects, passing urgent bills, and combating corruption. Abandoning democracy will not lead to better conditions. The ongoing power struggles will persist and may intensify with more destructive consequences.

Throughout history, the Al Sabah Family has been known for its benevolence. Most family members are not suspected of illegal wealth accumulation. The wealthy members are few and well-known.

We have seen the extravagant financial conditions of members from other ruling families, and this may have tempted some individuals to believe that achieving immense wealth, even illegally, is possible once democracy is discarded.

Perhaps some people are unaware of or choose to overlook the fact that the Constitution, representing the agreement between the people and the ruling family, will become null and void if democracy disappears.

As a result, other official constitutions will vanish, and there will be no guarantee that laws will be enforced fairly and equally, as they are now. In the absence of democracy, security institutions will wield control, and their authority will extend without limits. Courts will no longer be a refuge for the people as they will be under security control.

Perhaps we might gain material prosperity by abandoning democracy. We could have towering bridges, vast streets, resorts, theaters, impressive tourism ventures, schools, airports, hospitals, advanced sports facilities, festivals, and parties. However, there will also be the darkness of a dawn yet to come. Is this what we truly desire?

Oh, Sabah Family, oh, people of Kuwait, let us hold on to democracy, for there is no guarantee that the alternative will be better.

□ □ □

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KUNA photo

Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi after the signing ceremony held in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

## Kuwait inks Amity, Cooperation Treaty

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, signed Monday, Kuwait joining the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).

This came during a ceremony held in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. (KUNA)

## CSC, MoE in discussions

## Integration of work, study abroad

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Civil Service Commission is scheduled to convene shortly with representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education to discuss the integration of work and study abroad, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This directive comes from the Council of Ministers, instructing a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of this initiative. During the meeting, mechanisms and coordination for implementing this decision will be discussed, and it is expected to come to fruition after a thorough examination of the proposed concepts.

The spokesperson further clarified that this decision will require a legal amendment, which will be drafted subsequently after establishing the requisite regulations, assessing all proposals, and addressing the Ministry of Higher Education’s reservations about the concept in general.

In relation to the decision to combine work and study domestically, sources indicated that it may be subject to further review in light of reactions to the circular issued earlier by the CSC to government agencies. They noted that certain conditions might undergo revisions, particularly concerning the alteration of an employee’s status upon qualification attainment.

The previous circular stipulated that combining work and study, outside the framework of scholarship and study leave regulations, following qualification achievement, would not impose any obligation to modify the employee’s status, alter their job role, or elevate their job grade.

The sources expressed surprise at a clause within the previous circular that held the direct supervisor responsible for disciplinary actions if the employee was

## MEW spends millions

## Network look after

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy spent KD 151.5 million on developing, modernizing and maintaining the electricity network during the last fiscal year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to informed sources in the ministry, the amounts were spent on installing main transmission stations, secondary distribution stations, and ground cables through new and ongoing contracts concluded by the ministry with a number of specialized international companies, with the aim of raising the network’s carrying capacity, extending the electrical current to new areas, and making it ready to bear the burdens, especially during the summer.

not held accountable for any violations that might occur due to this arrangement. The sources pointed out that many government agencies found the circular to be unclear, as it did not specify the responsible entity for overseeing the employee beyond their affiliated department or section.

It has been confirmed that directives have been issued to conduct a comprehensive review of the circular, including the establishment of necessary controls. This action follows feedback received from various representatives subsequent to the issuance of the CSC circular.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## ‘Looks challenging to restore unity, dynamism of GCC’s early days’

“ONE of the Gulf Cooperation Council’s (GCC) initial major achievements was the significant alignment of member states’ positions on Arab, regional, and international matters, particularly in the context of challenging issues such as relations with Iran and the Iraq-Iran war. The GCC displayed a steadfast commitment to containing the dangers of the war and safeguarding the territories of its member states. A crucial strategic decision was made to actively pursue a ceasefire through international organizations, including those in New York and Geneva, while securing public support for ending the conflict,” columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“During the early stages of the eight-year war, the UN Security Council convened, facing Iranian boycott and hesitant Iraqi responses, especially regarding a resolution calling for a cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of forces to their respective regional borders. Iraq was reluctant to comply with the withdrawal call, believing that the Iranian army’s collapse was a distinct possibility, especially if Iraqi forces maintained their presence within Iran.

“As the war unfolded over the years, positions shifted, particularly within Iraq, where Saddam Hussein initially celebrated what seemed like the impending downfall of the Iranian regime and its military. However, Iran’s resilience endured, even amidst global isolation and sanctions, due to its unconventional political-religious system that diverged from the norms of global diplomacy and international law.

“What remained constant throughout the eight years was the unity of the Gulf’s position, bolstering Iraq’s stance, especially when Iranian forces crossed into the Al-Faw region. This unity aimed to preserve Iraqi territory and support Iraq’s strategy to remove Iranian military presence from the region. Member states, particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, intensified their cohesion with Iraqi positions to thwart Iranian expansionism.

“The unity of the Gulf position continued to be effective even during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It demonstrated the member states’ commitment to collective Gulf security action and their willingness to bear the burdens associated with it, strengthening trust in the Gulf’s collective will and military capabilities.

“Following Kuwait’s liberation, the GCC remained committed to its path, confident in the solidarity demonstrated during the liberation. However, the emergence of border disputes and the call for their resolution



Bishara

raised concerns. The dispute between the Kingdom and Qatar was particularly surprising and required intervention, including from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

“While the dispute was eventually resolved, it highlighted the sensitivity of border issues within the GCC and hinted at potential divisions. These divisions later manifested in differing assessments of regional issues, including Iran’s influence, and contributed to the subsequent Qatar boycott.

“Today, it appears challenging to restore the unity and dynamism that characterized the early days of the GCC. The differences in positions on various regional and global issues, such as the Ukraine conflict, Israel, Sudan, and Libya, are evident and have deepened over time. The diplomatic climate within the Gulf may not easily return to its previous state, as the boycott has created lasting alliances and diplomatic harmony during crises.

“The GCC will likely continue on its current trajectory, bearing the consequences of the boycott, while forming new arrangements with regional countries. Preserving the vitality of the Council and protecting it from further disruptive surprises will be of paramount importance as it navigates the evolving dynamics of the region.”

### Also:

“Following official statements indicating that Kuwait will not be implementing its Kuwait Vision 2035, which is tied to the seventeen global goals meant for realization by 2030, Kuwait’s commitment to these goals, having signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Document in 2015, seems to have dwindled,” columnist **Dr Abdulaziz Ibrahim Al-Turki** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Despite having embarked on development and urban planning efforts since the 1950s, Kuwait has not seen the realization of its declared vision since 2010. Over 37 billion dinars were allocated for this purpose, yet none of it materialized on the ground. Several obstacles hindered its progress such as:

- Continual alterations in the plan’s projects.
- Bureaucratic expansion and increased inefficiencies.
- Discrepancies between official statements and actual achievements.
- Development plans that do not align with the 2030 UN Convention.
- Conflicting data, figures, and statistics.
- Repeated and significant errors in project qualification, evaluation, and implementation.

- Misalignment between the plan and government programs and budgets.
- Lack of harmony between the plan and the state’s structural framework and official borders.

- Absence of a clear state vision, economic identity, and coordinated strategic plans overseen by qualified experts.

- A dearth of decision-making, decisiveness, and a commitment to accountability based on performance metrics and budgetary timelines.

“Despite the myriad of obstacles and challenges, Kuwait possesses geographical, economic, political, and social development elements. It boasts the first free trade seaport in the Gulf region, a low cost of living, abundant resources, and a heritage deeply rooted in the culture of development. This is a demand shared by the populace, political entities, and the youth. Kuwait’s government and parliament have historically been pioneers, particularly as one of the first democratic regimes in the region.

“Reinvigorating Kuwait’s development path does not necessitate an immense effort but rather several swift, practical steps and critical decisions, including:

- Reorganizing the government, the economy, and the vision.
- Diversifying sources of income, energy, and financing.
- Addressing long-standing security and border concerns.
- Efficiently managing energy consumption, expenditures, and unwarranted subsidies.

- Establishing direct partnerships with major industrial nations, their firms, and experts while attracting investments.

- Overhauling state-owned assets and the real estate, agricultural, and tourism sectors, breaking monopolies, and implementing consistent fiscal policies.

- Instituting automated connectivity among government agencies through a civil information database to streamline transactions.

- Transforming Kuwait into a global healthcare hub or a humanitarian relief center.

- Initiating a global youth sports revolution, akin to that of Saudi Arabia, encompassing the acquisition of international clubs, stars and legends and elevating the standards of local sports to secure Olympic positions.

“The question remains: Can Kuwait recover the billions spent and efforts expended? Is it possible to rewind the clock to pre-2010 and reclaim the thirteen lost years in the nation’s progress?”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Participants of the 16th preparatory meeting of the Committee of Arab Experts for the World Natural Cultural Heritage.



Dr Muhammad Al-Jassar



Dr Fathi Jeraei

### NCCAL hosts meeting

## Bid to unify Arab stance in depicting cultural heritage

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Literature, representing the State of Kuwait, hosted a preparatory meeting on Sunday, the 16th, for the Arab Experts Committee on World Natural Cultural Heritage. Dr. Muhammad Al-Jassar, the acting Secretary-General of the Council, emphasized in his address during the meeting the importance of this gathering, aimed at fostering a unified Arab stance in presenting cultural and natural heritage submissions to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Al-Jassar further outlined that this two-day meeting’s agenda revolves around three key submissions from Arab cities, intended for presentation at the upcoming meeting of the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) scheduled to take place in Riyadh in mid-September. These submissions include the Urq Bani Maarid Nature Reserve in Saudi Arabia, Tal al-Sultan in Palestine, and Djerba Island in Tunisia, all proposed as world heritage sites. He also highlighted discussions related to heritage sites in Arab nations that are at risk, particularly those situated in Palestine due to the Israeli occupation, and a panel discussion addressing the status of world heritage in Arab countries.

Dr. Fathi Jeraei, a heritage expert and ALESCO representative, echoed the significance of supporting heritage in Arab countries in regional and international forums to foster inclusivity and compile lists of humanity’s heritage alongside that of other cultures. Gray emphasized ALESCO’s commitment to preserving, defining, and researching world heritage in the Arab world, underscoring that the region boasts a rich and diverse archaeological and architectural heritage, with a significant portion listed as endangered

cultural heritage.

Gray expressed gratitude to Kuwait for hosting the annual preparatory meeting, which serves to strengthen collective Arab efforts, particularly in the realm of world heritage.

Athar Al-Khalawi, Director of Community Partnership and Ecotourism in Saudi Arabia, conveyed that the Kingdom’s participation aimed to present the Urq Bani Maarid Reserve file, which was meticulously prepared through national collaboration among stakeholders. This reserve, one of Saudi Arabia’s largest, spans the western-southern regions, including Najran and a part of Riyadh, covering approximately 13 square kilometers. It represents a diverse and integrated ecosystem, with its name reflecting the characteristic sand formations found within.

### Causes

Dr. Fatima Al-Sulaiti, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Governmental Affairs in Qatar, emphasized the meeting’s role in bolstering Arab causes related to natural and cultural heritage. It seeks to harmonize and coordinate Arab nations’ perspectives, address specific concerns regarding endangered heritage, and explore potential solutions. Al-Sulaiti highlighted Qatar’s UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, Al-Zubarah Fort, as well as its intent to submit another file for Khor Al-Udayd.

Sultan Al-Bakri, advisor to the Minister of Heritage and Tourism in Oman, affirmed the Sultanate’s support for Arab initiatives discussed at the meeting. Oman backs the inclusion of submissions from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Palestine on the tangible heritage list and supports efforts by Arab nations to remove their sites from the endangered list, including Syria, Yemen, and Libya.

## Defendants go to trial on Sept 24

‘Army Fund’ case in Cassation Court

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: After rejecting the court’s response request, the defendants will appear in the Army Fund case at the “Cassation Court” in the first session of their trial on Sept 24. Simultaneously, the criminal courts will also issued a verdict on the same date in the vote-buying case related to the 2022 National Assembly elections in the third constituency, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In the “Fund” case, the court is deliberating the Public Prosecution’s appeal against the acquittal of His Highness the former Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, former Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah, and others.

The prosecution is seeking their conviction and the annulment of the acquittal.

In this context, the Criminal Court convened its third session to try former MP Sa’adoun Hammad, a candidate from the third constituency, alongside three members of his electoral campaign including two female citizens in the vote-buying case. The court decided to postpone the case until the 24th of this month to give its verdict.

During Sunday’s session, Hammad refuted the accusation of mediating in the purchase of electoral votes in his favor. The participants in his campaign, a man and two women, likewise denied aiding him by buying votes. One female voter denied accepting 1,000 dinars in exchange for selling her vote, while another female citizen denied any involvement in the crime.

## E-sick leave without doctor consultation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: In line with the government’s digital transformation initiatives aimed at enhancing convenience for citizens and alleviating pressure on primary healthcare facilities and medical professionals, the Ministry of Health is introducing a new service for obtaining sick leave without the need for a medical consultation through designated electronic platforms. The ministry emphasizes that certain cases do not necessitate a medical consultation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The proposal stipulates that the duration of sick leave granted to the employee without consulting the doctor through electronic means should not exceed 3 days per month.

In a recent statement, the Ministry announced that Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, the Minister of Health, has communicated with the Civil Service Commission regarding the implementation of this service, using the electronic platforms authorized by the Ministry. The Minister’s communication included reference to his Letter No. 15-35-2023, which proposed amending Civil Service Council Resolution No. 39 of 2006, addressing leave periods, regulations, and provisions. This proposed amendment encompasses the launch of the sick leave service without medical consultation through approved electronic means.

The Ministry has established specific guidelines for the granting of sick leave as follows:

Full-pay leave for the initial fifteen days, half-pay leave for the subsequent fifteen days, quarter-pay leave for the subsequent fifteen days and leave without pay for the remaining days.

Concurrently, the Kuwait Medical Association has commended Minister Al-Awadhi’s initiative in a statement, highlighting that a significant percentage of clinic visitors, estimated at 25 to 40 percent, seek medical attention.

The association notes that it had previously proposed the implementation of “extra hours” for doctors in specialized fields facing a shortage of medical professionals.

Furthermore, the association called for the stabilization of specialization allowances for doctors and discussed various measures with the Ministry. These measures include ensuring the availability of medicines and medical supplies, as well as operating evening clinics for diabetes and chronic diseases, along with specialized dispensaries during the evening hours.



KUNA photo

Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority Samira Al-Kandari during the signing of the contract.

### EPA official signs contract

## Kuwait pavilion at Doha exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): Samira Al-Kandari, the Acting Director-General of the Environment Public Authority and Commissioner-General of Kuwait’s participation in Expo Doha 2023 for Horticulture, announced on Sunday the signing of a contract for the implementation and operation of Kuwait’s pavilion at the upcoming exhibition, which will be hosted by Doha, Qatar, next month.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after the contract signing, Al-Kandari expressed Kuwait’s strong commitment to participating in this event, emphasizing the significance of the theme chosen by the organizing committee. She noted that the Doha Horticultural Expo provides an excellent opportunity to learn from other countries’ experiences in combating desertification and to engage with experts in environmental conservation and agriculture. It also offers a chance to

explore the latest technological advancements in this field, which are instrumental in addressing desertification challenges and achieving sustainability goals.

Al-Kandari highlighted the diligent preparations underway for the Kuwaiti pavilion to ensure a distinguished and impactful presence. The pavilion will showcase Kuwait’s endeavors in horticulture in general and its commitment to combating desertification in particular. It will feature a variety of exhibits and workshops dedicated to relevant projects.

She emphasized the Environment Public Authority’s dedication to raising environmental awareness across various domains and disseminating accurate information grounded in scientific facts to the public, especially to the younger generation and future generations. This mission will be achieved through various events and activities within the pavilion.

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Expats make only 4 pc of non-medical employees in MoH

# CSC activates service certificates link on its website: official

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Saud Al-Juwaiser announced that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has activated the service certificates link on its website Portal.csc.GOV.KW, while providing a mechanism for verifying the validity of the data in the certificates by using the QR Code and certificate stamp is free, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the circular that Al-Juwaiser issued recently; stating the CSC has notified the Union of Banks, Central Bank of Kuwait, and Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry about the inclusion of commercial banks and financing companies, as well as other entities like the Public Institution for Social Security and Kuwait Credit Bank.

The fee for obtaining each of the following certificates online is 500 fils -- service, career progression, employment and financial status, termination, To Whom It May Concern, salary breakdown, salary continuity, social and employment status, functional and financial (detailed) curriculum vitae and employee's secondment data.

□ □ □

**Expats non-medical staff:** Recent statistics show only 4 percent of expatriates work in non-medical professions at the Ministry of Health, while the rest are all Kuwaiti citizens, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to these statistics the Ministry of Health employs approximately 13,781 Kuwaiti nationals in non-medical positions and 591 non-Kuwaiti employees.

Health sources have confirmed the ministry is actively implementing a policy of nationalization in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Civil Service Council Resolution No. 11 of 2017, which delineates the rules and procedures for Kuwaitization of government positions.

This policy aims to reduce the number of non-Kuwaiti employees occupying positions earmarked for nationalization, specifically those positions outside the medical field.

Furthermore, it was highlighted that several decisions have been issued since 2017, resulting in the termination of the contracts of a number of non-Kuwaiti employees in non-medical roles. These measures have contributed to the decrease in the percentage of non-Kuwaiti employees to approximately 4 percent.

# Finance collects KD 4 million in penalties from govt employees

MoH closes over 20 violating clinics, pharmacies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Ministry of Finance has collected approximately 4.1 million dinars in penalties and fines from government employees for absenteeism and tardiness, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

However, during the last fiscal year, these entities managed to collect a total of 3.027 million dinars in the form of penalties, resulting in a collection rate of 72.1 percent compared to the Ministry of Finance's initial estimates.

Data from government reports reveals that, in comparison to previous years, the amounts collected in fines from employees reached 1.9 million dinars during the fiscal year 2021/2022. This indicates a significant increase in penalties compared to the preceding year, with an increase of approximately 1.1 million dinars, effectively doubling the value of these penalties.

It's worth noting that these penalties are deducted from employees based on the number of days of absence and daily late reporting for

## Inquiry committee to look into PADA affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Sheikh Firas Al-Saud, has issued a ministerial decision to form a committee from the Fatwa and Legislation Department to investigate the work of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), headed by Counselor Abdulaziz Al-Ajeel, with the membership of Abdullah Al-Saleh, Majid Al-Majid, Fatima Al-Roumi, and all work measured through fingerprint devices, which are widely deployed in most ministries and government agencies.

The Civil Service Commission has approved these devices as essential tools for verifying attendance and departure across all government entities.

□ □ □

**Violating clinics shut:** The Ministry of Health has taken decisive action by closing down more than 20 beauty clinics for serious violations of the law, reports

of the Fatwa and Legislation Department, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The committee is responsible for investigating and auditing all PADA contracts, activities and any administrative and financial irregularities. The administration must also enable the committee to enter the headquarters of the authority at any time and provide all the papers, documents and data it requests.

The decision stipulates that the Al-Seyassah daily.

These violations include breaches of Law No. 70 of 2020, which governs the practice of the medical profession and related professions, as well as violations of regulations concerning operations in the private medical sector, health licenses, and ministerial directives regarding medical advertisements.

These infractions primarily pertain to the disregard of ethical standards within the medical profession and a lack of adherence to public morals. This stringent enforcement of the law

committee meets at the invitation of its chairman, and its meeting is valid only in the presence of most of its members, including the chairman or his deputy. The committee shall issue its recommendations by the majority of the votes of those present, and in the event of equality, the side in which the chairman is favored, and the minutes of the committee's meetings shall be recorded and signed by all the members present.

is aimed at ensuring strict compliance and, ultimately, safeguarding the health and safety of the citizens.

In addition to these clinic closures, it's worth noting that approximately 28 pharmacies have also been recently shuttered due to violations of Pharmacy Profession Regulation Law No. 28 of 1996. This comprehensive approach demonstrates the ministry's commitment to upholding regulations across various aspects of healthcare and medical services to protect the well-being of the public.



KUNA photo  
Acting Director General of PAMA, Hamad Al-Barjas, accompanied by the students sponsored by the authority.

## PAMA launches 'Back to School' event

The Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) has announced the launch of an event titled "Back to School" aimed at preparing students under its guardianship for their return to school, spanning various levels of study and ages.

The event's primary objective is to help students overcome psychological barriers and alleviate any feelings of apprehension, particularly among those who are new to the school environment.

Hamad Al-Barjas, the Acting Director General of the Authority, disclosed in a press statement on Sunday that the event took place at the 360 Mall. It featured a range of activities, including guidance on healthy nutrition, the development of drawing (coloring) skills, physical fitness exercises, and instructions on how to utilize office tools. Additionally, school supplies were distributed as gifts to the attendees.

Al-Barjas emphasized the authority's commitment to providing specialized awareness services in the realms of education and rehabilitation. This includes offering guidance and distributing informative publications to families, advising them on effective methods for interacting with their children.

He highlighted that the organization of this event aligns with the authority's dedication to social responsibility programs aimed at delivering top-notch services and fulfilling the needs of minors under its care. (KUNA)

## Until when

Continued from Page 1

This law is in effect in the United States, Australia, most European countries, and Britain. This is due to the fact that the goal is to localize expertise and competencies. There is no complex of privileges or anything else, as everyone works for the benefit of the state.

There is no doubt that resolving this issue will lead to allaying concerns and reducing security, as well as creating a workforce that knows the country, customs, and traditions. In the nationality law, there is an article about great services.

Can't a Bedoun doctor provide medical services? What about a Bedoun engineer, teacher, and others who work in the country's institutions?

There are also other solutions. If the State does not want to grant citizenship, it can force him to give up his citizenship, and give him some money to return to his country, or immigrate to any place where he can find a decent living.

Almighty Allah said in His Mighty Book, "It is He who has made the earth subservient to you. You walk through its vast valleys and eat of its sustenance..." There is nothing in the teachings of Islam, and even in the heavenly and earthly laws, that prohibits people from seeking sustenance.

Likewise, with regard to the marriage between a Kuwaiti woman and a foreigner or a Bedoun man, she can grant nationality to her husband or children, irrespective of whether her husband has a nationality or not. If her husband dies and she wants her children to be Kuwaiti, the process should not be different from the one applied to a Kuwaiti man who marries a foreign woman. This is the case all over the world.

These harsh conditions imposed on this group of people contradict the Kuwait Constitution. Article 29 of the Constitution stipulates that, "People are equal in human dignity, and they are equal before the law in public rights and duties, with no discrimination between them on the basis of gender, origin, language, or religion."

Where did you get all these restrictions that make about 120,000 people endure all this suffering, while the State gives deaf ears"?!

## Man accused

Continued from Page 1

The perpetrator stabbed her several times until she died, after which he killed himself with a knife and was transferred to Farwaniya Hospital, where he died.

The source confirmed, the detectives have begun checking the CCTV cameras in the house, which documented the crime and how he entered the annex of the house and committed the crime.

## Lawmaker hits

Continued from Page 1

way of protecting the Constitution. She then unveiled her plan to take action if the minister dodges his responsibility, stressing this is part of her constitutional commitment.

On the other hand, MP Hassan Jawhar has forwarded queries to Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah about the

news published by Al-Jarida daily on Aug 6 and Aug 30, 2023 that the Central Bank of Kuwait has obtained approval from the Finance Ministry to increase its reserve cash from KD1 billion to KD5 billion as a precautionary measure and to prepare for the gloomy future of markets. He said the Central Bank took the same step in 2003 and 2014 as per the recommendation of its Board of Directors.

If this news is true, the lawmaker requested for a copy of the decision of the board, including the justifications for increasing the cash reserve to KD5 billion. He wants to know the legal basis for approving the request, if this approval includes allowing the Central Bank to keep all or a portion of the profits until the cash reserve reaches KD5 billion, period required to increase the cash reserve to KD5 billion, and if the impact of this move on the financial status of the State was taken into consideration after allowing the Central Bank to stop putting the profits to public treasury.

He added the news also confirmed approval of the request of Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) to keep the profits for fiscals 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 in order to invest them in developing the capacity and oil production of KNPC. He asked about the legal basis for this approval; considering the the Higher Oil Council is authorized to give such approvals, not the ministry as per Article 12 of law number 6/ 1980 on the establishment of KNPC. He also inquired if the probability of budget deficits in the next fiscal years was considered.

MP Adel Al-Damkhi asked Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd why the Foreign Equipment Supply Department in his ministry still exists even if the Armament and Equipment departments were established as per ministerial decision numbers 713/2015 and 660/2017. He said the Armament Department has been tasked to carry out the duties of the Foreign Equipment Supply Department.

He also demanded for the list of military projects, including design and construction, from fiscal 2015/2016 till date; cost and achievement percentage of each project; copies of the approval of the Military Purchase Committee in the Defense Ministry, advertisement of each tender, price offers, winning bid, Finance Ministry's approval of the budget for each project, approval of the Legal Advice and Legislation Department, approval of the State Audit Bureau and the contracts.

MP Majed Al-Mutairi forwarded queries to Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba about the implementation of the law on canceling the local agent requirement for foreign companies to establish enterprises in the country.

He inquired if it is true that the Central Agency for Public Tenders approved the tender for the third phase of the Kuwait International Airport project without enforcing the abovementioned law. If yes, he wants to know the reasons, name of the local agent, this agent's role in the implementation of the third phase of the project and estimated cost of the third phase.

He also requested for the list of projects that the foreign contractor and the local agent completed earlier, as well as the bid of the winning foreign contractor compared to the other bidders.

# September

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Council of Ministers lauds employees of Tourism Enterprises Company

PM calls to address obstacles facing tourism projects



KUNA photo  
The Council of Ministers convened its weekly meeting at Seif Palace under the leadership of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): The Council of Ministers convened its weekly meeting at Seif Palace under the leadership of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on Monday, September 4, 2023. Following the meeting, Issa Ahmed Al-Kandari, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, made the following announcements:

Firstly, the Council of Ministers began by discussing the outcomes of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's official visit to the United Kingdom, graciously extended by Rishi Sunak, the UK's Prime Minister. This visit marked the 70th anniversary of the Kuwait Investment Office in the UK and further bolstered the longstanding and strategic ties between Kuwait and the UK. It resulted in the signing of bilateral memorandums of understanding.

With the upcoming academic year in mind, the Council reviewed a recommendation from the Ministerial Education, Health, and Youth Committee, specifically concerning the Ministry of Education's preparations for the academic year 2023/2024. The Council commended the dedication of the teaching and administrative staff in Kuwait's educational institutions and tasked the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, with devising a media plan to communicate these preparations effectively.

Additionally, the Council examined reports from Kuwait University, Abdullah Al-Salem University, and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training regarding their readiness for the upcoming academic year. The Council praised the efforts of staff within these institutions, emphasizing the positive impact on student academic achievements.

In line with the government's commitment to advancing entertainment and tourism initiatives, the Council reviewed a visual presentation from the Tourism Projects Company outlining their strategic projects for 2023 and 2024. These encompassed several projects, including Al-Blajat Beach, Winter Wonderland Entertainment, South Sabahiya Park, Messila Beach, Waterfront Development, and Ras Al-Ard Club, among others. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah instructed relevant authorities to swiftly address any obstacles hindering project implementation.

Lastly, the Council expressed its sincere gratitude to the employees of the Tourism Enterprises Company for their dedicated efforts in advancing strategic projects aimed at enhancing Kuwait's tourism and entertainment sector.

'Leader of humanitarian action'

Kuwaitis' 'philanthropic' history dates back to four centuries ago

By Hanan Al-Saeedi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): Kuwaitis' advocacy of relieving and aiding people in distress and need dates back to up to 400 years ago, a very long time before last century's oil boom.

Kuwaitis, when they depended on the sea to make a living, were known for various kinds of "fazaas," the mobilization of people particularly tribesmen to support and relieve fellows in difficulties or under threat.

There was "fazaat Al-sari (ship sail)" for salvaging damaged or sinking dhows, "fazaat Al-ikhtab (subscription)," a paper passed among good doers to raise donations to aid the impoverished or the afflicted.

At the external level, there was a "fazaat" for helping the Omanis when they were attacked by the Portuguese in 1624, helping tribes living in nearby regions, afflicted nations, raising donations for aiding the Ottomans in catastrophes, for helping the Kazakhs following the Astana fiery fire in 1912, for renovating Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1924 in addition to constructing mosques in Kuwait.

Names of the late Amirs had been glorified with calls linked to charity, such as the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah who was known as "Jaber Al-Atharat," alluding to collecting money to relieve defaulters. As to Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, he established a guest house. Moreover during his era, the first charitable association was established, named "the Arab charitable society."

Against the backdrop of a record of uncountable good deeds abroad; building schools, hospitals, roads and water wells, the United Nations took the initiative in 2014, honoring Kuwait with the title, "the international center for humanitarian action," and designating the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as "the leader of humanitarian action."

On the occasion of the International Day of Charity, falling on September 5, Chairperson of the International Islamic Charity Organization and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq, said in a statement to KUNA that the occasion invokes pride for Kuwait, given its humanitarian message and pioneering international role in the



Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq, Chairperson of the International Islamic Charity Organization.



Dr. Khaled Al-Shatti, Head of Kuwait Center for Documenting Humanitarian Action.

realm of humanitarian action.

Kuwait, he said, will continue to make generous humanitarian initiatives, aimed at improving peoples' living. He affirmed its unwavering commitment to help others, driven by its cultural, religious and social heritages.

Humanitarian values are a constant basis and immortal heritage in the Kuwaiti society, he added, noting that the philanthropic action has become a lifestyle adopted by a Kuwaiti generation after another.

Humanitarian action constitutes the core of the sagacious leadership's vision, adopted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the well-guided Government. The concept of humanitarian action, he continued, has become an inseparable part of



Donations of the Kuwaiti people.

«Mujezat Al-Shifa»: The most effective bee products against infections

The nutrition consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company confirmed that bee products are highly effective against chronic



infections, citing an experimental study conducted for the first time in the history of comparative scientific research with the aim of comparing the effectiveness of the anti-inflammatory activities of honey, propolis, royal jelly, pollen, and bee bread, carried out by Professor Murat Kosedag and Professor Gulaboglu. Ataturk University Faculty of Pharmacy.

She added: By comparing the effectiveness of bee products to suppress pro-inflammatory cytokines, it was found that pollen, bee bread, and propolis were able to reduce them more than others. It has been observed that pollen, bee bread, and honey more effectively reduce inflammation that occurs in a specific place, such as the joints, which confirms that bee products have significant anti-inflammatory activities.

Kuwaiti investments in stock market increased by KD 116 mln in 8 months

Kuwait institutions, companies grow significantly by 118.1 mln dinars

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The monthly statistics on trading volume in the stock market, categorized by nationality, reveal notable trends in investments during the first eight months of 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Kuwaiti Investments:

■ Kuwaiti investments increased by 116 million dinars during this period, with a remarkable surge of 42.17 million dinars in August alone.

■ Kuwaiti individuals saw an increase of 31 million dinars in their investments.

■ Investments by Kuwaiti institutions and companies also grew significantly by 118.1 million dinars.

■ Conversely, Kuwaiti investment funds decreased by 5.86 million dinars, and client portfolio investments declined by 27.24 thousand dinars.

Gulf Investments:

■ Gulf investments decreased by 117.8 million dinars in the first eight months, with an additional decline of 11 million dinars in August.

■ Investments by Gulf individuals increased by 12.2 million dinars over this period.

■ However, investments by Gulf institutions and companies decreased significantly by 127.22 million dinars.

■ Gulf investment funds also experienced a decrease of 2.96 million dinars, while client portfolio investments increased modestly by 70.2 thousand dinars.

Foreign Investments:

■ Foreign investments showed mixed results, increasing by approximately 1.84 million dinars since the beginning of the year but declining by 31.1 million dinars in August.

■ Foreign individuals increased their investments by 856.7 thousand dinars over the first eight months.

■ Investments by foreign institutions and companies grew by 4.83 million dinars, while foreign investment funds saw a decrease of 3.85 million dinars.

Active Trading Accounts:

■ The number of active trading accounts on the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange increased from 17,702 thousand accounts in December to 18,343 thousand accounts by the end of August 2023, marking a 3.6 percent growth.

■ On a monthly basis, there was a 6.5 percent increase from 17,218 thousand accounts in July.

■ However, when compared to August 2022, active accounts experienced a 9.5 percent decline, down from 20.27 thousand accounts.

Inactive Accounts:

■ Inactive accounts increased by 0.9 percent during the first eight months, rising from 399 thousand accounts in December to 402.65 thousand accounts in August.

■ On a monthly basis, there was a slight decrease of 0.04 percent from 402.84 thousand accounts in July.

■ Compared to August 2022, inactive accounts rose by 2 percent, up from 394.5 thousand accounts.



Kuwait Embassy in Egypt provides 190 tons of urgent Kuwaiti aid to Sudan.

190 tons of urgent Kuwait aid to Sudan

Kuwait Embassy in Cairo announced on Monday that 190 tons of urgent medical and food supplies will be shipped to Sudan.

In a statement, the embassy said that it coordinated with the Egyptian

Authorities and the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) to load and ship the aid material from the Egyptian Safage Port to Port Sudan.

KRCS Director of the Public Relations and Media Department

Khaled Al-Zaid told KUNA that the Kuwaiti Embassy in Cairo put in great efforts in cooperating with the Egyptian authorities to deliver the urgent relief aid material to Sudan.

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Rahma Int'l Society sets up medical center in S. Yemen

ADEN, Sept 4, (KUNA): Rahma International Society, a Kuwaiti fundraising agency, is launching a medical center which will benefit 30,000 persons in Abyan Governorate, southern Yemen, as part of "Kuwait beside You" campaign.

Abyan Governor Abu-Bakr Hussein laid the foundation stone of the project on Sunday in the presence of Deputy Chairman of Al-Twasul for Human Development Saqr Al-Jaadi.

Speaking to reporters during the ceremony, Hussein expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti Amir, government and people for their generous donation.

He said the project reflects the close relationship between the peoples of Kuwait and Yemen throughout history.

The projects, funded by Kuwaiti philanthropists, meet the needs of the Yemenis at the current hardships, he noted.

On his part, Al-Jaadi said Twasul is implementing the construction of the medical center which will include nine modern fully-equipped clinics in various medical specializations.

The project is being built in response to appeals from the local health authorities in Abyan.





Amir Zeraatian is winner of Alfouz KD 10,000 wkly draw prize

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Amir Zeraatian as the KD 10,000 Alfouz weekly draw winner on Monday, 4 September 2023, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Since its launch, the Alfouz account continues to offer an impressive weekly draw of KD 10,000. The Bank has recently expanded its offering by adding a new allur-

ing monthly draw of KD 20,000, and an exceptional quarterly draw of KD 100,000.

The account also retains its hall-mark mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for ten years. Furthermore, the Bank now offers customers an increased opportunity to win for every KD 10 as opposed to KD 100 previously.

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account and/

or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw, which will take place on Monday, 11 September 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

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

Market Movements 04-09-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑ JAPAN	- Nikkei	+0.70	32,939.18	↓ UAE	- DFM	-0.52	4,068.65
↑ PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.91	45,736.44	↓ SAUDI	- Tadawul	-0.22	11,430.87
↑ PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+0.54	6,214.68				
↑ EGYPT	- EGX 30	+0.99	18,910.99				

# Business

Employment sees a similarly large rise

## Kuwait: Population surpasses pre-COVID peak

By National Bank of Kuwait

Kuwait's population increased by 8% y/y in H1 2023 to 4.82 million, surpassing its pre-pandemic peak for the first time, helped by steady growth in the Kuwaiti population and a further recovery in the non-Kuwaiti demographic in line with the post-pandemic improvement in the economy. Employment saw a similarly large rise, with non-Kuwaiti job gains concentrated in the lower-end category, and helping to resolve some of the labor shortages witnessed during 2021-22. However, expatriate employment (excluding domestic staff) is still 6.6% below its peak in 2019. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti job seekers continue to overwhelmingly favor public sector jobs, leading to further falls in private sector employment.

Overall population growth in the year to June 2023, according to data from the Public Authority for Civil Information, was the highest since 2005 and a similar rate to that recorded in 2022. (Chart 1 and Table 1.) The Kuwaiti population rose by 1.9% to 1.53 million, a steady though slowing rate of growth from the 2.5% annual average rises witnessed during the 2010s. The working-age population continues to rise (now 62.7% of the total population), given a large cohort of people below 15 years (32.3%) that would gradually enter the workforce over the coming years. (Chart 2.) In addition, the proportion of elderly citizens has also steadily grown (4.9% currently), in line with the trend seen in many emerging and developed markets.

Meanwhile, the non-Kuwaiti population recorded another sharp rise of 11% to 3.29 million, almost bridging the gap with its pre-pandemic peak (-1.5% versus the 2019 level). Foreigners now form 68.3% of the total population compared to a low of 66.1% at the end of 2021 – but lower than the pre-pandemic 70.0%. Moreover, a large part of the rise in non-Kuwaitis came from domestic workers, which jumped 16% y/y to 811K, constituting some 25% of the total expat population from 22% at the end of 2019. Despite the substantial growth over the last 18 months, the overall population remains some 9% below where it would have been (5.3 million persons), had the pre-pandemic population growth trend been sustained.

Public sector jobs expanding for Kuwaitis

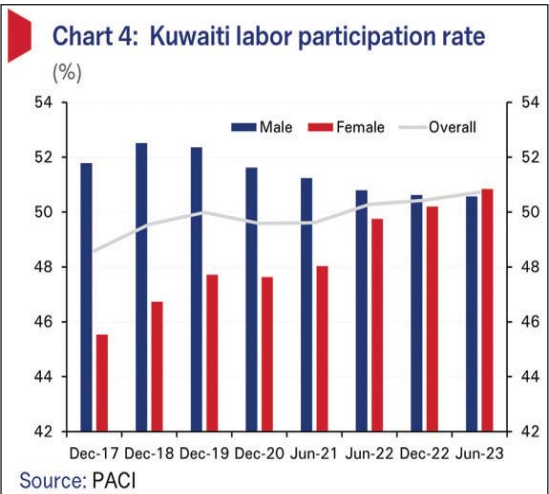
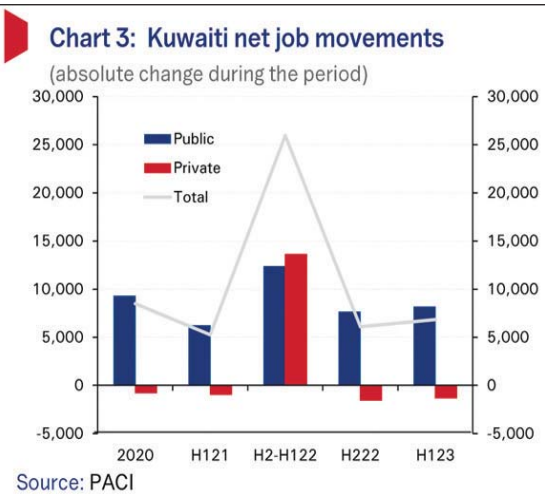
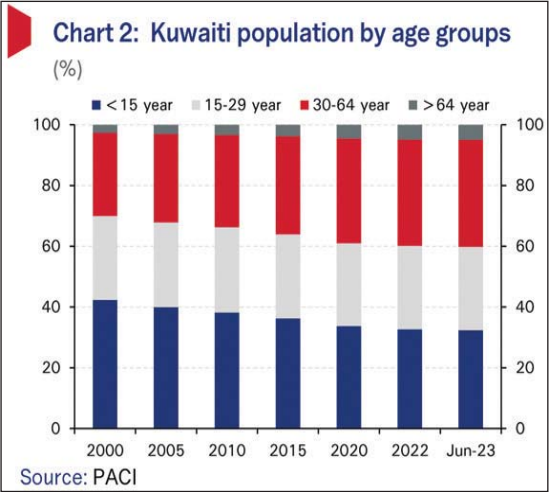
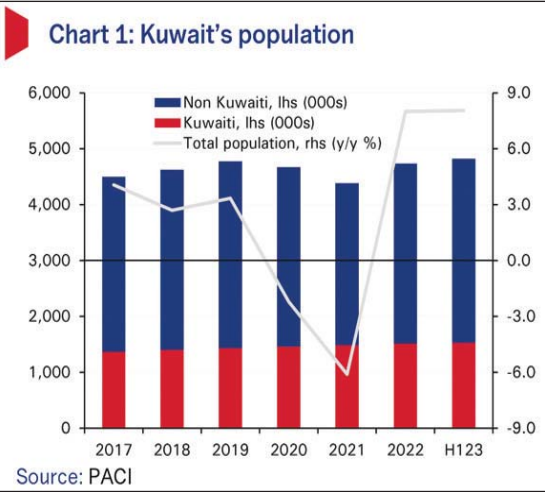
The number of employed Kuwaiti citizens increased by 2.9% y/y to 462K by the end of H1. In the first six months of 2023, the public sector gained 8.2K jobs, while the private sector shed 1.3K positions, taking the employment level in the above sectors to 389K and 73K, respectively. (Chart 3.) The number of unemployed citizens inched up to 28K from 26K at the end of 2022, with an implied unemployment rate of 5.8%. In its recently approved budget (FY2023/24), the gov-

Table 1: Population and employment (period-end)												
	Population ('000)			% y/y			Employment ('000)			% y/y		
	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total
Dec-19	1,432	3,344	4,776	2.1	3.9	3.3	409	2,522	2,931	2.4	5.4	5.0
Dec-20	1,460	3,211	4,671	2.0	-4.0	-2.2	418	2,391	2,809	2.1	-5.2	-4.2
Jun-21	1,473	3,154	4,628	1.8*	-3.5*	-1.8*	423	2,338	2,761	2.5*	-4.5*	-3.4*
Dec-21	1,489	2,897	4,386	2.0	-9.8	-6.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jun-22	1,502	2,962	4,464	2.0	-6.1	-3.5	449	2,167	2,616	6.1	-7.3	-5.2
Dec-22	1,518	3,219	4,737	1.9	11.1	8.0	455	2,374	2,829	2.7*	19.1*	16.3*
Jun-23	1,531	3,293	4,824	1.9	11.1	8.0	462	2,471	2,933	2.9	14.0	12.1

Source: PACI

Note: \*% y/y change is six months annualized.

Source: PACI Note: \* % y/y change is six months annualized.



ernment announced its plan to hire around 20K Kuwaitis this year, which will add further momentum to the trend of increasing public sector employment.

Meanwhile, the female share of Kuwaiti employment rose further to 51.7% in H1 2023 from

its low of 48.1% in 2017, with the female labor force participation rate improving to 50.9% from 50.2% at the end of 2022. In contrast, the male labor force participation rate has stayed near its historic low of 50.6%. (Chart 4.) There are more male students as a percentage of the working-age

population (15-64) than female students in their respective gender brackets (31% versus 29.6%), contributing to the contrasting trends in the labor participation rate.

Low-end employment rising more rapidly among expats

As economic activities continue to normalize and momentum in the projects market picks up, the number of foreign workers (excluding household domestic workers) witnessed a strong 13% y/y increase in H1. However, the addition of 58K new workers during the first six months of 2023 is a material slowdown from the 134K added in H2 2022. The number of domestic workers rose an even faster 16% y/y. The influx of workers has eased the labor shortages cited by employers in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic in 2020, when many laborers left the country. The proportion of less qualified workers (educational qualification at secondary level and below, including those with no stated qualifications) has now increased to around 92% from 90% as of June 2022, underpinning the revival of lower-end jobs, including domestic staff. While lower-skilled laborers are essential for projects, construction, and longer-term economic development, their impact in terms of consumption is probably softer, given their low incomes. Meanwhile, a stricter local visa regime, moderate economic growth, and strong competition for attracting high-skilled expat talent from other GCC countries may have dampened hiring of skilled workers.

Population growth to slow as post-pandemic rebalancing effect fades

Going forward, we see population growth slowing from recent rapid rates, as the post-pandemic readjustment fades. In the decade to 2019, population growth averaged around 3% per year. This included annual growth of 2.5% among Kuwaiti nationals, which has since decelerated to just under 2% as mentioned above due to a steadily falling birth rate, possibly explained by delayed marriages and rising career aspirations among young Kuwaitis. Meanwhile, growth in the expat population is likely to slow from its previous 3.5% per year average given government ambitions to rebalance the population structure over time. On the employment front, a continued decline in private-sector Kuwaiti jobs runs counter to the authorities' Vision 2035 goal to Kuwaitize the private sector and ease the burden on the public finances, as well as to reinvigorate the business community more broadly. Targeted measures such as enhanced incentives for private sector jobs, disincentives to work in the government sector such as aligning work practices and timings with the private sector, and more general initiatives to expand job opportunities in the private sector will warrant serious deliberation.

Data shows that the number of listed companies on main mkt is 228

## Capital Market Authority issues QSB for Q2 2023

Today, the Capital Market Authority ("CMA") issued the Quarterly Statistical Bulletin (QSB) for the second quarter (Q2) of 2023. This comes as part of the CMA's aim to provide statistical information and data about the Saudi capital market for participants, market analysts, and academic and student researchers. Also, the CMA aims to raise the level of transparency and disclosure and stimulate and develop investments in the capital market.

The QSB data showed that the number of Listed Companies on the main market (TASI) reached 228 companies at the end of Q2 of 2023, with an increase of 6%, compared to 215 companies in Q2 of 2022. Meanwhile, Listed Companies on the parallel market "Nomu" reached 62 companies at the end of Q2 of 2023, an increase of 100%, compared to 31 companies in Q2 of 2022.

The CMA approved the offering of two companies in the main market (TASI) and 18 companies in the parallel market "Nomu" during Q2 of 2023. There are 4 requests in "TASI" and 45 requests in "Nomu" still under study during the same period.

As for the value of ownership in the main market, the value of qualified foreign investors (QFIs) ownership reached SAR 298.45 billion at the end of Q2 of 2023, with a hike of SAR 14.43 billion or 5.1% year-on-year, compared to SAR 284.01 billion in the year-ago period.

As for the investor's classification, according to the investment behaviour, the percentage value of the institutional investors' ownership amounted to 96.23% at the end of Q2 of 2023, compared to 96.66% in the year-ago period.

The number of Investment Funds hit a new record and increased to 1,130 funds at the end of Q2 of the current year, the highest in history, after an increase of 34.68% Y-o-Y, when compared to 839 funds in the year-ago period.

The number of public funds reached 276 at the end of Q2 of 2023, while the number of private

funds reached 854 funds, compared to 254 and 585 respectively in the year-ago period.

The number of public and private investment funds' subscribers hiked by 33.5% to 901,896 in Q2 of 2023, compared to 675,465 in Q2 of 2022.

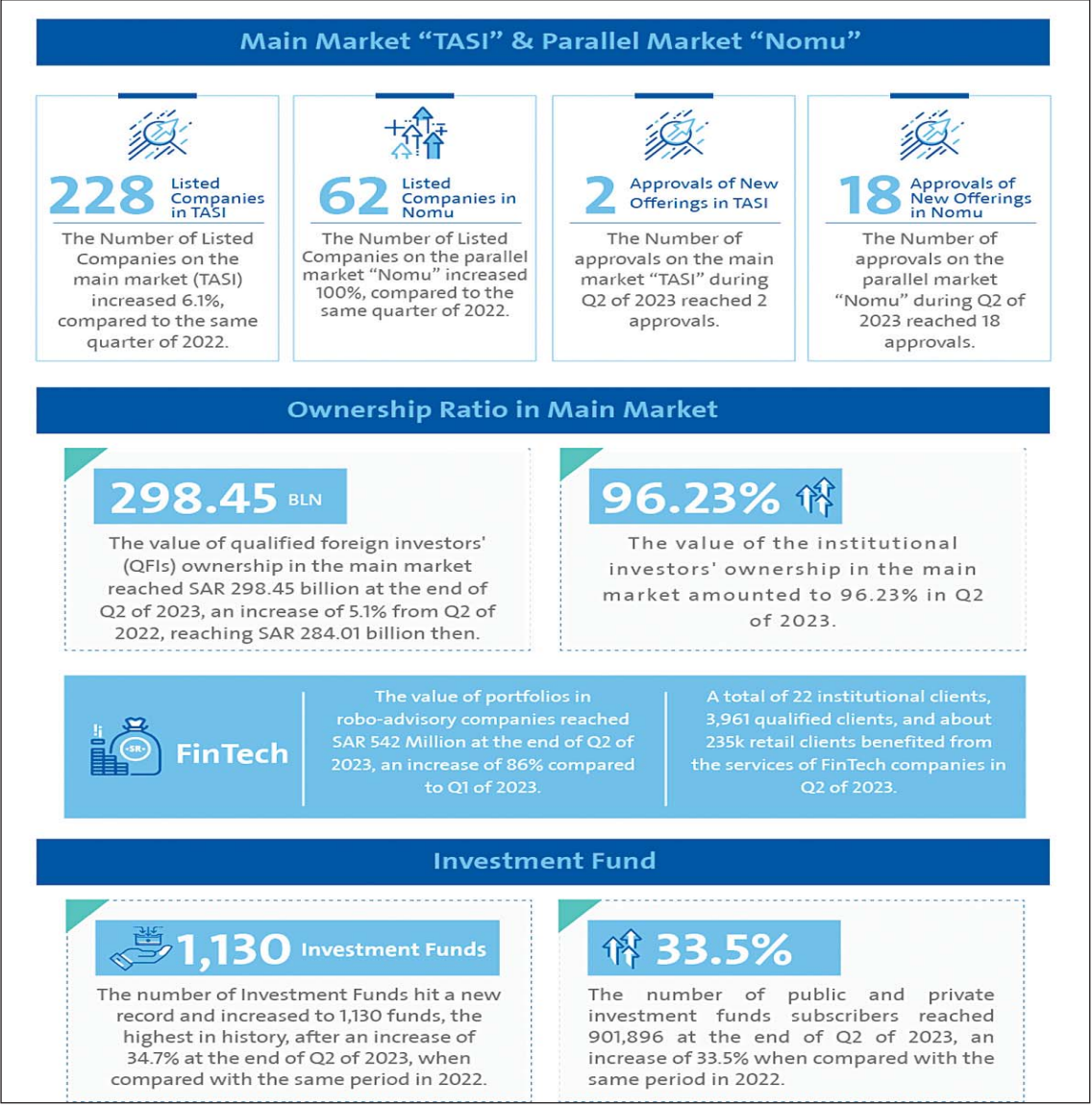
The biggest number of public and private investment funds' subscribers were in the real estate sector, as the subscribers of the real estate investment traded funds represented 56.90% of the total subscribers in public investment funds, while the subscribers of the real estate funds represented 71.02% of the total subscribers in private investment funds.

As for Corporate Governance, 262 general assemblies, attended by more than 75k shareholders, were held only in Q2 of 2023, discussing 5,535 items, of which only 76 were rejected.

The number of non-executive board chairmen in listed companies reached 268, with 239 non-executive vice chairmen and 28 executive vice chairmen. The number of board members in listed companies reached 1334 non-executive board members, and 161 executive board members.

Regarding the Financial Technology (FinTech) Companies, the number of authorized FinTech Companies in the Equity Crowd Funding platforms is 3 companies at the end of Q2 of 2023. The number of Robo Advisory portfolios reached 193,104 and their value amounted to SAR 541.80 million. A total of 22 institutional clients, 3961 qualified clients, and about 235,000 retail clients benefited from the services of FinTech Companies.

Finally, QSB provides a variety of data on the Saudi capital market, including Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), Equity, Debt Instruments, Investment Funds and data regarding Capital Market Institutions, Listed Companies and authorized Financial Technology (FinTech) Companies. In addition, a full chapter about Corporate Governance.





Casino giants flock to Gulf Arab nation

UAE creates federal authority for ‘commercial gaming’

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 4, (AP): The United Arab Emirates has created a federal authority to potentially run a national lottery and what it describes as “commercial gaming,” likely a sign that it is on the verge of allowing gambling as major casino operators flock to the Gulf Arab nation.

The state-run WAM news agency carried an announcement late Sunday on the creation of the General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority, without offering many details about its structure or operations.

It named Kevin Mullally as its CEO. Mullally once served as the executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission, which oversaw that U.S. state’s riverboat casinos.

“I am delighted to have been appointed as the inaugural CEO of the GCGRA,” Mullally said in the statement. “With my experienced colleagues, I look forward to establishing a robust regulatory body and framework for the UAE’s lottery and gaming industry.”

Mullally did not return a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Also named was Jim Murren as the chairman of the authority’s board of directors. Media in Nevada, home to the gambling city of Las Vegas, identified Murren as a former chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts International, which also runs casinos. Murren could not be immediately reached by the AP.

Murren also worked closely with officials in the Emirates in the past. The biggest single development on the Las Vegas Strip was the \$9.2 billion CityCenter partnership between MGM Resorts International under Murren and Dubai World, which opened in 2009. Its Harmon tower never opened due to construction defects and was dismantled.

Murren also headed Nevada’s COVID-19 response and tried to pitch the state on using UAE-donated, Chinese-made testing kits. U.S. diplomats and security officials privately warned the state of Nevada not to use the

Chinese-made coronavirus test kits over concerns about patient privacy, test accuracy and Chinese government involvement, documents obtained by the AP showed.

Describing the authority, WAM said it would “create a socially responsible and well-regulated gaming environment, ensuring that all participants adhere to strict guidelines and comply with the highest standards.”

“It will coordinate regulatory activities, manage licensing nationally and facilitate unlocking the economic potential of commercial gaming responsibly,” it added.

Casinos long have been rumored to be considered as a way to raise money in the UAE and boost its tourism industry, particularly in Dubai, home to the long-haul airline Emirates. Already, duty-free car raffles bombard those flying through Dubai International Airport.

A 2004 U.S. diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks speculated that Dubai’s casino plans had “been put on ice due to deference” to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the country’s first president after unification in 1971.

But in recent years, rumors about casinos kept growing. Britain’s famed ship the Queen Elizabeth 2 opened as a hotel in Dubai in 2018 after over \$100 million of repairs. It still has its deactivated slot machines on board. Caesars similarly opened in 2018. Construction work is ongoing involving projects for casino firms MGM, the Bellagio and Aria.

In 2022, the UAE’s northern-most emirate Ras al-Khaimah announced a multibillion-dollar deal with Las Vegas-based casino giant Wynn Resorts. Authorities in Ras al-Khaimah repeatedly refused to directly describe the hotel as having gambling, though Wynn has described the project as involving the “subsequent management of an integrated resort.” The term “integrated resort,” born in Singapore, refers to a hotel that includes a casino and other amenities.

In a conference call in April, Wynn Resorts CEO Craig Billings put the

cost of the Ras al-Khaimah resort at \$3.9 billion and saying it will be open in 2027. Costs will be split, with 40% being paid by Wynn and 60% being paid by Wynn’s government partners in Ras al-Khaimah. Wynn estimates taxes on the gaming revenues will be as high 12%.

Casinos still remain rare across much of the Middle East as Islam forbids it. However, casinos operate in Egypt and Lebanon. Adding casinos in the UAE could help boost its profitable tourism industry - and help regain the Chinese travelers it lost during the coronavirus pandemic. Bloomberg has estimated the UAE could bring in \$6.6 billion in gaming revenue annually, potentially surpassing Singapore.

The creation of a federal authority suggests Abu Dhabi, the country’s capital, will oversee the potential operation of casinos in the country. However, this federation of seven sheikhdoms places absolute power in the local rulers of its seven emirates, particularly over social concerns. The emirate of Sharjah, for instance, bans the sale of alcohol. Any casino operations may follow the same pattern.

That’s something Billings touched on in a separate call in August with investors in which he said Wynn had “everything we need to operate gaming at Al Marjan” given the UAE’s federal structure and powers in individual sheikhdoms.

“While there may be conversation in other emirates about legalization or legalization at the federal level - thereby covering all emirates - I expect we will have our license for Ras al-Khaimah actually imminently,” Billings said.

However, casinos and the large amounts of cash they generate raise the danger of money laundering. Already, war profiteers, terror financiers and drug traffickers sanctioned by the U.S. in recent years have used Dubai’s real-estate market as a haven for their assets. Ras al-Khaimah also found itself linked to the case of an Alaska man who laundered \$1 billion held in South Korea for Iran.

World shares surge on after Wall Street gains



A person walks in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan’s Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm Monday, Sept. 4, 2023, in Tokyo. Stocks were higher in Asia on Monday after Wall Street was boosted by a report that signaled the US jobs market, while still healthy, is showing some signs of cooling. (AP)

Asian shares on the rise

**Stocks were higher in Europe and Asia on Monday following a report that signaled the US jobs market, while still healthy, shows some signs of cooling, raising hopes for an easing of interest rate hikes.**

Germany’s DAX advanced 0.7% to 15,949.69 and the CAC 40 in Paris picked up 0.8% to 7,354.96. In London, the FTSE 100 was up 0.8% at 7,522.38.

The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were up 0.2%. U.S. markets will be closed for the Labor Day holiday.

“It appears that global markets are primed to be smitten with the idea of a ‘Nirvana’ Fed tightening outcome, entailing the ‘immaculate dis-inflation’ that does not cause employment pain,” Tan Boon Heng of Mizuho Bank said in a commentary.

Apart from the favorable jobs data, fresh stimulus from China’s financial regulators for the beleaguered property sector also supported buying. They have cut down-payment requirements for first and second-time home buyers and lowered rates on existing mortgages, noted Yeap Jun Rong of IG.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index jumped 2.5% to 18,844.16, while the Shanghai Composite index added 1.4% to 3,177.06. Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 was up 0.7% at 32,939.18.

In Seoul, the Kospi jumped 0.8% to 2,584.55. Sydney’s S&P/ASX 200 added 0.6% to 7,318.80.

Shares also rose in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

Friday on Wall Street, the S&P 500 finished 0.2% to 4,515.77. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.3% to 34,837.71. The Nasdaq composite closed less than 0.1% lower, at 14,031.81, breaking a five-day winning streak.

The Labor Department reported Friday that employers added a solid 187,000 jobs in August. The job growth marked an increase from July’s revised gain of 157,000, but still pointed to moderating hiring compared with earlier this year. From June through August,



Trader Michael Capolino works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. (AP)

the economy added 449,000 jobs, the lowest three-month total in three years.

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

Strong hiring and consumer spending have helped stave off a recession that analysts expected at some point in 2023. But they also make the central bank’s task of taming inflation more difficult by fueling wage and price increases.

Market fears that the Fed might have to keep interest rates higher for longer - following reports showing the U.S. economy remains remarkably resilient - led the market to pull back in August.

But recent economic snapshots have bolstered the view on Wall Street that the Fed may hold rates steady at its next policy meeting in September.

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

Banks and financial services stocks accounted for a big share of the gains among S&P 500 companies. Charles

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

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

Oil

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

The price of U.S. crude oil climbed 2.3% on Friday. Early Monday, shed 2 cents to \$85.53 a barrel.

Brent crude oil lost 4 cents to \$88.51 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the dollar rose to 146.36 Japanese yen from 146.22 yen. The euro rose to \$1.0808 from \$1.0779.

‘A lot is riding on the talks’

Erdogan meets Putin, aims to revive wartime Ukraine grain ‘export’ deal

MOSCOW, Sept 4, (AP): Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday sought to persuade Russian President Vladimir Putin to revive an agreement that allowed Ukraine to export grain and other commodities from three Black Sea ports despite the war with Russia.

Putin in July refused to extend the agreement, which was brokered by Turkey and the United Nations a year earlier and was seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in 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.

Erdogan said the grain deal was the headline issue at the daylong talks between the two leaders in Russia’s Black Sea resort of Sochi, where the Russian president has a residence.

“Everyone is looking at the grain corridor issue,” Erdogan said in opening remarks.

Putin acknowledged that “issues related to the Ukraine crisis” would be discussed between them.

“I know that you intend to raise questions about the grain deal. We’re open to negotiations on that subject,” he told Erdogan, repeating what has been the Kremlin’s official position on international efforts to resurrect the agreement.

Russia broke off the deal, complaining that a parallel deal promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn’t been honored. It said restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade even though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

A lot is riding on the talks for the world food supply. “I believe that the message we will give after our meeting will constitute an important step for the world, especially for the underdeveloped African countries,” Erdogan said.

Since Putin withdrew from the grain initiative, Erdogan has repeatedly pledged to renew arrangements that helped avoid a food crisis in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The meeting took place against a backdrop of Ukraine’s recent counteroffensive against the Kremlin’s invasion forces.

In the latest development, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov would be replaced this week. The job requires “new approaches,” Zelenskyy said, without elaborating. Reznikov on Monday published a photo of his resignation letter.

Analysts expect tough negotiations in Sochi.

“My gut feeling is that Putin recognizes the leverage he has by using food as an economic weapon, and thus will fight for all he can get in terms of concessions on his wish-list,” said Tim Benton, a food security expert at the Chatham House

think tank.

Those may include Russia’s grains, or fertilizer exports, or wider issues, he said.

Data from the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul, which organized the Ukraine shipments, shows that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China, which received nearly a quarter of the food.

Russia has repeatedly attacked the Odesa region, Ukraine’s main Black Sea port area. On Monday, the Ukrainian air force said it intercepted 23 of 32 drones that targeted the Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk regions but did not specify damage caused by the drones that got through.

The Turkish president has maintained close ties with 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.

Opening the talks, Putin mentioned various areas of bilateral cooperation, such as a proposed Russian gas hub in Turkey and the construction of the first nuclear power plant there, in which Moscow is actively involved.

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 handed over to Turkey on condition they remained there for the duration of the war.

Putin and Erdogan - authoritarian leaders who have both 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.

The Sochi summit follows talks between the Russian and Turkish foreign ministers on Thursday, during which Russia handed over a list of actions that the West would have to take in order for Ukraine’s Black Sea exports to resume.

Erdogan has indicated sympathy with Putin’s position. In July, he said Putin had “certain expectations from Western countries” over the Black Sea deal and that it was “crucial for these countries to take action in this regard.”

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres recently sent Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov “concrete proposals” aimed at getting Russian exports to global markets and allowing the resumption of the Black Sea initiative. But Lavrov said Moscow wasn’t satisfied with the letter.

Describing Turkey’s “intense” efforts to revive the agreement, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said it was a “process that tries to better understand Russia’s position and requests, and to meet them.”



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, center left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, center right, shake hands after their talks at Russia’s Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Monday, Sept. 4, 2023. (Sergei Karpukhin, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)





Abdulaziz Al-Bekheet

'Warba' announces winners of weekly 'Al Sunbula' draw

Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate banking services and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the Sunbula weekly draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold draws for ten weekly winners for Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees. As for the lucky clients of the Sunbula weekly draw, each of the 10 lucky winners received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Ibrahim Saad Eid Al-Ghareeb, Hoda Farhan Salal Al-Anezi, Khaled Abdullah Shbikan Azeiran, Saleh Sanhat Ar-dini Al-Otaibi, Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ajmi, Ahmed Hani Khalil Al-Hamar, Jarrah Lafi Hlees Al-Husseini, Abdullah Adis Al-Husseini, Hammoud Saad Abdul Aziz Al-Mir, and Majed Awaid Saleh Al-Shalahi. Jaber Mohammad Daher Al-Anezi, Fawaz Faisal Mohammad Al-Tararwa, Haya Faisal Mubarak Al-Khreinej, Ali Abdul Rahman Ali Al-Omar, Jaafar Mohammad Jaafar Al Hajri, Mohammad Abbas Karam Hussein, Ahmad Fheid Nasser Mubarak, Latifa Abdul Aziz Al-Fowzan, Khalifa Yousef Al-Loughani, and Khadija Jazaa Ajjan Al-Anezi. The Sunbula account is the ideal choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their balances at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. Regarding the conditions, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait - Area Manager of the Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Al Sunbula draws and the major draws. The customer still gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are counted according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, the amount must have passed a full month in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to count the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawals and deposits, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances of winning".

Company wins new business in Europe and Pakistan

Menzies Aviation renews Jazeera Airways contract in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, has successfully extended its agreement with Jazeera Airways, the leading low cost carrier in Kuwait. The announcement marks the next step in an expanding partnership with the Kuwaiti airline, which includes passenger, ramp, and air cargo services at seven airports in five countries.

At Kuwait International Airport (KWI), the extended five-year agreement will see Menzies Aviation, operating as National Aviation Services (NAS) at KWI, continue to deliver ground and air cargo handling services, managing more than 1,400 flights a month. In addition, it will oversee the airline's dedicated T5 Pearl lounge in the exclusive Jazeera Terminal 5, offering passengers a dedicated space to work or relax before they fly.

This latest announcement in the ongoing partnership with Jazeera Airways follows the introduction of passenger, ramp and air cargo services earlier this year at Islamabad International Airport (ISB) in Pakistan where the Menzies-RAS team successfully managed its inaugural flight from Kuwait.

In Europe, new contracts were also secured at Tivat International Airport (TIV), Montenegro and Belgrade Nikola Telsa Airport (BEG), Serbia. This marks the next step in the partnership between Menzies and the airline, building on its existing operations at Jinnah International Airport (KHI) and Al-lama Iqbal International Airport (LHE) in Pakistan, and Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) in Jordan.

Hassan El Houry, Chairman - Menzies Aviation, said: "The extension of

our agreement with Jazeera Airways in Kuwait is the next step in our continued strategic partnership, and demonstrates the strength of our ground services offering. We have built a strong relationship with the airline since we began working with them in 2005, first as NAS and now as Menzies Aviation. We are delighted to continue delivering our ground, cargo and lounge services in Kuwait and new locations in the airline's growing network across the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Europe and Africa."

**About Menzies Aviation**

Menzies Aviation is the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, with operations on six continents, at more than 255 airports in 60-plus countries, serving more than 4 million flights a year and handling over 2 million tonnes of cargo. Supported by a team of over 40,000 highly trained people, the company provides complex and time-critical ground services, including passenger, lounge and ramp services; air cargo services, including handling, warehousing and wholesale freight forwarding; and fuel services, including fuel farm management and into-plane fuelling.

Menzies Aviation is recognised across the industry for delivering the safest, most secure and sustainable services tailored to customers' needs and is essential to keeping passengers, aircraft and cargo moving, round the clock, every minute of every day.

Menzies Aviation is headquartered in London, and since its founding in 1833, has become the largest aviation services group in the world by number of countries.



Jazeera Airways + Menzies

Gulf Bank concludes data science and innovation program for youth



Data & Innovation team with the interns.

Over 400 Kuwaiti youth participate

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Gulf Bank concluded a training program in data science and innovation for high school graduates and university students, who reached the final stage in the second edition of the annual Datathon competition, which was organized by Gulf Bank last May. The competition witnessed the participation of more than 400 Kuwaiti youth and talents, including participants aged 14 to 18 years, who took part in the competition's youth segment.

The Chief Data and Innovation Officer at Gulf Bank, Ms. Mai Bader Al-Owaish, stated that the training program – which lasted for one and a half months – reflects the distinguished role played by the Bank in consolidating the principles of social sustainability, its continuous efforts in supporting the pro-

cess of digital transformation, and in spreading data culture in society; based on Gulf Bank's strategy for 2025 and Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Owaish explained that the training program provided the trainees who plan to study data science and other related fields, with the opportunity to get closely acquainted with the majors they wish to study, and with real-practical experience for specialists in that field.

She further indicated that the program included practical guidance from the Human Resources Department at Gulf Bank, to help the trainees link their specific field of study, with the requirements of the labor market; especially those looking to work in the field of data and innovation.

She added: "The program dealt with the concepts of data science, in addition to work opportunities related website development, public data analysis, data visualization tools and digital analysis methods. The trainees also got a chance to learn about the role of data in marketing, planning and decision-making."

Furthermore, Al-Owaish noted that the trainees had the opportunity to apply all that they have learned throughout the training, by presenting their innovative ideas – showcasing their unbridled desire to move forward in stud-



Mai Al-Owaish

ying data science. They also got to visit Gulf Bank's branches and Call Center, to learn about the nature of work within the Bank, and the roles that various teams undertake in order to provide exemplary services to customers.

Al-Owaish also drew attention to Gulf Bank's active role in encouraging young people to learn the skills needed

for the workplace, and in providing them with distinguished platforms that help them develop their talents and interests in data science. As this helps them acquire practical experiences that enrich their knowledge in both data and innovation, and the banking sector – supporting their ability to make the appropriate decisions when choosing their field of study or work.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

KIB offers SoftPOS service for owners of businesses

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced offering a digital point of sale service, SoftPOS, for its business-owning customers. The new service enables them to collect payments using an innovative app for smart devices, developed by the Shared Electronic Banking Services Company (KNET) specifically for this purpose.

Commenting on the service, Abdullah Mubarak AlShatti, Head of Merchants, Retail Banking Department, said: "As one of the most advanced payment technology solutions, the SoftPOS service reflects KIB's commitment to keeping up with the latest digital innovations. This comes as part of the Bank's strategy to expand its electronic banking services and products, meeting all its business-owning customers' needs in a comprehensive, flexible, and safe manner."

AlShatti added that this innovative solution transforms an Android smart device into a digital point-of-sale terminal by simply installing the "SoftPOS by KNET" app. The app allows the business owner to make use of the advanced electronic payment mechanism and collect payments directly, swiftly, easily, and safely. As such, the solution saves time and energy when it comes to low-cost, high-density business activities, including barbershops and hair salons, taxis, delivery services, small enterprises, tailors, and more.

Commending the efforts exerted by KIB to support innovative digital solutions that reduce reliance on cash, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, Al Shatti pointed out that SoftPOS is considered a low-cost service compared to traditional point-of-sale terminals. Furthermore, it can be activated on multiple smart devices belonging to the business owner.

It is worth noting that KIB constantly strives to provide an advanced digital banking experience that suits customers' lifestyles and contributes to the growth and success of their businesses. The Bank continues its journey of innovation and change by following a strategy focused on offering a more advanced and luxurious experience under its main slogan, 'Bank for Life'.

**About KIB**

Kuwait International Bank (KIB)



Abdullah Mubarak AlShatti

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.

Alipay+ Payment Tech to debut in the Middle East Market

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 4, (Business Wire): Alipay+ Payment Tech today announced that it will take part in Seamless Saudi Arabia 2023 from September 4 to 5. Alipay+ Payment Tech is a full suite of e-wallet solutions provided by Ant Group to enable customers to build e-wallet apps quickly with world-class functionality, reliability and stability. This is the first time that Alipay+ Payment Tech will showcase its diversified solutions and services in the Middle East market.

Seamless is Saudi Arabia's biggest event covering the latest innovation in payments, fintech, retail, e-commerce, home delivery and digital marketing. At the event, Alipay+ Payment Tech will present its digital wallet, digital lending,

super app (mini-program), card acquiring, and anti-fraud solutions as well as its professional training and talent development program. These solutions originate from Alipay's proven technical know-how and operating experience in China and other markets and have served customers worldwide, especially in South-east Asia and Africa.

With Alipay+ Payment Tech's digital wallet solution, customers can roll out their own e-wallet apps to targeted markets faster. The solution brings a full set of online and in-store payment components and marketing features including registration bonus, referrals, direct discounts, vouchers, and sticker collections, which enable e-wallets to provide seamless user experiences,

improve user and merchant stickiness, and enhance their brand awareness and customer loyalty. Meanwhile, those marketing capabilities are well escorted by an industry-leading risk management and Anti-Money Laundering system developed and tested in Alipay's use cases, and the whole solution is built on cloud-native technical infrastructure to cater to mobile internet featured businesses.

Moreover, with Alipay+ Payment Tech's mini-program capabilities, e-wallet apps are able to execute their super app strategy by developing open eco-systems around their payment services, engaging merchants to operate their digitalized businesses within the apps and allowing individual users to

enjoy a wider range of services without the needs to download multiple apps.

With Loan Management System (LMS) and Credit Risk-Decision Engine (CRE), Alipay+ Payment Tech's digital lending solution helps e-wallet apps to develop Buy-Now-Pay-Later (BNPL) and cash loan products to serve users' various credit needs, and help customers manage their loan business and credit risks efficiently.

Recognizing the importance of anti-fraud in the payment and financial services industry, Alipay+ Payment Tech also provides an individual solution to handle security risks that meet e-wallet apps' comprehensive operating and marketing needs.



mockups-design.com



### Technip launches SnapLNG by T.EN

The LNG industry takes a significant leap forward with the introduction of SnapLNG by T.EN™. This innovation promises to push back the boundaries of LNG production, making the process more efficient, flexible and environmentally friendly. With world LNG production which could reach 600Mtpa by 2030 and the need to make it cleaner and faster, Technip Energies draws on its 60 years of experience to offer a new solution that will facilitate the energy transition and transform the liquefied natural gas landscape: The Solution Zero for low-carbon LNG.

SnapLNG by T.EN is a 2.5 Mtpa electrically

driven LNG train solution comprised of reproducible modules ready for delivery and installation. These modules operate autonomously and are pre-commissioned, for the delivery of a complete natural gas liquefaction plant, accelerating time to market and saving more than two years on total project duration compared to a conventional project.

SnapLNG by T.EN's advanced design offers an unprecedented certainty in cost execution, delivery schedule, plant reliability and availability as well as production performance for a significant increase in annual revenues and a reduction of ~350kTe/year of CO 2 emission

per train versus a gas turbine solution.

Loïc Chapuis, SVP Gas & Low Carbon Energies at Technip Energies, said: "SnapLNG by T.EN represents a significant breakthrough in the LNG industry, embodying its future thanks to its innovative nature. This solution enables our clients to achieve considerable time savings and greater operational certainty and reliability while reaching their zero-emissions objectives. With SnapLNG by T.EN, Technip Energies strengthens its position as a leader and pioneer in the LNG sector and as a trusted and committed partner supporting its clients in their transition to a low-carbon economy." (AP)



Technip Energies launched SnapLNG by T.EN, an innovative modular and standardized solution for low-carbon and accelerated time to market LNG production.

### The Conversation

## Sustainable farming methods can help produce healthy and diverse food system

# Computer science can help farmers explore alternative crops

By Barath Raghavan, University of Southern California and Michael Kantar, University of Hawaii

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

Humans have physically reconfigured half of the world’s land to grow just eight staple crops: maize (corn), soy, wheat, rice, cassava, sorghum, sweet potato and potato. They account for the vast majority of calories that people around the world consume. As global population rises, there’s pressure to expand production even further.

Many experts argue that further expanding modern industrialized agriculture – which relies heavily on synthetic fertilizer, chemical pesticides and high-yield seeds – isn’t the right way to feed a growing world population. In their view, this approach isn’t sustainable ecologically or economically, and farmers and scientists alike feel trapped within this system.

How can societies develop a food system that meets their needs and is also more healthy and diverse? It has proved hard to scale up alternative methods, such as organic farming, as broadly as industrial agriculture.

In a recent study, we considered this problem from our perspectives as a computer scientist and a crop scientist. We and our colleagues Bryan Runck, Adam Streed, Diane R. Wang and Patrick M. Ewing proposed a way to rethink how agricultural systems are designed and implemented, using a central idea from computer science - abstraction - that summarizes data and concepts and organizes them computationally, so we can analyze and act upon them without having to constantly examine their internal details.

Modern agriculture intensified over just a few decades in the mid-20th century – a blink of an eye in human history. Technological improvements led the way, including the development of synthetic fertilizer and statistical methods that improved plant breeding.

These advances made it possible for farms to produce much larger quantities of food, but at the expense of the environment. Large-scale agriculture has helped drive climate change, polluted lakes and bays with nutrient runoff and accelerated species losses by turning natural landscapes into monoculture crop fields.

Many US farmers and agricultural researchers would like to grow a wider range of crops and use more sustainable farming methods. But it’s hard for them to figure out what new systems could perform well, especially in a changing climate. Lower-impact farming systems often require deep local knowledge, plus an encyclopedic understanding of plants, weather and climate modeling, geology and more.

That’s where our new approach comes in. When computer scientists think about complex problems, they often use a concept called a state space. This approach mathematically represents all of the possible ways in which a system can be configured. Moving through the space entails making choices, and those choices change the state of the system, for better or worse.

As an example, consider a game of chess with a board and two players. Each configuration of the board at a moment in time is a single state of the game. When a player makes a move, it shifts the game to another state.

The whole game can be described by its “state space” – all possible states the game could be in through valid moves the players make. During the game, each player is searching for states that are better for them.

### Ecosystem

We can think of an agricultural system as a state space in a particular ecosystem. A farm and its layout of plant species at any moment in time represent one state in that state space. The farmer is searching for better states and trying to avoid bad ones.

Both humans and nature shift the farm from one state to another. On any given day, the farmer might do a dozen different things on the land, such as tilling, planting, weeding, harvesting or adding fertilizer. Nature causes minor state transitions, such as plants growing and rain falling, and much more dramatic state transitions during natural disasters such as floods or wildfires.

Viewing an agricultural system as a state space makes it possible to broaden choices for farmers beyond the limited options today’s farming systems offer.

Individual farmers don’t have the time or ability to do trial and error for years

on their land. But a computing system can draw on agricultural knowledge from many different environments and schools of thought to play a metaphorical chess game with nature that helps farmers identify the best options for their land.

Conventional agriculture limits farmers to a few choices of plant species, farming methods and inputs. Our framework makes it possible to consider higher-level strategies, such as growing multiple crops together or finding management techniques that are best suited to a particular piece of land. Users can search the state space to consider what mix of methods, species and locales could achieve those goals.

For example, if a scientist wants to test five crop rotations – raising planned sequences of crops on the same fields – that each last four years, growing seven plant species, that represents 721 potential rotations. Our approach could use information from long-term ecological research to help find the best potential systems to test.

One area where we see great potential is intercropping – growing different plants in a mixture or close together. Many combinations of specific plants have long been known to grow well together, with each plant helping the others in some way.

The most familiar example is the “three sisters” – maize, squash and beans – developed by Indigenous farmers of the Americas. Corn stalks act as trellises for climbing bean vines, while squash leaves shade the ground, keeping it moist and preventing weeds from sprouting. Bacteria on the bean plants’ roots provide nitrogen, an essential nutrient, to all three plants.

Cultures throughout human history have had their own favored intercropping systems with similar synergies, such as tumeric and mango or millet, cowpea and ziziphus, commonly known as red date. And new work on agrivoltaics shows that combining solar panels and farming can work surprisingly well: The panels partially shade crops that grow underneath them, and farmers earn extra income by producing renewable energy on their land.

We are working to turn our framework into software that people can use to model agriculture as state spaces. The goal is to enable users to consider alternative designs based upon their intuition, minimizing the costly trial and error that’s now required to test out new ideas in farming. (AP)

### Microplastic pollution rising

# Recycling messages crowded out sustainable ways to manage waste

By Michaela Barnett, University of Virginia; Leidy Klotz, University of Virginia; Patrick I. Hancock, University of Virginia and Shahzeen Attari, Indiana University

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

You’ve just finished a cup of coffee at your favorite cafe. Now you’re facing a trash bin, a recycling bin and a compost bin. What’s the most planet-friendly thing to do with your cup?

Many of us would opt for the recycling bin – but that’s often the wrong choice. In order to hold liquids, most paper coffee cups are made with a thin plastic lining, which makes separating these materials and recycling them difficult.

In fact, the most sustainable option isn’t available at the trash bin. It happens earlier, before you’re handed a disposable cup in the first place.

In our research on waste behavior, sustainability, engineering design and decision making, we examine what US residents understand about the efficacy of different waste management strategies and which of those strategies they prefer. In two nationwide surveys in the US that we conducted in October 2019 and March 2022, we found that people overlook waste reduction and reuse in favor of recycling. We call this tendency recycling bias and reduction neglect.

Our results show that a decadeslong effort to educate the US public about recycling has succeeded in some ways but failed in others. These efforts have made recycling an option that consumers see as important – but to the detriment of more sustainable options. And it has not made people more effective recyclers.

Experts and advocates widely agree that humans are generating waste worldwide at levels that are unmanageable and unsustainable. Microplastics are polluting the Earth’s most remote regions and amassing in the bodies of humans and animals.

### Greenhouse

Producing and disposing of goods is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and a public health threat, especially for vulnerable communities that receive large quantities of waste. New research suggests that even when plastic does get recycled, it produces staggering amounts of microplastic pollution.

Given the scope and urgency of this problem, in June 2023 the United Nations convened talks with government representatives from around the globe to begin drafting a legally binding pact aimed at stemming harmful plastic waste. Meanwhile, many US cities and states are banning single-use plastic products or restricting their use.

Strategies (cross head)

Experts have long recommended tackling the waste problem by prioritizing source reduction strategies that prevent the creation of waste in the first place, rather than seeking to manage and mitigate its impact later. The US Environmental Protection Agency

### Critical climate solution

## In first deployment, Ebb Carbon uses seawater to capture CO2

SEQUIM BAY, Wash., Sept 4: Ebb Carbon – a climate technology startup founded by former Google X, Tesla, and SolarCity execs – has installed and begun operating its first marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) and ocean deacidification system at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) facility in Sequim, Washington, marking an important step as the company begins to deploy its technology following a recent Series A investment round.

Ebb is taking a measured, science-based approach to its first deployment, partnering closely with some of the world’s most respected ocean monitoring and modeling institutions to gather and publicly share data about its technology. This approach is generating real-world, scientifically validated data that will provide visibility into Ebb’s carbon-removal process and provide a strong foundation of understanding to support responsible future deployments of this critical climate solution.

The collaborative partnership includes the US Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory - Sequim (PNNL-Sequim), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (NOAA/PMEL), the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Climate, Ocean, and Ecosystem Studies (CICOES) and the Salish Sea Modeling Center, both at the University of Washington. Funding support is being provided by the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program (OAP), the US Department of Energy’s Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO), and the Climate-Works Foundation.

“Given the realities of climate change, we must act quickly to deploy solutions to remove excess CO2 from

the atmosphere,” said Ben Tarbell, CEO of Ebb Carbon. “It’s equally important that we do this in a way that is transparent and facilitates public dialogue so that scientists, researchers, policymakers, and communities have visibility into the process. We welcome the opportunity to work with some of the world’s leading scientists and researchers as we begin to scale our technology.”

### System

Ebb’s first system, which is roughly the size of a shipping container, processes seawater that is pumped into PNNL-Sequim’s marine lab from Sequim Bay. The seawater passes through a series of membranes, which act like a filter, removing acid from the water. Once the acid is removed, the seawater can absorb additional carbon dioxide from the air and store it as bicarbonate in the water. Bicarbonate is a durable and naturally abundant form of carbon storage in the ocean.

Before returning to the ocean, the treated seawater will be held in open air tanks to facilitate research, experimentation and simulation to document the impacts of the process on CO2 sequestration, ocean deacidification, and local biology. The treated seawater will return to the ocean through PNNL’s existing wastewater system in accordance with existing permits. The research team is also evaluating the potential to power the Ebb system using marine energy including energy from ocean waves, tides, currents, as well as salinity, thermal and pressure gradients.

The low-carbon acid that Ebb’s system produces can be used to neutralize alkaline waste locally. Ebb is in discussions with local sand and gravel operations who can utilize the acid to neutralize alkaline stormwater.

cited recycling and other downstream strategies.

We also asked people to rank the four strategies of the Environmental Protection Agency’s waste management hierarchy from most to least environmentally preferred.

The familiar waste management hierarchy urges people to “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” in that order. Creating items that can be recycled is better from a sustainability perspective than burning them in an incinerator or burying them in a landfill, but it still consumes energy and resources. In contrast, reducing waste generation conserves natural resources and avoids other negative environmental impacts throughout a product’s life.

In our surveys, participants completed a series of questions and tasks that elicited their views of different waste strategies. In response to open-ended questions about the most effective way to reduce landfill waste or solve environmental issues associated with waste, participants overwhelmingly

# Geoengineering not a quick fix for climate change crisis

By David Kitchen  
University of Richmond

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

When soaring temperatures, extreme weather and catastrophic wildfires hit the headlines, people start asking for quick fixes to climate change. The US government just announced the first awards from a US\$3.5 billion fund for projects that promise to pull carbon dioxide out of the air. Policymakers are also exploring more invasive types of geoengineering – the deliberate, large-scale manipulation of Earth’s natural systems.

The underlying problem has been known for decades: Fossil-fuel vehicles and power plants, deforestation and unsustainable agricultural practices have been putting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than the Earth’s systems can naturally remove, and that’s heating up the planet.

Geoengineering, theoretically, aims to restore that balance, either by removing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or reflecting solar energy away from Earth.

But changing Earth’s complex and interconnected climate system may have unintended consequences. Changes that help one region could harm another, and the effects may not be clear until it’s too late.

### Repercussions

As a geologist and climate scientist, I believe these consequences are not yet sufficiently understood. Beyond the potential physical repercussions, countries don’t have the legal or social structures in place to manage both its use and the fallout when things go wrong. Similar concerns have been highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, among others.

Interventions (cross head)  
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy also discussed these concerns in its July 2023 research plan for investigating potential climate interventions.

When people hear the word “geo-engineering,” they probably picture solar radiation management. These technologies, many of them still theoretical, aim to reflect solar energy away from Earth’s surface.

The idea of stratospheric aerosol injection, for example, is to seed the upper atmosphere with billions of tiny particles that reflect sunlight directly out to space. Cirrus cloud thinning aims to reduce the impact of high-altitude, wispy clouds that trap energy within the atmosphere by making their ice crystals larger, heavier and more likely to precipi-

### Need more research and guardrails

### Water disasters disrupt lives

## Climate change boosts water cycle, fueling extreme rainfall

By Mathew Barlow  
UMass Lowell

Powerful storm systems that hit the US Northeast starting July 9, 2023, dumped close to 10 inches of rain on New York’s Lower Hudson Valley in less than a day and sent mountain rivers spilling over their banks and into towns across Vermont. Vermont Gov. Phil Scott said he hadn’t seen rainfall like it since Hurricane Irene devastated the region in 2011.

Extreme water disasters like this have disrupted lives in countries around the world in the past few years, from the Alps and Western Europe to Pakistan, India and Australia, along with several US states in 2022 and 2023.

The role of climate change is becoming increasingly evident in these types of deluges.

Studies by scientists around the world show that the water cycle has been intensifying and will continue to intensify as the planet warms. An international climate assessment I co-authored in 2021 for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reviewed the research and laid out the details.

It documented an increase in both wet extremes, including more intense rainfall over most regions, and dry extremes, including drying in the Mediterranean, southwestern Australia, southwestern South America, South Africa and western North America. It also shows that both wet

and dry extremes will continue to increase with future warming.

Water cycles through the environment, moving between the atmosphere, ocean, land and reservoirs of frozen water. It might fall as rain or snow, seep into the ground, run into a waterway, join the ocean, freeze or evaporate back into the atmosphere. In recent decades, there has been an overall increase in the rates of precipitation and evaporation.

A number of factors are intensifying the water cycle, but one of the most important is that warming temperatures raise the upper limit on the amount of moisture in the air. That increases the potential for more rain.

This aspect of climate change is confirmed across all of our lines of evidence. It is expected from basic physics, projected by computer models, and it already shows up in the observational data as a general increase of rainfall intensity with warming temperatures.

Understanding this and other changes in the water cycle is important for more than preparing for disasters. Water is an essential resource for all ecosystems and human societies, and particularly agriculture.

An intensifying water cycle means that both wet and dry extremes and the general variability of the water cycle will increase, although not uniformly around the globe. (AP)

tate. Another, cloud brightening, aims to increase the prevalence of brighter, lower-level clouds that reflect sunlight, possibly by spraying seawater into the air to increase water vapor concentration.

Some scientists have suggested going further and installing arrays of space mirrors that could reduce global temperature by reflecting solar energy away before it reaches the atmosphere.

While theoretically capable of cooling the planet, solar radiation management could have drastic side effects by shifting patterns of global atmospheric circulation that can lead to more extreme weather events. It also does nothing to reduce harms of excess greenhouse gases, including ocean acidification. A 2022 study published in the scientific journal Nature predicted that stratospheric aerosol injection could alter global precipitation patterns and reduce agricultural productivity.

Cloud brightening, while effective in theory, also needs more research

to make sure that efforts to expand lower-level reflective clouds that can help cool Earth’s surface do not also increase the prevalence of the high-altitude clouds that warm the planet.

Space mirrors placed between the Sun and Earth could theoretically block 2% of incoming solar radiation and stabilize global temperature. But the technology is at least 20 years away from implementation and would cost trillions of dollars. More importantly, the overall global impact of shading Earth’s surface is largely unknown. It will decrease regional ocean and air temperatures in ways that may affect changes in the jet stream, rainfall, snow cover, storm patterns and possibly even monsoons. Much more research is needed to clarify these uncertainties.

Carbon dioxide removal technologies generally carry lower risks than manipulating solar energy.

Carbon capture and storage removes carbon dioxide from power plants and factories and stores it underground in deep geological reservoirs. (AP)



The Conversation

Experts find ways to improve health, safety of yellow jerseys of the fireline

Firefighters require as much endurance as Tour de France bikers

By Brent C. Ruby  
University of Montana

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

For three weeks in July, the world’s most elite bike racers climb steep mountains and sprint along historic cobblestones to capture the coveted yellow jersey or the race leader in the Tour de France. It’s a 22-day feat of human endurance that requires constant eating and drinking to manage the average daily energy demand of about 6,000 calories, equivalent to around 12 McDonald’s Happy Meals, and just over 1.5 gallons of water.

Nearly 5,000 miles away in the mountains of North America, radios crackle with chatter from a wildfire incident command post, air operations and other crews fighting a wildfire. Up the fireline, the swings of Pulaskis, axlike hand tools, are carving a fuel break into the land. The weather forecast predicts a high of nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 C) with wind, a combination that can push the fire high up into the canopy of dense lodgepole pines on the mountainside.

The yellow jerseys here are sooty, sweat-stained and flame-resistant, with a strong, earthy odor.

Study

Hotshot crews like this one are the elite workforce of the forest, and the demand on their bodies can rival that of the cyclists in the Tour de France, as my team’s research shows.

On this morning, the Hotshot crew has already hiked 3 miles up steep, uneven terrain and built nearly 1,200 feet of fire line. It is not yet 10 a.m. The day is just beginning, the first day of a 14-day rollout.

The hands hang heavy on the inside of the small tent as the 4:30 a.m. alarm disrupts my intermittent sleep. The sounds of sleeping bag and tent zippers signals the beginning of a new day in a remote Montana fire camp.

Using a headlamp, I arrange the sample collection tubes in a plastic rack and wait for a few members of the Lolo Hotshots to wander through my field laboratory to drop off an early morning urine sample.

The crew is participating in a study that my team from Montana is conducting to measure the physical strain and total energy demands of work on an active wildfire, with the goal of finding ways to improve firefighter fueling strategies and ultimately health and safety on the line.

Crew members are outfitted with a series of lightweight monitors that measure heart rate, as well as movement patterns and speed using GPS. Each swallows a temperature-tracking sensor before breakfast that will transmit measures of core body temperature each minute throughout the work shift.

Just before 6 a.m., the crew heads west in their crew carrier rigs into the adjacent wilderness. They have lines to dig and a fire to contain.

On the fire line, pack straps dig into the neck and shoulders with each swing of the Pulaski. It’s a constant reminder that everything wildland firefighters need, they carry, all day.

The critical water and food items, supplies, extra gear, and fire line tools – Pulaskis, chain saws, and fuel – add up to an average gear weight often exceeding 50 pounds.

Hiking with a load and digging firelines with hand tools burns about 6 to 14 calories per minute. Heart rates rise in response to an increased pace of digging.

Measured with the same techniques

used to quantify the energy demands of Tour de France riders, wildland firefighters demonstrate an average total energy expenditure approaching 4,000 to 5,000 calories per day. Some days can exceed the Tour’s average of about 6,000 calories. Add to that a daily water need of 1.5 to over 2 gallons.

This isn’t just for a few days. Fire season in the western United States can last five months or more, with most Hotshot crews accumulating four to five times the number of operational days of the 22-day Tour de France and over 1,000 hours of overtime.

Every year, on average, about 60,000 wildfires will burn across roughly 70 million acres in the western U.S. Drying grasses and forests create fuel for the spark of a lightning strike, power line or carelessly abandoned campfire, and windy summer weather can spread that into a blaze. When those fires could threaten communities, the Hotshots are mobilized.

Impact on the wildland firefighter’s body

As the work shift progresses, the Hotshots constantly monitor their surroundings and self-regulate nutrient and fluid intake, knowing their shift will last 12 to 16 hours.

During intense activity in high heat, their fluid intake can increase to 32 ounces per hour or more.

The highest-intensity activity is generally during the early morning hike to the fire line. However, the metabolic demands can sharply increase if crews are forced into a rapid emergency evacuation from the fire, as more than 25 years of wildland firefighter physiology research shows.

The most effective way for wildland firefighters to stay fueled is to eat small meals frequently throughout the work shift, similar to the patterns perfected by riders in the Tour. This preserves cognitive health, helping firefighters stay focused and sharp for making potentially lifesaving decisions and keenly aware of their ever-dynamic surroundings, and boosts work performance. It also helps slow the depletion of important muscle fuel.

Stress

Despite the physical and emotional stress of being in an active fire, the firefighters’ heart rates rarely exceed 160 beats per minute, about 70% to 80% of maximal heart rate and an intensity common during a higher-intensity training run. Their heart rates are mostly maintained between 100 and 140 beats per minute, typical of a brisk walk or hike, but they maintain that for hours.

Although crews gradually acclimate to the heat over the season, the risk for heat exhaustion is ever present if the work rate is not kept in check. This cannot be prevented by simply drinking more water during long work shifts. However, regular breaks and having a strong aerobic capacity provides some protection by reducing heat stress and overall risk.

Hotshots are physically fit, and they train for the fire season just as many athletes train for their competition season. Most crew members are hired temporarily during the fire season – typically from May to October, but expanding as the planet warms. And there are distinct fitness requirements for the job.

Still, with the immense physical demands of the job, crew members often experience a decay in metabolic and cardiovascular health and an increase in cholesterol, blood lipids and body fat. It is unclear why such a hardworking job often makes firefighters less healthy, requiring an off-season reset to recover, retrain and rebuild. (AP)

PHOENIX, Sept 4, (AP): Andrea Nissen is trying to prepare her 65-year-old husband, who has Alzheimer’s disease, for a solo flight from Arizona to Oklahoma to visit family. She worries about travelers and airport officials misinterpreting his forgetfulness or habit of getting in people’s personal space, and feels guilty about not being able to accompany him.

“People say, ‘He has dementia. You can’t let him go by himself,’” Nissen said.

But attending a dementia-friendly travel workshop in July helped ease some of those fears. She learned about the resources available at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and what assistance airlines can offer when asked.

It was the first time the city of Phoenix hosted such a workshop, making it the latest US city pledging to make flying friendlier for people with dementia.

Over 14 million people are expected to check into airports nationwide for Labor Day weekend and, inevitably, some will be travelers with dementia or another cognitive impairment. Nearly a dozen airports - from Phoenix to Kansas City, Missouri - in the last few years have modified their facilities and operations to be more dementia-friendly, advocates say. They’ve added amenities like quiet rooms and a simulation center where travelers with dementia can learn about flying or get a refresher.

Command

Looking for a gate, trying to remember flight times or following terse commands from Transportation Security Administration agents while in line with others can overwhelm someone with dementia. Symptoms like forgetting words can be mistaken for being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

But most large US airports are behind the curve on serving travelers with dementia when compared with some airports in Australia and Europe. Dementia isn’t covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, so nobody is compelled by law to make changes, said Sara Barsel, a former special education teacher and founder of the Dementia-Friendly Airports Working Group, which lobbies for airports and airlines to enact dementia-inclusive policies.

Part of the reason she suspects there aren’t more quiet rooms or family restrooms with adult changing tables is because that doesn’t generate revenue, she said.

“I don’t know what their constraints are in terms of economics. I know what the impact is and the impact is that there’s less for people who need quiet spaces,” said Barsel, who is based in Roseville, Minnesota.

The group, which was founded in 2018 by experts in dementia and Alzheimer’s, helped add lanyard and other programs to airports. London’s Gatwick Airport created the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyard program in 2016, which is now in over 200 airports globally. Light green lanyards with a sunflower pattern are issued to anyone who wants to subtly indicate they or a travel companion has dementia or a not-as-visible disability. The lanyards let airport and airline personnel know the traveler may need more attention and information repeated.



Carol Giuliani, who is a member of the Dementia-Friendly Airports Working group and works as a travel companion for seniors with dementia, walks through Terminal 3 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport after bringing a client from Minnesota to Phoenix. (AP)

Set up new Theranostics Centers

ICPO & NTP partner to promote int’l education standards in RPO

WIESBADEN, Germany, Sept 4: The International Centers for Precision Oncology (ICPO) Foundation and NTP Radioisotopes SOC Ltd. (NTP) have announced a collaboration to promote international education standards in Radiomolecular Precision Oncology (RPO) and support the establishment and expansion of a global network of Theranostics Centers. The overarching goal of the collaboration is to substantially increase patient access to advanced RPO imaging and therapies with a special focus on the African continent.

ICPO Foundation and NTP signed an agreement to advance education and infrastructure in RPO on the African continent through their collective medical and scientific knowledge and extensive networks. Together, NTP and ICPO will work on evolving best practice standards and utilize the ICPO Academy for Theranostics Platform to provide state-of-the-art education and training to healthcare professionals across Africa starting with South Africa as of September 2023 through a combination of the ICPO Academy e-learning platform and an on-site nursing nuclear medicine program. The ICPO Academy for Theranostics offers a combination of e-learning education with a multi-level qualification process, as well as tailor-made online courses providing application and equipment specific training. NTP intends to involve their international experts to help enhance the ICPO Academy for Theranostics as well as support evolving its content and country specific translations and certifications. Leveraging NTP’s industrial and innovation track-record in Africa, ICPO and NTP plan to furthermore work together in the establishment of a network of practical training centers across Africa, which will complement the e-learning platform with on-site training for the most qualified alumni of the ICPO Academy.

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Candice Kirkwood, of Indianapolis, experienced what she said was her worst nightmare in 2001 when her parents were flying through the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. Her mother, Marjorie “Margie” Dabney was wearing a badge to signal she needed extra help because she had Alzheimer’s, and the couple was being helped by an airline attendant.

The attendant helped Kirkwood’s father, who used a wheelchair, to the restroom, and when they returned, Dabney was gone.

“It played every day in my mind,” Kirkwood said. “What could I have done differently? I didn’t get to say goodbye to her.”

Human remains that were found six

years later and 15 miles (24 kilometers) away in a remote area were identified as Dabney through the use of DNA. Local police said she died of blunt force trauma, which could have been caused by a fall or an object striking her. The case remains unsolved.

Dabney’s now late husband, Joe, settled a lawsuit with American Airlines for an undisclosed sum in 2003.

Kirkwood said she still harbors distrust of airlines.

“I don’t want anybody to ever have to go through what I went through,” she said. “It’s like once my mother faded away, nobody seemed like they ever cared to talk about it.”

Representatives for the airline did not immediately respond to requests for comment on any changes to accommodate travelers with cognitive impairment.

Interact

Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, however, is launching the sunflower lanyard program in mid-September. All frontline employees who interact with customers and volunteer ambassadors will receive formal training on how to engage with travelers donning the lanyards. Its inception has been a long time coming, according to airport spokesperson Heath Montgomery.

“We’re continuing to evolve the way we interact with customers from all walks of life,” Montgomery said.

Jan Dougherty, a registered nurse who has written a book on traveling with dementia and led the Phoenix workshop, said it’s unfortunate that people with dementia have gone missing. With the right support, she said they can travel safely.

“So many people early on (after diagnosis) are capable of travel with some accommodation,” she said. “We’re still an ageist society.”

The need for accommodations will become more prevalent as more Americans move into retirement age. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts nearly 10 million adults among those 65 years or older will have dementia by 2060. Experts, however, say dementia often is underdiagnosed.

Similarly, more than 6 million people nationwide have Alzheimer’s disease, which is expected to hit 13 million by 2050, according to the Alzheimer’s Association. Overall, 55 million worldwide are currently living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

Carol Giuliani, who is part of the airports working group, can testify to the growing need. For the past eight years, she has worked as a travel companion for senior citizens with dementia. She has accompanied seniors on flights, vacations or relocations in 42 states and 12 foreign countries. Giuliani wears a company jacket and has a sunflower lanyard for her client. She also has explanation cards for security agents to “put a little TLC in the TSA.”

“Ninety percent of the time it’s a family member that hires me,” said Giuliani, while seated at Phoenix Sky Harbor after escorting an elderly man on a flight. “The one I did today, (the wife) was like ‘thank you, thank you, thank you!’... I know how to pace it so that he gets safely and comfortably back home.”

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Authorities investigating 1 death

Burning Man flooding strands thousands at Nevada site

BLACK ROCK DESERT, Nev., Sept 4, (AP): An unusual late-summer storm turned a week-long counterculture fest into a sloppy mess with tens of thousands of partygoers stuck in foot-deep mud and with no working toilets in the northern Nevada desert. But some Burning Man revelers said Sunday that their spirits remained unbroken.

Organizers closed the festival to vehicles after one death was reported. Officials provided no details of the fatality.

The annual gathering in the Black Rock Desert about 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno attracts nearly 80,000 artists, musicians and activists for a mix of wilderness camping and avant-garde performances. Disruptions are part of the event’s recent history: Organizers had to temporarily close entrances to the festival in 2018 due to dust storms, and the event was twice canceled altogether during the pandemic.

More than a half an inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain fell at the festival site on Friday, disrupting this year’s festival.

“We are a little bit dirty and muddy but spirits are high. The party still going,” said Scott London, a Southern California photographer, adding that the travel limitations offered “a view of Burning Man that a lot of us don’t get to see.”

More than half an inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain and possibly close to 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) fell this weekend in parts of northwest Nevada, which includes the area where the Burning Man festival was being held, said Mark Deutschendorf, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Reno.

For the Reno area, which is about 141 miles (227 km) south of the festival, the average rainfall for the whole month of September would be 0.21 inches (0.53 centimeters), Deutschendorf said.

“Already, everywhere from Reno up to the Burning Man area, Black Rock, we’ve already exceeded that - and it’s only three days into the month,” he said. Rainfall for the area around the festival was ending on Sunday, he said.

The road closures came just before a large wooden effigy was supposed to have been burned Saturday night. Organizers said that all burning had been postponed, and authorities were working to open exit routes by the end of the Labor Day weekend.

**Weather**

Officials said late Saturday they didn’t yet know when the roads would “be dry enough for RVs or vehicles to navigate safely,” but they were hopeful vehicles could depart by late Monday if weather conditions improved.

President Joe Biden told reporters in Delaware on Sunday that he is aware of the situation at Burning Man, including the death, and the White House is in touch with local officials. He doesn’t know the cause of the death, Biden said.

With their party closed to motorized traffic, attendees trudged through mud, many barefoot or with plastic bags on their feet. Revelers were urged to conserve supplies of food and water, and most remained hunkered down at the site. A few, however, managed to walk several miles to the nearest town or catch a ride there.

Celebrity DJ Diplo posted a video to Instagram on Saturday evening showing him and comedian Chris Rock riding in the back of a fan’s pickup truck. He said they had walked six miles through the mud before hitching a ride.

“I legit walked the side of the road for hours with my thumb out,” wrote Diplo, whose real name is Thomas Wesley Pentz.

The event is remote on the best of days and emphasizes self-sufficiency - meaning most people bring in their own food, water and other supplies.

Those who remained Sunday described a resilient community making the most of the mucky conditions: Many posted selfies of themselves covered in mud, dancing or splashing in the makeshift lakes.

“We have not witnessed any negativity, any rough times,” organizer Theresa Galeani said. “Some people ... were supposed to leave a few days ago, so they’re out of water or food. But I am an organizer, so I went around and found more water and food. There is more than enough here for people. We just have to get it to everyone.”

London, the southern California photographer who was attending his 20th Burning Man and just published a book on the festival, “Burning Man: Art On Fire,” spent much of Saturday walking barefoot across the site, which is about 5 square miles. He said that the biggest challenge was logistics because no vehicles could traverse the site, supplies could not be brought in and most people could not leave.

“Usually it’s very crowded with art cars, bikes and people all over the place. But yesterday it was like an abandoned playground,” he added.

Rebecca Barger, a photographer from Philadelphia, arrived at her first Burning Man on Aug. 26 and was determined to stick it out through the end.

“I’m not leaving until both ‘The Man’ and ‘The Temple’ burn,” Barger said, referring to the wooden effigy and wooden structure that are traditionally torched during the event’s last two nights.

Variety



Steven Tyler of Aerosmith performs during night one of their ‘Peace Out: The Farewell Tour’ on Saturday, Sept. 2, at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. Near the end of the concert, Tyler urged fans to visit the Hawaiian island of Maui to help its economy recover from last month’s devastating wildfires. (AP)

Sweet emotion in Philadelphia

Aerosmith starts Peace Out farewell tour

PHILADELPHIA, Sept 4, (AP): Aerosmith is one of the best things to come out of Boston, and soon it will exist only in memories and playbacks - like Tom Brady, “Cheers” and Larry Bird.

The quintet has given the world 50 years of classic rock and some of the most enduring songs of all time, including “Dream On,” “Walk This Way” and “Sweet Emotion.”

Aerosmith began its farewell “Peace Out” tour Saturday in Philadelphia with a two-hour set spanning its voluminous catalog - giving the world one last chance to see what earned these skinny guys from New England an exalted place in the pantheon of rock’s all-time greats.

Singer Steven Tyler, guitarists Joe Perry and Brad Whitford, and bassist Tom Hamilton all wore black cowboy hats as they ripped into “Back In The Saddle,” the song that has opened Aerosmith shows for decades as a giant Aerosmith logo folded down from the rafters, flanked by an even bigger set of wings.

Tyler and Perry sang from either side of a microphone stand draped in Tyler’s trademark scarves, recreating one of rock’s most iconic poses. Tyler nailed the extreme high note at the end of the song, proving that even at age 75 and after a life filled with pharmaceutical misadventures, he can still bring it.

“Love In an Elevator” and “Cryin’,” two major radio hits from the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, followed, setting up the band’s controversial hit “Janie’s Got A Gun,” a song about a girl who was sexually abused by her father.

The band also tossed fans some rare chestnuts like “No More, No More,” on which Tyler forgot several of the words; “Adam’s Apple,” “Seasons Of Wither” and the Mississippi Delta blues-inspired “Hangman Jury.”

But there’s only room for so many songs in a two-hour show, and with a catalog as deep as Aero-

smith’s, some of the biggest hits got cut, including “Dude (Looks Like A Lady)” and “Train Kept A-Rollin’,” which often closed the show on previous tours.

That Aerosmith even played Philadelphia is amazing, given its fans’ history of injuring band members. In Oct. 1977, someone threw an M80 explosive onstage that went off in Tyler’s face, burning his cornea and opening a bloody wound on Perry’s arm. A year later, at another Philadelphia show, someone threw a bottle that shattered against an onstage speaker, sending glass shards into Tyler’s face and mouth.

Tyler referenced those assaults during Saturday’s show, recalling them as “the big bang theory” before Perry shushed him. Tyler quickly changed the subject to the fact that his mother’s family came from Philadelphia.

Saturday’s show was the 40th that Aerosmith has played in the City of Brotherly Love, and ended without anyone needing paramedics.

**Instrument**

There were the typical opening-night glitches. Tyler started singing the chorus of “Dream On” a verse too soon before catching himself. Perry’s guitar died a few notes into the iconic opening riff to “Walk This Way.” And after a masterful harmonica solo on “Hangman Jury,” Tyler tossed the small instrument backwards over his shoulder, only to realize he’d need it again at the end of the song. A roadie was summoned to hand it back to him.

But so much more went right than went wrong, and it’s been that way for decades at Aerosmith concerts. Perry was positively brilliant on vocals and guitar during a cover of Fleetwood Mac’s 1968 three-chord blues jam “Stop Messin’ Round,” during which he and Whitford traded solos, and Tyler gave the harmonica another workout.

Perry even played a guitar that the wife of the late guitar legend Jeff Beck gave him - keeping Beck’s presence onstage for a bit longer - and “Rats In The Cellar,” a song about the filthy environs of drug use in New York in the 1970s, was as hard, fast and tight as it ever was.

Drummer Joey Kramer opted out of the farewell tour “to focus his full attention on his family and health,” according to the band. John Douglas, a drummer, artist and drum kit customizer for acts including Van Halen, ZZ Top and Guns ‘N’ Roses, filled in admirably.

Bassist Tom Hamilton got a huge ovation while playing the opening notes of “Sweet Emotion,” possibly the most famous bass intro to a song in rock history. And a giant elephant, frog, gnome and teddy bear descended from the ceiling on “Toys In The Attic.”

“Walk This Way” was a huge worldwide hit for more than a decade, before taking on added significance in 1986 when rap group Run-D.M.C. teamed up with Aerosmith on a version of the song that is widely credited with helping break down the barriers that had separated fans of rock and rap. (In case the significance of the breakthrough was lost on anyone, the video for the collaboration shows the two acts literally kicking down a wall that separated them in adjacent recording studios, and finally playing together.)

During the song’s performance to close the show Saturday night, confetti and streamers cascaded down from the ceiling; Tyler grabbed a piece of confetti from the air and ate it.

The opening act, The Black Crowes, presumably had a lead singer onstage. But vocalist Chris Robinson was so thoroughly drowned out by his brother Rich’s guitar for most of their hour-long set that it was hard to tell. I’ve got a remedy: turn the guitars down and turn the vocals up. That shouldn’t be too hard to handle.

**LOS ANGELES:** The third installment in the **Denzel Washington**-led “Equalizer” franchise topped the domestic box office this weekend with \$34.5 million according to studio estimates Sunday. By the end of the Monday holiday, Sony expects that total will rise to \$42 million.

Labor Day signals the end of Hollywood’s summer movie season, which will surpass \$4 billion in ticket sales for the first time since the pandemic thanks in no small part to “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer,” which are still netting records even after seven weeks in theaters. This weekend, **Greta Gerwig**’s “Barbie” officially became the biggest movie of 2023 with over \$1.36 billion globally, surpassing “The Super Mario Bros Movie,” while **Christopher Nolan**’s “Oppenheimer” sailed past \$850 million globally to become the No. 3 movie of the year and Nolan’s third highest grossing.

“The Equalizer 3” arrived at a fraught time for Hollywood, with actors seven weeks into a strike for fair contracts with major entertainment companies and movie theaters bracing for a somewhat depleted fall season as a result.

The ongoing SAG-AFTRA strike meant Washington was unable to stump for the movie, which was directed by his frequent collaborator **Antoine Fuqua** and brings his vigilante character **Robert McCall** to **Italy**’s Amalfi coast. While the lack of a major star on a promotional tour would normally be considered a liability for a film’s box office potential, “Equalizer 3” may be the rare exception that could withstand a rollout without Washington’s help simply because it’s a recognizable franchise.

“One of the biggest movie stars in the world took us out on a high note,” said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “Studios often coast to Labor Day, but Sony was smart to choose this weekend to open ‘The Equalizer 3.’”

Sony opened the R-rated “Equalizer 3” in over 3,900 locations in **North America**, including on IMAX and premium large format screens, where it opened in line with the previous two films which both went on to make over \$190 million globally. With

co-financing from TSG and Eagle Pictures, the film carried a \$70 million production price tag. The film received generally positive reviews from critics (76% on Rotten Tomatoes) and overwhelmingly positive reviews from audiences, who gave it an A on CinemaScore and a five-star PostTrak rating.

“It’s uncanny the consistency of



Fuqua



Washington

the Equalizer franchise,” Dergarabedian said.

Overseas, it made \$26.1 million, contributing to a \$60.6 million global debut.

In second place, “Barbie” added \$10.6 million over the weekend in the **US** and **Canada**, pushing its domestic total to \$609.5 million. Warner Bros.’

other main theatrical offering, “Blue Beetle” added \$7.3 million to take third. The DC superhero film has grossed \$56.6 million in three weekends in North America. Fourth place went to Sony’s “Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story,” which is projecting \$6.6 million through Sunday, down 62% from its first place opening

weekend, and \$8.5 million including Monday.

“Oppenheimer” landed in fifth place on the domestic charts with an estimated \$5.5 million (\$7.4 million including estimates for Monday) from 2,543 theaters. This brings its domestic total to \$310.3 million and its global take to \$851 million. (AP)



People & Places

People

Tourists urged to return

Winfrey, Johnson start Maui fund with \$10m

NEW YORK, Sept 4, (AP): **Oprah Winfrey** and Dwayne Johnson have committed \$10 million to make direct payments to people on Maui who are unable to return to their homes because of the wildfires, through a new fund they announced Thursday.

The People's Fund of Maui will give \$1,200 a month to adults who are not able to return to their primary residences because of the recent wildfires, including people who owned and rented their homes, according to the fund's website. The fund will also seek donations to extend the length of time it can provide the support.

"How do we help?" the "Young Rock" star said he and Winfrey asked each other during the wildfires, saying in a video released along with the announcement that they grappled with how to best direct their efforts. "You want to take care of the greatest need of the people, and that's giving them money."

They are looking forward to the help of "every person who called me and said, 'What can I do?'" Winfrey said in the video. "This is what you can do."

The pair were inspired by a similar fund set up by Dolly Parton after wildfires swept through Gatlinburg, Tennessee in December 2016, killing 14 people and destroying 2,400 structures.

Jeff Conyers, president of The Dollywood Foundation, said he consulted with Winfrey's team multiple times in the past weeks to share the lessons that they'd learned from administrating the fund, which eventually granted \$11 million to families who had lost their homes.

"Dolly's idea was that, 'Hey, look, these are my people and I want to take care of them and we trust them to know what recovery looks like for themselves and their families in the days and weeks following this immediate catastrophe here,'" Conyers said.

Responders

Parton's fund, called My People Fund, worked with first responders and a local utility company and asked residents to help them determine which structures were destroyed and who lived in those homes, Conyers said. Around 1,000 families eventually received assistance from the fund, according to an evaluation from the University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Social Work. That included a final \$5,000 lump sum transfer at the end of six months.

To qualify for the People's Fund of Maui, applicants must show a government ID and a utility bill in their name for a lost or uninhabitable residence, the fund's website said.

Winfrey, who lives on Maui part-time, visited an emergency shelter on Maui in the days after the wildfire hit and worried about effectively getting resources to residents. At least 115 people were killed in the fires, though an unknown number are still missing. The fire that ripped through the historic town of Lahaina on Aug. 8 was the deadliest in the US in more than a century.

Forecasters warned Wednesday that gusty winds and low humidity increased the risk that fires could spread rapidly in the western parts of each Hawaiian island, though they were not as powerful as the winds that helped fuel the deadly blaze three weeks ago.

In the announcement, Winfrey and Johnson said they consulted with "community elders, leaders and residents including Hokulani Holt-Padilla, Keali'i Reichel, Archie Kalepa, Ekoru Lindsey, Kimo Falconer, Tiare Lawrence, Kaimana Brummel, Kaleikoa Ka'eo, Brian Keaulana, Kaimi Kaneholani, Henohea Kane, Paele Kiakona, Ed Suwanjindar, Shep Gordon and Jason Momoa."

The Entertainment Industry Foundation, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that helps celebrities administer their charitable work, is sponsoring the fund, the announcement said.

Johnson and Winfrey hope the fund will continue to make transfers to qualifying residents for at least six months, but Winfrey said it would be up to the American public to determine how long the fund extends, based on their support and donations.

When setting up a direct cash transfer program, it's important to define the objective, said Holly Welcome Radice, the regional representative for the Americas at CALP Network, a collective of organizations that studies cash assistance programs. In this case, \$1,200 should correspond to the price of housing or the living costs for an adult in the area or whatever the need is the fund is seeking to meet, she said.

"The objective will be difficult to meet if your transfer value is not connected to the reality of the people," she said, adding the fund should consider if the local economy can respond to the influx of money and map out what other services people may need.

"If it's feasible and appropriate, then cash is a very direct way for people to benefit and have agency," Radice said.

The fund should also spend time communicating the parameters of the program clearly, she said, "so people understand who qualifies and why they qualify and making sure that there is some type of feedback mechanism where people can place grievances."

Also:

**PHILADELPHIA:** He's most often associated with **Boston**, the hometown of his legendary rock band, but Aerosmith singer **Steven Tyler** has a soft spot in his heart for the Hawaiian island of Maui.

The singer, who has a home on the island, wants vacationers to return to **Maui** to help the island's economy - devastated by wildfires last month - recover.

Near the end of the opening night of the band's farewell tour in Philadelphia Saturday, Tyler urged audience members not to be afraid to travel to the island again.

"When you think about **Lahaina**, think about south Maui," Tyler told the audience at the Wells Fargo Center shortly before performing the band's biggest hit, "Dream On."

"Paia and Hana: it's still there," he said, of two other Maui resort towns unscathed by the fires. "It's a place to go and do, you know, the love thing. It's still open, it's still happening."

"Everything's beautiful, except we gotta come there and make it more beautiful, OK?" he said.

Immediately after the fires obliterated the seaside tourist town of Lahaina, officials including Gov. **Josh Green** told tourists to stay away during the island's recovery.

But they soon reversed that advice, realizing how essential tourism is to the island's economy - and to the prospects of its residents returning to a normal life anytime soon. Tyler's daughter, Mia, was among those initially discouraging tourists from coming to Maui shortly after the fires.



Beyonce performs at a Get Out the Vote concert for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 4, 2016. Beyoncé shined the brightest in a city full of Hollywood stars during the second night of her epic Renaissance Tour show on Saturday night, Sept 2. (AP)

Music

Renaissance concert tour stop in LA packs SoFi Stadium

Beyoncé dazzles among Hollywood stars

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Sept 4, (AP): Lights, cameras, Beyoncé!

The superstar singer shined the brightest in a city full of Hollywood stars during the second night of her epic Renaissance Tour show on Saturday night. She once again packed the massive SoFi Stadium filled with concertgoers wearing gleaming silver outfits at the request of Beyoncé who asked fans to sport the silvery wardrobe for the last month of her spectacular tour.

The crowd included many entertainers and athletes: Viola Davis, Issa Rae, Tracee Ellis Ross, Gabrielle Union, Dwyane Wade and Kelly Rowland. Some returned for a second straight night to witness another dazzling show from the impeccable Beyoncé, who will celebrate her 42nd birthday on Monday - the final night of her three-show stint in Inglewood, California. Her previous show Friday night brought out Prince Harry, his wife Meghan Markle, Pedro Pascal, Keke Palmer, Sofia Vergara, Brie Larson, Offset and Kris Jenner.

As usual, Beyoncé rose to the occasion as many of her BeyHive faithful tried to match her energy during her set lasting two and a half hours. Once she appeared onstage, it turned into a dance party served with a heavy dosage of self confidence, women's empowerment and beaming pride.

For much of the night, most attendees on all levels hardly sat down in their stadium seats in Inglewood, California.

Beyoncé instantly recognized the crowd's support. In return, she expressed her gratitude, calling many in the audience "beautiful faces."

"I'm grateful to have this perspective and this view of all of you," she said. "I've been able to do what I do for over 26 years - going on 27 years. It's because of you. It's because of your

loyalty. It's because of your prayers. I just want to say, 'Thank you.'"

After her speech, Beyoncé let her show do the rest of her talking. She ran through a number of hits such as "Cuff It," "Alien Superstar," "Heated" and "Church Girl" from her critically acclaimed album "Renaissance," which paid homage to the Black and gay pioneers of the house music genre. The album helped her win four Grammys and become the ceremony's most decorated artist in history earlier this year.

She brought out her 11-year-old daughter Blue Ivy Carter to "My Power," where she earned a rousing applause during her upbeat choreography set alongside her mother and backup dancers. Blue Ivy also danced down the stage aisle to Kendrick Lamar's "Alright" before she cranked it up even more for her mother's massive hit "Black Parade."

Symbol

While Beyoncé pumped her fist into air, Blue Ivy looked over the crowd in amazement and made a heart symbol with her hands in the same fashion as her father, Jay-Z, who is known for holding up his iconic Roc-A-Fella diamond hand sign.

"Thank guys for the love," said Beyoncé, who happily praised her daughter's performance. "I just want to acknowledge the alien. You've been to a lot of shows and you are committed. You are killing it superstar. Everybody say, 'Hey, Ms. Carter.'"

Of course, the crowd obliged. Beyoncé performed more of her popular jams from "Formation," "Break My Soul," "Savage" and "Run the World (Girls)." Other highlights included a vogue dance session that kept the crowd entertained while she took one of her brief breaks.

Earlier, artists such as DJ Khaled and rapper Roddy Ricch opened for her.

Visually, Beyoncé captivated the audience with her various wardrobes and massive screen on stage that gave all audience members in the stadium a good view of her performance. She once sat on a glittering horse - similar to the one on her "Renaissance" album cover - that seemingly glided in the air.

In closing, Beyoncé went airborne again - this time in a harness - as confetti sprouted out from the stage.

"I want to thank y'all for giving me so much energy tonight," she told the cheering crowd. "I love y'all so much. I hope you had as much fun as I did. Thank you for your beautiful signs. Thank you for your beautiful wardrobes. I love you deep."

Also:

**GLENDAL, Ariz.:** Metallica postponed Sunday's concert in Arizona after the band said lead singer **James Hetfield** tested positive for COVID-19.

The band has rescheduled the second night of its tour stop at Glendale's State Farm Stadium for Sept. 9.

"We're extremely disappointed and regret any inconvenience this has caused you. We look forward to returning to complete the M72 No Repeat Weekend in Glendale next Saturday," the band said in a statement, noting that "Covid has caught up with James Hetfield."

Metallica is currently on its M72 tour in the US and plays two concerts in every city.

The Arizona Republic reported that Metallica has been playing 16 songs every opening night since this tour hit the US, following "Seek & Destroy" with a set-closing "Master of Puppets."

The newspaper said fans at Friday night's show in Glendale got a 14-song set with no "Master of Puppets" and then announced Hetfield's illness on Saturday.



Director David Fincher arrives on the red carpet for his movie 'The Killer' in competition at the 80th edition of the Venice Film Festival at the Venice Lido, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 3. (AP)



Fujishima



Elizabeth II

Variety

**LONDON:** The changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace may draw tourists from far and wide, but on Sunday visitors to the landmark were treated to a different sort of spectacle: a parade of corgis dressed up in crowns, tiaras and royal outfits.

Around 20 royal fans and their pet corgis gathered to walk their dogs outside the palace in central London to remember **Queen Elizabeth II** a year since her death.

Corgis were the late queen's constant companions since she was a child, and Elizabeth owned around 30 throughout her life. Generations of the dogs descended from Susan, a corgi that was given to the queen on her 18th birthday.

**Agatha Crerer-Gilbert**, who organized Sunday's event, said she would like the corgi march to take place every year in Elizabeth's memory.

"I can't see a better way to remember her than through her corgis, through the breed that she loved and cherished through her life," she said.

"You know, I can't still get used to the fact that she's not physically around us, but she's looking at us. Look, the sun is shining, I thought it would shine on us today," she added.

**Aleksandr Barmin**, who owns a corgi named Cinnamon and has taken the pet to attend past royal-related events, said the parade was a poignant reminder that Elizabeth is no longer around.

"It's a really hard feeling, to be honest ... it's really sad that we don't have (the queen) among us anymore," he said. "But still, Her Majesty the Queen is still in our hearts."

Sept 8 will be the first anniversary of the death of the 96-year-old queen at her Balmoral castle estate in **Scotland**. She was queen for 70 years and was **Britain's** longest-reigning sovereign. (AP)

**TOKYO:** A group of men who say they were sexually abused by a Japanese boy band producer expressed hope Monday that the company will provide financial compensation and introduce measures to prevent a recurrence.

They say producer **Johnny Kitagawa** sexually preyed on young dancers and singers for decades, having them stay at



The Jonas Brothers perform at The Moody Center in Austin, Texas on Sunday, Sept. 3. (AP)

gawa, Fujishima's uncle, died in 2019 and was never charged.

A special team set up by the Tokyo-based company recently spoke to 23 accusers, but has said the total will likely balloon to at least several hundred people. The team also recommended Fujishima resign.

**Junya Hiramoto**, another member of Ishimaru's group, said they hope to set an example for others who have suffered.

"Our wounds never fade," Hiramoto said. "Do you think we aren't still hurting? Do you think we can forget? Do you know what it's like for us to come forward like this, filled with shame?"

Over the years, persistent allegations against Kitagawa have generally been dismissed as malicious rumors. Mainstream media stayed silent.

The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights has urged the Japanese government to act to make sure that Johnny's provides an apology and compensation and that government oversight of businesses be improved. The government has yet to take action.

Japan tends to be behind the West on issues of gender equality, children's rights and awareness about sexuality.

It was only after a BBC documentary about Kitagawa aired this year that the scandal again became a topic of scrutiny.

Another accuser, **Kauan Okamoto**, spoke at the Foreign Correspondents Club in April, saying he trusted foreign media more than Japanese media. Okamoto, like many others who have come forward, was part of a backup boys' group called Johnny's Jr. (AP)



Environment

‘Wreck a grave site’

US is fighting to block new Titanic expedition

NORFOLK, Va., Sept 4, (AP): The US government is trying to stop a planned expedition to recover items of historical interest from the sunken Titanic, citing a federal law and an international agreement that treat the shipwreck as a hallowed gravesite.

The expedition is being organized by RMS Titanic Inc., the Georgia-based firm that owns the salvage rights to the world’s most famous shipwreck. The company exhibits artifacts that have been recovered from the wreck site at the bottom of the North Atlantic, from silverware to a piece of the Titanic’s hull.

The government’s challenge comes more than two months after the Titan submersible imploded near the sunken ocean liner, killing five people. But this legal fight has nothing to do with the June tragedy, which involved a different company and an unconventionally designed vessel.

The battle in the US District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, which oversees Titanic salvage matters, hinges instead on federal law and a pact with Great Britain to treat the sunken Titanic as a memorial to the more than 1,500 people who died. The ship hit an iceberg and sank in 1912.

The US argues that entering the Titanic’s severed hull - or physically altering or disturbing the wreck - is regulated by federal law and its agreement with Britain. Among the government’s concerns is the possible disturbance of artifacts and any human remains that may still exist.

“RMST is not free to disregard this validly enacted federal law, yet that is its stated intent,” US lawyers argued in court documents filed recently. They added that the shipwreck “will be deprived of the protections Congress granted it.”

RMST’s expedition is tentatively planned for May 2024, according to a report it filed with the court in June.

The company said it plans to take images of the entire wreck. That includes “inside the wreck where deterioration has opened chasms sufficient to permit a remotely operated vehicle to penetrate the hull without interfering with the current structure.”

Artifacts

RMST said it would recover artifacts from the debris field and “may recover free-standing objects inside the wreck.” Those could include “objects from inside the Marconi room, but only if such objects are not affixed to the wreck itself.”

The Marconi room holds the ship’s radio - a Marconi wireless telegraph machine - which broadcast the Titanic’s increasingly frantic distress signals after the ocean liner hit an iceberg. The messages in Morse code were picked up by other ships and onshore receiving stations, helping to save the lives of about 700 people who fled in life boats. There had been 2,208 passengers and crew on the Titanic’s maiden voyage, from Southampton, England, to New York.

“At this time, the company does not intend to cut into the wreck or detach any part of the wreck,” RMST stated.

The company said it would “work collaboratively” with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the US agency that represents the public’s interest in the wreck. But RMST said it does not intend to seek a permit.

US government lawyers said the firm can’t proceed without one, arguing that RMST needs approval from the US Secretary of Commerce, who oversees NOAA.

The company has not filed a response in court. But in previous cases, it has challenged the constitutionality of US efforts to “infringe” on its salvage rights to a wreck in international waters. The firm has argued that only the court in Norfolk has jurisdiction, and points to centuries of precedent in maritime law.

RMST reiterated that stance in a statement to The Associated Press on Tuesday, noting that the court granted its salvage rights three decades ago. Since then, the firm said it has recovered and conserved thousands of Titanic artifacts, which millions of people have seen.

“The company will continue its work, respectfully preserving the memory and legacy of Titanic, her passengers and crew for the future generations,” RMST said.

In 2020, the US government and RMST engaged in a nearly identical legal battle over a proposed expedition that could have cut into the wreck. But the proceedings were cut short by the coronavirus pandemic and never fully played out.

The company’s plan then was to retrieve the radio, which sits in a deck house near the grand staircase. An uncrewed submersible was to slip through a skylight or cut the heavily corroded roof. A “suction dredge” would remove loose silt, while manipulator arms could cut electrical cords.

The company said it would exhibit the radio along with stories of the men who tapped out distress calls “until seawater was literally lapping at their feet.”

In May 2020, US District Judge **Rebecca Beach Smith** gave RMST permission, writing that the radio is historically and culturally important and could soon be lost to decay. Smith wrote that recovering the telegraph would “contribute to the legacy left by the indelible loss of the Titanic, those who survived, and those who gave their lives in the sinking.”

A few weeks later, the US government filed an official legal challenge against the 2020 expedition, which never happened. The firm indefinitely delayed its plans in early 2021 because of complications wrought by the pandemic.

Also:

**MARACAIBO, Venezuela:** The fishermen of Lake Maracaibo say they face their worst nightmare everyday as fish stocks decline and pollution degrades the health of this great freshwater lake, one of the oldest - and largest - in the world.

Lake Maracaibo, which once was at the heart of Venezuela’s oil boom, has turned into a polluted wasteland, according to environmentalists.

The pollution of the lake, located about 600 kilometers (372 miles) west of the capital, **Caracas**, is the result of decades of excessive oil exploitation, poor maintenance of the obsolete infrastructure and a lack of waste treatment plants in the area. Tens of thousands of kilometers of pipes lie at its bottom, where crude oil leaks and system failures are frequent.

The lake, which collects rainwater from more than a hundred tributaries, has also become the wastewater deposit for the western states of **Zulia, Mérida** and **Trujillo**, where 5.3 million people live. Waste from the Colombian department of Norte de Santander also ends up in it.

Fertilizers, sewage and other chemicals are discharged into Lake Maracaibo, causing high concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus that have led to the growth of cyanobacteria such as microcystin that produces 95% of what is locally called “verdin,” a greenish, toxic microalgae that occupies much of the lake’s waters, according to **Beltrán Briceno**, a professor at the University of Zulia and head of the microbiology laboratory of the Institute of Agricultural Research in Maracaibo.

The proliferation of cyanobacteria can cause serious damage to both aquatic animals and human beings due to the toxins they generate, he said. Cyanobacteria can cause massive fish deaths.

The fish no longer come near the shores of the lake because the microalgae “drowns them,” said **José Aular**, a 61-year-old fisherman who says he developed a skin rash because of the lake’s contamination.

Environmentalists say oil pollution in Lake Maracaibo began at the beginning of the 20th century but worsened in the early 1930s, when a canal was excavated at the northern end of the lake to allow large oil tankers to navigate and connect the lake with the open sea. Seawater flowed in, killing freshwater wildlife, such as some plants and fish.

Before, “you would go out fishing and catch 700 kilos (about 1,500 pounds) of shrimp” almost all the time, said Yordi Vi-cuña, a 33-year-old fisherman.



In this May 2023 photo provided by NASA, clockwise from bottom, NASA astronaut Stephen Bowen, United Arab Emirates astronaut Sultan al-Neyadi, NASA astronaut Warren (Woody) Hoburg and Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrei Fedyaev pose for a portrait in their pressure suits aboard the International Space Station. The astronauts are back on Earth after a six-month stay at the International Space Station. Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the Atlantic early Monday, Sept. 4, off the Florida coast. (AP)

Space

India’s moon rover completes its walk

4 astronauts back after 6-month ISS stint

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 4, (Agencies): Four astronauts returned to Earth early Monday after a six-month stay at the International Space Station.

Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the Atlantic off the Florida coast.

Returning were NASA astronauts Stephen Bowen and Warren “Woody” Hoburg, Russia’s Andrei Fedyaev and the United Arab Emirates’ Sultan al-Neyadi, the first person from the Arab world to spend an extended time in orbit.

Before departing the space station, they said they were craving hot showers, steaming cups of coffee and the ocean air since arriving in March. Their homecoming was delayed a day because of poor weather at the splash-down locations, but in the end, provided a spectacular middle-of-the-night show as the capsule streaked through the sky over Cape Canaveral toward a splashdown near Jacksonville.

The astronauts said it was incredible to be back. “You’ve got a roomful of happy people here,” SpaceX Mission Control radioed.

SpaceX launched their replacements over a week ago.

Another crew switch will occur later this month with the long-awaited homecoming of two Russians and one American who have been up there an entire year. Their stay was doubled after their Soyuz capsule leaked all of its coolant and a new craft had to be launched.

Between crew swaps, the space station is home to seven astronauts.

With the successful undocking of the Dragon spacecraft from the International Space Station (ISS), the Emirati astronaut Sultan Al-Neyadi and his six crewmates have started their journey back to Earth on Sunday.

The spacecraft was projected to touchdown off the coast of Tampa, Florida, in the Gulf of Mexico, Monday morning, UAE News Agency (WAM) quoted Director-General of Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBR-SC) Salem Humaid Al-Marri as saying.

The undocking is a historic moment as Al-Neyadi’s six-month mission is the longest one in the history of the Arab world, Al-Marri noted in a virtual news conference.

One of the MBRSC’s teams will focus on the safety of the astronauts and their medical rehabilitation to return

to normality, which will take a few weeks, he pointed out.

Another team will focus on the scientific experiments, while the administrative team will focus on the nature of the mission, administrative and organizational matters, as well as handling discussions with various parties, Al-Marri went on.

The UAE Astronaut Program is one of the projects managed by MBRSC under the UAE’s National Space Program and funded by the ICT Fund of the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA), which aims to support research and development in the ICT sector in the UAE and promote the country’s integration on the global stage.

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India’s moon rover has completed its walk on the lunar surface and been put into sleep mode less than two weeks after its historic landing near the lunar south pole, India’s space mission said.

Assingments

“The rover completes its assignments. It is now safely parked and set into sleep mode,” with daylight on that part of the moon coming to an end, the Indian Space Research Organization said in a statement late Saturday.

The rover’s payloads are turned off and the data it collected has been transmitted to the Earth via the lander, the statement said.

The Chandrayaan-3 lander and rover were expected to operate only for one lunar day, which is equal to 14 days on Earth.

“Currently, the battery is fully charged. The solar panel is oriented to receive the light at the next sunrise expected on September 22, 2023. The receiver is kept on. Hoping for a successful awakening for another set of assignments!” the statement said.

There was no word on the outcome of the rover searches for signs of frozen water on the lunar surface that could help future astronaut missions, as a potential source of drinking water or to make rocket fuel.

Earlier this week, the the space agency said the moon rover confirmed the presence of sulfur and detected several other elements. The rover’s laser-induced spectroscopy instrument

also detected aluminum, iron, calcium, chromium, titanium, manganese, oxygen and silicon on the surface, it said.

The Indian Express newspaper said the electronics on board the Indian moon mission are not designed to withstand very low temperatures, less than minus 120 degrees Celsius ( minus 184 degrees Fahrenheit) during the nighttime on the moon. The lunar night also extends for as long as 14 days on Earth.

**Pallava Bagla**, a science writer and co-author of books on India’s space exploration, said the rover has limited battery power.

The data is back on Earth and will be analyzed by Indian scientists as a first look and then by the global community, he said

By sunrise on the moon, the rover may or may not wake up because the electronics die at such cold temperatures, Bagla said.

“Making electronic circuits and components that can survive the deep cold temperature of the moon, that technology doesn’t exist in India,” he said.

After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India last week joined the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone.

The successful mission showcases India’s rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse and dovetails with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** desire to project an image of an ascendant country asserting its place among the global elite.

The mission began more than a month ago at an estimated cost of \$75 million.

India’s success came just days after Russia’s Luna-25, which was aiming for the same lunar region, spun into an uncontrolled orbit and crashed. It had been intended to be the first successful Russian lunar landing after a gap of 47 years.

Russia’s head of the state-controlled space corporation Roscosmos attributed the failure to the lack of expertise due to the long break in lunar research that followed the last Soviet mission to the moon in 1976.

Active since the 1960s, India has launched satellites for itself and other countries, and successfully put one in orbit around Mars in 2014. India is planning its first mission to the International Space Station next year, in collaboration with the United States.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center, in Fla, on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023. The rocket is carrying 21 Star-link satellites. (AP)



Kman



Richman

Ecology

**Deer infected with disease:** Scientists have confirmed that a captive deer at a northwestern Wisconsin shooting preserve has tested positive for chronic wasting disease.

State agriculture officials announced that the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the 3-year-old doe at Thundee Trophy Whitetails in Birchwood was infected, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

Records show the doe was transferred from Rodenkirch Whitetails and Genetics, a deer farm in Beaver Dam, to the preserve on Oct. 4. The disease hadn’t been found at either facility at the time of the transfer, although a doe at the Rodenkirch farm tested positive in March. As a result the doe at Thundee Trophy Whitetails was culled from that facility’s herd. The preserve has about 300 deer spread across 150 acres.

Chronic wasting disease is an always-fatal neurological disease in deer, elk and moose. It’s been found in 31 states, four Canadian provinces and several foreign countries, according to the US Geological Survey’s National Wildlife Center. It was first detected in Wisconsin in 2002.

Deer can be tested for chronic wasting disease only after they’re dead. State agriculture officials didn’t say when the doe at Thundee Trophy Whitetails was killed.

Wisconsin has about 300 deer farms or shooting preserves, according to state records. Forty-one have seen animals infected with chronic wasting disease since 2001. The disease has forced 22 facilities to depopulate.

Eight deer farms and 12 shooting preserves with the disease are still operating, according to state records. (AP)

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**‘Wild horses may be removed’:** The beloved wild horses that roam freely in North Dakota’s Theodore Roosevelt National Park could be removed under a National Park Service proposal that worries advocates who say the horses are a cultural link to the past.

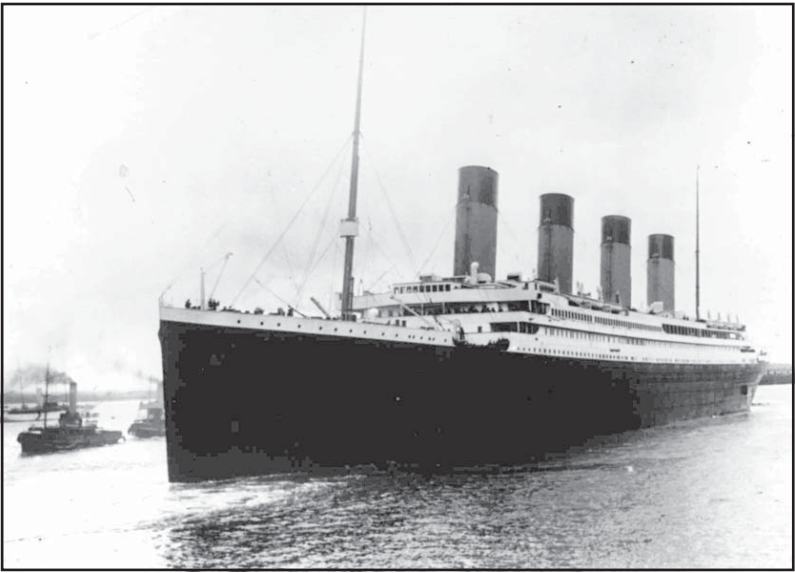
Visitors who drive the scenic park road can often see bands of horses, a symbol of the West and sight that delights tourists. Advocates want to see the horses continue to roam the Badlands, and disagree with park officials who have branded the horses as “livestock.”

The Park Service is revising its livestock plans and writing an environmental assessment to examine the impacts of taking no new action - or to remove the horses altogether.

Removal would entail capturing horses and giving some of them first to tribes, and later auctioning the animals or giving

them to other entities. Another approach would include techniques to prevent future reproduction and would allow those horses to live out the rest of their lives in the park.

The horses have allies in government leaders and advocacy groups. One advocate says the horses’ popularity won’t stop park officials from removing them from the landscape of North Dakota’s top



The Titanic leaves Southampton, England, on her maiden voyage, April 10, 1912. The US government is trying to stop a planned expedition to recover items of historical interest from the sunken Titanic shipwreck, saying any damage to the wreck or disturbing human remains would breach federal law and an international agreement. (AP)

tourist attraction.

“At the end of the day, that’s our national park paid for by our tax dollars, and those are our horses. We have a right to say what happens in our park and to the animals that live there,” Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates President **Chris Kman** told The Associated Press.

Last year, Park Superintendent **Angie Richman** told The Bismarck Tribune that the park has no law or requirement for the horses to be in the park. Regardless of what decision is ultimately made, the park will have to reduce its roughly 200 horses to 35-60 animals under a 1978 environmental assessment’s population objective, she previously said.

Kman said she would like the park “to use science” to “properly manage the horses,” including a minimum of 150-200 reproductive horses for genetic viability. Impacts of the park’s use of a contraceptive on mares are unclear, she added.

Ousting the horse population “would have a detrimental impact on the park as an ecosystem,” Kman said. The horses are a historical fixture, while the park reintroduced bison and elk, she said.

A couple bands of wild horses were accidentally fenced into the park after it was established in 1947, said Castle McLaughlin, who in the 1980s researched the history and origins of the horses while working as a graduate student for the Park Service in North Dakota. (AP)



## SPORTS

# Domínguez homers again as Yankees sweep Astros

Miller pitches Dodgers past Braves

**LOS ANGELES, Sept 4, (AP):** Rookie right-hander Bobby Miller threw a career-best seven innings of three-hit ball, and the Los Angeles Dodgers avoided a four-game sweep with a 3-1 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Sunday to complete their meeting of the NL's top two teams.

Miguel Rojas had an RBI double and Mookie Betts added a run-scoring single in the fifth for the Dodgers, who prevented Atlanta from sweeping a four-game series at Dodger Stadium for the first time. James Outman added an RBI single in the eighth for Los Angeles.



Alonso

Matt Olson hit his 44th home run in the seventh to pull even with Shohei Ohtani for the major league lead, but Atlanta's six-game winning streak ended with only its second loss on a 10-game West Coast trip. The Braves still have the majors' best record at 90-46.

Miller (9-3) underlined his ace potential with this effort against the powerhouse Braves less than four months after he made his major league debut with a solid outing in Atlanta. The 24-year-old retired 16 consecutive Braves between Marcell Ozuna's double in the second and Olson's homer, then finished the seventh to a standing ovation.

#### Yankees 6, Astros 1

In Houston, prized rookie Jasson Domínguez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning to help New York complete a three-game sweep of Houston.

It was the second home run in three career games for the 20-year-old Domínguez, who became the youngest Yankees player to go deep in his major league debut Friday night when he hit a two-run shot off Justin Verlander in his first at-bat.

Houston's weekend slide came after a five-game winning streak and it left the Astros a game behind the first-place Mariners and tied for second with the Texas Rangers in a tight AL West race.

For the last-place Yankees, the series was a bright spot in a dismal season. It was their first sweep of the Astros since September 2013.

#### Mets 6, Mariners 3

In New York, Pete Alonso homered twice and drove in four runs, reaching 40 homers and 100 RBIs for the second consecutive season as New York topped first-place Seattle.

Jeff McNeil also went deep - after finishing a homer shy of the cycle Saturday night - and the Mets took two of three games from the Mariners to hand them their first series loss since Aug. 11-13 against Baltimore.

Seattle began the day leading the AL West by one game over Houston.

Alonso hit an RBI single in the first inning before his two-run shot in the third made him the fifth player in major league history with at least three 40-homer seasons in his first five campaigns, joining Hall of Famers Ralph Kiner and Eddie Matthews as well as Ryan Howard and Albert Pujols.

#### Rangers 6, Twins 5

In Arlington, Adolis García homered leading off the bottom of the ninth inning after striking out his first four times up, lifting struggling Texas over Minnesota.

García drove in his 100th run of the season on his 34th homer, a 430-foot drive into the second deck in left field.

Mitch Garver was on deck when García connected off Josh Winder (2-1), having twice given the Rangers the lead with homers among his four hits and four RBIs.

Texas ended up squandering three leads before finally winning for just the fourth time in 16 games. The Rangers pulled within a game of Seattle, which leads the AL West after Texas spent 140 consecutive days atop the division.

Royce Lewis twice matched Garver to get the AL Central-leading Twins even, first with a three-run homer in the fifth after Garver's three-run shot in the first. Lewis' RBI single for a 5-5 tie in the eighth came after Garver's leadoff homer in the seventh.

#### Phillies 4, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Alec Bohm and J.T. Realmuto hit back-to-back homers to open the seventh inning and Philadelphia, held hitless until the sixth, defeated Milwaukee to avoid being swept.

Wade Miley (7-4) silenced the Phillies for much of the day as the Brewers built a 2-0 lead. He didn't allow a hit until Trea Turner's two-out single in the sixth. Nick Castellanos followed with an RBI double.

Turner added a two-out RBI single in the seventh that made it 4-2. He failed to homer after going deep in five consecutive games to tie a Phillies record.

William Contreras and Mark Canha homered for the NL Central-leading Brewers.

Philadelphia starter Ranger Suárez went four innings in his return from the injured list. Jeff Hoffman, Seranthony Domínguez (4-3), Matt Strahm, José Alvarado and Craig Kimbrel combined for five innings of scoreless relief. Kimbrel earned his 22nd save in 25 chances for the Phillies, who lead the crowded NL wild-card race.

#### Orioles 8, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Adley Rutschman and pinch-hitter Jordan Westburg each had a pivotal double in a four-run sixth inning, breaking open a tight game and sending Baltimore past Arizona.

The AL East-leading Orioles took two of three in the series, winning the

## BASEBALL

final two.

Arizona has lost five of six. The Diamondbacks are tied with the Giants and Marlins for the final playoff spot in the National League wild-card race.

The Orioles broke a 4-all tie in the sixth and chased NL Cy Young Award contender Zac Gallen (14-7), roughed up for a second straight start. Corbin Carroll, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Christian Walker homered for Arizona.

#### Rays 6, Guardians 2

In Cleveland, Taylor Walls drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Tampa Bay salvaged the series finale with a win over Cleveland, which missed a chance to gain ground on Minnesota in the AL Central.

Walls lined a single off Trevor Stephan (6-5) to bring home Jose Siri, who slid headfirst and safely around rookie catcher Bo Naylor's attempted sweep tag. Siri had walked with two outs and stole second.

René Pinto hit a two-run homer for the Rays, who added three runs in the ninth off reliever Eli Morgan.

#### Cubs 15, Reds 7

In Cincinnati, Ian Happ drove in four runs, Mike Tauchman and Cody Bellinger each had three RBIs and Chicago pounded Cincinnati to split a critical four-game series between NL Central playoff contenders.

Nick Madrigal and Tauchman each knocked in two runs with a bases-loaded single off All-Star closer Alexis Díaz in a seven-run Cubs eighth. Dansby Swanson added a two-run double.

The Cubs, who banged out 18 hits, scored three more in the ninth, including a solo homer by Jeimer Candelario.

Tyler Stephenson had three RBIs for the Reds, including a two-run homer in the second inning. TJ Friedl and Spencer Steer hit back-to-back homers in the first off Cubs starter Jameson Taillon.

#### Padres 4, Giants 0

In San Diego, Juan Soto homered for the third straight game and Manny Machado also connected as San Diego blanked San Francisco to win the final three games of a four-game series against the wild card-contending Giants.

Seth Lugo (6-6) held the Giants to three hits in six innings. Three relievers finished the four-hitter, with Josh Hader striking out three in the ninth.

Xander Bogaerts had four hits and Machado added three for the Padres, who will try to win four straight games for the first time this season Monday when they welcome Philadelphia, which beat them in the NLCS last year.

#### Marlins 6, Nationals 4

In Washington, Luis Arráez led off the game with his sixth homer and scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error in the ninth inning as Miami completed its first four-game sweep of Washington.

Sandy Alcantara (7-12) pitched eight strong innings and the Marlins moved three games over .500 in September for the first time in a full season since 2010. Miami is tied with San Francisco and Arizona for the final NL wild card, with Cincinnati just behind.

Arráez went 2 for 4 and scored twice. He raised his major league-leading batting average to .356.

#### Red Sox 7, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Masataka Yoshida hit a three-run homer and Adam Duvall had a solo shot to back Chris Sale as Boston beat Kansas City.

Sale (6-3) pitched five scoreless innings and struck out five, the first time he hasn't allowed a run in a start since July 12 last season.

The Red Sox have won two straight after losing five in a row and six of seven. They are 5 1/2 games behind Texas for the final AL wild card.

#### Tigers 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Spencer Torkelson hit a tiebreaking home run, Tarik Skubal pitched seven solid innings and Detroit ran its winning streak to four with a victory over Chicago.



Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Jose Herrera (left), tags out Baltimore Orioles' Adley Rutschman at home plate during the second inning of a baseball game in Phoenix. (AP)

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Sunday.

NY Mets	6	Seattle	3
Detroit	3	Chicago W. Sox	2
Boston	7	Kansas City	3
Texas	6	Minnesota	5
Toronto	7	Colorado	5
Baltimore	8	Arizona	5
Oakland	10	LA Angels	6
Tampa Bay	6	Cleveland	2
NY Yankees	6	Houston	1
Chicago Cubs	15	Cincinnati	7
Philadelphia	4	Milwaukee	2
Miami	6	Washington	4
St Louis	6	Pittsburgh	4
LA Dodgers	3	Atlanta	1
San Diego	4	San Francisco	0

American League

East Division					W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	85	51	.625	—				
Tampa Bay	83	54	.606	2 1/2				
Toronto	75	62	.547	10 1/2				
Boston	71	66	.518	14 1/2				
New York	68	69	.496	17 1/2				
Central Division					W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	71	66	.518	—				
Cleveland	66	71	.482	5				
Detroit	63	74	.460	8				
Chicago	53	84	.387	18				
Kansas City	42	96	.304	29 1/2				
West Division					W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	77	59	.566	—				
Texas	76	60	.559	1				
Houston	77	61	.558	1				
Los Angeles	64	73	.467	13 1/2				
Oakland	42	95	.307	35 1/2				

National League

East Division					W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	90	46	.662	—				
Philadelphia	75	61	.551	15				
Miami	70	67	.511	20 1/2				
New York	63	74	.460	27 1/2				
Washington	62	76	.449	29				
Central Division					W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	76	60	.559	—				
Chicago	73	64	.533	3 1/2				
Cincinnati	71	68	.511	6 1/2				
Pittsburgh	63	74	.460	13 1/2				
St Louis	59	78	.431	17 1/2				
West Division					W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	84	52	.618	—				
Arizona	70	67	.511	14 1/2				
San Francisco	70	67	.511	14 1/2				
San Diego	65	73	.471	20				
Colorado	50	86	.368	34				

Torkelson connected off Aaron Bummer (4-4) in the seventh inning for his team-leading 25th homer. Carson Kelly had a two-run double in the second as the Tigers completed a three-game sweep.

Eloy Jiménez and Elvis Andrus had RBIs for Chicago, which has lost three in a row and five of six. Tim Anderson got his 1,000th career hit.

#### Blue Jays 7, Rockies 5

In Denver, Whit Merrifield hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the ninth inning and Toronto beat Colorado to take two of three in the series.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered and singled to drive in a pair of runs and Spencer Horwitz, a late fill-in for ailing Brandon Belt, added three hits, including his first career home run to help Toronto remain 1 1/2 games behind Texas for the final AL wild card.

Hunter Goodman doubled twice and drove in three runs for the Rockies in a game interrupted by a 59-minute rain delay.

#### Athletics 10, Angels 6

In Oakland, pinch-hitter Tony Kemp had a two-run single that put Oakland ahead in a six-run seventh inning, and the Athletics rallied past Los Angeles to finish a three-game sweep.

Shea Langeliers added a two-run double for Oakland. Ryan Noda and pinch-hitter Seth Brown each launched a two-run homer in the sixth to begin the comeback after the last-place A's were held hitless through five innings.

Oakland blew a 4-3 lead in the top of the seventh on Luis Rengifo's 15th home run before storming back in the bottom half with the help of throwing errors by reliever José Soriano (0-1) and center fielder Mickey Moniak.

#### Cardinals 6, Pirates 4

In St. Louis, Jordan Walker homered and Zack Thompson tossed seven effective innings to lead St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

Nolan Gorman added a two-run single for the Cardinals, who avoided a three-game sweep. Alec Burleson broke a 3-all tie with a two-run single in the fourth.

Miguel Andujar homered for the Pirates, who had their five-game winning streak snapped.

## Rutgers rolls past Northwestern

# Travis accounts for 5 TDs, Florida State 'dominates' LSU in marquee matchup

ORLANDO, Fla., Sept. 4, (AP): Sitting in his hotel room the night before Florida State's season opener, Jordan Travis imagined how it would go against LSU.

Big plays? Yes. Touchdowns? Sure. A blowout? Absolutely.

Travis accounted for five touchdowns, including three to Michigan State transfer Keon Coleman, and the eighth-ranked Seminoles throttled No. 5 LSU 45-24 on Sunday night in the most anticipated matchup of college football's opening weekend.

The Seminoles delivered a dominant second half to extend their winning streak to seven and established themselves as an early season favorite to make the College Football Playoff.

They won this one primarily on fourth down.

FSU stopped the Tigers twice on fourth down in the first half, including once at the goal line, and scored the go-ahead touchdown one play after Travis connected with Lawrance Toahli for 41 yards on fourth-and-2. Travis ran in on the ensuing play to put the Seminoles ahead 24-17 and send most of the 65,429 in attendance into a frenzy.

Roughly 80% of those on hand were draped in garnet and gold. They got

## FOOTBALL

exactly what they wanted: a blowout to kickstart the program's most hyped season in nearly a decade. LSU was a 2 1/2-point favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

FSU won its final six games last season and then surprisingly returned nearly everyone for coach Norvell's fourth season, including Travis, stand-out receiver Johnny Wilson and stud pass rusher Jared Verse.

But the star of the opener was Coleman, who left East Lansing, Michigan, for greener grass in Tallahassee. He finished with nine catches for 122 yards, including scoring plays of 40, 21 and 7 yards.

Wilson added seven receptions for 104 yards and would have had better numbers had it not been for two drops.

Travis was at his best in the second half, connecting on 11 of 13 passes as the Seminoles took the lead for good. He sent most of the LSU faithful to the exits when he found South Carolina transfer Jaheim Bell down the sideline for a 44-yard score with 7 minutes remaining.

Travis completed 23 of 31 passes for 342 yards and the four TDs. He and Coleman hooked up for a 40-yarder to start the scoring, added a 21-yarder late in the second to tie the game at 14 and then connected on a 7-yard fade in the fourth.

Jayden Daniels wasn't nearly as effective for LSU in a showdown of two of the top three preseason Heisman Trophy favorites. He was 22 of 37 passing for 347 yards, with an interception and a 75-yard score in the waning minutes. He ran 15 times for 64 yards and was on the receiving end of the hit of night: FSU's Tatum Bethune hammered him to the ground after he attempted to leap another defender.

#### Rutgers 24, Northwestern 7

In Piscataway, Interim coach David Braun has been the point man for Northwestern football since a hazing scandal led to a coaching change, investigations and multiple lawsuits.

He was the guy most people approached for answers about what went wrong at the Chicago-based Big Ten university. The past two months have not been easy, but Sunday was a rare exception as Braun got to coach in the team's first game since the scandal.

Despite losing to Rutgers 24-7, Braun said, "I'll be honest with you, this is the lightest I have been since I



Oregon State quarterback DJ Uia-galelei (5) throws the ball as San Jose State defensive lineman Mata Hala (94) approaches in the first half of an NCAA college football game in San Jose, Calif. (AP)

took over."

Braun replaced longtime coach Pat Fitzgerald, who was first suspended and then fired after allegations of hazing surfaced in the summer and spread to other programs at the university.

Rutgers quarterback Gavin Muscato threw a touchdown and ran for another as the Scarlet Knights dominated the time of possession, controlling the ball for almost 38 minutes, while limiting the Wildcats to 22 yards rushing and 201 yards in total offense - the least they have allowed in a Big Ten game.

The loss was Northwestern's 12th straight dating back to last season.

Northwestern, which finished last season 1-11, had one positive moment - scoring with about 20 seconds to play on a 1-yard pass by backup quarterback Brendan Sullivan to Caleb Komo-lafe. Cincinnati transfer Ben Bryant started and finished 20-of-35 passing for 169 yards and two interceptions. He was sacked five times.

The Scarlet Knights (1-0, 1-0 Big Ten) scored on their first two drives, with Winsatt (17 of 29 for 163) hitting Ian Strong on an 11-yard pass to cap the first and running six yards for the second. The first TD was initially called incomplete but a review showed Strong had a foot down in the end zone. Jai Patel added a 32-yard field goal on the third drive after Braun gambled on a fake punt. Kyle Monangai scored on a 15-yard run in the third quarter.

Coming off a 4-8 season that included a 1-8 mark in the Big Ten, Rutgers coach Greg Schiano said his team played a clean game.

With their team down 17-0, many of the Northwestern (0-1, 0-1) fans at the game said they expected more from the Wildcats.

#### Oregon St. 42, San Jose St. 17

In San Jose, DJ Uia-galelei got off to a fast start for his new team, throwing three touchdown passes and running for two more to lead No. 18 Oregon State to a 42-17 victory over San Jose State.



Florida State wide receiver Keon Coleman (left), makes a reception over LSU safety Major Burns (8) for a 21-yard touchdown during the first half of an NCAA college football in Orlando, Fla. (AP)



New York Yankees starting pitcher Michael King throws against the Houston Astros during the first inning of a baseball game in Houston. (AP)



Spaniard has 2 titles in 3 years

# Palou wins Portland for early clinch of IndyCar championship

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept 4, (AP): Chip Ganassi stopped Alex Palou before Sunday's race at Portland International Raceway and encouraged his driver to use the race to close out the IndyCar championship.

Palou told the boss he planned to do it with a walk-off win.

And he delivered.

Palou is now a two-time IndyCar champion with Ganassi following a dominant run Sunday that gave him his series-leading fifth win of the season.

Ganassi then at last addressed

Palou's future with the team, which has been uncertain and at times contentious the last 14 months.

"Alex Palou is going to be in our car, I can tell you that, for sure," Ganassi said.

That wasn't so clear even last month, with Palou scheduled to join Arrow McLaren Racing in 2024 as an IndyCar driver. He already spent this year as McLaren's test and reserve driver in Formula One, but has had an apparent change of heart regarding his future.

"I am going to enjoy it as much as

possible, the win from today, the championship," Palou said in declining to discuss the contractual fight between driver, McLaren and Ganassi.

McLaren has filed a lawsuit in the United Kingdom seeking at least \$20 million in damages and to recoup money already advanced to Palou. McLaren claims it gave Palou an advance on his 2024 salary and covered his legal fees last year during mediation in Palou's attempt to join McLaren this year.

The settlement reached last September kept Palou in a Ganassi car in In-

dyCar for this season but allowed him to do F1 work with McLaren on non-conflicting weekends.

This third season with Ganassi for

## AUTO RACING

Palou - and fourth in IndyCar since the 26-year-old from Barcelona moved to the United States after a short stint racing in Japan - turned out to be the best of his career.

Palou locked up the title with one weekend remaining in the 17-race schedule, marking the first time in IndyCar the championship has been settled before the finale since the late Dan Wheldon won in 2005. Sebastien Bourdais in 2007 won the Champ Car title with one race remaining before the two series unified.

Palou this year led IndyCar in nearly every measurable statistic: wins, poles, podiums, top-five finishes, top-10 finishes, races led and laps completed. In fact, Palou finished all but two laps all

season and could have had a sixth victory but was spun on pit road during the Indianapolis 500 and had to drive his way back to a fourth-place finish in a race he seemed poised to win.

His lowest finish all season was eighth, twice.

Palou started the race with a comfortable points lead over Ganassi teammate Scott Dixon, the only driver mathematically eligible to challenge the Spaniard for the title. But it didn't matter what Dixon did in the race because if Palou podiumed, the championship would be over.

# Larson claims NASCAR opening playoff race, gets 1st career win at Darlington

'This is a track I really enjoy, suits my style'

DARLINGTON, S.C., Sept 4, (AP): Kyle Larson had led plenty of laps around Darlington through the years, just not the last one. He finally accomplished that Sunday with victory at the Southern 500.

Larson, the 2021 Cup Series champion, came into this event having been in front for 715 career laps at the track "Too Tough To Tame" without taking the checkered flag.

"This is a track I really enjoy, suits my style," Larson said. "I just hadn't won yet. Was good to do it today."

Especially because it puts his No. 5 Chevrolet into the second round of the NASCAR playoffs no matter where he finishes at the two remaining first-round races at Kansas and Bristol the next two weeks.

Larson led the final 55 laps for his first career win at Darlington.

"Adding this trophy to the collection is amazing," Larson continued. "This is one of three or four crown jewels."

Larson didn't have the fastest car at the Southern 500, just one that got out front at the right time while other contenders fell away.

## CAR RACING

Denny Hamlin led a race-best 177 of 367 laps and looked headed for the win before he felt vibrations for what he told his crew was a loose wheel and had to pit on consecutive laps.

"We controlled the race until we had some trouble," said Hamlin, who won the first two stages. "That's just part of it."

Tyler Reddick led 90 laps, yet lost the lead to Larson coming off pit road. Kevin Harvick, seeking the first victory of his final season, challenged Harvick for the lead with less than 60 laps remaining, but was penalized when he could not avoid entering the pits moments after they were closed by NASCAR after a caution came out.

Harvick was penalized and couldn't recover. He said he didn't have time to get back on the track before the commitment line.

It was a successful run at the track for Larson after several close calls. He has had three seconds and two thirds in his 11 previous Cup Series races at Darlington. In May, Larson was racing for the lead late when he was hit by Ross Chastain and wound up 20th.

"This has been one of my favorite tracks my whole career," Larson said. "Been really, really fast here my whole career, just usually in the wall."

The victory was also the 299th all-time for Hendrick Motorsports and the 500th motorsports win for the Hendrick engine program.

Larson won for the third time this season and took his eighth race in seven playoff appearances.

Cliff Daniels, crew chief for Larson's No. 5 Chevrolet, said he and his driver have dealt with lots of Darlington heartbreak through the years and were glad to end that.

"This track and this race has been circled on our calendar for a long time," Daniels said.

Playoff drivers took the first seven spots. Tyler Reddick was second, followed by Chris Buescher, William Byron, Chastain, Brad Keselowski and Bubba Wallace.

Harvick ended 19th and Hamlin 25th. The rest of the playoff field was Kyle Busch in 11th, Joey Logano in 12th, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. in 16th, Martin Truex Jr. in 18th, pole-sitter Christopher Bell in 23rd and Michael McDowell in 32nd.

The point standings have Bell as 12th on the playoff grid on the second-round playoff bubble. Those drivers on the outside of the next round after this week are Wallace, Harvick, Stenhouse and McDowell.

Byron, Larson's Hendrick Motorsports teammate and co-top seed with Truex, entered with a series-best five victories this year and was glad with the high finish.

"I think this is a good stepping stone for Kansas and good to get a solid first race in the playoffs," he said.

Ryan Preece, the Stewart-Haas Racing driver who endured a frightening crash at Daytona last week yet walked away largely unharmed, finished 28th at Darlington in his return to Cup racing.

Darlington fans, drivers and personnel said goodbye to track president Kerry Tharp, who announced his retirement after nearly two decades with NASCAR earlier this summer. Signs celebrating Tharp's eight-year tenure



Chanettee Wannasaen, of Thailand, holds the trophy after winning the LPGA Portland Classic golf tournament in Portland, Ore. (AP)

Inter Miami beat LAFC 3-1

# Messi stars in front of star-studded crowd in LA

LOS ANGELES, Sept 4, (AP): Inter Miami has been unbeaten since Lionel Messi arrived at the club in mid-July.

On Sunday night it played its best game of the season on the road against the defending MLS Cup champions.

Messi had two assists in front of a star-studded crowd in Inter Miami's 3-1 victory over Los Angeles Football Club.

"We've had many complex matches. I think because of the quality of the opponent today, this was one of the most challenging and the one that we performed the

LAFC's BMO Stadium.

It also vaulted into one of the most-demanded tickets in MLS' 27-year history.

According to TickPick, the average purchase price for the match was \$717, which was 515% more than the \$110 before he signed.

By comparison, Beyonce's concert at SoFi Stadium had an average purchase price of \$493.

Among the celebrities in attendance were Prince Harry, LAFC co-owner Will Ferrell, Leonardo DiCaprio, Selena Gomez, Owen Wilson, Mario Lopez and Edward

Norton. "Ted Lasso" stars Jason Sudeikis and Brendan Hunting also were at the game.

"It felt similar to a playoff game at the beginning, but I think that is what we expected," LAFC coach Steve Cherundolo said.

Sunday's match, though, will be Messi's last with Miami for at least the next two weeks. The 36-year-old will be part of Argentina's World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador on Thursday and Bolivia five days later.

"We will try to put together the best performance possible against

Kansas City (on Saturday)," Martino said. "We'll also hope that the players leaving come back healthy and well so that we can continue this stretch."

Messi has 11 goals and eight assists for Miami, which is eight points out of a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with eight regular-season matches remaining.

Alba and Sergio Busquets, who were Messi's teammate when they were at Barcelona, are also coming into form. Alba has two goals since coming to Miami while Busquets set up the pass for Messi that led to Alba's goal.

"They're playing in a disciplined manner," Cherundolo said of Miami. "It's very clear that they're extremely effective on the offensive end. What that means for opponents is you have to be the same because you're not going to have many chances."

Messi had a wide-open shot in front of the net in the 38th minute, but LAFC goalkeeper John McCarthy used his left foot to make the save.

Gomez, like many in the crowd, were surprised that McCarthy stopped a point blank shot by Messi. While McCarthy wasn't happy about the result, he did get Messi's jersey after the game.

"He got past one of our guys, I saw him about to pull the trigger and made myself as big as possible," said McCarthy, who made three saves in the match.

Farias, who turned 21 on Aug. 28, made his second start since joining the club in late July and scored his first goal in the 14th minute.

Tomas Aviles made a great pass at midfield as Farias was running up the right side of the field. Farias had an opening between two LAFC defenders and made a sliding shot with his outstretched right foot that beat McCarthy, hit the far post and bounced in.

Alba doubled LAFC's advantage in the 51st minute with a left-footer. Messi had a 2-on-1 breakaway in the 83rd minute before passing to Campana, who had a wide-open shot at the net.

Hollingshead averted the shut-out with a header off a corner kick.



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (right), dribbles past Los Angeles FC midfielder Timothy Tillman during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Los Angeles. (AP)



Kyle Larson (5) does a burnout after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, S.C. (AP)

'I don't give up'

# Wannasaen goes low with a 9-under 63 for Portland title

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept 4, (AP): Teenager Chanettee Wannasaen played a five-hole stretch in 6 under early in the final round Sunday and closed with a near-flawless 9-under 63

for a four-stroke victory at the Portland Classic to become the first Monday qualifier to win on the LPGA Tour since 2015.

"I'm really proud of myself because I really work hard for the trophy," Wannasaen said.

Wannasaen arrived at Portland ranked 367th and having missed nine straight cuts in her rookie season. The 19-year-old from Thailand credited her caddy for keeping her calm and put together four stellar rounds in the 60s at Columbia Edgewater. She shattered the tournament scoring record by five strokes with a 26-under 262 total for her first LPGA Tour victory.

"I don't give up. Yeah, I don't give up," Wannasaen said. "I always to work hard, to work hard for improve my short game, improve my mind, improve my play. I do everything to get a trophy."

Wannasaen is just the third qualifier to win on tour. Canada's Brooke Henderson was the last Monday qualifier to win, taking the same Portland event in 2015. The other qualifier to finish first was American Laurel Kean, who claimed the State Farm Classic in 2000.

Third-round leader Megan Khang failed in her bid to win consecutive events. The 25-year-old American, a winner a week ago the CPKC Women's Open at Shaughnessy in Vancouver, British Columbia - her first on tour - closed with a 1-under 71 and finished alone in sixth place at 19 under.

Khang was satisfied with her performance over the last two, tiring weeks.

"You know, game is pretty solid," she said after a round that included three birdies and two bogeys on the back nine. "I mean, I can't really say too much about today. A couple putts didn't drop, but overall, I mean, Chanettee played amazing. ... You're out there and there is nothing you can do about that. Gave myself a bunch of chances ... again, putts didn't drop."

Wannasaen, who had previously won on the Access Series of the Ladies European Tour and Thai LPGA, lost a playoff to Yue Ren last week



Khang

## GOLF

in Idaho in the Epson Tour's Circling Raven Championship. She admitted the extended run of missed cuts weighed on her, but she credited the Epson Tour with boosting her confidence.

Xiyu Lin of China closed with a 64 for a 22-under 266 total and was second. China's Ruoning Yin (64), American Gina Kim (66) and Spain's Carlota Ciganda (67) tied for third another stroke back.

Tied for second place entering the round, Wannasaen charged into the lead with birdies at Nos. 3 and 5, an eagle at the par-5 fifth, and two more birdies at the sixth and seventh holes - a stretch of 6 under that catapulted her into the lead at 23 under.

She carded a 30 on the front nine and was never really pressured on the inward nine, methodically playing the back and adding three more birdies to her total. She increased her advantage with consecutive birdies at Nos. 13 and 14, and added another at the 17th to increase her lead to five strokes with four to play.

"I really like this course because I can make a lot of birdies and I think the course is really beautiful and it's amazing course," Wannasaen said. "I really like it. Because like long time I cannot make a lot of birdie, but this course I can do that."

One of few hiccups in her final round came at the 72nd hole when Wannasaen, who hit 13 of 14 fairways, powered her approach long and over the green - one of three missed greens in regulation in the final round. She chipped short, but punctuated her bogey-free round and victory with a 10-foot par putt.

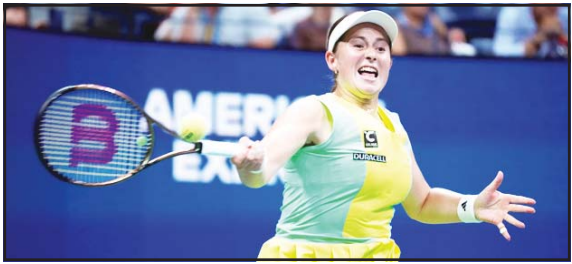
Lin, who changed her putting grip this week, feverishly tried to rally from an opening 71 that included two bogeys and a double-bogey. But, she just wasn't able to complete her comeback.

"I kind of wish I can cross the first nine holes I ever played off, and then I'll be 25 under," she said.

After rounds of 65 and 66, her plan was to go low on Sunday.

"I was going to go low because I was - I mean, I liked my position, but I was a little further behind than I expected. ... I knew I have to get it going. I wouldn't say I off to slow start, but it just - you know, if you want to have really, really low one you need to start from right at the beginning."





Jelena Ostapenko, of Latvia, returns to Iga Swiatek, of Poland, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

# Sports

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## Ostapenko ends Swiatek title defense

Gauff reaches consecutive US Open quarters

**NEW YORK, Sept 4, (AP):** Iga Swiatek arrived at the U.S. Open as its reigning champion, as the winner at three of the past six Grand Slam tournaments and as the owner of the No. 1 ranking for nearly 1 1/2 years.

None of that mattered on Sunday night against Jelena Ostapenko, whose powerful style disrupts Swiatek's rhythm - and beats her every time.

Swiatek's title defense at Flushing Meadows ended in the fourth round with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 loss to 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko in the fourth round at Arthur Ashe Stadium. The re-

### TENNIS

sult also means Swiatek's stay at atop the WTA will end next week, when current No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka will rise to the top spot for the first time.

Ostapenko accumulated 31 winners to 18 for Swiatek.

More importantly for Ostapenko, she finished with just 20 unforced errors - quite an improvement from the 80 she had in her second-round victory last week.

When a reporter mentioned Sunday's total, Ostapenko smiled and said, "Not bad."

In truth, this was not necessarily a huge surprise, based on their previous matchups: Ostapenko has now improved to 4-0 against Swiatek over their careers. No other player owns four victories against the woman who has led the WTA rankings since April 2022.

Coco Gauff is the first American teen since Serena Williams more than two decades ago to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals two years in a row, so the 19-year-old from Florida knows her way out of trouble on a tennis court.

As the second set slipped away against Caroline Wozniacki in the fourth round Sunday at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Gauff needed a chance to think things through after handing over a break with a pair of double-faults and a stumble that left her doing the splits.

So Gauff turned in the direction of the near-constant chatter coming from Brad Gilbert, one of her two coaches sitting in a front-row seat, and said, "Please stop." A couple of minutes later, Gauff said, "Stop talking."

That was while Wozniacki was grabbing four consecutive games to go up a break in the third set. And then, just as the match seemed to be slipping away thanks in part to a slew of unforced errors, Gauff straightened out her strokes and pulled way. She collected the last six games for a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Wozniacki, the



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns to Borna Gojo of Croatia during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

33-year-old mother of two who recently came out of retirement.

"I was getting frustrated. It wasn't really directed at him. It was just that I needed to reset," the sixth-seeded Gauff said. "In that moment, I just didn't want to hear anything. I just wanted to think about what I was doing."

Novak Djokovic did not encounter any of the sort of trouble he did in his previous match, eliminating qualifier Borna Gojo 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 on Sunday night to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

Djokovic - who has won three of his men's record 23 Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows - needed to come back from a two-set deficit in the third round before eventually winning in five against Laslo Djere.

This time, Djokovic played far more cleanly and was in control throughout. He finished with only 12 unforced er-

rors, while Gojo made 40.

"Just glad to get through in straight sets," said the second-seeded Djokovic, who already is assured of replacing Carlos Alcaraz at No. 1 in the ATP rankings next week.

Djokovic won five of the big-serving Gojo's 15 service games while only getting broken once himself.

Next up for Djokovic will be a match-up against No. 9 seed Taylor Fritz, a 25-year-old from California, who is the only remaining player in the men's bracket to not have dropped a set so far.

Djokovic owns a 7-0 head-to-head career record against Fritz.

Another women's quarterfinal matchup will be No. 10 Karolina Muchova against No. 30 Sorana Cirstea.

There is guaranteed to be at least one American man in the semifinals for the second year in a row. That's because No. 10 Frances Tiafoe, who

got to that stage 12 months ago, and unseeded Ben Shelton set up a quarter-final meeting with wins Sunday.

Fritz made it three men from the United States in the quarterfinals - the most since Andre Agassi, James Blake and Robby Ginepri got there in 2005 - by overwhelming Swiss qualifier Dominic Stricker 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4.

In the day's first match in Ashe, the 20-year-old Shelton hit a pair of aces at 149 mph (240 kph) - the fastest by anyone all tournament - in a single game and earned a debut trip to the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows by eliminating No. 14 Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

When the match ended, the muscle-shirt-wearing Shelton flexed his left biceps while standing under the section of seats where his father, a former touring pro who now coaches Ben, mother and sister were.

Mbappé strikes twice

## PSG rout Lyon to move above rivals Marseille into 2nd spot

**PARIS, Sept 4, (AP):** Kylian Mbappé's two goals put him top of the French league's scoring charts as Paris Saint-Germain won 4-1 at struggling Lyon for its biggest success of the season under new coach Luis Enrique.

The glossy-looking result should not disguise the poor quality of defending champion PSG's opponent. PSG's first goal was a carelessly conceded penalty, two were counterattacks and the other was a goalmouth scramble.

All of PSG's goals came in the first half against a dismal Lyon side. Captain Corentin Tolisso had complained about his team's performance last weekend, but failed to control a pass from his own goalkeeper and then clumsily hacked down PSG's Manuel



PSG's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the French League One soccer match between Lyon and Paris Saint-Germain at the Groupama stadium, outside Lyon, France. (AP)

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Ugarte for a clear penalty. Mbappé struck it cleanly down the middle past Portugal goalkeeper Anthony Lopes in the fourth minute, even though Lopes got a leg to it.

After right back Achraf Hakimi bundled in a cross that Lyon's defense failed to deal with in the 20th, attacking midfielder Marco Asensio and Mbappé finished clinically from fast breaks.

Mbappé has looked sharp since returning to the side following a transfer standoff. The France star's five goals puts him one ahead of Monaco striker Wissam Ben Yedder, a consistent rival for the top scorer award in recent seasons, and Nantes forward Mostafa Mohamed.

PSG remained unbeaten after four games and moved above bitter rival Marseille on goal difference into second place behind leader Monaco, which has 10 points and a healthy 13 goals.

Despite PSG's threat going forward, its goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma had already made four good saves by the time Tolisso's penalty reduced the arrears to 4-1 in the 74th, and new signing Ousmane Dembélé squandered numerous chances for PSG with erratic shooting.

Winger Bradley Barcola got a hostile reception from home fans when he came on later in the second half, after joining PSG from

Lyon near the end of the transfer window.

Seven-time champion Lyon was once a serious rival for PSG but is in crisis and in last place with only one point.

Lyon has scored the fewest goals (three), and also conceded the most (10) along with next-to-last Lens. The upcoming international break potentially comes at a good time for Lyon coach Laurent Blanc, who pledged to wake up his squad.

"If you're not aware that you have a problem, then you can't solve the problem," Blanc said. "As I said to my players, there will be talks but above all we all have to be truthful."

Fans displayed a derogatory banner telling Blanc - formerly in charge of France and PSG - to fight harder or resign.

"The fans have a right to be disappointed - with the team, the coach, with the technical staff - given what we've offered them," Blanc said. "But in our situation there's not just one person responsible."

Elsewhere, an early free kick from midfielder Yusuf Yazici was enough to give sixth-place Lille a 1-0 home win against Montpellier.

The Turkey midfielder struck a hard left-foot shot into the bottom corner after only two minutes for his first goal of the season.

Bilbao draw 0-0 at Mallorca

## Lewandowski scores late penalty as Barca edge Osasuna

**BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 4, (AP):** For a second straight game, Robert Lewandowski came to Barcelona's rescue after he earned and converted an 86th-minute penalty to grab a 2-1 win for Barcelona at Osasuna.

Lewandowski's winner came 10 minutes after substitute Chimy Ávila equalized for Osasuna. Barcelona defender Jules Koundé headed in the opening goal in first-half injury time.

Barcelona's win kept it two points behind Spanish league leader Real Madrid after four rounds.

Lewandowski also scored the winner for Barcelona in a 4-3 thriller at Villarreal last weekend. Also, Athletic Bilbao drew 0-0 at Mallorca.

"He is a natural-born scorer," coach Xavi Hernández said about Lewandowski, who helped Barcelona recover the league title last year after he arrived from Bayern Munich.

"Maybe he didn't have that many touches today, but even if he hadn't scored, it would have been a great game by him," Xavi said. "His goals have given us back-to-back wins."

The game in Pamplona included the debuts of João Cancelo and João Félix as second-half substitutes. The Portugal players joined Barcelona on loan deals just before the close of the summer transfer window on Friday night.

Osasuna played the final minutes with 10 men after Alejandro Catena earned a red card for his foul on Lewandowski with only goalkeeper Aitor Fernández to beat. Lewandowski's goal from the resulting penalty was his second of the season.

For Xavi, the win was not pretty but it was well earned at Osasuna, a team which reached the Copa del Rey final last season and whose physical style

puts most visitors to the test.

"We didn't play our best game, and in some stages we weren't patient enough or able to create scoring chances," Xavi said. "(But) the truth is the team worked hard. Today we put on our work clothes. We knew how to dig in and get the win."

Koundé broke through in first-half injury time when he brushed off his marker and headed a corner kick by İlkay Gundogan inside the far post and out of reach of Fernández.

Cancelo made his first appearance as a substitute just two days after he joined Barcelona on loan from Manchester City. The right back replaced Sergi Roberto with just over half an hour to go.

Shortly after, Osasuna coach Jagoba Arrasate renewed his entire attack, sending on Chimy, Ante Budimir and

Kike Barja. The hosts soon pressed Barcelona into defending its area.

Chimy's equalizer was similar to so many goals scored by fellow Argentine Lionel Messi for Barcelona. Apparently well marked by Alejandro Balde outside the area, Chimy sped from right to left along the edge of the box before unleashing a left-footed

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strike that curled around a group of defenders and went in off the post.

After Chimy's goal, Félix, who arrived from Atletico Madrid, went on with 10-plus minutes remaining.

Lewandowski and Frenkie de Jong linked up in time to pull out the win. De Jong, who had started the game

with a shot off the post, met a run by Lewandowski with a long ball that the Poland striker used one touch to control - just before he tumbled when Catena yanked his arm.

"We played a great game," Arrasate said. "It is too bad that we can't show anything for it. But this is the way forward."

Central defender Iñigo Martínez also made his Barcelona debut in the final moments of the game. The former Athletic Bilbao player had been injured since signing for Barcelona this summer as a free agent.

Sixteen-year-old Yamine Lamal made a third consecutive start for Barcelona. On Friday the teenager was called up for Spain's national team for the first time for upcoming European Championship qualifiers.

Atletico Madrid's home game against Sevilla scheduled for Sunday was postponed ahead of forecasts of heavy rain in central Spain, the Spanish league said.

The Spanish league said it postponed the match after considering the warnings from Spain's national weather service and the recommendation of Madrid's municipal government.

Cristian "Portu" Portuguese scored an 88th-minute winner to give Girona a 1-0 win over Las Palmas in his first game since returning to his former club.

The forward, who signed for Girona on Friday, had played for the Catalan club from 2016 to 2019 before stints with Real Sociedad and Getafe.

The undefeated Girona is the early surprise of the league and is level on points with Barcelona. Besides Las Palmas, Girona beat Sevilla and Getafe, and drew against Sociedad.



Osasuna's Aimar Oroz (left), and Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong compete for the ball during Spanish La Liga soccer match between Osasuna and Barcelona at El Sadar stadium in Pamplona, Spain. (AP)