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IRAQI COURT RULES NAVIGATION PACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Khor Abdullah ruling raises concern

Lawmakers react

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: In a “disturbing and worrying” development that comes two months after the outbreak of the ‘Durrah Gas Field’ crisis, which the Iranian side claims to have rights to -- along with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia -- the Federal Court in Iraq issued on Monday, a ruling that the House of Representatives ratification law is unconstitutional about the Iraqi agreement on regulating maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah between Iraq and Kuwait, signed in 2013, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted the court as saying: It “decided in its session held yesterday (in the case No.

105 and consolidated 194 / Federal / 2023) that the law ratifying the agreement between the government of the Republic of Iraq and the government of the State of Kuwait regarding the regulation of maritime navigation in Khor is unconstitutional.”

The agency went on to say, “The court issued its decision in violation of the provisions of Article (61/Fourth) of the Iraqi Constitution, which stipulates, “The process of ratifying international treaties and agreements shall be regulated by a law enacted by a two-thirds majority of the members of the House of Representatives.”

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is mum until this article went into publication and has not issued any comment and so did the legal sources.

Of the seriousness of the latest development, the sources pointed out that “the court’s decision regarding the invalidation of the ratification of the maritime navigation agreement in Khor Abdullah, and its unconstitutionality, came for “procedural” reasons, not substantive ones related to the content of the agreement, as it was issued in violation of the rules specified by Article (61) of the Iraqi Constitution in dealing with international agreements and treaties.”

Within this team, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and its former chairman, Representative Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Kandari, described the ruling as having “no value at the international level,” noting that “the Security Council’s decisions are decisive in this regarding our borders, but it will affect the remaining non-demarcated borders, specifically the maritime mark 162”.

Al-Kandari added, “the repudiation of the border agreement that came as a result of the Security Council resolution after Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait indicates bad intentions on the part of the Iraqi party that must be confronted firmly by the Kuwaiti government, the Foreign Ministry, and the Kuwaiti parliament.”

He added: “His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf should ask his Iraqi counterpart to resubmit the agreement, which he ratified in Baghdad on November 25, 2013 in implementation of Security Council Resolution No. (833) and which was invalidated by the Federal Court,



Kuwait Foreign Minister in a group photo with new diplomats.

KUNA photo

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New diplomats sworn in

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at his office on Monday 122 staffers of his ministry who have been promoted to the diplomatic and consular corps under the Ministerial Decree 128/2023 of April 18 and Article 20 of Act 21/1962.

They were sworn in by the minister who congratulated them on joining the diplomatic corps after passing the required training and academic program at Saud N. Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute.

Sheikh Salem voiced hope that the new diplomats, males and females, will show dedication to their careers and honor the oath of allegiance they have made to the homeland and His Highness the Amir.

He advised them to abide by the set rules and laws, the national values, and the basic principles of Kuwait’s diplomacy.

The minister asked the new diplomats to represent the State of Kuwait and serve the Kuwaiti nationals abroad in the best way.

He wished them success in their new professions under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the instructions of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Board Chairman of Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Omar Al-Omar refuted on Monday speculations on planning to block application of a certain social media website.

“CITRA usually does such a legal measure only when an application violates law,” the Center for Government Communication quoted Al-Omar as saying in a statement.

CITRA is the sole government body entitled to take whatever measures it deems necessary to protect the privacy of citizens and residents against any hacking, he added. (KUNA)

PARIS: French Minister of Defense **Sebastien Lecornu** will make a tour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait and the UAE between Wednesday, Sept 6, and Monday, Sept 11.

During his stay in Saudi Arabia, Lecornu will hold talks with Crown Prince **Mohammad bin Salman** and Minister of Defense Prince **Khaled bin Salman**, the French Ministry of Defense said in statement on Monday. (KUNA)

RABAT: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) decided to grant the Kingdom of Morocco the status of sectoral dialogue partner.

The decision was made during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in **Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia**, according to a statement released by the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates on Monday. (KUNA)

BERLIN: Austrian security officials said Tuesday they have broken up a suspected terror cell linked to the Islamic State group that consisted of nine young men and one woman. One suspect was detained.

The investigations and interrogations carried out so far show that the suspects have an attitude that is between “fundamental Islamic” and “terrorist.” Austria’s domestic intelligence service DSN said in a statement. (AP)

Day by Day

IT IS often said that sheep spend their entire lives in fear of wolves, only to meet their fate on the shepherd’s dinner plate. This serves as a cautionary note about the importance of being discerning when placing your trust in others, for someone you believe to be a friend may, in reality, be your foe.

Scorpions, despite their abundance, have a gruesome fate awaiting them. Upon giving birth, their own offspring devour them, sustenance derived from the flesh of their mother who, prior to this, had stung anyone who crossed her path.

Interestingly, scorpions are blind and, thus, remain ignorant of those in their vicinity. They resort to stinging and fleeing or killing before or after delivering their sting. It’s possible that those who engage in thievery on aircraft, and people’s homes, or misuse their positions may die like a scorpion. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Opinion

O leadership ... Be merciful to those on earth, and the One in heaven will have mercy upon you

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

FINALLY the Minister of Finance has been appointed. However, there is no doubt that he has several issues waiting for him that need solutions in order to help revive the national economy.

These issues include loans that are troubling a significant segment of Kuwaitis, especially since they were subject to many fallacies that were presented to decision-makers as facts when in reality it represents merely a smoke screen by the profiteers and the deep State, which has extended its arteries into all state institutions.

That is why whenever someone talks about this matter, there are those who rebuke him. In this there is no difference between a parliamentarian and a citizen. The profiteers therefore sought to throw the political taboo on the National Assembly when a group of parliamentarians proposed some solutions.

Likewise, those who reveal the facts have been feared to the extent that everyone has become afraid to dissect the problem, find out the root of the disease, and eradicate it, in order to comfort Kuwaitis who fear the moral terrorism practiced on people.

In this regard, it must be said - When a segment of citizens borrowed loans, it was not merely for frivolity, but rather out of necessity, especially since salaries had not been raised in the last 15 years despite the continuous rise of inflation to the point that the salaries of low-income people are no longer enough.

Our forefathers once said, “There is nothing as depressing as a debt, for it diminishes faith and affinity. Debt brings anxiety at night and humiliation during the day. Hence, beware of debts, for its beginning is stressful and its end is conflict.”

Therefore, the talk about a debtor resorting to borrowing again after being forgiven is misplaced. Those who borrowed due to need will not go back to borrowing again due to the humiliation that he endured.

However, usurers, blackmailers, and envious people, especially those close to decision-makers, sought to decorate the truth with shiny veneers of falsehood.

In many countries, physical coercion is not practiced on the debtor, and there is no arrest and summons, no travel ban, no imprisonment, or confiscation of his house or car.

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Health conditions stable

EG.5 virus variant under control

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: While a number of countries announced an increase in cases of infection with the new “Corona” variant (EG. 5), Kuwaiti health sources said the epidemiological and health conditions associated with the virus “Covid 19” and its variants in the country is stable, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily quoting Health Ministry sources explained that the few infections that were discovered have been and are being treated, and the new mutant is “under control, has mild symptoms and risks, and does not rise to the level of a pandemic.”

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Other Voices

Why I decided to establish a centre for research and studies

By Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor
UAE businessman

The official opening of the Al Habtoor Research Centre in Cairo, Egypt, is just days away. This centre commenced operations nearly a year ago, meticulously completing all its preparations, and it has functioned efficiently ever since. It now holds a talented group of Egyptian and Arab youth with promising research skills.

As the invitations were distributed for the launch event, I encountered numerous inquiries about why an entrepreneur would establish a non-profit think tank. This question is understandable, given that it’s an unconventional approach in our Arab world and the broader region. Before addressing this query, it’s crucial to clarify that my role as a businessman comes second to my role as a concerned citizen deeply invested in Arab affairs. I carry the weight of my homeland’s concerns and issues and constantly strive to contribute to its betterment. Business and public affairs are not mutually exclusive but interconnected. Thus, it’s essential not to disconnect from societal concerns, especially for profit-driven enterprises.

Our region was not immune to external shocks, starting with the events of September 11, which focused attention on the region following the massive changes that occurred beneath the surface of our Arab societies, but we were caught off guard by them with the planes colliding with the New York towers and the Pentagon headquarters in Washington. The same shock occurred again in 2008, with the consecutive collapse of global financial institutions as a result of financial behavior that these institutions had engaged in for many years. It was important to note, monitor, and warn about the repercussions. Although the wave of bankruptcy began in the United States, its flames spread to the region and put pressure on its people, raising food prices and with it, political pressures until they reached a critical mass, with demonstrations erupting throughout the region in 2010 and 2011, with Arab national security suffering its worst blow since the 1960s.

After this wave passed, another parallel occurred in the years 2019 and 2021, when the COVID-19 crisis caught us off guard, followed by the Russian-Ukrainian war, which put us in the same situation again, threatening our Arab reality after it took us ten years to regain some of its health, at exorbitant costs that will be paid by future generations.

Between these two waves, I initiated an individual effort to publish several articles in Arab and international newspapers, looking forward

to the future of my country and warning of the threats that threaten it from all sides. Most of them happened now, prompting me to include them all between the covers of a book titled “Is Anybody Listening? How world leaders ignored prescient warnings about the Middle East, it was published in 2012, demonstrating that what I predicted matched what transpired literally years later, which would have sufficed us with shock hazards and reduced their costs if we had anticipated and planned for them.

It’s no secret that the Arab world faces challenges and a shortage of think tanks, including limited funding, lack of international cooperation, technological and data deficiencies, and an insufficient research workforce. In contrast, many countries worldwide heavily rely on strategic studies and research to inform their decisions, enabling progress in technology, education, and sustainable development.

This strengthened my resolve to place these efforts in an institutional framework that would magnify, supplement, and address the world through competencies that would devote their entire time to examination, study, and scrutiny, to broaden the circle of prediction and deepen the capabilities of foresight, especially since I had become convinced that we would inevitably face other, more severe waves. Deader, with a greater effect, and coming from unusual and unexpected realms.

That is why I established the “Al Habtoor Research Centre,” and I was eager to include pure, well-qualified young Arab talent, so that they could pick up where I left off in the fields of foresight and early warning, in order to achieve the previous goals and add two new dimensions to it: First, raise awareness of Arab public opinion, which has become increasingly targeted by the outside world in order to impose a global agenda that may not be compatible with our common Arab interests, and secondly, creating more elites who bear the two preceding tasks - foresight and addressing the public - in a way that broadens participation, increases impetus, and shortens the time it takes to achieve goals.

Finally, Al Habtoor Research Centre intends to place all its outputs on the table of Arab decision makers, as an additional perspective to the valuable inputs that our Arab nation’s leaders have in the decision-making process, but with young eyes and from the non-profit civil society, in a way that maximizes the neutrality of the outputs and avoids biases.

Thus, the Al Habtoor Research Centre translates an endeavor that I began fifteen years ago, which represents my principal interest in my society’s concerns and expresses my being an inseparable part of its Arab surroundings. Everything that propels it forward benefits me, shields it from the evil of impending shocks, and opens the way to realization. A more secure and wealthy future.



Al Habtoor

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:06	Asr	15:19
Sunrise ..	05:27	Maghrib ..	18:06
Zohr	11:47	Isha	19:25

Local

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

Weather

with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 06-32 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		
Kuwait City	44	33	Kuwait Airport	46
			Abdaly	48
			Salmiyah	42
			Ahmadi	41
			Nuwaisib	44
			Wafra	46
				28
				29
				32
				33
				28
				16

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

'KFAED plays vital role in nations' development'

Charity, philanthropic work pillar of Kuwaiti foreign policy: diplomat

By Hanan Al-Saidi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti foreign policy is based on many principles and pillars including supporting charitable and philanthropic work in most countries around the world, said a Kuwaiti diplomat on Tuesday.

In an interview with KUNA, marking the UN's International Day of Charity on September fifth, Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Affairs Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan affirmed that the State of Kuwait was always known as a country that aided others during time of crisis and empowered the poor.

This was based on humanitarian, religious and social obligations that Kuwait and its people carry with pride, added the diplomat.

He went on to say that on the government level, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) played an integral role in promoting development in all nations especially the ones who were struggling financially to implement their development goals.

The KFAED provided loans and grants to enable various countries to achieve their welfare and progress, affirmed Al-Mashaan.

On the private level, Kuwaiti charitable societies were well known for their efforts in several countries, responding to the ones in need and assisting them in case of natural disasters and plight.

In regards to the Foreign Ministry efforts, Ambassador Al-Mashaan re-

vealed that the ministry was tasked, according to a cabinet decision on October seventh, 2001, to supervise and organize Kuwait's charitable efforts abroad in line with the country's status as a UN global humanitarian center, an honor earned in 2014.

The UN also chose the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a humanitarian leader the same year due to Kuwait's extensive relief aid efforts.

The Foreign Ministry's Development and International Cooperation department as well as the country's diplomatic missions abroad coordinate charitable efforts by Kuwaiti entities wherever they may occur, stated the diplomat, affirming that this procedure was done to protect the integrity of Kuwaiti charitable efforts abroad from fraud and misuse.

He revealed that the ministry also developed a database for charitable and humanitarian efforts, providing necessary information for foreign entities in regards to numbers pertaining to Kuwait's charitable work.

Ambassador Al-Mashaan reiterated that such database made Kuwaiti charitable efforts transparent to the world and also avoided the misuse of the money in insidious plots such as terrorism and money laundering.

The database also collects information regarding foreign charitable entities, which need to register with the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's missions abroad, said Al-Mashaan, noting that around 951 were registered thus far and Kuwaiti charitable organizations could cooperate with them to help those in need.

He also noted that donations online given to any charity would go through the Masar "the path" electronic service for humanitarian efforts, which in turn

is supervised by the ministry for further security and assurance.

Once the donations were in the foreign ministry's account, they would coordinate with trustworthy foreign charitable entities for distribution of relief aid and assistance.

Furthermore, Al-Mashaan said, Kuwaiti charitable organization would be assisted by the Foreign Ministry to deliver the necessary finances and materials to those who really need it.

He indicated that charitable organizations would need to register with the Foreign Ministry before heading out to do their work.

He asserted that the Foreign Ministry would develop its humanitarian work system and would be launching the Bayan "clarification" platform aimed at protecting charitable finances from being hacked by shady entities like terrorists and money launderers.

The Kuwaiti leadership had always tasked government entities to respond to disasters and humanitarian crises wherever they were, said Al-Mashaan who noted that the earthquake, which his Syria and Turkiye earlier this year, saw a swift response from the Kuwaiti side, which sent urgent aid upon direction from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwait also responded to the humanitarian situation in Sudan, sending several planes laden with relief aid to the fellow Arab country witnessing armed strife.

Al-Mashaan affirmed that Kuwait -- under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah -- will continue to answer the call of those in need regionally and internationally.



Al-Mashaan



KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA) photo
Kuwait Deputy FM Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is seen at the 43rd ASEAN summit opening session.

Deputy FM at ASEAN meet opening

Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attended the 43rd ASEAN Summit's opening session, held earlier on Tuesday in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the ASEAN session on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who received an invitation from Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi. (KUNA)

MP queries MPW minister if team to Doha is competent

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: MP Marzouq Al-Hebini has forwarded queries to Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz about her visit to Qatar recently.

He wants to know the names and jobs of the members of the delegation that accompanied Bugamaz; if any of the members are experts in paving and maintaining roads; their names, positions, nationalities and appointment dates if the response is in the affirmative; and reasons for their participation if the answer is 'no'.

MP Majed Mused Al-Mutairi asked Bugamaz about the type of license granted to Jazeera Airways; if the license allows the airline to establish Terminal Five; copies of all contracts signed with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) or Ministry of Public Works; if the State Audit Bureau (SAB) recorded violations of Jazeera Airways; measures taken by DGCA regarding the violations if any; if it is true that the airline has yet to pay its debts estimated at KD 600, 000 to DGCA; steps that DGCA took to collect the money; correspondences with the Legal Advice and Legislation Department about the issue; if a fact-finding committee was formed to investigate the violations committed by the airline as a result of occupying a State property and establishing a power transformer unit on the public property without a permit; if the committee reported the violations but no penalty has been imposed till date; if the



Majed Al-Mutairi

airline submitted a request to establish a new terminal, manage it for 50 years and hand it over to the State afterwards; and correspondences with the Ministry of Public Works, Legal Advice and Legislation Department and other monitoring institutions to obtain their approval.

MP Dawood Maarefi forwarded queries to Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Mane about the number of employees at the Ministry of Education classified as follows: Kuwaitis, children of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners, Bedouins and expatriates; actual Kuwaiti manpower needs of the ministry, number of Kuwaiti fresh graduates appointed from 2020 to 2023; and number of expatriate consultants at the offices of the Minister of Education and the assistant undersecretaries.

MP Hamad Al-Matar asked Al-Mane about the number of seats allocated for Kuwaiti students taking Medicine at the universities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and list of Kuwaiti students accepted in the faculties of Medicine in the UAE for academic year 2023/2024 indicating those who graduated from private schools and those graduated from public schools.

MP Abdullah Al-Mudhaf asked Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Jaseem Al-Ostad if the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has announced distributing plots for breeding chicken in Shaqaya in the last five years, if the concerned department at PAAAFR was tasked to allocate and oversee these plots, number of allocated plots, date of granting each plot, if the beneficiaries paid the bank guarantee, amount of bank guarantee, and if the beneficiaries include companies and individuals.

'Move takes effect Wednesday'

Recovery of 'Transportation' debts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Ministry of Interior has announced the implementation of a decision aimed at recovering debts owed by foreign nationals to the Ministry of Transportation before their departure from the country. This measure is set to take effect starting this Wednesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry's General Department of Security Relations and Media issued a press statement on this matter today, Tuesday. The decision is in line with the directives of Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, emphasizing the importance

of cooperation between government entities and the Ministry of Interior in the process of debt collection from departing foreigners.

It was clarified that any foreign national intending to leave the country, regardless of the reason for their departure, must settle any outstanding bills through the Ministry of Transportation's website or the Sahel application.

Furthermore, a plea was made for everyone to strictly abide by the established legal provisions and avoid any breaches, as the Ministry is fully committed to upholding security and public order within the country.

Kuwait-US to up use of AI

Global AI economy set to surpass \$34 tln by '27: report

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Kuwait James Holtsnider expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the visit of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Office of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Paul Dean, who held distinguished meetings with the Kuwaiti side for enhancing cooperation in areas related to systems and legislation on artificial intelligence, especially in the weapons sector, reports Al-Anba daily.

He said, "Artificial intelligence has contributed to changing the world around us. Everyone needs to know how to deal with this technology and cooperate together to obtain the best results. Kuwait is a major partner for us, so it is important for us to share our experiences with such technology."

Regarding whether they fear artificial intelligence technology being infiltrated by terrorists, Holtsnider said, "This is one of the reasons that prompted us to hold such conversations with our friends who have the same ideas and are working in a responsible manner to develop legislation and regulations that will prevent terrorists and criminals from misusing this innovation. Artificial intelligence plays a role in changing our lives for the better and is spread throughout the world, but we still do not know how it will change our lives."

Regarding the latest developments in removing the names of Kuwaitis from the terrorist list, Holtsnider said, "I do not have any new information about this matter."

Regarding the arrival date of the new ambassador, he said, "She will begin her work on September 5. She needs one vote from the Senate so that she can come to Kuwait and carry out her work duties."

KUNA adds:

The global Artificial Intelligence (AI) economy is expected to exceed USD 34 trillion by 2027, according to a new report published Tuesday from an analytics center studying the impact of the emerging market on global economic growth.

The report, published by AI Industry Analytics (AiiA), a specialised subsidiary of Deep Knowledge Group, focused on market intelligence and analysis of the AI industry, providing a clear indication that the global AI-based economy is poised for substantial and dynamic growth in the coming years, in terms of AI's impact on the global economy.

The report represents the first-of-its-kind comprehensive assessment of the Global AI economy within the scope of the "rapidly evolving" AI landscape, delivering quantitative and tangible insights to industry stakeholders and decision-makers.

The impact of the AI market was assessed in publicly-traded corporations, private companies, investors, hubs and government-funded projects, as outlined in the detailed report, allowing for a more pragmatic assessment of the true impact of AI on the global economy and a more data-driven understanding of the actual size of the global AI industry, the report said.

To develop these estimates, AiiA utilized AI algorithms to map the entire global AI market, profiling 50,000 companies, 20,000 investors, 2,000 AI leaders, 2,500 R&D hubs and 300 government organisations by adapting, retuning and building upon techniques and analytical frameworks previously developed by Deep Knowledge Group for its assessments of AI's impact in multiple industrial and regional domains.

Having developed the methodological foundations for these analyses over the past decade, and having further refined their application to specific AI industrial domains over the past five years, the Group found itself uniquely equipped in 2023 to turn its attention to dedicated AI industry analytics, it said.

This first iteration in an ongoing series of Global AI Economy Size Assessments undertaken by AiiA adds substance and depth to something that we all know, and which has become very obvious to the general public in recent months: that AI is here to stay, and will be witnessing both unprecedented levels of growth as well as driving the expansion, disruption, modernization and diversification of countless other industries caught in its wake.

These kinds of assessment lay the groundwork for the important process of AI industry structuring and commoditization, which will be required to leverage AI's true potential, de-risk investments, unlock capital, and bridge the gaps between tech industries, added the report.



Sheikha Hala Al-Badr Al-Sabah opens the exhibition.

Stamp, coins exhibition opens

The Kuwait Society of Stamps and Currency Collectors actively participated in the activities of the 15th Cultural Summer Festival hosted at the Second International Stamps and Coins Exhibition.

This exhibition took place at the Kuwait National Museum and showcased an array of currencies, both Kuwaiti and international, spanning various materials such as gold, silver and copper, as well as an assortment of coins and

banknotes.

Collecting stamps and coins is recognized as one of the world's most significant hobbies, offering cultural and educational benefits to enthusiasts, alongside potential financial advantages. Each coin carries a fragment of a nation's history and proudly displays its most prominent symbols, landmarks, as well as its rich heritage and historical artistry. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Censorship, triviality, 'wasta'

By Ahmad alsarraf

The son of renowned Kuwaiti sculptor Sami Muhammad Al-Saleh recently returned home from Azerbaijan bearing a unique souvenir. Growing up in a household immersed in culture and the arts, he brought back a 40 cm tall and 20 cm wide sculpture depicting a man and a woman standing face to face with a space between them. However, things took an unexpected turn when the customs inspector took issue with the statue, claiming that it portrayed a forbidden gesture, suggesting that the man and woman were about to kiss.



alsarraf

After some heated debate, the inspector relented, perhaps due to recognizing the young man as the son of Sami Al Saleh. This incident later became the subject of widespread discussion.

This incident prompts us to reflect on where we stand and how we have arrived at such a state of rigid and narrow thinking. Is this still the Kuwait we once knew, a place that has long embraced art, culture, literature, and beauty? How can a customs inspector object to a small sculpture brought to Kuwait by the son of an artist like Sami Al Saleh, whose precious and esteemed sculptures have adorned the living rooms of countless Kuwaiti homes?

This unfortunate incident brings to mind a personal story from 33 years ago when I returned to Kuwait after living in England for some time. I arrived just days before the infamous Iraqi invasion. As requested, I visited the Kuwait General Administration for Customs (GAC) to address some inquiries regarding the contents of a container holding my household furniture.

To my dismay, I discovered that GAC had seized all my books, including valuable reference materials for research. Some of these books focused on history and were by no means subject to confiscation or prohibition. Moreover, the customs inspector's rudeness and ignorance led to the distortion of statues representing animals or human figures, all under the pretense that they were forbidden.

I reached out to the then-chairman of GAC, Abu Abdullah Al Ghanim, who promptly rescinded the confiscation and referred the matter to the Ministry of Information. The inspector at the Ministry of Information, of another Arab nationality, exhibited little understanding of the English language and appeared to have not read any books since leaving school.

He carelessly piled the books at his feet and began assessing them as if they were mere vegetables. Lacking the ability to read the content, he judged the books solely by their titles. A book by Ibn Rushd was banned because its cover depicted a turbaned man, while another book, "Lady Chatterley's Lover," was permitted solely because its cover did not appear provocative, despite being banned in England at one point. The same arbitrary judgments were applied to the rest of the books.

It becomes evident that we, like many other Third World nations, face challenges in our intellectual and cultural evolution.

This issue persists because there is no so-called "fourth world." The task of book and research censorship, crucial for academics, intellectuals, and researchers, often falls to individuals who are intentionally chosen for their ignorance. Limited knowledge and narrow-mindedness are seen as qualifications for these inspectors, as per the judgment of senior officials.

□ □ □

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'Govt, parliament's co-op vital to tackle systemic flaw in education'

"IT seems that education, despite its extreme importance in building the future, has become at the bottom of the ladder of governmental and parliamentary attention, as the educational file, both the school and higher parts, suffers from several issues and negatives, as there are many thorny issues in the educational sector, and there are no efforts to even resolve them. Here, I do not place all the blame on the government. Rather, the Education Committee in the National Assembly bears the burden of many negatives. Recently, the committee seemed selective in its adoption of educational issues," columnist **Asrar Johar Hayat** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Without delving into the details of the education system's deteriorating state, particularly the educational setbacks experienced by students across all levels, we are currently confronted with a concerning situation that vividly highlights the government and the Council's neglect of the education sector. At present, nearly all key positions in the education sector, from primary to higher education, are being filled through appointments.

"It appears that the government has overlooked the fact that we are on the cusp of a new academic year, a time when preparations should ideally be in full swing for a smooth start, both at schools and universities. However, in Kuwait, the previous academic years have consistently suffered from inadequate preparation, despite the presence of education ministers and deputy representatives. So, what will be the situation this year when there is no educational leader in a firm position?

"In fact, the situation has escalated to the point where the appointed Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education effectively serves as the head of the administration. This scenario is unacceptable in a country that allocates a substantial annual budget of two billion dinars solely for school education. Regrettably, the return on this investment in future generations falls far short of our aspirations, as evidenced by the underwhelming educational outcomes.

"The education sector undeniably ranks among the government's most crucial responsibilities, and it should be managed with utmost diligence. Education represents our investment in the generations to come. Just as having financial security for these future generations, symbolized by the reserve for future generations, is essential, establishing a robust educational foundation is equally vital. This foundation ensures that we nurture national competencies, skills, and a capable workforce to steer our nation for decades ahead.

"The government and the Council's inattention to education is striking. Today, we are constructing universities and schools in various countries, yet our exceptional students struggle to secure placements in fields that match their aspirations. Notably, the top-performing students are denied admission to Kuwait University's medical colleges, which continue to admit only 150 students annually, despite decades since their establishment. This results in the rejection of Kuwait's exceptionally talented youth.

"There exists a systemic flaw in education that necessitates both governmental focus and parliamentary oversight, supported by appropriate legislation. This issue must take precedence as the primary area of collaboration between these two authorities."

Also:

"Undoubtedly, the economy is considered the backbone of every nation. A country with a strong economy is also politically strong and vice versa. A country with a weak economy is also weak politically and internationally. I mean in terms of influence on the international or even regional map," columnist **Eng Talal Al-Enzi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Countries with a professional financial management system, solid economic foundation and standards have strong and cohesive economies. One of the most important criteria for a strong economy is the diversity of the State's sources of income. The State cannot depend on a single or two sources of income. Countries with a professional financial management system create other sources of income.

"If a State depends on oil as the only source of income, it usually creates new sources of income like agriculture, industry, international trade and financial industry. It is very dangerous for any country to be dependent on a single income stream.

"Let us look at the situation of Kuwait. It is known that more than 95 percent of its income comes from oil. Today, there are many alternatives to oil such as solar energy, wind energy and coal. Even the vital products that used to depend on oil like cars can now function by using electricity, not to mention that oil is a depletable resource.

"We do not know how long it will last – whether its existence or value.

"Did our government and its financial management system think about the post-oil era? I do not think so. Does it have alternatives? I do not think so. Do we have income from tourism? Of course none and a million no in a country where there is nothing – not even a tourist facility. Do we have income from agriculture? Of course not. Farmers are warriors and government support for agriculture is almost nil.

"Do we have income from the industry? Of course none. Do the products of our factories invade the world like Saudi Arabia's industries? Of course not.

"What have our esteemed governments been doing regarding this important file? Is this issue not worth the development of plans and strategies to create various sources of income? Is the government aware of the danger of total dependence on one source of income?

"I hope the current government pays attention to this important file, and works hard to develop the country and create new sources of income. Kuwait has sufficient human, financial and geographical resources to diversify its sources of income. Attention must be given to the human element, as it is considered one of the most valuable possessions of any country.

"Personally, I am not optimistic about the government or the Parliament. I wish I am wrong. We have to wait and see what they will do."

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"The word 'good' has many tributaries, wide areas and flashes that give reassurance and insight into goodness. One of these aspects is humanitarian work that gives rise to aid, assistance, relief for the needy and taking weak hands to face life," columnist **Sultan Al-Matrouk** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Therefore, the United Nations declared Aug 19 as World Humanitarian Day in honor of humanitarian workers around the world who strive to meet the growing global needs, regardless of danger or hardship.

"Humanitarian workers venture deep into the affected areas and on the front lines of conflict in an effort to rescue people, and help and protect those in need. The beloved monastery is considered a center for humanitarian work, because of the assistance it provides at inter-

national levels, especially countries affected by natural disasters.

"Since ancient times, the State of Kuwait has been known as an oasis of goodness and peace in word and action. It has never been negligent in providing aid and assistance to those who need it among the Arab and African peoples and countries, as well as other countries and nationalities ... It is distinguished by its love for doing good and humanitarian work, so no humanitarian issue or charitable work is mentioned in societies until the State of Kuwait left an indelible mark in this field.

"The State of Kuwait and the late His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah – may God give rest to his soul in peace – deserve the titles International Center Humanitarian Work and International Leader of Humanitarian Work respectively. The United Nations granted these titles on Sept 9, 2014 as a way of honoring the humanitarian work of the country and its leader, with the whole world as the witness."

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"Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh is located between Kuwait International Airport, Jaber Stadium, and Shadadiyah University. It is surrounded by highways and it is about 15 minutes away from the Capital. Therefore, it is strategically located and it can be utilized as a commercial, entertainment and tourist center," columnist **Mohammad Al-Jalahima** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The area was inaugurated about six decades ago. As time passed by, the vast majority of citizens abandoned the area and nearly 400,000 expatriates – mostly Asians – settled there.

"Periodically, we hear about radical solutions to the problems in the area. I remember that in 2019, many statements were issued about the State's commitment to solve the problems in Jleeb within months, but years have gone by and the area remains unchanged, rather it turned from bad to worse.

"The government began to put Jleeb in the circle of attention, discuss the situation and organizational problems, and list the violations. After which, the problems were listed and the mechanisms to deal with them were determined.

"The ideal solution is to assess the houses in the area in a satisfactory and appropriate manner, rather than taking patchy measures. After that, the State must do the same as what it did in South Khaitan, which was a semi-designated area for expatriates and citizens are the minority there.

"Before we take this step, it is necessary to find housing for expatriates residing in Jleeb. This necessitates the establishment of integrated labor cities with services and privileges in order to encourage the expatriates to move there."

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"Can our Gulf countries achieve the administrative miracle and investment attractiveness of the 'Tigers of Asia'? How long will we look for similarities and differences between eastern and western civilizations?" columnist **Dr Nada Al-Mutawwa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"These two questions and many others are raised whenever East Asian countries become the preoccupation of analysts among management people and economists. These countries were in the eyes of the world in the past as if they were afflicted with historical blights that only know backwardness and wars. Today, the countries in East Asia, including China and Japan, are returning to the international stage – sometimes economic and political at other times.

"If we go back to the civilization of the East, we would find it is the product of the oldest national societies known to history, such as China, Japan, Vietnam and others. We will not lose sight of Egypt in the middle of the Middle East. From such civilizations, ancient religions arose, while religious and national philosophies and ideologies united.

"Can our countries adopt the Asian model in administrative reform? I believe we are qualified to take our economic position and restore our investment attractiveness, but under certain conditions and criteria, and with a new administrative pattern that attracts competencies and is not swayed by local or international courtesies.

"The history of our region is full of success stories. We did not wait for the emergence of oil to link trade and investment with crafts and talents. The youths of the Gulf were known for both land and sea crafts and skills. Our Gulf countries were known historically for distinguished management of commercial ports."

"Since we failed – yes, we failed – to solve the domestic worker crisis, and all the solutions tried by the concerned authorities did not yield results, the crisis is still the same and it is getting worse," columnist **Waleed Al-Jassem** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"The establishment of 'Al-Durra', specifying the recruitment fees, security or diplomatic measures and increasing the human rights margin for laborers did not solve the problem.

"There is no vision that solves such a simple issue, which preoccupies us at a time we are in dire need of a vision for the future.

"Indeed, the owners of labor recruitment offices uttered in a pessimistic manner that everything that has been done regarding the domestic worker crisis is not serious, compared to what has yet to come!

"All of these happened, but we did not advance. Perhaps, it will be useful to listen to this advice: Start with the abolition of the sponsorship system or make it optional. Al-Durra and other companies that should be established immediately – with the participation of reputable domestic labor recruitment offices – should sponsor thousands of domestic workers, so the employment contracts are with them and they are responsible for everything related to domestic employment.

"They hire workers and complete procedures such as medical examination, visa and bank accounts. They are responsible for guaranteeing the rights of workers like salaries and vacation days, such that no argument remains with any party in which the sponsor (Kafeel) is accused of anything.

"As for us – the beneficiaries of domestic workers in our homes, we will get rid of the headache, routine and procedures. Our role will be limited to contracting with offices that will certainly charge us for the medical examination, accommodation, health insurance and so on, while obligating us to transfer the monthly salary on time. Their commitment is to provide employees, and even substitutes whenever the workers are on leave or if they do no longer want to work.

"Under such circumstances, the relationship of the owner of the house with the worker will be professional. The Philippines and every other country that made remarks on prohibiting the entry of their workers to Kuwait will lose in any argument, because all rights are protected humanely, financially and administratively. The relationship turns into a professional contractual relationship. Both the company and the domestic worker have what they need and must do what they have to do. In the same manner, the sponsor has what he needs and must do what he has to do..."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Photo by Iehab Qurtal

Trees and bushes are drying up in various parts of the country along major highways due to neglect and scarcity of water supply.

Hunt for killer of resident cut into pieces intensified

'Fashionista' case with detention judge

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The detention renewal judge held the first session to look into the detention of the well-known 'Fashionista' who is charged with causing the tragic traffic accident that occurred at dawn on Thursday, August 24, at the Al-Soor Street intersection with King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Road, and which resulted in the death of two people and serious injury of two others who were in the back seat.

Al-Seyassah has learned from informed sources that the panel of lawyers defending the suspect has submitted a request for her release on any guarantee as the Sentences Renewal Committee deems appropriate, since she is a Kuwaiti citizen and not expected to flee the country or justice saying there are no justifications for pretrial detention.

The accused faces 10 charges -- "manslaughter, accidental injury, driving a vehicle under the influence of intoxicating or narcotic beverages, exceeding the speed limit, jumping a red light, driving a vehicle recklessly, driving a vehicle with invalid insurance, driving a vehicle without holding a vehicle operating license and causing damage to the property of others."

'Drugs global problem': The Director General of the General Department of Narcotics Control, Brigadier General Muhammad Qabazard, confirmed that Kuwait is fighting a real war on the scourge of drugs, stressing that this scourge is not a problem of the State of Kuwait only, but rather a problem affecting the entire world, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

Qabazard said even countries much bigger in size are fight the drugs smugglers, but Kuwait, has not lacked behind in controlling the situation since a very few cases only have been reported.

The official admitted that there is no organized crime in Kuwait, and that the law applies to everyone, and most smuggling attempts are thwarted.

He pointed out that the social media accusations about the law turning a blind eye to some influential people is incorrect, and no one is above accountability, and the evidence is the names of people who are spending time behind bars.

He indicated that the Gulf countries are targeted due to their proximity to drug-producing countries as well as the wealth of their citizens.

However, tightening control has left no room for organized crime in the country. Regarding seizure statistics, he stated that the administration has referred 1,667 cases to the Narcotics Prosecution since the beginning of this year, in addition to seizing about 18.857 million psychotropic pills, more than 1.5 tons of hashish, 528 kilograms of Lyrica pills and powder, and 140 kilograms of shaboo.

He also pointed to the decrease in the rate of heroin abuse due to tightening control over the drugs smuggling and monitoring postal parcels coming from drugs producing countries.

Hunt on for killer: The Criminal Investigation Department in the Interior Ministry has intensified the search for the killer of an expatriate whose body parts were found in Mutla'a recently, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Results of preliminary investigations indicate this could be a retaliatory crime, considering the killer cut the

'53,000 travel in 10 days'

Kuwait, Iraq border handling on: envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Manhal Al-Safi has confirmed the continuation of security and border coordination between his country and Kuwait, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

Al-Safi highlighted the two countries' cooperation in various fields in order to address issues of mutual concern, strengthen historic relations and exchange visits among senior officials.

He also told the daily that Safwan border catered to more than 53,000 travelers from Gulf countries within 10 days. He praised the facilities provided by the Kuwaiti government to ease the entry and exit procedures for travelers.

He confirmed that the border with Kuwait operates smoothly due to the coordinated efforts of the two countries, including the measures taken by the Iraqi government to ease entry and exit procedures. He cited as examples the need for those traveling by car to obtain a 'trip ticket' (international traffic ticket for cars); opening of two large buildings for arrivals and departures and the VIP Hall; and renovation of a yard for cargo trucks.

In addition, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani inaugurated the border after its renovation that was based on well-studied plans. He visited all the facilities at the border to personally look into the work mechanism and services provided to travelers. He met a number of expatriates from other Arab Gulf states and issued a directive to take all the necessary measures to ease the entry of "our brothers to Iraq."

Treated water requests: The Ministry of Public Works has started receiving requests for delivery of treated water online, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

In a press statement, the ministry reaffirmed its belief in promoting mechanization to ease procedures for the public. This led to the launching of an electronic application for receiving treated water delivery requests; hence, the termination of the paper request service.

body parts of the victim.

According to a security source, the Jahra detectives opened investigations to find the killer; indicating a number of suspects have been interrogated so far.

Crackdown on immorality: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigation "Department for the Protection of Public Morals and Combating Trafficking in Persons," was able to monitor 3 networks that practice vice and promote their services through accounts on some social networking sites, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

After obtaining legal permission, 19 men and women of Asian nationality were arrested in Salmiya. During the raid the security officers seized smartphones and tools used for indecent acts.

The seized items are being referred to the competent authorities to take the necessary action against them.

The security institution any report of any negative or immoral phenomena can be reported to the emergency phone 112 and the CID operations room on 25589655 and 25589655.

'Comply with regulations'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Embassy of Kuwait in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has urged Kuwaitis visiting or transiting during the National Day of the Kingdom on Sept 23 to strictly comply with the regulations on participation in the celebrations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, the embassy advised against raising foreign flags, placing stickers on vehicles bearing sectarian or tribal slogans or pictures, and organizing unlicensed gatherings in order to ensure their safety and to avoid legal problems.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Aiban issued a ministerial resolution obligating cooperative societies and central markets that sell food and consumer goods to submit the price list for food.

NCCAL organizes event as part of 15th Cultural Summer Festival

Exhibition documents Al-Arabi mag's voyages across the globe

MEW collects KD 250K from exiting expatriates in 3 days

Ministry to up number of backup diesel generators

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the ministry collected KD 250,000 from expatriates and Gulf nationals who left the country during the first three days of activating the interface between the bill payment system of the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Ministry of Interior's systems in early September, reports Aljarida daily.

They explained that the value of the dues collected by the ministry was done through the customer service office at Kuwait airport and the sector's offices spread across all parts of Kuwait. It also happened through the electronic payment mechanisms that the ministry made available to its customers who wish to pay their dues. This step will contribute to raising the ministry's revenues, and prevent the accumulation of bills on consumers who benefit from the ministry's services.



KUNA photo Security men from the General Directorate of Nationality and Travel Documents ready to provide this new service at Kuwait Airport.

Renewing passport at airport ... a new step to simplify administrative procedures for citizens

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): As part of its commitment to staying up-to-date with technological advancements and enhancing citizen services, the Ministry of Interior, through the General Administration of Nationality and Travel Documents, has introduced a new service for the issuance of passports.

who possess a confirmed travel reservation (travel ticket) and are departing the country within 24 hours from Kuwait International Airport (T4).

By offering this innovative service round the clock at Kuwait Airport, the Ministry's objective is to streamline and simplify the passport application process, expediting its issuance for citizens who encounter unexpected passport expiration issues when planning to travel.

It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Electricity and Water activated the electronic payment system with the Ministry of Interior's systems to oblige those departing to pay their dues to the ministry before departure.

On the other hand, the ministry, represented by the Electrical Distribution Networks Sector, is preparing to increase the number of backup diesel generators, through a tender for the supply of sound-insulated diesel generators of various capacities, which is currently presented to the Central Agency for Public Tenders.

The sources revealed that the number of generators included in the tender is 42 generators of various sizes (625, 850 and 1000), thus increasing the number of generators available at the Diesel Emergency Department to 272 generators.

They said the supply of the new generators is part of the framework of the ministry's preparations for the next summer season to deal with, and address the usual power outages quickly by providing generators to the places that need them.

On the other hand, the training center, affiliated with the Electrical Distribution Networks Sector, held an emergency development course for workers in all the six governorates, and 120 technicians from the sector who applied for it, with the aim of developing the technical capabilities of the applicants.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): The exhibition, titled "Monthly Issues of Al-Arabi Magazine" and "Photos of Al-Arabi Around the World for Distinctive Covers," serves as a comprehensive documentation of the magazine's extensive voyages and explorations across the globe, spanning from the 1950s. This captivating showcase is organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Literature and is currently hosted at the Kuwait National Library, as an integral part of the 15th Cultural Summer Festival.

Within this exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich history of Al-Arabi magazine. It features a captivating collection of photographs and issues from both Al-Arabi magazine and its companion publication, "Al-Arabi Al-Saghir." These publications eloquently capture the essence of their exploratory journeys through the meticulous prose of travel writers, accompanied by the captivating visual narratives provided by skilled photographers.



KUNA photo The magazine's editor-in-chief, Ibrahim Al-Mulaifi, taking a tour of the exhibition.

Minister amends list of co-op work

MoE working on edu reform programs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Within the framework of its plan to reform the education system, the Ministry of Education is currently implementing a number of new projects, and 3 new projects are directed to the ministry's development plan projects for the fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, represented in the development of the organizational structure of the Ministry of Education and the draft long-term strategy 2025-2035.

Sources told Al-Qabas daily, that the department concerned with the state's development plan in the Ministry of Education had officially informed the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development of the three new projects required to be added to the five ongoing projects in the plan related to the integrated education reform system, and the digital transformation project of the Ministry of Education.

The sources indicated that the integrated system for education reform contains 4 projects, foremost of which is the curriculum development project, the project for developing school equipment in general education and all other types of education, and the school administration development project to achieve professional development for workers in the educational sector, as well as the project to diversify secondary education paths, in accordance with global standards.

The sources stated that the Ministry of Education held several meetings with representatives of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development to discuss the three new projects proposed and the justifications for their proposal. The Ministry asked planning to approve the approval of these projects within the development plan for the next academic year.

On the other hand, Al-Qabas learned that the Kuwait Municipality has rejected the requests of some foreign schools wishing to open and annex buildings adjacent to their schools, in order to prevent

any crowding in typical and private residential areas.

The sources revealed that the Kuwait Municipality reported not approving the opening of private housing schools within the typical and private housing areas, according to the decision of the Municipal Council.

Cooperative work: Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Sheikh Firas Al-Malik Al-Sabah issued a decision, recently, amending the cooperative work regulations, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The decision, of which the daily obtained a copy of, states, "Article 60 of the cooperative work regulation issued by the ministerial decision for the year 2021 has been replaced with the following article: 'It is not permissible to disburse from the social services item except after approval from the General Assembly and obtaining the necessary permission according to the controls determined by the competent department in a decision.'"

This, according to the decision, shall be within the limits of the following ratios -- Umrah trips for shareholders 10 percent, aesthetic agriculture 20 percent, beautification and maintenance of public facilities and playgrounds 10 percent, cultural and educational activities 20 percent, recreational activities and service expenses 20 percent, sports activities and national events 15 percent and supporting the governorates 5 percent.

The remaining balance is transferred to the amount distributed from the distribution account for the next fiscal year, and the production, agricultural, and qualitative federations and associations are excluded from the previous distribution ratios, provided that the disbursement plan from the social services item is presented to the Department of Cooperative Control and Inspection for approval, and the disbursement is limited to the association's work area and for the benefit of members General Assembly.

O leadership ...

Continued from Page 1

Likewise, the courts do not accept the claims of moneylenders against a debtor if he signs dud cheques, trust bonds, or debt declarations, because they are considered conditions of adhesion, and are not enforceable.

Unfortunately, physical coercion is still practiced in Kuwait, and prisons are full of people oppressed in this regard.

In the Gulf countries, either in the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar or Oman, this problem was solved a long time ago.

Every year, the leadership pays attention to the needs of their people, especially those with limited income and those who took loans, and works either to forgive them or reschedule the term of the debts for longer periods, up to twenty years, until those debts are paid.

Here we are not talking about bank loans or commercial loans, as these are dealt with based on the bankruptcy law, which was enacted according to international specifications.

Although some tried to introduce physical coercion and arrest warrants into it, they failed. Despite this, there are those who work to maintain the restrictions inherited from the pre-State era.

Today, the new minister of Finance must look into this issue and work to close this file. This is due to the fact that it is not possible to keep a segment of citizens suffering so that the profiteers can continue to practice their injustice.

EG.5 virus

Continued from Page 1

In this context, the internal medicine consultant, Dr. Ghanem Al-Salem said that with the spread of the new mutant of the new Corona virus (EG.5) and the increase in the number of infected people, the numbers needing to be hospitalized have not increased.

Therefore, the sources said, most of the infected people can be treated at home. Al-Salem told the daily that with

the beginning of the school season just around the corner, the chances of the virus spreading increase, given the approaching fall and winter seasons, infection cases are expected to rise significantly, and "this is indeed what we are accustomed to seeing in seasonal influenza."

He renewed his warning to the elderly, those with chronic diseases, and pregnant women against exposure to the virus, advising these groups of the need to take the necessary health precautions to avoid infection with the Corona virus or its variants, as well as seasonal influenza.

He stressed that the health sectors in Kuwait now have the experience and ability to deal with Covid-19 cases and added, that from a medical point of view, there is no need to study "online," and there is no reason for a total or partial ban, stressing the importance of continuing to closely monitor viral cases and mutations.

Al-Salem advised those who feel infected with symptoms such as high temperature, headache, fatigue, cough, and loss of sense of smell, to isolate themselves so as not to help spread the virus, while making sure to drink fluids and receive health services if necessary.

It is noteworthy that Kuwait announced in mid-August that it had detected the "Corona" variant, EG.5, which is a sub-variant of the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus, which has been detected in about 50 countries around the world so far.

Khor Abdullah

Continued from Page 1

to the Iraqi parliament to ratify it again if Iraq's intentions are sound towards us."

For his part, MP Badr Al-Mulla said: "Renouncing the border agreement between Kuwait and Iraq under any means requires a clear reaction from the Kuwaiti government, specifically from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

He said on his X account (formerly Twitter) "I will begin by asking parliamentary questions to demand Kuwait's loans and their interest that have not yet been paid by Iraq to Kuwait and which were (loans) taken before the Iraqi invasion."

September

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1st - 30th September 2023

Terms & conditions apply*

Partnership grants exclusive access to top-tier facilities

Al Habtoor Polo Resort signs partnership agreement with Dubai Sharks RFC

DUBAI, Sept 5: Al Habtoor Polo Resort, a sophisticated equestrian-inspired retreat, embodying timeless Andalusian elegance, has signed a five-year official partnership agreement with the Dubai Sharks RFC. Starting from the 2023/2024 season, the partnership includes mutual initiatives that will empower the local community through workshops, events, and engagement programs.

The partnership between Al Habtoor Polo Resort and the Dubai Sharks RFC have forged a strategic alliance, combining the hospitality prowess of Al Habtoor Polo Resort with the sports dedication of the club. Both Al Habtoor Polo Resort and the Dubai Sharks RFC share a common vision of fostering talent, promoting healthy lifestyles, and nurturing teamwork. This partnership serves as a testament to their dedication to excellence, sportsmanship, and community welfare.

Mohamed Al Habtoor, Vice Chairman and CEO of Al Habtoor Group said he was pleased to partner with the Dubai Sharks RFC. This MOU stems from the sense of social responsibility adopted by Al Habtoor Group and our interest in promoting various initiatives in relation to sports. The collaboration with the Dubai Sharks RFC exemplifies our conviction that Hospitality and sports should be integrated as part of our commitment to maintain excellence.

Charlie Taylor, Chairman, The Dubai Sharks RFC, said: "There has been a mutual investment into the facilities for us to be homed here, which is a key takeaway. Habtoor has been incredible in their vision and awareness of how important a strong community club can benefit Habtoor but also benefit all our members. The greatest testament to this is the 5-year agreement. It gives us the time to build something special here".



Group photo after the signing of the partnership agreement.



Mohamed Al Habtoor, Vice Chairman and CEO of Al Habtoor Group

He added, "I am excited to share this incredible news with everyone, excited for all our players, our parents, our coaches, and all those who work so tirelessly behind the scenes to help keep Dubai Sharks RFC going. I think sporting communities, in particular Rugby & Netball in our case, are so important to residents in the UAE. It's fair to say our club has

had its fair share of ups and downs. This new chapter is the beginning of an extraordinary period for the club. I want to thank Mohammed Al Habtoor and his team at Habtoor Polo Resort for their vision and support over the summer. What felt like a 'pinch moment' 6 weeks ago is now a reality and we all cannot wait to build on our great community. We look forward to welcoming the rest of our rugby community down for fixtures throughout the season, it's been a long time coming".

Lukas Tremmel, General Manager, Al Habtoor Polo Resort, said "We are absolutely delighted to partner with the Dubai Sharks RFC and embark on this journey together. The addition of the Dubai Sharks RFC to our Polo community reinforces our commitment to be a destination for family fun with the warm Habtoor Hospitality. We look forward to welcoming sports enthusiasts of all ages and their families to the resort and providing them with the resort's exceptional training and recreational facilities.



Mohamed Al Habtoor, Vice Chairman and CEO of Al Habtoor Group with The Dubai Sharks RFC poses for a group photo.

Draft law seeks to regulate urgent mail, postal parcels

Step aims to safeguard confidentiality of items

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: In a step aimed at organizing the work of postal companies in Kuwait, the Ministry of Communications recently submitted to the Council of Ministers a draft law regulating the practice of urgent mail and postal parcels, to tighten control over the postal facility through legislation that regulate all services provided to the public, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The provisions of the draft law apply to companies that carry out postal activities inside the country.

According to the draft law, it will prohibit the practice of any postal activities under any name except after obtaining a license from the concerned authority.

Confidentiality

The confidentiality of items is safeguarded, and it is not permissible for the licensee or others to view or disclose them except neglected items, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Postal Union Agreement and the national laws. The same applies to items confiscated or seized by the competent authorities, in addition to the cases in which any law within the country allows viewing and monitoring the content of mail.

The confidentiality of items is considered violated in the event of intentionally viewing their content, giving information about them, or allowing access to relevant documents, texts and records, without the permission of the concerned authorities in the country, in addition to disclosing their content in any ways or means.

The law indicated that the license period granted to the licensee is one year renewable, provided that the license holder submits a written request to the concerned authority within 30 days prior to the expiry date of the license.

The licensee and his postal activities do not acquire the postal character under this law, and are not covered by the guarantees of freedom of transit stipulated in the Universal Postal Union agreements.

Regarding the licensee's obligations, the law called for the licensee to abide by the rules of weight, dimensions, shapes, and sizes specified by the concerned authority, and any amendments to them.

The licensee may not open a new headquarters or make any modifications or additions to the data of the headquarters except after obtaining a prior written approval from the concerned authority.

The draft law highlighted that the licensee will be responsible for the loss, damage, delay, or error in the delivery of items or parcels that are deposited with him according to deposit receipts. This responsibility is denied in the event of force majeure and the sender's fault or negligence or the nature of the thing sent, or if the content is prohibited to be sent by the law.

The draft law called for the licensee to abide by the obligations of the state established under international agreements related to postal activities, and to provide postal activities in exchange for the tariffs that is set, as well as provide detailed information on postal activities, their level of quality and tariff, while subjecting this activity to the supervision of the concerned authorities.

In the matter of financial provisions, the law required that the licensee commit to linking his activity with the electronic payment and collection system (billing) determined by the concerned authority.

The draft law specified penalties and measures in some cases, including a penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years and/or a fine ranging between KD 10,000 and KD 40,000. These penalties will apply on anyone who practices any of the postal services without obtaining a license, or violates the confidentiality of items and parcels, or facilitates that for others, or conceals something from it, destroys it, tampers with it, or deliberately refrains from delivering it.



Newly graduated Kuwaiti engineers, partaking in Doha's Huawei 'Tech4Good' contest.

190 individuals from 15 countries to participate

Kuwaiti engineers eager to develop IT & AI skills at Doha Huawei event



Local officials in Marib, a Kuwaiti Namaa delegation inaugurates a residential village for the displaced families.



The residential village of (Namaa) in Marib has been equipped with various facilities necessary for the settlement of displaced families.

Namaa Charity inaugurates 40 housing units for 'displaced families' in Yemen

ADEN, Sept 5, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Namaa Charity inaugurated on Monday the Namaa Residential Village for displaced individuals in Yemen's Ma'rib Governorate. This village comprises 40 housing units and associated facilities, marking a significant milestone in the "Kuwait Next to You" campaign, which has been ongoing for nine years.

The primary goal of the Namaa Residential Village is to provide suitable and dignified housing for needy individuals and families lacking shelter. It also aims to reunite family members who have been separated due to the lack of suitable housing and preserve the human dignity of displaced families.

Each housing unit consists of two rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a courtyard, while the village encompasses public amenities, a mosque, and drinking water tanks.

Khaled Al-Shammari, the Director of the Relief Department at Namaa, which is affiliated with the Kuwaiti Social Reform Society, revealed that the village includes 40 housing units, a mosque, a school, a health center, and an artesian well. This initiative is part of a broader project aimed at establishing several villages in different regions.

During the village's opening, the Namaa delegation visiting Ma'rib Governorate distributed food baskets to beneficiary families, meeting their basic food needs for an entire month.

DOHA, Sept 5, (KUNA): Newly graduated Kuwaiti engineers, partaking in Doha's Huawei "Tech4Good" contest, affirmed on Sunday that the importance of developing skills in the fields of IT and AI.

The six-day event - partake of the "Seeds for the Future" Program - sees the participation of 190 individuals from 15 countries, including Kuwait's 10 participants.

Speaking to KUNA, Engineer Ali Taqi said that it was important to develop one's IT and AI skills, stressing that participation in the Huawei event was one of the opportunities to represent Kuwait in such fields.

Kuwait's development vision includes excelling in AI technology, said Taqi who expressed a strong desire to give back to Kuwait.

On her part, Manar Al-Saeed; another Kuwaiti participant, said the event saw wide participation from GCC states and Asian countries, noting that the winners of the Tech4Good contest would qualify to the next stage to be held on September 10-16 in the UAE and from there to the final round in China later on.

According to Huawei, the Tech4Good contest is part of the Seeds for the Future program is geared towards "The tech-savvy and change-resilient young talents."

Huawei added, "It's our mission to make sure young talents have access to the necessary skillsets and mindsets to commence in a fast-changing world."

"This platform is constructed to share various opportunities such as online courses, competitions, exchange programs, scholarships and beyond. We want to provide our talented young people with the best STEM opportunities possible, and help them succeed their dreams and contribute to the world."

Huawei was established in 1986 as a privately owned company in the Chinese city of Shenzhen. Huawei operates in 170 countries.

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Qantas boss retires early after allegations the airline sold tickets for canceled flights

The boss of Australian airline Qantas said Tuesday he would leave his job immediately - two months earlier than planned - following a series of embarrassing revelations about the company, including allegations it sold tickets for flights that had already been canceled.

Chief Executive Alan Joyce said that after 15 years running the national carrier he was bringing forward his planned retirement date.

The airline said Vanessa Hudson would take over as managing director and group

chief executive from Wednesday.

The announcement came after a difficult few weeks for Qantas and Joyce. He was grilled by Australian senators last week on flight delays and costs, while a consumer watchdog group announced Thursday it was taking legal action against Qantas and would seek a penalty that would run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission said it was taking the action after Qantas "engaged in false, misleading or deceptive conduct by ad-

vertising tickets for more than 8,000 flights that it had already canceled but not removed from sale."

The commission said that in many cases, Qantas continued selling tickets or delayed telling ticketholders the flights had been canceled. That often led customers to have less time to make alternative arrangements and to potentially pay higher prices for new flights, the commission said.

Qantas previously acknowledged its standards had fallen well short of expectations as the airline emerged from the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Joyce said there was a lot he was proud about during his 22 years working for Qantas.

"In the last few weeks, the focus on Qantas and events of the past make it clear to me that the company needs to move ahead with its renewal as a priority," he said in his statement. "The best thing I can do under these circumstances is to bring forward my retirement and hand over to Vanessa and the new management team now, knowing they will do an

excellent job."

Last month Qantas announced a record pre-tax annual profit of nearly 2.5 billion Australian dollars (\$1.6 billion), up from a loss of almost AU\$2 billion the previous year.

The airline has since come under pressure to pay back the AU\$2.7 billion it received from the Australian government during the coronavirus pandemic.

Qantas Chairman Richard Goyder said the board thanked Joyce for his leadership. (AP)

Market Movements

05-09-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.17	6,225.00	UAE - DFM	-0.37	4,053.42
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.30	33,036.76	PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-0.48	45,515.62
EGYPT - EGX 30	+0.71	19,044.39	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.17	11,410.98

Business

Ant Group brings Alipay+ to the Philippines with three new mobile wallets, AlipayHK, Kakao Pay and Touch 'n Go eWallet

CEBU, Philippines, Sept 5, (Business Wire): Ant Group, the operator of Alipay+, the global cross-border digital payments and marketing solution, today announced that a total of four mobile wallets are now accepted in the Philippines. These include AlipayHK (Hong Kong SAR), Kakao Pay (South Korea), Touch 'n Go eWallet (Malaysia) and Alipay (Chinese mainland), which has been accepted by Filipino merchants since 2017. This enables travellers from these regions to enjoy a cashless experience, using just their home mobile wallets to make payment, improving the travel experience as digital payment options like mobile wallets become the norm for day-to-day transactions.

Mactan-Cebu International Airport, which saw 219% increase in passen-

gers in the IH of 2023, have integrated Alipay+ across 90% of its merchants.

The acceptance of three new mobile wallets, via Alipay+, comes as travellers return to the Philippines. According to the Department of Tourism (DOT), more than 3 million tourists have visited the Philippines from January 1 to July 19, 2023, reflecting continued robust recovery. The DOT also shared that inbound tourism receipts from January 1 to June 30, 2023, are more than 500% higher than the same period last year. South Koreans top the list of international visitors to the Philippines, while Malaysia ranks in the top 10.2.

Alipay+ is currently accepted by merchants in Manila and Cebu, the top two most visited cities in the Philippines pre-pandemic in 2019. In the first half of 2023, Mactan-Cebu Inter-

national Airport saw a 219% increase in passengers compared to the same period last year. In order to cater to the new expectations of digital-first travellers, the airport has integrated Alipay+ across 90% of its merchants, ensuring that tourists can enjoy a digitally-enhanced cashless experience from the moment they arrive in Cebu.

"At MCIA, we have always placed utmost importance on providing convenience and ease of travel through seamless processes and world-class services and amenities. The integration of Alipay+ gives our passengers that exceptional convenience and more payment options when they travel through MCIA."

Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) is the second largest airport in the Philippines with over 11 mil-

lion passengers annually, making it the second busiest airport in the country. With its strategic location and world-class facilities, MCIA aims to establish itself as the main tourism gateway of the country with exceptional travel experience, connecting the world to the Philippines. To date, MCIA is the first and only airport in the Philippines to receive the Airport Customer Experience (ACX) accreditation from the Airports Council International.

Commenting on this new development, "Philippines and its many islands, such as Cebu, have long been a favourite destination for Asian travellers and we look forward to working with our local partners to enhance their travel experience. We believe that digital adoption and solutions will shape travellers' expectations, particularly

in the way the engage travel-related businesses, from airports and hospitality to F&B and retail stores. Our focus now is to work with more partners to onboard more merchants with Alipay+ across the Philippines, particularly local small businesses, and promote digital travel and travel recovery."

Introduced by Ant Group in 2020, Alipay+ aims to enable local businesses, especially small and medium-sized businesses, to process a wide range of mobile payment methods and reach more than 1.4 billion regional and global consumers, through one-time integration and simple technical adaptation. In addition to the Philippines, Alipay+ is also widely accepted in destinations including the Chinese mainland, Macao SAR, Singapore, Thailand, Japan and South Korea among others.

Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) is the second largest airport in the Philippines. It serves over 11 million passengers annually, making it the second busiest airport hub in the country. MCIA is operated by a Filipino-led private consortium between Aboitiz InfraCapital (AIC), GMR Group of India, and Megawide Construction Corporation (MCC), under a concession agreement with the Philippine Government. With its strategic location and world-class facilities, MCIA aims to establish itself as the main tourism gateway of the country with exceptional travel experience, connecting the world to the Philippines. MCIA is accredited for the Airport Customer Experience (ACX) and the Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) by the Airports Council International.

Wall St wavers coming off two weeks of gains

Asian shares mostly lower amid selling of China property shares

NEW YORK, Sept 5, (AP): Stocks wavered on Wall Street Tuesday as traders return from a long holiday weekend to face a relatively quiet week.

The S&P 500 slipped 0.1%. The index is coming off its second weekly gain. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 43 points, or 0.1%, to 34,792 as of 11:22 a.m. Eastern. The Nasdaq rose 0.1%.

Markets in the U.S. were closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday.

There was little corporate news for investors to focus on. Technology stocks gained ground. Microsoft rose 1.6%.

Industrial stocks fell and offset gains elsewhere in the market. Union Pacific slipped 1.9%.

Energy stocks gained ground along with rising crude oil prices after Saudi Arabia and Russia said they will extend their voluntary production cut of 1 million barrels of oil a day through the end of the year. U.S. crude oil prices rose 1.8% and Chevron rose 1%.

Markets in Europe and Asia were mixed. Hong Kong's benchmark fell 2.1%, as investors sold real estate shares which have gained recently following government efforts to support the ailing industry.

Investors have a few economic reports to look forward to this week and the latest round of corporate earnings is essentially finished.

The Institute for Supply Management releases its latest report on the U.S. services sector Wednesday. The services sector employs most Americans and is a big component of the economy. Its health could provide more insight into how inflation is affecting consumer spending.

Wall Street will also get updates on aspects of the manufacturing sector and consumer credit. DocuSign, GameStop, Dave & Buster's and Kroger are set to report their most recent quarterly financial results this week.

Last week, investors were busy reviewing a heavy load of economic data as they try to get a better picture of the economy. Much of the information fueled hopes that the Federal Reserve might moderate interest rate increases to tamp down inflation, which has been easing for months.

Bond yields rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.26% from 4.18% late Friday. The yield on the 2-year Treasury, which tracks expectations for the Fed, rose to 4.93% from 4.88%.

Wall Street expects the Fed to hold its benchmark interest rate steady at its next meeting later in September, just as it did at its previous meeting. Investors are mostly betting that the central bank will maintain that pause through the rest of the year.

Europe

Shares opened lower in Europe on Tuesday after a day of declines in most Asian markets.

Germany's DAX fell 0.4% to 15,765.55 and the CAC 40 in Paris dropped 0.8% to 7,224.88. Britain's FTSE 100 edged 0.1% lower to 7,442.85.



Photo taken from the launch event

Gulf Bank launches 9th edition of its Ajyal program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: As part of its continuous efforts to develop and enhance the capabilities of its employees, Gulf Bank has launched the ninth edition of its AJYAL program. The latest edition of the program includes a new batch of trainees who have been working for up to five years in Gulf Bank, and aims to assist the employees in refining their skills, and helping them develop, and expand, their capabilities both personally and professionally.

For the third consecutive year, the Bank is organizing the Ajyal program in partnership with the American University of Kuwait. Through such programs, Gulf Bank's Human Resources and The Talent Development team, continue to implement the Bank's strategy with distinguished banking professionals and local talents, that will ultimately contribute to consolidating the Bank's position as the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future.

The Ajyal program aims to help employees acquire the best global practices, while developing a deeper understanding of the banking sector, in addition to developing their individual and institutional capabilities. The Bank aims to transform into a culture of excellence and a result-oriented environment, through applying and

learning real business challenges.

The General Manager of the Human Resources Department, Salma Al-Hajjaj, stated that the process of selecting participants for the program is subject to strict requirements. This includes conducting personal interviews and assessments so that those selected participate in a comprehensive, six-month educational journey, that is set to develop their basic banking skills, and enhance their capabilities, to implement the Bank's long-term growth strategy.

She affirmed Gulf Bank's efforts to continuously develop and enhance the capabilities of its employees, in order to develop their skill sets, in accordance with the highest international banking standards. Al-Hajjaj added that training, in all forms, has enabled its employees to contribute to achieving the Bank's goals, exceeding the banking sector's expectations.

"We are proud to have witnessed multiple success stories within the Bank over the past years. The main objective of the Ajyal program is to develop participants' capabilities and skill sets, with the aim of promoting a performance-driven culture. Other objectives include providing technical solutions in order to enable Bank-wide

digital transformation and adopting global risk management practices. All these goals are ultimately directed towards providing customers with simple and innovative services, of which contribute to the Bank's sustainable growth efforts." Spoken by Salma Al-Hajjaj

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.

declined.

Investors were watching for comments by European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde and others later Tuesday.

Oil

In other trading Tuesday, U.S. benchmark crude gained 24 cents to \$85.79 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It jumped \$1.92 to \$85.55 a barrel on Monday.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, fell 22 cents to \$88.78 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 146.93 Japanese yen from 146.48 yen late Monday. The euro slipped to \$1.0778 from \$1.0796.

Facility to produce 640 tons of green hydrogen

Yokogawa to supply energy management system for Yuri green project in Australia

TOKYO, Sept 5, (Business Wire): Yokogawa Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6841) announces that its subsidiary Yokogawa Australia has received an order from Monford Group Pty Ltd. to supply an energy management system (EMS) for the initial phase ("phase 0") of the Yuri Green Hydrogen Project (hereafter, Yuri), which is constructing an industrial-scale renewable hydrogen production complex in Australia.

Conceptual drawing showing the Yuri project facilities at the completion of phase 0. The existing YPF ammonia plant is in the foreground and the solar plant is in the background. (Source: ENGIE S.A.)

The Yuri project is being undertaken in the Pilbara region of Western Australia by Yuri Operations Pty Ltd, a joint venture between ENGIE Renewables Australia Pty Ltd and Mitsui & Co., Ltd. A consortium consisting of the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPC) companies Technip Energies and Monford Group Pty Ltd. is constructing these facilities, which will consist of an 18-megawatt solar power plant, an 8-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS), and a 10-megawatt electrolyzer. Using carbon-free solar energy, this facility will be able to produce up to 640 tons of green hydrogen per year. The hydrogen will be used as a feedstock to produce green ammonia at an adjacent ammonia plant operated by Yara Pilbara Fertiliser Pty Ltd (YPF). YPF is a wholly owned subsidiary of Yara International ASA, which is one of the world's largest producers of nitrogen-based mineral fertilizers.

For the control of the solar power plant, BESS, and electrolyzer, Yokogawa Australia will supply an EMS that is developed by Yokogawa Group company PXISE Energy Solutions LLC. This EMS will be combined with an integrated control system (ICS) centering on the Collaborative Information Server solution that Yokogawa will also be providing for phase 0 of this project, under a separate contract.

Once these systems are installed and integrated, the Yuri facility's renewable energy production will be autonomously managed to ensure consistent stability and power quality based on the operating requirements of the adjacent ammonia plant, the weather, and other factors.

PXISE's grid control solutions have already been highly evaluated at a Horizon Power project in Western Australia.

Horizon Power serves the largest power supply area in the world, and fol-

lowing a successful rollout in Onslow, the solutions will be adopted in 34 additional Horizon Power microgrids. Also, the ability of Yokogawa Australia's Technical Excellence Center in Perth, Western Australia, to provide technical support and engineering services backed by many years of experience in providing cutting-edge solutions to a wide range of industries in Australia was also evaluated.

Commenting on Yokogawa's participation in this project, Koji Nakaoka, a Yokogawa senior vice president and head of the company's Energy & Sustainability Business Headquarters and Global Sales Headquarters, said, "In a world in which systems are becoming closely integrated, based on the system of systems (SoS) concept, we will contribute to our customer's ESG management by offering high value-added solutions, including the integration of plant control and energy management systems to enable the timely control of complex power systems."

Yokogawa to Provide Integrated Control System for Australian Green Hydrogen Project - First-ever use in Australia of green hydrogen as feedstock for ammonia production - https://www.yokogawa.com/news/press-releases/2022/2022-11-30-01/

Horizon Power and PXISE Energy Solutions Successfully Operate World's First 100% Solar-Plus-Storage-Only Community Grid https://pxise.com/horizon-power-and-pxise-energy-solutions-successfully-operate-worlds-first-100-solar-plus-storage-only-community-grid/

PXISE DERMS used in 34 Horizon Power microgrids https://pxise.com/pxise-derms-used-in-34-horizon-power-microgrids/

Yokogawa provides advanced solutions in the areas of measurement, control, and information to customers across a broad range of industries, including energy, chemicals, materials, pharmaceuticals, and food. Yokogawa addresses customer issues regarding the optimization of production, assets, and the supply chain with the effective application of digital technologies, enabling the transition to autonomous operations. Founded in Tokyo in 1915, Yokogawa continues to work toward a sustainable society through its 17,000+ employees in a global network of 129 companies spanning 60 countries. For more information, visit www.yokogawa.com

The names of corporations, organizations, products, services and logos herein are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Yokogawa Electric Corporation or their respective holders.

AMCO Produce chooses Sollum Tech Dynamic LED Grow Lights

MONTREAL, Sept 5, (Business Wire): For more than 40 years, AMCO Produce has been a leader in fresh produce production thanks to its high standards of operation at all levels - from cultivation to distribution. Striving to continually improve their business, AMCO will be replacing HPS lights with Sollum's LED grow light solution in their propagation area and newly converted strawberry production space.

Based in Leamington, Ontario, AMCO supplies a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the year. To cope with harsh winters and meet the needs of a diverse collection of crops - including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and now strawberry - AMCO relies on the most cutting-edge greenhouse technology available.

With Sollum's dynamic LED lighting solution, President of AMCO, Fausto Amicone, is looking to continue to grow his business operations by revolutionizing their lighting strategy.

"When it comes to our propagation operations, meeting the lighting needs of every crop would require purchasing multiple models of fixtures," says Amicone. "With Sollum's solution, we have all the functionality we need in a single, fully programmable lighting solution enabling unlimited lighting zones, each lit by a personalized light recipe adapted to the needs of each crop. We can add or remove crops as needed without purchasing additional hardware or software. We are confident that Sollum's lighting solution is a perfect fit for AMCO's business goals."

'An exciting new phase in our Zain Great Idea journey to empower promising Kuwaiti entrepreneurs'

Zain, SACGC country partners of 'Beban' entrepreneurship-themed reality show's 3rd season

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: During a special ceremony at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), Beban, the regional entrepreneur reality TV show, announced Zain Kuwait and Sabah Al Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) – a center of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) - as the official Kuwait Country Partners, joining forces to include and enable Kuwaiti entrepreneurs' participation in the upcoming third season of the show which will air in January 2024.

The partnership was sealed during the ceremony held at ZINC in the company's headquarters in Shuwaik, attended by Waleed Al Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer, Neda Al Dehani, General Manager of Sabah Al Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, and Salman Matar, General Manager of Beban W.L.L. The event was also attended by teams and executives from the three partners.

Beban is a reality TV show aired on Shahid, the leading regional online streaming platform, along with a number of regional television channels. Through the program, entrepreneurs pitch to investors for immediate investment offers and strategic business opportunities. The program is a production of Hope Ventures, the investment arm of Hope Fund, established by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The introduction of Kuwait to the list of country partners for season 3 of Be-

ban makes the show the first regional private-public investment platform that facilitates opportunities for investment, expansion, and strategic growth for promising entrepreneurs across the region.

Through Beban, Zain and SACGC will offer 40 Kuwaiti entrepreneurs the opportunity to undergo an intensive 2-week training bootcamp at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC). During the bootcamp, entrepreneurs will be provided with insights to enhance their business plans and ensure their readiness to pitch their businesses to a panel of investors for strategic business development and equity investment on the TV show, where only 5 shortlisted Kuwaiti entrepreneurs will be accepted from the 40 participants.

During the signing ceremony, Waleed Al Khashti said: "Today, we're absolutely thrilled to reach a new and exciting phase of our 13-year journey to support, empower, and embrace Kuwaiti entrepreneurs under the umbrella of our Zain Great Idea (ZGI) tech accelerator program. Together with our strategic partners at SACGC, we proudly represent our nation in this leading regional program." "With this collaboration, we aspire to open entire new horizons to local entrepreneurs and startup owners, who are always known for their bright ideas and inspiring success stories that surpassed Kuwait's geographical borders. We aim to offer them an exceptional regional experience to represent their country and compete with their peers from the

GCC who share the same passion." Al Khashti added.

Al Khashti continued: "This announcement also coincides with the much-anticipated kick-off of our 8th ZGI season, which has proven itself as one of the best initiatives of its kind in the region. We will be offering the opportunity for ZGI members to join the intensive Beban bootcamp that we will host at ZINC, which I'm sure will add a huge value to their journey towards excellence and success in the business world." Commenting on the partnership, Neda Al Dehani said: "We invite Kuwait's bright startup community to sign up and benefit from the unique exchange of experiences offered by this program. One of SACGC's top priorities is supporting local talents and shedding light on their successes on a regional level. By presenting their innovations in front of a panel of regional investors, local entrepreneurs will definitely gain invaluable insights and investment opportunities to take their businesses to the next level." Commenting on the occasion, Salman Matar said: "We launched Beban as a regional investment platform to connect entrepreneurs with regional strategic investors to accelerate their growth into new markets. Today, after completing 2 seasons and raising over USD 6 million on the show, Beban has expanded to the GCC to ensure a borderless and seamless flow of investment opportunities across the region." "As we embark on the Beban season 3 journey, I am thrilled to have both Zain Kuwait and



Officials pose for a group photo.

SACGC as the Kuwaiti Country Partners of the show, particularly given that both entities have been early advocates and enablers of innovation within the entrepreneurial sector in the region." Matar added.

The announcement reflects Zain and SACGC's shared commitment and interest to nurture the growth of the local entrepreneurship ecosystem and empower Kuwaiti entrepreneurs to embark and build on their entrepreneurial journeys by providing them with the

tools and resources needed to scale their businesses to new markets across the GCC.

In its previous seasons, Beban aired on Shahid, the region's first and biggest video-on-demand platform, as well as leading regional channels such as Al Rai TV, Dubai TV, and Bahrain TV. It featured a total of 62 businesses of various sizes and resulted in successful co-investments by the private and public sectors that exceeded USD 6 million in GCC-based startups.

Season 3 of Beban is anticipated to feature 40 regional opportunities from the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the State of Kuwait. Interested Kuwaiti entrepreneurs can apply for Beban through the website hopefund.bh/beban by September 16th.

To stay up to date with Beban and the journey of Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, follow the show on social media @bebanme.

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait promotes A+ Student account at International University of Kuwait

'Promising step towards a great banking experience'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently promoted its A+ Student account at International University of Kuwait (IUK) to newly enrolled 2023-2024 semester students. The Bank's participation demonstrates its dedication to enhancing financial knowledge and encouraging young people to develop a habit of saving.

The A+ Student account is designed for younger demographics aged 16 to 25, offering a wide range of valuable features and benefits, including a dedicated personalized debit card.

Within the extensive array of appealing advantages and offerings, students who transfer their educational allowance to the A+ Student account will receive a complimentary prepaid card valid for 2 years. This is in addition to an exclusive 'Buy 1 Get 2 Tickets Free' promotion at VOX Cinemas as well as special discounts from

renowned merchants and partners throughout Kuwait.

During the event, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, emphasized the importance of youth saving. "By introducing students to our unique A+ Student account and its broad range of benefits and services, ABK aims to be a part of a truly worthwhile higher education experience."

Marafi elaborated that the account's valuable features make it an attractive choice for university students. She also emphasized the importance of meeting customer needs by offering promotions through the Bank's series of business partners. She continued, "I encourage students to open an A+ Student account to benefit from tailored lifestyle benefits. I am confident this will be a promising step towards a great banking experience."

ABK strives to create promotions that align with its goal of offering diverse banking and financial products and services for all segments of Kuwait's society. The Bank also takes every opportunity to promote a culture of saving, with a particular focus on its importance for younger audiences. Marafi concluded by inviting



Ms. Johair Marafi Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK.

everyone to follow the Bank's social media accounts to remain updated on the latest marketing initiatives, promotional campaigns, and offerings throughout the year.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 44 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

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.



Emirates and United airlines take off.

Flights to and from Mexico included

Emirates, United expand codeshare partnership

DUBAI, UAE, Sept 5: Emirates announces a significant expansion in its codeshare partnership with United, to include nine destinations in Mexico. Emirates customers will now have access to eight new destinations in the country, in addition to Mexico City, which the airline also serves.

The expansive codeshare network between Emirates and United currently includes a host of US cities and Mexico becomes the first country outside of the US to be added to the growing network.

The codeshare partnership enables customers to enjoy flexibility and choice with smooth connections, allowing passengers flying on Emirates to two points in the US, either Chicago or Houston, to connect onwards to exciting leisure destinations in Mexico. The new Mexican points include Cancun, Cozumel, Monterrey, Puerto Vallarta, Guadalajara, San Jose Del Cabo, Leon/Guanajuato, and Queretaro.

Furthermore, the codeshare partnership also provides more flexibility on flight tim-

ings, giving Emirates customers flying to Mexico City more options when choosing flights. Depending on travel plans, passengers can opt to fly to the Mexican capital using Emirates daily services from Dubai with a stop in Barcelona, or separately book codeshare flights to Mexico City. The expansion of the codeshare network also enables customers flying from the nine points in Mexico to fly to destinations on the airline's network, via Chicago or Houston.

Tickets to codeshare destinations in Mexico are available via emirates.com and preferred travel agencies, for travel starting on 14 September.

The newly-expanded network of Mexican destinations now available to Emirates customers is expected to be popular amongst customers from the Middle East, India and South Africa, to name a few. The most frequented destinations for global travellers embarking from points in Mexico include India, Israel, UAE, South Africa and select points in South East Asia.

Latest digital transformation systems discussed

Kuwait Airways hosts AACO meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Kuwait Airways opened the Arab Air Carrier's Organization (AACO) meeting on digital transformation in the aviation sector, which was organized in the State of Kuwait, in the presence of various experts and specialists in the air transport sector during the period from 5-6 September 2023.

The meeting discussed the latest mechanisms for digital transformation and artificial intelligence and focused on the methods to develop and improve this aspect in the air transport sector, as well as to follow the most important methods in the Middle East region.

Kuwait Airways Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Maen Razouqi, welcomed the attendees and stated, "We are pleased to host this important meeting, which is being held in the State of Kuwait. This conference highlights the most important aspects of digital transformation and artificial intelligence solutions, and the methods to

use them in accordance with the latest standards for the air transport sector around the world. This will contribute significantly to the development of the aviation sector in general, which will ultimately benefit the travel traffic and valued passengers."

Razouqi continued by saying, "Kuwait Airways is keen to follow the latest technology and methods used in developing and improving the company's system, be it in terms of finding smarter digital solutions that facilitate procedures for valued customers, or electronic services that the company has recently launched. Kuwait Airways always strives towards achieving the strategic objectives that it has drawn up until 2030, to keep pace with the best technology in the aviation sector."

Razouqi said, "With regard to sustainability, Kuwait Airways recognizes the significance of this aspect, and has released its annual sustainability

report, highlighting the company's commitment to the principles of sustainability, transparency, and corporate responsibility towards environment conservation. Kuwait Airways is the first state-owned company to have published a sustainability report showcasing its commitment towards sustainability. The report aims to be a comprehensive outline of the Blue Bird's efforts in sustainable development and responsible practices in the aviation industry."

Razouqi concluded by saying, "We hope that this meeting will produce positive results that will benefit passengers and the air traffic, by finding solutions that contribute to creating an appropriate operating framework and to develop this sector as a whole."

On his part, the Secretary General of the Arab Air Carrier's Organization (AACO), Mr. Abdul Wahab Teffaha stated, "Today's meeting discussed two main topics, the first being the aviation's impact on the environment, where we have coordinated and partnered with an international company to develop a platform that gives airlines the ability to manage the additional costs that must be dealt to manage the climate aspects. This is in addition to educating passengers about the extent of environmental impact and the importance of reducing these effects."



Maen Razouqi and Abdul Wahab Teffaha address the audience during the meeting.

This is for promotional purposes and does not omit any essential information related to the investment in the subject financial security.

Reminder to subscribe in the share capital increase of

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P.

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P. would like to remind Eligible Shareholders and Pre-emption Right Holders to subscribe in the increase of the Bank's share capital.

Offering Shares	500,000,000 ordinary shares		
Offering Price	200 fils per share (nominal value of 100 fils and issuance premium of 100 fils)		
Total Value of the Offering	KD 100,000,000		
Subscription Period	Commences on Sunday 27 August, 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Sunday 10 September, 2023 at 1:00pm		
Pre-emptive Rights Trading Period	Commences on Sunday 27 August, 2023 (inclusive) and ends on Sunday 3 September, 2023 (inclusive)		
Eligible Subscribers	Shareholders who are recorded in the shareholder register of the Issuer as at close of Record Date (24 August 2023) and the holders of the Pre-emption Rights who have obtained such rights before the end of Pre-emption Right trading period		
Entitled Shares	Eligible Shareholders will be entitled to 2,690 Issue Shares for every 10,000 existing shares held		
To Subscribe	www.ipo.com.kw		
For More Information	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Kamco Invest email: abkci@kamcoinvest.com (965) 2233 6645 / 2233 6976</td> <td style="width: 50%;">ABK Capital email: ABKCapital_InvestmentAdvisory@abkuwait.com (965) 1 832832 / 2247 7390 / 2290 6706</td> </tr> </table>	Kamco Invest email: abkci@kamcoinvest.com (965) 2233 6645 / 2233 6976	ABK Capital email: ABKCapital_InvestmentAdvisory@abkuwait.com (965) 1 832832 / 2247 7390 / 2290 6706
Kamco Invest email: abkci@kamcoinvest.com (965) 2233 6645 / 2233 6976	ABK Capital email: ABKCapital_InvestmentAdvisory@abkuwait.com (965) 1 832832 / 2247 7390 / 2290 6706		

Lead Manager and Subscription Agent
Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent

To access the prospectus and other related documents

This is for promotional purpose and does not omit any essential information related to the investment in the subject financial security. For further details on any such risk factors, please refer to the downloadable/printable version of the Prospectus relating to the offering on the Issuer's website (www.eahli.com), or Lead Manager and Subscription Agent's website (www.kamcoinvest.com), Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent's website (www.abk-capital.com), or Boursa Kuwait's website (www.boursakuwait.com.kw). The terms and conditions in the Prospectus and the Subscription Application Form shall apply. You are hereby advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus or to seek the advice of an advisor licensed by law and which specializes in advising on the subscription and the risks thereof prior to making a decision to subscribe. The Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any regulatory organization in the State of Kuwait shall not bear any liability for the contents of this announcement or its accuracy, nor did they approve its contents or verify the validity and accuracy of any of the information contained herein, and will not be liable for any loss arising from reliance on any part of this announcement. It is recommended to consult an investment advisor.

AUB to announce Al-Hassad monthly draw winner of KD100,000 today

As a part of the Al-Hassad Islamic Program, the very first draw account in Islamic banking in Kuwait, Ahli United Bank (AUB) will conduct draw for the Lucky Winner of the KD 100,000 the monthly prize in Al-Hassad Islamic draw today, Wed September 06th, 2023. The draw will be held at AUB Head Office in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as a representative from Deloitte as the external auditor to oversee the draws as per the instructions of the Ministry of

Commerce and Industry in this regard. On this occasion, Mr. Amresh Nandkeolyar, Head of Marketing and Product Development, Retail at AUB said: Al-Hassad Islamic Account provides a suite of unique and exclusive features. It is the simplest and easiest savings account. Moreover, it provides a unique account-opening feature online with easy instant deposit option. Nandkeolyar added: "There are many great winning chances still awaiting our existing customers and anyone desirous to open Al-Hassad Islamic Savings Account

with Ahli United Bank. Nandkeolyar underlined that the Al-Hassad Islamic prizes program promotes the culture of savings and encourages society members to seek financial security. It also contributes to reshaping the lives of its customers for the better through winning valuable prizes that exhilarate and uplift them. From this standpoint, Ahli United Bank periodically reviews the structure of the draws and adapt them to be in line with the requirements and aspirations of the Bank's customers.

100% value for diamonds offered by MGD creates a new opportunity for jewellery lovers

Diamonds, the perfect gift, now emerges as an ideal investment choice too

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Spending vs. saving has always been a dilemma for customers when it comes to buying jewellery. For years now, gold jewellery was the only article that served both as a value-appreciating adornment and a reliable investment. Even though diamond jewellery remained as attractive as ever, questions about its exchange value held customers back from considering it a reliable investment. That has all changed with the new policy introduction from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's leading jewellery retailers, that gives customers 100% Value on Diamond Exchange. Now, customers wishing to exchange their diamond jewellery for either gold or diamond jewellery can do so at full value of diamonds, without any loss, making it as lucrative an investment option as gold.



Diamond Area



MGD Diamond jewellery



MGD Diamond jewellery



MGD Diamond jewellery

Malabar Gold & Diamonds. "We want to revolutionise the diamond jewellery retail, taking into consideration the concerns we identified during the research conducted on jewellery lovers and their resistance to buying diamond jewellery. Giving new meaning to the phrase, "A Diamond is Forever", this policy change was crafted to protect the value of the diamond jewellery among the new era of jewellery lovers. Ever since our inception in 1993, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been at the forefront of introducing customer-centric and transparent policies aimed at protecting custom-

er interests and this new policy on diamonds further testifies this", commented Mr. Abdul Salam KP, Vice Chairman, Malabar Group. The new policy comes in addition

to the unique and customer centric policies named 'Malabar Promises' offering customers complete peace of mind with initiatives like transparent price tag indicating gold weight,

stone weight, net weight and stone charges of the respective jewellery, tested and certified diamonds ensuring 28-point quality check of global standards, guaranteed buyback,

100% value on gold exchange, 100% 916 hallmarked jewellery, assured lifetime maintenance, ethical and responsible sourcing, fair price policy & fair labour practices.

Dutch govt spends blns on subsidies for 'fossil fuel' producers and users

Report lists 31 government subsidies

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Sept 5, (AP): The Dutch government spends some 37.5 billion euros (\$40.5 billion) per year in subsidies to industries that use fossil fuels, according to a new report published Monday by a platform that investigates multinationals and by two groups lobbying for a transition to renewable energy.

The report lists 31 government subsidies, mainly tax breaks, that make it cheaper for companies to produce and use fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas.

The sector with the biggest chunk of the government's support is the Dutch shipping industry, which benefits to the tune of 6.7 billion euros, according to the report. Electricity generated using fossil fuel gets 5.3 billion euros in tax breaks and other benefits, it adds.

The report was published by 'The Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, known as SOMO, the Dutch arm of Friends of the Earth and Oil Change International.

It calls on lawmakers to begin phasing out the subsidies even before the country's Nov. 22 general election.

"Fossil subsidies cost billions in taxpayer money, exacerbate the climate crisis, and line the coffers of big polluters," said Donald Pols, Director of Friends of the Earth Netherlands, adding that the money could be better spent in insulating homes and funding energy transition to sustainable sources.

"We want the House of Representatives to start phasing out fossil subsidies now. The climate cannot wait for a new coalition."

Minister for Climate and Energy Rob Jetten acknowledged that the country has to end the subsidies, but offered no timeline in a statement Monday.

"The government already has halted a number of measures and it is important to clearly and unequivocally map out exactly which further financial incentives are involved," he said.

Jetten said the ruling coalition, which is governing in caretaker mode until a new coalition is formed after the election, "is working on a complete overview of schemes that lead to financial benefits for fossil energy use and is making an estimate of the total size." He said details will be published in the annual budget later this month.

The report was published days before the environmental group Extinction Rebellion plans the latest in a series of protests in which activists block a busy road along the Dutch parliament building.



Top and above: Some photos from the event

Event in collaboration with INJAZ
KIB concludes summer camp for its employees' children, relatives

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently concluded the activities of its summer camp designed specifically for its employees' children and relatives. Organized in collaboration with INJAZ Kuwait, the KIB Summer Camp stems from the Bank's firm belief in the power of education and training in the KIB Life Academy. The step comes as part of KIB's eagerness and commitment to support entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises in line with government directives to encourage entrepreneurship among Kuwaiti youth within the framework of achieving Kuwait Vision 2035.

Commenting on the initiative, Siham AlKhorayef, Manager - Learning and Development at KIB said: "The children participating in the camp had the opportunity to learn the basics of saving money and its different techniques. The camp also helped them build business acumen and develop their innovation capabilities, especially since the program was designed with extensive and comprehensive expertise." She added that the program included numerous interactive classes and exciting activities based on challenges, in addition to sessions dedicated to enhancing public speaking skills.

Moreover, AlKhorayef affirmed KIB's ongoing investment in its employees in a comprehensive manner that extends to their families and relatives, saying: "Through this distinguished program, we sought to offer our employees' children the opportunity to develop their minds, build on their experiences and enhance their social skills in an enjoyable practical environment that encourages innovation. The program also provided them with basic knowledge and life skills that would benefit them in the future and help them eventually launch their own small and medium enterprises."

The two-week program was divided between two groups of children. The first group included children between 8 and 10 years old who participated in lessons about the importance of fami-



Siham AlKhorayef

ly, the nation, and its people. In addition, they attended a workshop and took part in different competitions, with the winning team walking away with a KD 250 prize.

The second group included children between the ages of 11 and 14. This group's focus was on business and entrepreneurship, covering topics such as 'More Than Money', 'It's My Business', and 'Entrepreneurship Master Class'. The participants tackled various challenges and the winning team received KD 500.

It is worth noting that KIB is continuously committed to supporting educational initiatives and community activities. This commitment is rooted in its strong belief in the importance of supporting young Kuwaiti talents and encouraging them to achieve their ambitions, as part of its comprehensive social responsibility program.

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

Babyshop now open at prestigious 360 Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Babyshop, the leading baby and children's retailer in the Middle East has launched a new standalone store in the prestigious 360 Mall in Kuwait, on 29th August 2023.

This addition marks another significant step forward in the brand's commitment to providing quality, yet affordable, baby & child essentials for families in the country.

Spanning an impressive 13,611 square feet, the new store boasts an extensive range of merchandise catering to children's needs from newborns to tweens. Customers can explore a diverse selection of children's clothes, baby essentials, nursery furniture, travel gear, and toys from best of brands all under one roof.

The store opened with a mega celebration that included exclusive free gifts for the first 100 shoppers, special

opening offers to ensure great value, and a range of engaging and entertaining activities designed specifically for kids.

In addition to this significant opening, Babyshop is thrilled to announce the launch of its third standalone store in Al Kout Mall, Kuwait in coming month. This expansion affirms Babyshop's commitment to getting closer to customers, so that they can experience the joy of shopping for their little ones right in their neighborhood.

Ruban Shammugurajah, CEO of Babyshop "We are delighted to be opening a standalone store in the prestigious 360 Mall. Babyshop has been part of the Kuwait landscape for the last 27 years, primarily within Centrepoint stores. We have built up a strong and trusted reputation for delivering quality and safe prod-

ucts for babies and children, which are also of great value. The opening of our standalone stores in the country affirms our commitment to offering parents exceptional brands and products that will assist them on their parenting journey".

Having been a key player in Kuwait for 27 years, primarily through its much-loved Centrepoint brand, Babyshop has built up a trusted and loyal customer base. The brand aims to strengthen its place in the community with the opening of standalone stores, led by its purpose: 'Every child deserves the best start in life'.

The 360 mall store joins a global network of over 250 stores across 13 countries, with 12 stores currently in Kuwait - 9 in Centrepoint and now 2 standalone stores, the first of which was opened last month in the Khairan Mall.



KIB Summer Camp

BUSINESS

Japan announces emergency relief for seafood exporters hit by China ban

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced on Monday a 20.7 billion yen (\$141 million) emergency fund to help exporters hit by China's ban on Japanese seafood over the release of treated radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The discharge of the wastewater into the ocean began Aug. 24 and is expected to continue for decades. Japanese fishing associations and groups in neighboring countries have strongly opposed the release. In addition to China's ban on all Japanese seafood imports, Hong Kong has banned Japanese

seafood from Fukushima and nine other prefectures.

Chinese trade restrictions have affected Japanese seafood exporters since even before the release began, with shipments held up at Chinese customs for weeks. Prices of scallops, sea cucumbers and other seafood popular in China have plunged. The ban has affected prices and sales of seafood from places as far away from Fukushima as the northern island of Hokkaido, home to many scallop growers.

Kishida said the emergency fund is in addition to 80 billion yen (\$547 million) that the govern-

ment previously allocated to support fisheries and seafood processing and combat damage to the reputation of Japanese products.

"We will protect the Japanese fisheries industry at all costs," Kishida said, asking people to help out by serving more seafood at dinner tables and other ways.

The money will be used to find new markets for Japanese seafood to replace China and fund government purchases of seafood for temporary freezing and storage. The government will also seek to expand domestic seafood consumption. (Agencies)



In this photo provided by Cabinet Public Affairs Office, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida eats the seafood from Fukushima prefecture at lunch at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, Japan, Aug. 30, 2023. (AP)

Firm to support decarbonation of construction sector in region

Hoffmann signs licensing deal in Saudi Arabia with Shurfah Group

CHAILLÉ-SOUS-LES-ORMEAUX, France, Sept 5: Hoffmann Green Cement Technologies (ISIN: FR0013451044, Mnemo: ALHGR) (Paris:ALHGR) ("Hoffmann Green Cement" or the "Company"), an industrial player committed to the decarbonation of the construction sector that designs and markets innovative clinker-free cements, has announced the signature with the Shurfah Group of a 22-year exclusive licensing agreement in order to build several Hoffmann Green units in Saudi Arabia to support the decarbonation of the construction sector in this territory.

An exclusive 22-year licensing agreement to benefit from Hoffmann Green's clinker-free technologies and replicate a first plant based on H2 vertical model in Saudi Arabia

The Shurfah Group, a Saudi conglomerate with over 13,800 thousand housing units and more than 6 billion riyals of investments, has signed a 22-year licensing agreement to finance, build and operate Hoffmann Green production units. The agreement was also signed to market Hoffmann Green carbon-free cements exclusively throughout Saudi Arabia. A first clinker-free cement plant will be built in 2024 in Saudi Arabia, and it will be a replica of H2.

Transfer

The engineering and production process will be carried out by IBAU Hamburg, the German general contractor with whom, as a reminder,

'With Saudi, Go Global' Huawei Cloud launches services in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 5: Huawei Cloud has announced the launch of the Huawei Cloud Riyadh Region at the Huawei Cloud Summit Saudi Arabia 2023. This Region will help promote digital-led economic growth in the country.

The launch of the Huawei Cloud Riyadh Region announced that the Saudi Arabia Region will be Huawei Cloud's focus in serving the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, providing innovative, reliable, secure, and sustainable cloud services. This achievement underscores Huawei Cloud's unwavering dedication to supporting Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, aligned with the nation's ambitious technological advancement, leadership, and innovation goals.

H.E. Eng. Haitham bin Abdul Rahman Al-Ohali, Vice Minister at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) in Saudi

Arabia, shared his perspective on this monumental achievement: "Huawei is a proud partner in our country's technological progress having worked with the Ministry, service providers, enterprises and universities in various collective efforts towards digital transformation. We look forward to the transformative impact the Huawei Cloud Riyadh Region will have on our digital ecosystem, creating new avenues for innovation and growth."

The Riyadh Region provides several benefits to customers. First, this region translates Huawei's global expertise on digital transformation into industries' excellence, making innovation easier and faster. Huawei Cloud Saudi Region is located in Riyadh and through a 3AZ (availability zone) architecture, it will provide highly available and secure cloud services, ensuring the stable operations of various services. In addition,

the Region can provide full-stack cloud services, including infrastructure, databases, containers, big data, and AI services to meet the requirements of various industries.

Regulations

Based on the 3AZ high-reliability architecture, the Riyadh Region provides low latency, covering all existing carriers' networks powered by STC, Zain, and Mobily. The local data center will store data locally in line with local data regulations. The company will also launch 68 cloud services in three categories - data, AI, and cloud native.

Steven Yi, Senior Vice President of Huawei and President of Huawei Middle East and Central Asia Region, said: "I've cherished numerous unforgettable moments in this extraordinary country. Just yesterday, walking through the newly renovated Diriyah evoked my deep emo-

tion. It brought to mind an old Chinese saying: 'Build the right nest, and a Phoenix will come.' The essence is clear: create an inviting environment, and you'll attract the best. This is undeniably true for Saudi, a nation that consistently attracts top investors."

The company revealed that Huawei Cloud will utilize a number of industry-leading technologies to advance intelligence for Saudi Arabia, including the Pangu Models 3.0, which address AI adoption challenges, leveraging industry insights to enhance AI capabilities across sectors like finance, government, manufacturing, and more. Pangu Models 3.0 will usher in a new era of innovation in the Kingdom while accelerating economic diversification.

At the Huawei Cloud Summit Saudi Arabia 2023, the company also released the "Saudi Arabia Go Cloud Go Global" program to connect Chinese and Saudi

enterprises, fostering growth and innovation. The company will leverage its strong experience of working in more than 170 countries and regions, various industries, advanced technologies, and solutions to help Chinese enterprises enter Saudi Arabia and enhance partnerships with local stakeholders.

Jacqueline Shi, President of Huawei Cloud Global Marketing and Sales Service, said, "Huawei Cloud aims high, aims global, and aims here in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia Region will be our focus in serving the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, providing innovative, reliable, secure, and sustainable cloud services. We hope to create a better choice for advancing intelligence. This cloud gives you more choices to stay innovative, inclusive, and open. This cloud will help you succeed in the digital and intelligent era. This cloud is for everyone."

Hoffmann Green signed an exclusive partnership agreement in June 2022 to support the construction of Hoffmann units worldwide. This and all subsequent vertical units will be built entirely with Hoffmann Green cement.

In return for the industrial and technological transfer and this exclusivity, Hoffmann Green will receive from Shurfah an entry fee and fixed and variable annual royalties based

on sales generated by the marketing of Hoffmann cements in Saudi Arabia.

The aim is to support the ecological transition of the Saudi construction sector by setting up several vertical plants producing Hoffmann Green cement.

Beyond this first plant, the aim of this contract is to duplicate several H2 plants throughout Saudi Arabia.

As part of its "Vision 2030" national plan for economic transformation, Saudi Arabia has made the ecological transition a development priority, particularly in the large and booming construction market driven by the numerous Smart Cities projects. Thanks to their future plants, Hoffmann Green and Shurfah aim to support the decarbonation of Saudi Arabia's construction sector and help

the country to accelerate its trajectory towards carbon neutrality.

Julien Blanchard and David Hoffmann, Co-founders of Hoffmann Green Cement Technologies, said: "Just few weeks after signing a pre-agreement, we have given concrete expression to our commitment by signing this licensing contract with Shurfah, a major player in the Saudi Arabian construction industry. After

Switzerland and the United Kingdom, we are continuing our international deployment with the aim of supporting, through this new contract, the kingdom's ambitious "Vision 2030" project and participating in the decarbonation of their construction industry through the construction of several of our units on their territory and the marketing of our 0% cement clinker."

\$4.5b UAE initiative to unlock Africa's potential

COP28 presidency calls for green growth through fairer climate finance for Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept. 5: COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber addressed the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, held in Nairobi, Kenya, where he emphasized the need for mitigation and adaptation finance as critical success factors for climate progress in Africa and globally.

Noting that the world is "losing the race to secure the goals of the Paris Agreement and struggling to keep 1.5 within reach," Dr. Al Jaber called on "all parties to unite around a plan of action that is fully inclusive, a plan of action that fast tracks a just, responsible and well managed energy transition, focuses on people, lives and livelihoods, and fixes climate finance."

Addressing heads of state at the high-level opening of the summit, Al Jaber announced a new \$4.5 billion initiative between the UAE and Africa that seeks to unlock Africa's capacity for sustainable prosperity.

Al Jaber announced that "The Ethad Dhabi Fund for Development, Etihad Credit Insurance, Masdar and AMEA Power will join with Africa 50 as a strategic partner under the guidance of the UAE and African leadership to develop 15 GW of clean power by 2030. Working together, we will deploy 4.5 billion dollars that will catalyze at least an additional 12.5 billion dollars from multilateral, public and private sources."

Projects

"It is our ambition that this will launch a new transformative partnership to jump start a pipeline of bankable clean energy projects," said Al Jaber. The President-Delegate explained that the partnership will "demonstrate the commercial case for clean investment" across Africa and "act as a scalable model that can and should be replicated...it is designed to work with Africa, for Africa."

Al Jaber acknowledged that "Africa contributes just 3 percent of global emissions, yet suffers some of the worst consequences. Droughts, floods and failed harvests have exposed one fifth of Africa's people to hunger, tripled the number of people displaced in the last three years, and is dragging down Africa's GDP growth by at least 5 per cent every year."

Al Jaber also recognized the scale of energy poverty within Africa, acknowledging that "almost half of Africa's population still have no access to electricity, almost one billion people lack clean cooking fuels, and this energy gap will only increase as Africa's population grows."

Discussing how to fast track low-carbon solutions for Africa's growing population, Al Jaber said that the "key to making this happen is finance, but it must be made available, accessible and affordable."

As a part of the COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda, Al Jaber emphasized his plan to fix climate finance. He urged donors to "close out the 100-billion-dollar pledge they made over a decade ago and to replenish the green climate fund...In parallel, we need a complete upgrade of the global financial architecture that was built for a different era. IFIs and MDBs must up their game, including by raising con-

Calls for global carbon tax

Climate change eating away Africa's GDP: Kenya's leader

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept 5, (AP): Climate change is "relentlessly eating away" at Africa's economic progress and it's time to have a global conversation about a carbon tax on polluters, Kenya's president declared Tuesday as the first Africa Climate Summit began.

"Those who produce the garbage refuse to pay their bills," President William Ruto said.

The rapidly growing African continent of more than 1.3 billion people is losing 5% to 15% of its GDP growth every year to the widespread impacts of climate change, according to Ruto. It's a source of deep frustration in the region that contributes by far the least to global warming.

The summit's opening speeches included clear calls to reform the global financial structures that have left African nations paying about five times more to borrow money than others, worsening the debt crisis for many. Africa has more than 30 of the world's most indebted countries, Kenya's cabinet secretary for the environment, Soipan Tuuya, said.

The US government's climate envoy, John Kerry, acknowledged the "acute, unfair debt." He also said 17 of the world's 20 countries most impacted by climate change are in Africa - while the world's 20 richest nations, including his own, produce 80% of the world's carbon emissions that are driving climate change.

Economy

Kenya's president said Africa's 54 countries "must go green fast before industrializing and not vice versa, unlike (richer nations) had the luxury to do." Transforming Africa's economy on a green trajectory "is the most feasible, just and efficient way to attain a net-zero world by 2050," he said.

Climate finance is key, speakers said, with richer nations' promise of \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries still unfulfilled. Ruto said the summit declaration will "firmly encourage" everyone to keep their promises.

The United Arab Emirates, which

will host the next United Nations climate meeting, announced it plans to invest \$4.5 billion in Africa's "clean energy potential."

The African continent has 60% of the world's renewable energy assets, and more than 30% of the minerals key to renewable and low-carbon technologies. One goal of the summit is to transform the narrative around the continent from victim to assertive, wealthy partner.

Africa's GDP should be revalued for its assets that include the world's second-largest rainforest and biodiversity, said the president of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina.

Divisions

"Africa cannot be nature-rich and cash-poor," he said.

But divisions are evident around the issue that was little mentioned in the opening speeches and yet is at the heart of the tough conversations ahead: Fossil fuels.

The African Development Bank president said Africa must use its natural gas resources - a growing interest of Europe - along with renewable energy sources. "Give us space to grow," he said.

Ruto, however, has criticized the "addiction" to fossil fuels. His country now gets more than 90% of its energy from renewables.

"We don't have to do what the developed countries did to power their industries. It will be harder to use renewable energy exclusively, but it can be done," said one local summit attendee, Martha Lusweti.

The UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, told the summit it's time to "break our addiction to fossil fuels." The world spent \$7 trillion on fossil fuel subsidies in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund.

European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen said African nations could produce enough clean energy to power the continent and export abroad, "but for this, Africa needs massive investment."

action and real results." We also need early pledges for the loss and damage fund, to help vulnerable countries recover from severe climate impacts that they are already experiencing.

The COP28 President-Designate stated, "What was promised in Sharm El Sheikh, must be fully operational in Dubai."

During his remarks, Al Jaber also highlighted many of Africa's trailblazing climate initiatives noting that many African countries are already leading the way.

The West says it has

Won't renew grain deal until West meets demands: Putin

NEW YORK, Sept 5, (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that a landmark deal allowing Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea amid the war won't be restored until the West meets Moscow's demands on its own agricultural exports.

Ukraine and its Western allies have dismissed the Kremlin's demands as a ploy to advance its own interests.

Still, Putin's remarks dashed hopes that his talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could revive an agreement seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Russia refused to extend the deal in July, complaining that a parallel agreement 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, though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

Putin reiterated those complaints Monday, while also telling reporters that if those commitments were honored, Russia could return to the deal "within days."

Erdogan also expressed hope that a breakthrough could come soon. He said Turkey and the U.N. - which both brokered the original deal - have put together a new package of proposals to unlock the issue.

"We believe that we will reach a solution that will meet the expectations in a short time," Erdogan said at the news conference held with Putin in the Russian resort of Sochi.

Negotiation

Earlier, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock lashed out, saying Putin's "game with the grain agreement is cynical."

"It's only because of Putin that the freighters don't have free passage again," she told reporters in Berlin.

A lot is riding on the negotiation. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on. Data from the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul, which organized shipments under the deal, show that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China.

Grain prices shot up after Russia pulled out of the deal but have since fallen back, indicating that there isn't a big crunch in the market for the moment.

But failure to revive the agreement will have "drastic impacts" in countries such as Somalia and Egypt that rely heavily on Black Sea grain, according to Galip Dalay, an associate fellow at the Chatham House think tank in London.

Putin is looking for some relief from sanctions and at the same time is engaged in a "war of narratives," Dalay said, because the Russian leader "doesn't want to come across as the bad guy in the eyes of the global south as a result of this food insecurity."

'Restrictions hampered trade'

What's at 'stake' as Putin dashed grain deal hopes

ISTANBUL, Sept 5, (AP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Vladimir Putin on Monday, hoping to persuade the Russian leader to rejoin a deal allowing Ukraine to safely export grain. Moscow withdrew from the agreement in July. But Putin made it clear that the initiative would not be restored right now.

Here's what's at stake: Putin poured cold water over hopes for a revival of the grain initiative, saying the West must first meet its demands on facilitating Russian agricultural exports.

The West has dismissed those complaints before and said there is nothing stopping those exports.

The Kremlin refused to renew the grain agreement when it expired in July, claiming that a parallel deal promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer had not been honored.

Moscow complained that restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade, even though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year. Some companies have been wary of doing business with Russia because of sanctions, though Western countries have made assurances that Russian food and fertilizer exports are exempt.

Power

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

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

The Turkish president has maintained those close ties during the 18-month war. 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.

At the same time, NATO member Turkey has also supported Ukraine, sending arms, meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and backing Kyiv's bid to join the Western alliance.

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

Traditional rivals, Turkey and Russia have been on opposing sides in conflicts in Syria, Libya and Nagorno-Karabakh. Despite that, relations between the countries in fields such as energy, defense, diplomacy, tourism and trade have flourished.

Challenges

But since Erdogan's reelection in May, Putin has faced domestic challenges that may make him appear a less reliable partner, most notably following the short-lived armed rebellion by late mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin in June.

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 remain there for the duration of the war.

Erdogan said Turkey and the United Nations had prepared a new package of proposals. "We believe that we will reach a solution that will meet the expectations in a short time," Erdogan said following Monday's talks in Russian resort of Sochi. Putin also held out hope the deal could be renewed - if its demands were met.

But earlier, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock lashed out, saying Putin's "game with the grain agreement is cynical."

Ukraine and its allies have often noted that Russia's move left many developing nations in the lurch, since so many were recipients of the grain.

Perhaps in an effort to address that accusation, Putin said Monday that Russia was close to finalizing an agreement to provide free grain to six African countries. Last month, he promised shipments to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Eritrea and Central African Republic.

The Russian leader added that the country will ship 1 million metric tons

(1.1 million tons) of cheap grain to Turkey for processing and delivery to poor countries.

In addition to pulling out of the grain deal, Russia has repeatedly attacked the Odessa region, where Ukraine's main Black Sea port is. Hours before the Sochi meeting, the Kremlin's forces launched a second barrage in two days on the area. The Ukrainian air force said it intercepted 23 of 32 drones that targeted the Odessa and Dnipropetrovsk regions. It did not specify damage caused by those that got through.

The Integrated Xperience platform makes its debut in Signia's all-new Pure Charge&Go IX and Silk Charge&Go IX - the world's first rechargeable, ready-to-wear completely-in-the-canal hearing aids.



Hearing aid innovator Signia, part of WS Audiology, has launched Integrated Xperience, a breakthrough technology that enables hearing aid wearers to hear all speakers in noisy group conversations clearly. Even when speakers move or the wearer turns their head, the hearing aids ensure improved speech understanding. Hearing aid wearers often have difficulty following dynamic conversations at noisy social events. Most hearing aids struggle to enhance speech in these environments and are unable to switch directional modes fast enough to effectively capture multiple speakers.

Signia Integrated Xperience is introducing the world's first hearing aid that identifies and locks on to the voice of every person in a conversation, enhancing their speech and reducing background noise. Conversations and social interactions with our loved ones and friends are essential to our well-being and to keep our brains healthy. "Integrated Xperience is about more than just hearing better. It is about giving hearing aid wearers the confidence to engage, interact, and contribute, especially in noisy group conversations. They don't have to observe from the sidelines anymore. No other hearing aid can track and

enhance multiple speakers in real-time. We are pleased to introduce this important innovation to the market from one of our flagship brands and to deliver on our purpose of making wonderful sound part of everyone's life," says Maarten Barmiento, Chief Marketing Officer, WS Audiology. In a study investigating speech performance in a group conversation scenario, Signia Integrated Xperience provided a significant improvement in speech understanding for the hearing aid wearer. 95% [1] of the participants showed better performance with Integrated Xperience RealTime Conversation Enhancement than without. (AP)

Signia launches Integrated Xperience

Studies offer hope of developing personalized care for DS

EWBG and Heidelberg revolutionize down syndrome research

HEIDELBERG, Germany, Sept 5: A ground-breaking research collaboration between European Wellness Biomedical Group (EWBG), through its subsidiaries European Wellness Academy (EWA) and Baden R&D Laboratories (Baden), and Heidelberg's Institute of Anatomy and Cell Biology has yielded new insights into the distinct neuroanatomy and neuropsychology of Down syndrome (DS). The studies promise a paradigm shift in developing personalized rehabilitation strategies and care programs.

In a pivotal study published in Frontiers in Neuroscience (doi: 10.1002/brb3.3186), researchers Dr. Osama Hamadelseed, Prof. Dato' Sri Dr. Mike Chan, Prof. Dato' Sri Dr. Michelle Wong, and Prof. Dr. Thomas Skutella synthesized data from 84 studies spanning from 1977 to 2022. Their findings challenge the conventional view of DS as a homogenous group, revealing unique neuroanatomical changes linked to language and memory deficits that emphasize the need for tailored care approaches.

"Individualized assessment of neuroanatomical landmarks and cognitive skills is paramount for developing effective intervention strategies," commented Heidelberg University's Head of Neuroanatomy, Prof. Dr. Thomas Skutella.

A second study, published in Brain and Behavior (doi: 10.1002/brb3.3186), delved into the link between cognitive capabilities and brain volume variations in DS using MRI and psychological evaluations. The findings underscore the connection between cognitive functions, language skills, and altered brain volumes in DS, offering insights into early intervention and rehabilitation management.

Intervention

"This insight could drive early intervention strategies and contribute to designing effective rehabilitation management protocol," stated Dr. Osama Hamadelseed.

These studies represent a significant leap forward in understanding DS and related neurodevelopmental disorders, with the potential to redefine care strategies for individuals with DS, ushering in a new era of personalized support and improved quality of life.

EWBG, globally acclaimed for innovations spanning stem cell therapeutics, immunomodulation, biological regenerative medicine, and more, are working closely with Heidelberg University, Germany's oldest university and a bastion of scientific research in Europe, on various joint research projects, including on autism, global developmental delay, and neurodegenerative disorders.

EWBG chairman and scientist, Prof. Dato' Sri Dr. Mike Chan, a Senator of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA), has reaffirmed his continuous commitment to creating sustainable growth through strategic international collaborations in bioregenerative medicine.

EWA, a CPD authorized body and academic arm of EWBG, offers premium training and development in cutting-edge Bio-Regenerative Medicine modalities for practitioners and researchers. Its core academic team

comprises qualified MDs, immunologists, and scientists with numerous international affiliations and accreditations.

Baden, with branches in Germany and Asia, serves as EWBG's R&D arm. Equipped with world-class facilities and an experienced team of experts, Baden is a leading provider in bioregenerative research and development.

Established in 1386, Heidelberg University is Germany's oldest university and a renowned research powerhouse in Stem Cell Research & Immunology in Europe. With 56 Nobel Laureates associated with the institution, Heidelberg University boasts an illustrious history.

Cybin Inc. (NYSE American:CYBN) (NEO:CYBN) ("Cybin"), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company committed to revolutionizing mental healthcare by developing new and innovative psychedelic-based treatment options, and Small Pharma Inc. (TSXV:DMT) (OTCQB:DMTTF) ("Small Pharma"), a UK-based biotechnology company focused on short-duration psychedelic therapies for mental health conditions, has announced that they have entered into a definitive arrangement agreement (the "Agreement") pursuant to which Cybin will acquire all of Small Pharma's issued and outstanding securities in an all-share transaction pursuant to a plan of arrangement (the "Transaction").

Under the terms of the Transaction, Small Pharma shareholders will receive 0.2409 common shares in the capital of Cybin ("Cybin Shares") for each common share of Small Pharma ("Small Pharma Share") held. The exchange ratio implies consideration of approximately \$0.10 per Small Pharma Share based on the closing price of the Cybin Shares on the Cboe Canada exchange ("Cboe Canada") on August 25, 2023, representing a 43.64% premium based on the 30-day volume weighted average prices of the Cybin Shares on the Cboe Canada and the Small Pharma Shares on the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSXV") for the period ended on August 25, 2023. As of the date of this press release, it is expected that existing Cybin shareholders and Small Pharma securityholders will own approximately 74.5% and 25.5% of Cybin, respectively.

The Agreement has been unanimously approved by Small Pharma's board of directors (the "Small Pharma Board") on the unanimous recommendation of a special committee of its independent directors (the "Small Pharma Special Committee"), and Cybin's board of directors (the "Cybin Board").

"This transaction creates a clear market leader in novel psychedelic therapeutics. The synergy of Cybin's and Small Pharma's development programs, intellectual property, and robust datasets enhances our leadership and expertise in developing potentially best-in-class, optimized psychedelic therapeutics, and positions the combined company to generate long-term value for all stakeholders.

Medimaps gets EU certification under MDR

IBT, ATLATL Centre join forces to tackle challenges in brain health

Effortless and hyper-personalized service

Cognigy unveils Knowledge AI for enterprise customer service

BEIJING, Sept 5: Infinite Brain Technologies (IBT) and ATLATL Innovation Centre (ATLATL) have this week entered a Memorandum of Understanding. As esteemed figures in their industries, the two organizations will join forces to advance the field of brain health technology integrated with artificial intelligence.

Starting out of China, IBT Global is a rising player in Digital Therapeutics (DTX) with an experienced cross-functional team operating at the intersection of neuroscience and software technology. IBT global develops patient-facing software applications that provide better outcomes for patients with proven clinical benefit.

The ATLATL Center for Innovation & Research is a global innovation research and development center located in the heart of multiple prestigious science parks, creating a new life sciences ecosystem by partnering with entrepreneurs, investors, pharmaceutical companies, and service companies.

Dr. Wei Sun, Founder and Chairman of IBT, made the following statement: "IBT's team focuses on developing precise Digital Therapeutics for brain health globally and we are pleased and honored to be partnering with ATLATL to develop precise digital therapeutics for brain health with advanced AI technologies."

CEO of ATLATL, PC Zhu, expressed how ATLATL aims to make a significant contribution to the global brain health industry: "ATLATL is known for its infrastructure and operational management, specialized core facilities and on-site interactive research services. IBT is widely acknowledged for its ability to develop accurate digital therapeutics using advanced AI technologies and we are honored to work with IBT to enhance global innovation in brain health."

Justin Jia, CTO of IBT and CEO of IBT Global said: "We are thrilled to partner with ATLATL, leveraging its extensive R&D services and vast bio-tech networks, as we at IBT work towards our mission of creating cutting-edge AI-powered digital therapeutics. Our goal is to provide effective clinical solutions for individuals battling mental disorders."

The ATLATL Innovation Center is a world-class scientific hub for global life sciences. ATLATL streamlines the elements of R&D to improve resource utilization and revolutionizes the traditional asset-heavy investment model into an asset-light operation model. ATLATL provides not only state of the art facilities and professional operational management, but also many R&D platforms staffed with scientists and project managers specializing in

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 5: With a commitment to maximizing the value of AI for enterprise contact centers, Conversational AI leader Cognigy has announced the launch of Cognigy Knowledge AI. The new solution is the latest development in the company's ongoing charter to empower enterprises with effortless and hyper-personalized customer service.

The rapid adoption of AI in contact centers is being driven by the demand for efficient and painless interactions for customers as well as reduced operational costs and improved data-driven decision-making. According to a recent study by Data Bridge Market Research, the adoption of AI is on the rise and projected to reach \$7.5B by 2030.

But Generative AI, or Large Language Models (LLMs), can be daunting, leaving customer service teams with an inability to make use of the latest technology. An innovator in Conversational AI, Cognigy is on a mission to make AI easy and accessible.

According to Philipp Heltewig, CEO and co-founder of Cognigy, "Cognigy Knowledge AI is enterprise-class, safe and secure Generative AI-powered knowledge search and

retrieval. As market leaders in transforming customer service and agent support, we continue to enhance our offerings with the latest AI innovations - with the intentions of making technology easy to use and empowering businesses to provide unparalleled service experiences."

Transform

Cognigy Knowledge AI is poised to transform customer service and agent support by fusing LLMs and advanced vector search technology. Designed to seamlessly integrate generative question answering, enterprise knowledge and hyper-personalized interactions, this innovation presents a powerful solution for businesses seeking superior customer experiences.

Cognigy Knowledge AI features include:

- **Generative Q&A on Autopilot:** Automate Q&A query resolution and allow customers to find the information they need - immediately. Powered by advanced vector search technology and LLMs, Cognigy Knowledge AI works with diverse knowledge sources to extract and summarize the most accurate answer to every customer question.

various fields. By collaborating with leading biopharmaceuticals, ATLATL integrates global resources to stimulate innovative developments. ATLATL currently has R&D platforms all around the world, including Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore and Boston, etc., leveraging the uniqueness of each site to help innovators quickly reach the next milestone.

Infinite Brain Technology (Beijing Infinite Brain Technology Co., Ltd.) is a neuroscience smart healthcare company focusing on children and adolescents' mental health services. We operate under a humanistic approach to develop scientifically sound and evidence-based digital solutions that incorporate serious games, artificial intelligence, big data and other advanced technologies, with the aim of providing accessible, life-span oriented solu-

tions for neurological and mental diseases in children and adolescents.

Medimaps Group, a Swiss/Global med-tech company specializing in image-processing software with AI capabilities for assessing bone health, announced today it received the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) certification from its notified body BSI (CE 2797) for its management system and product portfolio.

"We are very proud to be one of the earliest AI companies to achieve the MDR certification. By successfully navigating the rigorous requirements of the Medical Device Regulation, our company proves its ability to deliver innovative and reliable solutions that meet the highest regulatory standards for the benefit of patients, healthcare professionals and medical business

- **Hyper-Personalized Interactions:** Go beyond standard answers and impress customers with hyper-personalized conversations. Seamless CRM integration means that Cognigy's AI agents can tailor retrieved information to each unique customer journey, driving delight and loyalty through outstanding service experiences.

- **Transaction-Ready:** Empower customers to accomplish their goals in a single interaction. Through deep backend integrations, Cognigy combines Knowledge AI with the ability to serve and solve transactional queries from start to finish.

- **Agents' Knowledge Shortcut:** Be it a seasoned customer service representative or a newly onboarded agent, Cognigy Knowledge AI empowers teams to always deliver accurate and speedy service by surfacing the most relevant, concise information across internal documents.

- **Elevate Enterprise Efficiency:** Save costs and streamline processes by eliminating manual creation and maintenance of FAQ sets. Simply upload documents such as existing PDF files or connect to enterprise knowledge sources.

partners", said Prof. Didier Hans, co-founder and CEO of Medimaps Group.

"The MDR framework is of utmost importance as it governs our processes to develop, manufacture, market, and monitor the safety of our products. This is the result of a two-year effort to execute this complex regulatory process, which guarantees the highest manufacturing standards and traceability for our medical software", added Meinhard F. Schmidt, chairman of the board of Directors of Medimaps Group.

The new MDR came into effect in Europe in May 2021 and it represents the most significant change to the European healthcare regulatory framework in decades. The certification ensures that medical device manufacturers meet the most stringent quality requirements in order to commercialize their products in Europe.

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'A little bit dirty and muddy, but spirits are high'

Burning Man exodus begins after flooding stranded revelers

BLACK ROCK DESERT, Nev., Sept. 5, (AP): Muddy roads flooded by a summer storm that left tens of thousands of partygoers stranded for days at the Burning Man counterculture festival had dried up enough by Monday afternoon to allow them to begin their exodus from the northern Nevada desert.

Event organizers said they started to let traffic flow out of the main road around 2 p.m. local time - even as they continued urging attendees to delay their exit to help ease traffic on Monday. About two hours after the mass departure began, organizers estimated a wait time of about five hours.

Organizers also asked attendees not to walk out of the Black Rock Desert about 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno as others had done throughout the weekend, including celebrity DJ Diplo and comedian Chris Rock. They didn't specify why.

The festival had been closed to vehicles after more than a half-inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain fell Friday, causing flooding and foot-deep mud.

The road closures came just before the first of two ceremonial fires signaling an end to the festival was scheduled to begin Saturday night. The event traditionally culminates with the burning of a large wooden effigy shaped like a man and a wood temple structure during the final two nights, but the fires were postponed as authorities worked to reopen exit routes by the end of the Labor Day weekend.

Weather permitting, "the Man" is scheduled to be torched 9 p.m.

Monday while the temple is set to go up in flames 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The National Weather Service in Reno said it should stay mostly clear and dry at the festival site Monday, although some light rain showers could pass through Tuesday morning. The event began Aug. 27 and had been scheduled to end Monday morning, with attendees packing up and cleaning up after themselves.

"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."

Camping

The annual gathering, which launched on a San Francisco beach in 1986, 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: Dust storms forced organizers to temporarily close entrances to the festival in 2018, and the event was twice canceled altogether during the pandemic.

At least one fatality has been reported, but organizers said the death of a man in his 40s wasn't weather-related. The sheriff of nearby Pershing County said he was investigating but has not identified the man or a cause of death.

President Joe Biden told reporters in Delaware on Sunday that he

was aware of the situation at Burning Man, including the death, and the White House was in touch with local authorities.

The event is remote on the best of days and emphasizes self-sufficiency. Amid the flooding, revelers were urged to conserve their food and water, and most remained hunkered down at the site.

Some attendees, however, managed to walk several miles to the nearest town or catch a ride there.

Diplo, whose real name is Thomas Wesley Pentz, posted a video to Instagram on Saturday evening showing him and 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," Diplo wrote.

Cindy Bishop and three of her friends managed to drive their rented RV out of the festival at dawn on Monday when, Bishop said, the main road wasn't being guarded.

She said they were happy to make it out after driving toward the exit - and getting stuck several times - over the course of two days.

But Bishop, who traveled from Boston for her second Burning Man, said spirits were still high at the festival when they had left. Most people she spoke with said they planned to stay for the ceremonial burns.

"The spirit in there," she said, "was really like, 'We're going to take care of each other and make the best of it.'"

Music

Variety



Farhana Bodi poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Priscilla' during the 80th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Monday, Sept. 4. (AP)

Film

Polish official harshly criticizes Holland's film

'Green Border' explores migration crisis

WARSAW, Poland, Sept. 5, (AP): A leading member of Poland's conservative government has sharply criticized a film premiering at the Venice Film Festival on Tuesday that explores the humanitarian disaster affecting migrants along the border between Poland and Belarus.

"Green Border," by Polish director Agnieszka Holland, puts a spotlight on the refugee crisis that emerged two years ago at Belarus' borders with the European Union nations of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. The film is in competition at the festival.

Poland's hard-right justice minister, Zbigniew Ziobro, slammed the film, comparing it to Nazi propaganda.

"In the Third Reich, the Germans produced propaganda films showing Poles as bandits and murderers. Today they have Agnieszka Holland for that," Ziobro wrote Monday on X, the social platform formerly known as Twitter.

According to the film festival's description, the feature film dramatizes the tragedy that has played out in this "green border" of swamps and forests in a story showing the intertwining lives of a Polish activist, a young Polish border guard and a Syrian family.

Holland has been a critic of the Polish government's hard-line treatment of refugees and migrants, a viewpoint reflected in the film.

In 2021, the Belarusian dictator, Alexander Lukashenko, lured migrants from the Middle East and Africa to Belarus with flights and visas, and directed them toward European Union countries. Belarusian guards in some cases pushed them across the border.

Poland accused Lukashenko, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, of seeking to sow discord in the region. In many cases Polish border guards pushed the migrants back or refused to allow them to apply for asylum. In the summer of 2021, migrants became stranded in the no-man's land between Poland and Belarus where they were denied humanitarian and medical help.

Activists have reported the deaths of dozens of migrants in the border zone.

"I understood that a training camp of cruelty was being established on the border. In my opinion, it was a purely political decision," Holland said in a recent interview with Polish Newsweek in which she accuses populist politicians in Poland and elsewhere of seeking to win political points with what she described as a short-sighted and inhumane approach to migration. The film is being released in Poland on Sept. 22.

Holland has been among the liberal Poles who have condemned Polish authorities for their treatment of the migrants. The critics argue that even though Belarus was guilty of using the migrants as pawns in a cynical geopolitical game, a democracy like Poland should have treated them in line with international law by allowing them to apply for asylum.

Polish authorities have accused its critics and the Polish activists who mobilized to help the migrants of harming Poland's interests.

Also:

BERLIN: The artistic director of the Berlin International Film Festival, **Carlo Chatrion**, said on Saturday that he will step down next year after **Germany's** culture minister announced a new management structure for the event.

Chatrion joined the "Berlinale," which along with its peers in **Cannes** and **Venice** is one of **Europe's** major annual film festivals, as one of two leaders in 2019 alongside executive director **Mariette Rissenbeek**. The duo replaced long-serving festival director Dieter Kosslak.

Earlier this year, officials said that Rissenbeek had decided not to extend her contract and would leave when it expires in March 2024. On Thursday, Culture Minister **Claudia Roth** said that officials had decided that the festival "should in the future once again be led and represented by one person."

Her office said a commission was set up to look for a new leader, and Chatrion had declared himself ready to enter "constructive talks with the new directorship on a future role in the new Berlinale team."

But in a statement posted on the festival website Saturday, Chatrion said he won't be staying.

"I thought that continuity could be facilitated if I remained part of the festival, but, in the new structure as it has been presented, it is quite clear that the conditions for me to continue as Artistic Director no longer exist," he said.

"The next edition of the festival will be therefore the end of this rewarding journey."

The 2024 festival, the event's 74th edition, will run from Feb. 15-25.

Chatrion, 51, was the artistic director of the Locarno film festival in Switzerland before moving to Berlin.

LOS ANGELES: A Utah woman who gave online parenting advice via a once-popular YouTube channel was charged with six felony counts of aggravated child abuse after two of her six children were found abused and malnourished, authorities said.

Ruby Franke, whose now-defunct channel "8 Passengers" chronicled her family life, was arrested in the southern Utah city of **Ivins**. She was taken into custody at the home of **Jodi Hildebrandt**, who owns a counseling business that she says teaches people to improve their lives by being honest, responsible and humble. Hildebrandt was also arrested Wednesday and faces the same six abuse charges.

Franke appears in YouTube videos with Hildebrandt that were posted online by Hildebrandt's counseling business, **ConneXions Classroom**.

Prosecutors allege Franke and Hildebrandt either caused or allowed someone to torture Franke's 12-year-old son and injure her 10-year-old daughter. Both children were starved and harmed emotionally, prosecutors said.

Both women are being held without the possibility of posting bail, court records said.

Franke's son climbed out of a window in Hildebrandt's residence and ran to a neighbor's house, asking for food and water, according to an affidavit filed by an officer with the Santa Clara-Ivins Public Safety Department.

The neighbor saw duct tape on the boy's ankles and wrists and called law enforcement, the affidavit said. The boy was taken to a hospital, where he was put on a medical hold "due to his deep lacerations from being tied up with rope and from his malnourishment," arrest records said.

Franke's daughter was later found malnourished in Hildebrandt's house and was also taken to the hospital, officers said. Two of Franke's other children were placed in the custody of child protection services, the affidavit said.

The Franke family was criticized online for its "8 Passengers" video blog showing parenting decisions including banning their oldest son from his bedroom for seven months for pranking his younger brother, and also sending him to a wilderness therapy camp for undisclosed reasons. In other videos, Ruby Franke talked about refusing to take lunch to a kindergarten who forgot it at home,

threatening to cut the head off a young girl's stuffed toy to punish her for cutting things in the house.

In one video, Franke said she and her husband told their two youngest children that they would not be getting presents from Santa Claus one year because they had been selfish and weren't responding to punishment like being kept



Franke



Hildebrandt

home from school and cleaning the floorboards.

"It's because they're so numb, and the more numb your child is the bigger the outcome they need to wake them up," Franke said in a video.

Some critics started an online petition asking child protective services to get involved. The

Franke's oldest daughter cut ties with her parents, she has said in social media posts.

The YouTube channel, which started in 2015, ended after seven years.

After her arrest, Franke requested an attorney and did not speak with officers, the affidavit said. That attorney had not publicly

been identified Thursday.

A voicemail left at a phone listing for Ruby Franke's husband seeking comment on the arrest was referred to his attorney, **Randy S. Kester**. Kester said he was representing **Kevin Franke's** interests in keeping his children together and in his care, and that he could not comment on Ruby Franke's arrest. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

People & Places

Art

Reused their work

Visual artists rally against 'AI firms'

NEW YORK, Sept. 5. (AP): Kelly McKernan's acrylic and watercolor paintings are bold and vibrant, often featuring feminine figures rendered in bright greens, blues, pinks and purples. The style, in the artist's words, is "surreal, ethereal ... dealing with discomfort in the human journey."

The word "human" has a special resonance for McKernan these days. Although it's always been a challenge to eke out a living as a visual artist - and the pandemic made it worse - McKernan now sees an existential threat from a medium that's decidedly not human: artificial intelligence.

It's been about a year since McKernan, who uses the pronoun they, began noticing online images eerily similar to their own distinctive style that were apparently generated by entering their name into an AI engine.

The Nashville-based McKernan, 37, who creates both fine art and digital illustrations, soon learned that companies were feeding artwork into AI systems used to "train" image-generators - something that once sounded like a weird



McKernan

sci-fi movie but now threatens the livelihood of artists worldwide.

"People were tagging me on Twitter, and I would respond, 'Hey, this makes me uncomfortable. I didn't give my consent for my name or work to be used this way,'" the artist said in a recent interview, their bright blue-green hair mirroring their artwork. "I even reached out to some of these companies to say 'Hey, little artist here, I know you're not thinking of me at all, but it would be really cool if you didn't use my work like this.' And, crickets, absolutely nothing."

McKernan is now one of three artists who are seeking to protect their copyrights and careers by suing makers of AI tools that can generate new imagery on command.

The case awaits a decision from a San Francisco federal judge, who has voiced some doubt about whether AI companies are infringing on copyrights when they analyze billions of images and spit out something different.

Profiting

"We're David against Goliath here," McKernan says. "At the end of the day, someone's profiting from my work. I had rent due yesterday, and I'm \$200 short. That's how desperate things are right now. And it just doesn't feel right."

The lawsuit may serve as an early bellwether of how hard it will be for all kinds of creators - Hollywood actors, novelists, musicians and computer programmers - to stop AI developers from profiting off what humans have made.

The case was filed in January by McKernan and fellow artists Karla Ortiz and Sarah Andersen, on behalf of others like them, against Stability AI, the London-based maker of text-to-image generator Stable Diffusion. The complaint also named another popular image-generator, Midjourney, and the online gallery DeviantArt.

The suit alleges that the AI image-generators violate the rights of millions of artists by ingesting huge troves of digital images and then producing derivative works that compete against the originals.

The artists say they are not inherently opposed to AI, but they don't want to be exploited by it. They are seeking class-action damages and a court order to stop companies from exploiting artistic works without consent.

Creation

Stability AI declined to comment. In a court filing, the company said it creates "entirely new and unique images" using simple word prompts, and that its images don't or rarely resemble the images in the training data.

"Stability AI enables creation; it is not a copyright infringer," it said.

Midjourney and DeviantArt didn't return emailed requests for comment.

Much of the sudden proliferation of image-generators can be traced to a single, enormous research database, known as the Large-scale Artificial Intelligence Open Network, or LAION, run by a schoolteacher in Hamburg, Germany.

The teacher, Christoph Schuhmann, said he has no regrets about the nonprofit project, which is not a defendant in the lawsuit and has largely escaped copyright challenges by creating an index of links to publicly accessible images without storing them. But the educator said he understands why artists are concerned.

"In a few years, everyone can generate anything - video, images, text. Anything that you can describe, you can generate it in such a way that no human can tell the difference between AI-generated content and professional human-generated content," Schuhmann said in an interview.

Compensated

The idea that such a development is inevitable - that it is, essentially, the future - was at the heart of a U.S. Senate hearing in July in which Ben Brooks, head of public policy for Stability AI, acknowledged that artists are not paid for their images.

"There is no arrangement in place," Brooks said, at which point Hawaii Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono asked Ortiz whether she had ever been compensated by AI makers.

"I have never been asked. I have never been credited. I have never been compensated one penny, and that's for the use of almost the entirety of my work, both personal and commercial, senator," she replied.

You could hear the fury in the voice of Ortiz, also 37, of San Francisco, a concept artist and illustrator in the entertainment industry. Her work has been used in movies including "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," "Loki," "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," "Jurassic World" and "Doctor Strange." In the latter, she was responsible for the design of Doctor Strange's costume.

"We're kind of the blue-collar workers within the art world," Ortiz said in an interview. "We provide visuals for movies or games. We're the first people to take a stab at it, what does a visual look like? And that provides a blueprint for the rest of the production."

But it's easy to see how AI-generated images can compete, Ortiz says. And it's not merely a hypothetical possibility. She said she has personally been part of several productions that have used AI imagery.



Mick Jagger, (left), Ronnie Wood, (center), and Keith Richards, (right), of the band 'The Rolling Stones,' perform onstage during the last concert of their "Sixty" European tour in Berlin, Germany, Aug. 3, 2022. On Monday, Sept. 4, 2023, the Rolling Stones announced they will release their first album of original material in 18 years. Titled 'Hackney Diamonds,' the legendary rock band will reveal the full details on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at an event in Hackney in East London. (AP)

Rolling Stones will release their first studio album in 18 years

The wait is over: The Rolling Stones will soon release new music.

On Monday, the band announced they are preparing to release their first album of original material in 18 years - since 2005's "A Bigger Bang."

Titled "Hackney Diamonds," the band will share details of the release at an event in East London's Hackney district on Wednesday, where Mick Jagger,

Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood will be interviewed live by "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon.

The event will be livestreamed exclusively on YouTube on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. BST, 9:30 a.m. EST and 6:30 a.m. PST.

"Hackney may be at the heart of Hackney Diamonds, but this is a truly global moment we want to share with fans around the world via YouTube," the

Rolling Stones shared in a statement.

The announcement of "Hackney Diamonds" follows a cryptic teaser campaign, in which the band's iconic mouth and tongue logo was projected onto the facade of major landmarks in cities around the world, including New York, London and Paris.

The album is also the Stones' first since the death of drummer Charlie Watts in 2021. (AP)

Obituary

Cause of death was acute liver failure

Smash Mouth singer Harwell dies at 56

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 5. (AP): Steve Harwell, the longtime frontman of the Grammy-nominated pop rock band Smash Mouth that was behind the megahit "All Star" has died. He was 56.

The band's manager, Robert Hayes, said Harwell "passed peacefully and comfortably" Monday morning surrounded by family and friends at his home in Boise, Idaho. The cause of death was acute liver failure, Hayes said in a statement.

Smash Mouth is also known for hits including "Walkin' on the Sun" and "Then The Morning Comes." "Steve Harwell was a true American Original. A larger than life character who shot up into the sky like a Roman candle," Hayes said. "Steve should be remembered for his unwavering focus and impassioned determination to reach the heights of pop stardom."

"His only tools were his irrepressible charm and charisma, his fearlessly reckless ambition," Hayes said, adding: "Steve lived a 100% full-throttle life. Burning brightly across the universe before burning out."

"He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him," he said.

Born in California in 1967, Harwell performed in a rap group called F.O.S. (Freedom of Speech) before forming Smash Mouth in 1994. The

band released two platinum albums on Interscope Records, their ska-fueled 1997 debut and 1999's "Astro Lounge." The second album featured some of the band's biggest hits, including the Grammy-nominated, platinum single "All Star," which appeared in the movie "Shrek" alongside their cover of the Monkees' "I'm a Believer."

Humor was a driving force behind Smash Mouth's success, and at the forefront was Harwell's playful alt-rock voice and persona. He made a cameo in 2001 comedy film "Rat Race," and had a well-documented friendship with the Food Network chef and host Guy Fieri.

Tributes

On Monday, tributes began pouring in. Fieri wrote on Instagram: "To my brutha Steve RIP. Today is a sad day, I will miss my friend."

NSYNC's Chris Kirkpatrick and Joey Fatone also shared short homages.

"I'm truly sorry for the difficult battle you had to fight," Kirkpatrick posted on Instagram. "You were an amazing soul and will be deeply missed."

Fatone said he had known Harwell for a long time.

"Opened for NSync and even was my wedding singer at my wedding," wrote Fatone. "Hopefully people out

there that are dealing with addiction. get the right help that they need."

"Today" host Carson Daly published a two-part statement on Instagram, detailing the first time he met Harwell in 1995, when he was a DJ on JOME in San Jose and Smash Mouth was a new band.

"In better days, Steve was a force of a frontman & lived the life of 50 men," Daly wrote. "He brought joy to millions with his music and his legacy will thankfully live on."

"Rest in peace Steve Harwell," comedian Tom Green tweeted. "I remember hanging with you back in the MTV days you were always super cool and an amazing talent - my condolences to your family and friends."

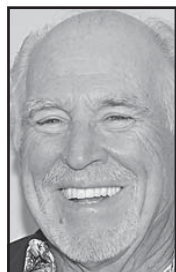
Harwell retired from performing and left Smash Mouth in 2021. The band continued to tour with Zach Goode as the singer. Smash Mouth released a statement at the time saying Harwell had been diagnosed with cardiomyopathy eight years earlier and had suffered "nonstop serious medical setbacks including heart failure as well as acute Wernicke Encephalopathy."

Hayes had released a statement on Sunday saying Harwell was in hospice care.

Harwell will be cremated in Boise and buried in San Jose, California, alongside his mother, Hayes said.



In this Sept. 29, 2008 file photo, Singer Steve Harwell, of Smash Mouth, performs with the band in Anaheim, Calif. Harwell, the longtime frontman of the Grammy-nominated pop rock band Smash Mouth, has died. (AP)



Buffett



Hochul

Variety

NEW YORK: The annual West Indian American Day Parade stepped off in New York City on Monday with brightly colored costumes, steel bands, flag waving and street dancing.

The Brooklyn parade is the culmination of carnival week and one of the world's largest celebrations of Caribbean culture. The parade routinely attracts more than 1 million people for what has become one of the city's most spirited annual events.

A separate street party known as J'Ouvert, commemorating freedom from slavery, began in the early morning hours.

The main parade started later in the morning and featured steel drum players, stilt walkers and dancers wearing flamboyant costumes. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams were among the elected officials who either showed up for the parade or marched in it. Hundreds of thousands of Caribbean immigrants and their descendants have settled in Brooklyn and have helped turn the Labor Day celebration into a must-see event.

The parade returned last year after a pandemic-induced hiatus. (AP)

SAG HARBOR, NY: Jimmy Buffett, whose sun-drenched songs celebrated life by the shore, died of a rare, aggressive skin cancer, according to a statement on his website.

Buffett, 76, had Merkel cell cancer, according to the statement, which was posted after initial news of his death emerged Saturday. The statement also disclosed where the "Margaritaville" singer died: at his home in Sag Harbor, New York, near the Hamptons.

He had been fighting the cancer for four years while continuing to perform, the last time making a surprise appearance in Rhode Island in early July, the statement said.

Merkel cell carcinoma, as it's known in medical literature, is very rare and tends to spread quickly, including to parts of the body beyond the skin, according to the federal National Cancer Institute and the Mayo Clinic. Risk factors include a lot of sun exposure, a weakened immune system, a history of other cancers, and

being light-skinned and over 50.

Buffett conjured an easygoing, sand-between-the-toes lifestyle in songs such as "Cheeseburger in Paradise," "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" and "Margaritaville." He built the latter into a brand that encompassed restaurants, clothing, casinos and more.

Buffett celebrated slackers before the word existed, even though he was hardly one himself.

"Wastin' away again in Margaritaville," went the chorus to his most famous song, which became an international singalong. But Buffett was actually an astute, ambitious, aggressive businessman.

Buffett built an empire based largely on Caribbean-flavored pop that celebrated the Florida Keys, sunshine and nightlife.

His name became synonymous with a laid-back subtropical party vibe, and his fans were known as Parrotheads.

But behind the laid-back exterior, Buffett was an admitted workaholic. He expanded into novels, nightclubs and many other ventures. At one time his estimated annual income was more than \$40 million, and his revenue sources extended far beyond a musician's typical business model of album sales, concert tickets and souvenir T-shirts.

He landed at No. 18 in Forbes' list of the Richest Celebrities of All Time with a net worth of \$1 billion.

The title of Buffett's most popular song showed up on restaurants, clothing, booze and casinos. He became involved in such products as Landshark Lager, the Marga-

ritaville and Cheeseburger in Paradise restaurant chains, boat shoes, salsa, hummus, tortillas, dips, tequila and blenders. The Margaritaville cafe on the Las Vegas strip was said to be the top grossing restaurant in the nation.

Buffett was chairman of Margaritaville Holdings based in Palm Beach, Florida. He had a restaurant and a casino in Vegas, a casino in Mississippi and a hotel in Pensacola Beach, Florida, but the exact scope of his empire was a secret. Margaritaville Holdings LLC didn't disclose its finances, and he usually declined interview requests.

Along with hit songs, Buffett wrote best-selling novels. In 2008 he was ranked by Vanity Fair as No. 97 on a list of the 100 most influential people in the world, and his fan base was broad and loyal. Even when he was in his 60s, his concert tickets fetched more than \$100.

"I'm not about to apologize for being a good businessman," Buffett told The Washington Post in 1998. "Too many people in music have ruined their lives because they weren't. I'm not a great singer, and I'm only a so-so guitar player. I started running the band years ago because nobody else could, and I turned out to be good at this stuff. There's never been any grand plan to this thing. I'm making it up as I go along. ... Just trying to work the system while maintaining my '60s anarchic soul."

Buffett could be more intense than his songs and stage persona suggested. He was injured in 2011 when he fell face-first off the stage while performing in Australia and struck his head, knocking him unconscious. He was released from the hospital the next day.

An avid Miami Heat basketball fan, Buffett caused friction at a 2001 game when he cursed at referee Joe Forte from his courtside seat. Forte ejected him. The Heat moved Buffett and his son to another section. (AP)



Valerie Lemerrier, (from left), director Woody Allen, Vittorio Storaro and Lou de Laage pose for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Coup de Chance' during the 80th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Monday, Sept. 4. (AP)

Heritage

'Roman bust seized'

WWI memorials vie for World Heritage status

ZONNEBEKE, Belgium, Sept 5, (AP): With war ravaging Europe's heartland again, the countless headstones, cemeteries and memorials from World War I are a timeless testimony to its cruelty. Belgium and France want them recognized as UNESCO World Heritage sites to make sure people stop and think.

They bring pause and introspection to just about everyone visiting the sites dotted along the former battle lines of the 1914-1918 Great War that killed some 10 million soldiers.

At 12, Robin Borremans is dreaming of becoming a helicopter pilot in Belgium's elite Special Forces. At the Tyne Cot cemetery, where 12,000 Commonwealth soldiers are buried row upon row, his perspective on life and death, war and peace, is being honed.



Diependaele

"It makes you so very quiet when you know what happened in this war," he said as he took a break from walking between the rows of the fallen. "It's really terribly impressive." He and his party planned to visit a cemetery for Germans, the erstwhile enemy, later that day.

It is because of that impact that both nations want UNESCO to include the area on its famed list of sites along with the Great Wall of China, Peru's Machu Picchu and Greece's Acropolis. A decision on the issue is expected to be made around Sept. 21 during UNESCO's World Heritage Committee meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The area has 139 sites spanning western Belgium and northern France and has been a living history almost since the guns finally fell silent in 1918. In neighboring Ypres, "every evening - every evening - of every single day since the 1920s there has been a couple of people blowing a horn out of the Menin Gate," where the names of 54,000 soldiers who were never found in the chaos spawned by the war are engraved on its walls, said Matthias Diependaele, heritage minister of northern Belgium's region of Flanders.

Recognition

"That is the idea of commemorating every individual lost life in that war," he said.

But that is not necessarily enough to achieve such lofty recognition, UNESCO has already ruled. To the dismay of the two nations, it snubbed their request in 2018 with the advice of the International Council on Monuments and Sites marking its conclusions with comments like "several questions," "lack of clarity," "too narrow and limited" and "shortcomings."

As well, it was long perceived that a site like the Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi concentration camp in Poland should stand alone as witness to the horror and suffering and not be a precedent for a long list linked to wars.

That was five years ago and now, Diependaele said, "I believe and I'm counting on the fact that the ideas inside UNESCO changed and that now there is more a context of openness." And with the 1 1/2-year-old Russian invasion of Ukraine, "the world has changed since then as well. And maybe there is a lot more understanding for the necessity of the defending of peace."

Since the war in Ukraine started, several of the institutions linked to the memorials and cemeteries have begun initiatives to support the embattled nation.

As in World War I, casualties are also being counted in the tens of thousands, though, fortunately, the overall rate is still much smaller. The sense of loss though, remains the same.

"We get so many people coming through here and making that link with Ukraine just because it is so relevant at the moment," said Erin Harris, a guide at Tyne Cot. "And you're seeing the same situation happening - with these two sides fighting endlessly."

"And you come here to a place like this and you really see, well, this is still happening," Harris said. "And, you know, not much has changed."



A bronze bust believed to depict the daughter of an ancient Roman emperor has been seized from an art museum in Massachusetts by New York authorities investigating antiquities stolen from Turkey.

The seizure is the latest in an ongoing investigation into a smuggling network involving objects looted from Bubon in southwestern Turkey and trafficked through Manhattan. A spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg did not provide further details of the investigation.

The bust known as "Portrait of a Lady" was acquired in 1966 by the Worcester Art Museum about 40 miles (64 kilometers) west of Boston. The seizure comes weeks after the Manhattan district attorney's office seized a statue thought to portray the Roman emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius from a Cleveland, Ohio, museum.

Worcester Art Museum officials said in a statement that the bust taken from their possession dates from A.D. 160 to 180 and is believed to be a life-sized portrayal of a daughter of Marcus Aurelius or another Roman emperor, Septimius Severus.

Museum officials said they had "limited information" about the bust's history when they acquired it nearly six decades ago.

"We are very thankful for the new information provided to us," said Matthias Waschek, the museum's director. "The ethical standards applicable to museums are much changed since the 1960s, and the Museum is committed to managing its collection consistent with modern ethical standards."

The bust shows a young woman with a heavy-lidded gaze and hair carefully combed into waves.

Marcus Aurelius ruled as Roman emperor from A.D. 161 to 180 and was a Stoic philosopher whose "Meditations" have been studied over the centuries. Septimius Severus' reign from A.D. 193 to 211 was marked by his efforts to convert the government into a military monarchy.

Also:

NEW YORK: A nearly 200-year-old West Point time capsule that appeared to yield little more than dust when it was opened during a disappointing livestream contained hidden treasure after all, the US Military Academy said.

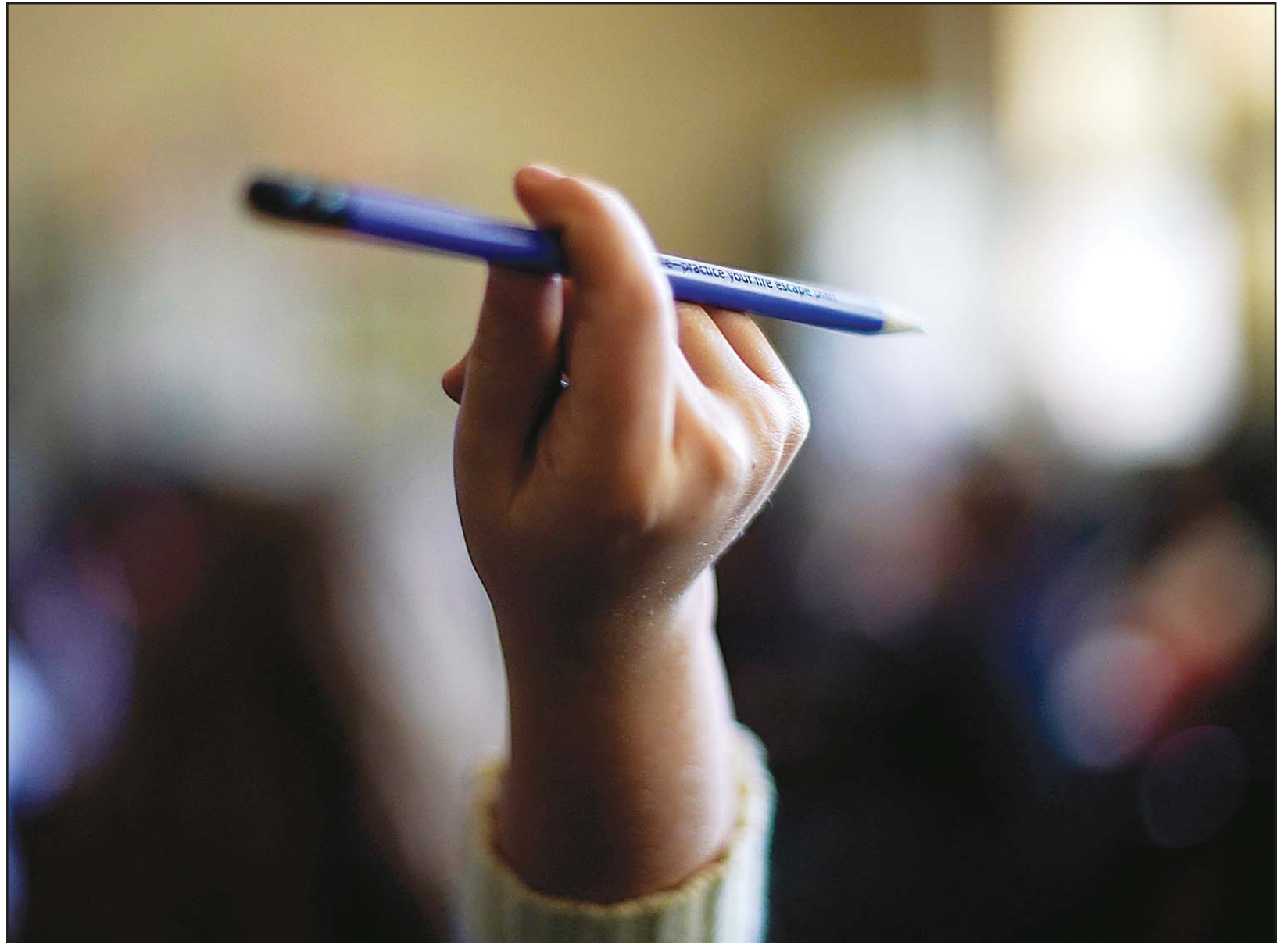
It was just more hidden than expected.

The lead box believed to have been placed by cadets in the base of a monument actually contained six silver American coins dating from 1795 to 1828 and a commemorative medal, West Point said in a news release. All were discovered in the sediment of the box, which at Monday's ceremonial opening at the New York academy appeared to be its only contents.

"When I first found these, I thought, man, you know, it would have been great to have found these on stage," said West Point archaeologist Paul Hudson, who after the event, took the box back to his lab and began carefully sifting through the silt with a small wooden pick and brush.

"Before long, lo and behold, there's the edge of a coin sticking out," he recounted by phone, "and I thought, well that's OK. That's something, that's a start."

He said he was as disappointed as anyone by the underwhelming results of the live opening, which brought comparisons to Geraldo Rivera's televised 1986 unsealing of a Chicago hotel vault purportedly belonging to gangster Al Capone, which infamously revealed nothing but dirt. A crowd that had gathered at the US Military Academy had hoped to see military relics or historical documents when experts pried open the top and pointed a camera inside.



A student raises her hand to ask a question in her third grade classroom at Highland Elementary School in Columbus, Kan., on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022. Stuck with distance learning as they began grade school, the kids who are now finishing elementary school were the ones most disrupted by COVID, with alarming delays in their reading ability. (AP)

Health

Many big kids at school still need reading help

Children hit hardest by pandemic

NEW YORK, Sept 5, (AP): They were the kids most disrupted by the pandemic, the ones who were still learning to write their names and tie their shoes when schools shut down in the spring of 2020.

Now, they're the big kids at elementary schools across the United States. Many still need profound help overcoming the effects of the pandemic.

To catch up, schools have deployed a wide range of strategies. And among some incoming fourth-graders, there are encouraging signs of gains. But as this generation progresses, many will need extra reading support that schools are not as accustomed to providing for older students.

Beyond third grade, fewer teachers each year know how to help students who are lacking key foundational reading skills, said Elizabeth Albro, an executive at the US Department of Education's independent research arm, the Institute of Education Sciences.

"Middle and high school teachers aren't expecting to have to teach kids how to read," Albro said.

Nationally, students suffered deep learning setbacks in reading and math during the pandemic. Last year's third-graders, the kids who were in kindergarten when the pandemic started, lost more ground in reading than kids in older grades and were slower to catch up. With federal pandemic relief money, school systems added class time, brought on tutors, trained teachers in phonics instruction and found other ways to offer extra support to struggling readers.

Recovery

But even after several years of recovery, an analysis of last year's test scores by NWEA found that the average student would need the equivalent of 4.1 additional months of instruction to catch up to pre-COVID reading levels.

The one bright spot was for incoming fourth-graders, who made above-average gains and would need about two months of additional reading instruction to catch up. Karyn Lewis, who leads a team of education policy researchers at NWEA, described them as "a little bit less worse off."

The school system in Niagara Falls, New York, is seeing similar results,

Children getting wrongly dropped from Medicaid due to tech 'glitch'

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Sept 5, (AP): Children in many states are being wrongly cut off from Medicaid because of a "glitch" in the automated systems being used in a massive eligibility review for the government-run health care program, a top Medicaid official said Wednesday.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is asking all states to review their computer-automated processes to make sure that children are evaluated separately from their parents - and aren't losing coverage merely because of their parents' ineligibility or inaction.

Though federal officials remained vague about the scope of the problem, it likely involves at least half the states and potentially affects millions of children, said Joan Alker, executive director of Georgetown University Center for Children and Families.

"I think it's a very significant problem," said Alker, whose center is tracking the Medicaid renewal pro-

cess in each state.

In most states, children can qualify for Medicaid at household incomes that are several times higher than allowed for adults.

Yet in many states, "eligible kids are not being successfully renewed, and that is a violation of federal requirements," said Daniel Tsai, director of the CMS Center for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Services.

All states are in the midst of an enormous eligibility review for Medicaid. A pandemic-era prohibition on removing people from Medicaid ended in the spring, triggering the resumption of annual eligibility determinations. While the freeze was in effect, Medicaid enrollment swelled by nearly one-third, from 71 million people in February 2020 to 94 million in April 2023.

About 5 million people already have lost coverage as part of the eligibility reviews, according to an Associated Press tally from state reports.

said Marcia Capone, the district's assessment administrator. The district brought on additional reading specialists, but Capone said it will take time to bring struggling students up to speed.

"I do not believe it's hopeless, but it's not something that's going to occur in, say, three years' time," Capone said.

The problem for children who don't master reading by third grade: School becomes that much harder in later grades, as reading becomes the foundation for everything else.

Schools have plenty of experience with older students who struggle. Even before the pandemic, only about a third of fourth graders scored as proficient in reading in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the "nation's report card."

But the pandemic made it worse, particularly for low-income students and kids of color.

So some schools are targeting some upper-grade students with the "science of reading," a push to embrace research-backed strategies for reading based on phonics. Many new laws endorsing the phonics-based approach target students beyond third grade, according to a July report from the nonpartisan Albert Shanker Institute.

In Virginia, for instance, a law signed in March mandates extra help for struggling readers through eighth grade. It is one of the most aggressive efforts yet.

"There's an implicit recognition," wrote the authors of the Shanker report, "that reading improvement needs to address a greater span of grades, and that reading difficulties do not necessarily end in 3rd grade."

That will require a major shift. Historically, phonics and help decoding words have gradually disappeared in the upper grades.



Pelicans preen their feathers as they sit on a rock in the lake in St James's Park in London, Tuesday, Sept. 5. (AP)



Borne



Jill

Discovery

Jill tests positive for COVID: First lady Jill Biden tested positive for COVID-19 Monday but is experiencing only mild symptoms, her spokeswoman said.

President Joe Biden was tested for the virus following his wife's positive test, but his results were negative. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the president would continue testing regularly and would be monitored for symptoms.

Jill Biden will remain at the couple's home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for the time being, communications director Elizabeth Alexander said. The first lady had planned to start the new school year Tuesday at Northern Virginia Community College, where she teaches English and writing.

Due to her condition, she was working with school officials to arrange substitute teachers for her classes, Alexander said.

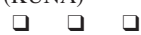
The first lady had traveled with her husband to Florida on Saturday to inspect the damage from Hurricane Idalia. President Biden then spent part of the Labor Day weekend at the Delaware beach house before traveling Monday to a union event in Philadelphia and then back to the White House. (AP)



Qatar records cases of EG5: Qatar Ministry of Public Health last Thursday announced detecting new cases of the new Covid-19 variant, explaining that the registered cases were minor cases, and did not lead to hospitalization at this point.

Qatar News Agency (QNA) quoted the health ministry as saying that it is closely monitoring the epidemiological situation regarding the new sub-variants of Covid-19.

Earlier this month, World Health Organization (WHO) declared the new sub-variant of COVID-19, called EG.5, is an offshoot of the highly contagious Omicron variant, and has to date been reported in more than 50 countries, including the Gulf region. (KUNA)



Australian rescued: An Australian who fell ill at a remote Antarctic base is returning home on an icebreaker following a daunting mission to rescue him, authorities said Tuesday.

The man was working at the Casey research station when he suffered from what authorities described as a developing medical condition that needed specialist assessment and care.

The icebreaker RSV Nuyina left Australia last week and traveled south more than 3,000 kilometers (1,800 miles), breaking through sea ice to reach a location 144 kilometers (89 miles) from the

base, the Australian Antarctic Division said in a statement.

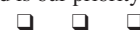
From there, two helicopters were de-

ployed from the deck Sunday and arrived at the base after nearly an hour to rescue the man.



The statue of a French soldier in front of the Douaumont Ossuary in Verdun, France, April 3, 2017. With war ravaging Europe's heartland again, the countless headstones, cemeteries and memorials from World War I are a timeless testimony to its cruelty. Belgium and France want them recognized as UNESCO World Heritage sites to make sure people stop and think. (AP)

"The first phase of the evacuation was performed safely and successfully and the ship is now on the return voyage to Hobart," said Robb Clifton, the division's acting general manager of operations and logistics. "Getting this expeditioner back to Tasmania for the specialist medical care required is our priority."



'Ban disposable vapes': French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said Sunday that disposable vapes will soon be banned in the country as part of a national anti-smoking plan.

Borne, speaking on RTL radio, did not say when the ban would enter into force. She said the government would soon unveil its new plan to combat smoking, which she said is the cause of 75,000 deaths a year in the country.

It will include a ban on disposable vapes, which she said "are giving bad habits to young people."

"It's a reflex and a gesture that young people get used to. That's how they get into smoking," she added.

Most of the disposable e-cigarettes, which are thrown away after they're used up, come in sweet and fruity flavors like pink lemonade, gummy bear and watermelon that makes them attractive to teenagers. (AP)

SPORTS



Kansas City Royals' Maikel Garcia hits an RBI double during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox in Kansas City, Mo. (AP)

The year of the North?

Ireland, France threaten southern hemisphere hold

PARIS, Sept. 5, (AP) - There's a good chance - two very good chances, actually - that the 2023 Rugby World Cup will be the year of the North.

Top-ranked Ireland and host nation France both provide compelling reasons to believe that the southern hemisphere's 16-year hold on the Webb Ellis Cup might be over some time around 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 in the Paris outskirts, where the glitter falls on the final in front of an expected 81,000 people at Stade de France.

A maiden title for either would give the trophy a home north of the equator for the first time since Jonny Wilkinson drop-kicked England to victory in 2003. That was almost another era of rugby and is the only northern hemisphere triumph in the nine World Cups played so far.

"We have been open and honest about our ambitions," said Ireland captain Jonathan Sexton, whose team has a righteous claim to being No. 1 in the world after a run of 13 wins dating to an historic series success in New Zealand in July 2022 - the result that really made the Irish believe.

RUGBY

France has the world's best player in the supremely gifted scrumhalf Antoine Dupont, and the stats to back up its stylish play, beating world champion South Africa and New Zealand in its last matches against the southern hemisphere's best and the winners of the last four World Cups.

Those games were both in France, but that's entirely relevant for the next two months when Les Tricolores get to test their renaissance in front of home fans across the length and breadth of their republic, although it will be without flyhalf Romain Ntamack, whose injury robbed the tournament of one of its stars.

Still, France, which has an Olympics coming to its capital next year, is in the mood for a sporting celebration. Thousands stayed in their Stade de France seats long after Australia was beaten in the last warmup to applaud France on a lap of honor, and 3,000 alone turned up in the seaside

town of Seignosse just to watch the team train recently.

"We are getting used to this expectation. It's pure happiness," France coach Fabien Galthie said. "We want to share and bring people together."

Notably, Ireland and France have mental Rugby World Cup hurdles to clear. Ireland has never passed the quarterfinals and was highly rated - although not this highly rated - four years ago when New Zealand rampaged to a 46-14 win to see Irish eyes crying again early in the knockout stages.

France has lost three finals - two to New Zealand - and knows more than most teams how nearly it is not good enough.

Both will get stern early tests of their credentials, as early as the opening game for France when it plays New Zealand next Friday in what World Rugby CEO Alan Gilpin called "an absolute blockbuster."

Every fan agrees, as rugby celebrates 200 years since an Englishman by the name of William Webb Ellis picked up a soccer ball and ran with it as the myth goes, and a new game was born.

Ireland is in the same group as the Springboks, and that mouthwatering matchup two weeks into the tournament - top challenger vs. defend-

ing champion - might also give an indication whether the North-South power balance has truly shifted.

South Africa beat New Zealand 35-7 in the final warmup for both rugby powers, a result that galvanized the Springboks' hopes of back-to-back titles for the first time and winning a fourth World Cup that would give them the record outright ahead of the All Blacks, and be a fitting farewell to departing coach Jacques Nienaber.

While Foster went for a positive spin, the All Blacks' heaviest defeat so close to the World Cup has seen the doubts that haunted Foster and his team through a mediocre 2022 re-emerge.

There's also a chance it was a hiccup.

Before that jarring loss at Twickenham, New Zealand had a super-smooth season, beating South Africa, Argentina and Australia (twice) and clinching a third straight southern hemisphere title with little trouble. A bunch of bookmakers - who seldom get it too wrong - still have the All Blacks as favorites and odds-on to be the first to four World Cup titles.

After Ireland, France, South Africa and New Zealand, there's a sizeable gap to the rest.

But a quirk in the tournament draw, which was made three years

ago, has those big four all in the same half of the competition. That means two of them at most will get past the quarterfinals, giving this Rugby World Cup a big headline day halfway through.

Who's going home early?

While some fans are dismayed it'll work out that way, it leaves an avenue of opportunity on the other side of the draw, where Wales, Australia, England and Argentina - all of whom are struggling to some degree - have reason to be a little more positive.

Eddie Jones is back for a second spell as coach of Australia and he rarely lets a World Cup pass without making an impact, whether it's his team on the field or his lively comments in the press room.

For outsiders, the Pacific Island teams often overachieve and Fiji beat England in the buildup to lay down a warning to pool rivals Wales and Australia. Chile will make its tournament debut, giving the Rugby World Cup three teams from soccer-mad Latin America for the first time - the Chileans, Argentina and Uruguay. It's a step forward for growing a sport that is heading to a new market, the United States, for the 2031 World Cup.

Alas, the Eagles will not be at this edition, having failed to qualify for the first time since 1995 - seven World Cups ago.

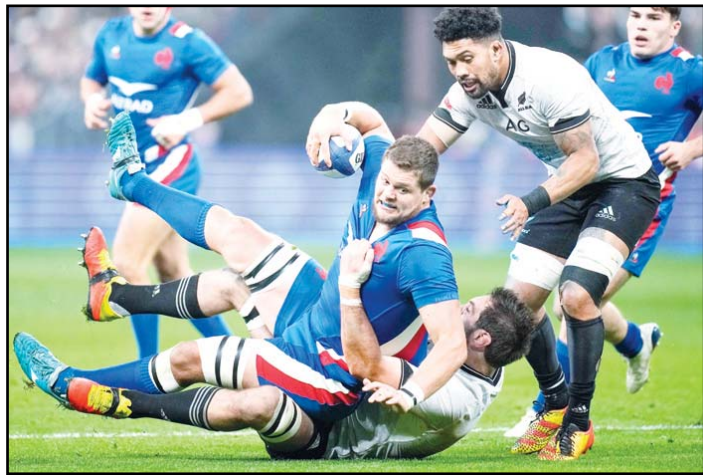
The 2023 tournament comes amid an increasing crackdown on high tackles and contact to the head by the game's rule makers, prompted by concerns over player welfare. Yellow and red cards will likely be flashed more regularly, with zero tolerance from officials in that area now.

To help, World Rugby will use its "bunker review system" for the first time at a World Cup, where a player sent to the sin-bin for 10 minutes can have his yellow card upgraded to red on review by the television match official.

That could bring some chaos to the tournament, though expect the traditional powers to rise above it and be there at the end.

That is typically the All Blacks and the Springboks.

Ireland and France might have something to say about that this time.



In this file photo, France's Paul Willemse is tackled by New Zealand's Sam Whitelock and Ardie Savea during the international rugby union match between France and the All Blacks, at the Stade de France, in Saint Denis, north of Paris. (AP)

Ward still in concussion protocol

Rudolph confirms retirement after 12-year NFL career

EAGAN, Minn., Sept. 5, (AP) - Two-time Pro Bowl tight end Kyle Rudolph has retired after a 12-year career in the NFL he spent mostly with the Minnesota Vikings. Rudolph played last season for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, catching Tom

Brady's last regular-season touchdown pass before injuring his knee in the final regular-season game. Rudolph was sidelined for the playoff game and not resigned after becoming a free agent in the offseason. Rudolph confirmed his retirement Monday on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. The Vikings are planning to honor him Sept. 24 during their home game against the Los Angeles Chargers.

The second-round draft pick out of Notre Dame in 2011 played 10 years for the Vikings, totaling 4,488 yards to rank second on the franchise's career list for tight ends behind Steve Jordan. Rudolph's 48 touchdowns are the most among tight ends and sixth overall in Vikings history.

He had a consecutive starts streak of 93 straight games that ended because of a foot injury late in the 2020 season. Rudolph played for the New York Giants in 2021.

Browns top cornerback Denzel Ward remained in concussion protocol and missed practice Monday, putting his availability for Sunday's season opener against quarterback Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati

Bengals in question.

Ward has been sidelined since suffering a head injury - the fourth reported concussion of his NFL career - in Cleveland's exhibition game at Kansas City on Aug. 25.

Coach Kevin Stefanski said the 26-year-old Ward is still undergoing daily evaluation. He wouldn't speculate about Ward's status for Week 1 against one of the AFC's top quarterbacks and a talented trio of wide receivers.

FOOTBALL

Los Angeles Rams receiver Cooper Kupp was in Minnesota on Monday to see a specialist for his latest injury.

Kupp's hamstring injury has slowed him for roughly five weeks since he pulled up in practice at training camp on Aug. 1, and the Super Bowl MVP had a setback last week. Coach Sean McVay said the injury has been "a little bit out of the norm" compared to a normal hamstring strain or muscle pull.

He left during the week-end to get another opinion, although the Rams haven't given more specifics. Kupp's availability for the Rams' season opener at Seattle on Sunday seems increasingly unlikely, although he hasn't

been ruled out.

Kupp is expected to be back in Los Angeles before the Rams' practice on Wednesday.

Kupp missed the final eight games of last season with an ankle injury, finishing with 75 catches for 812 yards. He won the triple crown of receiving in 2021, leading the NFL in catches, yards receiving and receiving TDs before he caught the winning touchdown pass in the Super Bowl.

The Seattle Seahawks placed second-year wide receiver Dareke Young on injured reserve on Monday meaning he will miss the first four games of the regular season.

Seattle general manager John Schneider said Young underwent groin surgery just over a week ago near Philadelphia and will need some time before he's fully recovered.

Young was poised to have the chance at a bigger role in Seattle's offense this season with Dee Eskridge suspended for the first six games of the season. Young appeared in 13 games last season, but mostly on special teams and had just two receptions in his limited reps with the offense.

Red Sox 'end' skid at Tropicana Field

Cubs shut out Giants

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Sept. 5, (AP) - Triston Casas homered and drove in four runs, Brayan Bello earned his team-leading 11th win and the Boston Red Sox stopped a 13-game losing streak at Tropicana Field by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 7-3 on Monday.

Wilyer Abreu had a leadoff double before Justin Turner drew a one-out walk in the sixth inning, ending Aaron Civale's day. Chris Devenski (3-4) entered and gave up Casas' three-run shot.

Casas added a run-scoring single and Masataka Yoshida connected on a two-run homer off Andrew Kittredge in the eighth. Casas has three homers and 11 RBIs during a career-best 11-game hitting streak.

BASEBALL

Bello (11-8) gave up three runs, all in the first, and five hits over six innings.

Boston closer Kenley Jansen, who pitched the ninth in a nonsave situation, was checked by an athletic trainer with one out but remained in the game.

Cubs 5, Giants 0

In Chicago, Justin Steele (16-3) tossed dominant two-hit ball through eight innings to move into a tie for the major league lead in wins, blanking San Francisco.

Seiya Suzuki hit a 432-foot solo shot off Giants starter Logan Webb (9-12) in the second, then drove in Chicago's second run with a line double to the right-center wall in the seventh.

After allowing a solid line single to Casey Schmitt with two outs in the second, Steele retired 16 straight until walking J.D. Davis to start the eighth. Davis was erased on a double play before Paul DeJong singled for San Francisco's second hit.

José Cuas pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to seal the win.

Webb allowed three runs on five hits and walked one through 6 2/3 innings as San Francisco lost its fourth straight.

Orioles 6, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Gunnar Henderson hit a three-run homer and Grayson Rodriguez pitched six solid innings in Baltimore's 12th victory in 16 games.

Austin Hays, Ryan Mountcastle and Aaron Hicks drove in runs in the third inning for the AL-leading Orioles, who have won three of four to open their nine-game trip. Rodriguez (5-3) struck out seven and allowed seven hits while improving to 3-0 in his last five starts, going at least six innings every time.

Kenny Rosenberg (0-1) pitched six innings of seven-hit ball in his second major league start for the Angels, who have lost four straight and 23 of 31 since they were five games above .500 at the trade deadline.

Yennier Cano pitched the ninth for his sixth save. He got help from second baseman Jordan Westburg, who sprinted deep into center field and made a stunning catch on Logan O'Hoppe's popout with his back to the plate.

Angels rookie Nolan Schanuel reached base in his 13th consecutive game to begin his major league career when the 2023 draftee drew a leadoff walk.

Reds 6, Mariners 3

In Cincinnati, Spencer Steer hit a three-run home run to help Cincinnati beat Seattle in an interleague matchup of playoff contenders.

The Reds began the day in a four-way tie for the third NL wild-card spot, and the AL-west leading Mariners are 39-18 since July 1 for the best record in the major leagues in that span.

With their pitching staff hit hard by COVID-19 and injuries, the Reds used seven pitchers on Monday. Lucas Sims (5-3) got the last out of the seventh to pick up the win and Ian Gibaut got the last out of the ninth to get his second save.

Pirates 4, Brewers 2

In Pittsburgh, Ke'Bryan Hayes homered and tripled, Jack Suwinski drilled his 23rd home run and Pittsburgh won for the sixth time in seven games.

Luis Ortiz (4-4) recovered from an early bout of wildness to send the NL Central-leading Brewers to a second straight loss.

Ortiz gave up two runs in the second, when he loaded the bases with no outs on two walks and a hit batter. The Brewers scratched across a pair of runs on sacrifice flies, but Ortiz settled down from there to win his second consecutive start. David Bednar worked the ninth for his 32nd save.

Suwinski's two-run homer in the fourth off Corbin Burnes (9-8) tied the game. Hayes put the Pirates in front with a shot to left-center that just cleared the wall next to the 410-foot sign with two outs in the fifth. Bryan Reynolds followed with a double and scored when Andrew McCutchen doubled down the left-field line.

Astros 13, Rangers 6

In Arlington, Mauricio Dubón and Jose Altuve twice hit back-to-back home runs, rookie catcher Yainer Diaz had a three-run shot to cap Houston's big seventh inning, and the Astros pulled within a percentage point of first-place Seattle.

The Astros went ahead to stay with a six-run seventh, which began with them loading the bases on a walk and two singles off reliever Josh Sborz (5-7). José Abreu walked to force in the run that made it 6-5.

All-Star shortstop Corey Seager, who homered twice for Texas, then misplayed a grounder for an error that allowed two more runs to score before Diaz hit his 21st homer of the season.

Phillies 9, Padres 7

In San Diego, Kyle Schwarber hit an-



Boston Red Sox's Brayan Bello pitches to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game in St. Petersburg, Fla. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5, (AP) - Results and standings from MLB games on Monday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	12	7	.630	1
Boston	7	7	.500	3-1/2
Cincinnati	6	6	.500	3
Toronto	6	6	.500	5
Houston	13	6	.688	6
Minnesota	20	6	.769	6
Baltimore	6	6	.500	3
Chicago Cubs	5	5	.500	0
Arizona	4	4	.500	2
Pittsburgh	4	4	.500	2
Philadelphia	9	9	.500	7

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	86	51	.628	
Tampa Bay	83	55	.601	3-1/2
Toronto	78	62	.551	10-1/2
Boston	72	66	.522	14-1/2
New York	68	69	.496	18

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	72	66	.522	
Cleveland	66	72	.478	6
Detroit	63	74	.460	8-1/2
Chicago	53	85	.384	19
Kansas City	43	96	.309	29-1/2

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	77	60	.562	
Houston	78	61	.561	
Texas	76	61	.555	1
Los Angeles	64	74	.464	13-1/2
Oakland	42	96	.304	35-1/2

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	90	46	.662	
Philadelphia	76	61	.555	14-1/2
Miami	70	67	.511	20-1/2
New York	63	74	.460	27-1/2
Washington	62	76	.449	29

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	76	61	.555	
Chicago	74	64	.536	2-1/2
Cincinnati	72	68	.514	5-1/2
Pittsburgh	64	74	.464	12-1/2
St. Louis	59	78	.431	17

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	84	52	.618	
Arizona	71	67	.514	14
San Francisco	70	68	.507	15
San Diego	65	74	.468	20-1/2
Colorado	50	87	.365	34-1/2

other long home run at Petco Park and Trea Turner and Edmundo Sosa also connected for Philadelphia, which won its first visit to San Diego since the NL Championship Series.

Philadelphia denied the Padres their first four-game winning streak this season. The wildly inconsistent Padres, who have badly under-performed despite having baseball's third-highest payroll, remain the only team in the majors without a winning streak longer than three games.

Taijuan Walker (15-5) became the first Phillies pitcher to win at least 15 games since Aaron Nola won 17 in 2018. Walker allowed four runs and five hits, including a solo home run by Fernando Tatis Jr. into the second deck in left in the first inning, his 22nd.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 5, 10 innings

In Oakland, Pinch-hitter Santiago Espinal hit a tiebreaking double in Toronto's three-run 10th inning on the first pitch thrown by Francisco Pérez, and the Blue Jays held on to beat Oakland.

The A's made it interesting when Lawrence Butler hit his second home run of the game with a two-run drive against winner Jordan Romano (5-5).

Twins 20, Guardians 6

In Cleveland, Royce Lewis had a grand slam and a career-high six RBIs, and Jorge Polanco and Carlos Correa added solo homers off Lucas Giolito in his Cleveland debut as the AL Central-leading Minnesota has won three of its last four games.

Kyle Farmer hit a three-run homer, and Joey Gallo and Matt Wallner each had two-run shots off catcher David Fry, who pitched the final four innings and allowed seven runs and 10 hits. Minnesota led 18-1 in the middle of the seventh.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 2

In Phoenix, Merrill Kelly matched a career high with 12 strikeouts in seven dominating innings, Jace Peterson hit a two-run double and Arizona beat Colorado.

Kelly (11-6) bounced back from a rare shaky start, filling the afternoon with whiffs and weak contact while allowing a run and four hits. The right-hander started to warm up for the eighth inning before leaving with what appeared to be cramps for the second time in three starts.

Royals 12, White Sox 1

In Kansas City, Cole Ragans continued his recent success with six scoreless innings as Kansas City trounced Chicago in the first of a three-game series.

The American League Pitcher of the Month for August, Ragans (6-4) retired the first 13 batters he faced and finished with just one hit allowed. He struck out seven and didn't walk anyone. He now has a 21-inning scoreless streak.

Change Name

I, Mr. ZACHARIAH JACOB holder of Indian Passport No. Z3827395 issued on 18/06/2017 at KUWAIT to change the name of my Daughter from 'ROMONA SUZANNE JACOB' Indian Passport No. U0746530 to 'RAMONA SUZANNE JACOB' in her Kuwait birth card.

URGENT REQUIRED FEMALE SALES EMPLOYEE

To work in office of reputed organization at south subhan

- Having a good experience and computer knowledge of MS office Word & Excel ETC.
- Knows how to deal to the customer and having good personality and hard working.

DUTY TIME : 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Please send your CV to :

Email: ciaco_1973@hotmail.com



India's Ravindra Jadeja delivers a ball during the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Nepal in Pallekele, Sri Lanka. (AP)

India qualify for Asia Cup Super 4

Men in Blue overcome sloppy fielding and rain breaks to beat Nepal

PALLEKELE, Sri Lanka, Sept 5, (AP): India overcame early sloppy fielding and long rain breaks to qualify for the Asia Cup's Super 4 with a 10-wicket victory against newcomer Nepal after meeting a revised target on the DLS method.

Captain Rohit Sharma, who struggled against Pakistan's pace in the rain-abandoned opening group game, made 74 not out and Shubman Gill also warmed up for the Super 4 with an unbeaten 67 as India reached 147-0 in 20.1 overs. Nepal had been bowled out for 230 but the Indian target was revised to 145 in 23 overs after an almost two-hour rain break.

Pakistan, which thumped Nepal by 238 runs at Multan, also qualified for the Super 4 from the same group.

Sharma and Gill started off the revised target cautiously before playing some big shots against the spinners with legspinner Sandeep Lamichhane conceding 39 off his four overs. Sharma was the more aggressive of the two, hitting five sixes and six fours while Gill also reached his half century with a pulled six in his undefeated half century and also hit eight fours.

CRICKET

India had a lackluster start to its last group game after Sharma won the toss and elected to field under overcast conditions with three catches going down inside the first five overs. Spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav took control in the middle overs as Nepal was bowled out in 48.2 overs.

Shubman Gill, who struggled in the first game against Pakistan, struck three boundaries off seamer Sompal Kami before rain took the players off the field with India 17-0 in 2.1 overs.

Earlier, India's fielders had a poor start as Shreyas Iyer, Virat Kohli and wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan dropped regulation catches off fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj that allowed the opening pair of Kushal Bhurtel (38) and Aasif Sheikh (58) to rack up an opening stand of 65.

One of Bhurtel's two sixes went out of the ground over square leg off Siraj's short pitched delivery.

Shardul Thakur broke the stand in the last over of the batting powerplay when he found the outside edge of Bhurtel before Aasif took charge despite Jadeja picking up 3-40 that pushed back Nepal to 101-4 in the 22nd over.

Kohli had dropped Aasif at short extra covers early on and the batter also successfully reversed an onfield lbw decision against him off Yadav before raising his half century off 88 balls. Kohli finally caught Aasif when Siraj found a leading edge in the 30th over and followed it with the wicket of Gulshan Jha before rain arrived and stopped play for an hour.

Hardik Pandya and Siraj then bowled well in the latter half of the innings after play resumed but Nepal's No. 8 Kami made a well composed 48 off 56 balls that featured two sixes and a boundary before Siraj wrapped up the innings and returned with figures of 3-61.

Shami, who was included in the playing XI because Jasprit Bumrah flew back home for the birth of his first child, took 1-29.

De Kock to retire from ODIs 'after' World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Sept 5, (AP): Quinton de Kock was selected Tuesday in South Africa's 15-man squad for the Cricket World Cup for what will be his last tournament before retiring from one-day internationals.

The 30-year-old opener has already quit test cricket so it leaves him only available for his country in the Twenty20 format.

The World Cup squad will be captained by Temba Bavuma and includes eight players who have never played at the tournament before.

The Proteas, ranked No. 6 for men's ODIs, have never reached the final of the 50-over World Cup. They got to the semifinals in 1992, 1999, 2007 and 2015.

Squad:

Temba Bavuma (captain), Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Sisanda Magala, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen.

Squad:

Former Zimbabwe cricket captain **Heath Streak**, the only player from the southern African country to have taken more than 100 test wickets, has died. He was 49.

Streak's wife **Nadine** confirmed the death Sunday on social media. He was reportedly suffering from colon and liver cancer, and had been receiving treatment in a South Africa hospital since May.

"In the early hours of this morning, Sunday the 3rd of September 2023, the greatest love of my life and the father of my beautiful children, was carried to be with the Angels from his home where he wished to spend his last days surrounded by his family and closest loved ones," Nadine Streak said in a statement.



India's Rohit Sharma plays a shot as Nepal's wicketkeeper Aasif Sheikh watches during the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Nepal in Pallekele, Sri Lanka. (AP)

'We're not entitled to win, we've got to go earn it'

Duke stuns Clemson in lopsided ACC opener

'We just have to play with who we've got'

Bosa holdout from 49ers endangering status for start of season

SANTA CLARA, Calif., Sept 5, (AP): The San Francisco 49ers began their first game week preparation of the season with their best defensive player nowhere to be found.

Defensive Player of the Year Nick Bosa's contract holdout that kept him out of all of training camp is now seriously threatening to last into the regular season as the two sides have been unable to come to a resolution.

"We just have to play with who we've got," All-Pro safety Talanoa Hufanga said Monday. "We'd love to have Bosa, obviously. That's a no-brainer. Best defensive player in the NFL and it shows. We just have to prepare as if he's not going to be here. That's an upper-echelon, that's a front-office question. I don't know if I can answer more on that. Once he's here we'd love to have him."

For now, the Niners will prepare for the opener at Pittsburgh on Sunday with Drake Jackson and Clelin Ferrell as the starters at defensive end.

Those two players combined for five sacks and 39 pressures last season, a far cry from the 18 1/2 sacks and 90 pressures Bosa provided on the way to winning the award as the NFL's top defensive player.

Linebacker Dre Greenlaw said the team might need to utilize more aggressive pressure packages to make up for Bosa's absence if he doesn't sign soon but would prefer it not come to that.

"We hope the (front) office figures it out," Greenlaw said. "We don't really look at it as saying we're missing somebody. It's just next man up and you just play ball."

The 49ers have had a strong history of rewarding their own stars, giving big extensions the past three summers to tight end George Kittle, linebacker Fred Warner and

receiver Deebo Samuel.

But getting a deal done with Bosa has proved more complicated as he is expected to get more money than those three players after proving he can consistently be one of the top defensive ends in the league when healthy since being drafted second overall in 2019.

"You have to understand that guys, when you have these opportunities, you've got to do what's best for yourself and your family," safety Tashaun Gipson said. "Obviously having a guy like Nick on the field with us is huge. He's the best defensive player in the National Football League. One of the best players in the league. So having him here is a huge, huge benefit. I think all 31 (other) teams would agree with that. But right now, we've just got to focus. Whenever he shows up, we know he's going to be who he is."

FOOTBALL

Bosa is currently under contract on the fifth-year option for \$17.9 million this season. Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald is the only defensive player with a contract worth at least \$30 million a year after signing a three-year, \$95 million extension last offseason. Bosa could top that with his new deal.

Bosa led the NFL in sacks last season and has 43 sacks in 51 games. Replacing that production is almost impossible so Bosa's teammates are hoping it doesn't come to that.

"When Bosa gets here with that No. 97 on, once he's here, it will be nice," Hufanga said.

line as orange-clad fans who packed into Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium streamed for the exits.

That gave Duke's students and fans a monopoly to celebrate in an atmosphere growing ever more festive as the clock wound toward zero.

Jordan Waters added a punctuating moment by breaking loose for a 36-yard scoring run with 3:15 left to turn the game into a romp. And it ended Duke's 28-game losing streak to top-10 opponents, the last win coming - fittingly - against then-No. 7 Clemson in 1989.

Cade Klubnik threw for a short touchdown to Will Shipley in the second quarter for Clemson's only score on a day that repeatedly left Swinney shaking his head (after a second blocked kick) or wiping his forehead (after a fourth-quarter fumble at the goal line) in frustration on the sideline.

The Tigers have likely sent themselves careening down, or even out of, Tuesday's new poll with this showing. But the Blue Devils could be in line to crack the rankings for the first time since 2018.

No top-10 team has lost an opener to an unranked team by 11-plus points since at least 2000. Clemson had hit double-figures in scoring in 72 straight ACC games before Monday.

And the Tigers fell to 58-1 when having at least 200 yards rushing and passing under Swinney.

The Tigers return home to host Charleston Southern from the Big South Conference on Saturday.

The Blue Devils host a non-conference game against Lafayette from the Patriot League on Saturday.



Duke's Jordan Waters (7) and Riley Leonard (13) celebrate after scoring a touchdown late in the second half of an NCAA college football game against Clemson in Durham, N.C. (AP)

Antwerp sign Owen

Bailly ends seven-year spell at Man United

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 5, (AP): Eric Bailly ended his seven-year spell at Manchester United by completing a permanent move to Besiktas on Tuesday as Turkish clubs take advantage of the late closing of their transfer window to sign fringe players from the Premier League.

Bailly, who made 113 appearances for United after joining from Villarreal, spent last season on loan at Marseille because he was not in manager Erik ten Hag's plans going forward.

Bailly is the second United player to join a Turkish club this summer after Fred's transfer to Fenerbahce last month.

The Turkish transfer window shuts on Sept. 15, allowing clubs there two extra weeks to sign players compared to those in the top leagues in western Europe, where the window closed on Sept. 1.

SOCCER

Belgian champion **Antwerp** has brought in Netherlands left back **Owen Wijndal** on loan from Ajax until the end of the season ahead of its Champions League campaign.

Antwerp defeated Greek club **AEK Athens** last month in a playoff to reach he group stage for the first time. The club has been placed in Group H alongside **Barcelona, Porto** and **Shakhtar Donetsk**.

Wijndal joined from Ajax, where he played 28 games last season but was not part of new coach **Maurice Steijn**'s plans.

Antwerp needed some defensive reinforcements especially after former Belgium international **Toby Alderweireld** picked up a shoulder injury against Athens that will rule him out for several weeks.

Former Dutch soccer great **Marc Overmars**, who was appointed sports director at Antwerp last year only weeks after abruptly quitting at Ajax, reportedly played an important role in securing Wijndal's services.

Overmars was forced into relinquishing his sports director role at Ajax and apologized for his behavior after admitting to sending inappropriate messages to female colleagues.

SOCCER

Tottenham has sold defender **Davinson Sanchez** to Galatasaray, with midfielder **Tanguy Ndombele** also joining the Turkish club on loan.

Tottenham announced the moves Monday, with European clubs still able to sell players to Turkish teams even though the European transfer window shut on Friday.

Sanchez hasn't started any of Tottenham's opening four Premier League games under new manager **Ange Postecoglou**, who had said he wanted to trim a bloated squad.

SOCCER

Villarreal fired coach **Quique Setien** on Tuesday after the team lost three of its first four matches in the Spanish league.

The club made its decision early in the two-week break for international games, with director of football **Miguel Angel Tena** taking over on an interim basis.

Setien took charge of Villarreal in October after the departure of **Unai Emery** to English club Aston Villa, guiding the team nicknamed The Yellow Submarine to a fifth-place finish and a spot in this season's Europa League.

Villarreal has opened the season with losses to **Real Betis**, **Barcelona** and most recently **Cadiz**. The only win came at Mallorca.

Villarreal thanked Setien, who has previously coached Barcelona, for taking charge "in a complicated situation" last season and promoting many youngsters to the first team.

SOCCER

Former Spain defender **Sergio Ramos** completed a return to **Sevilla** on Monday, 18 years after he left the club to join **Real Madrid**.

The 37-year-old Ramos has signed a one-year deal after his contract at Paris **Saint-Germain** expired.

Ramos was born a few kilometers from Sevilla and joined its academy at the age of 7.



U.S. forward Mikal Bridges (5) dribbles against Italy forward Nicolò Melli (9) during the Basketball World Cup quarterfinal game between Italy and U.S. at the Mall of Asia Arena in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

Sports

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USA rout Italy to reach World Cup semis

Serbia advance

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 5, (AP): The United States is headed to the medal round of the Basketball World Cup, bouncing back from its first loss of the tournament in emphatic fashion.

Mikal Bridges scored 14 of his 24 points in the first half, Tyrese Haliburton added 18 and the U.S. was airtight for long stretches defensively on the way to easily beating Italy 100-63 on Tuesday night in the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

The win ensures the 15th top-four finish for the Americans (5-1) in 19 World Cups. They will play either Germany (5-0) or Latvia (4-1) in Friday's semifinals; those two teams play their quarterfinal game in Manila on Wednesday.

"We just felt that energy from the jump," Bridges said. "Everybody felt it."

That would include the Italians. They might have felt it more than anyone. It was 46-24 USA by halftime, with Austin Reaves providing the exclamation point with a follow-slam that had teammates out of their seats. The margin was that big despite Anthony Edwards - the team's leading scorer entering Tuesday, averaging just over 20 points in the first five games of the World Cup - not even getting on the scoresheet until the first possession of the third quarter.

His heroics weren't needed. Not much on the offensive end was. The defense - which was shredded for 110

BASKETBALL

points in a six-point loss to Lithuania on Sunday - held Italy to 6-of-31 shooting over the final 15 minutes of the first half. Lithuania started 9 for 9 from 3-point range vs. the U.S.; Italy started 2 for 21 on Tuesday, finished 7 for 38 from beyond the arc and wound up shooting only 31%.

"Everything stayed the same," U.S. point guard Jaalen Brunson said. "It's just, our approach had to be a little better."

Reaves finished with 12 for the Americans, who improved to 10-1 overall this summer. Simone Fontecchio led Italy (4-2) with 18 points.

It was the quarterfinal round where it all went wrong for the U.S. at the World Cup four years ago in China. A loss to France in the Round of 8 eliminated the Americans from medal contention and started a free-fall all the way to seventh place, the worst finish ever by a U.S. team in a major men's international event.

That won't happen this time. Win Friday, and the U.S. is assured of a medal. Win Friday and Sunday, and the Americans will be flying home with gold.

"We're just ready for the moment," Bridges said.

Italy had beaten the U.S. only twice in 14 previous tries at the senior men's national level, both times at the world championships - which FIBA now calls the World Cup. The first was in 1970 on the way to a fifth-place finish for the U.S. The second was in 1978, in Manila no less, a defeat that helped relegate the Americans to a fifth-place finish that year as well.

The Italians hung around, for a few minutes. The U.S. didn't get into an early hole - as has been the case multiple times in this World Cup - but the lead was only 10-8 when the Americans went to the second unit, which has been a strength all summer. And it was again. It was 24-14 after one, the lead was out to 22 by the half and the countdown to Friday was soon on.

"We were ready," Bridges said. "And we're going to stay ready until we get out of here."

Lithuania beat the U.S. at the 1998 world championships, then failed to medal. Lithuania then beat the U.S.



Bogdan Bogdanovic (7) of Serbia goes for the basket during the Basketball World Cup quarterfinal game between Lithuania and Serbia at the Mall of Asia Arena in Manila, Philippines. (AP)



Alexander Zverev, of Germany, returns a shot against Jannik Sinner, of Italy, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

again at the 2004 Olympics, then failed to medal.

And history will repeat itself at this World Cup.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 18 of his 21 points in the first half and Serbia - motivated by a serious injury endured by one of its players - topped previously unbeaten Lithuania 87-68 in the World Cup quarterfinals on Tuesday in a result that means Lithuania cannot medal in Manila this weekend. The best Lithuania can do now is fifth place.

"The game against the United States, as you can see now, it's nothing," said Lithuania's Tadas Sedekerskis, who led his team with 14 points. "It's just history. We don't have any chances to fight for the medal."

Serbia played with forward Borisa Simanic's jersey draped over a chair in its bench area. Simanic lost a kidney after being elbowed in a game against South Sudan last week; he needed surgery after that

game, and complications prompted doctors to operate again Sunday and remove the damaged kidney.

"He texted us this morning," Bogdanovic said. "He texted us, 'Hey, guys, I'm all right. After two surgeries, I'm all right. I'm healthy. Just get the win. Don't think about me and let's win tonight.' It was a huge boost and huge energy tonight, so thanks to Boris. This was also for him."

The loss continues a peculiar jinx for Lithuania, which is 3-8 all-time against the U.S. at the senior men's national level - and has turned those three wins into exactly zero medals. Lithuania was playing less than 48 hours after beating the U.S. 110-104 to close out second-round play in Manila.

But after Tuesday's loss, Lithuania insisted it wasn't still reveling in beating the Americans.

"I can guarantee 100% that we forgot it," Sedekerskis said.

SOCCER

Mexico or Urawa Red Diamonds of Japan.

The final on Dec. 22 will be played at the 62,000-seat King Abdullah Sports City, home of Al Ittihad.

Al Ittihad recruited three former Club World Cup winners in a lavish spending spree by clubs across the Saudi league since Benzema agreed to leave Real Madrid in June.

Benzema won the world club title five times with Madrid, including the last edition in February against a Saudi opponent. Benzema scored in a 5-3 win over Al Hilal that has

since signed Neymar. Benzema's new club teammates include N'Golo Kanté, who won the 2021 title with Chelsea, and Fabinho, who won with Liverpool in 2019.

Europe's Champions League winner has won the Club World Cup in 15 of the past 16 editions. Only Chelsea lost in 2012 against Corinthians of Brazil.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Saudi soccer federation leader Yasser Almoineh, who is now a member of the ruling FIFA Council, attended the draw ceremony.

Sabalenka about to be No. 1 in WTA rankings

Qinwen advances to US Open last 8 by 'ousting' last year's runner-up, Jabeur

NEW YORK, Sept 5, (AP): Zheng Qinwen routed last year's U.S. Open runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-2, 6-4 on Monday to move into the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows for her deepest run ever in a Grand Slam tournament.

Zheng, who is seeded No. 23, becomes the first Chinese player to reach the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open since Wang Qiang in 2019. She did it by overpowering the fifth-seeded Tunisian with an aggressive baseline game that produced 21 winners.

"I feel just super happy and excited to play in a big stadium and have a really good performance today," the 20-year-old Zheng told the Louis Armstrong Stadium crowd.

For Jabeur, who committed 33 unforced errors and has appeared ill at times during her U.S. Open run, it was a disappointing finish after reaching the finals of three of the last five Grand Slam events, including the last two Wimbledons.

Zheng's win mean three of last year's four U.S. Open singles finalists are gone, leaving only second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, a Belarusian who will take over the No. 1 spot in the WTA rankings because of the fourth-round loss by No. 1 seed Iga Swiatek.

Zheng will play Sabalenka. That will give Zheng the chance to play for more history - to equal the best runs ever by Chinese players at the U.S. Open, semifinals appearances by Peng Shuai in 2014 and Li Na in 2013.

Aryna Sabalenka is going to be the No. 1 player in the WTA rankings next week, replacing Iga Swiatek there. That much is certain. The way Sabalenka is playing at the moment, she might very well supplant Swiatek as the U.S. Open champion, too.

In Sabalenka's first match since being assured of rising to the top of women's tennis, she showed off the power-based game that allows her to dominate so many opponents, overwhelming No. 13 seed Daria Kasatkina 6-1, 6-3 on Monday night in Arthur Ashe Stadium to advance to her fifth consecutive major quarterfinal.

"All this year, I've been pushing myself so hard to reach this goal," Sabalenka said about getting to No. 1. "It really means a lot for me. It means a lot for my family. It's crazy. It's unbelievable."

After the top-seeded Swiatek lost in the fourth round on Sunday night, No. 3 Jessica Pegula and No. 5 Ons Jabeur - who was the runner-up in New York a year ago - both were defeated Monday. No. 4 Elena Rybakina bowed out

last week. That all left Sabalenka as the only one of the top five women remaining in the bracket.

The other quarterfinal on the bottom half of the draw will be Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova against No. 17 Madison Keys, the U.S. Open runner-up in 2017.

The quarterfinals on the top half of the women's bracket will be played Tuesday: No. 6 Coco Gauff vs. 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, and No. 10 Karolina Muchova vs. No. 30 Sorana Cirstea.

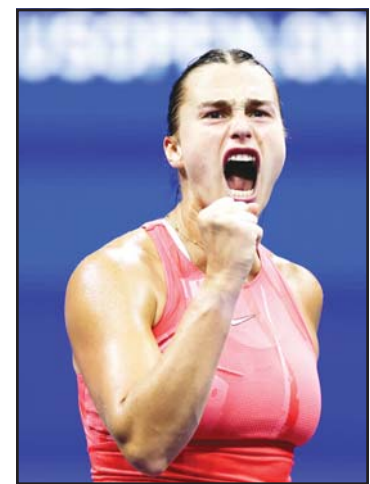
Zheng, a 20-year-old from China, was responsible for eliminating Jabeur, who's been sick, by the score of 6-2, 6-3 to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time. Keys took care

TENNIS

of Pegula 6-1, 6-3, while Vondrousova beat unseeded American Peyton Stearns 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-2.

"I feel this is, like, an important win for me," Zheng said. "I always believe that I'm able to beat everyone if I play the right tennis."

In men's action Monday, defending champion Carlos Alcaraz won in straight sets and will next meet No. 12 Alexander Zverev, who outlasted No. 6-seeded Jannik Sinner 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in a night match that lasted 4 hours, 41 minutes and ended early Tuesday morning.



Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, reacts during her fourth round match against Daria Kasatkina, of Russia, of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

A fan was ejected in the fourth set after Zverev complained to the chair umpire that the man used language from Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime. Zverev said after the match the spectator was singing Hitler's anthem.

"I love when fans are loud, I love when fans are emotional," Zverev said. "But I think me being German and not really proud of that history, it's not really a great thing to do and I think him sitting in one of the front rows, I think a lot of people heard it. So if I just don't react, I think it's bad from my side."

The 2021 champion, Daniil Medvedev, and No. 8 Andrey Rublev will face off in an all-Russian quarterfinal. Rublev beat Jack Draper 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the afternoon, and Medvedev got past No. 13 Alex de Minaur 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 at night.

Sabalenka said she thought she would be distracted against Kasatkina by the rankings news. Sure didn't seem to be one bit.

Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, frequently hits shots with such force, and such little subtlety, that her amount of control can vary. But when she's on, she's tough to counter, and Sabalenka was on-target against Kasatkina, winding up with a 31-7 edge in total winners in a match that lasted just 75 minutes.

"I'm super happy with the performance today," Sabalenka said. "I'm super happy I was able to put her under pressure." Kasatkina acknowledges that her serve is a weakness and so, not surprisingly, she was in particular trouble in those games. Sabalenka repeatedly would tee off on second serves in the 70s mph, either ripping a clean winner or forcing an error on the other side of the net.

Kasatkina won just one of her eight service games.

After her big breakthrough at Melbourne Park, Sabalenka got to the semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon, making her 21-2 in Grand Slam matches this season.

Now she'll attempt to get back to the semifinals in New York, where she lost at that stage two years ago to Leylah Fernandez and last year to Swiatek.

The No. 1 ranking is hers, but Sabalenka is hoping to claim major trophy No. 2.

"I think she's been knocking on the door for quite a while," Pegula said. "It's nice to see that change and see her get rewarded for how well she's been playing, her consistency, especially in the Slams."

Al Ittihad avoid path to face Man City in semis of FIFA Club WC

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 5, (AP): Saudi Arabian champion Al Ittihad and its star striker Karim Benzema avoided Manchester City in the semifinals draw Tuesday for the first FIFA Club World Cup to be hosted by the kingdom.

The Dec. 12-22 tournament for continental champions and the host nation's league winner will be played in Al Ittihad's home city Jeddah - the latest statement of Saudi ambitions in global soccer including aiming to host the men's World Cup in 2034.

The event will be the last Club World Cup in the current annual format before a 32-team version played every four years starts in June 2025. The inaugural host is the United States.

Al Ittihad will open the seven-team tournament against Auckland City, the champion of Oceania.

The winner will advance to face African champion Al Ahly of Egypt in the second round for a place in the semifinals against the champion of South America. The Copa Libertadores is currently at the semifinals stage featuring Boca Juniors of Argentina and Brazilian clubs Palmeiras, Fluminense and Internacional.

Man City, as the champion of Europe, also gets direct entry to the semifinals and will play either Club León of