

## Other Voices

# Human-centric view need of the hour

By H.E. Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister of India



Prime Minister of India H.E. Narendra Modi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – these two words capture a deep philosophy. It means ‘the world is one family’. This is an all-embracing outlook that encourages us to progress as one universal family, transcending borders, languages, and ideologies.

During India’s G20 Presidency, this has translated into a call for human-centric progress. As One Earth, we are coming together to nurture our planet. As One Family, we support each other in the pursuit of growth. And we move together towards a shared future - One Future - which is an undeniable truth in these interconnected times.

The post-pandemic world order is very different from the world before it. There are three important changes, among others.

First, there is a growing realization that a shift away from a GDP-centric view of the world to a human-centric view is needed.

Second, the world is recognizing the importance of resilience and reliability in global supply chains.

Third, there is a collective call for boosting multilateralism through the reform of global institutions.

Our G20 Presidency has played the role of a catalyst in these shifts.

In December 2022, when we took over the Presidency from Indonesia, I had written that a mindset shift must be catalyzed by the G20. This was especially needed in the context of mainstreaming the marginalized aspirations of developing countries, the Global South and Africa.

The Voice of Global South Summit in January 2023, which witnessed participation from 125 countries, was one of the foremost initiatives under our Presidency. It was an important exercise to gather inputs and ideas from the Global South. Further, our Presidency has not only seen the largest-ever participation from African countries but has also pushed for the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.

An interconnected world means our challenges across domains are interlinked. This is the midway year of the 2030 Agenda and many are noting with great concern that the progress on SDGs is off-track. The G20 2023 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on SDGs will spearhead the future direction of the G20 towards implementing SDGs.

In India, living in harmony with nature has been a norm since ancient times and we have been contributing our share towards climate action even in modern times.

Many countries of the Global South are at various stages of development and climate action must be a complementary pursuit. Ambitions for climate action must be matched with actions on climate finance and transfer of technology.

We believe there is a need to move away from a purely

restrictive attitude of what should not be done, to a more constructive attitude focusing on what can be done to fight climate change.

The Chennai High-Level Principles for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy focus on keeping our oceans healthy.

A global ecosystem for clean and green hydrogen will emerge from our presidency, along with a Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre.

In 2015, we launched the International Solar Alliance. Now, through the Global Biofuels Alliance, we will support the world to enable energy transitions in tune with the benefits of a circular economy.

Democratising climate action is the best way to impart momentum to the movement. Just as individuals make daily decisions based on their long-term health, they can make lifestyle decisions based on the impact on the planet’s long-term health. Just like Yoga became a global mass movement for wellness, we have also nudged the world with Lifestyles for Sustainable Environment (LiFE).

Due to the impact of climate change, ensuring food and nutritional security will be crucial. Millets, or Shree Anna, can help with this while also boosting climate-smart agriculture. In the International Year of Millets, we have taken millets to global palates. The Deccan High Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition is also helpful in this direction.

Technology is transformative but it also needs to be made inclusive. In the past, the benefits of technological advancements have not benefited all sections of society equally. India, over the last few years, has shown how technology can be leveraged to narrow inequalities, rather than widen them.

For instance, the billions across the world that remain unbanked, or lack digital identities, can be financially included through digital public infrastructure (DPI). The solutions we have built using our DPI have now been recognized global-

ly. Now, through the G20, we will help developing countries adapt, build, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

That India is the fastest-growing large economy is no accident. Our simple, scalable and sustainable solutions have empowered the vulnerable and the marginalized to lead our development story. From space to sports, economy to entrepreneurship, Indian women have taken the lead in various sectors. They have shifted the narrative from the development of women to women-led development. Our G20 Presidency is working on bridging the gender digital divide, reducing labor force participation gaps and enabling a larger role for women in leadership and decision-making.

For India, the G20 Presidency is not merely a high-level diplomatic endeavor. As the Mother of Democracy and a model of diversity, we opened the doors of this experience to the world.

Today, accomplishing things at scale is a quality that is associated with India. The G20 Presidency is no exception. It has become a people-driven movement. Over 200 meetings will have been organized in 60 Indian cities across the length and breadth of our nation, hosting nearly 100,000 delegates from 125 countries by the end of our term. No Presidency has ever encompassed such a vast and diverse geographical expanse.

It is one thing to hear about India’s demography, democracy, diversity and development from someone else. It is totally different to experience them first-hand. I am sure our G20 delegates would vouch for this.

Our G20 Presidency strives to bridge divides, dismantle barriers, and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world where unity prevails over discord, where shared destiny eclipses isolation. As the G20 President, we had pledged to make the global table larger, ensuring that every voice is heard and every country contributes. I am positive that we have matched our pledge with actions and outcomes.



Revelers pay respect before forming human pyramids to reach an overhanging earthen pot while celebrating Hindu festival Janmashtami in Mumbai, India, Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023. (AP)

# Bill seeks to regulate surveillance cameras

Answers sought on VAT

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: MPs Abdullah Al-Anbai, Hamad Al-Elyan, Muhannad Al-Sayer, Hamad Al-Medlej and Soud Al-Asfour have submitted a bill

on amending law number 61/2015 regarding the installation of surveillance cameras in public areas.

The bill stipulates adding streets in housing areas, as well as the entry and exit points in public places, to the list of areas where surveillance cameras are installed.

According to the bill, the Ministry of Interior should install surveillance cameras in the designated places; while the control monitors should be placed in the police stations in every area. The ministry must also install big signboards informing the people that the streets are monitored by surveillance cameras.

Meanwhile, parliamentarians continue to react to the news published recently by Al-Jarida daily about the government’s supposed discussion of bills on the value added tax (VAT), selective tax and public loan.

MP Hassan Jawhar forwarded queries to HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah about the government program for the years 2023 to 2027, which was submitted to the National Assembly on July 16, 2023. He said the program includes only one legislative requirement related to imposing tax on companies in order to improve the finances of the State and diversify sources of national income.

He cited Council of Ministers decision number 895 assigning the finance minister and state minister for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs to speed up the completion of bills included in the decision, such as the agreement of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on value added tax (VAT) and selective tax, which was referred to the Assembly in 2017. He wants to know the rationale behind this assignment even if the bills included in the decision are not in the program of the government. He demanded for clarification of the contradictory statement of the finance minister on Sept 6, 2023 that the priorities of the government are specified in its program. He asked if the finance minister submitted a bill on companies tax in line with the government’s program. He requested for the list of bills that the Council of Ministers discussed and those it decided to expedite completion.

MP Muhannad Al-Sayer asserted that the MPs and citizens are waiting for the government to improve the standard of living, and implement economic and political reforms; but it seems to be more concerned about speeding up the enforcement of international agreements on VAT, selective tax and public loan. He wondered about the position of the government; as every time the MPs take a few steps forward along with the government, the latter puts everything back to square one. He added the government has been conveying negative messages to the citizens. He asserted it took the government 11 years to complete the strategic alternative to the salary scale, but the issue remains unsolved till date.

Addressing HH the Prime Minister, Al-Sayer stated: “You are responsible for the ministers, because they carry out your vision and your program.”

Continued on Page 5

## The Conversation

Murals highlight recent activism

# Resilience in Iran street art

By Pouya Afshar  
UMass Lowell

A recent rise in activism in Iran has added a new chapter to the country’s long-standing history of murals and other public art. But as the sentiments being expressed in those works have changed, the government’s view of them has shifted, too.

The ancient Persians, who lived in what is now Iran, adorned their palaces, temples and tombs with intricate wall paintings, showcasing scenes of royal court life, religious rituals and epic tales. Following the 1979 revolution and the Iran-Iraq war, murals in Iran took on a new significance and played a crucial role in shaping the national narrative. These murals became powerful visual representations of the ideals and values of the Islamic Republic. They were used to depict scenes of heroism, martyrdom and religious devotion, aiming to inspire national unity and pride among Iranians.

Over the centuries, these artworks came to adorn many public spaces, including the walls of mosques, universities and government buildings, becoming symbols of patriotism and religious devotion.

After the Islamic Revolution overthrew Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979, murals began to convey new political messages and ideological propaganda. They celebrated the ideals of the Islamic Revolution and showcased the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini and other prominent figures of the revolution.

Murals frequently depicted anti-Western sentiments, condemning foreign interference and imperialism. They also highlighted the concept of martyrdom and the importance of defending the Islamic Republic against external threats, aiming to inspire national unity and pride among Iranians.

In 2022, the Iranian morality police arrested Mahsa (Jhina) Amini for allegedly failing to wear her hijab properly. After she died in police custody, public protests broke out across the country with the slogan “Woman, Life, Freedom” - and led to a new round of public art in Iran.

As a scholar of Iranian contemporary art, but

more importantly as someone who studies the development of Iranian artists, I see their renewed determination to promote freedom as a cultural necessity in Iran, even in the face of a government crackdown

In the months following Amini’s death, artists, activists, and, most importantly, ordinary citizens poured into the streets to claim the public spaces and call for freedom.

Street art emerged as a powerful medium through which individuals could address a wide array of pressing social and political issues, including women’s rights, freedom of expression, political activism and the desire for a life free from the constraints of religious laws.

Graffiti artists, in particular, played a vital role in expressing dissent and resistance. Throughout Iranian cities, evocative graffiti murals have appeared, telling stories of struggle, liberation and the indomitable spirit of the movement through the past 45 years since the 1979 revolution.

Watching the progression of the Woman, Life, Freedom movement and the distribution of art created parallel to it, I noticed that artists turned public spaces into platforms for political messages, critiquing policies, advocating social change and promoting gender equality.

Sometimes even a dialogue emerged on the walls between the oppressed and the oppressor. Artists depicted pictures of the killed citizens, the activists detained, as well as iconic images of the revolution. The government erased or painted over the graffiti, but protesters came back with new images and messages.

Central to this movement is the participation of both professional artists and non-artist citizens, instigating change and fostering consciousness through powerful imagery created on the city walls. Ordinary people participate in changing the city’s visual landscape by expressing themselves through art.

The rise of protest art in Iran has faced opposition from the government, which viewed these forms of expression as acts of defiance.

Continued on Page 5

## ‘Resources belong to Kuwait & Saudi’

RIYADH, Sept 7, (KUNA): The GCC foreign ministers affirmed on Thursday that the natural resources in the submerg zone adjacent to the Saudi-Kuwait divided zone including the whole Al-Durra field are solely “a joint property for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait.”

The affirmation came in the final statement of the GCC 157th ministerial session held at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh.

The statement affirmed the GCC states’ emphatic rejection of allegations about any other party’s rights except for those that belong to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia either in Al-Durra field or the submerg region adjacent to the divided zone.

The ministers during the meeting touched on joint action issues, regional and international affairs.

Meanwhile, the Al-Khafji Joint Operations declared on Thursday resumption of crude oil production in the divided zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The operations administration said on its official account on X website that the output resumption began on Tuesday as part of the first phase after completing maintenance of the land production installations.

The resumption of the production came following strenuous efforts by the tasked operations teams. The joint operations includes the Kuwaiti Gulf Oil Company and ARAMCO for Gulf Operations.

It is headquartered in the Saudi city of Al-Khafji, some 130 kms south of the Kuwaiti capital.

Also:

RIYADH: GCC foreign ministers on Thursday called upon Iraq to complete demarcation of the maritime borders with the State of Kuwait beyond the Mark 162.

The call upon Iraq came in the final statement of the GCC ministerial meeting, the 157th session, held in at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh.

The statement emphasized that Iraq must abide by sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, abstain from breaching relevant international treaties and resolutions, namely Resolution 833 regarding the demarcation of the borders between the two countries, the treaty for regulating sea navigation at Khour Abdullah, worked out between the two countries and deposited at the UN.

## Newswatch



An HII-A rocket lifts off from the launch pad at Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima, southern Japan Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023. (AP)

TOKYO: Japan launched a rocket Thursday carrying an X-ray telescope that will explore the origins of the universe as well as a small lunar lander.

The launch of the HII-A rocket from Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan was shown on live video by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, known as JAXA.

“We have a liftoff,” the narrator at JAXA said as the rocket flew up in a burst of smoke then flew over the Pacific.

Thirteen minutes after the launch, the rocket put into orbit around Earth a satellite called the X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission, or XRISM, which will measure the speed and makeup of what lies between galaxies. That information helps in studying how celestial objects were formed, and hopefully can lead to solving the mystery of how the universe was created, JAXA says.

In cooperation with NASA, JAXA will look at the strength of light at different wavelengths, the temperature of things in space and their shapes and brightness. (AP)

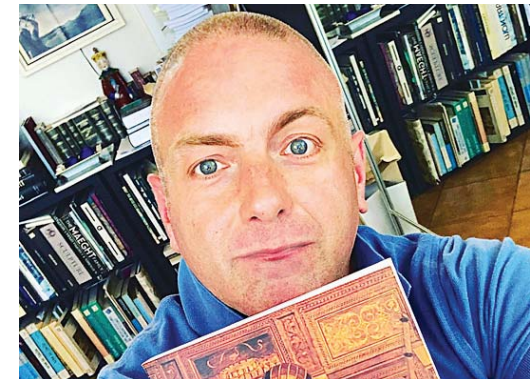


## SPECIAL REPORT



Interior view of the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA).

## AN ARAB OASIS WITH A HEARTY PARISIAN



Prof. Andrea Lauria (above) is an Italian museologist graduated from Rome's Academy of fine arts. He also holds a History of Art degree from University di Roma Tre in Rome. Andrea Lauria lectures a Masters course in museology at Rome's Universities Tor Vergata and American Temple University (Rome Campus). In 2020 he has become a published author of the book: "From the Renais-



sance studiolo to the contemporary museum" which is also his course manual. Lauria's field of research is the phenomenon of hyper-museums with special attention to the Arabian countries in comparison with the western world.

By Andrea Lauria

In the past months I have often talked about works of one of my favorite Archistars, the French designer Jean Nouvel. In the Gulf Nouvel has designed The Louvre Abu Dhabi, established in 2017 and located on the Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and The National Museum of Qatar, opened in 2019 and located in Doha, Qatar. Both museums are not only among the most beautiful hyper-museums in the Gulf but also in the world, they are two art pieces.

Jean Nouvel is one of the most famous contemporary world's Archistars, he has obtained a number of prestigious distinctions over the course of his career, including the Wolf Prize in Arts in 2005 and the Pritzker Prize in 2008 and the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for The Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) French for Arab World Institute.

Jean Nouvel has always had a special relationship with the Arab world as I told you the French architect has designed two extraordinary iconic Gulf hyper-museums, Louvre Abu Dhabi and The National Museum of Qatar.

However, this special relationship with the Arab world began many years before with the design of the beautiful Arab World Institute in Paris project with which Nouvel won the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture in the 1989.

The Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) French for Arab World Institute, is an organization established in Paris in 1980 by France with 18 Arab countries to research and spread information about the Arab world and its cultural and spiritual values.

The Institute was instituted as a result of a perceived lack of representation for the Arab world in France, and seeks to provide a secular location for the promotion of Arab civilization, art, knowledge, and aesthetics. This project is a result of funds from both the League

of Arab States and the French government, with the cost of the building totaling around 230,000,000 euros.

The Arab World Institute has a really beautiful location in Paris, it is positioned by the Seine river. The Institute was designed and executed by a team of architects including the Archistar Jean Nouvel, in collaboration with other designers, Gilbert Lèzenes and Pierre Soria.

The building designed for the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) by Jean Nouvel wants to be a modern architectural symbol of dialogue between Western culture and the Arab world, the Arab World Institute was publicly inaugurated in December 1987.

The Institute is an integral part of the Parisian urban landscape, as it echoes the design of the nearby University of Jussieu buildings while clearly standing apart with its mashrabiyas. The Institute houses a museum, library, auditorium, restaurant, offices and meeting rooms. Within the museum are objects, art pieces from the Arab world ranging from before Islam through into the twentieth century. One of the main initiatives within the museum is the inclusion of special exhibitions.

The Architecture-Studio together with Jean Nouvel, won design competition in the 1981. The building was constructed between the 1981 and 1987 and has floor space of 181,850 square feet (16,894 m2).

The building is located in the Parisian V arrondissement, in rue des Fossés-Saint-Bernard and acts as a shield zone between the Jussieu Campus of Pierre and Marie Curie University, built in large rationalist urban blocks, and the Seine.

The river façade follows the curve of the waterway, reducing the

Continued on Page 3



A window of IMA.

editor's choice



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:07    Asr ..... 15:18  
 Sunrise .. 05:28    Maghrib .. 18:04  
 Zohr ..... 11:46    Isha ..... 19:22

# Local

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

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to northerly wind with speeds of 12-35 km/h.

## Weather

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot and humid with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

| Station        | Max Exp | Min Rec |  |  |
|----------------|---------|---------|--|--|
| Kuwait City    | 47      | 35      |  |  |
| Kuwait Airport | 46      | 35      |  |  |
| Abdaly         | 45      | 30      |  |  |
| Salmiyah       | 42      | 34      |  |  |
| Ahmadi         | 41      | 35      |  |  |
| Nuwaisib       | 45      | 30      |  |  |
| Wafra          | 46      | 32      |  |  |

## Amir, CP, PM condole with martyr's family

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA) : His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolence to the family of martyr Hamdan Mohammad Hamdan Al-Mutairi.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir praised Al-Mutairi's heroic sacrifices in defending his country, and prayed to the Almighty Allah to bestow mercy and forgiveness on him.

His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolence to the family of martyr Hamdan Mohammad Hamdan Al-Mutairi.

## Oasis

Continued from Page 2

hardness of a rectangular grid and offering an inviting view from the Sully Bridge. At the same time the building appears to fold itself back in the direction of the Saint-Germain-des-Prés district.

The building is a mixture of sophisticated design and very advanced technology. In contrast to the curved surface on the river side, the southwest façade is an uncompromisingly rectangular very light glass-clad curtain wall. It faces a large square public space that opens in the direction of the Ile de la Cité and Notre Dame.

Visible behind the glass wall, a metallic screen unfolds with moving geometric motifs. The motifs are actually 240 photo-sensitive motor-controlled apertures, or shutters, which act as a sophisticated brise soleil that automatically opens and closes to control the amount of light and heat entering the building from the sun. The mechanism creates interior spaces with filtered light — an effect often used in Islamic architecture with its climate-oriented strategies.

The design of the building is very sophisticated and refined demonstrating once again how Jean Nouvel is not only refined architect but brilliant as well. The innovative use of technology and success of the building's design catapulted Nouvel to fame and is one of the cultural reference points of Paris.

As usual the Nouvel's projects are very sophisticated and symbolic at the same time, the architect always tries to interpret the symbols of cultures and populations by digging into the past like an anthropologist. The White, grey, and smooth playing with the transparency of the structure, this is how the interior design incarnates the very concept of the institution.

Everything in the building revolves around symbolism, the shedding light on AWI's main purpose and objectives. The books' tower spirals up to connect the several floors of the library, wide luminous spaces around the courtyard and a forest of columns spreads around the hypostyle hall. This is a reference to Iraqi ziggurats, the Samara mosque minaret, the inside of the Dar Aziza Palace, and the colonnades of the great mosque of Cordoba.

The building, not only thanks to the presence of photographic diaphragms, reveals a close and convincing relationship between architecture and cinema. It has such an energy that, visiting it, one has the impression of entering the shot of a film.

This aspect is also underlined by Nouvel's words — "The sequence of passages between different volumes and levels of lighting, according to the different trajectories inside it, can be seen as a series of angles and openings of a photographic lens."

The IMA is not just an institute of Arab culture: it is a place where Parisians meet, it is a museum and a library, it is an incredible viewpoint but it is also a café where you can chat and relax, it is a place for study and discussion between the two cultures most represented in Paris — Western and Arab.

The architect's project is amazing. Jean Nouvel demonstrates in this project a remarkable understanding of Arab architecture, culture and spirit. Indeed, it is possible to draw parallels between some elements of the Institute and a number of traditional Arab buildings. For example, the square and polygonal Mozarabic motifs of the southern walls are inspired by the designs of the Alhambra in Granada.

Despite these references to the Arab world, Nouvel knows that the building is located the center of Paris, in the center of Europe and the Institute wants to establish itself as a European building. The idea of a cultural centre, which houses spaces for exhibitions, events, shows, conferences and debates as well as a library, a cinema and a documentation centre, is typically French, it is worth mentioning the famous Georges Pompidou centre.

The Centre Pompidou more fully the Centre national d'art et de culture Georges-Pompidou (lit. 'National Georges Pompidou Centre of Art and Culture'), also known as the Pompidou Centre in English, is a complex building in the Beaubourg area of the 4th arrondissement of Paris, near the Marais. It was designed in the style of high-tech architecture by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers and opened in 1977.

The Arab World Institute in Paris inaugurated in 1987 it is definitely an institute that promotes Arab culture and arts but thanks to the building designed by Jean Nouvel it does it in an extremely modern and captivating way.



Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah leads the funeral procession of martyr Hamdan Mohammad Al-Mutairi.

## Mol pays homage to martyr Hamdan Al-Mutairi

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah led on Wednesday the funeral procession of martyr Hamdan Mohammad Al-Mutairi, one of those who sacrificed themselves for the sake of the homeland during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Al-Mutairi was identified by the Iraqi authorities after conducting genetic tests on his remains which have recently been handed over to Kuwait.

Attending the funeral service were Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt.-Gen. Anwar Al-Barjas and other senior military and security leaders as well as members of the martyr's family.

Sheikh Talal conveyed to Al-Mutairi's family the condolences 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. (KUNA)

# VAT implementation may become reality

'No smoke without fire'

By **Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami**  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7:** Despite the overwhelming popular opposition and the MPs' warlike speeches that tickled the feelings of citizens so that they would not exhaust what remained of their popular balance, it seems that the issue of Value-Added Tax (VAT) is heading towards becoming a reality in Kuwait, like in other Gulf countries, to eat into citizens' pockets and determine their consumption options in a new way that did not previously constitute a burden on their livelihood.

The daily looked into the VAT file from all its dimensions, including sampling the opinions of the street and experts in this field, particularly from Twitter, which is now known as "X".

They believe that the aspects of "no smoke without fire" and the "traditional" government method of raising the issue unofficially via social media initially to find out the public's opinions about it and then implementing it, regardless of whether these opinions are for or against the matter, are known to everyone.

Activist Fahad Jawad Al-Arbash posted on X that, "While I beg your pardon for I will write something that annoys you, the fact is that the people must know the truth. Will Value-Added Tax be applied in Kuwait, which means the consumer must pay a five percent cost on the goods and services he buys?"

In the same post, he replied, "Yes, it will be implemented... It is strange that the parliamentarians know about this issue, but it turns out that they are afraid to talk. Or maybe some of them may not know!!"

Al-Arbash elaborated on VAT and the agreement among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to implement VAT at a basic rate of five percent.

The Unified Value Added Tax Agreement for the Cooperation Council of the Arabian States of the Gulf was published in the official gazette's issue No. 3387 issued on October 6, 2018.

Al-Arbash highlighted the unique political life that Kuwait enjoys compared to the Gulf states, where "the people are the source of powers", due to which VAT is difficult to apply at the current time. He added, "It will be implemented because, as I mentioned, there is a Gulf agreement and it was signed by all the Gulf states."

### Arbash

Finally, Al-Arbash expressed his hope that some of the parliamentarians would have the courage to go public and explain the agreement.

Meanwhile, many X-users said the VAT imposed on a citizen in a country must be matched by the services provided to him, which will cause its payment to be met with satisfaction as a way to increase and improve the quality of services. Under the current situation, it will be met with popular discontent, as it will be paid by citizens in the presence of rampant corruption and looting of public funds, including VAT, which will go into the pockets of the corrupt instead of returning it to citizens in the form of public services.

In this regard, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud said VAT is borne by the consumer in full, while the merchant recovers the VAT he paid from the buyer by increasing the price of the commodity at the same tax rate, so all of it is transferred to the consumer.

Also, the journalist Dahem Al-Qahtani posted on X platform previously that, when the government leaked news about imposing VAT and the public debt law, the nation representatives confronted this news

## PAHW declaration

### 30,000 applications 'pulled' in 38 years

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has made an official announcement regarding the removal and cancellation of 30,000 housing applications from the waiting list over the past 38 years, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This decision was influenced by various factors, most notably the violation of family care regulations and obtaining real estate loans from the Kuwait Credit Bank.

Meanwhile, Khaled Al-Enezi, the head of the Al-Mutla'a Families Committee, told this daily that approximately 100,000 individuals are expected to live in the new city within the next two years.

According to recent statistics, the 30,000 applications were eliminated between 1985 and till date. The removal process hinges on specific criteria, such as the ownership of existing real estate by the applicant or violations of the institution's regulations and laws.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that, due to natural population growth until 2033, the number of housing applications will rise to around 60,000, in addition to those already expected.

To address the challenge of reducing the housing waiting list, the Authority emphasizes the importance of expediting project implementations and involving the private sector through the enactment of the Housing Cities Law. They also stress the need for swift legislation concerning real estate developers and real estate financing.

The main hurdles hindering the fulfillment of all housing requests from citizens are the allocation of sufficient budgets for project execution and ensuring the availability of necessary financing for construction loans and citizen subsidies.

by issuing violent statements that suddenly appeared after a period of silence, in order to regain part of their lost popularity that had been eroded by their silence.

He wrote, "They believe that citizens - employees and retirees - will be afraid of this news and say, 'Let us accept our salaries.' They will not demand an increase. The Prime Minister and the ministers have KD 6,000 as an exceptional pension to be disbursed, and KD 3,000 as an exceptional pension to be disbursed in the event of retirement or resignation."

Furthermore, a faculty member at the College of Basic Education Dr. Jalal Al-Rashed said, "There is absolutely no doubt that the entire VAT bill will be borne by the consumer alone!"

In the ancient countries with stable and ancient tax systems and strong and historically established parliaments, the talk about the citizens "paying the tax" of government mismanagement is very accurate.

Yes, a citizen educates his children in the private sector, receives treatment in the private sector, and repairs his car due to the lax government's negligence... all these taxes are not paid by citizens in countries that pay official taxes. This is one facet of the problem."

Also, Dr. Fahad Al-Samawi said, "You want to implement taxes to strengthen the budget. Start first with the profits tax - the high income tax. Start with those who have the most... start with those who benefit most... then finally come to those with the least income, exempting basic goods. If you want a sustainable economy, liberalize it... liberalize trade and lands."

In addition, Abdul-Rahman Al-Hadib wrote, "Yes, the VAT will post great harm to the livelihood of citizens, but it is necessary to approve the excise tax, as the excise tax is a consumption tax applied to specific goods that are considered harmful to human health in general, with the aim of reducing their consumption."

## Municipality dealt with '735' reports in August

By **Enas Awadh**  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Kuwait Municipality revealed that it had received 735 reports via its hotline number (#139) and WhatsApp application in the month of August.

These reports varied between garbage waste, used furniture dumped in open yards and in front of houses, bachelors housing, dumping of rubble, blocking of roads, fallen trees, street vendors and neglected cars.

According to statistics issued by the municipality, 158 complaints were received in Ahmadi Governorate, 115 in Jahra, 143 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, 120 in Farwaniya, 97 in Hawally Governorate, and 102 in Capital Governorate.

The municipality affirmed that all complaints received via the WhatsApp application and the 139 hotline number from the emergency unit of the Services Department are followed up by the hotline staff after which they are transferred to the concerned authorities in the municipality.

It stressed that the emergency unit staff work 24 hours a day to handle complaints.

The municipality added that mechanisms and equipment will be used to deal with emergency cases in the various governorates that require immediate solutions.

Meanwhile, the Legal and Financial Committee of the Municipal Council, headed by the Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader will hold a meeting on Sunday to start discussing the ministerial draft on the controls and rules for naming cities, suburbs, areas, streets and squares.

It is noteworthy that the Council of Ministers issued a decision in 2016 to stop the naming of all cities, suburbs and areas in Kuwait due to the randomness that affected the naming mechanism in the country.

The Council of Ministers worked to develop a project that includes controls, rules and conditions for naming streets and areas in Kuwait. It was submitted to the Municipal Council to discuss and decide on its articles, and to vote on it, as the Municipal Council is the main body concerned with the naming of streets and areas.



Ministry of Defense photo  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chinese Ambassador discuss upcoming visit arrangements of Kuwait Deputy Amir to China.

## Talks held on CP's China visit

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, discussed Thursday, the ongoing preparations for the upcoming visit of His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to China later this month.

A press statement from the General Staff said this came during Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd's meeting at Seif Palace,

with the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Bogamraz, Minister of Finance, Fahd Al-Jarallah and Chinese ambassador Zhang Jianwei.

Kuwait and China governments are working on the preparations of this visit, which is expected to include the signing of a number of important and vital agreements between the two countries in several fields, the statement added.

## Expats clear dues before leaving

### MoC nets KD10,000 on day one

By **Mohammad Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Communications, dues worth KD 10,000 were collected from expatriates departing from the country via Kuwait International Airport during the first day of the electronic interface between the systems of the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Interior.

They revealed that the process "was carried out smoothly" on Wednesday morning via the ministry's collection office at the airport. The sources explained that the new approach will contribute significantly to collecting the dues owed by expatriates to the ministry, especially for using the land-line service.

This process especially targets workers in the private sector who are not bound by regulations and laws to obtain a liability re-

lease in exchange for obtaining the end of service, as is the case for expatriate employees in government agencies.

On the other hand, the official spokesman of the Ministry of Communications Dr. Ahmad Al-Husseini stated that the ministry's launch of a new service via the unified government application for electronic services (Sahel) for receiving complaints from citizens about the ministry's services, and providing users with access to the application.

In a recent press statement, Dr. Al-Husseini explained that the new service can be applied from the application by selecting the "Services" menu, and choosing the Ministry of Communications and then the option "Citizen Service", through which requests can be submitted regarding complaints related to the ministry's services.

It is also possible to submit a request for the right of access to decisions, circulars, results of investigations and other decisions issued by the ministry.

*Celebrate with Style*

A place to make unforgettable memories

## MUGHAL MAHAL FAHAHEEL

AL-RAYAN FAMILY LOUNGE & FUNCTION HALL

Weddings | Seminars | Conferences | Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking

For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175 / 97644421

Email: [fahaheel@mughalmahal.com](mailto:fahaheel@mughalmahal.com)  
[info@mughalmahal.com](mailto:info@mughalmahal.com)

# Banks settlement operations dip 7.5%, transaction volumes surge

Checks transaction witnessed a 9.8 percent drop

By Ahmad Fathi  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7:** The banking landscape in Kuwait has witnessed notable shifts in settlement operations and check transactions. In July, local banks experienced a 7.5 percent decline in settlement operations, resulting in a total of 1.589 billion dinars.

Over the past year, these operations saw a significant annual decrease of 15.5 percent, amounting to 3.616 billion dinars. The trend continued throughout the first seven months of 2023, with a substantial 20.3 percent reduction, totaling approximately 37 billion dinars. Various factors contributed to this decline, including a 5.2 percent drop in new credit facilities provided during 2022.

In terms of checks between banks, while total deposits increased by 1.5 percent over the initial seven months of 2023, a monthly decline of 0.5 percent was observed in July, amounting to about 240 million dinars.

Notably, the value of checks exchanged between banks showed a 4 percent growth in July but registered an 8 percent decrease for the entire first seven months of 2023, reaching 9.972 billion dinars.

### Transaction volumes

Transaction volumes painted a different picture, as the number of check settlements surged by 7.7 percent in July and experienced an impressive 23.5 percent annual growth, with 202.2 thousand transactions recorded in July 2023. Over the first half of 2023, the number of settlement transactions increased by 3.8 percent, totaling 1.42 million transactions.

Lastly, the average transaction amount for checks decreased by 3.4 percent in July and witnessed a 9.8 percent drop compared to July 2022, settling at 6.79 thousand dinars. These operations are facilitated by Kuwait's Electronic Check Clearing System (KECCS), where checks are electronically cleared between local banks.

The Central Bank of Kuwait plays a pivotal role in KECCS, overseeing its operation and serving as the government bank, collecting checks for government agencies. Regulatory rules have been established to govern KECCS, ensuring a structured framework for all participating entities and their interactions within the system.



The 19th Air Transport Committee meeting of the General Secretariat of the Arab Gulf States.

## 'Unified GCAA to enhance GCC aviation cooperation'

**DUBAI, Sept 7, (KUNA):** The establishment of a unified Gulf Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) will contribute to enhancing cooperation and coordination between the GCC member states in the aviation field, said Director of the Air Transport Department at Kuwaiti General Administration of Civil Aviation, Abdullah Al-Rajhi.

In remarks to KUNA Thursday, Al-Rajhi

affirmed after heading the Kuwaiti delegation at the 19th meeting of the Air Transport Committee of the General Secretariat of the Arab Gulf States, which was held in Dubai, that the establishment of the Gulf Authority is an important step to enhance cooperation and coordination between countries in this vital sector.

He also shed light on the importance of the

Authority in unifying laws and regulations, enhancing safety, security and competitiveness, developing the tourism sector and achieving many other benefits.

Moreover, he said that the meeting discussed establishing the Gulf Civil Aviation Authority and financial claims on foreign airline companies, in addition to training in the field of civil aviation.

## Charity launches 1st medical camp in Marib

Namaa distributes backpacks & school supplies to over 300 students in Yemen

**ADEN, Sept 7, (KUNA):** A delegation from Kuwait's Namaa Charity distributed Wednesday backpacks and school supplies to over 300 students in the Yemeni governorate of Marib, as part of the ongoing "Kuwait by your side" campaign for the eighth year in a row.

In a statement to KUNA, the Director of the Relief Department at Namaa Charity Khaled Al-Shamri said that this coincides with the return to schools of Yemeni students in Marib, which is one of the governorates that most hosts displaced people affected by the conditions.

This project represents an opportunity to bring joy to orphaned children and embodies the great values of supporters in Kuwait in helping and caring for orphans, he added.

The bags included complete books and notebooks to help families in need with the aim of alleviating the financial burdens on parents and working to provide all means that encourage these children to continue their studies normally, he explained.

The students expressed their happiness with this support from the people of Kuwait, thanking the honorable donors for supporting this project.

Namaa Charity also launched on Tuesday its first medical and surgical camp for general surgery in the Yemeni governorate of Marib, that aims to provide free treatment and surgery for more than 150 cases of people with limited income, as part of (Kuwait by your side) campaign.

Namaa Director of the Relief Department Khaled Al-Shamri, who was a part of the delegation in Marib, said that the camp witnessed remarkable medical activity, during which doctors conducted medical examinations and 150 surgeries to remove cataracts from patients' eyes, implant lenses, and operate the adenoids and cleft lip.

He added that the camp provided free medicines to patients with all the necessary supplies, which left a positive impact on the beneficiaries, which relieved them of part of their suffering due to the difficult life situations.

He pointed out that Namaa seeks to launch several humanitarian and medical campaigns through several governorates to relief the sufferings of the Yemeni people.

On his part, Deputy Director of the Health Office in Marib expressed his gratitude and appreciation towards Kuwait for providing humanitarian aid for Yemen in all different crisis, affirming the deep brotherly feelings shared between the two countries.

KUNA photo

albander hotel & resort

# September

## Room Promotion



Kuwait's Namaa Charity launches several relief and development projects in Ma'rib, Yemen.

## Merger, acquisition in ME increase by 42%

## Kaspersky examines how to eliminate cyber threats when buying a business

**DUBAI, Sept 7:** With the global business landscape becoming increasingly interconnected, mergers and acquisitions (M&A) have been surging as companies look for growth, diversification, and strategic positioning. According to an E&Y report, in the Middle East region there was a 42% increase in the total value of merger and acquisition (M&A) deals in Q1 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. Overall, the first quarter of the year saw 165 deals amounting to US\$25.8b. This emphasizes the region's prominence in global business. However, Kaspersky experts warn that such an upswing in M&A also underscores the need for vigilant cybersecurity practices.

Acquiring or merging with another business invariably means integrating digital systems, networks, and data. This integration process can expose both parties to cyber threats if not managed correctly.

Alexey Vovk, Head of Information Security Department at Kaspersky, cautions: "Acquiring an already established business can be an attractive option for example for entrepreneurs, given its potential for quick profitability, or similarly for large corporations that want to acquire innovative assets or intelligence that can expand their business. But over and above traditional legal, financial and governance due diligence during such a process, cybersecurity must be a focal point too."

Some of the cybersecurity assessments that should be considered at a minimum, before buying a new business, include:

- Existing cybersecurity measures: Investigate any past cybersecurity audits the company may have undertaken, even if they are self-conducted.

- Valuable assets: Identify the most valuable digital assets of the business. For an e-commerce platform, this might be the website, so a thorough vulnerability check is essential.

- Hosting and data management: Inquire about the company's Web hosting provider and their reputation. Past security incidents might necessitate a change in hosting.

- Security standards: Depending on the nature of the business, there might be specific cybersecurity standards to adhere to. Even businesses without critical assets

should have baseline security to thwart common threats like ransomware.

- Company reputation and data breaches: Research past data breaches and the subsequent remediation steps. Data leaks can tarnish a company's reputation and invite legal repercussions.

However, Vovk goes on to caution that even beyond all the aforementioned sound advice, employee errors are also a concern and that can lead to significant data breaches. This is demonstrated in recent Kaspersky research carried out among employees in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa region. A test with a phishing simulator built into the Kaspersky Automated Security Awareness Platform (KASAP) showed that 20% of employees would click on a malicious link, falling for scam emails with claimed corporate announcements.

"When buying a business, the acquiring organisation must consider any previous cybersecurity training conducted for staff as well as non-disclosure agreements when it comes to employees and third parties handling sensitive data. Fundamentally, proper access controls for company resources must be implemented within the new entity to ensure data access is limited and revoked appropriately when employees depart," says Vovk.

Additionally, it is also crucial to be familiar with laws pertaining to data protection and cybersecurity. This includes understanding the regional regulations and laws that outline the prescribed conditions for responsibly processing personal data.

"It must be stressed that when acquiring a company, you assume responsibility for its risks as well. Attaining and maintaining optimal business cyber resilience is an ongoing process. But, protecting yourself from new tricks by threat actors requires additional investments in digital business solutions, tools and skills, setting the rules that comply with the law, and reviewing cybersecurity policies and new protections. Checking your cybersecurity level from the very beginning will help you reduce the likelihood of incidents, set a clear path for development, and achieve new goals," concludes Vovk.

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

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Terms & conditions apply\*

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Series of legislative & procedural reforms vital for business environ'

NUMEROUS administrations, both past and present, have issued optimistic press statements aimed at enhancing the business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and major development projects. These pronouncements have touched on various aspects such as expediting commercial licensing, enticing foreign investors, promoting the private sector, and streamlining the establishment and operation of private ventures," columnist **Fawaz Al-Hamad** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"However, the stark reality diverges significantly from these declarations. The business climate remains uninviting for foreign investors and poses considerable challenges and complexities for Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, business proprietors, and the private sector as a whole. Many commercial licenses are in a state of suspension, making it arduous for investors and entrepreneurs to obtain them.

"The National Fund for the Care and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises ceased financing small-scale projects since the onset of the pandemic. Simultaneously, the Industrial Bank no longer allocates industrial land but instead offers financial support for select industrial projects. Project owners are compelled to lease industrial land valued at no less than 5,000 dinars per month to proceed with their industrial endeavors; attempting to initiate an industrial project without access to suitable land often results in project suspension or cancellation.



Al-Hamad

"The Public Authority for Industry no longer distributes industrial plots; it merely oversees existing ones. The distribution of industrial plots was discontinued over two decades ago, leading to the stagnation of the industrial sector. The absence of available land and industrial plots has hindered the establishment of new industrial projects, despite the demand for essential industries such as pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, and food production.

"The scarcity of designated spaces for recreational activities is another issue. Rental spaces for leisure activities have been monopolized, primarily in favor of the Tourism Enterprises Company for the coastal strip, an extension of the Arabian Gulf Street. Moreover, securing space for entertainment purposes elsewhere or within commercial complexes comes at an exorbitant cost, with rental fees exceeding 20 dinars per square meter. This rate is significantly higher than the global standard for entertainment space rentals, which typically do not exceed two dollars per square meter.

"One of the prominent obstacles within the current business environment is the existing B.O.T Law No. 7 of 2008. This legislation discourages foreign investors and the private sector, failing to incentivize investment within the State of Kuwait. Additionally, attracting specialized professional talent from abroad has become a challenging task. Entry for workers from specific nationalities has been restricted, and the issuance of temporary commercial visas for certain countries has been halted, owing to pre-existing and post-COVID laws and regulations.

"Before the government issues grandiose declarations to transform Kuwait into a commercial and financial hub, it must first embark on a series of legislative and procedural reforms. These reforms should encompass simplifying business procedures, facilitating the issuance of commercial licenses, abolishing prohibitions and monopolies on specific licenses, easing labor immigration, addressing

the shortage of industrial land, providing financial support to SMEs, streamlining entry procedures for foreign investors, and amending the B.O.T. Law."

Also:

"The government's program is not new. It is a repetition of the goals mentioned in the previous five-year plans that failed, such as transforming Kuwait into a commercial and financial center which attracts investments with the private sector leading the economic activity. This has been repeated several times in government plans and programs, but nothing happened until now," columnist **Ahmad Baqer** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The current program merely repeated unrealized objectives like diversifying sources of income, generating attractive job opportunities with the participation of the private sector, controlling expenditures and disbursements according to prudent discretionary frameworks, public debt, privatization, and launching a pricing mechanism for public services. Everyone doubts the capability of the government to achieve all of these goals.

"The program also includes several projects - entertainment cities, airport, strategic alternative to the salary scale, Mubarak Port and railways. These projects have been delayed for so long. Obviously, they require huge budgets. The important question is: Will the current legislative term witness the realization of these goals and aspirations, considering the failure of the previous governments and assemblies?"

□ □ □

"Since the school year will start in a few days along with traffic jams on some roads during peak hours, the Interior Ministry laid down a comprehensive plan through the coordinated efforts of various sectors like the General Traffic, Rescue Police, Public Security, and Public Relations and Security Media departments," columnist **Tariq Hammad** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The plan includes intensifying traffic patrol presence in intersections, main roads, internal areas and schools. This is in addition to opening the green traffic light for the longest possible period on roads with high volume of vehicles through the Control Unit, as well as the use of helicopters to have an aerial view of the whole traffic situation in order to provide accurate information about the traffic situation in real time.

"Ensuring the smooth flow of traffic at the start of the school year means the citizens and expatriates should leave early and strictly comply with traffic rules. The Civil Service Commission must also implement the flexible working hours after addressing the deficiencies that surfaced during the experimental phase.

"Schools - whether private or public - must play their role in providing mass transportation for students at reasonable prices. This will motivate parents to use such mode of transportation for their children, instead of driving their children to schools that causes heavy traffic.

"I believe that withdrawing the driving licenses of tens of thousands of expatriates who obtained them illegally, launching campaigns to pursue dilapidated vehicles, and road maintenance works will lead to a traffic breakthrough this year compared to previous years.

"In conclusion, I hope the parents will never allow their children, who are in the secondary stage, to use their cars in going to school to guarantee the safety of everyone and to avoid legal problems."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## No room for illegals on Kuwaiti soil; crackdown continues: Mol

Farms, pens, desert, abandoned areas to be raided

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: An informed security source said, "Violators of the residency law will be cornered, and inspection campaigns will not stop to arrest and deport them. The Ministry of Interior will not allow the presence of such violators on Kuwaiti soil", reports Al-Qabas daily.**

In a press statement, the source said, "The train of security campaigns has started and will not stop. It will not exclude a site from inspection, as there is no place for residency violators in Kuwait, which will include even raiding the farms, pens, desert, and abandoned areas.

A three-pronged plan was drawn up to corner residency violators, based on implementing impromptu campaigns, monitoring marginal workers, and sorting out specialized security teams to catch those who are in hiding. In this way, Kuwait will be without residency violators within two years."

Pursuing

The source stressed that the instructions issued by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled stipulated the necessity of pursuing residency and informal workers round the clock to purify the labor market and deport those who do not abide by the country's laws.

He affirmed that the security campaigns against residency violators and marginal workers will continue in all parts of the country on a larger scale and with a different approach than in previous years, so there will be no tolerance for those who violate the law.

The source said, "We are serious about working to fight residency violators and illegal workers without tolerance. We will not allow them to work in light of their lack of respect for the laws. At the same time, we welcome

### 'Pay alimony of KD 700'

## Verdict over custody of five kids to Kuwaiti mom upheld

By Jaber Al-Hamoud Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7:** The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict issued to hand over the custody of five children to their Kuwaiti mother, and obligate their father to pay a continuous monthly alimony of KD 700 and a one time payment of KD 1,700 for hiring a maid and furnishing a house.

Representing the Kuwaiti woman was Lawyer Adhari Maqsi, who said her client was the wife of the defendant as per a valid legal contract and she gave birth to his children who were conceived in their marital bed.

However, the defendant refrained from spending on her and their children, leaving them without alimony or someone to support them, despite his financial ability to spend. This led her to file her lawsuit.

In her lawsuit, she demanded custody of her children. She also demanded that her ex-husband pay the marital alimony that he did not pay, and make it continuous. She also demanded the cost for renting a home, furnishing expenses, the wages of a domestic worker and a driver, their recruitment expenses, and the price of a car or transportation allowance.

those who want to change their status and who meet the legal conditions.

The security departments will deal with whoever approaches them with all respect.

The security campaigns that were carried out in most areas of the country during the last period represented an implementation of the security plan that was drawn up, as a security cordon was imposed on those areas to monitor all violators of the residency law, and to monitor marginal workers and those who were reported as absconding.

Check

The established security plan relied on distributing security teams throughout all parts of the country to check the documents of residents in markets and shops. These campaigns will continue to be held in all areas to arrest all violators."

The source affirmed the continuous coordination with the

relevant state authorities to implement the plan to modify the demographic composition and give Kuwaitization the highest priority in parallel with the security plan to purify the country from the phenomena of visa-trade and random labor, announcing the closure of hundreds of fake companies and the punishment of their owners during the last period.

He touched on facilitating the deportation procedures for those who surrender themselves to the Ministry of Interior, as they will be deported to their country within four days after completing the procedures.

The source said, "The security campaign plan depends on the elements of surprise, firmness, and speed of action to pursue violators, after extensive closures of the area being raided", adding that this plan resulted in the arrest of many violators and marginal workers, and prevented their escape from the site.

## Speed up payment of excellent job bonus: Mol

### MoU inked to control prices, prevent manipulation

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled has instructed the concerned departments in his ministry to speed up the payment of the excellent job performance bonus to deserving civilian employees, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, the ministry confirmed that Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled ordered the immediate disbursement of 100 percent of excellent job performance bonus to the eligible civilian staff. It affirmed that the minister is keen on motivating employees to do their best at the workplace for the benefit of the public.

□ □ □

**MoU signed:** As part of the government's efforts to regulate prices and safeguard consumer interests, a memorandum of understanding and a collaboration agreement have been signed between the Federation of Consumer Cooperative Societies and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This initiative aims to oversee the pricing of goods and services within cooperative societies and parallel markets, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs, and Childhood, Sheikh Firas Al-Sabah, as well as Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Muhammad Al-Aiban.

In a joint statement, the officials emphasized that the signing of this memorandum signifies a meaningful and productive collaboration between the

## Kuwait sees 'sustainable' development goals as priority: S. Council for Planning

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA):** The State of Kuwait sees the 17 sustainable development goals as a priority for making public policies, said General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Thursday.

In a press statement, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Dr. Khaled Mahdi, said that the Council's secretariat held a consultative and preparatory meeting, Thursday, regarding the country's participation in the Sustainable Development Goals

Federation of Consumer Cooperative Societies and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

According to the statement, the memorandum was inked by Abdul Wahab Al-Faris, President of the Federation of Consumer Cooperative Societies, and Ziyad Al-Najim, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is set for a duration of 12 months, with the possibility of renewal by mutual agreement. This memorandum aims to foster extensive cooperation and grant the Ministry of Commerce access to the Federation's price database.

This access is designed to facilitate close cooperation and data sharing between the two entities, ultimately en-

hancing price regulation within cooperative societies and parallel markets, with the primary goal of protecting consumers.

The statement further outlined that the collaborative efforts laid out in the memorandum will revolve around "mutual agreement and cooperation to leverage the product database for monitoring market prices in cooperative societies and parallel markets." The data to be shared will encompass product details such as the product's name, brand, size and weight, country of origin, product price, and product barcode. This comprehensive approach seeks to ensure greater transparency and fairness in pricing for the benefit of consumers.

ed. He warned that "since the issue concerns the citizens' interests, the lawmakers will no longer act as 'doves of peace'."

MP Abdullah Al-Mudhaf expressed disappointment over the intention of the government. He stressed that the citizens are already paying tax in the form of car repair expenses, considering their cars were damaged due to the worsening condition of roads. He added the citizens pay indirect tax whenever they are forced to avail medical and educational services offered by the private sector due to the poor quality of services in public hospitals and schools. He went on to say that citizens pay tax in the form of house rent, considering the Constitution guarantees their right to free housing. "If the government wants to increase the budget, there are many alternatives, such as developing oil revenues," he stressed.

He added the government must stop the squandering of millions of Kuwaiti dinars like the question-

able distribution of agricultural plots, as well as recover stolen public funds.

### Resilience in

Continued from Page 1

Government suppression tactics in response to murals and expressions of dissent have been alarmingly severe. These tactics encompassed frequent physical removal of murals that challenged the status quo, aiming to silence the voices of those speaking out against injustice by detaining, kidnapping and threatening the lives of their creators. In addition to this visual erasure, authorities imprisoned artists and other demonstrators for their activism and imposed employment restrictions as punitive measures. Despite governmental opposition and legal challenges, artists and activists persevered. They have used art to voice their concerns, challenge societal norms and advocate for change. (AP)

### Bill seeks

Continued from Page 1

He argued the public support granted to Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf is temporary and the people of Kuwait are not hypocrites, as they give support and then wait for the official approach to match their demands. "Their position will change once they realize that the government is targeting their pockets; instead of improving their economic, social and political conditions. This is not the right time to impose VAT and selective tax; because the people are already suffering. Moreover, the government has not taken any step toward economic reform. This means the government will collect the tax, but the collected amount will be depleted and squandered."

He reminded HH the Prime Minister that his predecessors also obtained public support, but lost it when the people realized that the required reform was not implement-

Subscribe to our service "Arabtimes WhatsApp" to stay updated on the latest local and international news and events

**To activate this Free Service:**

- 1- Save our number on your contacts **92220947**
- 2- Send "Start" WhatsApp message to the number you saved.

www.arabtimesonline.com | @arabtimeskuwait | arabtimeskuwait | arabtimeskuwait | Join us on Telegram

## revolutionizing AI computation: Introducing custom mass multiplication circuits

Gigantor Technologies Inc - In a groundbreaking leap forward for artificial intelligence and computational efficiency, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has officially approved Patent No. 11,748,061, detailing the innovative Custom Mass Multiplication Circuits. This invention marks a monumental shift in AI processing by utilizing mass-scale calculations in the order of millions, billions, and even trillions to achieve unparalleled speeds through intricate layered directed graphs. High Performance Computer Vision/

Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence AI Hardware Solution  
Traditional AI processing often faces limitations due to finite computational resources, hindering its ability to perform complex calculations at high speeds. Gigantor's newly patented Mass Multiplier technology bypasses these constraints by implementing a unique non-Von Neumann approach. By integrating massive arrays of calculations into a unified process, the Custom Mass Multiplication Circuits harness the power of collective computation, ena-

bling calculations that dwarf even the most advanced GPUs and TPUs in the market.  
CTO Mark Mathews said, "The core bottleneck for CNNs is the sheer volume of multiplications required to compute each node of an abstract mathematical graph. While GPUs and TPUs simulate the operation of an abstract mathematical model with instruction streams, GigaMACS™ implements the model directly in hardware, which yields the optimal combination of maximum performance at minimum power."  
The newly patented technology's potential

applications are far-reaching, encompassing high-speed image recognition, robotics, augmented reality, and autonomous systems. GigaMACS™ pipeline architecture provides ultra-high performance with near-zero latency, processes HD and 4K frames at 240 FPS or higher, and enables Unlimited Object Recognition with our Synthetic Scaler technology.  
The capability to harness vast computational power without compromising performance is ushering in a new era of AI advancements.  
About Gigantor Technologies: Gigan-

tor Technologies is a Florida Space Coast start-up backed by investors, including Florida Funders and the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Technology. Gigantor is disrupting the market by solving six (6) major problems with AI adoption: Throughput, Latency, Resolution, frame rates, Power, and Size. With a focus on cutting-edge research and development, the company is dedicated to advancing the field of AI and delivering solutions that make a real-world impact. For more information, visit [gigantor.com](http://gigantor.com) (Business Wire)

### Market Movements

07-09-2023

|       |          | Change | Closing pts |             |           | Change | Closing pts |
|-------|----------|--------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| UAE   | - DFM    | +0.52  | 4,058.95    | JAPAN       | - Nikkei  | -0.75  | 32,991.08   |
| EGYPT | - EGX 30 | +0.79  | 19,375.68   | PAKISTAN    | - KSE 100 | -0.21  | 45,741.46   |
|       |          |        |             | PHILIPPINES | - PSEi    | -0.94  | 6,183.07    |
|       |          |        |             | SAUDI       | - Tadawul | -0.73  | 11,215.56   |

# Business

## Big Tech stocks drag Wall St down again

Asian shares fall as China reports weaker global demand hit its trade in Aug

### NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): Wall Street is slipping Thursday on worries that a too-warm economy will push the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates higher for longer.

The S&P 500 was 0.3% lower in afternoon trading and on track for a third straight loss. Big Tech stocks were particularly weak, and the Nasdaq composite was 1% lower. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was holding up better than the rest of the market because it has less of an emphasis on tech, and it was up 112 points, or 0.3%, at 34,556, as of 12:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Stocks were feeling pressure from the bond market, where yields rose earlier in the week after a report showed stronger growth for U.S. services industries last month than economists expected. Yields remained high after a report on Thursday said fewer U.S. workers applied for unemployment benefits last week than expected.

While such reports are encouraging for the economy, indicating a long-predicted recession is not near, they could also keep conditions humming strongly enough to push upward on inflation.

The Federal Reserve has already hiked its main interest rate to the highest level in more than two decades in hopes of slowing the economy enough to drive inflation back down to its 2% target. It's come close, and inflation has cooled from its peak above 9% last summer. But the worry is that the last percentage point of improvement may be the toughest for the Fed.

"Yes, the economy has slowed and inflation has cooled, but employment continues to be a thorn in the side of the Fed, which has made softening the jobs market the cornerstone of its inflation battle," said Mike Loewengart, head of model portfolio construction at Morgan Stanley Global Investment Office.

High interest rates drag down on prices for every kind of stock. But they tend to most hurt stocks of technology companies and others bid up on expectations for high growth in the future. Many of those stocks also tend to be the most influential on the S&P 500 because they're the biggest.

Apple is the dominant force on Wall Street because it's the most valuable stock,

and it fell 3.1% to follow up on its 3.6% drop a day before.

Nvidia sank 2.5% to bring its loss for the week so far to 5.5%. It and a cohort of other stocks in the artificial-intelligence industry have soared this year on expectations that AI could mean explosive future growth in profits.

C3.ai tumbled 13.3% after it said late Wednesday that it no longer expects to be profitable in its final fiscal quarter of the year, as it invests more in opportunities around generative AI. Analysts also pointed to disappointing profit margin levels for the company during its latest quarter, which was the first of its fiscal year.

While most stocks on Wall Street were falling, a handful were helping to limit the losses.

WestRock, a maker of containerboard and other packaging, rose 5% after Smurfit Kappa Group said it was in discussions to combine the two companies and keep its headquarters in Dublin, Ireland.

In the bond market, the yield on the two-year Treasury slipped to 4.97% from 5.03% late Wednesday. It's still well above the 4.88% level where it started the week. The two-year Treasury yield tends to track expectations for the Fed.

Traders still mostly expect the Fed to stand pat on interest rates at its next meeting later this month. But they're betting on a nearly coin flip's chance of another increase by the end of the year, according to data from CME Group.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which is the centerpiece of the bond market and helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans, fell to 4.27% from 4.30% late Wednesday.

In stock markets abroad, indexes fell in China following the latest set of discouraging data on the world's second-largest economy. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 1.3%, and stocks in Shanghai fell 1.1% after a report said China's exports fell from year-ago levels for the fourth straight month.

Its economic recovery has fallen well short of expectations after it removed anti-COVID restrictions. That has removed a big engine of growth for the global economy, but it's also helped to take some pressure off inflation worldwide.

Stock indexes were moving only modestly in Europe and were mixed.

### Europe

Germany's DAX lost 0.2% to 15,718.12. In London, the FTSE 100 edged 0.1% lower, to 7,419.42. The CAC 40 in Paris gained 2 points to 7,196.75.

### Asia

Shares slipped Thursday in Asia as China reported weaker global demand hit its trade in August, adding to pressures on its economy.

Oil prices and U.S. futures also fell. Hong Kong's benchmark fell more than 1% and most other major regional markets also declined.

China said its exports fell 8.8% in August from a year earlier, while imports were down 7.3%. The declines were smaller than the double-digit drops in July, however, and were better than most forecasts.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng, which has yoayed this week on news about Chinese policy changes for the property sector, declined on selling of tech shares. It fell 1.2% to 18,235.40. The Shanghai Composite index lost 0.9% to 3,130.70, while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 0.8% to 32,991.08.

In Seoul, the Kospi sank 0.7% to 2,544.40. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was off 1.2% at 7,174.00.

Shares in most other regional markets fell.

### Oil

Early Thursday, U.S. benchmark crude oil was down 34 cents at \$87.20 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 85 cents on Wednesday.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, was down 30 cents at \$90.30 a barrel.

### Currencies

The U.S. dollar fell to 147.52 from 147.66 Japanese yen late Wednesday. The euro edged down to \$1.0723 from \$1.0725.

### COP28 climate and nature

## UAE to host largest gathering of business & philanthropy leaders

ABU DHABI, UAE, Sept 7, (PRC-NewsWire): The COP28 Presidency will host the Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum (BPCF) on December 1 and 2, held concurrently with the world leaders World Climate Action Summit. This CEO-level Forum will mobilize global business leaders and philanthropists to progress action in line with the COP28 Presidential Action Agenda to advance cross-sectoral progress around net zero and nature positive goals.

This first of a kind multi-stakeholder engagement strategy for climate and nature is driven by the UAE's ambition to host a truly inclusive climate conference that marshals full and broad support with engagement from all regions of the world. The Forum will converge business and philanthropy leaders, along with policy makers, to ensure co-creation, collaboration, and acceleration to unlock solutions and drive bolder results.

Hosting the Forum in parallel with the Heads of State level World Climate Action Summit, the COP28 Presidency is determined to close the gaps between policy and practice, and accelerate climate action through cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration.

Prominent leaders from business and philanthropy will gather at the forum, bringing their expertise and resources to deliver tangible climate and nature solutions at a global scale. The Forum will address key climate priorities related to the COP28 Action Agenda, which includes fast-tracking a just and orderly energy transition; fixing climate finance; putting nature, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action; and underpinning everything with full inclusivity.

COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said, "To disrupt business as usual and fix climate finance we need action from everyone. We are committed to underpinning everything at COP28 with full inclusivity and we want to bring together key

stakeholders to work on collective solutions. That is why I am hosting the Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum to deliver concrete outcomes from the private and philanthropic sectors that can be presented at the highest levels of COP28. Businesses and philanthropists must play leading roles in meeting net zero pathways and delivering sustainable development and at COP28 they will have a platform to do so."

The Forum will be chaired by the COP28 Special Representative for Business & Philanthropy, Badr Jafar, a businessman and philanthropy advocate, who also serves on the COP28 Advisory Committee.

Badr Jafar said, "The private sector holds the greatest promise to accelerate the accomplishment of our climate and nature global goals, which is why COP28 will ensure business and philanthropy are embraced as critical partners. The Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum provides this enabling platform for action, breaking down silos between sectors and connecting stakeholders from all regions of the world around game-changing outcomes underpinned by the COP28 Action Agenda. This is what is needed to deliver scalable solutions that can positively transform the lives of billions of people."

COP28 will see the conclusion of the Global Stocktake, outlining gaps in implementation under the Paris Agreement. The COP28 Action Agenda is purposefully designed to accelerate implementation across each of the major workstreams. This includes mitigating emissions through a tripling of clean energy capacities and sectoral decarbonization. It also includes support to strengthen resilience and boost adaptation efforts by focusing on key sectors impacted by climate change, including health systems, food and water, nature and ecosystems, cities, and relief and recovery.

## \$10 bn transmission line will carry more energy than the Hoover Dam

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Sept 7, (AP): An energy infrastructure project bigger than the Hoover Dam is how Hunter Armistead describes the \$10 billion venture his company will be overseeing during the next three years.

As the chief executive of one of the world's largest wind and solar development companies, Armistead said breaking ground on Pattern Energy's SunZia transmission line marks a major milestone as the United States looks to make good on promises to address climate change and bolster the nation's already overwhelmed power grids as demand increases and weather events become more extreme.

It is also a cautionary tale, he told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of Friday's ceremony on the open plains of north-central New Mexico.

The U.S. can't afford to take 12 years to "create this type of solution" given the growing need for more energy infrastructure, Armistead said. He pointed to Europe and China,

where billions of dollars are being invested in new high-voltage lines to connect power plants to cities where demand is high.

"They all recognize the need to build out bulk transmission, to create inter-regional transfer points in order to create greater reliability," he said. "It also creates diversity in resources and diversity in dealing with weather, which is now the new most important factor driving both our load and our generation."

The Biden administration has set a goal to eliminate carbon emissions from the power sector by 2035. The effort faces numerous challenges, including the lack of transmission.

The U.S. Department of Energy has cited independent estimates that indicate transmission systems need to expand by 60% by 2030 and may need to triple by 2050. The agency is working with two national laboratories on a transmission planning study, with findings and recommendations expected later this year.



Inaugurating Kuwait Airways sales office at Assima Mall.

Another office at Al Kout Mall next

## Kuwait Airways inaugurates sales office at Assima Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: As part of its continuous endeavor to provide the best services to its valued customers and to facilitate communication with them, Kuwait Airways has inaugurated its new Sales Office located at the Assima Mall. The office timings for client services are from Sunday to Thursday from 12:30 PM to 7:30 PM, and from 1:30 PM to 8:30 PM during Fridays and Saturdays, where the office is expected to provide services to more than 100 customers a day. The opening of this office will be followed by opening of the company's Sales Offices in the Al Kout Mall. The company will also be aiming to open a branch in the Jahra region soon.

On the sidelines of the inauguration of the new office, Kuwait Airways organized the Customer Day initiative, which includes an initiative devised to closely identify the requirements of its customers, with the participation of the Executive Management and headed by Kuwait Airways' Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Maen Razouqi.

This initiative, which was recently organized by the company at the opening of the Sabah Al-Salem branch, mainly aims to provide a tangible and unique experience for decision-makers from the Executive Management, to work side by side with the employees of the company's various departments, and will include receiving customers at the Assima branch, coinciding with the opening of the Sales Office. This will provide them with valuable experience to closely identify the needs of the largest customer base in Kuwait, follow up on their requests to evaluate their experience and strive towards reaching the best levels of service in accordance with the highest international standards.



Eng. Maen Razouqi with the staff of the office.

Kuwait Airways' Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Maen Razouqi stated, "Kuwait Airways is pleased to inaugurate its new Sales Office in the Assima Mall, which witnesses many visitors daily. The opening of the new office comes as part of the company's objectives towards development and expansion in the service of its customers, to facilitate the completion of booking procedures for them with ease.

This is in addition to better accessibility and proximity for customers and will mitigate the pressure on the company's various other Sales Offices throughout the country.

The new office's distinct and easy-to-reach location with its excellent space and ample capacity to receive large number of customers, will provide multiple options in the completion of ticket reservation procedures and other services." The Director of Corporate Communication, Public Relations, and Marketing at Kuwait Airways, Mr. Khalid Ahmed Al-Bustan said, "The Sales Office at the Assima Mall will provide numerous services, including issuing, booking,

and amending reservations, in addition to requests for booking seats within and outside the State of Kuwait, and

receiving enquiries and comments from customers, including Oasis Club members.



Cutting the inaugural cake.

## AI that alters voice and images in political ads will require disclosure

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): Google will soon require that political ads using artificial intelligence be accompanied by a prominent disclosure if imagery or sounds have been synthetically altered.

Starting in November, just under a year before the U.S. presidential election, Google said in an update to its political content policy affecting YouTube and other services that disclosure of AI to alter images must be clear and conspicuous and be located somewhere that users are likely to notice it. Though fake images, videos or au-

dio clips are not new to political advertising, generative AI tools are making it easier to do, and more realistic. Some presidential campaigns in the 2024 race - including that of Florida GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis - already are using the technology.

The Republican National Committee in April released an entirely AI-generated ad meant to show the future of the United States if President Joe Biden is reelected. It employed fake but realistic photos showing boarded-up storefronts, armored military patrols in the streets, and waves of im-

migrants creating panic.

In June, DeSantis' campaign shared an attack ad against his GOP primary opponent Donald Trump that used AI-generated images of the former president hugging infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Last month the Federal Election Commission began a process to potentially regulate AI-generated deepfakes in political ads ahead of the 2024 election. Such deepfakes can potentially include synthetic voice of political figures saying something they never said. Congress could pass legislation creat-

ing guardrails for AI-generated deceptive content, and lawmakers, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, have expressed intent to do so.

Several states also have discussed or passed legislation related to deepfake technology.

Google is not banning AI outright in political advertising. Exceptions to the ban include synthetic content altered or generated in a way that's inconsequential to the claims made in the ad. AI can also be used in editing techniques like image resizing, cropping, color, defect correction, or background edits.









The Conversation

Top two killers can be traced to inflammation

Could a single drug treat cancer and cardiovascular disease in US?

By Bryan Smith  
Michigan State University

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

What would you guess are the two biggest killers in the world? Based on media coverage, maybe you guessed gun violence, accidents or COVID-19. But the top two killers are actually cardiovascular disease and cancer. These two diseases combined account for nearly 50% of deaths in the US.

Cardiovascular disease and cancer seem to be quite different on the surface. But newly discovered parallels between the origins and development of these two diseases mean that some treatments may be effective against both.

I am a biomedical engineer who has spent two decades studying and developing ways to improve how drugs travel through the body. It turns out that tiny, engineered nanoparticles that can target specific immune cells may be a way to treat both cancer and cardiovascular disease.

**Cardiovascular disease & cancer**  
Atherosclerosis is the most deadly form of cardiovascular disease. It results from inflammation and the build-up of fat, cholesterol and other lipids in the blood vessel wall, forming a plaque. Most heart attacks are caused by plaque rupture. The body's attempt to heal the wound can form a blood clot that blocks blood vessels and result in a heart attack.

On the other hand, cancer usually arises from genetic mutations that make cells divide uncontrollably. Unrestrained, rapid cell growth that is untreated can be destructive because it is difficult to stop without harming healthy organs. Cancer can start from and occur in any organ of the body.

Although cardiovascular disease and cancer appear to have different origins and causes, they share many risk factors. For example, obesity, smoking, chronic stress and certain lifestyle choices like poor diet are linked to both diseases. Why might these two diseases share similar risk factors?

Many of the similarities between cardiovascular disease and cancer can be traced to inflammation. Chronic inflammation is a primary cause of atherosclerosis by damaging the cells lining the blood vessels and progressively worsening plaques. Likewise, chronic inflammation can initiate cancer by increasing mutations and support cancer cell survival and spread by increasing the growth of the blood vessels that feed them nutrients and suppressing the body's immune response.

**Treating two conditions**  
Research hints that therapies designed for cancer can also help treat atherosclerosis.

One example is drugs that target immune cells called macrophages in tumors and cause them to eat cancer cells. It turns out a similar drug can cause macrophages to clear dead and dying cells in atherosclerosis, which shrinks plaques.

Another example are antiglycolytic therapies that prevent the breakdown of glucose. Glucose, or sugar, is the body's main source of energy. These drugs can make diseased tumor blood vessels and atherosclerotic blood vessels look more "normal," essentially reversing the disease process in those vessels. They can also reduce inflammation in atherosclerosis.

Although currently marketed treatments like statins and fibrates can lower lipid levels and blood clotting in atherosclerosis, these drugs have not sufficiently addressed the risk of death from cardiovascular disease. To improve out-

comes, clinicians are increasingly using multiple drugs directed against different targets. One intriguing class of treatments is sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors, which are traditionally used to treat diabetes. Researchers have shown that these drugs both provide significant protection from cardiovascular disease and treat cancer.

Clinical trials on statins and sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors indicate a close overlap between inflammation, metabolism and cardiovascular disease that suggests new treatment opportunities. One example is immunotherapies that "inhibit the inhibition" of immunity - that is, they take off the brakes that tumors place on the immune system. This approach to treat cancer also reduced atherosclerotic plaques in animal studies and reduced vascular inflammation in a small study in people.

**Nanomedical Trojan horse**  
A recent discovery showed that nanotubes - a very small particle made of carbon that is over 10,000 times thinner than a human hair - can go into specific immune cells, travel through the bloodstream and enter tumors as a Trojan horse. These nanotubes can carry anything that researchers put on them, including drugs and imaging contrast agents.

The immune cells carrying the nanotubes naturally home in on tumors through the inflammatory response. Since cancer and atherosclerosis are both inflammatory diseases, my research team and I have been studying whether nanotube-loaded immune cells may also serve as delivery vehicles to plaques.

Nanotubes can be loaded with a therapy that stimulates immune cells to "eat" plaque debris and thus reduce plaque size. Moreover, restricting drug delivery specifically to those immune cells reduces the risk of off-target side effects. These nanotubes can also be used to improve diagnosis of cardiovascular disease by highlighting plaques.

Another way nanoparticles can enter tumors is by squeezing through openings in new blood vessels grown in inflammatory conditions. This is known as the enhanced permeation and retention effect, where larger molecules and nanoparticles accumulate in tissues with leaky blood vessels and remain there for some time because of their size. First discovered in cancer, researchers are applying this effect to improve drug delivery for cardiovascular disease, which can also involve leaky blood vessels.

**Drug development**  
The molecular pathways cancer and cardiovascular disease share have important regulatory implications. The costs involved in getting drugs into the clinic are enormous. The possibility of applying the same drug to two different patient populations offers big financial and risk-reduction incentives. It also offers the potential for simultaneous treatment for patients with both diseases.

Nanoparticle-based cancer drugs first entered the clinic in 1995, and researchers have developed many others since. But there is currently only one cardiovascular nanodrug approved by the Food and Drug Administration. This suggests opportunity for new nanotherapy approaches to improve cardiovascular drug efficacy and reduce side effects.

Because of the parallels between cancer and cardiovascular disease, cancer nanodrugs may be strong drug candidates to treat cardiovascular disease and vice versa. As basic science discovers other molecular parallels between these diseases, patients will be the beneficiaries of better therapies that can treat both. (AP)

Rejuvenation Technologies to develop mRNA therapeutics to 'reverse' aging

Company raises \$10.6m in seed financing

Early detection provides best treatment options

Biological and PRECEDE improve surveillance of pancreatic cancer

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif, Sept 7: Rejuvenation Technologies, a biotechnology company developing mRNA-based therapeutics to address mechanisms of aging, has announced a \$10.6M seed financing round led by Khosla Ventures. Shanda Ventures, Asymmetry Ventures, Merchant Ventures, Longevity Tech Fund, and Y Combinator also participated in the round. The company has also raised \$4.6M in grant funding, bringing the total amount raised to \$15.2M.

The funding will be used to advance its programs to IND approval in fibrotic disease, such as pulmonary fibrosis and liver cirrhosis, as well as early research targeting the immune system. Rejuvenation's lead candidate targets a key aging mechanism, telomere shortening. The company's products include optimized telomerase mRNA encapsulated in custom tissue-targeted lipid nanoparticles (LNP). The company plans to expand its operations and bring on additional team members to oversee scale-up manufacturing, clinical operations, and R&D efforts to expand mRNA delivery capabilities to additional organ systems.

Rejuvenation's co-founders John Ramunas, Ph.D., CEO, and Glenn Markov, Ph.D., COO, have worked together for over 12 years, including at Stanford University where they completed their Ph.D.s in the lab of Helen Blau on telomere extension and epigenetic reprogramming. Dan Chambers, thoracic transplant physician and lung fibrosis disease expert from The University of Queensland, will join the company as Chief Medical Officer. The company has invented an mRNA LNP approach capable of rewinding years of telomere shortening in stem cells in the body with a single dose. The technology is based in part on work the co-founders did at Stanford, which was published in the FASEB Journal, and further innovations at Rejuvenation.

Lifespan

"Telomere extension in mice extends healthspan and lifespan, and there is a lot of evidence that it will work in humans as well. Our vision is to treat everyone, and we're starting with fatal orphan diseases with high unmet medical need," said Ramunas. "Our synthetic telomerase RNA-based approach has key advantages, for example it is fast-acting, transient and non-integrating and thus avoids immortalization of cells, as well as hypoinmunogenic to avoid activating an immune response."

"Telomeres represent a fundamental aging clock that shorten as we age. Reversing telomere shortening would potentially prevent several age-related diseases. At the cellular level, short telomeres result in a chronic DNA damage response, reduced mitochondrial function, senescence and cell death. To deliver mRNA to the body, Rejuvenation developed proprietary LNP technology to deliver therapies into the lung and liver," said Blau, who is also a co-founder at

SAN DIEGO, Sept 7: Biological Dynamics, Inc., a leader in exosome-isolation technology for early disease detection, and the Pancreatic Cancer Early Detection (PRECEDE) Consortium, an international, multi-institutional group of experts focused on increasing survival rates for pancreatic cancer patients, have signed a multi-year agreement to partner on patient surveillance for early-stage pancreatic cancer using Biological Dynamics' ExoVita Pancreas Assay, powered by the Verita platform.

Biological Dynamics is PRECEDE's first liquid biopsy partner, supporting the goal to detect cancer earlier and improve survival rates. The collaboration accelerates enrollment of at least 5,000 patients into Biological Dynamics' ExoLuminate Study (NCT05625529), a multi-site clinical study designed for individuals with an elevated risk of pancreatic cancer to detect early pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). The study is intended to validate Biological Dynamics' ExoVita Pancreas assay for differing high-risk patients.

"PRECEDE is making a dedicated attempt to increase the pancreatic cancer survival rate from 12.5% to 50%," said Randall Brand, M.D., Site Investigator and Member of PRECEDE Executive Committee, Director of the UPMC Gastrointestinal Malignancy Early Detection, Diagnosis and Prevention Program and Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. "To realize this goal, we need to transform our ability to detect pancreatic cancer early, which is why we are very excited about entering into this

collaboration." Currently, pancreatic cancer is the third deadliest cancer in the US, with a 5-year survival rate of just 12.5%. It is predicted that over 64,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2023 alone. The earlier pancreatic cancer is diagnosed and treated, the better the prognosis. Unfortunately, pancreatic cancer usually shows little or no symptoms until it has advanced and spread. As a result, it is often diagnosed in stages III or IV, leaving patients and clinicians with limited treatment options and lowering chances of survival.

Survival

"In order to go from a 12.5% survival rate to a 50% survival rate within five years, the answer will lie in significantly improving surveillance and accelerating detection of pancreatic cancer at stages I or II with a blood-based assay like ExoVita Pancreas," said Harmeet Dhani, M.D., M.Sc., Principal Investigator for the ExoLuminate Study and Medical Director at Biological Dynamics. "This engagement has the potential to move the needle by accelerating our ExoLuminate Study and demonstrating the value of our advanced technology."

"We're thrilled to work with PRECEDE to advance our shared goal of increasing pancreatic cancer survival rates and to further clinically validate the Verita platform and ExoVita assay for detecting cancer earlier using a new generation of exosome-based biomarkers and technology," said Paul R. Billings, M.D., Ph.D., CEO and Director of Biological Dynamics.

ExoVita Pancreas is powered by Biological Dynamics' Verita plat-

form, which targets and isolates blood-based exosomal protein biomarkers, enabling high-sensitivity detection of cancer in its early stages. This is especially important for patients with an elevated risk of pancreatic cancer. High-risk factors include genetic mutations, strong family history, the presence of cystic lesions in the pancreas or pancreatitis. Early-stage detection provides the best treatment options for improving and prolonging a patient's life.

Biological Dynamics, Inc., is a leader in exosome-isolation technology committed to improving global health outcomes by identifying early-stage disease. Its Verita™ platform offers a simple and automated workflow to enrich for exosomes, powering advanced detection tests for some of the most challenging diseases. Biological Dynamics' ExoVita™ assays utilize the Verita platform to enable reliable surveillance and early cancer detection to help enhance and extend lives.

Founded in 2018, The PRECEDE Consortium's mission is to increase the survival of patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer from 10% to 50% in the next 10 years. This highly collaborative international effort includes partnerships with top researchers, industry and academic institutions, survivors, and families. Each partner is dedicated to improving early detection, screening, risk modeling, and prevention of this potentially devastating disease. The largest endeavor of its kind, PRECEDE aims to more accurately define who is at risk, determine at what level, and enroll them in state-of-the-art screening programs. Together, we can help put an end to pancreatic cancer.

Rejuvenation Technologies.

"A single dose of our telomerase mRNA reverses years of telomere shortening in hours. Rejuvenation's LNP technology can also deliver mRNA to the lung and liver, and we've shown remarkable efficacy in preclinical models in both liver fibrosis and liver failure," said Markov.

The key role of telomeres and telomerase in cellular aging was recognized with the 2009 Nobel Prize. Rejuvenation's founders showed that telomerase mRNA can be used to reverse this fundamental hallmark of aging, and recently invented a way to deliver telomerase mRNA to stem cells in vivo. Telomere shortening is one of the

fundamental "hallmarks of aging" that drive age-related disease. Short telomeres have a causal role in other hallmarks of aging including cellular senescence, stem cell failure, and epigenetic dysregulation.

"The convergence of these technologies, along with immense public interest in aging and in mRNA due to mRNA-based COVID vaccines, has helped Rejuvenation attract top talent and grant funding, to support their rapid progress," said Alex Morgan, Partner, Khosla Ventures. "It is possible that telomere extension may have a similarly broad impact on the body's molecular aging clocks with positive impact on multiple disease areas. We are excited to continue working together as Rejuvenation

advances its technology platform, partnership discussions, and internal pipeline towards clinical trials."

Rejuvenation Technologies is a biotechnology company developing mRNA therapies to extend the healthspan by preventing and treating chronic age-related diseases. Their vision is to treat everyone, starting with a pipeline of therapies that target fatal diseases, including of the liver and lung. Co-founders John Ramunas and Glenn Markov developed fundamental technology at Stanford University in the lab of Helen Blau, on telomere extension and epigenetic reprogramming, and innovated further at Rejuvenation. Rejuvenation's mission is to extend the human healthspan.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

**CITY CLINIC GROUP** A CARING MISSION

Mahboula Khaitan Fahaeel Mirqab

Health is our Priority

**RADIOLOGIST**

**INTERNAL MEDICINE**

Dr. ANAS N MBBS, MD FAHAHEEL

Dr. HEBA SABRI BEDEER MBBS, MD MAHBOULA

Dr. AMR AHMED OMAR MBBS, MS KHAITAN

Dr. VENKATESWARLU SEETA MBBS, MD FAHAHEEL

www.cityclinicwt.com cityclinicwt.com FOR APPOINTMENT

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCE HOME COLLECTION AVAILABLE 188 00 20

**SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE** الفروانية FARWANIYA

**DENTAL & COSMETIC DEPARTMENT**

Dr. Shajahan V.M BDS, MDS Dental Surgeon

Dr. Ayham Askar BDS Dental Surgeon

Dr. Raina Fernandes BDS Dental Surgeon

- SCALING & GUM TREATMENT
- COSMETIC SMILE RECONSTRUCTION
- GUM & ORAL SURGERY
- BAD BREATH TREATMENT
- SURGICAL TREATMENT
- ROOT CANAL TREATMENT
- COSMETIC FILLING
- FIXED & REMOVABLE DENTURES
- CROWN TREATMENT
- SIMPLE & SURGICAL EXTRACTION

Working Time: From 9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm  
Ph: 24 734 000

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya  
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

# Burning Man party is over... now a massive cleanup begins

RENO, Nev., Sept 7, (AP): The rain has passed, and the temple has burned. Now, as Burning Man slowly empties, it's time to clean up.

Burning Man organizers have three weeks to clean up any remnants of the makeshift city plopped across over 4 square miles (10 square kilometers) of the Black Rock Desert in northwestern Nevada, but a summer storm that left tens of thousands stranded in ankle-deep mud could alter that timeframe.

The annual gathering, which launched on a San Francisco beach in 1986, attracts nearly 80,000 artists, musicians and activists to the sprawling stretch of public land for a weeklong mix of wilderness camping and avant-garde performances. One of the principles of Burning Man is to leave no trace - an expectation that all attendees will pack out everything they brought to Black Rock City and clean out their camps before leaving.

But in the aftermath of torrential rains that closed roads, jammed traffic and forced many to walk miles barefoot through the muck, the area is dotted with abandoned vehicles, rugs, furniture, tents and trash. In a normal year, the desert floor is harder and easier to navigate, but flooding and deep imprints from vehicles spinning tires in the muck have made traveling there more difficult.

This week, many attendees descended on the airport in Reno, Nevada, to get last-minute flights home. Car washes at times turned away vehicles too caked in mud and clay, according to KTVN-TV in Reno. There are signs outside nearby grocery stores banning disposal of Burning Man-related trash and recycling in their bins.

Eleonora Segreti, who lives in central Italy and made her second visit this year to Burning Man, left the site early Tuesday.

Leave no trace is "a strong principle," she said Tuesday after taking a shuttle to Reno-Tahoe International Airport. "If it is a matter of staying overnight one extra day to do the work to clean up, most of the people are doing that."

But that sentiment is not felt by everyone. Jeffrey Longoria of San Francisco said since he started attending, trash issues have gotten worse. "People are starting to leave a trace," said Longoria, 37, while cleaning his mud-stained boots outside of a Walmart in Reno. "They're forgetting the core principles of the burn."

The erosion of those core principals might be in part because many of the festival's original attendees have gotten older, he said, and there's a wave of newer attendees - "the kind that have a couple hundred thousand-dollar RVs and are careless about the environment."

## Impact

A permit issued by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management requires Burning Man organizers to clear the area of debris after vehicles exit the desert, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) northeast of Reno. Burning Man organizers did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press about how the rain will impact the cleanup timeline.

In a media update Wednesday evening, organizers said "individuals who had to leave before their carpools and camps were ready to depart, and camps who needed to leave early due to the storm, are returning to the event site today through Saturday to disassemble their projects, tear down their camps, and remove their possessions."

The temporary closure of the area for Burning Man is in effect for 66 days each year, according to the BLM: 31 to build the makeshift city,

nine for the main event and 26 for post-festival cleanup.

Last year, after the festival's return following a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Burning Man team narrowly passed its Oct. 7 inspection.

"But it was extraordinarily and alarmingly close," the restoration team's manager wrote earlier this year in a post on the Burning Man website summarizing last year's cleanup efforts, while urging attendees leave no trace.

The post described 2022 as one of the "messiest plays in recent history" - evidenced by a 15-yard (13 meters) dumpster filled with cardboard boxes, glass bottles, carpeted rugs and plastic. The cleanup team also collected more than 1,000 tent stakes - "the most dangerous" and abundant debris left behind, according to the post.

During the 2022 inspection, BLM surveyed 120 different areas chosen at random across the festival site for trash and debris, according to Burning Man's annual cleanup report. They failed eight of the tests last year and would not have passed if they had failed 12, according to the report.

Cleanup also involves smoothing out the dried lake bed with large rakes attached to trucks and picking up trash on the frequented highways, according to BLM spokesperson John Asselin.

Next month, teams made up of federal employees and Burning Man organizers will again conduct a site inspection. Event organizers will be on the hook for any repairs that are identified as necessary, Asselin said.

Many festival attendees - who refer to themselves as burners - arrive with limited supplies. Challenges in the form of brutal heat, dust storms and torrential rains are expected and, largely, welcomed.

Music

## Variety

# Features



This image released by Netflix shows a scene from 'El Conde.' (AP)

## Film

Honorary Oscars event pushed back amid strikes

# Pinochet as vampire in surreal 'El Conde'

The Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet is not dead in Pablo Larraín's "El Conde." He is instead a 250-year-old vampire living in semi-exile and wishing for death in this audacious allegory about history's tendency to repeat itself, shot in sublime, otherworldly black and white.

It is fitting that the film, in theaters Friday and on Netflix Sept. 15, is being released around the 50-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 1973 coup which brought Pinochet to power for almost 17 years. Pinochet's regime tortured, killed and disappeared 3,065 people in the name of fighting communism, but for some in Chile the legacy is now remembered as not all bad.

Evil ideas, Larraín cautions, have a tendency to live on, to mutate and to infect societies again and again even many years after they're supposedly dispelled and destroyed. Kind of like vampires living in stark, hellish exile as greedy heirs circulate to try to claim what's theirs and keep the money flowing.

Larraín, the 47-year-old filmmaker behind "Spencer," "Jackie" and "No," has always considered himself a political filmmaker and has already gestured at Pinochet in previous films. In "El Conde," which he co-wrote, he uses "the language of satire and political farce" to show the world the true nature of a dictator who "never faced true justice," he said in his director's statement.

Pinochet stepped down in 1990 after Chileans voted against military rule, only to assume the role of commander-in-chief of the army and, later, the self-created position of lifelong senator until he resigned in 2002. He died in 2006 without being convicted in Chilean courts. That he was not brought to justice is conceived in the film as placing the country in a kind of eternal limbo, doomed to continue suffering at the hands of the General and his disciples.

Jaime Vadell, who is a vibrant 87, plays Pinochet. He flies around Chile like an evil, aging superman, unsure if he wants to hunt or starve himself of blood and let his clock run out. He is world weary but also prideful; He gets especially aggravated when it's suggested that he's a thief (murder, he was essentially fine with). Alfredo Castro is his devoted butler, who also

hungers for blood. And Gloria Münchmeyer is composed and sinister as his string-wielding wife Lucía, trapped with their mid-age, lazy, entitled offspring as a pretty, young accountant/nun (Paula Luchsinger) attempts to take stock of the general's assets but also exorcise him. Her character, who masks her shrewdness with a wide-eyed earnestness is styled and shot with nods to Renée Jeanne Falconetti in "The Passion of Joan of Arc."

## Information

"El Conde" is obviously not a history lesson, but information flies at you fast nonetheless. It could rival "His Girl Friday" in words per minute, which can be challenging to process in subtitles but this is where the Netflix of it all comes in handy - the dialogue is so sharp, you don't want to miss a word. There is also an English-speaking narrator (whose identity will be revealed eventually), giving it a whimsically macabre, storybook feel.

In this fantastical, allegorical nightmare, sense and logic should be the last thing on your mind - especially when engrossed in cinematographer Ed Lachman's ("Carol," "The Virgin Suicides") splendid photography. He apparently shot with a camera made especially for the film (an Arri Alexa Monochrome for anyone interested).

"El Conde" might stretch its gimmicky premise a little past its welcome, but it is an intoxicating, overwhelming and gruesome cinematic experience nonetheless, which would make a fitting double feature with last year's great historical legal thriller "Argentina 1985."

"El Conde," a Netflix release in theaters Friday and streaming on Sept. 15, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "some graphic nudity, gore, rape, language and sexual content, strong violence." Running time: 110 minutes. Three stars out of four.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Angela Bassett is going to have to wait a little bit longer to get her Oscar.

The 14th Governors Awards has been delayed from November until January, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Wednesday.

The Academy, which puts on the Oscars, decided to delay the event due to the state of the industry, in which Hollywood's writers and actors are months into strikes for new contracts with major entertainment companies.

Bassett, who was up for the best supporting actress award earlier this year, was selected to receive the prestigious honorary Oscar statuette along with Mel Brooks and film editor Carol Littleton. The Sundance Institute's Michelle Satter will also receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the event, which was originally scheduled to be held on Nov. 18, but will now be held on Jan. 9 at the Fairmont Century Plaza in Los Angeles.

The honorary awards used to be handed out on the Oscars telecast but became its own separate event in 2009. At the untelevised dinner, industry friends and colleagues get to give longer, more personal speeches about the honorees before they accept their golden statuette. The event, held in the throes of Oscars season, also has often served as a de facto campaign stop for awards hopefuls, making it a reliably A-list affair.

The Governors Awards is a union production and the Academy has been working with the Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists as both guilds are deep into the strike with no end in sight. The strike has not only stopped most productions but also led some studios to delay fall their fall movies as opposed to releasing them without the help of actors.

The Governors Awards isn't the only event to have been delayed because of the strikes. The Emmy Awards, previously scheduled for September, was postponed to Jan. 15, 2024.

And no one is entirely sure how the strikes will impact Oscars season, especially if a resolution is not reached before the year. The 96th Academy Awards are currently scheduled to be held on March 10 and nominations will be announced on Jan. 23. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** Tenor Stephen Gould, 61, says he has been diagnosed with incurable bile duct cancer.

Gould withdrew this summer from the Bayreuth Festival in Germany, where he was to have sung the title roles in "Tannhäuser" and "Tristan und Isolde" and Siegfried in "Götterdämmerung."

Gould said in a statement Wednesday that he has bile duct cancer with complications. He said it is fatal with "an outlook of several months to 10 months," he wrote. "There is no cure."

Gould said he made the announcement after the Bayreuth Festival ended last week because "I did not wish anything to cloud this year's achievements."

Gould was born in Virginia and has sung in many of the world's major opera houses.

According to the Mayo Clinic, biliary tract cancer often doesn't cause any symptoms in the early stages. It's often discovered by accident - for example, through routine blood tests or imaging done for an unrelated reason. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** "That '70s Show" star Danny Masterson could get as much as 30 years to life in prison at his sentencing Thursday for the rapes of two women two decades ago.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charlaime F. Olmedo is set to sentence the 47-year-old actor after ruling on a defense motion for a new trial that she's very likely to reject, and after hearing impact statements from the victims.

A jury of seven women and five men found Masterson guilty of two counts on May 31 after seven days of deliberations. Both attacks took place in Masterson's Hollywood-area home in 2003, when he was at the height of his fame on the Fox network sitcom "That '70s Show."

The jury could not reach a unanimous verdict on a third count, an allegation that Masterson also raped a longtime girlfriend.

The verdict came in a second trial after a jury failed to reach verdicts on three counts of forcible rape in December and a mistrial was declared.

Prosecutors alleged that Masterson used his prominence in the

Church of Scientology - where all three women were also members at the time - to avoid consequences for decades after the attacks.

The women blamed the church for their hesitancy in going to police about Masterson. They testified that when they reported him to Scientology officials, they were told they were not raped, were put



Gould



Masterson

through ethics programs themselves, and were warned against going to law enforcement to report a member of such high standing.

"They were raped, they were punished for it, and they were retaliated against," Deputy District Attorney Reinhold Mueller told jurors at the trial. "Scientology told them there's no justice for them."

The church said in a statement after the verdict that the "testimony and descriptions of Scientology beliefs" during the trial were "uniformly false."

"The Church has no policy prohibiting or discouraging members from reporting criminal conduct of anyone - Scientologists or not - to law enforcement," the statement

said.

Masterson did not testify, and his lawyers called no witnesses. The defense argued that the acts were consensual, and attempted to discredit the women's stories by highlighting changes and inconsistencies over time, which they said showed signs of coordination between them. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## Sale breaks record

## Prized Rhapsody items champions at auction

LONDON, Sept 7, (AP) — Freddie Mercury's prized piano that he used to compose "Bohemian Rhapsody" and other hits by Queen sold for more than \$2 million Wednesday as some of the late singer's massive collection of flamboyant stage costumes, fine art and original lyrics were auctioned in a sale that broke records.

Items connected to the operatic "Rhapsody," the band's most enduring hit, brought a premium with hand-written lyrics to the song selling for about 1.4 million pounds (\$1.7 million) and a gold Cartier brooch saying "Queen number 1" given to each band member by their manager after the song topped the charts, selling for 165,000 pounds (\$208,000).

A Victorian-style silver snake bangle Mercury wore with an ivory satin catsuit in a video for the song - long before the days of MTV - set a record for the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of jewelry owned by a rock star, Sotheby's said.

The bracelet went for 698,500 pounds (\$881,000) - 100 times its estimated low price. The item broke a record set when John Lennon's leather and bead talisman sold for 295,000 pounds (\$368,000) in 2008, Sotheby's said.

The eclectic collection of objects were amassed by Mercury after Queen's glam-rock produced an avalanche of hits that allowed the singer to achieve his dream of living a Victorian life "surrounded by exquisite clutter."

Mercury's close friend, Mary Austin, to whom he left his house and his possessions when he died of AIDS-related pneumonia in 1991 at 45, is selling it all - more than 1,400 items.

A mere 59 items of that "clutter" sold for 12.2 million pounds (\$15.4 million), including a buyer's premium, that blew away estimates in the four-and-a-half hour auction. Bidders from 61 countries took part in person, online and by phone.

## Classics

Mercury wrote, "Easy come, easy go, will you let me go?" in "Rhapsody," and the answer to the question from well-heeled fans seemed to be "No," as they bid fortunes - large and larger - to grab a piece of the late singer's clothing, awards and original hand-written drafts to classics such as "Killer Queen" and "We Are the Champions."

Depending how you looked at it, the champions of the night may have been Sotheby's or Austin or a few charities she's promised to donate an undisclosed portion of the proceeds to.

Or it could have been the buyers of one-of-a-kind memorabilia who won. One man raised his hands over his head in victory and hugged the woman seated next to him after bidding 635,000 pounds (\$801,500) for the rhinestone-studded crown and red fake fur cloak Mercury wore on stage at the end of every show during Queen's last tour in 1986.

The auction opened with the sale of the graffiti-tagged door to the garden of Mercury's home that quickly blew past the high estimate of 25,000 pounds (\$31,250) projected before the sale and led to a bidding war that lasted nearly 20 minutes.

The green door covered in hand-painted love notes from fans who made a pilgrimage to the house in the tony Kensington section of London sold for an eye-popping 412,750 pounds (\$521,000).

All of the proceeds of the sale of a Cartier onyx and diamond ring given to Mercury by his friend, Elton John, that sold for 273,000 pounds (\$344,000) were to go to the "Rocket Man" singer's AIDS charity.

Art sold at the auction included prints by Pablo Picasso (190,500 pounds; \$240,000), Salvador Dalí (48,260 pounds; \$60,900); and Marc Chagall (63,500; \$80,000), antique furniture and numerous cat figurines.

## Collection

For the past month, fans of Mercury who couldn't afford those kind of prices - or just wanted to see his high-top Adidas, diamond brooches, or a sequined jacket - could view them for free in Sotheby's galleries. More than 140,000 visitors from around the world queued up outside the elegant auction house to take a tour.

Publicity from "Freddie Mercury: A World of his Own" drove up bidding for online auctions that began last month and closes next week.

Even items being sold online that had seemed like they might be in reach for some average buyers eclipsed pre-sale estimates.

A collection of chopsticks once estimated to fetch 40-60 British pounds (\$50-75) had a current bid 1,200 pounds (\$1,500) Wednesday.

One of the quirkiest items, a silver moustache comb from Tiffany & Co, that had been expected to set a buyer back 400 to 600 pounds (\$500-750) had a bid at 35,000 pounds (\$43,750).

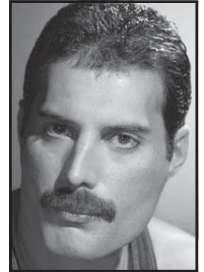
The Yamaha baby grand piano that Mercury wrote some of Queen's greatest hits on was one of the few items that sold for less than its estimated price tag, though it still sold for the most amount of money.

It had been expected to sell for as much as 3 million pounds (\$3.75 million) but sold for 1.7 million pounds (\$2.2 million). Sotheby's said it was the highest price ever paid for a composer's piano, but they didn't provide information on the previous record.

Other items that were treasured by fans were Mercury's draft lyrics to "Somebody to Love" (241,000 pounds; \$304,000), and "Don't Stop Me Now" and "We Are the Champions," which both fetched the same final prices: 317,500 pounds; \$400,700.

The drafts showed songs at their inception, with "Bohemian Rhapsody" scratched on stationery from the defunct British Midland Airways. The song was originally named "Mongolian Rhapsody" before that was crossed out.

The song ends with the words: "Nothing really matters to me," a line that certainly didn't apply to Mercury's myriad possessions.



Mercury



Keith Richards, (from left), Ronnie Wood, and Mick Jagger pose for photographers upon arrival at the Rolling Stones Hackney Diamonds launch event on Wednesday, Sept. 6, in London. (AP)



Director Ava DuVernay poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Origin' during the 80th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Sept. 6. (AP)



Carroll



Grann

## Variety

**LONDON:** Books about the perilous state of our world, our food and our relationship with technology are in the running for Britain's leading nonfiction book award, the Baillie Gifford Prize.

The 13-book longlist announced Wednesday includes John Vaillant's look at the reality of climate change, "Fire Weather"; Chris van Tulleken's dietary warning "Ultra Processed People"; and "Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity" by Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson.

Best-selling American author David Grann is nominated for the stirring seafaring yarn "The Wager," while physician-writer Siddhartha Mukherjee is in the running with "The Song of the Cell."

British journalist Hannah Barnes is on the list for "Time to Think," which charts the demise of Britain's controversial Tavistock gender clinic for children.

Other contenders examine key moments in history, including Tania Branigan's look at China's Cultural Revolution, "Red Memory," and Katja Hoyer's portrait of East Germany, "Beyond the Wall."

Six finalists for the 50,000 pound (\$63,000) prize will be announced Oct. 8 and the winner revealed Nov. 16.

Founded in 1999, the prize recognizes English-language books from any country in current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography and the arts. It has been credited with bringing an eclectic slate of fact-based books to a wider audience.

Last year's winner was Katherine Rundell's poet biography "Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne." (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Four months after a civil trial jury found that Donald Trump sexually abused and defamed advice columnist E. Jean Carroll, a federal judge ruled on Wednesday that still more of the ex-president's comments about her were libelous. The decision means that an upcoming second trial will concern only how much more he has to pay her.

The ruling stands to streamline significantly the second trial, set for January. It concerns remarks that Trump made in 2019, after Carroll first publicly claimed that he sexually attacked her in a dressing room after a chance meeting at a luxury department store in 1996. He denies that

## Music

## Bruce Springsteen postpones September shows

## Rolling Stones unveil lead single 'Angry'

LONDON, Sept 7, (AP) — The Rolling Stones are back, and they've brought a few famous friends.

"Hackney Diamonds," the band's first album of new songs in 18 years, features guest appearances from the likes of Lady Gaga, Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder. Poignantly, it also features Charlie Watts, the stalwart Rolling Stones drummer who died in 2021 after almost six decades in the band. His drumming, recorded in 2019, features on two of the album's dozen tracks, with Steve Jordan playing on the rest.

Watts' absence lent a wistful note to the excitement of surviving Stones Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood when they came to east London's Hackney district on Wednesday to unveil the new album and announce its release date: Oct. 20.

Of Watts, Richards said: "Of course he's missed incredibly. But thanks to Charlie we have Steve Jordan, who was his recommendation if anything should happen to him."

"It would have been a lot harder without Charlie's blessing," he said.

The album reveal was executed with the swaggering showmanship the Stones are famous for. It followed a cryptic teaser campaign, in which a glittery, jagged version of the band's iconic mouth and tongue logo was projected onto the façade of landmarks in cities around the world, including New York, London and Paris.

Hard-core fans lined up in a heat-wave outside the Hackney Empire, where the band members were interviewed onstage by "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon in front of dozens of sweltering journalists and a global online audience.

Inside the ornate former Edwardian musical hall where Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel once performed, Jagger, 80, Richards, 79 and Wood, 76 gave details of the Stones' first studio album of new songs since "A Bigger Bang" in 2005. The band released a set of blues covers, "Blue & Lonesome," in 2016.

The lead single is called "Angry," but Jagger said not all the songs are furious. The album also contains "love songs, ballads, country-type" sounds,

he said.

Recorded in December and January at studios around the world, the album sees the Stones team up with Grammy-winning producer Andrew Watt, who helped assemble the starry guest list, which also includes former Stone Bill Wyman.

Jagger said Lady Gaga - who sings on "Sweet Sound of Heaven" - was recording in a next-door studio while the Stones were in Los Angeles and ended up on the album after she popped in to say hello.

"She walked in next to me and we started singing together," Jagger told The Associated Press backstage. "She sang it live and then we went in and tidied it up a bit."

## Classic

The band screened the video for "Angry," which has a classic mid-tempo crunchy Stones sound. The clip features "Euphoria" star Sydney Sweeney, shown cruising LA's Sunset Boulevard in a red convertible, past billboards of the Stones from various eras.

As to why the band waited almost two decades between albums, Richards said the timing was largely down to Jagger.

"When you have a singer that wants to sing, you grab him and throw him in the studio," Richards told the AP. He said when they did get in the studio, the songs tumbled out with "energy and urgency."

Jagger joked that the long gap between albums was due to laziness.

"I don't want to be big-headed but we wouldn't have put this album out if we hadn't really liked it," he said. "We said we had to make a record we really love ourselves."

"We are quite pleased with it, we are not big headed about it, but we hope you all like it."

"Hackney Diamonds" is a slang term for shattered glass, and the band also teased fans with an ad in the local Hackney Gazette newspaper for a fictional glass repair business: "When you say gimme shelter, we'll fix your shattered windows."

Jagger said the phrase evoked

"when you get your windscreen broken on Saturday night in Hackney and all the bits go on the street."

Richards said the band hit upon the title after "flinging ideas around the table, and we went from 'Hit and Run,' 'Smash and Grab' - and somehow between that we came up with 'Hackney Diamonds.'"

It was fitting, he said, because the Stones are a London band - though none of the members hails from Hackney.

Brazilian fan Taric Fioravanti, from Sao Paulo, was one of many who lined up to get a glimpse of the band.

"I love these guys," he said. "Keith Richards is one of the biggest guitar heroes in the history of rock music."

"(And) they're 80 years old. Most bands have stopped making new music" by that age, he said.

Founded in 1962, the Stones show no signs of planning to retire. The band played a 60th-anniversary tour of Europe in 2022, and Wood said they had an American tour "penciled in" for next year.

Wood said retirement would be "impossible."

"You've got to keep playing," he said.

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** The Boss is taking an unexpected breather and postponing his September shows, citing doctors' orders.

Bruce Springsteen announced on his website Wednesday that he was postponing shows for the remainder of the month while he is treated for symptoms of "peptic ulcer disease."

The disease causes ulcers to form in the stomach or small intestine that can cause heartburn, nausea and stomach pain.

The postponed shows including scheduled stops in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Albany and Syracuse in New York, Pittsburgh, Washington, and shows in Connecticut and Ohio.

"Over here on E Street, we're heartbroken to have to postpone these shows," Springsteen said in a statement posted on his site and social media. "We'll be back to pick up these shows and then some."

anything happened between them.

The first trial, this spring, concerned the sexual assault allegation and whether some 2022 Trump comments were defamatory. Jurors awarded Carroll \$5 million, finding that she was sexually abused but rejecting

her allegation that she was raped.

"The jury considered and decided issues that are common to both cases - including whether Mr. Trump falsely accused Ms. Carroll of fabricating her sexual assault charge and, if that were so, that he did it

with knowledge that this accusation was false" or acted with reckless disregard for the truth, US District Judge Lewis Kaplan wrote in Wednesday's decision.

The judge wrote that the "substantive content" of the 2019 and 2022 statements was the same. And when the jury found that Trump indeed sexually abused Carroll, it effectively established that his 2019 statements also were false and defamatory, the judge said.

Carroll and her attorneys "look forward to trial limited to damages for the original defamatory statements Donald Trump made," said her lawyer Roberta Kaplan, who's not related to the judge.

Trump lawyer Alina Habba said Wednesday that his legal team is confident that the jury verdict will be overturned, mooting the judge's new decision. Trump, the early front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, also is seeking to put the second trial on hold while waiting for an appeals court to rule on whether he's legally shielded from the yet-to-be-tried case. He claims immunity because he was president when he made the 2019 comments.

At least for now, the trial is set to start Jan. 15, the day of the Iowa Republican caucuses.

The Carroll case is part of a lineup of legal woes that Trump is facing as he campaigns to return to the White House. (AP)



Director Woody Allen and his New Orleans Jazz Band perform at the Blue Note, in Milan, Italy, Wednesday, Sept. 6. (AP)

## Health

## 'No evidence'

## McConnell's freeze-ups not a stroke or seizure

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, (AP) — Senate Republican Leader **Mitch McConnell**'s health episodes show "no evidence" of a stroke or seizure disorder, the Capitol physician said Tuesday, but his statement still left questions about the apparent freeze-ups that have drawn concerns about the 81-year-old's situation.

McConnell returned to work at the Capitol after the summer recess, and his office released a letter from attending physician Brian P. Monahan concerning the long-serving Republican leader's health. The GOP leader froze up last week during a press conference in Kentucky, unable to respond to a question in the second such episode in a month.

Walking into the Senate on Tuesday, McConnell answered no questions as he smiled at reporters. He made only passing reference to the incident during a speech in the chamber, his voice somewhat muffled.



McConnell

"One particular moment of my time back home has received its fair share of attention," McConnell said. "But I assure you August was a busy and productive month for me."

Asked later in the evening if he would be holding his regular weekly press conference Wednesday, McConnell simply replied, "Yep."

The episodes have fueled quiet concern and intense speculation about McConnell's ability to remain the

GOP leader. He suffered a concussion earlier this year when he fell and hit his head at a dinner in Washington. It has left him visibly slower in his speech and stride, and he appeared slimmer Tuesday. The letter was the second from the Capitol physician, who cleared McConnell to continue with his planned schedule after last week's incident.

"There is no evidence that you have a seizure disorder or that you experienced a stroke, TIA or movement disorder such as Parkinson's disease," Monahan wrote, using the acronym for a transient ischemic attack, a brief stroke.

But there was no elaboration as to what did cause the episodes. The doctor said the assessments entailed several medical evaluations including a brain MRI scan and "consultations with several neurologists for a comprehensive neurology assessment."

## Recovery

"There are no changes recommended in treatment protocols as you continue recovery from your March 2023 fall," the doctor said.

It all comes amid a swirl of health concerns in Washington, particularly as COVID-19 cases show signs of rising heading into fall. First lady Jill Biden tested positive for COVID-19 over the weekend, but President Joe Biden tested negative.

Many Republican allies have flocked to McConnell's side, ensuring the famously guarded leader a well of support. Rivals have muted any calls for a direct challenge to his leadership.

"When donkeys fly," GOP Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana said when asked when McConnell would step down.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said he's supporting McConnell as leader: "We might lose from Mitch McConnell 20 seconds a day, but the other 86,380 seconds are pretty darn good."

And yet colleagues remained confused, concerned and hounding for a fuller explanation of the leader's health.

"If you're asking if I'm concerned about his health, yeah, of course I am," said Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo. "I'm also concerned about the amount of questions I get about it."

Hawley said during the month at home, he was asked repeatedly about McConnell's health everywhere he went across Missouri "at the State Fair, from business group leaders, farmers, I mean everyone."

Some senators appeared to question the physician's diagnosis. But the top potential successors to McConnell's leadership stood by him.

The No. 2 GOP leader Sen. John Thune of South Dakota said McConnell has his full support, as did the No. 3 GOP leader Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming.

Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, another potential leadership heir, said McConnell told him last week that while he's mentally rebounded from the concussion, physically it's been a little more difficult.

"It appears that it's harder to recover from a concussion when you're 81 years old than maybe he thought," Cornyn said. "But he feels like he's up to the task and I think that's the case."

Said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas: "Age comes for us all. And Mitch is stubborn as a mule. And he's tough."

From the other side of the aisle, Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, the party whip, spoke with McConnell after the GOP leader delivered his remarks in the Senate.

"He said, 'You know, I've taken every test they've thrown at me.' And he said that 'concussion can take its toll. So I'm going through recovering from a concussion,'" Durbin of Illinois told reporters afterward.

"And I told him I said I was glad to see him back, couldn't wait to disagree with him."

## Interruption

Opening the Senate, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said of McConnell, "I'm glad to see him back and doing well."

McConnell will be central to the fall schedule as Congress returns from an extended summer break for a flurry of activity, most notably the need to approve funding to prevent any interruption in federal operations by Sept. 30, which is the end of the fiscal year.

Some House Republicans are willing to shut down the government at the end of the month if they are unable to enact steep spending restrictions that go beyond the agreement Biden reached with Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy earlier this summer.

In leading Senate Republicans, McConnell is viewed by the White House and Democrats as a pragmatic broker who is more interested in avoiding a messy government shutdown than that could be politically damaging to the GOP.

McConnell has also made it a priority to ensure Ukraine continues to receive support from the US as it battles Russia.

A \$40 billion funding package for Ukraine and US disaster relief for communities hit by fires, floods and other problems, including the fentanyl crisis, is being proposed by the White House, but it is being met with skepticism from some Republicans reluctant to help as much as Biden wants in the Ukrainian war effort.

McConnell's health has visibly declined since the concussion in March, after which he took some weeks to recover. His speaking has been more halting, and he has walked more slowly and carefully.

First elected in 1984, he became the longest serving Senate party leader in January. There were questions before his latest episode about whether he would run for re-election in 2026.

McConnell had been home in Kentucky at the time keeping a robust political schedule, speaking frequently to the public and press. Before freezing up last week, McConnell had just given a 20-minute speech with no issues.

Similarly, when he froze up during a press conference at the Capitol last month, he took a short break in his office and then returned to field about a half-dozen other questions and banter with the press.



This image provided by Gianluca Masi shows the comet C/2023 P1 Nishimura and its tail seen from Manciano, Italy on Sept. 5. Stargazers across the Northern Hemisphere should catch a glimpse as soon as possible because it will be another 400 years before the wandering ice ball returns. (AP)

## Now's the time to catch new comet before it vanishes for 400 yrs

A newly discovered comet is swinging through our cosmic neighborhood for the first time in more than 400 years.

Stargazers across the Northern Hemisphere should catch a glimpse as soon as possible - either this week or early next - because it will be another 400 years before the wandering ice ball returns.

The comet, which is kilometer-sized (1/2-mile), will sweep safely past Earth on Sept. 12, passing

within 78 million miles (125 million kilometers).

Early risers should look toward the northeastern horizon about 1 1/2 hours before dawn - to be specific, less than 10 or so degrees above the horizon near the constellation Leo. The comet will brighten as it gets closer to the sun, but will drop lower in the sky, making it tricky to spot.

Although visible to the naked eye, the comet is extremely faint.

"So you really need a good pair of binoculars to pick it out and you also need to know where to look," said Paul Chodas, manager of NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies.

The comet will come closest to the sun - closer than Mercury is - on about Sept. 17 before departing the solar system. That's assuming it doesn't disintegrate when it buzzes the sun, though Chodas said "it's likely to survive its passage." (AP)

## The Conversation

## Herbal remedies provide health care to many

## WHO making traditional medicine safer

By Ling Zhao, University of Tennessee and Paul D. Terry, University of Tennessee

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

For approximately 80% of the world's population, the first stop after catching a cold or breaking a bone isn't the hospital - maybe because there isn't one nearby, or they can't afford it. Instead, the first step is consulting traditional medicine, which cultures around the world have been using for thousands of years.

Traditional medicine encompasses the healing knowledge, skills and practices used by a variety of cultures and groups.

Examples of traditional medicine include herbal medicine; acupuncture; Tui Na - which is a type of massage originating in China; Ayurveda - which is an ancient system of promoting health through diet, exercise and lifestyle from India; and Unani - which is another ancient system of health from South Asia, balancing key aspects of the mind, body and spirit.

In recognizing that traditional medicine and other alternative forms of healing are critical sources of health care for many people worldwide, the World Health Organization and the government of India co-hosted their first-ever Traditional Medicine Summit. The summit took place in August 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

The summit brought together health care policymakers, traditional medicine workers and users, international organizations, academics and private sector stakeholders from 88 WHO member states. Leaders at the summit aimed to share best practices and scientific evidence and data around traditional medicine.

As researchers interested in how to provide patients both in the US and around the globe with the best possible medical care, we were interested in the summit's findings. Understanding traditional medicine can help health

care professionals create sustainable, personalized and culturally respectful practices.

In many countries, traditional medicine costs less and is more accessible than conventional health care. And many conventional medicines come from the same source as compounds used in traditional medicine - up to 50% of drugs have a natural product root, like aspirin.

Many factors may influence whether someone chooses traditional medicine, such as age and gender, religion, education and income level, and distance to travel for treatment. Cultural factors may also influence people's use of traditional medicine.

## Ethnic

In China, for example, as more people have embraced Western culture, fewer have chosen traditional medicine. In contrast, many African migrants to Australia continue to use traditional medicine to express their cultural identity and maintain a cohesive ethnic community. A patient's preference for traditional medicine often has significant personal, environmental and cultural relevance.

Countries have been pushing the WHO to study and track data on traditional medicine for years. In the past, WHO has developed a "traditional medicine strategy" to help member states research, integrate and regulate traditional medicine in their national health systems.

The WHO also created international terminology standards for practicing various forms of traditional medicine.

The practice of traditional medicine varies greatly between countries, depending on how accessible it is and how culturally important it is in each country. To make traditional medicine safer and more accessible on a broader scale, it's important for policymakers and public health experts to develop standards and share best practices. The WHO summit was one step toward that goal.

The WHO also aims to collect data that could inform these standards and

best practices. It is conducting the Global Survey on Traditional Medicine in 2023. As of August, approximately 55 member states out of the total 194 have completed and submitted their data.

Some traditional medicine practices such as acupuncture have shown consistent and credible benefits, and have even started to make it into mainstream medicine in the U.S. But leaders at the summit emphasized a need for more research on the efficacy and safety of traditional medicine.

Although traditional medicine can have a range of benefits, some treatments come with health risks.

For example, acupuncture is a traditional healing practice that entails inserting needles at specific points on the body to relieve pain. But acupuncture can cause infections and injuries if the practitioner doesn't use sterile needles or if needles are inserted incorrectly.

Still, acupuncture is the most commonly used traditional medicine practice across countries, with 113 WHO member states acknowledging their citizens practiced acupuncture in 2019.

Interestingly, battlefield acupuncture has successfully treated many US military members, for example, for pain reduction. It is simple to use, transportable and has no risk of addiction.

There's also some evidence supporting the use of traditional medicine, including acupuncture, meditation and yoga to treat post-traumatic stress disorder.

However, acupuncture practitioners aren't trained in a uniform way across countries. To provide guidelines for best practice, the WHO developed standardized benchmarks for practicing acupuncture in 2021. The WHO aims to develop similar standards for other forms of traditional medicine as well.

Interest in traditional medicine is growing among those who have mainly used conventional medicine in the past. More research and collaborative efforts to develop safety standards can make traditional medicine accessible to all who seek it. (AP)



A car is half sunk in the sea after a record rainfall in Milina village, Pilion region, central Greece, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023. Rescue teams in Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria have recovered more bodies following floods after fierce rainstorms. (AP)



Murach



Sunak

## Discovery

## Boy dies after leaping into lake:

A 14-year-old boy died after leaping into Lake Michigan despite being warned not to jump off a breakwall along the lake's northwestern Indiana shoreline, officials said.

Witnesses reported Monday that staff at the East Chicago Marina had advised a group of young people not to jump from the breakwall, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources said.

The agency said the 14-year-old boy "jumped off the wall and began to struggle in the water before disappearing below the surface" in an area near East Chicago's lakeside Joerse Park.

Emergency officials were called to the scene Monday afternoon and the boy was later pulled from the water, but he was pronounced dead at a hospital, the Department of Natural Resources said.

The Lake County Coroner's Office identified the boy as K'Mari Mack of East Chicago and ruled the cause of death as asphyxia due to drowning. (AP)

**University gets \$2.5m grant:** The effect of exercise on aging will be studied at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, thanks to a \$2.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reports that **Kevin Murach**, an assistant professor in the university's College of Education and Health Professions, will serve as principal investigator on the project.

The work will focus on the role of a protein called MYC in the process by which exercise can reduce the decline of skeletal muscle as a person ages. Murach said in a news release that he has long been interested in how exercise can prevent aspects of aging.

"This is all in mouse models, but we have evidence from humans that this factor in muscle goes up as well with exercise, but it tends to go up less in aged muscle," Murach said. "We think that if we can drive it, we can basically 'rejuvenate' muscle and try to get older muscle to appear young again." (AP)

**UK rejoining EU's program:** Britain is rejoining the European Union's \$100 billion science-sharing program Horizon

Europe, the two sides announced Thursday, more than two years after the country's membership became a casualty of

Brexit.

British scientists expressed relief at the decision, the latest sign of thawing rela-



This photo provided by researchers shows a white-tipped sicklebill (*Eutoxeres aquila*) in San Vito, Costa Rica, in February 2018. Though a forest specialist, this bird often ventures into diversified farms in search of specific flower species that match the shape of its bill. (AP)

tions between the EU and its former member nation.

After months of negotiations, the British government said the country was becoming a "fully associated member" of the research collaboration body UK-based scientists can bid for Horizon funding starting Thursday and will be able to lead Horizon-backed science projects starting in 2024. Britain is also rejoining Copernicus, the EU space program's Earth observation component.

"The EU and UK are key strategic partners and allies, and today's agreement proves that point," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who signed off on the deal during a call with Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** on Wednesday. "We will continue to be at the forefront of global science and research."

The EU blocked Britain from Horizon during a feud over trade rules for Northern Ireland, the only part of the UK that shares a border with an EU member, the Republic of Ireland.

The two sides struck a deal to ease those tensions in February, but Horizon negotiations have dragged on over details of how much the UK will pay for its membership. (AP)



## Leo, Bonmati lead Ballon d'Or nominee lists, CR7 misses cut

## Ronaldo reflects on Messi rivalry ahead of playing for Portugal

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia, Sept. 7, (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo has been in reflective mood as he brings up 20 years in Portugal's national team, saying he and great rival Lionel Messi "changed the history of soccer" and that he still wants to raise the bar at the age of 38. Ronaldo's debut for Portugal was in August 2003 and two decades later the most prolific scorer in men's internationals — with 123 goals in a record 200 games — will be playing for the team in a European Championship qualifier at Slovakia. "I am proud of the numbers I reached. But I want more," Ronaldo said. "When I play, the bar has to be up here, I want to think big." On his rivalry with Messi, Ronaldo added: "If you like Cristiano Ronaldo, you don't have to hate Messi. We are both very good. We changed the history of soccer. We are respected all over the world. That is the most important thing. He has marked his path, I have marked mine." Portugal has won all four of its group games and is two points ahead of second-place Slovakia. Elsewhere, Bosnia-Herzegovina hosts Liechtenstein and Iceland visits Luxembourg.

Spain visits Georgia needing to keep in touch with group leader Scotland, which will play at Cyprus. Spain will play its first match since the president of the Spanish soccer federation was suspended by FIFA for his conduct at the Women's World Cup final where he kissed a player without her consent. Spain men's coach Luis de



Belgium's Yannick Carrasco (left), vies for the ball with Croatia's Josip Juranovic during the World Cup group F soccer match between Croatia and Belgium at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar. Belgium midfielder Yannick Carrasco was transferred to Al-Shabab FC from Atletico Madrid. (AP)

la Fuente has apologized for the support he showed for federation chief Luis Rubiales during a speech he gave two weeks ago that included the claim he was a victim of a "witch hunt" by "false feminists."

## SOCCER

De la Fuente has since condemned Rubiales' acts and words. In Group A, Spain has three points from two games played, while Scotland leads with 12 points after winning all four of its

matches. Spain is behind in the number of games played because it participated in and won the Nations League finals in June.

It has been a disrupted start to qualifying for Croatia after a surprise draw against Wales and a win against current group leader Turkey in its opening two games in Group D. The country's involvement in the Nations League in June means it is playing catch up, having only played two qualifying games, compared to Turkey's four. Croatia hosts Latvia on Friday and can move up to second in the standings depend-

## Gray joins Al-Ettifaq on Saudi transfer deadline day

LIVERPOOL, England, Sept. 7, (AP) — Everton winger Demarai Gray became the latest player to join the exodus to Saudi Arabia after signing for Al-Ettifaq on Thursday on the final day of the country's transfer window.

The Jamaica international moved for an undisclosed fee and signed a four-year contract.

He follows a slew of stars from Europe's top leagues who have headed to the lucrative Saudi League in recent months. Marquee names like Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Karim Benzema have all taken up the riches on offer as Saudi has

embarked on a spectacular recruitment drive.

The 27-year-old Gray joined Everton from German team Bayer Leverkusen in 2021. He made 75 appearances and scored 12 goals for the Premier League club.

"There has been a lot of speculation about my situation all summer," Gray posted on Instagram. "The truth is, I gave my all to this club on and off the pitch through good and bad. I was ready to play as much football as possible this season but it felt like this was not going to happen. It's time for my next chapter."

ent on the result between the top two, Turkey and Armenia. Croatia was a bronze medalist at the World Cup in Qatar last year.

Seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi is back in contention for the prestigious award a year after being omitted from the nomination list, which this time doesn't include longtime rival Ronaldo.

Messi, the Inter Miami star who led Argentina to the World Cup title in December, was named on Wednesday to the 30-man list of nominees along with Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappé.

Ronaldo, a five-time winner who now plays for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia, missed the cut for the first time since 2003.

The winner will be announced on Oct. 30.

France Football magazine has given out the award to men every year since 1956 and to women each year since 2018 — when Ada Hegerberg became the first female winner — though both were canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic.

Aitana Bonmati, who last week was named the UEFA women's player of the year, is one of six female nominees from Spain. Bonmati led Spain to the Women's World Cup title last month.

"Grateful & proud to be nominated alongside great players," Bonmati said on social media.

Two-time winner Alexia Putellas didn't make the women's list after missing time with an ACL injury.

Haaland, who scored 52 goals for treble-winning Manchester City last season, is one of seven City players on the men's list. The others: Rodri, Julian Alvarez, Ruben Dias, Josko Gvardiol,

Kevin De Bruyne, and Bernardo Silva.

Three current Bayern Munich players were nominated: Harry Kane, Jamal Musiala and Kim Min-jae. Real Madrid also has three: Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham and Luka Modric.

Fifteen players are nominated for the first time. Last year's winner, Karim Benzema, was also nominated.

The England women's team that lost to Spain 1-0 in the World Cup final has four players nominated in Rachel Daly, Georgia Stanway, Millie Bright and Mary Earps. Olga Carmona, who scored the winner in the final, is also on the list.

Other notable names include Sam Kerr, Wendie Renard, Alexandra Popp, Fridolina Rolfö, Khadija Shaw, Assiat Oshoala, and Linda Caicedo.

Sophia Smith, a forward with the Portland Thorns, was the only United States player nominated.

## Pacers 'power' Pakistan to 7-wkt win over Bangladesh



Pakistan's Haris Rauf bowls during the Asia Cup cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

## Afridi gets key wicket of fit-again Das

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept. 7, (AP) — Pakistan's pace trio led by Haris Rauf shut down Bangladesh en route to a seven-wicket win in the first Super 4 game of Asia Cup.

The ODI tournament now moves to Sri Lanka, where Pakistan will play archrival India on Sunday for the second time after their group-stage game was abandoned because of rain. Bangladesh will face Sri Lanka on Saturday.

## CRICKET

Rauf (4-19) and Naseem Shah (3-34) dismantled Bangladesh's hopes of putting up a challenging total. Mushfiqur Rahim (64) and captain Shakib Al Hasan (53) combined in a century-stand before the innings folded at 193 in 38.4 overs. Bangladesh had won the toss and opted to bat.

Shaheen Shah Afridi (1-42) got the key wicket of fit-again Litton Das. Faheem Ashraf (1-27) capped a perfect day for Pakistan fast bowlers when he broke the 100-run partnership and had Al Hasan caught at deep square leg.

Half-centuries by Imam-ul-Haq

(78) and Mohammad Rizwan (63 not out) led Pakistan to 194-3 with more than 10 overs to spare.

"Credit to all the boys, especially how they are bowling in the first 10 overs," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said. "We saw the games and fast bowlers were getting a little bit (of) help ... winning always gives you confidence."

Imam survived three close leg before appeals as Bangladesh wasted both television referrals before the lefthander notched his fifth ODI half-century in the last eight games. Imam also successfully

overturned an onfield lbw decision against him through TV referral before he was finally clean bowled by Mehidy Hasan Miraz when he went for a slog sweep off a full pitched delivery.

Rizwan then took charge with his trademark sweep shots and couple of impressive inside out boundaries against the spinners over extra cover.

Fakhar Zaman struggled upfront to score 20 off 31 balls before he was trapped leg before wicket by Shoriful Islam in the last over of powerplay off a delivery that

nipped back into the left-hander and struck him on the back leg.

Taskin Ahmed then had Babar Azam bowled off a delivery that kept low as the Pakistan skipper played the ball back onto his stumps before Imam and Rizwan raised a match-winning 89-run stand.

Earlier, Mehidy chipped an easy catch to square leg off Naseem Shah's first ball before Bangladesh had scored. Das, playing his first match in the tournament, edged Afridi after playing a couple of impressive cover drives against the Pakistan pacers and Mohammad Naim was undone by Rauf's pace as Bangladesh slumped to 45-3 inside the batting powerplay.

Al Hasan and Mushfiqur then showed plenty of confidence against Pakistan pacers and the spinners, hitting 12 boundaries between them, before Ashraf finally got the breakthrough in the 30th over.

Rauf returned and had Mushfiqur and Taskin caught behind off successive deliveries and Naseem, who fell awkwardly on his shoulder and went off the field for six overs, returned and polished off the tail in quick time.

"On a wicket like this we shouldn't lose four wickets in the first 10 overs," Al Hasan said. "Very poor batting display on a surface like this, but we have to move on to the next one."



Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman bats during the Asia Cup cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

## 'We're ready to try to get it done'

## Long road winding down at, WC where semis await USA

MANILA, Philippines, Sept. 7, (AP) — This seemed so far away in the beginning. There was a week of training camp in Las Vegas for USA Basketball to get through, then a week in Spain, then a week in Abu Dhabi, the group stage of the World Cup, then the second round, then the quarterfinals. They've flown 14,000 miles, eaten more than 100 meals away from home, played 11 games, posed for countless photos.

All for this. The medal round at the Basketball World Cup is here.

The U.S. plays Germany on Friday night in the World Cup semifinals, with a berth in Sunday's gold-medal game awaiting the winner. It's a rematch of an exhibition from three weeks ago, when the U.S. rallied from 16 points down to win 99-91. Germany hasn't lost since and is the only team still unbeaten in this tournament.

## BASKETBALL

"Everything that we've done in preparation for the last five and a half weeks has been to get to this point," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "It's not like we're all of a sudden going to give them a Knute Rockne speech, even though none of them know who Knute Rockne was. But that speech wouldn't work anyway. Show them what we need to do, let them be themselves, that's the plan."

So, no fire-and-brimstone speech like the ones the old Notre Dame football coach remains famous for are coming. None should be needed, not with this summer's ultimate goal — the World Cup title — so close, and with the knowledge that Germany will come into this game truly believing it can win.

For good reason, too. Germany was better for long stretches of that exhibition game, then came unglued down the stretch. Anthony Edwards had 34 points, the U.S. pulled away with an 18-0 run, and that was barely enough to get the win.

"We're ready to get it done," Edwards said before practice Thursday. "We're ready to try to get it done."

Even though the U.S. is a heavy favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, nobody in the red, white and blue seems to be expecting a cakewalk.

The last four World Cup (or world championship, as it used to be called) winners have gone through the tournament undefeated: Spain in 2006, the U.S. in 2010 and 2014, Spain again in



Germany forward Daniel Theis (10), (left), scores a goal as Latvia forward Andrejs Gražulis (24) attempts to block during the Basketball World Cup quarterfinal between Germany and Latvia in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

2019. Germany is the only unbeaten team left in this tournament, now just two wins from what would be the biggest prize in its basketball history.

"It's crazy to be here, to be in the semifinals of the World Cup," Germany's Johannes Thiemann said. "I think it means a lot to the German basketball world. I think we were able last year to have a good run in the EuroBasket and now in the World Cup, I think that means a lot for our country."

There is familiarity with many of Germany's best players. Toronto guard Dennis Schroder has been in the NBA for a decade, most recently with the Los Angeles Lakers. ("He's my guy," Schroder said of U.S. guard Austin Reaves, his former Lakers teammate. Countered Reaves: "I don't even like him," he said, very clearly joking.) U.S. forward Paolo Banchero is Orlando teammates with German brothers Franz and Moritz Wagner. U.S. guard Tyrese Haliburton is an Indiana teammate of German big man Daniel Theis.

Banchero has given the U.S. coaches his thoughts on Franz Wagner, who has missed much of the World Cup with an ankle issue but played a huge role in his team's win Wednesday over Latvia in the quarterfinals.

"I'm sure he's done the same over there," Banchero said. "But any way I can help, knowing him and his brother ... I'm not going to be too specific on it, but just some stuff that obviously I know about him. He's a great player. You're not going to be able to stop him, but just to slow him down."

## Sexton back from suspension

France, Sept. 7, (AP) — Top-ranked Ireland begins its bid to win the Rugby World Cup for the first time with flyhalf Jonathan Sexton back from suspension and flanker Josh van der Flier, the reigning world player of the year, given a rest for the team's opening pool match against Romania on Saturday.

Sexton has served a three-match suspension for aggressive behavior toward match officials at Leinster's loss to La Rochelle in the European Cup final in May and comes straight back into Andy Farrell's team as captain.

Van der Flier will start among the reserves for what should be the easiest of the four Pool B matches for the Irish while there was no Mack Hansen in the matchday squad, with Keith Earls starting instead on the wing.

Ireland is missing three forwards because of injury — hooker Dan Sheehan and back rower Jack Conan (both foot) and prop Dave Kilcoyne (hamstring).

Joe McCarthy is one of six in the team making a World Cup debut and slots in the second row, with Tadhg Beirne starting at No. 6.

New Zealand-born Hinckley Vaovasa will start at flyhalf for Romania for just the second time and will form a halves partnership with Gabriel Rupanu, who starts because Florin Surugiu has not recovered from injury.

Vaovasa has previously started at

center, fullback and on the wing since making his debut for Romania in 2021.

Romania's last warmup match was a 57-7 loss to Italy and there are three changes from that game, with one coming in the back as flanker Florian Rosu comes in for Damian Stratila.

## RUGBY

## Lineups:

Ireland: Hugo Keenan, Keith Earls, Garry Ringrose, Bundee Aki, James Lowe, Jonathan Sexton, Jamison Gibson-Park; Caelan Doris, Peter O'Mahony, Tadhg Beirne, James Ryan, Joe McCarthy, Tadhg Furlong, Ron Herring, Andrew Porter. Reserves: Roman Kelleher, Jeremy Loughman, Tom O'Toole, Iain Henderson, Josh van der Flier, Conor Murray, Jack Crowley, Robbie Henshaw.

Romania: Marius Simionescu, Nicolas Onutu, Fonovai Tangimana, Jason Tomane, Tevita Manumua, Hinckley Vaovasa, Gabriel Rupanu; Cristian Chirica (captain), Vlad Neculau, Florian Rosu, Stefan Iancu, Adrian Motoc, Alexandru Gordas, Ovidiu Jocotaru, Iulian Hartig. Reserves: Florin Bardasu, Alexandru Savin, George Gajion, Marius Iftimiciuc, Dragos Ser, Alin Conache, Tudor Boldor, Taylor Gontineac.



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, returns a shot to Andrey Rublev, of Russia, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

## Alcaraz closes in on 2nd consecutive title

Medvedev overcomes 'brutal' US Open heat to reach semis

**NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP):** Carlos Alcaraz found himself in a hint of a predicament 35 minutes into his U.S. Open quarterfinal against Alexander Zverev on Wednesday night.

At 3-all in the first set under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium, Zverev earned the first break points of the match. An opening. An opportunity to gain an early edge against the defending champion. And then - poof! - gone. Alcaraz dismissed those chances to hold, then gained a break himself in the next game by depositing an overhead that bounced into the stands. One more service hold arrived and, just like that, the set belonged to Alcaraz, as did, eventually, a spot in the semifinals.

The top-seeded Alcaraz pushed aside Zverev 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 and moved a step closer to becoming the first man to win consecutive titles at Flushing Meadows since Roger Federer collected five in a row from 2004-08.

### TENNIS

But the 12th-seeded Zverev, a 26-year-old German who was the runner-up at the 2020 U.S. Open, said he felt something bothersome in his left hamstring area early in the second set. And because of that, he explained, sprinting and pushing off properly to serve became problematic.

There have not been many instances in which anyone has managed to slow down Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain, in any real way over the past year-plus of Grand Slam action.

He improved to 24-1 in his past four major tournaments: After the championship in New York 12 months ago, he sat out the Australian Open with a leg injury, made it to the semifinals of the French Open before cramping up in a loss to Novak Djokovic, and added the Wimbledon trophy by beating Djokovic in the final, before the run over these two weeks.

There could be an Alcaraz vs. Djokovic rematch in Sunday's final.

Yes, first things first. Alcaraz will take on 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev in the final four on Friday, while 23-time Slam champ Djokovic faces unseeded Ben Shelton, a 20-year-old American who's never been this far at a major.

On a sweltering evening, Alcaraz showed off several aspects of his varied game against Zverev.

The powerful forehands that elicit gasps from the crowd. The delicate drop shots. The hammered returns. The all-court speedy coverage. The willingness to try - and ability to succeed on - shots others wouldn't even consider.

If those potentially outcome-altering junctures as "normal point; try to do the things that I was doing well. Trying to play my style, trying to (be) aggressive."

He wound up gathering 11 of 13 points in the stretch that closed the opening set, in part by picking on Zverev's second serve.

It was a perfect return on a 129 mph (208 kph) first serve that led to a cross-court backhand winner by Alcaraz for the break that tilted the second set his way at 2-1. While Zverev was being tended to by a trainer after that set, Alcaraz whiled away the time by twirling his racket as if it were a baton.

Soaked with sweat as the temperature neared 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 Celsius) on the hottest day at this year's U.S. Open, 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev walked slowly to towel off between points of his victory Wednesday, looked into a court-side camera and issued what sounded like a mix between a warning and a plea.

"You cannot imagine," he said. "One player (is) gonna die, and they're gonna see."

"The only thing that is a little bit, let's call it dangerous, is that the question is: How far could we go?" Medvedev, a 27-year-old Russian seeded No. 3, said after eliminating Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the semifinals at Flushing Meadows for the fourth time.

"I'm not sure what can we do. Because probably we cannot stop the tournament for four days - because it's been, what, three, four days it's been brutal like this? - because then it basically ruins everything: the TV, even the tickets, everything. It ruins everything," said Medvedev, who said he needed an ice bath and some-



Kuwaiti players vie for the ball during the U-23 Asian Cup qualifier between Kuwait and Timor-Leste.

KUNA photo

Iraq rout Macao 13-0

## Kuwait open U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers with 4-0 victory

Renewed working agreement signed through 2030

## European clubs 'renew' UEFA deal and will share in \$4.7 bln revenue for competitions

GENEVA, Sept 7, (AP): With billions in prize money to distribute from the revamped Champions League next year, UEFA plans to pay more based on merit and share more among teams across Europe that don't qualify.

The formula announced Wednesday for distributing money to hundreds of clubs should reduce the guaranteed cash currently paid to wealthy clubs with storied pasts.

UEFA and the influential European Club Association signed a renewed working agreement through 2030.

The accord in place since 2008 aims to ensure stability in European soccer, though it did not prevent 12 storied ECA members from trying to launch the Super League in 2021. That project effectively tried to re-

place the Champions League in a grab for more money and control but failed within 48 hours.

The Champions League is being revamped next year with 36 teams instead of 32, each guaranteed eight games, and total commercial revenue of 4.4 billion euros (\$4.72 billion) projected Wednesday by UEFA for its men's club competitions.

### SOCCER

That is about an 18% increase on this season's total of more than 3.73 billion euros (\$4 billion) of combined gross income for the Champions League, Europa League - which also gets 36 teams - and third-tier Europa Conference League.

However, it is below the "4.6 to 4.8" billion euros range suggested by UEFA just four months ago after a first wave of broadcast deals for the 2024-27 seasons had performed well in Britain, France and the United States.

UEFA and ECA have long faced criticism for seeming to skew too much prize money toward elite clubs and helping widen a wealth gap across European soccer.

Seeking to turn that trend Wednesday, UEFA said more of the current gross revenue estimate - 7% instead of 4% - will be paid to clubs that do not qualify for European competitions.

"A central element of this agreement is the shared priority to nurture European club football at every level," UEFA said.

who exited in the fourth round.

As for the weather? Sabalenka, a 25-year-old from Belarus, said her

training base in the United States prepared her well for the heat and humidity, which rose above Sa-

balenka will meet 2017 U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys, an American who saved all nine break points



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, returns a shot to Alexander Zverev, of Germany, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Olympic football squad secured a winning start at the Group F of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qatar 2024 Qualifiers, defeating Timor-Leste 4-0.

The encounter, hosted at Kuwait Sports Club Stadium, saw Hamad Al-Taweel taking the lead with a neat heading in the seventh minute.

Midfielder Talal Al-Qaisi doubled Kuwait's lead in minute 45 from.

In the second half, Mohsen Falah scored the third from outside the box at minute 53 to dash Timor-Leste's hope for a comeback.

The substitute Salman Albous netted the fourth for the Blue at minute 80.

### SOCCER

At another Group F encounter, Iraq squashed Macao 13-0 to lead the group ranking.

In the second round of the qualifiers, due on Saturday Kuwait is set to face Macao while Iraq will face Timor-Leste.

□ □ □

Deputy Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Football Association Hayef Al-Mutairi declared on Wednesday that the Premier League would resume on September 27 by holding the third round matches.

Al-Mutairi said in a press release that the games had stopped in the second round because the national team was tied with friendly matches abroad and the Olympic team was participating in the finals of the Asian Cup for under-23 players in addition to Asia Cup, due on the 19th of the current month.

she faced during a 6-1, 6-4 victory over reigning Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova. The other women's semifinal will be No. 6 Coco Gauff against No. 10 Karolina Muchova; they won their quarterfinals Tuesday.

"It's going to be a lot of hard hitting, not a lot of long points," said Keys, who lost to Sabalenka at Wimbledon in July. "Just going to try to buckle up and get as many balls back as I can."

Keys vs. Vondrousova was interrupted for eight minutes at deuce in the first game, when a spectator in the lower level needed medical attention. Keys brought two towels and a bottle of water over to where the fan was being helped. The U.S. Tennis Association said the episode was not heat-related.

Medvedev won nine of his 15 return games against Rublev, who is now 0-9 in major quarterfinals.

Now Medvedev gets some time to try to recover.