

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com

NO. 18387 16 PAGES **150 FILS**

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2023 / SAFAR 23-24, 1445 AH

emergency number 112

Other Voices

Human-centric view need of the hour

By H.E. Narendra Modi

Prime Minister of India

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

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

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 devel-

oping 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 per-



Prime Minister of India H.E. Narendra Modi

manent 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

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

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 ben-

efits 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 longterm health. Just like Yoga became a global mass movement for wellness, we have also nudged the world with Lifestyles

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.

for Sustainable Environment (LiFE).

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

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)

The Conversation

Murals highlight recent activism

Resilience in Iran street art

By Pouya Afshar

recent rise in activism in Iran has added a 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

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

Bill seeks to regulate surveillance cameras

Answers sought on VAT

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: MPs Abdullah Al-Anbai, Hamad Al-Elyan, Muhannad Al-Sayer, Hamad Al-Medlei 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 surveil-

lance 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 un-

solved 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.'

'Resources belong to Kuwait & Saudi'

RIYADH, Sept 7, (KUNA): The GCC foreign ministers affirmed on Thursday that the natural resources in the submerged 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

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 submerged 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 Rivadh.

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

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 meas-

ure the speed and makeup of what lies between galaxies.

the rocket flew up in a burst of smoke then flew over

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)

Continued on Page 5



SPECIAL REPORT



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



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

A window of IMA.

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

editor's choice



Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to northerly wind with speeds of 12-

By Night: Hot to rather hot and humid with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light vari-

Weather

able wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station **Max Exp** Min Rec **Kuwait City** 35 **Kuwait Airport** 30 34 35 Abdaly Salmiyah Ahmadi Nuwaisib Wafra

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

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-Mu-

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 dis-

The building is a mixture of so-phisticated 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 Île 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 mar-

tyr'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)

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 hotling 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.

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 liveli-

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 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

Arbash

and it was signed by all the Gulf states.

because, as I mentioned, there is a Gulf agreement

Finally, Al-Abrash 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

Meanwhile, Khaled Al-Enezi, the head of the Al-Mutla'a Families Committee, told thes 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."

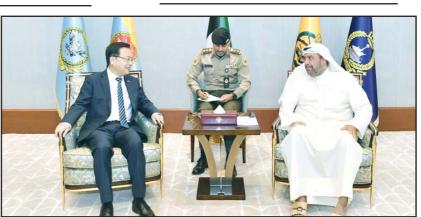
Furthermore, a faculty member at the College of Basic Education Dr. Jalal Al-Rashed said, "There is absolutely no doubt that the entire VAT bill will be borne by the consumer alone!

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

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."



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 Bogammaz, 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 state-

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 landline service

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

plaints 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.



Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com 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.



KUNA photo

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, Ab-

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

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.

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

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 distrib-

uted 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.

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 do-nors 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.



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

Promo period from 1st - 30th September 2023

Terms & conditions apply*



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

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

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: In-

quire about the company's Web hosting

provider and their reputation. Past security

incidents might necessitate a change in 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, Turkiye 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 announce-

"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 actorsrequires additional investmentsin digital business solutions, toolsand 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.

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com www.albander.com | fi@@albanderhotelandresort

طيوانية 🕈 diwaniya

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 smallscale 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 tainment 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

ferent approach than in previous years, so there will be no toler-

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

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 difance for those who violate the

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 Maqsid, 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.

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

However, the defendant

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.

ARAB (*) TIMES

Speed up payment of excellent job bonus: Mol

MoU inked to control prices, prevent manipulation

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 collaborative 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

Summit, scheduled to be held on

September 18 and 19 in New York.

The summit will discuss the achievements made by the offices of international organizations in Kuwait regarding sustainable development goals in cooperation with various state agencies, Mahdi added. He also noted that the summit will address global developments and future strategic challenges related to the 17 sustainable development goals, measure global strategies, stimulate international cooperation, and accelerate measures to confront pressing global issues.

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 enhancing 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

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

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

Resilience in

of consumers.

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)



revolutionizing AI computation: Introducing custom mass multiplication circuits

Gigantor Technologies Inc - In a ground-breaking 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 Al 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/

EGX 30

UAE

EGYP1

Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence Al 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, enabling 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 Al ad-

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 Al 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 Al and delivering solutions that make a real-world impact. For more information, visit gigantor. com (Business Wire)

Market Movements

Change Closing pts 4,058.95 19,375.68

PAKISTAN - KSE 100 PHILIPPINES - PSEi Tadawul

07-09-2023

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 far 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.

Change Closing pts

32,991.08

45,741.46

6,183.07

11,215.56

-0.75

-0.21

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 expectaions 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 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 meet-

ing later this month. But they're betting on a nearly coin flip's chance of another crease 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 dis-

couraging 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 7419.42. The CAC 40 in Paris gained 2 points to 7,196.75.

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 mar-

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 yoyoed this week on news about Chinese policy changes for the property sector, declined on selling of tech shares. It fell .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.

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

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

\$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 Mex-

The U.S. can't afford to take 12

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 genera-The Biden administration has set

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



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.



procedures for them with ease.

throughout the country.



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

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

The new office's distinct and easyto-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

receiving enquiries and comments from customers, including Oasis Club



Cutting the inaugural cake.

Al 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 You-Tube 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 audio 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 AIgenerated ad meant to show the future of the United States if President Joe Biden is reelected. It employed fake but realistic photos showing boardedup storefronts, armored military patrols in the streets, and waves of immigrants creating panic.

In June, DeSantis' campaign shared an attack ad against his GOP primary opponent Donald Trump that used AIgenerated 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 creating 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 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.

ergy infrastructure, Armistead said.

He pointed to Europe and China,

years to "create this type of solution" given the growing need for more en-

BUSINESS

INVESTMENT STRATEGY & RESEARCH

KANCO INVEST

GCC Markets Monthly Report ----- August 2023

Global markets see biggest monthly slide this year on hawkish Fed, ...

GCC equity markets witnessed its first decline in three months taking cues from the worst monthly performance in global equity markets this year. Despite a second half recovery, the MSCI World index was down 3.6% during August-2023 after a hawkish Fed led to fears of higher for longer rates with some economists even pricing-in another rate hike this year and the first cut deep into next year. Weak data coming from China also affected sentiments across the board that got exacerbated by probability of a continued rate hike by the ECB in September-2023. China's economic activity continued to slide with manufacturing activity contracting for the fifth consecutive month as government reforms and new targeted policies are yet to have a meaningful impact on markets and sentiments.

The MSCI GCC Index witnessed a slightly steeper decline of 3.8% during the month led by fall in four out of seven exchanges, including in Saudi Arabia. The decline came despite oil seeing gains for the third consecutive month on supply cuts and steady demand data. Qatar was the worst performing market in the GCC during August-2023 with a slide of 7.0% led by decline in almost all indices on the exchange. Kuwait and Bahrain followed with declines of 3.4% and 2.0% while Saudi's TASI was down by 1.7%. The declines in Qatar wiped off all gains since the start of the year to report the biggest decline in the GCC at 4.6% followed by Abu Dhabi and Kuwait both at 3.9% declines. On the other hand, Dubai was the best performing market with a YTD-2023 gain of 22.4% followed by Saudi Arabia at 9.7%.

The GCC sector chart showed declines in most sectors with Healthcare leading at –11.6% followed by F&B and Telecom. Banks and Material were down by 3.9% and 2.9%, respectively, while Insurance and Energy showed gains of 5.9% and 4.4%, respectively.

Boursa Kuwait

31-Dec-22

31-Jan-23

28-Feb-23

Boursa Kuwait closed August-2023 with the second-biggest monthly decline of 3.4% to close at 7,005.84 points led by consistent declines during the month . The decline was mainly led by large-cap stocks including Banks with the corresponding index reporting the third-biggest decline this month. In terms of market segments, the Premier Market Index witnessed the biggest monthly decline of 4.5% during August-2023 as the performance of most of the constituent stocks in the index declined. The Main 50 Index and the Main Market Index reported relatively small monthly gain of 1.1%. The declines affected YTD-2023 performance for the market with the All-Share Index showing the second-biggest decline in the GCC at -3.9%. The Premier Market index declined by 5.2% since the start of the year, whereas the Main 50 Index receded 1.5% vs. 1.7% gain for the Main Market Index

The sector performance chart highlighted the negative trends in the market with a majority of the sectors witnessing declines during the month. The Consumer Discretionary Index dropped the most by 7.0% led by decline in 9 out of 13 stocks in the sector. Shares of Jazeera Airways dropped 16.5% while Sultan Center dropped by 12.9% with minimal trades in the stock. The Industrials index was the second biggest decliner at -6.1% followed by Banks with a decline of 4.0%. Large-cap indices like Banking and Telecom witnessed declines during the month despite posting strong earnings for 1H-2023. The Telecom index declined marginally by 0.8% reflecting decline in 3 out of 4 constituent stocks in the index with Hayat communication leading the decline with a drop of 3.8%.

The gainer's side was topped by the Health Care and Insurance indices with gains of 6.3% and 3.3%, respectively. Gains in the Healthcare sector came mainly on the back of 9.2% surge in the shares of Al-Maidan Clinic. The performance of the Insurance index was supported by gains of 17.2% in Kuwait Reinsurance.

In terms of monthly stock performance, Al Masaken International Real Estate topped the chart with a gain of 67.5% followed by Dar Al Thuraya Real Estate and Arabi Holding with gains of 32.6% and 29.4%, respectively. On the decliners' side, Jazeera Airways topped with a fall of 16.5% followed by Al TAMEER Real Estate and Sultan Center with declines of 14.6% and 12.9%, respectively. Trading activity declined during the month with monthly volume declining by 14.9% to reach 3.7 Bn shares as compared to 4.4 Bn shares during the previous month, while monthly value traded declined by 11.9% to KWD 796.8 Mn as compared to KWD 904.8 Mn during August-2023. Shares of KFH topped the value traded chart with total trades worth KWD 127.5 Mn followed by NBK and IFA at KWD 73.6 Mn and KWD 43.5 Mn, respectively.

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

Saudi Arabia's headline equity index, TASI, reported monthly decline during August-2023 reflecting recent earnings announcements that affected investor sentiments despite elevated energy prices. The benchmark TASI peaked at a closing high of 11,636 points at the beginning of the month but mostly trended downward during the rest of the month to close with a decline of 1.7% at 11,491.2 points. However, Saudi Arabia ranked second in the GCC in terms of YTD-2023 performance with a gain of 9.7%. During the month, Saudi Arabia's Lumi, one of the largest auto rental firms in the Kingdom and a wholly-owned unit of Seera Group, announced plans to proceed with an IPO on the Saudi Exchange. The firm set its IPO price range between SAR 62 and SAR 66 per share. Lumi expects to issue 16.5 Mn existing shares, resulting in a free float of 30%.

The monthly sector performance chart favored decliners during August-2023. The Health Care Equipment & Svc sector witnessed the steepest decline of 13.5% followed by the Commercial & Professional Svc and Food & Beverages indices with declines of 9.3% and 8.6%, respectively. The gainers side was led by the Software & Services index with a double-digit gain of 13.1% followed by Energy and Consumer Services with gains of 7.6% and 6.3%, respectively. Gains for the Software & Services sector was led by 25.0% gain in shares of Elm Co. and 8.0% gain in shares of Perfect Presentation for Commercial Services Co. In the Energy sector, Shares of Aramco gained by 7.7% during the month. Meanwhile, large-cap sectors like Bank and Telecommunication Services reported monthly declines of 4.5% and 4.8%, respectively. In the Telecom sector, two out of four constituent stocks declined with STC KSA leading with a decline of 6.1%. The Banking sector witnessed the steep declines across all its constituent stocks.

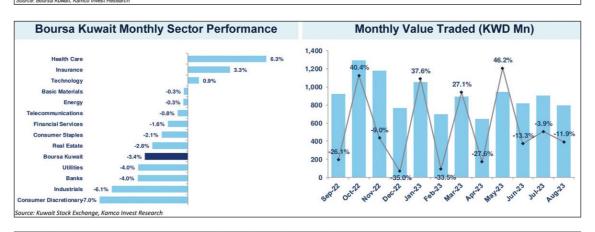
The monthly gainer's chart was topped by Cenomi Retail with a gain of 36.7% followed by Etihad Atheeb Telecommunication Co. and Arabian Pipes Co. with gains of 35.2% and 32.0%, respectively. On the decliner's side, Development Works Food Co. topped with a decline of 24.9% followed by Dallah Healthcare Co. with a decline of 20.6%. Trading activity on the exchange declined during the month. Monthly volume of shares traded dropped by 19.3% m-o-m in August-2023 to reach 4.9 Bn shares





Monthly Indicators	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Premier Market Index	7,949.9	8,190.9	8,491.9	8,115.7	8,085.4	8,069.8	7,821.7	7,912.5	7,494.7	7,809.3	8,060.9	7,695.2
Monthly % Change	(7.5%)	3.0%	3.7%	(4.4%)	(0.4%)	(0.2%)	(3.1%)	1.2%	(5.3%)	4.2%	7.6%	(4.5%)
Main 50 Index	5,511.4	5,648.8	5,829.7	5,719.0	5,725.5	5,703.1	5,593.1	5,644.1	5,365.8	5,375.0	5,574.1	5,634.2
Monthly % Change	(10.3%)	2.5%	3.2%	(1.9%)	0.1%	(0.4%)	(1.9%)	0.9%	(4.9%)	0.2%	3.9%	1.1%
Main Market Index	5,338.4	5,489.6	5,681.3	5,596.8	5,623.4	5,548.7	5,500.8	5,606.4	5,440.8	5,463.6	5,630.1	5,692.6
Monthly % Change	(9.0%)	2.8%	3.5%	(1.5%)	0.5%	(1.3%)	(0.9%)	1.9%	(3.0%)	0.4%	3.5%	1.1%
All Share Market Index	7,105.7	7,318.4	7,584.6	7,292.1	7,277.3	7,244.4	7,050.8	7,142.5	6,796.8	7,029.8	7,253.8	7,005.8
Monthly % Change	(7.8%)	3.0%	3.6%	(3.9%)	(0.2%)	(0.5%)	(2.7%)	1.3%	(4.8%)	3.4%	6.7%	(3.4%)
Market Cap (KWD Mn)	45,489	46,882	48,663	46,745	46,706	46,423	45,130	43,989	40,228	41,615	42,939	41,580
P/E (X) - TTM	16.20	16.34	20.39	19.66	17.99	17.94	16.72	14.10	13.10	13.41	13.85	13.30
P/BV (X) - TTM	1.63	1.66	1.74	1.67	1.67	1.66	1.09	0.80	0.79	0.82	0.85	0.80
Dividend Yield (%)	2.94%	2.86%	2.71%	2.83%	3.45%	3.46%	3.59%	2.76%	2.97%	2.88%	3.01%	3.10%
Volume (Mn Shares)	3,618.7	3,771.0	4,763.3	2,926.4	3,668.5	2,297.8	2,553.4	2,131.3	2,986.1	3,444.8	4,354.4	3,706.0
Value (KD Mn)	920.0	1,291.8	1,176.1	764.5	1,052.2	699.7	889.3	643.9	941.2	815.9	904.8	796.8
Trades ('000)	209.7	237.6	232.6	159.1	211.6	153.1	181.3	151.3	209.3	169.7	218.3	228.0

31-Jul-23



Monthly Indicators	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Tadawul All Share Index	11,405.3	11,667.8	10,896.9	10,478.5	10,792.9	10,102.7	10,590.1	11,307.8	11,014.1	11,459.0	11,692.2	11,491.2
Monthly % Change	(7.1%)	2.3%	(6.6%)	(3.8%)	3.0%	(6.4%)	4.8%	6.8%	(2.6%)	4.0%	2.0%	(1.7%)
Market Cap (SAR Bn)	10,832.9	10,731.1	10,216.8	9,867.1	10,148.5	9,721.6	9,985.1	11,033.4	10,584.4	10,907.8	11,012.6	11,517.5
P/E (X) - TTM	18.84	18.63	16.89	16.24	17.26	16.14	16.55	17.73	17.24	17.25	18.30	19.24
P/BV (X) - TTM	2.38	2.39	2.20	2.11	2.22	2.08	2.18	2.25	2.14	2.14	2.25	2.21
Dividend Yield (%)	2.48%	2.47%	2.64%	2.73%	2.68%	2.88%	3.12%	2.93%	3.01%	3.06%	2.89%	3.21%
Volume (Mn Shares)	2,746.2	3,156.1	2,621.9	3,673.4	3,299.2	2,930.4	3,760.8	3,099.6	4,676.5	4,073.2	6,021.0	4,859.6
Value (SAR Mn)	108,613.8	116,297.7	103,896.0	82,813	89,620	73,814	106,090	88,907	136,000	100,090	141,125	125,035
Trades ('000)	6,598	6,782	6,585	6,628	6,771	5,809	7,514	5,856	8,977	6,725	9,125	8,457



Monthly Indicators	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
ADX General Index	9,750.82	10,412.25	10,552.37	10,211.09	9,811.56	9,844.81	9,430.25	9,789.17	9,406.57	9,550.40	9,787.13	9,810.21
Monthly % Change	(1.3%)	6.8%	1.3%	(3.2%)	(3.9%)	0.3%	(4.2%)	3.8%	(3.9%)	1.5%	2.5%	0.2%
Market Cap (AED Bn)	2,158.1	2,379.1	2,615.3	2,580.3	2,493.5	2,448.9	2,685.9	2,678.3	2,624.4	2,638.7	2,776.8	2,832.9
P/E (X) - TTM	19.52	19.31	18.88	18.22	26.63	23.01	22.32	29.93	28.77	28.77	32.82	32.35
P/BV (X) - TTM	2.77	2.99	3.00	2.90	2.80	3.33	2.45	2.65	2.54	2.54	3.00	3.02
Dividend Yield (%)	2.04%	1.99%	1.97%	2.01%	2.09%	2.08%	1.86%	1.82%	1.90%	1.90%	1.72%	1.72%
Volume (Mn Shares)	17,449.4	4,780.1	6,865.8	5,680.1	3,990.1	3,934.7	4,062.4	3,269.2	5,621.0	3,312.7	5,212.1	5,424.5
Value (AED Mn)	53,360.8	24,906.3	35,546.9	53,204.2	29,876.6	27,889.6	35,303.9	18,004.7	26,096.4	16,766.5	20,204.5	23,330.3
Trades	250,271	229,906	337,251	242.687	255,722	221.695	245.883	178.525	281.925	221.814	261,173	323,303



as compared to 6.0 Bn shares during July-2023. Value of shares traded during the monthly declined by 11.4% to reach SAR 125.0 Bn during August-2023 as compared

to SAR 141.1 Bn during July-2023. Al-Baha Investment and Development Co. topped the monthly volume chart with 522.5 Mn shares followed by Aramco and Ameri-

cana Restaurants with 397.8 Mn shares and 391.0 Mn shares traded, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Aramco topped with SAR 13.5 Bn worth of shares traded during the month followed by Al Rajhi Bank and Saudi National Bank with trades worth SAR 5.4 Bn and SAR 4.8 Bn during the month, respectively.

SAR 4.8 Bn during the month, respectively.

In economic news, according to GASTAT data, Saudi Arabia's inflation fell by 2.3% in July compared to the previous month, reaching its lowest level in more than a year. The cost-of-living index increased to 109.68 points in July from 107.20 points the previous year. The increase in the consumer price index (CPI) in July was primarily driven by an 8.6% increase in the housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels category. Actual housing rentals increased by 10.3%.

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The FTSE ADX index edged up by 0.2% during August-2023 closing the month at 9,810.2 points and recording its third consecutive monthly gain. In terms of sectoral indices, the picture was even as five out of the ten sectors recorded growth during the month while the remaining five recorded declines. On the gainers' side, the Healthcare index witnessed the biggest monthly gain registering 19.3% growth to close the month at 3,607.9 points mainly due to Burjeel Holding's 27.5% share price growth during August-2023. The Consumer Discretionary index followed with 11.7% index gain to close the month at 9,131.1 points mainly due to the 17.3% share price gain of Abu Dhabi National Hotels Co. Three out of the five constituent companies of the Consumer Discretionary sector witnessed gains in share prices during the month. On the decliners' side, the Telecommunications index led the way with a 10.8% slide during the month to close the month at 4,946.2 points followed by the Consumer Staples index which witnessed a 3.4% fall during August-2023. Three out of the four companies in the Telecom index witnessed share price declines during the month including Ooredoo (-11.6%) and Etisalat

In terms of monthly stock performance, Burjeel Holdings topped the monthly gainers chart for August-2023 with a gain of 27.5% followed by Waha Capital and Umm Al Qaiwain General Investment Co which recorded gains of 23.5% and 22.5%, respectively. Burjeel Holdings recorded 47% higher profits in H1-2023 which reached AED 213.7 Mn due to revenue increase of the Burjeel's Medical City. On the decliner's side, Ooredoo lead the way registering 11.5% fall in its share price during August-2023 followed by Etisalat and Eshraq Investments which saw share price declines of 11.4% and 9.9%, respectively.

Trading activity increased m-o-m for the second consecutive month during August-2023. Total volume of shares traded rose by 4.1% in August-2023 to reach 5.4 Bn as compared to 5.2 Bn in July-2023. Similarly, total value of traded increased by 15.5% to reach AED 23.3 Bn. Multiply Group topped the list of the most active stocks table during the month with 843 Mn traded shares followed by RAK Properties and Eshraq Properties which traded 531.5 Mn shares and 503.7 Mn shares, respectively. In terms of value traded, IHC topped the table for the seventh month in a row with AED 4.9 Bn worth of shares changing hands during the month followed by Multiply Group and Alpha Dhabi Holding at AED 3.1 Bn and AED 2.6 Bn, respectively.

In economic news, the UAE non-oil foreign trade reached its highest ever point at USD 337.6 Bn during the first half of 2023 recording a 14.4% y-o-y growth rate. Underlining the fruits of the Emirates' economic diversification policies as the country continues its drive to diversify the economy from the over reliance on hydrocarbon exports. During the period, China topped the UAE's table of top global trading partners followed by India, USA, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The UAE's total non-oil exports increased by 11.9% to reach AED 205 Bn (USD 55.8 Bn) during 1H-2023, while the total value of re-exports and imports also witnessed a 9.9% to USD 92.8 Bn. According to UBS, the economy is poised to expand 3.5% in 2023 and 3.9% in 2024 mainly driven by strong demand for the Emirates hydrocarbon exports and energy investments. The UAE introduced a 9% corporate tax in 2023 on the back of 5% VAT in 2018. These tax measures are poised to support the Emirates public finances as well as reduce the economy's reliance on energy exports.

Dubai Financial Market

The DFM General Index witnessed a monthly gain of 0.6% during August-2023 to close at 4,082.87 points registering its fifth consecutive monthly gain. Monthly index performance was mixed during the month after five out of the eight indices witnessed declines during August-2023 while the remaining three indices saw gains to offset the overall decline during the month. The Consumer Staples Index recorded the biggest monthly gain for the second month running registering 7.4% growth to close the month at 153.2 points mainly driven by Emirate Refreshments' nearly 6.9% price gain during August-2023. The Industrial index followed as the second largest gainer during the month with 4.5% growth after the sector's three constituent companies led by Air Arabia Company recorded a 9.7% share price rise during August-2023. The Real Estate index also saw a gain of 2.7% to close the month at 6,865.6 points mainly driven by an 18% share price jump for Al Mazaya Holding Company. The Communications Services index was the biggest decliner among the indices recording 3.6% decline during the month to close the month at 898.0 points.

According to monthly stock performance from Bloomberg, Al Mazaya Holding led the monthly gainers table with 18% increase in share price followed by Emirates Investment Bank and Ekttitab Holding Properties with gains of 11.2% and 11%, respectively. On the decliner's side, Takaful Insurance Co. topped the table recording a share price decline of 25.6% during the month followed by Aramex and Dubai Islamic Insurance Co. with share price declines of 15.3% and 13.3%, respectively.

Trading activity in the DFM declined during August-2023. Total volume traded fell by 41.3% to reach 5.3 Bn shares as compared to 9.1 Bn shares during July-2023. The total value of shares traded during the month also witnessed a 13.8% drop to reach AED 9.9 Bn in August-2023 as compared to AED 11.5 Bn during July-2023. Union Properties topped the monthly volumes traded chart for the second month running recording 1.2 Bn shares which changed hands during the month followed by Ajman Bank and Shuaa Capital which saw 570.6 Mn and 476.4 Mn of their shares change hands during the month, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Emaar Properties topped the list with AED 1.6 Bn worth of shares changing hands during the month, followed by Ajman Bank and Emirates NBD which saw AED 1.3 Bn and AED 1.27 Bn value of their shares traded, respectively.

Continued on Page 8

BUSINESS

Zain RBM 2023



Zain unveils marketing partnership with Red Bull Mobile

Continuing its journey to present the best service offerings to Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers, Zain today unveils its exciting new marketing partnership with Red Bull Mobile, bringing together Zain's unmatchable and superior telecom experience together with the adventurous world of Red Bull.

This collaboration is set to unlock an incredible world of unlimited opportunities, where Zain leverages on its leadership in telecom and digital service offerings on Kuwait's most powerful 5G network, along with the energy and appeal of Red Bull, the globally renowned brand that connects with young people. Zain now offers spe-

cially designed plans to meet the needs of youth, while also giving them the chance to enjoy Red Bull's thrilling events and activities in Kuwait.

Under this exciting partnership, Zain offers a

number of flexible options for prepaid voice and internet services, including four ready-made plans designed to meet every customer's need, and a make-your-own plan option where customers can design their own unique plan. Additionally, customers can enjoy long-term perks like doubling and tripling benefits in the upcoming months and more. The new plans are available trom any of Zein's digital and physical phanals.

from any of Zain's digital and physical channels. This collaboration exceeds the traditional telecom experience, as it not only brings allnew service offerings to Zain customers, but also gives them the chance to be a part of Red Bull's limitless world of exciting experiences. The two partners are set to host events and 8

sports programs in Kuwait. Zain continues to stay ahead of the digital curve, offering the latest innovative technologies and services to customers. Representing Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers, the company is always committed to meeting customer expectations and serving their aspirations to provide the best and most unique digital lifestyle experiences.

Continued from Page 7

In economic news, Dubai's economic growth in 2023 accelerated supported by strong tourism numbers and robust real estate market. Dubai's Real GDP recorded a 2.8% y-o-y increase during Q1-2023. According to UAE government data Dubai's economy reached AED 111.3 Bn (USD 30.3 Bn) maintaining the strong growth of 2022 when the UAE economy expanded by 4.4%. Dubai's robust first quarter performance was attributed to the city's strong fundamentals, sustainability, and resilience. In terms of the contribution of the sectors of the economy, Dubai's Transportation and Storage Sectors were the highest contributors witnessing an overall growth rate of 48%. The Financial and Insurance sectors followed, recording growth of 15% and 10% growth respectively. On the other hand, the DFM witnessed the creation of over 34.8 thousand new investor accounts for the first eight months of 2023 vs. 23 thousand new investor accounts during the corresponding period of 2022.

Qatar Exchange

After posting gains during the previous month, the Qatar Stock Exchange reported the biggest m-o-m decline during August •2023. The QE 20 index closed the month at 10,194.7 points witnessing a decline of 7.0%, almost in-line with the performance of the Qatar All Share Index that reported a monthly decline of 6.7% to close at 3,436.68 points. With the decline during August -2023, the YTD-2023 returns for the QE 20 index was slashed to a decline of 4.6%, the biggest in the GCC, and the QE All Share index reported a YTD-2023 decline of 0.4%. In terms of listings, the month saw the listing of MEEZA in the Consumer Goods & Services sector, the third listing for the year.

In terms of sector performance, all the sectors of the exchange declined during August-2023 baring the Insurance index that gained 2.1% during the month. On the decliner's side, the Transportation index reported the biggest monthly decline of 10.5% followed by the Banks & Financial services and Real Estate Indices with declines of 8.2% and 7.7%, respectively. In the Transportation sector, all the constituent stocks declined during the month. The decline in the Banks & Financial Services came after most of the constituents reported declines, while Dukhan Bank reported a marginal gain of 1.2%. The decline in the Real Estate sector came after all the constituents reported a decline during the month. Shares of Mazaya Real Estate Development declined by 9.7% during the month along with 8.8% and 8.2% declines in shares of Ezdan Holding Group, and United Development Co., respectively. The Insurance sector recorded a monthly gain of 2.1% led by shares of Qatar Insurance and Qatar Islamic Insurance which were up by 5.4% and 3.8%, respectively, while shares of Doha Insurance and QLM Life & Medical Insurance declined by 7.4%. and 4.4%, respectively.

The monthly gainer's chart was topped by Gulf International Services with a gain of 27.1% followed by Dlala Brokerage & Investments and Qatar Insurance Co SAQ with gains of 13.2% and 5.4%, respectively. In terms of decliners, Mannai Corporation led with a monthly stock price decline by over 12.1% followed by Qatar Gas Transport and Qatar National Cement with declines of 12.1% and 11.9%, respectively.

Trading activity declined during August -2023 after witnessing gains during the previous month. Total volume of shares traded during the month declined by 9.6% to reach 3.7 Bn shares as compared to 4.1 Bn shares in the previous month. In terms of value traded. the decline was at 0.8% reaching QAR 9.87 Bn in August-2023 as compared to QAR 9.95 Bn in July -2023. Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. topped the monthly volume traded chart with 497.1 Mn shares followed by Mazaya Real Estate Development and Gulf International Services at 311.9 Mn shares and 300.3 Mn shares, respectively. On the value traded chart, QNB topped with QAR 1.1 Mn worth of trades followed by Dukhan Bank and Gulf International Services with aggregate trading at QAR 915.2 Mn and QAR 709.3 Mn, respectively. In 1H-2023 earning releases, Ooredoo Qatar reported net profit of QAR 1.79 Bn as compared to a net profit of QAR 1.50 Mn in 1H-2022 up by 19.8%. The Telco's revenue rose by 3% to QAR 11.4 Bn in 1H-2023. The customer base of Ooredoo Oatar reached 3 Mn, representing a 7% decrease compared to the previous year due to a change in definition of the prepaid base to 90-day active from 365-day

Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain Bourse All Share Index recorded the biggest monthly decline in five months during August-2023 with a fall of 2.0% to close the month at 1,952.2 points. In terms of sectoral performance, the picture was mixed since four out of the seven sector indices witnessed declines during the month. The Consumer Staples index recorded the biggest monthly decline in August • 2023 at -6.7% to close the month at 2,607.2 points. The Communications Services index was next with a decline of 5.5% to close the month at 2,493.9 points mainly due to the 3.5% drop in shares in Bahrain Cinema Company. On the other hand, the Materials index recorded a gain of 1.4% to close the month at 5,145.5 points solely due to the 1.4% monthly share price uptick of Aluminum Bahrain during August-2023.

In terms of share price performance, according to Bloomberg data, National Hotels Co topped the list of gainers with 5.6% share price gain during the month followed by Arab Insurance Group and Bahrain National Holding with gains of 4.7% and 4.2%, respec-





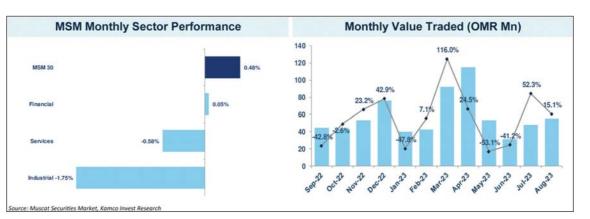
Monthly Indicators	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
QE 20 Index	12,695.3	12,414.4	11,926.0	10,681.1	10,932.3	10,571.0	10,212.6	10,181.2	10,154.8	10,074.6	10,963.0	10,194.7
Monthly % Change	(5.4%)	(2.2%)	(3.9%)	(10.4%)	2.4%	(3.3%)	(3.4%)	(0.3%)	(0.3%)	(0.8%)	8.0%	(7.0%)
Market Cap (QAR Bn)	705.3	694.7	669.5	608.2	619.9	610.5	592.5	590.4	604.3	592.2	642.1	602.1
P/E (X) - TTM	14.28	13.84	13.30	11.91	12.09	11.97	11.67	12.06	12.12	12.19	13.15	12.88
P/BV (X) - TTM	1.73	1.65	1.57	1.41	1.44	1.38	1.33	1.32	1.39	1.39	1.50	1.38
Dividend Yield (%)	3.52%	3.67%	3.82%	4.27%	4.17%	4.44%	4.73%	4.86%	4.87%	4.84%	4.51%	4.85%
Volume (Mn Shares)	3,186.1	3,640.5	2,542.3	1,867.7	3,025.7	2,614.8	3,097.9	2,454.2	6,489.8	3,387.7	4,088.3	3,695.8
Value (QAR Mn)	11,364.0	10,470.5	10,279.1	7,238.8	10,814.8	9,095.6	9,032.4	6,653.4	16,107.6	9,248.1	9,946.2	9,869.9
Trades	348,452	337,405	342,259	256,477	371,666	294,398	306,016	252,398	493,965	309,865	361,882	372,562



Monthly Indicators	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Bahrain All Share Index	1,881.99	1,864.65	1,864.91	1,895.27	1,928.24	1,931.83	1,886.61	1,904.39	1,963.51	1,957.87	1,992.41	1,952.16
Monthly % Change	(1.9%)	(0.92%)	0.01%	1.63%	1.74%	0.19%	(2.34%)	0.94%	3.10%	(0.29%)	1.76%	(2.02%)
Market Cap (BHD Mn)	12,322	25,088	32,712	32,639	32,835	33,355	32,589	32,399	32,172	31,731	32,965	32,426
P/E (X) - TTM	6.44	4.81	5.08	5.18	8.10	6.09	6.03	6.05	6.77	6.75	7.07	7.35
P/BV (X) - TTM	0.88	0.66	0.66	0.67	1.12	0.63	0.61	0.62	0.75	0.74	0.75	0.73
Dividend Yield (%)	5.64%	5.69%	5.69%	5.60%	5.50%	5.49%	6.53%	9.09%	8.82%	8.84%	7.67%	8.58%
Volume (Mn Shares)	30.2	47.2	29.7	25.5	34.7	59.8	152.7	58.7	79.2	56.7	49.8	67.8
Value (BHD Mn)	10.1	13.3	11.1	6.3	14.7	23.1	27.7	12.0	29.7	12.6	11.8	18.5
Trades	1,187	1,015	1,112	873	1,146	1,788	1,698	1,773	2,087	1,316	1,539	1,572



Monthly Indicators	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
MSM 30 Index	4,528.3	4,366.0	4,613.7	4,857.4	4,703.4	4,753.3	4,863.1	4,718.1	4,626.4	4,768.2	4,776.1	4,799.0
Monthly % Change	(1.2%)	(3.6%)	5.7%	5.3%	(3.2%)	1.1%	2.3%	(3.0%)	(1.9%)	3.1%	0.2%	0.5%
Market Cap (OMR Mn)	8,090	7,896	8,159	8,439	8,245	8,404	8,673	8,689	8,497	8,492	8,774	8,995
P/E (X) - TTM	13.12	11.12	12.93	13.85	11.27	12.75	11.27	12.91	15.07	15.08	13.18	13.21
P/BV (X) - TTM	0.92	0.88	0.97	1.03	0.74	0.75	0.76	1.10	1.09	1.09	0.94	0.95
Dividend Yield (%)	4.52%	4.57%	4.03%	3.59%	3.63%	3.59%	3.86%	4.44%	4.51%	4.51%	4.57%	4.53%
Volume (Mn Shares)	184.7	174.1	276.2	339.4	246.1	162.4	317.8	375.2	235.9	137.1	231.0	217.2
Value (OMR Mn)	44.4	43.3	53.3	76.2	39.7	42.5	91.9	114.5	53.6	31.5	48.0	55.3
Trades	8,573	7,129	9,523	11,966	8,418	5,901	29,212	10,836	13,782	8,092	10,787	11,029



tively. On the decliner's side, Bahrain Commercial Facilities topped the list recording 22.5% share price decline during the month followed by Ithmaar Holding Co and Albaraka Banking Group with share price declines of 21.9% and 10.4%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange increased for the first time in three months during August-2023. Total volume traded on the exchange increased by 36.2% to 67.8 Mn shares as compared to 49.8 Mn shares in July-2023. Moreover, total value traded on the exchange witnessed a growth of 57.5% to reach BHD 18.5 Mn in August-2023 as compared to BHD 11.8 Mn during July•2023. Al Salam Bank-Bahrain topped the monthly volumes chart with 21.5 Mn traded shares followed by Esterad Investment Company and Aluminum Bahrain at 16.6 Mn and 4.7 Mn shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Aluminum Bahrain topped the list with BHD 5.2 Mn worth of shares changing hands during the month followed by Al Salam Bank •Bahrain and Kuwait Finance House which witnessed BHD 4.1 Mn and BHD 3.0 Mn values of their monthly shares traded, respectively.

In economic news, according to the ratings agency Fitch, Bahrain's debt-to-GDP will increase from 117% to 121% in 2023. The Kingdom's debt-to-GDP growth would arise despite strong fiscal reform drive and the narrowing of Bahrain's budget deficit. Furthermore, Fitch also estimated that the Bahraini' government's budget deficit will fall from 5.9% of GDP in 2022 to 4.9% of GDP in 2023. The rating agency underlined its confidence in the Kingdom's 2023-2024 budget which presents credible path to improve Bahrain's non-oil economy. Currently, the Bahraini authorities are targeting a balanced budget in which the oil price average is at USD 60/bbl in 2024 as compared to USD 105 fiscal break-even oil price in 2022. On the other hand, the Kingdom continues its initiative to diversify the economy. According to reports, an estimated BHD 1 Bn budget was approved for development projects during 2023/2024. These projects are intended to modernize Bahrain's economy by upgrading current infrastructure such as Bahrain Metro, sport City and new National Assembly.

Muscat Securities Market

The MSX 30 index witnessed a marginal gain of 0.5% during August-2023 to close the month at 4,799.0 points recording its third consecutive monthly gain. In terms of sectoral performance, only one out of the three sector indices on the exchange recorded a gain during August-2023. The Financial Sector Index recorded the only monthly gain among the indices registering 0.1% increase during August-2023 to close the month at 7,831.4 points mainly driven by the share price growth of bulk of the companies in the sector such as Al Madina Investment Holding (+7.3%), Bank Nizwa (+5.3%) and Oman Arab Bank (+3.6%). The monthly gain of these heavy weight companies lifted the sector index as well as the general index up into the green. In comparison, the Industrial Index registered a (-1.7%) monthly fall during August-2023 to close the month at 6,010.5 points while the Services Index witnessed a dip (-0.6%) during the month closing at 1,663.0

In terms of company performance, Oman Chromite Company topped the gainers list with a share price followed by Renaissance Service and Takaful Oman Insurance with 10.5% and 10.0% monthly share gains, respectively. On the decliner's side, Dhofar Insurance led the league with a 15.5% share price fall followed by Ahli Bank and Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles Co which witnessed a share price drop of 12.5% and 11.8% respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange was mixed during the month in line with most of the markets in the GCC. Total volume of shares traded in the exchange declined by 6.0% to 217.2 Mn shares as compared to 231.0 Mn in July-2023. Comparatively, total value traded in the exchange increased by 15.1% to OMR 55.3 Mn against OMR 48.0 Mn in July-2023. Oman Telecommunications Company topped the monthly value traded chart with trades at OMR 14.8 Mn followed by Bank Muscat and Oman Qatari Telecom with total value traded at OMR 12.9 Mn and OMR 7.8 Mn, respectively. In terms of monthly volume traded, Bank Muscat topped the list for the second consecutive month with 45.6 Mn shares followed by Sohar Bank and Bank Nizwa Company with volumes at 30.3 Mn shares and 24.6 Mn shares,

In economic news, according to the Sultanate's Ministry of Finance, Oman recorded a budget surplus of OMR 656 Mn (USD 1.7 Bn) during 1H-2023 as compared to a budget surplus of OMR 784 Mn during 1H-2022. The Sultanate's budget surplus was mainly made feasible by higher oil revenues as Oman's net oil revenues increased by 2% to reach OMR 3.2 Bn during 1H•2023 as compared to OMR 3.1 Bn during 1H-2022. Oman's average oil prices amounted to USD 83 per barrel while average oil production reached 1.1 million barrels per day during the first six months of 2023. The Sultanate reported that it reduced its public debt to OMR 16.3 Bn as it repaid more than ÔMR 1.5 Bn during 1H-2023. Moreover, Oman's public revenues for the first half of 2023 witnessed 6% y-o-y decline to reach OMR 6.3 Bn. In context, Oman's public spending declined by 4% to reach OMR 5.6 Bn during the first six months of the year. Oman continues its efforts to diversify the economy away from its over reliance on hydrocarbon exports by way of modernizing public infrastructure or undertaking fiscal reforms.

Google reaches tentative settlement with all 50 states over alleged app store monopoly

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): All 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have reached an agreement in principle with Google to settle a lawsuit filed in 2021 over the tech giant's alleged monopolistic control of app distribution for the software that runs most of the world's cellphones

The agreement, cited in a court filing reached Tuesday, is subject to approval by the plaintiffs' attorneys general and the board of directors of Google's parent company, execution of an agreement, and court approval.

The terms of the temporary pact bar the parties from disclosing its details for now, according to the

Utah attorney general's office, a lead plaintiff in the bipartisan action.

"No company is too big to play by the rules, including Google. We brought this lawsuit because it is illegal to use monopoly power to drive up prices," New York's attorney general, Letitia James, said in a statement.

The states "fought for a fair marketplace that encourages competition, innovation, and lower prices for consumers," she said, and look forward to "finalizing the agreement and sharing more details in the next 30 days.'

Google spokesperson Peter Shottenfels said the company had "no comment at this time." A trial date had been set for Nov. 6.

The complaint filed initially by 36 states and the District of Columbia in Northern California federal court echoed similar allegations that mobile game maker Epic Games made against Google that is scheduled to go to trial in Novem-

Apple prevailed in a separate suit Epic filed against it over the separate app store it runs exclusively for iPhones, with a federal appeals court upholding in April its sole control of app distribution.

Google still faces several major antitrust lawsuits filed by the Department of Justice and other gov-

ernment agencies across the U.S. focused on alleged search-related and advertising market monopolistic behavior. Justice's search-related case is set for trial on Sept. 12.

In November, Google settled with 40 states over the tracking of user location, paying \$391 million.

The lawsuit now tentatively settled was among actions taken in recent years to try to curtail the enormous power amassed by Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon, which have built unprecedented digital empires by corralling consumers into walled-off services with minimal competitors.

Like the Epic lawsuit, the states lawsuit focused primarily on the

control Google exerts on its Play app store so it can collect commissions of up to 30% on digital transactions within apps installed on smartphones running on the Android operating system. Those devices represent more than 80% of the worldwide smartphone mar-

Although its app commissions are similar to Apple's, Google has tried to distinguish itself by allowing consumers to download apps from other places than its Play store. Apple, by contrast, doesn't allow iPhone users to install apps from any other outlet than its own store.

But the states' lawsuit took issue with Google's claim that its Android software is an open operating system that allows consumers more choices. It contended Google has set up anticompetitive barriers to ensure it distributes more than 90% of the apps on Android devices - a market share that the attorneys general argued represented an illegal monopoly.

Lawsuits the Mountain View, California, company is still fighting include a landmark case brought by the U.S. Justice Department in 2020 focused on alleged abuses of Google's dominant search engine and its digital ad network, which generates about \$100 billion in annual revenue for its corporate parent, Alphabet Inc.

'Qatar flights blocked due to invasive examinations'

Australian Transport Minister Catherine King said on Thursday that invasive gynecological examinations conducted on passengers at Doha's international airport in 2020 were part of the reason she refused to allow Qatar Airways to double its services to Australia.

King has faced intense questioning over why she decided on June 10 not to allow the airline to double its current 28 flights per

week to Australia

She said the decision was made in the "context" of women being examined in 2020 by authorities at Hamad International Airport in Doha who were trying to find the mother of a newborn baby found dumped in a trash

Women on a number of flights leaving Doha were invasively examined, including 13 on a flight "There is no one factor that I would point to that swayed my decision one way or the other,

King told reporters.

"Certainly, for context, this is the only airline that has had something like that where that has happened," she said. "I was not not aware of it, so obviously it was in the context of the decision that I made. But there was no one factor that influenced this decision." she added. (AP)

Delta Air Lines protects its fleet against 5G signals

Delta Air Lines said Thursday that it has completed upgrading its fleet to protect key equipment against interference from 5G wireless signals, plugging a hole that could have disrupted flights during low visibility. The airline said all its planes in active use now have radio altimeters that are protected against interference.

This means no Delta aircraft will be subject to additional weather-driven constraints," a

Delta spokesman said. In late June, 190 of Delta's roughly 900 planes lacked the

upgraded altimeters. Those devices use radio signals to pre-

cisely measure the height of a plane above the ground.

The issue forced Delta to consider rerouting those planes to avoid low-visibility situations while it waited for new parts from

a supplier, although the airline

said Thursday that it got through

"We are excited to join forces with

Morabaha and support their mission

of delivering innovative financing

solutions while ensuring regulatory

compliance and robust risk manage-

ment. Our AML solutions will em-

power Morabaha to efficiently moni-

tor transactions, conduct thorough

screenings, and streamline customer

risk assessments. This partnership

exemplifies our commitment to driv-

ing financial institutions toward a

summer without notable problems with altimeters.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg pushed airlines to retrofit planes before the summer travel season, and most did. Among the largest US carriers, only Atlanta-based Delta missed a July 1 deadline to upgrade all altimeters before AT&T, Verizon and other wireless carriers boosted the power of their C-Band, 5G signals. (AP)

UK firm signs exclusive deal with TAMGO

AFC Energy to bring zero emission H-power generators to Saudi Arabia

LONDON, Sept. 7: AFC Energy, a leading provider of hydrogen energy solutions, has announced that it has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Saudi Arabia's The Machinery Group LLC, trading as TAMGO, to market and sell AFC Energy's zero emission hydrogen fuelled H-Power Generators into the significant Saudi Arabian industrial and off-grid power markets, and a further 16 surrounding

TAMGO is an approved vendor to many of Saudi Arabia's mega and large-scale infrastructure and mining projects including NEOM, Red Sea Global and Qiddiya with customers including Aramco and Altaaqa Alternative Solutions, one of Saudi Arabia's leading power rental busi-

Under the Agreement, TAMGO will market and sell or lease to end-customers AFC Energy's zero emission hydrogen fueled H-Power Generators in the industrial and off-grid power markets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a further 16 countries in the MENA and surrounding region including, amongst others, the United Arab Unleashing innovation in financial crime prevention

Morabaha partners with Tookitaki for cutting-edge AML capabilities

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept. 7: Tookitaki, a global leader in financial crime compliance solutions, has announced its strategic partnership with Morabaha Marina Financing Co., a prominent Sharia-compliant financing company based in Saudi Arabia. This collaboration aims to enhance the latter's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) compliance management capabilities while driving operational efficiency and fostering customer trust.

Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and

This region's rental power market is already worth more than USD1.6bn and is projected to increase to USD3.2bn by the end of 2030. AFC Energy's technology provides clean electricity for on and off grid power applications and will aid the decarbonreliable financing partnerships aligns seamlessly with Tookitaki's advanced technology-driven approach to financial crime prevention.

Morabaha Marina Financing of-

fers innovative financing solutions

to individuals and small and medium

enterprises within Saudi Arabia. The

company's commitment to fostering

Mr. Waleed Al-Ghamlas, Executive Managing Director, at Morabaha, expressed, "Partnering with Tookitaki was a strategic decision to strengthen Monitoring, Smart Screening, Dynamic Risk Scoring, and Case Manager, aligns perfectly with our goals of achieving regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and customercentric financial services.

our AML compliance framework and

provide more secure and efficient

financing solutions to our custom-

ers. Tookitaki's comprehensive suite

of solutions, including Transaction

Mr. Abhishek Chatterjee, Founder and CEO at Tookitaki, stated,

structural development.

safer and more secure future.'

Energy, said:

neighboring markets at a time when sustainable, temporary power is forecast to materially increase consistent with national programs such as Saudi Arabia's sustainability commitments under the Kingdom's Vision 2030. We have been collaborating with TAMGO and the Zahid Group for the past two years and believe this dealership agreement reflects our common vision to become the largest dealer of hydrogen fuel cell generators in the Saudi and MENA regions.

Rami Elayan, Chief Executive, TAMGO, said:

"TAMGO is delighted to have been appointed as an exclusive distributor for ÂFC Energy. This milestone signifies a continued evolution of the collaboration initiated with AFC Energy back in 2021 and will enhance TAMGO's ability to provide environmentally-friendly electricity solutions to its customers. With this agreement, we are confident that our combined efforts will establish a prominent presence in the Saudi Arabian and broader regional markets for hydrogen fuel cell generators.

Zahid Group is fully aligned with the Kingdom's forward looking vision, and across all our Group's companies we are acting on that alignment with

Kazakhstan.

isation of society's growing electrifica-

TAMGO will have exclusive rights in the region to AFC Energy's S Series (air-cooled) and S+ Series (liquidcooled) fuel cell generators currently ranging from 10kW to 200kW. TAM-GO will provide local customer support with on the ground maintenance and servicing of H-Power Generators along with engineering, design, commissioning and logistics support direct

TAMGO (www.tamgoksa.com) is a Zahid Group company that was established in 1991 as part of the Group's long-standing commitment to support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's infraAdam Bond, Chief Executive, AFC

"We are delighted that TAMGO will represent our leading H-Power Generator platforms in the Saudi and

Economy shows slowing sign

Polish central bank stuns with big interest rate cuts

WARSAW, Poland, Sept 7, (AP): Poland's central bank lowered its interest rates by 75 basis points on Wednesday despite the country's double-digit inflation rate. The move prompted concerns that the central bank was wading into politics with a premature rate cut to help the populist governing party ahead of parliamentary elections next month.

The National Bank of Poland's monetary policy council announced that it was cutting the reference rate from 6.75% to 6%, and other interest rates by the same amount.

The Polish currency, the zloty, immediately lost value against the dollar and euro.

Economists had been expecting a rate cut, but not such a large one. Economic and political observers expressed surprise at such a big cut given that inflation, while declining after reaching over 18% earlier this year, is still running at slightly over 10% annually.

Inflation

But Poland's robust economy is also showing some signs of slowing down and an election is approaching on Oct. 15 in which the conservative governing party, Law and Justice, is fighting for an unprecedented third term. The central bank's governor, Adam Glapinski, is an ally of the party and has taken actions in the past to help it.

Marek Tatala, vice president of the free market Economic Freedom Foundation, noted that the central bank cut rates even though inflation is running four times higher than the inflation target, which is 2.5%. He accused the members of the central

HONG KONG, Sept 7, (AP): Chi-

na's exports and imports both fell in

August from a year earlier, reflecting

tepid global demand that is adding to

Customs data released Thursday

showed exports for August slumped

8.8% to \$284.87 billion in the fourth

straight month of decline. Imports

The total trade surplus fell to

Chinese leaders have in rolled

out various policy measures to

shore up the economy after the

country's rebound from the COV-

ID-19 pandemic fizzled earlier

and central banks in Europe and Asia

began raising interest rates last year

to cool inflation that was at multi-

The central bank has eased bor-

than expected.

broader tax cuts.

\$68.36 billion from \$80.6 billion in

slid 7.3% to \$216.51 billion.

pressures on its slowing economy.

Economy under pressure

China's exports & imports fall in

August on weak global demand

bank's monetary policy council of having "joined the election campaign" on behalf of the governing party.

A pro-market politician, Ryszard Petru, posted a video on X, formerly known as Twitter, calling the cut a big mistake that will hurt Poles more in the end.

"As a borrower I am of course happy I will pay lower rates," Petru said. "But I know that with such high inflation, cutting the interest rates is pro-inflationary ... and will eat up our income.'

The move will provide relief to Poles with mortgages who have seen their payments rise in recent times. It should also give a boost to the economy. But it risks creating even greater inflationary pressure at a time when Poles are already suffering from painful rises in the prices of food, rent and other goods and services.

In conditions of high inflation, central banks tend to raise interest rates, a move that can help bring down inflation over time by discouraging consumption.

Interest rate cuts, on the other hand, make financing cheaper and tends to encourage consumers and businesses to spend more

The central bank has intervened on previous occasions to help the party.

In May, when inflation was at 16%, the National Bank of Poland put up enormous banners on its Warsaw headquarters blaming inflation on the Russian war against Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. "Putting the blame on the NBP and the government for the high inflation is a Kremlin narrative," one of the banners said

Mohammed bin Rashid witnesses signing of agreement

Masdar, DEWA to build phase 6 of world's largest solar park in Dubai

ABU DHABI, UAE, Sept. 7: Government of Dubai Media Office: His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, witnessed the signing of an agreement between the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority PJSC (DEWA) and Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC, to build and operate the 1,800 megawatt (MW) sixth phase of the landmark Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, featuring a cost of up to AED5.51 billion.

The agreement was signed in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Jansour hin Zaved Al Nahvan Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of the Presidential Court; His Highness Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zaved Al Nahvan. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and His Excellency Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs.

Emissions

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said: "Today, I witnessed with Mansour bin Zayed the signing of an agreement between the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, to implement the sixth phase of the world's largest single-site solar park, at a cost of AED5.5 billion. This phase will power over half a million residences while reducing carbon emissions by 2.36 million tonnes annually. All phases of this landmark project are expected to be completed 2030, with a total investment of AED50 billion. We're on track to achieve our ambitious goal - 100% clean energy for Dubai by 2050."

His Excellency Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry & Advanced Technology, Chairman of Masdar and COP28 President-Designate, and His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of DEWA signed the agreement in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE's clean energy powerhouse was selected from 23 high-calibre international bidders and offered a Levelised Cost of Energy (LCOE) of USD1.6215 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), the lowest of any of DEWA's solar Independent Power Producer (IPP) model projects to date. The current total production capacity of solar projects at the solar park is 2,427MW. DEWA is building another project with a total capacity of 433 MW. The 1,800MW sixth phase of the solar park will increase total production capacity to 4,660MW

His Excellency Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said: "Being awarded this landmark renewable energy project on the world's largest single-site solar park is another significant milestone for Masdar. It is a testament to Masdar's track record in pioneering clean energy projects as we continue to support the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative. Ahead of our nation hosting COP28 later this year, it is vital that the world triples global renewable energy capacity by 2030 to keep the ambition of 1.5 degrees within reach. This landmark project demonstrates definitive action n our shared journey towards a cleaner, greener future.'

His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, said: "In line with the vision and directives **Wakefit.co products now available in UAE**

'Talent huge challenge for Dubai fintechs'

MUMBAI, India, Sept. 7: Challenges keep on changing in Fintech. Talent is now the biggest challenge for fintechs in Dubai," said Mohammad Alblooshi, CEO, DIFC Innovation Hub. In the initial days, access to capital and access to markets were some of the challenges in the region which the regulators were able to overcome over the years. He attributed the talent deficit to the huge demand in Dubai. This has led to Dubai being an importer of talent rather than producing its own.

He was speaking at a panel discussion on 'Roadmap to establish a thriving FinTech hub: Navigating challenges and driving FS innovation' at the Global Fintech Fest 2023 (GFF 2023). He was joined by Takeshi Kito, Vice-Chair, Fintech Association of Japan, Nezar Alhaidar, Director, Fintech Saudi and Rehan D'Almeida, General Manager, Fintech Australia, Gavathri Parthasarathy, Partner and Financial Services Leader, PwC India moderated

Nezar Alhaidar said, "Innovation is perceived as a cookie cutter, same size fits all. But you need to understand that each region has differences, hence the solution has to be different." Nezar also mentioned that Saudi Arabia is a tech savvy nation with a young population where 93 per cent of the people do their banking online and 75% use at least one fintech solution.

GFF 2023, the largest thought leadership platform in the world, is supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY), the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and is organized by the Payments Council of India (PCI), Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: Wakefit.co, India's leading sleep and home solutions company, announced its business expansion into the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a highly sought-after market for global brands. The UAE is a major market in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and is known for its strong economy, favorable business environment, and strategic geographic location. The company entered the region with a focus on its main categories: mattresses and mattress protectors. The offering saw a strong uptake from customers and the pilot batch was sold out within the first few days of the launch.

Wakefit.co is a pioneer in the sleep and home solutions market in India, and is confident that it can replicate its success in the UAE with its unique and inclusive offerings. As the company embarks on its early stages of international expansion, it will largely focus on offering its sleep solutions products in the UAE market. Presently, customers in the UAE can conveniently access Wakefit.co products on Amazon.ae, and the company is actively exploring additional platforms while considering a direct-to-consumer (D2C) channel for future growth opportunities.

The online market in the UAE has shown impressive growth, with a steady CAGR of 8.6% (source). This further empowers Wakefit.co to meet the distinctive needs of the Emirati community and the subcontinent diaspora in the country. Recognising the region's substantial purchasing power and market size, the company aims to cater to an audience that is looking to shop for sleep solutions products online. By targeting this audience, Wakefit.co wants to establish itself as a trusted and reputable name in the burgeoning UAE market.

Overhaul of joint Arab action: Morocco

'Economic cooperation leads to pan-Arab unity'

CAIRO, Sept 7, (KUNA): Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita on Wednesday affirmed necessity of overhauling joint Arab action and following path of other states' coalitions that succeeded in transforming economic cooperation as the sole avenue to attain unity.

Bourita, also the head of the currently held 160th Arab ministerial session, was addressing his keynote statement after taking the chairmanship from his Egyptian peer Sameh Shukri, the head of the 159th session.

The Moroccan official re-affirmed that the Palestinian question remains the pivotal cause for the Arab states that have continued to support rights of the Palestinian people namely their right to establish a state on the 1967 territories with East Jerusalem as its

He expressed Morocco's hope that stability may be restored in Arab states namely in Libya, expressing his belief

of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed

bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of

the UAE; and His Highness Sheikh

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

Vice President and Prime Minister of

the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, we are

committed to achieving a balance be-

tween development and environmental

sustainability across social, economic

and environmental plans. This under-

scores the UAE's prominent status as

one of the world's largest investors in

clean and renewable energy projects. It

also affirms our support for the UAE's

hosting of the COP28 at Expo City

that the Libyans are able to resolve their issues without external interven-

For is part, minister Shukri affirmed the Arab league commitment to resolving the Sudanese crisis, lauded Syria's comeback to the Arab fold, reiterated the warning that spilling blood in the occupied Palestinian territories would aggravate tensions in the region and warned Israel against desecrating religious sanctities.

The Arab ministers during today's meeting discussed the agenda including a term concerning the joint Arab action and a report prepared by the Arab League secretary general regarding the organization's tasks in the past and current sessions.

The Arab ministers examined a number of topics concerning joint Arab work, and regional and international challenges, during the Arab League's 160th ministerial meeting.

Dubai, aligning our strategies and poli-

The meeting held at the secretariat's

headquarters in Cairo was chaired by Bourita and attended by League's Secretary General Ahmad Abulgheit, Arab Foreign Ministers and heads of delegations as well as UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini.

The Ministers delved into a number

of political, economic, social, legal, financial and administrative issues, at the forefront of which is the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab diplomats handled issues

of national security, anti-terrorism and several committees' reports as well as a proposal put forth by the State of Kuwait on cooperation in field of artificial intelligence.

The Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah, includes the assistant minister for the Arab homeland affairs Ambassador Ahmad Al-Bakr, and the State of Kuwait permanent delegate at the Arab League and its ambassador in Cairo, Ghanem Al-Ghanem.

els based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, costing up to AED5.51 billion.

ment Goals 2030 in sustainability, innovation and future-making.' Al Tayer added: "Dubai is a pioneer in launching programmes, projects and initiatives that promote sustainability, a green economy and preserving natural resources for future generations. Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) was selected as the Preferred Bidder to build and operate the 1,800MW sixth phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park for using photovoltaic solar pan-

cies with the UN Sustainable Develop-When completed, this phase will

provide clean energy to approximately 540,000 residences and reduce 2.36 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. Through phase VI, DEWA has achieved the lowest Levelised Cost OF Energy (LCOE) of USD1.6215 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). At DEWA, we have a proven track record of clean and renewable energy, emission reduction, and attracting competitive global prices for clean and renewable energy projects.

rowing rules and and cut mortgage rates for first-time home buyers while providing some tax relief measures for small businesses. So far, the authorities have avoid-China's imports from Russia, mosted large-scale stimulus spending or Demand for Chinese exports weakened after the Federal Reserve

decade highs. Economists say much of the im-Exports to the European Union pact of those rate increases has vet to filter through major Western economies, where consumer spending has remained relatively strong.

"Looking ahead, we expect exports to decline over the coming months before bottoming out toward the end of the year," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report.

Measures

"Most measures of export orders point to a more substantial pullback in foreign demand than has so far been reflected in the customs data,'

China's trade has been gradually declining for the past two years, though August's drops in export and imports were less severe than in July, when exports fell 14.5% from a year earlier while imports were 12.4% lower.

Politically sensitive exports to the US fell 17.4% from a year earlier to \$45 billion, the customs data showed, while imports of US goods slid 4.9% to nearly \$12 billion.

ly oil and gas, increased 13.3% from a year earlier to \$11.52 billion. Chinese purchases of Russian energy have swelled, helping to offset revenue lost to Western sanctions imposed to punish the Kremlin for its invasion of

tumbled 10.5% from the same time last year to \$41.3 billion, while imports of European goods declined 2.5% to \$24.56 billion.

The Conversation

Top two killers can be traced to inflammation

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

By Bryan SmithMichigan 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 CO-VID-19. But the top two killers are actually cardiovascular disease and cancer.

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.

These two diseases combined account

for nearly 50% of deaths in the US.

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 dis-

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. Unrestrainable, 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.

an also involve leaky blo 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)

Company raises \$10.6m in seed financing

Rejuvenation Technologies to develop mRNA therapeutics to 'reverse' aging

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 Adventures, 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 hypoimmunogenic 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

Early detection provides best treatment options

Biological and PRECEDE improve surveillance of pancreatic cancer

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 PRE-CEDE'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%.1 It is predicted that over 64,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2023 alone.1 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.

Surviva

"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."

ogy."

"We're thrilled to work with PRE-CEDE 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 VeritaTM platform offers a simple and automated workflow to enrich for exosomes, powering advanced detection tests for some of the most challenging diseases. Biological Dynamics' ExoVitaTM 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

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

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.







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

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 clean-

ing 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 attend-

The post described 2022 as one of the "messiest playas 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 cho-

sen 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

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.

Variety



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'

from the Bayreuth Festival in Germany, where he was to have sung The Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet is not dead in Pablo Larraín's "El Conde." He is instead a the title roles in "Tannhäuser" and "Tristan und Isolde" and Siegfried 250-year-old vampire living in semi-exile and wishin "Götterdämmerung." ing for death in this audacious allegory about histo-Gould said in a statement ry's tendency to repeat itself, shot in sublime, other-Wednesday that he has bile duct cancer with complications. He

worldly 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 selfcreated 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 " Argen-

"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.

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 Pic-

ture 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 new year. The 96th Academy Awards are currently scheduled to be held on March 10 and nominations will be announced on Jan. 23. (AP)

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

LOS ANGELES: Tenor Stephen Gould, 61, says he has been

diagnosed with incurable bile duct Gould withdrew this summer

said it is fatal with "an outlook of

several months to 10 months," he

Gould said he made the an-

nouncement after the Bayreuth

Festival ended last week because

"I did not wish anything to cloud

has sung in many of the world's

biliary tract cancer often doesn't

cause any symptoms in the early

stages. It's often discovered by

accident - for example, through

done for an unrelated reason. (AP)

routine blood tests or imaging

LOS ANGELES: "That '70s

Show" star Danny Masterson

life in prison at his sentencing

Thursday for the rapes of two

women two decades ago.

could get as much as 30 years to

Los Angeles Superior Court

Judge Charlaine F. Olmedo is

set to sentence the 47-year-old

actor after ruling on a defense

motion for a new trial that she's

hearing impact statements from

A jury of seven women and

five men found Masterson guilty

of two counts on May 31 after

very likely to reject, and after

the victims.

Gould was born in Virginia and

According to the Mayo Clinic,

wrote. "There is no cure."

this years achievements

major opera houses

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

rape in December and a mistrial was declared. Prosecutors alleged that Masterson used his prominence in the

verdicts on three counts of forcible

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

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

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 & Places

Music

Sale breaks record

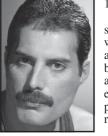
Prized Rhapsody items champions at auction

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-anda-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 snow during Queen's last tour in 1980.

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

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 quirkier 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

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.



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)



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



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 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 Lonto 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 heatwave 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,

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

anything happened between them.

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

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

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

"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

her allegation that she was raped.

"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. bands have stopped making new mu-

sic" 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 "im-

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

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



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

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

with knowledge that this accusation was

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

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)

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.

"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 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,'

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

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

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 hungering 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

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 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 Rus-

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

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

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.

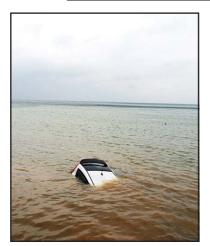
The comet, which is kilometer-sized (1/2-mile), will sweep safely past Earth on Sept. 12, passing within 78 million miles (125 million kilometers).

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 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)



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)



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

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 Jeorse 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 Re-

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 pro-

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

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.

 ${f F}$ or 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

Europe, the two sides announced Thurs-

day, more than two years after the coun-

try's membership became a casualty of

care professionals create sustainable. personalized and culturally respectful practices. In many countries, traditional medi-

cine 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 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

British scientists expressed relief at the

decision, the latest sign of thawing rela-

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 dis-However, acupuncture practition-

ers 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)

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 re-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



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)

Orioles sweep Angels, extend winning streak to 5

Pirates' 7th-inning rally lifts Pittsburgh over Brewers

PITTSBURGH, Sept 7, (AP): Rookie Ji Hwan Bae's first career triple highlighted a seventh-inning rally as the Pittsburgh Pirates slipped past the Milwaukee Brewers 5-4 on Wednesday.

Jason Delay reached with one out in the seventh on a line drive off the right foot of Milwaukee reliever Elvis Peguero (4-5). The speedy Bae then laced a ball to the gap in right-center to put Pittsburgh in front. Bae scored on Miguel Andujar's pinch-hit single as the Pirates won for the seventh time in nine games.

Ke'Bryan Hayes hit his 13th home run for Pittsburgh. Jack Suwinski and Josh Palacios tied the game with back-to-back RBIs in the sixth. Carmen Mlodzinski (3-3) earned the win and David Bednar worked around a leadoff single by Andruw Monasterio in the ninth while earning his 33rd save.

BASEBALL

Willy Adames hit a three-run homer off opener Colin Selby in the first, but the NL Central-leading Brewers lost for the fifth time in eight games since a nine-game winning streak gave them a little breathing room over the second-place Chicago Cubs.

Milwaukee starter Freddy Peralta's bid to win his sixth straight start ended in the sixth. Peralta gave up three runs and four hits with a walk and four strikeouts.

Orioles 10, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Baltimore refused to budge at the top of the American League East, getting four hits and four RBIs from Austin Hays to finish off a three-game sweep of Los Angeles.

Hays and Anthony Santander hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth inning, and Santander and Ramon Urias each finished with three hits. Right-hander Kyle Gibson (14-8) gave up three runs on six hits over six innings as the Orioles won their fifth straight

Baltimore maintained a 3 1/2-game lead in the division over Tampa Bay with a visit to Boston up next for a three-game series starting Friday.

Luis Rengifo had a two-run home run for the Angels, who lost their sixth consecutive game and fell for the ninth time in their last 10. The Angels played their third consecutive game without Shohei Ohtani (oblique) in the lineup.

Patrick Sandoval (7-12) gave up seven runs (four earned) on seven hits in five innings with four walks and three strikeouts.

Cardinals 11, Braves 6

In Atlanta, Paul Goldschmidt, Masyn Winn, Willson Contreras and Nolan Gorman went deep as St. Louis hit four home runs for the second straight game and beat MLB-leading Atlanta to take the first two games of the threegame series.

Gorman hit his 27th homer of the season, one day after hitting two home runs as the NL Central-worst Cards beat the Braves 10-6.

Dakota Hudson (6-1) outpitched NL Cy Young Award hopeful Spencer Strider, allowing three runs and seven hits in five innings.

Strider (16-5) lasted just 2 2/3 innings, giving up six runs on six hits, including a home run. Strider had won his last four starts.

The Braves had won their last eight series, dating to Aug. 4-6 against the

Chicago Cubs.

Matt Olson hit his MLB-leading
46th home run, and Austin Riley also

homered for the Braves. Marlins 11, Dodgers 4

In Miami, Joey Wendle drove in four runs and finished a triple shy of hitting for the cycle as Miami beat Los Angeles and extended it winning streak to six games.

The 33-year-old Wendle batted ninth in the order, and delivered a homer, double and single to highlight the 13-hit attack of the surging Marlins. Miami opened play a half-game behind Cincinnati in the race for the NL's third wild-card spot.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Jesús Sánchez also went deep for the Marlins, who were unbothered after placing reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Sandy Alcantara and star slugger Jorge Soler on the injured list earlier in the day. Edward Cabrera (6-6) earned the win

earned the win.

The NL West-leading Dodgers lost for the fifth time in six games. Los Angeles will be without starting pitcher Julio Urías for an indefinite period after MLB placed him on administrative leave Wednesday. Urías was arrested on suspicion of corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant late Sunday.

Dodgers starter Lance Lynn (10-11) was lifted after 4 2/3 innings after allowing eight earned runs and seven hits. Rookie James Outman hit his 18th homer and Jason Heyward added a solo shot for Los Angeles.

Rays 3, Red Sox 1

In St. Petersburg, Tyler Glasnow tied a career high with 14 strikeouts and Tampa Bay continued its home dominance of Boston.

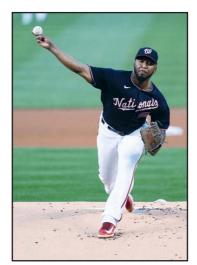
Glasnow (8-5) allowed one run and three hits over six innings in a season-high, 103-pitch outing. Pete Fairbanks worked the ninth to get his 20th save and complete a four-hitter.

Brandon Lowe and Isaac Paredes hit solo home runs off Boston starter Nick Pivetta (9-8). Pivetta gave up three runs and seven hits over 4 2/3 innings in his first start since Aug. 15.

The Rays hold a commanding lead for the top AL wild card. Boston started play five back of the final wild-card spot



Houston Astros' Jose Abreu slides into second after hitting a double in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas.



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Joan Adon delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets in Washington. (AP)

Boston rookie Triston Casas singled in the ninth to extend his career-best hitting streak to 13 games.

Astros 12, Rangers 3

In Arlington, José Abreu hit a grand slam and a three-run homer, those among five more long balls for Houston in the pivotal three-game AL West series, and the Astros completed a sweep over slumping Texas.

Abreu's grand slam in the third inning was Houston's third homer against Texas starter Max Scherzer, while fellow three-time Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander (11-7) settled in after giving up a long ball on his first pitch that was the only earned run he allowed over seven innings. He struck out six and walked one.

Marcus Semien hit two solo homers and had an RBI single to drive in all three runs for Texas, which lost for the 15th time in 19 games.

It was the 12th regular-season meeting of pitchers with at least three Cy Youngs apiece, and first time ever that two-time teammates Verlander and Scherzer pitched against each other in a game. The right-handers were together with the Detroit Tigers from 2010-14, and this season with the New York Mets before both were traded right before the deadline to different AL West contenders.

AL west contenders.

Scherzer (12-6) was done after three innings, during which he allowed a season-high seven runs, all on homers, with four strikeouts and two walks while throwing 60 pitches.

Mariners 8, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, J.P. Crawford hit a three-run home run and Cal Raleigh added a solo shot during Seattle's five-run fourth inning as the Mariners ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Cincinnati.

Raleigh had three hits and Mike Ford added a two-run homer in the second inning in support of Logan Gilbert (13-5), who struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings to improve to 4-0 in his last five starts. He gave up three runs on seven hits and two walks.

Cincinnati's Will Benson had three hits including a home run in the ninth inning off Andrés Muñoz.

Rookie Lyon Richardson (0-2) faced eight batters in the fourth. He finished 4 2/3 innings, giving up seven hits and runs while walking four and striking out three.

Athletics 5, Blue Jays 2

In Oakland, Carlos Pérez broke out of a lengthy batting slump with a two-run homer off Hyun Jin Ryu and Oakland avoided a three-game sweep by beating Toronto.

The 36-year-old Ryu (3-2) threw 77 pitches in his seventh start after beginning the season in the minors. That's one more start than Ryu had in 2022, when his season was cut short in June due to Tommy John surgery. He allowed five hits and had five strikeouts with one walk.

Kevin Smith, called up from the minors before the game, added a threerun homer for the A's. JP Sears (4-11)

New Zealand have proud record

France, All Blacks under immense pressure before Rugby WC opening night showdown

PARIS, Sept 7, (AP): It is debatable who is under the most pressure between France and New Zealand on Friday in their monumental Rugby World Cup opener that does and does not matter.

Coach Fabien Galthie and Co. have pulled off a buildup designed to peak France at their home World Cup. The team's first World Cup cycle of the 2020s contrasts starkly with the 2010s when France wallowed in putrid mediocrity. The renaissance has collected 31 wins from 39 tests, trophies, awards, milestones and adoring support in droves for Les Tricolores.

Every home game since November 2021 has been won to also skyrocket expectations and excitement. France is, at this moment, perfectly placed to finally win the World Cup at a 10th attempt.

tempt.

The pressure on France is to deliver.

No team has managed expectations better or longer than New Zealand. The All Blacks have lived with outsized expectations of victory from within and without for more than 120 years. And they have usually delivered.

No All Blacks defeat is brushed off or forgotten, and they are fresh off their largest ever loss by margin, a 28-point difference to South Africa two weeks ago. That battering shattered a confidence forged by a brilliantly won Rugby Championship, where the All Blacks' improvements in physicality and discipline were blown away at Twickenham.

The pressure on New Zealand is to respond.

respond.

While the winner on Friday in Paris will be lauded, the loser shouldn't feel disheartened. It's just the first step. France and New Zealand should get past poolmates Italy, Uruguay and Namibia to reach the quarterfinals, where lurking for them will probably be No. 1-ranked Ireland or No. 2 South Africa. Between a rock and a hard place is an understatement. The Les Tricolores-All Blacks winner will probably meet the Ireland-South Africa loser, and vice versa.

New Zealand has a proud record at the World Cup of being the only team to have never lost a pool game. The record is 31-0, including France in 2011.

But opponents smell blood in the water around these All Blacks after some notable firsts in this World Cup cycle: First to lose to Argentina, first to lose three tests in a row in 24 years;

first to lose a home series in 28 years; and first to lose to France in Paris since

That result in 2021 was No. 3 in France's ongoing 14-win home streak. With nine players meeting New Zealand for the first time, France won 40-25. It was overpowering up front and daring from the back.

"There's still a knot in our gut from the last time we were here," All Blacks assistant coach Scott McLeod said this week. "That hurt."

New Zealand has 12 survivors from the match. France has 15. But neither are at full strength.

RUGBY

France was without key back Romain Ntamack and forward Paul Willemse for the tournament. Cyril Baille, Anthony Jelonch and midfielder Jonathan Danty were nursing injuries. New Zealand's wounded included first-choice players Tyrel Lomax, Brodie Retallick, Shannon Frizell, and back Jordie Barrett, while winger Emoni Narawa was departing with a back is-

sue.

But there were still plenty of tasty matchups: Julien Marchand vs. Codie Taylor and Gregory Alldritt vs. Ardie Savea up front; Antoine Dupont vs. Aaron Smith, Matthieu Jalibert vs. Richie Mo'unga, Damian Penaud and Gabin Villiere vs. Will Jordan and

"This game," Smith said, "is not about me against him, it is about me doing my role for the team. Defensively, we will have a big eye on Dupont and what he can do, and shutting it down, but that's as a collective. They have got plenty of players who are very dangerous."

There were gasps in the Paris room in December 2020 when France and New Zealand were drawn in the same pool. Theirs is a matchup dripping with history. New Zealand has beaten France in two World Cup finals. France's only two wins gave New Zealand its two worst World Cup results. New Zealand's 62-13 quarterfinal win in 2015 is France's worst result ever. This will be their tournament-leading

eighth matchup.
France President Emmanuel Macron huddled with the players and staff on a field this week. Not to put pressure on the team, Macron said while doing exactly that, but France had an incredible opportunity hosting the World Cup. Duties were attached, he added. "You are at home with 67 million French people behind you."

All Blacks coach Ian Foster, part of two World Cup wins, wondered if the French will be able to handle the hype around them.

"Part of World Cups is the mental side, about having the confidence and courage to play the game you need to play at the right time," he said. "It is only when it all starts will we see where people are at."



France's Matthieu Jalibert (center), passes the ball during a training session on the eve of their Rugby World Cup Pool A match against New Zealand, at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris. (AP)

earned his first win since July 28. Dany Jimenez picked up his 18th save.

Davis Schneider homered for Toronto. The Blue Jays started the day with a half-game lead over the Rangers for the third AL wild-card spot.

Phillies 5, Padres 1

In San Diego, Kyle Schwarber hit another eye-popping home run at Petco Park - this one a 465-foot leadoff shot almost halfway up the batter's eye beyond the center field wall - and Zack Wheeler and three Philadelphia relievers combined to hold San Diego's high-priced offense to three hits.

Schwarber drove a 2-1 pitch from Michael Wacha for his 41st overall and 10th leadoff homer of the season, breaking Jimmy Rollins' franchise record of nine in 2007.

J.T. Realmuto also homered and Bryce Harper hit a two-run double to end an 0-for-20 skid. That was more than enough to back Wheeler (11-6), who held the Padres' wildly inconsistent offense to one hit in six innings while striking out seven and walking two.

Seranthony Dominguez, Jeff Hoffman and former Padres reliever Matt Strahm finished the combined threehitter. Strahm allowed two hits in the ninth, including Garrett Cooper's RBI single.

Wacha (11-3) allowed three runs and seven hits in four innings, struck out six and walked three.

Cubs 8, Giants 2

In Chicago, Seiya Suzuki hit a threerun double, Cody Bellinger homered and Chicago earned its fourth consecutive win.

Suzuki, Bellinger and Ian Happ each had two hits as Chicago completed a three-game series sweep to move a season-high 12 games above .500 at 76-64. The Cubs also moved within 1 1/2 games of NL Central-leading Milwenkee

Chicago left-hander Jordan Wicks improved to 3-0 with a 2.16 ERA in his first three big league starts. He permitted two runs and nine hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Thairo Estrada, Luis Matos, Casey Schmitt and Paul DeJong each had two hits for San Francisco. Alex Wood (5-5) was tagged for five runs and five hits in 2 1/3 innings.

San Francisco scored both of its runs in the top of the seventh. Schmitt hit an RBI double, and Joey Bart had a sacrifice fly.

Guardians 2, Twins 1

In Cleveland, rookie Gavin Williams and four relievers cooled off Minnesota's offense and Cleveland avoided a three-game sweep.

Minnesota still leads second-place Cleveland by six games in the AL Central with 22 games left

tral with 22 games left.

Williams (2-5) didn't allow a hit until Andrew Stevenson's RBI single in the fifth. He walked four and struck out four. Sam Hentges, Reynaldo López, Nick Sandlin and Emmanuel Clase each worked a scoreless inning. Clase retired all three hitters he faced in the ninth for his 38th save in 47 chances.

Twins starter Joe Ryan (10-9) made his third start since being on the 15-day injured list with a strained groin. The right-hander allowed two runs in four

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 5

In Phoenix, Alek Thomas homered and drove in five runs, Tommy Pham had three RBIs and Arizona overcame an early four-run deficit to beat Colorado

The Rockies jumped on Arizona starter Zach Davies with four runs in the first inning. The Diamondbacks re-

Atlanta 90 48 .652 —
Philadelphia 77 62 .554 13-1/2
Miami 72 67 .518 18-1/2
New York 64 75 .460 26-1/2
Washington 63 77 .450 28

Central Division

W L Pct
Milwaukee 77 62 .554 —
Chicago 76 64 .543 1-1/2

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Wednesday. Cleveland 2 Minnesota 1

Toronto Boston Cincinnati

Detroit

Texas

LA Angels Milwaukee

San Diego LA Dodgers NY Mets

11 Atlanta merican League

San Francisco

Kansas City

Oakland

NY Yankees

Chicago Cubs

Detroit Chicago Kansas City

Houston Seattle

St Louis

with 13 hits.

Chris Flexen (1-7) in the third and a two-run double in the fourth. Pham had three hits, including a two-run double, and scored three runs. Flexen allowed six runs on four hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Thomas hit a three-run homer off

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. added a solo homer and Bryce Jarvis (2-0) walked one in two innings for his second win in the majors to keep the Diamondbacks four games behind the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

Yankees 4, Tigers 3

In New York, Jasson Domínguez broke a third-inning tie with his first Yankee Stadium home run, and New York got back over .500 for the first

time in three weeks.

Domínguez homered for the third time in five games since his big league debut Friday, a 110.2 mph line drive off Beau Brieske (1-3) that landed in the first-row seats behind the right-

Detroit pitcher Matt Manning's right foot was broken when he was hit on the right foot by a 119.5 mph comebacker off the bat of Giancarlo Stanton in the first inning. The 25-year-old right-hander will miss the rest of the season. He missed 2 1/2 months this year after being hit on the foot by a comebacker off the bat of Toronto's

Alejandro Kirk.
Clarke Schmidt (9-8) won for the first time in five starts, allowing three runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings. He retired 16 in a row between Kerry Carpenter's RBI single in the first and Spencer Torkelson's single leading off

the seventh.
Clay Holmes, pitching for the fourth time in five days, got three straight

outs for his 18th save in 21 chances.

Nationals 3, Mets 2
In Washington, rookie Jacob Young grounded a game-ending single through a drawn-in infield, and Washington rallied past New York to end a six-game skid.

Carter Kieboom opened the ninth with a four-pitch walk against Phil Bickford (4-5), who then hit Jake Alu with an 0-2 pitch. Ildemaro Vargas laid down a sacrifice bunt to set up Young's walk-off hit.

Kyle Finnegan (7-4) retired the side in the ninth for the last-place Nationals, who moved within 1 1/2 games of the underachieving Mets in the NL East. Washington split this two-game set and concluded the season series against New York with a 6-7 record.

The Mets led 2-0 through six innings behind José Butto, whose fourth major league start was by far his best. He departed with two men on and one out in the seventh, but reliever Trevor Gott allowed both inherited runners to

White Sox 6, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Andrew Vaughn doubled, homered, drove in two runs and scored two as Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak. Elvis Andrus had four hits, and

Yoan Moncada and Oscar Colas also went deep for the White Sox. Chicago starter Touki Toussaint (3-7) gave up two runs and two hits with

six strikeouts over six innings. Bryan Shaw got the last three outs for his second save of the season.

Nelson Velazquez and Edward Olivares homered for Kansas City, which had won consecutive games for the

had won consecutive games for the first time since winning seven straight July 28 to Aug. 4. The Royals have lost 22 of their last 30.

Jordan Lyles (4-16), the major

Jordan Lyles (4-16), the major leagues' leader in losses, allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

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 mid-fielder Yannick Carrasco was transferred to Al-Shabab FC from Atletico Madrid. (AP)

Pacers 'power' Pakistan to

7-wkt win over Bangladesh

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

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 depen-

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

dent 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

nipped back into the left-hander

Taskin Ahmed then had Babar

Azam bowled off a delivery that

kept low as the Pakistan skip-

per played the ball back onto his

stumps before Imam and Rizwan

raised a match-winning 89-run

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 in-

Al Hasan and Mushfigur then

showed plenty of confidence

against Pakistan pacers and the

spinners, hitting 12 boundaries be-

tween them, before Ashraf finally

got the breakthrough in the 30th

Rauf returned and had Mush-

figur and Taskin caught behind off

successive deliveries and Naseem,

who fell awkwardly on his shoul-

der and went off the field for six

overs, returned and polished off

"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

the tail in quick time.

move on to the next one."

side the batting powerplay.

stand.

and struck him on the back leg.

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

out the award to men every year since

France Football magazine has given

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

"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 Bruvne, 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 Modrić.

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, Asisat Oshoala, and Linda Caicedo.

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

'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

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 be-tween Germany and Latvia in Ma-nila, 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

Ireland is missing three forwards be-

Joe McCarthy is one of six in the team making a World Cup debut and slots in the second row, with Tadhg

New Zealand-born Hinckley Vaov-

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 Rosu comes in for Damian Stratila.

starting instead on the wing.

cause of injury - hooker Dan Sheehan and back rower Jack Conan (both foot) and prop Dave Kilcoyne (hamstring).

Beirne starting at No. 6.

asa 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.

a 57-7 loss to Italy and there are three changes from that game, with one coming in the back as flanker Florian

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 Fur-long, Ron Herring, Andrew Porter. Reserves: Ronan 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 Cojocaru, Iulian Hartig. Reserves: Florin Bardasu, Alexandru Savin, Gheorghe Gajion, Marius Iftimiciuc, Dragos Šer, Alin Conache, Tudor Boldor, Taylor

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 sevenwicket 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 100run 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



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



Daniil Medvedey, 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 problem-

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.

f 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 serves.

It was a perfect return on a 129 mph (208 kph) first serve that led to a crosscourt 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 courtside 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-



KUNA photo

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.

Sports Club Stadium, saw Hamad

heading in the seventh minute.

for a comeback.

Kuwait's lead in minute 45 from.

the fourth for the Blue at minute 80.

The encounter, hosted at Kuwait

Taweel taking the lead with a near

Midfielder Talal Al-Qaisi doubled

In the second half, Mohsen Falah

scored the third from outside the box at

minute 53 to dash Timor-Leste's hope

SOCCER

At another Group F encounter, Iraq

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

squashed Macao 13-0 to lead the group

The substitute Salman Albous netted

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

Iraq rout Macao 13-0

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

thing to eat after leaving the court. "So I don't think this could be done."

An AP analysis shows that it is feeling hotter and hotter at Grand Slam tournaments in recent decades, reflecting the climate change seen in heat waves around the globe this summer. Week 2 at the U.S. Open is pushing players to the limit.

They're using ice - so much ice, in plastic bags or wrapped in towels and courtside tubes blowing cold air to try to stay cool.

Medvedev used an inhaler during a second-set changeover Wednesday while being looked at by a doctor. who checked his breathing with a stethoscope. Rublev leaned back on his sideline chair as if he would rather be anywhere else.

"At the end of the first set, I couldn't see the ball anymore," Medvedev said, adding that he looked across the net at No. 8 seed Rublev - his countryman, good pal and godfather to his daughter - and thought: "Wow. It seems like he cannot run anymore."

Medvedev wore a white towel around his neck during the on-court interview at Arthur Ashe Stadium after finishing off the 2-hour, 48-minute match, which is relatively short for a best-of-five-set Grand Slam men's match.

Medvedev said he felt dizzy afterward and that both he and Rublev rubbed their faces raw by toweling off so frequently. Rublev described feeling his heart racing between

Asked about his level of concern on a day like that, Rublev said: "I'm not even thinking about my health."

Under a new rule adopted on Tuesday for the rest of the event, the U.S. Tennis Association partially closed the retractable Ashe roof - normally used to block out rain - to provide some additional protection from the sun for spectators and competitors.

One unintended result: The shadows can make it hard to see the tennis balls as they zip through the air.

Zheng Qinwen, the No. 23 seed who defeated 2022 runner-up Ons Jabeur in her previous match, said that dynamic bothered her during a 6-1, 6-4 loss to Aryna Sabalenka.

Sabalenka won 20 of the initial 24 points to race to a 5-0 lead after just 17 minutes.

She reached the semifinals for the fifth major in a row and will rise from No. 2 to No. 1 in the WTA rankings next week, replacing 2022 U.S. Open champion Iga Swiatek,

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-

who exited in the fourth round.

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.

training base in the United States

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,"

finalist Madison Keys, an Ameri-

League would resume on September 27 by holding the third round matches. Al-Mutairi said in a press release that balenka will meet 2017 U.S. Open 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 Asiad China, 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

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.



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)

ARAB® TIMES

Editor-in-Chief AHMED AL JARALLAH

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267

Advertising: Tel: 24813805 Fax: 24845708

Annual Subscriptions: Individuals KD 45/- Companies and Official Departments KD 75 Airmail charges extra for Fax: 24839487

Tel: 24849144