



'Pearl of the Gulf' is an eagle that rejuvenates to fly high

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

- Continuing to pay lip service to democracy without serious reforms means much ado about nothing
Bickering has weakened the prestige of the state and its absence from the arenas of global and regional action and influence
Economic corridor project, which was launched at the G20 summit, is a big step that Kuwait was not prepared for
Talking about diversifying sources of income but we have not seen anything from it because there are those who deflate the wheels
Subsidy is in the interest of the wealthy, and the statement of the new Minister of Finance is a step in the right direction
Dreams of the Silk Road and the Silk City evaporated because of personal interests and the boasting that "Kuwait is different"

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The upcoming visit of His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to China and South Korea - if it takes place as planned - carries profound and important connotations for reviving vitality in the development and economic fields.
Therefore, the outcome of this trip must be at the top of everyone's priorities, especially the Council of Ministers and the parliament.
Certainly, the Kuwaiti affairs have declined in all its aspects. Sources close to senior decision-making circles said, "It is caused by what can be considered as inefficiency of public affairs management by executives who worked according to outdated laws, or put their personal interests ahead of the public interest.
This is why corruption and corrupt people bristled, or they lacked experience, which caused the country to lose the opportunity to keep up with the ideas and plans that were previously drawn up, because they slept in the dark, due to being subject to personal whims, or the game of self-interest.
This matter reminds us of what the Vice President of the United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said to a group of Kuwaitis many years ago when he met them in Dubai. He said, "Kuwait thinks and we implement."
At that time, those present among the Kuwaitis were talking about the slow decision and implementation, and the slow pace of development.
For this reason, the sources said, "The current stage must be different from the previous one, because the suffering is great, and a decision must be made. Con-



Al-Jarallah

tinuing to pay lip service to democracy without any serious reforms means much ado about nothing. This causes further weakening of the State institutions, as we have only taken away freedom of opinion and insults, making wild accusations, and exploiting them for personal interests.
The chaos and quarrels led to a further weakening of the State's prestige. We have a clear example of a number of conferences - both international and regional - from which Kuwait was absent due to it being preoccupied with internal conflict either by some members of the ruling house, or parliamentarians, ministers, or influential people.
That is why we see nothing but battles of windmills. This is very painful not only for the decision-makers, but also for the people and their country."
The sources went on to say, "A few days ago, the leaders of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries met in India and launched the economic corridor project linking India, the Middle East and Europe.
There is no doubt that this is a big step in the direction of enhancing the development of the member states in this partnership, as well as its neighboring countries. On the other hand, Kuwait has not prepared for such projects.
For 40 years, we have been talking about diversifying sources of income, enhancing the national product, shrinking the budget deficit, increasing the salaries of low-income earners, and treating the living conditions of citizens, but we have not seen any of this, because there are those who keep on deflating the wheels...
The provision of subsidy is in the interest of those with high incomes, and the loans also serve those who refuse to be compassionate to the citizens.

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DHAMAN DOUBTS EXPATS HEALTHCARE FEES CAN COVER ALL SERVICES
Incremental pocket pain in fee rise set

Ouch! ... that hurts

By Raed Youssef
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Although the Health Insurance Hospitals Company for expatriates confirmed its commitment to collect 130 dinars annually as fees for the health care services it will provide, it doubted the feasibility of this annual premium and its ability to cov-

er all the services expected from the company, noting that the amount was determined ten years ago during which the Ministry of Health itself increased the tariff required of expatriates several times and expanded the types of medications not covered for non-Kuwaitis to maintain financial balance.

While the company stressed that it will spare no effort in implementing cost control measures, it revealed that it is seriously considering increasing the annual installment by what it described as "the reasonable minimum to ensure the economic feasibility of the project."
The company pledged -- in a response sent by Finance Minister Fahd Al-Jarallah to a question from MP Khaled Al-Tamar -- to apply the price of the health insurance policy (130 dinars) for two years before increasing it to 150 dinars, and then to increase it periodically every two years to reach 190 dinars by the tenth year. It has the right to increase the fees for visiting health centers if the inflation rate exceeds 6 percent without referring to any official body to obtain its approval.

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Diane Massaroli holds a picture of her late husband, Michael Massaroli, before the commemoration ceremony of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, in New York. (AP)

US marks 9/11 'versary

'That day is still today'

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): With tolling bells, personal tributes and tears, Americans looked back Monday on 9/11 at anniversary observances that stretched from ground zero to small towns.
People gathered at memorials, firehouses, city halls, campuses and elsewhere to observe the 22nd anniversary of the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil.
"For those of us who lost people on that day, that day is still happening. Everybody else moves on. And you find a way to go forward, but that day is always happening for you," Edward Edelman said as he arrived at ground zero to honor his slain brother-in-law, Daniel McGinley.
President Joe Biden was due at a ceremony on a military base in Anchorage, Alaska. His visit, en route to Washington from a trip to India and Vietnam, is a reminder that the impact of 9/11 was felt in every corner of the nation, however remote. Nearly 3,000 people were killed

when hijacked planes crashed into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, in an attack that reshaped American foreign policy and domestic fears.
On that day, "we were one country, one nation, one people, just like it should be. That was the feeling - that everyone came together and did what we could, where we were at, to try to help," said Eddie Ferguson, the fire-rescue chief in Virginia's Goochland County.
It's more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the Pentagon and more than three times as far from New York. But a sense of connection is enshrined in a local memorial incorporating steel from the World Trade Center's destroyed twin towers.
The predominantly rural county of 25,000 people holds not just one but two anniversary commemorations: a morning service focused on first responders and an evening ceremony honoring all the victims.

US House returns from recess to messy autumn

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is a man who stays in motion - enthusiastically greeting tourists at the Capitol, dashing overseas last week to the G7 summit of industrial world leaders, raising funds back home to elect fellow Republicans to the House majority.
But beneath the whirlwind of activity is a stubborn standstill, an imbalance of power between the far-right Republicans who hoisted McCarthy to the speaker's role yet threaten his own ability to lead the House.
It's a political standoff that will be tested anew as the House returns this week from a long summer recess and McCarthy faces a collision course of difficult challenges - seeking to avoid a government shutdown, support Ukraine in the war and launch an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden.

"They've got some really heavy lifting ahead," said the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, John Thune, of South Dakota.
McCarthy, of California, is going to "have his hands full trying to figure out how to navigate and execute," he said.
Congress has been here before, as has McCarthy in his nearly two decades in office, but the stakes are ever higher, with Republicans powered by an increasingly hard-right faction that is refusing to allow business as usual in Washington.
With former President Donald Trump's backing, McCarthy's right-flank pushed him into the speaker's office at the start of the year only after he agreed to a long list of conservative demands - including the ability to call a quick vote to "vacate the chair" and remove him from office.

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Israelis in first public visit to Saudi Arabia

Officials tiptoe into Riyadh UN heritage confab

JERUSALEM, Sept 11, (AP): An Israeli delegation arrived in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to attend a U.N. conference on world heritage sites, in the first public visit by government officials to the kingdom, an Israeli official said.
The delegation is led by the head of Israel's Antiquities Authority, Eli Escusido, and includes diplomats, the official said. It is not a bilateral visit, and it was unclear whether they would meet with Saudi officials.
The official was not authorized to discuss the matter with media and spoke on condition of anonym-

ity. The official noted that Israel took part in a video game competition in Saudi Arabia earlier this year.
The visit comes as Washington is pushing to broker normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which are believed to have quietly cultivated ties in recent years over their shared suspicion of Iran. A formal agreement would be a historic step toward integrating Israel into the wider region, but it faces major challenges.

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Women cry as they mourn victims of the earthquake in Moulay Brahim in the province of Al Haouz, Morocco, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023. An aftershock rattled Moroccans on Sunday as they prayed for victims of the nation's strongest earthquake in more than a century and toiled to rescue survivors while soldiers and workers brought water and supplies to desperate mountain villages in ruins. (AP)

Soldiers, aid teams race to reach remote towns

TAFEGHAGHTE, Morocco, Sept 11, (AP): Moroccan soldiers and aid teams in trucks and helicopters battled Monday to reach remote mountain towns devastated by a monstrous earthquake that killed more than 2,400 people, with survivors desperate for help to find loved ones feared trapped under the rubble.
Moroccan officials have so far accepted government-offered aid from just four countries - Spain, Qatar, Britain and the United Arab Emirates - and some foreign aid teams said they were awaiting permission to deploy. Morocco's Interior Ministry says officials want to avoid a lack of coordination that "would be counterproductive."

The United Nations estimates that 300,000 people were affected by Friday night's magnitude 6.8 quake, made more dangerous by its relatively shallow depth.
Most of the destruction and deaths were in Al Haouz province in the High Atlas Mountains, where homes folded in on themselves and steep, winding roads became clogged with rubble. Residents sometimes cleared away rocks themselves.
People cheered when trucks full of soldiers arrived Sunday in the town of Amizmiz. But they pleaded for more help.
"It's a catastrophe," said survivor Salah An-

cheu in the town where mountainside homes and a mosque's minaret collapsed.
"We don't know what the future is. The aid remains insufficient," the 28-year-old said.
Army units deployed Monday along a paved road leading from Amizmiz to remoter mountain villages. State news agency MAP reported that bulldozers and other equipment were being used to clear the routes. Tourists and residents lined up to give blood. In some villages, people wept as boys and helmet-clad police carried the dead through streets.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:10 Asr 15:15
Sunrise .. 05:30 Maghrib .. 17:59
Zohr 11:45 Isha 19:17

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:
By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	34
Kuwait Airport	47	28

Abdaly	47	28
Jahra	48	31
Salmiyah	44	34
Ahmadi	43	35
Nuwaib	45	30
Wafra	47	27

Culture of extravagance in society widespread: Al-Muzaini

Food wastage in Kuwait is among highest in world: report

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The phenomenon of food wastage in Kuwait is growing in a worrying manner due to its environmental and economic impacts on the individual and society. It highlights the presence of the culture of extravagance and wastage, and lack of appreciation for blessings, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to official statistics, 400,000 tons of food surpluses are wasted every year in the country, of which the per capita share is 95 kilograms annually.

Kuwait is one among the countries with the highest food waste in the world. This is due to many reasons, including the large number of social events, families' incorrect estimation of their daily food needs, the absence or weakness of laws and legislation regulating food wastage, and the failure to enact legislation to violate wasteful individuals and entities by setting fees for their wastage of food.



Al-Muzaini

In light of the spread of this phenomenon and its negative environmental and economic repercussions, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Aiban decided to form a committee for designing and implementing the "National Campaign to Rationalize Food Consumption."

Among its tasks, the committee will provide public awareness to citizens and residents about the environmental and economic impacts resulting from food wastage in the country, and study the proposals submitted by the chairman of the committee, its members, and specialists in the field.

In this context, a member of the committee and Head of the "Ne' mati" (my blessing) initiative project Muhammad Al-Muzaini affirmed that the spread of the culture of wastage and extravagance, and the lack of appreciation for blessings harm society.

He explained that the committee will begin its work by conducting comprehensive research on current food wastage statistics and trends.

It will also look into the contributing factors at the national level, and prepare studies to analyze social behavior and the motives behind the misconceptions that produced the phenomenon, and ways to address them.

Among the proposals with the committee to preserve food from wastage include making use of the cooked foods left over in the halls of the social events that are held almost daily. This will be done after taking the opinions of specialists in the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition and the charitable committees. There will be a need for a healthy food supervisor to supervise the food, and prepare it in accordance with health requirements, so that it can be given to needy families in an acceptable and decent manner.

Food wastage in Kuwait is estimated at

about 400,000 tons annually, while the wastage of an individual citizen is 95 kilograms per year, according to the Food Waste Index Report for 2021 issued by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Al-Muzaini said he reviewed the experiences of many neighboring countries, such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, in the field of reducing food wastage, when he participated in previous government committees.

He affirmed the need to implement those experiences in Kuwait, after presenting them to the newly formed committee by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Al-Muzaini said, "Wastage, according to experts and specialists, costs the state, through basic services for transportation, collection, and waste storage, a minimum of KD 7,200 per kilogram of the wasted food."

He highlighted a field study conducted recently with the participation of 106 employees in restaurants, hotels, and catering companies.

About 64.2 percent of them stated that the estimated financial value of daily surplus food in restaurants, hotels, and catering companies amounts to KD 50 per day. About 25.5 percent believed that it reaches KD 50 per day, and 25.5 percent thought it reached KD 100 per day.

Regarding the legislative, legal and regulatory measures that must be taken in this regard, Al-Muzaini pointed out the importance of:

1. Establishing a national program to reduce the phenomenon of food loss and wastage. This program will be under the umbrella of a government body determined by the Council of Ministers.

2. Establishing the National Observatory for Food Wastage in order to collect, exchange and disseminate data in a consistent and transparent manner with all stakeholders in the stages of the food chain.

3. Enacting strict legislation and procedures to hold the food importing, manufacturing, processing and selling sector accountable for the losses resulting from their operations.

4. Criminalizing wastage at the societal and institutional levels, and promoting the use of surplus food.

5. Developing a legal and technical vision for the nature of partnership, cooperation and coordination between food companies, restaurants, cooperative societies, central markets, wedding halls and hotels in order to distribute the surplus usable food resulting from the activity of these entities for the benefit of charitable associations and foundations.

Regarding the causes of food wastage in the country, Al-Muzaini explained that the reasons vary. They include the absence of better application of best practices in all stages of the food supply chain such as collection, harvesting, sorting, packaging, transportation, storage and handling food, weak logistical factors, lack of necessary infrastructure, and absence of assistive technologies that limit food wastage and improve food surplus management.

Sept 28 declared off

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Cabinet announced on Monday that September 28th will be a holiday to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

During its weekly meeting, the Cabinet said public institutes and ministries would suspend work while other entities would continue work and operation in accordance with their own specialized nature.

Amir expresses sorrow over floods in Bulgaria

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of condolence to the President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev, expressing sorrow over floods that hit his country.

In the cable, His Highness showed grievance towards the flood victims' families and wished fast recovery to those injured. His Highness Deputy Amir and the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of condolences to the President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev, expressing sorrow over the floods that hit his country.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of condolence to the President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev over the victims of the floods that hit the country.

Students' welfare eyed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Ministry of Information has announced that it has initiated discussions to outline the details of a forthcoming media campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, in preparation for the upcoming academic year. The campaign's objectives include raising awareness and providing guidance to both parents and students, aligning with decisions made by the Council of Ministers.

Dr. Nasser Al-Muhaisen, the Undersecretary of the Ministry, conveyed in a press statement that the campaign will encompass educational awareness and guidance, emphasizing the importance of effective study, its requirements, and the responsibilities to be undertaken by school administrations and parents.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives President of Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah

HH Crown Prince congrats ASC Pres.

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday President of Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Deputy Amir Crown Prince congratulated him on the post, wishing Sheikh Salam Al-Sabah all success to serve homeland in various regional and international sports forums. (KUNA)

'Let SMEs set up shop at borders'

MP queries MEW minister on expat jobs

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: MP Adel Al-Damkhi has submitted a proposal on granting business opportunities to the owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for them to establish investment outlets at the land borders.

MP Marzouq Al-Hebeini has proposed granting teachers a maximum of 10 days off per academic year with full salary, which will be used based on their needs and circumstances. He explained the current regulation mandates the Ministry of Education to specify the dates for the teachers to use their 10 days off in accordance with the academic calendar; hence, some teachers cannot use their 10 days off when needed.

MP Muhammad Hayef submitted a bill to amend Article 251 of law number 67/1980 on specifying the blood money to be in line with the Islamic Law (Sharia). He disclosed that the existing law stipulates KD10,000 as blood money; while the Islamic Law specifies the amount based on the current exchange rates. He said the Islamic Law specifies the price of 100 camels as blood money.

He suggested that blood money should be 4,250 grams of 21 karat gold or its equivalent in Kuwaiti dinars to be paid by installment within three years. The amount can be amended in accordance with a special decree and another decree will be issued regarding cases in which the victims receive the whole or a portion of the blood money.

On the other hand, MP Dawoud Ma'arafi asked State Minister for Communications and Municipal Affairs Ali Al-Shulah about the total number of employees in the two ministries; number of employees who are Kuwaitis, children of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners, Bedouins and expatriates; actual manpower needs; number of Kuwaiti graduates recruited from 2020 till date; number of expatriate and Kuwaiti consultants in the Minister's Office; and if there are vacant supervisory positions -- whether advertised or not.

MP Hassan Jawhar has forwarded queries to Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah about the annual report of the government as follows:

- date of submission of the annual report to the National Assembly;
- violations committed by companies and individuals in relation to the illegal use of State properties as per Article 19 of law number 105/1980;
- measures taken against those proven to have committed violations according to Partnership Projects Law number 116/2014;
- if the Ministry of Finance informed other ministries and public institutions about the violations related to the illegal use of public properties including real estate, commercial, industrial and craft plots;
- opinion of the ministry about decree number 105/1980 on the collection of rent for public properties;
- annual revenues of ministries, public institutions, subsidiaries and independent institutions from fiscal 2010/2011 till date;
- update regarding the bill on amending State Properties decree number 105/1980 in order to increase revenues;
- rationale behind drafting another bill on the establishment of a public authority to manage investments on State properties as stated in the government program for the years 2023 to 2027.

MP Marzouq Al-Hebeini asked Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Jaseem Al-Ostad about the information he obtained that his ministry signed contracts for the recruitment of national and expatriate employees; and number of Kuwaiti employees compared to the expatriates including their qualification, experience, job title and salary.

Furthermore, Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun sent a cable to Chairperson of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Rosen Zhelyazkov to express condolences on the victims of the floods due to the heavy rains that hit the southern coast of Bulgaria causing damages, deaths and injuries.

Other Voices

Moral scandal, admin disaster

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) has disclosed that 1,825 officials obtain exceptional salary including 36 MPs and Ministers, 301 former MPs and ministers, 45 former and current member of Municipal Council, 78 senior officials at Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC), 73 mayors, 225 experienced figures (!), 93 individuals (?), 605 officials at the Amiri Diwan, Crown Prince Diwan and Prime Minister Diwan.



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According to MP Muhammad Al-Sayer, the total annual cost of the exceptional salaries allocated for the above-mentioned individuals is almost KD 2 billion in addition to the other amounts allocated for thousands of military personnel and the disabled.

Thus the crack is too deep. All this is a fruit of Article 80 of the law on PIFSS which allows the government to grant exceptional salaries, much higher than their normal salaries in order to guarantee them to lead a prosperous lifestyle.

Unfortunately, this article was enforced on widely that it covered huge number of officials and cost the public treasury a large amount of money.

For scores of years, none of the MPs objected to this illogic and unfair article. Perhaps MP Jenan Bushshri was the first to sound the alarm bell and then MP Muhammad Al-Sayer is taking steps on the same course.

This situation is neither moral nor it is fair and the solution is not as so easy. The first problem might concern adding control over Article 80 of the above-men-

tioned law, which means that squandering of public fund will continue without consideration to justice as it may define a specific annual number of beneficiaries according to specific requirements.

The response of PIFSS to the queries forwarded by MP Muhammad Al-Sayer defined the annual amount of exceptional salaries at KD 1.867 billion while the total amount of pension, after subtracting the exceptional salaries, is KD 3 billion.

I do not think suspending the exceptional salaries will not be easy since they have become part of the acquired rights of the beneficiaries who got used to lead a high life standard and considering the fact that obtaining those exceptional salaries is not their own fault.

The problem is in Article 80 and the problem is the misuse of it. It seems that the article was written deliberately in this form for those who wrote it to be among the beneficiaries later.

The moral part of the issue is the MPs' keeping silence for many years and their seeking to get advantage of it despite the fact that they being an MP is not aimed at receiving money or benefits.

Parliamentary work is nearly voluntary national service rather than a profitable job. Many of the MPs of that old good days abandoned their commercial businesses and senior positions and devoted full time to legislative task.

How come, an MP whose duty it is to make laws and monitor the government to submit a petition to Prime Minister requesting the latter to grant him exceptional salary?

The issue turns to be a tragicomedy when we figure out that among the MPs who submitted petitions to obtain exceptional salaries are those who keep on repeating patriot slogans and express their concern about public funds.

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'No new funds for SMEs owners'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Informed sources revealed to Al-Rai that the Board of Directors of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development rejected the project to allocate the service of delivering and reselling fuel outside stations to small and medium enterprises, citing the nature of this license and the requirements for obtaining final approvals from the relevant authorities, reports Al-Rai daily.

On the other hand, the sources reported that the SMEs Board of Directors does not plan to reopen financing for new entrepreneurs soon, noting that re-establishing the procedure depends on a number of procedures within the Fund, and that

it is expected to prepare an operational strategy for the Fund in accordance with the "New Kuwait 2035" development plan through introducing a practice in which specialized companies are invited.

The sources said that the SMEs Board of Directors have approved the fund's financial budget for the past two fiscal years with expenses of approximately 16 million dinars, indicating that at the end of last August the period of stopping payment of initiators' installments had ended according to the decision of the Council of Ministers, and payment is assumed to return starting from September 25 of this year unless a new decision is issued to extend the payment.

Don't harbor illegals, warns Mol

989 men, women deported in 7 days

By Munaif Naif
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Informed security sources revealed the intensification of security campaigns by the General Department for Residency Affairs Investigations in the next few days in all of the country's governorates, areas and markets to arrest violators of the residency and labor laws, absconders and wanted persons.

The sources explained that the Deportation Department deported 989 expatriates - 611 men and 378 women - in the last seven days. This was because they had violated the residency and labor laws. Some of them were caught in places that did not match the public morals. Several procedures are being carried out by the Deportation Department to complete the procedures of all violators referred to it by security authorities.

The recent rounds of the security investigators resulted in the arrest of violators of the residency law, including some whose residency had expired more than five years ago. Some were also arrested for working for different sponsors.

The sources warned people against harboring workers who are in violation of the residency and labor laws and those reported as absconding, because they will expose themselves to legal accountability.

They said the security campaigns of the General Department for Residency Affairs Investigations target commercial centers and random markets in order to arrest all violators of the residency law, and marginal workers, as well as those reported as absconding, based on instructions from the top leadership of the Ministry of Interior.

The sources said, "With the continuation of the security campaigns of the General Department for Residency Affairs Investigations, the number of violators of the residency law in the country will decrease. Also, expatriate workers will abide by the residency and labor laws and pay the fines due on them".

They stressed that the Ministry of Interior is not against the expatriates, but is against the violators of the residency and labor laws.

MEW request OK'd

CAPT nods 2 tenders

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the ministry has obtained the approval of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award the tender for the fourth stage of the project to supply, install, operate and maintain gas turbine units in the combined cycle system to increase the electrical power at Subiya power station by 900 megawatts, to a company for KD 257,558 million.

They revealed that the ministry had asked CAPT to reconsider the tender amount since the beginning of this year, and CAPT agreed to the ministry's request. The tender was then awarded to the selected company for the estimated amount.

The sources emphasized the ministry's keenness to launch projects to expand energy and water production and keep pace with urban expansion in the country.

They said the project is expected to enhance productivity by 900 megawatts over the next few years in light of the expected deficit and the ministry's resort to purchasing energy from the Gulf interconnection network.

Meanwhile, the ministry also obtained the approval of CAPT to issue a tender for the supply, installation and operation of photovoltaic cell systems on the car sheds and the buildings of the southern power stations.

Sources from the ministry explained that the project is part of a series of projects related to renewable energy that operate through photovoltaic panels. It aims to produce three megawatts per hour to supply the sites where the panels will be installed with electrical energy from renewable energy sources instead of energy generated from traditional fossil fuels, and to provide funds directed for this purpose.

The sources indicated that the ministry, through this contract, will generate electrical energy from renewable resources, which is sufficient to light the buildings and parking spaces for employees around the clock, through panels that will be installed on the parking shades.

Mol thwarts bid to bring in 1mn Captagon pills, 400-kg hashish

MoCI responds to video on rotten frozen chicken

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that it has temporarily stopped dealing with a commercial company as a precautionary measure, prevented it from displaying and selling frozen chicken in all the supply branches, and also suspended the sale of the product present in the branches, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement issued in response to a clip circulating on social media regarding the presence of "rotten chicken in one of the cooperative societies", the Ministry of Commerce and Industry revealed that the ministry "will not hesitate to use all its legal powers regarding any incident that harms consumers, within the limits of its responsibilities."

Explained

The ministry explained that, due to the circulation of a video clip on social media sites in which a person showed spoiled frozen chicken belonging to a commercial company and being sold to the supply branches, and in accordance with the procedures followed in this regard, the ministry has immediately coordinated with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, which is the body responsible for food inspection and safety, in preparation for providing it with a report about the aforementioned incident.

A team from the ministry went to check the condition of the supply center in the cooperative society to verify the center's compliance with the conditions and specifications set by the Ministry of Commerce and

Industry. Immediately after receiving the report from PAFN, the ministry will complete the procedures on its part, in the event that the case is proven to be true regarding the presence of spoiled frozen chicken, by referring the supplier company to the Public Prosecution.

Agencies add:

Drugs seized: Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced Sunday that 1 million Captagon pills, 400 kgs of hashish and 0.5 kgs of shabu were seized, as some persons attempted to smuggle them into the country.

In a statement, the ministry said that as part of the efforts to arrest drug dealers and smugglers, the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Narcotics Control, in cooperation with the General Department of Coast Guard, was able to thwart the attempt of two people to smuggle the drugs into the country.

The smugglers and the seized items were referred to the concerned authorities to take the necessary legal measures, it added.

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Power outage probe: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy said the fire had partially damaged one of the power station's cells which had a cascading effect on the Hawally station, leading to power disruptions in Mansouriya, Al-Nuzha, sections of Hawalli, Al-Rawdah, Al-Qadisiyah, Al-Mansouriya, and the Abdullah Al-Salem suburb, reports Al-Anba daily.

However, the ministry responded to the crisis in these areas caused by a fire at the Abdullah Al-Salem M station which led to the complete shutdown of the Hawally A station.

The ministry's dedicated teams swiftly took action, with the Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr. Jassim Al-Ustad, personally overseeing the situation. The efforts focused on restoring power to the

affected areas and investigating the root causes of the incident. In the interim, diesel generators were used to restore electricity to the impacted regions.

Meanwhile, the Public Prosecution has summoned technicians from the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy to clarify the process of issuing and removing debts from the electricity billing systems in connection with the ongoing investigation into a network of fraudulent billing, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to sources within the ministry, the technicians, equipped with laptops, were called upon by the Public Prosecution to elucidate the intricacies of generating electricity bills for consumers. These laptops contained customer service systems and detailed information on how invoices are generated, how consumer indebtedness is calculated, and the procedures for managing these systems.

The technicians provided a comprehensive explanation of the process, shedding light on how the individuals involved in the fraudulent billing scheme gained access to the system to issue bills to those with significant debts and subsequently remove them from the system.

The investigation has made significant progress in identifying some of the individuals implicated in this manipulation, including two real estate dealers. It has been reported that one of them is currently abroad. It's worth noting that Al-Jarida had previously reported that a travel ban had been imposed on a merchant whose involvement in bill manipulation and embezzling substantial sums of money from his real estate dealings had been substantiated.

Approximately a month ago, law enforcement arrested seven individuals suspected of tampering with electricity bills, and they have been detained as part of ongoing investigations into a case that is believed to span more than three years.

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said Morocco is "the master of its choices, which must be respected."

She announced 5 million euros (\$5.4 million) in emergency funds for Moroccan and international non-governmental groups rushing to help survivors. French towns and cities have offered more than 2 million euros (\$2.1 million) in aid, and popular performers are also collecting donations.

Those left homeless - or fearing more aftershocks - have slept outside in the streets of the ancient city of Marrakech or under makeshift canopies in devastated Atlas Mountain towns like Moulay Brahim.

Officials tiptoe

Continued from Page 1

The Saudis are reportedly demanding significant progress on resolving the conflict with the Palestinians - a hard sell for the most right-wing government in Israel's history - as well as U.S. defense guarantees and aid in establishing a civilian nuclear program.

The 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee is being held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, from Sunday through Sept. 25. The committee determines which sites are added to the World Heritage List and supervises their conservation.

Israel announced it was quitting UNESCO in 2017, accusing the international body of being biased against it and diminishing its historical connection to the Holy Land. But Israel remains a party to the World Heritage Convention.

Saudi Arabia has been developing and promoting its own heritage sites in recent years as the kingdom seeks to transform itself into a prime destination for tourists and investment.

'Bold overhaul of laws, regulations governing both authorities needed'

"Regardless of the dynamics between the National Assembly and the government, it's essential to view this relationship pragmatically, free from the constraints of specific historical contexts that influenced the passage of certain laws and their subsequent acceptance or rejection," columnist **Eng Adel Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Instead, we should examine this relationship through the fundamental efforts of both the government and the Assembly to assert their respective strengths and agendas, driven by individual objectives. In essence, this is a relationship defined by a clash of wills.

"Let's be candid that no representative can be entirely content with the government's performance when personal interests govern their interactions. Similarly, it's unrealistic to expect complete harmony between the Prime Minister and senior executive leaders, whether they are influential figures or ministers, and the representatives, even when they hold considerable power. This discord arises primarily due to differing agendas and perspectives.

"Conversely, the Prime Minister, deputy ministers, and ministers cannot readily embrace the representatives' agendas. With 50 deputies and 14 ministers, each possessing their unique outlook and priorities, consensus on a unified stance is rare. Hence, conflicts persist, along with parliamentary inquiries and interrogations, rooted in the flawed foundation on which parliamentary traditions were built.

"The government, at times, sees itself beyond scrutiny, and previous administrations attempted to thwart inquiries or evade questions. On the other hand, representatives insist on demands that may not align with the Council of Ministers' vision. In the past, efforts were made to shield the Prime Minister from accountability, undermining a vital constitutional tool necessary to keep the government on the right path. Representatives have also sometimes exploited this powerful tool to pursue legally and constitutionally questionable objectives, thereby damaging sound parliamentary practices.

"We've explored these issues in numerous articles and opinions. Consequently, we see some representatives vocally challenging the government, while the Prime Minister strives to safeguard his team and agenda. However, these confrontations and defensive actions are unproductive and detrimental to the relationship between the two authorities.

"It's crucial to recognize that political, parliamentary, and even trade union activities operate on the principle of "give and take," characterized by clashes and vigilant oversight of each other's actions, even if it benefits citizens. These activities must be guided by standards and regulations.

"To foster a healthier relationship, there must be a comprehensive process of legal and regulatory development for both the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers. Without this, chaos will persist, rendering the negotiations between the two entities ineffective.

"Some may fear that striking agreements with the Prime Minister or ministers will undermine the representatives, and those exploiting the ambiguity in their relationship may prolong confrontations. It's vital to acknowledge that these tactics do not serve the interests of citizens or the state.

"Therefore, a bold overhaul of laws and regulations governing both authorities is necessary. Neutral individuals with national interests, devoid of personal agendas or self-interest, should be entrusted with the task of developing these regulations and laws. Furthermore, both parties must acknowledge their role in upholding the social contract, aiming to create a balanced relationship between the rulers and the ruled, in pursuit of an orderly society governed by laws. Unfortunately, this perspective is currently lacking in the Kuwaiti political landscape.

Also:

"Lately, it's been evident, and not concealed, that "social media" has profoundly permeated Kuwaiti society, serving as a platform for discussions, disagreements, guidance, tensions, and entrenchment of one group against another. It's a place where accusations are spread and defended against, marking an unprecedented societal obsession with social media," columnist **Abdullah Al-Afasi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Undoubtedly, "social media" wields considerable influence in shaping public opinion and plays a constructive role in raising and addressing various issues.

"However, it's crucial not to overlook the peril posed by a growing trend among some ministers who favor utilizing non-official "social media" for disseminating their news. This preference is manifest in the use of social media platforms over official media

channels, beginning with the Kuwait News Agency, government-run social media accounts, and concluding with the country's official newspapers.

"This inclination raises concerns that ministers may get entangled in the "social media" quagmire. Nowadays, social media platforms have become the primary source for conveying their news, ideas, and plans. This trend has extended to include photos of their official and private meetings on platforms used primarily for personal communication and not for media purposes.

"In essence, these platforms grant publication privileges to anyone willing to pay, prioritizing viewership over journalistic ethics, thereby creating both political and moral dilemmas.

"Perhaps the most ironic aspect is that some ministers place more trust in certain social media platforms as official channels for disseminating their news than they do in the official communication services of their ministries. It has become common to find news about a minister circulating on "social media" before being officially published on the ministry's website. This is often rationalized by the desire for broad exposure and generating buzz, with the integrity of the message taking a back seat.

"The perilous aspect of this behavior, especially for ministers, is that it contributes to the reinforcement of the detrimental and irresponsible obsession with "social media." This obsession has become a potent weapon in society, a leading cause of crises in recent times, and a conduit for unofficial leaks and baseless accusations.

"Moreover, ministers, being responsible for formulating the state's overarching policy and its future, should not rely on social media platforms to announce their news. Their roles require them to present their ideas in a structured manner, not within one or two lines of text. This necessitates official announcements rather than posts aimed solely at garnering attention.

"The culture of "social media" and its emphasis on rapid dissemination is more suited for advertising consumer products or personal viewpoints. However, publishing the plans and news of state officials, particularly ministers, should adhere to a unified media policy, trustworthy official platforms, and spokespersons designated by the ministry.

"Furthermore, ministers appearing on social media platforms and attributing achievements and work solely to themselves, rather than the institution they represent, for personal gain, requires reevaluation. Any statement associated with a minister should be rectified, emphasizing that the ministry remains enduring while ministers come and go.

"Despite these concerns, there is optimism and confidence in His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and his determination to initiate substantial changes in the near future as part of his commitment to steering the country in the right direction."

□ □ □

"The United Nations defined corruption as "the promise, offer or grant of an undue advantage, directly or indirectly, to a public servant, whether for the benefit of the employee or for the benefit of another person or entity, in order for the employee to act or refrain from doing something in relation to the performance of his official duties," columnist **Dr Nada Al-Mutawwa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Today marks the launching of parliamentary proposals and government initiatives in all directions. We hope no decision is taken or no project is designed without the means for sounding the whistle of corruption as an integral part of upcoming projects, in addition to updating laws on protecting whistleblowers, and stopping money laundering, vote buying and other types of corruption.

"It is worth mentioning the importance of reviewing laws, examining the experience of high-ranking countries in putting an end to corruption and studying such experience thoroughly. The most vital issues usually mentioned in the programs of international anti-corruption organizations are related to the need to update and follow-up methods of declaring the financial assets of public servants and members of the legislative authority, as well as strengthening the means to protect the whistleblower.

"In terms of legislation related to elections, electoral campaigns and commercial advertisements for candidates, the simplest decision that can be taken is the formation of a special committee consisting of anti-corruption activists to contribute to purifying the electoral process from deviation, in addition to disclosing the names of the financial participants in the electoral campaigns.

"Last but not least, those in charge of the General Elections Commission must integrate anti-corruption means into the provisions and laws to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, and exert efforts to ensure the implementation of transparency in public and private institutions."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

'Pearl of the

Continued from Page 1

Therefore, the statement of the new Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah regarding the financial measures that his ministry will work on was a step in the right direction, along with his emphasis that they will not affect the citizen's pocket."

Returning to the upcoming visit of His Highness the Deputy Amir to China and South Korea, the sources said, "It is important for several projects, the most important of which is the Silk Road and the city related to it, which was killed by stakeholders, and India's decisions came to bury it.

Years ago, the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and the late Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad had laid out the outlines of this project, and Kuwait and China signed memorandums of understanding in this regard.

However, nothing has changed, because of succumbing to the game of personal interests in this vital project, and the boasting that "Kuwait is different" and "all is well". This led to the closure of the country, the disruption of everything in it, and

the raising of the slogans of what is "halal" (permissible) and "haram" (forbidden).

That is why instead of hearing the noise of machines and workers carrying out implementation, we began hearing bickering between the parliamentarians on the one hand, and the profiteers on the other hand. This went on until the religious people interjected, and the matter became dependent on the bidding of what is halal and what is haram, and not about the extent of the development benefits of the strategic project."

In addition, the sources said, "The State is like a living organism. When an eagle reaches the age of 40, its long and flexible talons can no longer grab prey that serves as food. Its long and sharp beak becomes bent. Its old-aged and heavy wings, due to their thick feathers, stick to its chest, making it difficult for the eagle to fly. It is then left with only two options - either die or go through a painful process of change - rejuvenation! This process lasts for 150 days.

Countries are like living organisms, and Kuwait needs this process to rise again to rejuvenate and vitalize itself. This can only be done by a firm decision, by renewing the laws, abolishing what is outdated, and

removing the elements of the deep state and the profiteers.

There are many steps that must be followed, starting with lifting subsidies, which cost the State about KD 6 billion annually, increasing the salaries of low-income people, and addressing the issue of loans.

Other steps include opening the country, issuing decisions that serve Kuwait, and moving away from the interpretations of what is halal and what is haram, from which the owners of slogans benefit and they invest them for their financial interests and their assets inside and outside the country.

The sources concluded by saying, "From here we sometimes have to change our methods in order to continue in the best condition, and to be like the eagle that refuses to surrender to imminent death at the age of forty."

US House

Continued from Page 1

That threat of an abrupt ouster hovers over McCarthy's every move, especially now.

To start, Congress faces a dead-

line to fund the government by the end of the month, or risk a potentially devastating federal shutdown. There's just 11 working days for Congress to act once the House resumes Tuesday.

Facing a backlash from conservatives who want to slash government funding, McCarthy may be able to ease the way by turning to another hard-right priority, launching a Biden impeachment inquiry over the business dealings of the president's son, Hunter Biden.

For McCarthy, running the two tracks - a government funding process alongside an impeachment drive - is an unusual and politically fraught undertaking.

But starting a formal impeachment inquiry into Biden could help to appease Republican allies of Trump, who has emerged as the GOP frontrunner to confront Biden in the 2024 election for the White House.

"He's being squeezed," Brad Woodhouse, a veteran Democratic operative, said of McCarthy. Woodhouse is now a senior adviser to the Congressional Integrity Project, which is preparing to criticize Republicans over the Biden impeachment.



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'Missed opportunity' to exploit KD133m for energy production

Ministry's decision criticized

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Not all instances of savings should be praised, particularly when the expenditure is for the greater public good and has been allocated in the

state's budget, such as infrastructure projects. In such cases, officials returning unspent funds without utilizing them can be counterproductive.

This situation is exemplified in the realm of electricity, as reliable sources have confirmed that the ministry has returned 133 million dinars to the treasury.

However, these savings have come at the expense of delaying the completion of several electricity production projects instead of procuring power from Gulf electricity network.

In this context, knowledgeable insiders have criticized the electricity ministry's decision to save from the estimated budget of 508 million dinars for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

It's worth noting that, during the same period, the ministry requested an additional allocation of 30 million dinars from the current budget, which is estimated at 452.8 million dinars, for the purchase of electric power from the Gulf interconnection.

Request

This request was made out of concern for potential disruptions in electricity supply during the upcoming summer. Regulatory bodies, including the State Audit Bureau, have also warned of a potential electricity crisis in the summer of 2024.

The question arises: Wouldn't it have been more prudent to allocate these savings toward funding projects, whether ongoing or part of the Ministry's development plan? This is especially relevant for delayed energy production projects, which include the generation of 900 megawatts from the Subbiya station, 80 megawatts from the Kabd station, and 3,500 megawatts from the Shagaya station.

It's important to note that the ministry's justification for the lack of financial resources to initiate and execute electricity production projects contradicts the existence of these savings at the end of the fiscal year.



Familial Hypercholesterolemia awareness campaign in Kuwait.

Amiri Hospital's Lipid Unit launches Familial Hypercholesterolemia awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: In honor of National Cholesterol Education Month, the Kuwait Lipid Unit in Kuwait Amiri Hospital is launching its first awareness campaign for Familial Hypercholesterolemia in Kuwait. Familial Hypercholesterolemia is a genetic disorder which is characterized with increased blood levels of low density lipoprotein (LDL) which leads to coronary artery disease and heart attacks. Coronary diseases are the number one cause of death worldwide. Factors that result in coronary disease are high cholesterol levels in the blood.

The campaign includes various activities such as a booth located at the Avenues Mall, from September 9 until September 12 and a booth in Al Assima Mall from September 17 until September 19. Activities in the booth include: information dissemination, awareness talks and lipid profile and glucose testing with medical professionals from Al Amiri Hospital.

In addition to that, an awareness video for the campaign is launching on various social media channels, with a specific focus on that the disease is genetic, which encourages early testing.

Finally, the campaign will conclude with a symposium in Salwa Sabah conference hall on September 24, the official FH awareness day. The symposium will be CME accredited by the Kuwait Institute of Medical Specializations (KIMS). The purpose of the symposium is to increase the knowledge and experience of practicing clinicians in the management of lipid disorders.

"In accordance with Familial Hypercholesterolemia Awareness Day, we are launching an awareness cam-

paign which aims to educate the public on the causes and preventions of familial hypercholesterolemia. The launch of the campaign was through a video posted on different social media channels as well as awareness booths in the avenues as well as al assima mall in which they provided us with the space to engage the public and conduct lipid profile and glucose testing which is part of their corporate social responsibility" said Dr. Ahmad Al Sarraf, Clinical Lipidologist at Sabah Al Ahmad Cardiac Center, and Head of the Dyslipidemia Unit.

The awareness campaign aims to raise awareness for FH, in which high rates have been found in the Gulf region, with the highest number being found in Kuwait (37%).

The multi-channel awareness campaign is organized by AO International Projects Company and is a start of an annual awareness campaign in Kuwait.



Dr Al Sarraf



KUNA photo

KUNA meets Lebanese Information Minister.

'Beirut Arab media capital to display country's history'

BEIRUT, Sept 11, (KUNA): Information Minister in the caretaking government Ziad Makari said the designation of Beirut, as "the capital of Arab media 2023" would enable Lebanese to display their country's information and civil histories.

In an interview with KUNA, minister Makari revealed that when the Ministerial Arab Media Council proposed choosing Beirut as the Arab media capital, Lebanese leaders acclaimed the idea despite predominant crises and difficulties in the country.

The proclamation ceremony was originally scheduled last

February but had to be delayed because of the devastating earthquake that jolted some Turkish and Syrian regions and rippled to Lebanon.

He added that unstable conditions and some issues had prompted the authorities to re-schedule the event to May -- in coordination with the Arab League.

Minister Makari affirmed that the Beirut city designation as the capital of the Arab media revived Lebanon's belonging to the Arab nation to some extent, following various political upheavals that had brought into question its Arab affiliation.



September

Room Promotion








KOTRA Kuwait holds a direct trade connection event at the Crowne Plaza Kuwait Hotel.

Korean trade delegation offers unique platform

KOTRA strengthens Kuwait-Korea business ties

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency in Kuwait (KOTRA Kuwait) orchestrated a direct trade connection event between a Korean power equipment delegation and Kuwaiti entrepreneurs. Held at the Crowne Plaza Kuwait Hotel on September 11, 2023, this event symbolizes the enduring partnership between the two countries.

Seven distinguished Korean companies, specializing in power equipment and supplies, actively participated in this trade delegation. In collaboration with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce, 30 Kuwaiti companies engaged in approximately 60 business meetings. The discussions spanned a wide array of topics, including water surge management, scaffolding, electric actuators, electrical cables & ducts, conductor materials, and environmental equipment.

KOTRA emphasized Korea's continuous investments in energy infrastructure and its recognition of Kuwait as a valuable partner in its pursuit of advanced power solutions. The "Korea Power Equipment and Supplies Trade Delegation" offers a unique platform for Kuwaiti companies and government officials

to engage with their Korean counterparts and explore cutting-edge technologies in the power sector.

HE Chung Byung-ha, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, expressed his enthusiasm about the event, stating, "We believe that this

trade delegation will pave the way for a strong and mutually beneficial partnership between our two countries. Korea has a rich history of innovation in the power sector, and we are eager to share our expertise with our friend Kuwait."

«Mujezat Al-Shifa»: participates in the activities of the 48th Epimondia Exhibition and Conference in South America

Mujezat Al-Shifa Company announced the launch of its team to participate in the activities of Epimondia Exhibition and Conference at its 48th session in Santiago, Chile, South America.



For his part, the director of the "Mujezat Al-Shifa" and beekeeping expert, Muhammad Qassem Al-Majdadi, said: The conference is held every two years in one of the major honey-producing countries. Develop the quality of its products.

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The Duqm Refinery Project.

Photo by Kuwait Petroleum International Company

Duqm Refinery Project in Oman achieves 98.9% completion rate

Refining capacity 230,000 barrels per day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Shafi Al-Ajmi, the CEO of Kuwait Petroleum International Company, has confirmed that the Duqm Refinery Project in the Sultanate of Oman has achieved an impressive completion rate of 98.9 percent as of the end of July. This milestone underscores the successful collaboration between Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its affiliated entities.

Al-Ajmi informed Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that a delegation from the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, featuring three specialized engineers, recently visited the Duqm Refinery Project in Oman. This visit was made at the request of the refinery's management and was coordinated with Kuwait Petroleum International Company.

He explained that the purpose of the visit was to facilitate the preparations for operating the refinery units, jointly owned by Kuwait Petroleum International and Oman's OQ. It leveraged the expertise and extensive experience of National Petroleum personnel, particularly in overseeing and managing major projects, with the most recent being the Environmental Fuel Project.

National Petroleum engineers collaborated on the operation of various units, including diesel processing, hydrocracking, and coking, alongside their specialized counterparts from Kuwait Inte-

GCC commerce chambers heads meeting 'pivotal', says Al-Saqer

By Kholoud Al-Enezi

MANAMA, Sept 11, (KUNA): Talks involving the chiefs of commerce chambers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are pivotal in pushing forward cooperation within the six-member bloc, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce chief Mohammad Al-Saqer said on Sunday.

Such talks are also instrumental in bolstering

cooperation between the public and private sectors in the region. Kuwait Chamber of Commerce chief Mohammad Al-Saqer told KUNA on the sidelines of pan-GCC talks in the Bahraini capital that brought together commerce chamber heads and the bloc's Secretary General Jassem Al-Bedaawi.

These talks are also imperative to solidify economic relations within the wider Gulf Arab region, he emphasized.

grated Petroleum Industries Company and Petroleum Chemicals Industry Company.

Furthermore, Al-Ajmi highlighted the formation of an integrated team tasked with ensuring operational readiness, facilitating a smooth transition from the construction phase to full operational readiness. These teams have been diligently developing plans for 14 workstreams, encompassing areas such as maintenance, operations, supply, human resources, security, and safety. The implementation of these plans has achieved an impressive 98.5 percent completion rate, with finalization expected to coincide with the refinery's commercial operation launch.

Situated within the Duqm Special Economic Zone in Oman, the Duqm Refinery is strategically positioned to supply high-quality refined oil products to regional and global markets. Its full opera-

tional capacity is anticipated to be reached by the end of the current year, with a refining capacity of 230,000 barrels per day.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has committed to providing approximately 65 percent of the refinery's crude oil needs, aligning with the corporation's vision and strategy to secure reliable marketing outlets for Kuwaiti oil.

The project encompasses three main engineering packages: supply, construction, and operation. The first package includes manufacturing and processing units, the second package includes facilities and services, while the third package covers external facilities, including the construction of a product-exporting port and the establishment of crude oil storage tanks in the Ras Markaz area, connected by a 90-kilometer pipeline that links these tanks to the refinery.



وزارة التجارة والصناعة
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RECALL INFORMATION



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RECALL REASON

Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain GLE/GLS (167 platform), G-Class (205, 206 platform), E-Class (213 platform), S-Class (223 platform), SL (232 platform), E-Class Coupe/Convertible (238 platform), GLC (253 platform), CLS (257 platform), AMG GT 4-door Coupe (290 platform) and G-Class (463 platform) vehicles the fuel pump impeller might not meet specifications in regards to material characteristics. As a consequence, the impeller might deform. It might therefore come into contact with the fuel pump housing, leading to a mechanical resistance. In some instances, this could lead to a shutdown of the fuel pump. As a result, the vehicle could lose propulsion, and this could increase the risk of accident or injury.

REMEDY

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This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 46 and 47) of no.27/2015 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection

Kuwait Investment Authority

Office for settlement and management of debts purchased for the account of the state announces



Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Arab Union for Contractors Company UNARCO (Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Al Zamil and Partners W.L.L)
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 183/2002 Bankruptcy, General Debts 1 of 04.02.2003

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The indebtedness as of 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 16,825,599/946.
 - The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KD 53,848,764/969.
 - The amounts collected amount to: KD 1,939,711/861.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 53,848,764/969 in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.
 - The National Petroleum Company, KD 13,712/378, according to the company's letter dated 15.05.2016 and in accordance with Appeal Ruling No. 817/1998 T/1 dated 20.03.1999, with expenses, attorney's fees, and legal interest calculated at 7% from the date of the judicial claim until the date of the bankruptcy ruling.
 - The Kuwait Investment Authority, in its capacity as official receiver of / Al Manea General Trading and Contracting Company, KD 64,909/624, according to ruling No. 619/1998 T.M.K.H/3 dated 10.11.2003 and the certificate of non-appeal of 23.03.2003.
- Third: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to be excluded:
- International Contractors Group, KD 1,581,162/- according to the company's letter dated 03.02.2016/- to which a copy of the company's balance sheet and books is attached under the item (indebted associate companies) without submitting documents, indicating the validity of the indebtedness and confirming what the company claims.
 - HANI RASHAD FARAH, KD 15,750/- according to the creditor's letter dated 17.04.2014 attached to ruling No. 525/1999 T.M.K.H/10 dated 10.12.2003 confirmed by Appeal No. 590/2004 T/6 dated 08.12.2004 and Cassation Ruling No. 23/2005 T/2 dated 27.04.2008. However, these rulings did not confirm the validity of his indebtedness, nor did he submit the documents proving the indebtedness.
 - NAZAL HAMDAN IBRAHIM, KD 10,287/918 according to the creditor's letter dated 14.07.2003, which are purchase invoices, as he did not submit proof of the validity of the indebtedness.
 - The Public Authority for Industry, KD 1,500/- according to the Authority's letter dated 31.10.2012. However, the attached Ruling No. 680/1995 Administrative 6 dated 29.03.2011 does not concern the bankrupt company as it was issued against the legal representative of the Arab Union for Contractors Company (JOHNSON BROTHER). The Public Authority for Industry was contacted on 03.02.2015 to clarify whether its claim was against the bankrupt company (UNARCO) itself or not, but it did not provide anything to the effect of that.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Arab European International Trading Company (ARTOC) K.S.C Closed
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 4717/1986 commercial first instance/7 dated 08.11.1998

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounted to: KD 3,616,887/123 USD 5,583,072/77 GBP 6,711,281/91.

2) The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: KD 8,173,040/136 USD 12,628,829/44 GBP 14,438,011/52.

- The amounts collected amount to: KD 3,583/678.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 8,173,040/136, USD 12,628,829/44, GBP 14,438,011/52. The indebtedness is in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.
 - Bahrain International Arab Bank, USD 3,546,841/30 in accordance with the letter of Bahrain International Arab Bank dated 02.05.2007 and pursuant to bankruptcy ruling No. 4717/86, commercial first instance/7, dated 08.11.1998.
- Third: Debts that the Authority deems to be excluded:
- Bahrain International Arab Bank, USD 6,328,432/74 according to the letter of Bahrain International Arab Bank dated 02.05.2007, and the bank was addressed by the Kuwait Investment Authority in its capacity to submit the official documents proving the validity of the debt according to its letter dated 10.12.2020, except that the bank did not submit the official documents proving the validity of this debt according to its letter dated 03.05.2021.
 - Kuwait Development General Trading and Contracting Company, KD 38,076/335, according to the report of the former official receiver of the bankrupt company. He did not submit the official documents proving the validity of the debt.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Combined Undertaking Company, Khaled Abdul Samad and Partners W.L.L
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 23/2006 Bankruptcy, General Debts/1 dated 13.06.2006

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 2,636,705/357.
 - The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KD 12,631,181/279.
 - The amounts collected amount to: KD 2,157,564/599.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 12,631,181/279 in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
 - ALEXANDER FOTI PURI, KD 935,686/823 according to the letter of the lawyer / FARHAN AWAD ALMUTAIRI dated 21.10.2007 and according to the judicial conciliation ruling issued in Case No. 23/2006 Bankruptcy, General Debts, dated 05.06.2007.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankrupt / KHALED KHALIFA ATI ALFULAIJ, guarantor of Dana Al Fulajj General Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 46/2003 Bankruptcy, General Debts/1 dated 06.05.2003

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- His share of the indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 1,444,874/667.
 - His share of the indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: KD 5,292,939/995.
 - Total amounts collected amount to: KD 18,151/873.
 - Amounts collected before bankruptcy amount to: KD 10,227/711.
 - Amounts collected after bankruptcy amount to: KD 7,942/162.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:

Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounts to: KD 5,292,939/995, its share of the debt guaranteed for Dana Al Fulajj General Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / RABIE BIN BAKHIT BIN RASHID ALKAHALI
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 214/2004 Bankruptcy, General Debts/1 dated 14.12.2004

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 4,896/000.
 - The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KD 4,896/000.
 - Amounts collected are none.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- The Industrial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounts to: KD 4,896/000. The debt is in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Saud Al Jaber Contracting and General Trading Company (Sabah Saud Al Jaber Al Sabah and Partners W.L.L)
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 183/2004 Bankruptcy, General Debts 1 dated 14.12.2004

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 377,569/630.
 - The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: KD 1,561,960/822.
 - The amounts collected are none.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- Kuwait International Bank, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 1,561,960/822 in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of the deceased Sheikh / Sabah Saud Al Jaber Al Sabah. Guarantor of / Saud Al Jaber Contracting and General Trading Company (Sabah Saud Al Jaber Al Sabah and Partners W.L.L)
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Administration in Case No. 183/2004 Bankruptcy, General Debts 1 dated 14.12.2004

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 377,569/630.
 - The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: KD 1,561,960/822.
 - The amounts collected amount to: KD 350/395.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- Kuwait International Bank, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 1,561,960/822, debt of the company / Saud Al Jaber Contracting and General Trading Company (Sabah Saud Al Jaber Al Sabah and Partners W.L.L).
 - National Bank of Kuwait, debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 163,873/841 personal debt in accordance with Article (13) of Law No. (41) of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of FALAH ABDUL HALIM FALAH, Guarantor of / Al Ghanim, Al Qutb and Partners Company for Shipping Agencies (Faisal Thunayan Al Ghanim, Abdullah Issa Al Saleh, Dawoud Yaqoub Al Qutb and Falah Abdul Halim Falah W.L.L)
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 325/2001 Bankruptcy, General Debts 1 dated 15.06.2004

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The bankrupt's share of indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 4,939,202/374.
 - The bankrupt's share of indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: KD 17,274,916/764.
 - The amounts collected amount to: KD 187,309/969.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 17,274,916/764, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al Ghanim, Al Qutb and Partners Company for Shipping Agencies in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankrupt Kamel Kuwaiti Trading, Undertaking, Construction Contracting, and Transport Company (Kamel Barghash and Sons)
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 65/2010 Bankruptcy, General Debts 1 dated 05.01.2011

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 208,153/-
 - The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: KD 1,427,448/562.
 - Amounts collected are none.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- The Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 1,427,448/562 according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the deceased bankrupt KAMEL BARGHASH MOHSEN AL DHAFIRI, Guarantor of Kamel Kuwaiti Trading, Undertaking, Construction Contracting, and Transport Company (Kamel Barghash and Sons)
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 65/2010 Bankruptcy, General Debts 1 dated 05.01.2011

First: Financial and accounting procedures:

- The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed indebtedness as on 01.08.1990 amounts to: KD 208,153/-
 - The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amount to: KD 1,427,448/562.
 - The amounts collected are none.
- Second: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept:
- Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: KD 1,427,448/562, the share of the bankrupt in the indebtedness guaranteed for Kamel Kuwaiti Trading, Undertaking, Construction Contracting, and Transport Company (Kamel Barghash and Sons) according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

According to the Provision of Article 111 of Law No. 71 of 2020, "The debtor and each creditor, even if his name is not included in the list of debts, may appeal to the Bankruptcy Department against debts included in the list, within ten days from the date of announcing the list.

The Conversation

Outdoor recreation conveys value of a care-focused message

What social change movements can learn from fly fishing

By Brett Crawford, Grand Valley State University; Erica Coslor, The University of Melbourne and Madeline Toubiana, L'Université d'Ottawa/University of Ottawa

Summer and fall are prime times for getting outdoors across the US. According to an annual survey produced by the outdoor industry, 55% of Americans age 6 and up participated in some kind of outdoor recreation in 2022, and that number is on the rise.

However, the activities they choose are shifting. Over the past century, participation has declined in some activities, such as hunting, and increased in others, like bird-watching.

These shifts reflect many factors, including demographic trends and urbanization. But outdoor activities also have their own cultures, which can powerfully affect how participants think about nature.

As scholars who think about organizational theory, management and entrepreneurship, we are interested in understanding effective ways to promote social change. In a recent study, we analyzed the work of the nonprofit group Trout Unlimited, which centers on protecting rivers and streams across the US that harbor wild and native trout and salmon.

We found that since its founding in 1959, Trout Unlimited has pursued a unique type of social change. Historically, people fished to obtain food – but Trout Unlimited has reframed the sport as a vehicle for environmental conservation. It did this by gradually shifting members from catch and keep practices to catch and release, with fish carefully returned to the water. In our view, this strategy offers a powerful example of energizing social change through care, rather than disruptive strategies that emphasize power, anger and fearmongering.

John McMillan, science director for Trout Unlimited's Wild Steelhead Initiative, walks through the proper technique to catch and release a type of coastal rainbow trout called steelhead.

A sport that inspires devotion

Fishing is very popular in the US: As of 2016, more than 35 million Americans fished, mainly in fresh water. Trout Unlimited was founded in 1959 on the banks of Michigan's Au Sable River with the aim of building a strong conservation ethic among anglers. Today, the group has more than 300,000 members spanning hundreds of local chapters across the US.

Many Trout Unlimited members prefer fly fishing, a technique that uses a rod, reel, specialized weighted fishing line and artificial flies designed to mimic trout's natural food sources. Trout generally thrive in beautiful, fast-flowing, cold-water streams and rivers; to catch them, fly fishers repeatedly

cast a line so that their lure moves like a flying insect landing and floating on the water. It's a sport that combines deep knowledge of a specific location with time-honored techniques.

In the 1653 classic "The Compleat Angler," English writer Izaak Walton called fly fishing "an art worthy the knowledge and practice of a wise man." Norman Maclean's 1976 book "A River Runs Through It," which recounts the author's childhood experiences fishing Montana's Big Blackfoot River, declares, "In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing." Changing the practices of devoted anglers is no small feat.

The first stage of change that Trout Unlimited pursued in its interactions with members was what we call mending – fixing aspects of a practice that are seen as problematic or damaging. For Trout Unlimited, that meant subtly removing harvesting practice from images of fly fishing, while simultaneously reinforcing anglers' deep connections to rivers.

Environment

This reframing began in the late 1960s and continues today, as we learned by analyzing cover images and editorials from "Trout," the organization's member magazine, and interviewing staffers at Trout Unlimited and others throughout the fly fishing industry. Editors of "Trout" scrubbed away images of harvesting gear, such as creels, stringers and spears. Instead, they featured photos of trout being safely released and of caught fish remaining underwater in their environment.

These changes did not directly speak to or challenge anglers' practices. Instead, they worked more subtly. "Trout" editors also began to describe old harvesting artifacts like creels as "something of a curio" and "relics of the past."

In another editorial shift, the magazine increasingly featured images of vast river landscapes rather than close-up photos of people fishing. This approach elevated the experience of being in nature above that of catching fish.

Editors included poetry and sermonettes in the magazine that modeled normative values of conservation and catch and release practices. Here's one example:

Carefully I reach out, and lift him in my net,
But I make sure not to touch him, until my hands are wet.
For not doing so would damage him, and that would not be right,

For this indeed I owe him, for such a noble gift.

As gently as I can, I remove the hook and set him free ...

Using words and images, the magazine sought to trigger positive emotions and a sense of deep connection and love for trout.

As Trout Unlimited built momentum in the 1960s and '70s, the organization made river and stream restoration a major priority. This period marked the birth of the modern environmental movement. Americans were recognizing that industrial development was harming precious natural resources, including fishing grounds.

Logging had ravaged wetlands and stream banks along river corridors. Dam construction, particularly in Western states, was blocking fish passage, preventing trout and salmon from swimming upstream to their spawning grounds. Acid drainage from mining operations was contaminating waterways. And recreational and commercial fishers were over-harvesting many important species.

Trout Unlimited chapters organized events that ranged from local river cleanups to advocating for federal Wild and Scenic designation for free-flowing rivers and streams. This status protects them from overuse and in-stream development, such as dams and irrigation diversions.

Members also campaigned for dam removal to open up fish spawning habitat and for creating "no-kill" zones along stretches of rivers, where catch and release was required. Trout Unlimited framed these efforts as supporting fly fishing through positive change.

Today, Trout Unlimited centers conservation in its mission of protecting reconnecting, restoring and sustaining coldwater fisheries. We see the organization as an important model in a world driven by social media algorithms that amplify negative emotions. In our view, driving change through actions that represent love and care, rather than anger and shame, could engage more people in tackling major social challenges.

This approach does have limitations. It is useful when a practice can be altered to be more sustainable, as was the case with catch and release. However, as recent research shows, recreational fishing still has major environmental impacts, especially on marine species. And sometimes social change requires ending widespread practices altogether. Nonetheless, the key takeaway for us from Trout Unlimited's work is that social change doesn't have to vilify in order to succeed. (AP)

IWG



IWG members group photo



IWG new president Mrs Antonia Dimitrova, wife of the Bulgarian ambassador.



H.E. Belinda Lewis, British Ambassador to Kuwait with Mme Vera Motawaa.



General photo of the event

Group promotes cultural exchanges, traditions

Int'l Women's Group opens new season with English Tea Party

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The International Women's Group opened its new season of 2023-2024 on Sunday, Sept 10 with an 'English Tea Party' at the Al Jawhara Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Hotel, in the presence of the group's board and members.

The guests to the event, including H.E. Belinda Lewis, British Ambassador to Kuwait, were welcomed by Mrs. Laila Boulos, public relations coordinator, and introduced the group's incoming President.

The new IWG President, Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova, is the spouse of the Ambassador of Bulgaria to Kuwait. Speaking on the occasion Mrs Dimitrova thanked Sheikha Hanouf Bader Al Mohammed Al Sabah, the Honorary President of IWG, for her continued support and guidance and expressed her appreciation for her predecessor Mrs. Ghada Ahmed Shawky, spouse of the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Kuwait.

When expressing her gratitude to the Board and members of the IWG, she emphasized her deep honor to be IWG's President during its 35th anniversary year. She made a commitment to further enrich IWG's rich history of cultural exchange through a diverse range of social activities and events.

She emphasized that the International Women's Group was founded in 1988 when a group of visionary women came together with the aspiration of uniting women from diverse nationalities in Kuwait. Their primary aim was to foster friendship, mutual understanding, and cooperation among these women.

She went on to say that even after 35 years, this noble objective remained at the core of the organization. It continued to thrive through the exchange of cultures and traditions among its members, who, together with their esteemed Kuwaiti counterparts, represented nearly a hundred nationalities from across the globe.

Mrs. Dimitrova then introduced the group's two new Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Saia Berdibay, spouse of the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Kuwait, and Mrs. Polina Dlamini, spouse of the Kingdom of Eswatini who were



IWG new president Mrs Antonia Dimitrova (right) with H.E. Belinda Lewis.

greeted with a very warm welcome by the members.

All those who attended the event had come prepared for the 'English Tea Party' and enjoyed this very special first event of the season which featured a beautiful live piano performance by Mrs. Harriet Bushman.

There were various interactive stations, with a Photo Studio featuring the characters of Mary Poppins, Beef Eater, and Royal Guard; Souvenir and Sweet corners, a Tea Stand and an English Bakery. The event also included informative Video presentations, a special desert demonstration followed by an engaging game with prizes, a raffle, and other fun surprises thrilling all.

As the event concluded, certificates of gratitude were presented to everyone whose contributions played a pivotal role in ensuring the event's tremendous success.

This included recognition for the exceptional hospitality extended by the Premiers Tea Company, Food Choice Company, The British Embassy, and the dedicated team at Crown Plaza for their outstanding hospitality.

Delta Air Lines employees work up a sweat at boot camp

Delta Air Lines has learned that summer is a good time to prepare for winter - and how to de-ice planes so they can keep flying safely in freezing temperatures.

Every summer, Delta brings about 400 workers to Minneapolis to a three-day summer de-ice "boot camp." They go through computer-based training, watch demonstrations by instructors, and then practice spraying down a plane - using water instead of the chemicals found in de-icing fluid.

The boot campers, who rotate through in groups of 10 or so, return to their home bases and train 6,000 co-workers before October, says Jeannine Ashworth, vice president of airport operations for the Atlanta-based airline.

Here's how the de-icing process works: Big trucks with tanks of deicing mixture pull up alongside a plane, and an operator in a bucket at the top of a long boom sprays hot fluid that melts ice but doesn't refreeze because of the chemicals it contains, mainly propylene glycol.

It takes anywhere from a few minutes to 40 minutes or longer to de-ice a plane, depending on the conditions and the size of the plane.

Planes need to be de-iced because if left untreated, ice forms on the body and wings, interfering with the flow of air that keeps the plane aloft. Even a light build-up can affect performance. In worst cases, ice can cause planes to go into an aerodynamic stall and fall from the sky. (AP)

An Airbus A220 is sprayed as part of de-icing training for Delta Air Lines employees in preparation for winter weather at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023, in Minneapolis. (AP)



Market Movements

11-09-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
UAE	- DFM	+0.07	4,070.17	JAPAN	- Nikkei	-0.43	32,467.76
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.17	6,233.74	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-0.41	45,889.50
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.73	11,235.14	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-1.53	19,278.72

Business

Oil extends gains on strong seasonal demand, Saudi/Russia cuts

KEC finishes higher at \$89.8/bbl

By National Bank of Kuwait

Oil prices gained for a third month in a row in August on better-than-expected seasonal demand and tighter OPEC+ supplies. The recent supply cut extension announcement by Saudi and Russia pushed prices above \$90/bbl, with markets anticipating further stock drawdowns and an even tighter fourth quarter. The IEA sees 2023 being a record year for oil demand, despite subdued Chinese and OECD economic activity, with slower growth in 2024.

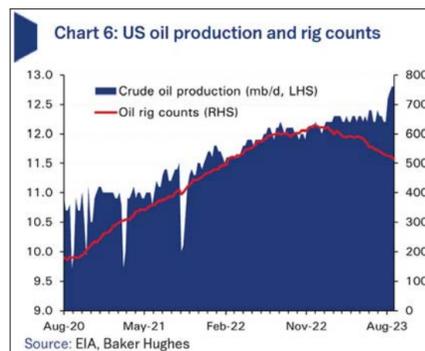
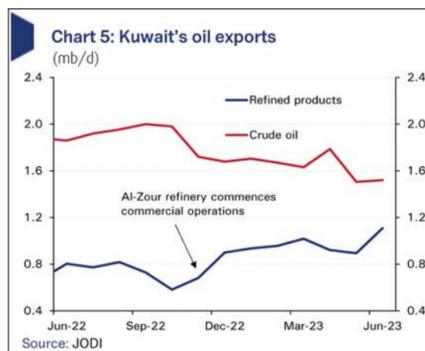
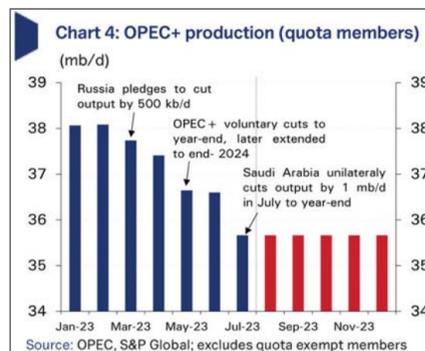
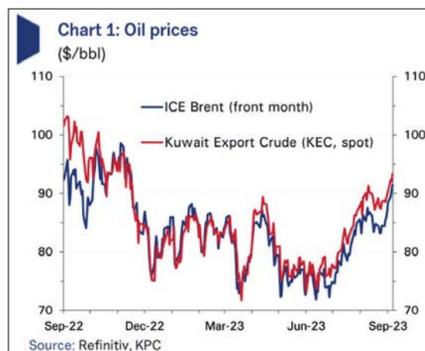
Oil prices notched up a third consecutive month of gains in August, with positive sentiment extending amid visible signs of market tightness thanks primarily to OPEC+ supply cuts/ chief among these Saudi's steep unilateral output cut, but also better than expected summer oil demand. Brent crude ended August up at \$86.9/bbl (+1.5% m/m; +1.1% ytd), while local marker Kuwait Export Crude (KEC) finished higher at \$89.8/bbl (+2.3% m/m; +9.4% ytd). (Chart 1.)

Reflecting the improvement in sentiment over the summer months, Brent money manager net length (the difference between the number of contracts betting on prices rising and those betting on prices falling) topped 200k contracts regularly in August and rose to a four-month high 230.8k by mid-month. (Chart 2.)

Prices have since firmed further moving into September, breaking through the \$90/bbl level for the first time in ten months after Saudi Arabia and Russia surprised the markets by announcing an extension of their voluntary supply cuts, of 1 mb/d and 300 kb/d, respectively, to the end of the year, tightening the market even more.

Despite prevailing macroeconomic softness, global oil demand has remained fairly robust this year. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that growth will average 2.2-2.4 mb/d in 2023 after oil demand topped a record 103 mb/d over the summer months thanks to resilient Chinese and OECD demand. For 2024, however, the IEA sees oil demand growing at a much slower rate of 1 mb/d amid softer global macroeconomic conditions, tighter efficiency standards and accelerating uptake of electric vehicles.

On the supply side, OPEC secondary source data showed total OPEC-10 output falling 886 kb/d m/m to 22.6 mb/d in July/ led by Saudi Arabia's voluntary cut of around 1 mb/d, which took the group's output to a near two-year low. Offsetting the Saudi reduction were output increases in Angola and Iraq of about 40 kb/d m/m. Meanwhile production in quota-exempt members, Iran and Venezuela, continues to edge up despite US sanctions. Iran's crude production is up nearly 250 kb/d this year to 2.82 mb/d, the highest level since December 2018. There seems to be minimal appetite from the US to pursue this breach while it has



its hands full coordinating the more important sanctions front and G-7 price cap against Russia. Indeed, there appear to be below-the-radar negotiations Chart 3: IEA and OPEC oil demand forecasts to bring Iran

and Venezuela back into the fold, with the US likely figuring (mb/d) that the price of readmitting these two "difficult, oil partners more fully into the global oil market as worth bearing if it leads to a better supplied

market and therefore lower pump prices for consumers. Total OPEC+ production (quota members only), which includes Russia's 9.42 mb/d, fell 936 b/d m/m in July to 35.6 mb/d. (Chart 4.)

It should be noted that Russia's recent supply cut pledges of 500 kb/d in August and 300 kb/d in September—extended last week to end-2023—specifically referred to its exports rather than production. It does not translate that production will automatically adjust downwards; production could remain constant or even increase, so long as crude volumes previously exported were instead directed towards storage OPEC, IEA, IEF tanks or even used to increase exports of refined products, which are not subject to OPEC quotas.

In Kuwait, crude production was unchanged in July at 2.55 mb/d, for the third month in a row, according to official sources.

Kuwait is expected to maintain this level until the end of the 2023, after which it is scheduled to raise output to 2.68 mb/d, reversing voluntary cuts in effect since May as per OPEC policy.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's production and export of refined products surged to a record high in June, as operations at the Al-Zour refinery continue to ramp up. Refined product exports reached 1.1 mb/d, a 38% y/y increase, according to the Joint Organizations Data Initiative (JODI).

Volumes of Euro-specification diesel/gasoil and low Sulphur fuel oil have surged as Kuwait looks to supply both Europe and the Far East with these products. To support rising demand for refinery throughputs while crude production is capped due to OPEC+ policy, KOC has had to redirect crude that was destined for export markets to domestic refineries (crude exports declined 11% in the year-to-June). But with refined products commanding a premium over raw crude, the switch makes commercial sense. (Chart 5.)

In the US, weekly US Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed crude production surging to 12.8 mb/d in August, a gain of 700 kb/d in the year to August (+5.8%) more than double last year's rate. This is on the back of higher shale well productivity and upstream activity amid elevated oil prices. (Chart 6). The EIA expects crude output to increase to an average of 13.1 mb/d next year, helped by higher reinvestment rates by oil producers. Meanwhile, the Department of Energy postponed purchase of 6 mb of crude for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) for October and November delivery, citing rising prices. The SPR has fallen to a 40-year low of 346.7 mb after a 250 mb drawdown over the past two years.

We expect oil market fundamentals to continue to tighten amid extended Saudi (and OPEC+) supply cuts, keeping oil prices elevated (a new resistance level of \$85/bbl) over the next month or so. The near-term oil demand outlook is expected to remain supportive, even while the threat of recession in some OECD economies remains ever-present. Recent improvement in Chinese economic metrics allied to the potential for further government stimulus could even provide some upside.

Asian shares mostly higher

WS ticks higher to reverse some of last week's losses

NEW YORK, Sept 11. (AP) U.S. stocks are ticking higher Monday as Wall Street recovers some of its losses from last week.

The S&P 500 was 0.5% higher in afternoon trading, coming off its first losing week in the last three. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 77 points, or 0.2%, at 34,655, as of 12:45 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.6% higher.

Like last week, some big technology-oriented stocks were leading the way. Tesla jumped 9.1%, Amazon climbed 2.3% and Meta Platforms rose 1.9%.

Tech stocks led the market lower last week as yields climbed in the bond market. Higher yields hurt all kinds of stocks, but high-growth stocks tend to be among the hardest hit. Yields rose last week after reports showed the U.S. economy remains stronger than expected, which could be adding more fuel to pressures keeping inflation high.

This upcoming week will offer a huge data point for the Federal Reserve, which is weighing whether to keep raising interest rates in its effort to get inflation back to 2%. On Wednesday, the U.S. government will offer the latest monthly update on prices consumers are paying across the economy, and the forecast is they were 3.6% higher in August than a year earlier.

The Fed has already hiked its main interest rate to the highest level in more than two decades, and it has said it will make upcoming moves based on how inflation and other parts of the economy perform. Inflation has come down from last year's peak above 9%, but economists warn the last bit of improvement to get to the Fed's target could be the most difficult to achieve.

With Fed officials no longer giving speeches ahead of their meeting next week on interest rates, "the data will do all of the talking this week," economists at Deutsche Bank said in a report.

They say a report on Thursday about inflation at the wholesale level will be nearly as important as the data on inflation at the consumer level. High growth for wages in the health care industry could be pushing upward on inflation there, they say.

A separate report on Thursday will also show how much U.S. households spent at retailers last month.

Strong spending there recently has helped the economy to avoid a long-predicted recession. But it also could be encouraging companies to keep trying to raise prices, pushing upward on inflation.

Yields were holding relatively steady on Monday, with the 10-year Treasury yield up to 4.28% from 4.26% late Friday. The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more closely with expectations for the Fed, edged lower to 4.98% from 4.99% late Friday.

Most traders expect the Federal Reserve to leave rates where they are at its meeting next week, according to data from CME Group. But many are bracing for another possible hike by the end of this year, while paring expectations for cuts to rates next year.

On Wall Street, Apple swung from an early gain of more than 1% to relatively unchanged ahead of a Tuesday event where it's expected to release its latest iPhone model. How Apple performs has great consequence for the market because it's the most valuable stock on Wall Street. That means its movements pack more weight on the S&P 500 and other indexes than any other stock.

Qualcomm rose 4.6% after it announced a deal to supply 5G equipment for Apple in its phone launches in 2024 through 2026.

Aerospace company RTX slumped 7.3% after it said a previously announced issue with its Pratt & Whitney engines could mean a hit of \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion over the next several years to its operating profit before taxes. It said it will remove up to 700 engines for shop visits in the next few years.

Europe

Germany's DAX gained 0.7% to 15,846.97 and the CAC 40 in Paris was up 0.9% at 7,308.46. In London, the FTSE 100 added 0.8% to 7,539.30, as investors await US inflation, China economic data.

Asia

Stock prices were mostly higher in Asia on Monday as investors awaited an update on U.S. inflation and China's latest economic data.

Benchmarks fell in Hong Kong and Tokyo but rose in Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul. The futures for the S&P 500 and Dow were trading higher.

A surge in oil prices has added to worries that inflation may not be waning as hoped in the U.S. and other major economies. That could lead the Federal Reserve and other central banks to keep interest rates higher for longer, which would hurt prices for shares and other investments.

Over the weekend, China reported a slight increase in its own inflation data, suggesting deflationary pressures seen as a sign of weakness in its slowing economy might be easing. The government is due to report industrial output for August later in the week.

"We expect inflation to rebound further over the coming months, as policy support drives a modest recovery in China's economic momentum," Zichun Huang of Capital Economics said in a commentary. The Shanghai Composite index gained 0.8% to 3,142.64, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.1% to 17,996.44.

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba's Hong Kong-traded shares sank more than 3.6% after it said its CEO would step down as head of its cloud-computing unit and instead head an investment fund to help drive the company's future growth.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 declined 0.4% to 32,467.76, while the Kospi in Seoul advanced 0.3% to 2,553.44. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.4% to 7,185.80.

China will report more data this week, while an update on consumer prices is due Wednesday in the U.S. Economists expect it to show prices at the consumer level were 3.6% higher in August than a year earlier.

Oil

Early Monday, U.S. benchmark crude was down 46 cents at \$87.05 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 64 cents to \$87.51 a barrel on Friday.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, shed 17 cents to \$90.48 a barrel.

Currencies

The U.S. dollar slipped to 146.08 Japanese yen from 146.99 yen after Bank of Japan Gov. Kazuo Ueda reportedly hinted at a possible change in Japan's longstanding near-zero interest rate policy. The euro rose to \$1.0732 from \$1.0714.

Leading Shariah scholars rule cultivated meat can be Halal

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia & ALAMEDA, Calif., Sept 11. (Business Wire): GOOD Meat, the cultivated meat division of food technology company Eat Just, Inc., announced today that a group of leading Islamic scholars has advised the firm that real meat made from cells, without raising and slaughtering animals, can be halal if production meets certain criteria. Answering this theological question is a meaningful step forward for international acceptance of cultivated meat since halal consumers represent about 25% of the world's population.

This landmark Shariah opinion from a trio of well-respected scholars in Saudi Arabia comes as cultivated meat begins to enter commerce in the United States and consumers around the world are learning how meat made in this new way can help address global food systems challenges connected to climate change, food safety, food security and animal welfare. With the Muslim population rapidly increasing, so too is their meat consumption. The global halal meat market was a US\$202 billion business in 2021 and is estimated to reach US\$375.05 billion by 2030, according to some estimates.

The Shariah scholars reviewed documentation prepared by GOOD Meat and attorneys at AIDhabaan & Partners in association with Eversheds Sutherland that described how cultivated chicken, the company's first product, is made. The panel studied details about how the cells are sourced and selected, the ingredients fed to the cells to stimulate growth, how the cells are harvested and how finished products are manufactured.

GOOD Meat also engaged the Halal Product Advisory, a Division of Halal Product Development Company, a fully owned subsidiary of the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, to advise and assist the company with the official process for halal pre-certification in Saudi Arabia and globally.

The scholars concluded that cultivated meat can be halal under the following conditions:

GOOD Meat's chicken cell line and production process that were approved

by regulators in the U.S. and Singapore do not yet meet the above criteria, however, with this clarity the company will work on a process to meet the halal guidelines moving forward.

"If cultivated meat is to help address our future food system needs, it has to be an option for the billions of people around the world who eat halal. This landmark ruling provides much needed clarity on how to ensure that is achieved. All companies should work to build a process to meet these guidelines," said GOOD Meat co-founder and CEO Josh Tetrick.

The above ruling is a positive sign for cultivated meat companies that may to serve areas of the world with large Muslim populations, like the Middle East. In fact, a recent poll of more than 2,000 consumers in six key Middle East countries found that a vast majority of respondents would purchase cultivated meat and switch to it from conventional meat, assuming it was halal, sold at a comparable cost and tasted the same as what they are used to. The GOOD Meat-commissioned study released at last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference polled consumers in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other countries in the region.

In the poll conducted by PSB Insights, a leading independent consulting firm, climate messaging was one of the most effective tools to influence purchase intent. A recent article in the journal sheds some light on that motivation, pointing out that eating halal cultivated meat may be considered by some as a step toward Khilafa (guardianship of nature). The authors note that "adoption of a diet with a lower environmental impact, via consumption of alt protein products, may be considered a way to uphold at least two of the five key principles: the preservation of life and lineage."

Sheikh Abdullah AlManea
Sheikh Abdullah AlManea is a well-respected Shariah scholar both nationally and internationally. He has been a member of the Senior Scholars Committee in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1971, as well as an appointed member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy.



Alfouz Sept 11 winner.

Al Abbas is winner of Alfouz KD 10,000 weekly draw prize

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Abdullah Salah Al Abbas as the KD 10,000 Alfouz weekly draw winner on Monday, 11 September 2023, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Since its launch, the Alfouz account continues to offer an impressive weekly draw of KD 10,000.

The Bank has recently expanded its offering by adding a new allur-

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

The account also retains its hallmark mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for ten years.

Furthermore, the Bank now offers customers an increased opportunity to win for every KD 10 as opposed to KD 100 previously.

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account and/or in-

crease their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw, which will take place on Monday, 18 September 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

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

Bid to enhance food security in Saudi Arabia

Tanmiah Food Company and MHP SE invest in poultry value chain

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept. 11, (PR Newswire): Tanmiah Food Company (TADAWUL: 2281, "Tanmiah" or "The Company") is pleased to announce the signing of the shareholder agreement between its fully owned subsidiary, Desert Hills Veterinary Services Company Limited (DHV) with MHP SE (LSE: MHP, 'MHP'), the leading international food & agrotech group. This partnership is set to significantly boost food security and self-sufficiency in poultry products in Saudi Arabia.

The signing ceremony was held in Jeddah on 7 September 2023 and was attended by the Chairman of the Board of Tanmiah, His Excellency Sheikh Amr Al-Dabbagh, along with the board members and executive leadership, Saudi Government officials representing ministries, authorities, funds, and centers of excellence and the Ambassador of Ukraine, His Excellency Mr. Anatolii Petrenko. Executive Chair of MHP SE, Dr John Rich, and MENA Managing Director of MHP, Eugene Levterov, represented the Board and MHP at the ceremony.

Building on the foundation laid by the Memorandum of Understanding signed earlier this year, this partnership will see DHV and MHP SE join forces to invest more than SAR 200 million in farming operations with the capacity of more than 1 million parent stock expected to produce approximately 175 million hatching eggs annually, a state-of-the-art hatchery and a poultry feed mill. DHV will hold a 55% stake, while MHP will have a 45% stake in the joint venture.

Zulfikar Hamadani, CEO of Tanmiah Food Company, remarked, "Our collaboration with MHP signifies more than just a partnership; it represents our commitment to strengthen Saudi Arabia's food security framework. Utilizing our local knowledge combined with global best practices, our portfolio of best-in-class products, services, and solutions demonstrates our commitment to our customers, partners, and the broader objectives of Vision 2030."

Dr John Rich, Executive Chairman of MHP SE, stated, "Deepening our

India and Saudi Arabia agree to expand economic and security ties

NEW DELHI, Sept 11, (AP): India and Saudi Arabia agreed Monday to expand trade and security ties, two days after their leaders and others attending a Group of 20 summit announced a new railways and port corridor deal that will link India, Middle East and Europe.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met in New Delhi and chaired a meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council. The two leaders discussed issues ranging from energy security, trade and investment to defense, health care and food security, India's foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

The India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council, established in 2019, serves as a platform between the two countries to increase ties.

During last week's G20 summit, India, Saudi Arabia, the United States, the European Union and other countries announced an ambitious rail and shipping corridor that will link India with the Middle East and Europe in a bid to

strengthen economic growth and political cooperation.

Experts see it as alternative to China's own nation-spanning infrastructure program.

In a televised press statement, Modi called Saudi Arabia one of India's "most important strategic partners."

He said the "corridor will not only connect the two countries, but will also strengthen economic cooperation, energy development and digital connectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe."

Ahead of the talks, Prince Mohammed was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Presidential Palace in New Delhi. He is on a three-day trip to India that included the G20 summit.

India views Saudi Arabia as one of its most important strategic partners in the Middle East. Trade between the countries stood at over \$52.8 billion in the fiscal year 2022-2023.

alliance with Tanmiah is a strategic pivot in MHP's global outreach. This partnership is emblematic of our shared vision to integrate international expertise with local insights, ensuring that Saudi Arabia's food security targets are met. Our collective strengths will catalyze transformative advancements in the poultry sector, fostering innovation and setting new benchmarks for excellence. The formation of this joint venture is an important first step. We are committed to a long-term, fruitful relationship that will benefit our organizations, the entire Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the region. We will continue pursuing strategic opportunities in the region, seeking to capitalize on our

expertise."

Ahmed Bin Sharaf Osilan, Executive Board Member and Managing Director of Tanmiah Food Company, commented: "Our partnership with MHP is a strategic step to delivering sustainable value to our stakeholders and making significant strides towards Vision 2030. As we are working towards boosting food security and self-reliance in Saudi Arabia, we are building facilities that are critical in the entire poultry ecosystem in Saudi Arabia, increasing non-oil GDP private sector contribution, local employment opportunities, and knowledge transfer."

US 'business leaders' looking for alternatives to Chinese factories

Biden finds a new friend in Vietnam

HANOI, Sept 11, (AP): President Joe Biden went Sunday to a Vietnam that's looking to dramatically ramp up trade with the United States - a sign of how competition with China is reshaping relationships across Asia.

The president has made it a point of pride that Vietnam is elevating the United States to the status of being a comprehensive strategic partner. Other countries that Vietnam has extended this designation include China and Russia. Giving the U.S. the same status suggests that Vietnam wants to hedge its friendships as U.S. and European companies look for alternatives to Chinese factories.

Biden, who arrived in Hanoi on Sunday afternoon, said last month at a fundraiser in Salt Lake City that Vietnam doesn't want a defense alliance with the U.S., "but they want relationships because they want China to know that they're not alone" and can choose its own partners. The president decided to tack a visit to Vietnam on his trip to India for the Group of 20 summit that wrapped up Sunday.

With China's economic slowdown and President Xi Jinping's consolidation of political power, Biden sees an opportunity to bring more nations - including Vietnam and Cambodia - into America's orbit.

"We find ourselves in a situation where all of these changes around the world are taking place," Biden explained last month about Vietnam. "We have an opportunity, if we're smart, to change the dynamic."

Jon Finer, Biden's chief deputy national security adviser, said the elevated status represents Vietnam's highest tier of international partnership.

"It's important to make clear that this is more than words," Finer told reporters Sunday aboard Biden's flight to Hanoi. "In a system like Vietnam, it's a signal to their entire government, their entire bureaucracy about the depth and cooperation and alignment with another country that is possible."

Finer noted a five-decade arc in U.S.-Vietnam relations, from conflict during the Vietnam War to normalization and Vietnam's status as a top trading partner that also shares Washington's concerns over security in the South China Sea.

"We will be deepening that relationship through this visit," he added.

Finer also addressed reports that Vietnam was pursuing a deal to buy weapons from Russia, even as it sought deeper ties to the United States. Finer acknowledged Vietnam's lengthy military relationship with Russia and said the U.S. continues to work with Vietnam and other countries with similar ties to Russia to try to limit their interactions with a nation the U.S. accuses of committing war crimes and violating international law with its aggression in Ukraine.

U.S. trade with Vietnam has already accelerated since 2019. But there are limits to how much further it can progress without improvements to the country's infrastructure, its workers' skills and its governance. Nor has increased trade automatically put the



Photo taken during the launch of the program.

KFH launches 3rd Training Program for KSH students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: In line with the bank's leadership in social responsibility and its great role in supporting and empowering people with special needs, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched, in collaboration with the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped (KSH), the third training program to train a group of students with special needs at various KFH departments.

KFH has announced the launch of the program for the third consecutive year during a conference held in the presence of KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Al Omar, KSH Deputy Director, Baraa Al-Jenae in addition to students and a group of KFH and KSH officials.

KFH has taken the advantage of this partnership which is the first-of-its-kind at the banking sector level in Kuwait. This program is an extension of the first edition which was launched three years ago to grant them the opportunity to engage with society, learn new skills and gain experience through

direct interaction with employees and customers. KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad Al Omar expressed his pleasure that this partnership with KSH is extended allowing its students the chance to work and hone new skills. "Each year, we work actively to contribute to developing your skills through experience at KFH. We also benefit from your high capabilities in enhancing our performance and serving our customers in the best means possible," added Al Omar.

He went on to say that this cooperation with KSH is the first-of-its-kind at the local banking sector level which undoubtedly benefits KSH and its members, as well as the banking sector, however, the greatest benefit is for the students with special needs who are an integral part of society. Meanwhile, KSH Deputy Director, Baraa Al-Jenae praised KFH's efforts in supporting KSH and its members and the keenness to offer a tailored training program for the third consecutive year.

"This constant partnership consolidates the trainees' efficiency and increases their self-esteem allowing them to be independent and offering them future employment opportunities. It also benefits KSH to achieve its anticipated goal, which is to helping trainees develop their professional skills in line with their abilities and enhance their engagement with society," said Al-Jenae.

KFH enjoys a long record of special needs support in different fields including sports, education, and scientific activities. KFH also participates in various events and conferences held for this social category, provides the required care, and highlights their talents, capabilities, and skills.

On the banking level, KFH enables people with special needs to benefit from banking products and services without any charges or extra costs including a special branch for the handicapped in each governorate, appropriate car parking, wheelchairs and other support means required for them.

worldwide has hurt the market for consumer goods.

Still, U.S. imports of Vietnamese goods have nearly doubled since 2019 to \$127 billion annually, according to the Census Bureau. It is unlikely that Vietnam, with its population of 100 million, can match the scale of Chinese manufacturing. In 2022, China, with 1.4 billion people, exported four times as many goods to the U.S. as did Vietnam.

There is also evidence that China is still central to the economies of many countries in the Indo-Pacific. A new analysis from the Peterson Institute of International Economics found that countries in IPEF received on average more than 30% of their imports from China and sent nearly 20% of their exports to China. This dependence has increased sharply since 2010.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan saw an opening to broaden the U.S. relationship with Vietnam when one of its top officials, Lê Hoài Trung, visited Washington on June 29.

After talking with Trung, Sullivan walked back to his office and decided after consulting with his team to issue a letter to the Vietnamese government proposing that the two countries take their trade and diplomatic relations to the highest possible level, according to an administration official who insisted on anonymity to discuss the details.

Sullivan picked the issue back up on July 13 while traveling with Biden in Helsinki, speaking by phone with Nguyn Phú Trng, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

At a fundraiser at a barn in Maine a few weeks later, Biden went public with the deal.

with an innate competitive edge."

Over the past 18 months, Markaz has invested around USD 145 million across multiple sectors, such as multifamily, industrial, and senior housing, through equity and mezzanine debt. Most recently, during the first half of 2023, Markaz made its first investment development financing through mezzanine debt, partnering with a renowned international real estate developer.

Markaz's international real estate assets under management (AUM) amount to around USD 783.6 million as of the second quarter of 2023, of which 61% is invested in the US and 39% in Europe. Their performance has remained strong, particularly recently, with an impressive average return of 22.9% across 14 development projects since 2020.

Commenting on the exit announcement, Mr. Sami Shabshab, Managing Director, Mar-Gulf, the real estate arm of Markaz in the U.S., said: "This marks our 86th international real estate project worldwide; our focus remains on diversification as we seek new opportunities in the United States and Europe that align with our investment strategies. Our philosophy is and continues to be sector and strategy agnostic under which we identify and source opportunities depending on market trends and timing."

Mr. Sadon Al-Sabt, Senior Vice President, International Real estate at Markaz, stated: "We take pride in Markaz's second successful exit in 2023 despite the challenging economic circumstances globally, and our seventh exit in Europe over the past four years. The project underlines our commitment to seizing promising real estate opportunities. We aim to expand our investment portfolio by remaining selective in the real estate asset class and judiciously selecting project partners

them in 2016.

X did not immediately respond to a request for more details on the new features or when they will be available.

The platform's new privacy policy, which goes into effect Sept. 29, tells users that based "on your consent, we may collect and use your biometric information for safety, security, and identification purposes." It does not say what biometric information will be collected. Biometric data can refer to fingerprints, facial recognition and the like.

"The announcement is at least an acknowledgement that X will be doing what other social networks have already been doing in a more covert fashion," said Stephen Wicker, a professor at Cornell University and expert on data privacy.

Two years ago, Facebook agreed to a \$650 million settlement of a privacy lawsuit for allegedly using photo face-tagging and other biometric data without the permission of its users.

Sale generated a net IRR of 11.9%

Markaz exits S. Venlo industrial property

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Demonstrating its commitment to offering stable and diversified investment options that leverage global opportunities and deliver favorable returns for its clients, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announces the sale of an industrial property in South Venlo, The Netherlands.

The International Real Estate department at Markaz successfully completed the development, leasing, and sale of the property spanning 21,500 square meters, delivering a double-digit return to the investors despite strong economic headwinds. Our success results from well-researched and meticulous selection of the market, product type, and partner, and the excellence in project execution and monitoring. The sale generated a Net IRR of 11.9% and a net ROI multiple of 1.35 times.

The project started in December 2020 and is strategically located in Venlo, The Netherlands, a key industrial hub in Europe bordering Germany with access to one of the largest metropolitan regions of the continent, North Rhine Westphalia. Markaz's investment involved acquiring and developing a land parcel into a Class-A industrial facility.

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X will have voice, video calls, updates privacy policy: Musk

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 11, (AP):

Elon Musk said Thursday that his social network X, formerly known as Twitter, will give users the ability to make voice and video calls on the platform. Musk, who has a history of making proclamations about coming features and policies that have not always come to fruition, did not say when the features would be available to users.

The company also updated its privacy policies that will allow for the collection of biometric data and employment history, among other information.

Musk posted on the former Twitter that the site's voice and video calls will work on Apple and Android devices as well as on computers, with "No phone numbers needed."

Rival social platforms already offer voice and video calls. Meta, which owns Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, introduced voice and video calls on Messenger in 2015. Snapchat added



Sadon A. Al-Sabt



Sami Shabshab

Ex-CEO of China's Alibaba quits cloud business

The former CEO of Alibaba, Daniel Zhang, resigned as head of its cloud computing unit Monday in a surprise move as the Chinese e-commerce empire wraps up a leadership reshuffle.

Alibaba said it will invest \$1 billion in a technology fund Zhang will establish to support the firm's strategies for future growth.

Zhang stepped down on the same day he gave up his roles as Alibaba's CEO and chairman.

In a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange, Alibaba said that Eddie Wu, its new CEO, will also head its cloud unit. Wu and Alibaba's new chairman Joseph Tsai assumed their new roles by Monday, with Alibaba saying it has "completed its leadership transition."

Alibaba expressed its "deepest appreciation" to Zhang for his contributions to the company over the past 16 years.

Alibaba's Hong Kong stock

price was down 3.6% Monday following the announcement.

In an internal letter dated Sunday and viewed by the AP, Tsai wrote that Zhang had "expressed his wish to transition away from his role" as chief of the cloud business, and the Alibaba board had "respected and accepted Daniel's decision." "Daniel will continue to contribute to Alibaba by channeling his expertise differently," Tsai wrote. (AP)

METZ Display partners with AI Technologies LLC

METZ Display, a sub-brand of Skyworth and a provider of innovative interactive displays for education and business has announced Artificial Intelligence Technologies LLC Dubai as the authorized exclusive distributor for the UAE market and non-exclusive distributor for the Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain markets, delivering its full range of smart education and smart conference room applications.

Based on the 16 years of R&D and business experience in the IFPD market from Skyworth, METZ Display fully inherited its technology and has introduced several interactive displays in the education and business sectors that provide a highly immersive environment and user-friendly experience since 2022, such as the all-in-one LCD and in-cell optical bonding IFPD.

Eric Jiang, METZ regional sales

manager of MEA, said: "The IFPD market in MEA is expected to see rapid growth over the next couple of years. The partnership with Artificial Intelligence Technologies LLC, a business entity to promote AI & AV Products, Tools, and services in the United Arab Emirates & Middle East Region will take METZ Display to another new level. We are confident to further develop our quality products and service!" (AP)

The Conversation

Social scientists explain challenge in assimilating emerging technologies

Experts alone can't handle AI – public needs a seat at the table

By Dietram A. Scheufele, Dominique Brossard and Todd Newman
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

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Are democratic societies ready for a future in which AI algorithmically assigns limited supplies of respirators or hospital beds during pandemics? Or one in which AI fuels an arms race between disinformation creation and detection? Or sways court decisions with amicus briefs written to mimic the rhetorical and argumentative styles of Supreme Court justices?

Decades of research show that most democratic societies struggle to hold nuanced debates about new technologies. These discussions need to be informed not only by the best available science but also the numerous ethical, regulatory and social considerations of their use. Difficult dilemmas posed by artificial intelligence are already emerging at a rate that overwhelms modern democracies' ability to collectively work through those problems.

Broad public engagement, or the lack of it, has been a long-running challenge in assimilating emerging technologies, and is key to tackling the challenges they bring.

Striking a balance between the awe-inspiring possibilities of emerging technologies like AI and the need for societies to think through both intended and unintended outcomes is not a new challenge. Almost 50 years ago, scientists and policymakers met in Pacific Grove, California, for what is often referred to as the Asilomar Conference to decide the future of recombinant DNA research, or transplanting genes from one organism into another. Public participation and input into their deliberations was minimal.

Societies are severely limited in their ability to anticipate and mitigate unintended consequences of rapidly emerging technologies like AI without good-faith en-

gagement from broad cross-sections of public and expert stakeholders. And there are real downsides to limited participation. If Asilomar had sought such wide-ranging input 50 years ago, it is likely that the issues of cost and access would have shared the agenda with the science and the ethics of deploying the technology. If that had happened, the lack of affordability of recent CRISPR-based sickle cell treatments, for example, might've been avoided.

AI runs a very real risk of creating similar blind spots when it comes to intended and unintended consequences that will often not be obvious to elites like tech leaders and policymakers. If societies fail to ask "the right questions, the ones people care about," science and technology studies scholar Sheila Jasanoff said in a 2021 interview, "then no matter what the science says, you wouldn't be producing the right answers or options for society."

Unprepared

Even AI experts are uneasy about how unprepared societies are for moving forward with the technology in a responsible fashion. We study the public and political aspects of emerging science. In 2022, our research group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison interviewed almost 2,200 researchers who had published on the topic of AI. Nine in 10 (90.3%) predicted that there will be unintended consequences of AI applications, and three in four (75.9%) did not think that society is prepared for the potential effects of AI applications.

Industry leaders, policymakers and academics have been slow to adjust to the rapid onset of powerful AI technologies. In 2017, researchers and scholars met in Pacific Grove for another small expert-only meeting, this time to outline principles for future AI research. Senator Chuck Schumer plans to hold the first of a series of AI Insight Forums on Sept. 13, 2023, to help Beltway policymakers think through AI risks with tech leaders like Meta's Mark Zuckerberg and X's Elon Musk.

Meanwhile, there is a hunger among the public for helping to shape our collective future. Only about a quarter of U.S. adults in our 2020 AI survey agreed that scientists should be able "to conduct their research without consulting the public" (27.8%). Two-thirds (64.6%) felt that "the public should have a say in how we apply scientific research and technology in society."

The public's desire for participation goes hand in hand with a widespread lack of trust in government and industry when it comes to shaping the development of AI. In a 2020 national survey by our team, fewer than one in 10 Americans indicated that they "mostly" or "very much" trusted Congress (8.5%) or Facebook (9.5%) to keep society's best interest in mind in the development of AI.

The public's deep mistrust of key regulatory and industry players is not entirely unwarranted. Industry leaders have had a hard time disentangling their commercial interests from efforts to develop an effective regulatory system for AI. This has led to a fundamentally messy policy environment.

Tech firms helping regulators think through the potential and complexities of technologies like AI is not always troublesome, especially if they are transparent about potential conflicts of interest. However, tech leaders' input on technical questions about what AI can or might be used for is only a small piece of the regulatory puzzle.

Much more urgently, societies need to figure out what types of applications AI should be used for, and how. Answers to those questions can only emerge from public debates that engage a broad set of stakeholders about values, ethics and fairness. Meanwhile, the public is growing concerned about the use of AI.

AI might not wipe out humanity anytime soon, but it is likely to increasingly disrupt life as we currently know it. Societies have a finite window of opportunity to find ways to engage in good-faith debates and collaboratively work toward meaningful AI regulation to make sure that these challenges do not overwhelm them. (AP)

4 scholars weigh in on AI use

Should AI be permitted in 'college' classrooms?

By Nicholas Tampoio, Fordham University, Asim Ali, Auburn University, Patricia A. Young, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Shital Thekdi, University of Richmond

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

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One of the most intense discussions taking place among university faculty is whether to permit students to use artificial intelligence in the classroom. To gain perspective on the matter, The Conversation reached out to four scholars for their take on AI as a learning tool and the reasons why they will or won't be making it a part of their classes.

As a professor, I believe the purpose of a college class is to teach students to think: to read scholarship, ask questions, formulate a thesis, collect and analyze data, draft an essay, take feedback from the instructor and other students, and write a final draft.

One problem with ChatGPT is that it allows students to produce a decent paper without thinking or writing for themselves.

Intellectual

In my American political thought class, I assign speeches by Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and ask students to compose an essay on what King and X might say about a current American political debate, such as the Supreme Court's recent decision on affirmative action.

Students could get fine grades if they used ChatGPT to "write" their papers. But they will have missed a chance to enter a dialogue with two profound thinkers about a topic that could reshape American higher education and society.

The point of learning to write is not simply intellectual self-discovery. My students go on to careers in journalism, law, science, academia and business. Their employers often ask them to research and write about a topic.

Few employers will likely hire someone to use large language models that rely on an algorithm scraping databases filled with errors and biases. Already, a lawyer has gotten in trouble for using ChatGPT to craft a motion filled with fabricated cases. Employees succeed when they can research a topic and write intelligently about it.

Artificial intelligence is a tool that defeats a purpose of a college education - to learn how to think, and write, for oneself.

College students who are operating from a convenience or entitlement mentality - one in which they think, "I am entitled to use whatever technology is available to me" - will naturally gravitate toward using ChatGPT with or without their professor's permission. Using ChatGPT and submitting a course assignment as your own creation is called AI-assisted plagiarism.

Some professors allow the use of ChatGPT as long as students cite ChatGPT as the source. As a researcher who specializes in the use of technology in education, I believe this practice needs to be thought through. Does this mean that ChatGPT would need to cite its sources, so that students could cite ChatGPT as a type of secondary source according to APA style, a standard academic style of citing papers? What Pandora's box are we opening? Some users report that

ChatGPT never reveals its sources anyway.

The proliferation of free AI means students won't have to think much while writing - just engage in a high level of copy and paste. We used to call that plagiarism. With AI-assisted plagiarism, this brings in the potential for a new era of academic misconduct.

The concern will come when students take higher-level courses or land a job and lack the literacy skills to perform on an exceptional level. We will have created a generation of functionally illiterate adults who lack the capacity to engage in advanced thinking - like critiquing, comparing or contrasting information.

Yes, students can and should use smart tools, but we need to hypothesize and measure the costs to human ingenuity and the future of the human race.

I teach information systems management, and in the spring of 2023, I had students use ChatGPT for an essay assignment and then record a video podcast discussing how AI will impact their careers. This semester I am being more intentional by providing guidance on the possibilities and limitations of AI tools for each assignment. For example, students learn that using generative AI on a self-reflection assignment may not help, but using AI to analyze a case study is potentially a great way to find insights they may have overlooked. This emulates their future jobs in which they may use AI tools to enhance the quality of their work product.

My experience with adapting to AI for my own course inspired me to create a resource for all my colleagues. As executive director of the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, I oversee the instructional design and educational development teams at Auburn University. We created a self-paced, online course called Teaching With AI.

Now there are over 600 faculty at Auburn and hundreds of faculty at almost 35 institutions engaging with the content and each other through discussion boards and practical exercises.

Resource

I receive messages from faculty sharing ways they are changing their assignments or discussing AI with their students. Some see AI as a threat to humans, but discussing AI with my students and with colleagues across the country has actually helped me develop human connections.

This semester, I will ask students in my Statistics for Business and Economics course to discuss the question, "What is your value beyond the AI tools?" I want them to reframe the conversation beyond one of academic integrity and instead as a challenge. I believe students must recognize that the jobs they imagine will exist for them could be eliminated because of these new technologies. So the pressure is on students to understand not only how to use these tools but also how to be better than the tools.

I hope my students will consider ethical reasoning and the role of human connections. (AP)

DES MOINES, Iowa, Sept 11, (AP): The cost of building an artificial intelligence product like ChatGPT can be hard to measure.

But one thing Microsoft-backed OpenAI needed for its technology was plenty of water, pulled from the watershed of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers in central Iowa to cool a powerful supercomputer as it helped teach its AI systems how to mimic human writing.

As they race to capitalize on a craze for generative AI, leading tech developers including Microsoft, OpenAI and Google have acknowledged that growing demand for their AI tools carries hefty costs, from expensive semiconductors to an increase in water consumption.

But they're often secretive about the specifics. Few people in Iowa knew about its status as a birthplace of OpenAI's most advanced large language model, GPT-4, before a top Microsoft executive said in a speech it "was literally made next to cornfields west of Des Moines."

Building a large language model requires analyzing patterns across a huge trove of human-written text. All of that computing takes a lot of electricity and generates a lot of heat. To keep it cool on hot days, data centers need to pump in water - often to a cooling tower outside its warehouse-sized buildings.

Investment

In its latest environmental report, Microsoft disclosed that its global water consumption spiked 34% from 2021 to 2022 (to nearly 1.7 billion gallons, or more than 2,500 Olympic-sized swimming pools), a sharp increase compared to previous years that outside researchers tie to its AI research.

"It's fair to say the majority of the growth is due to AI," including "its heavy investment in generative AI and partnership with OpenAI," said Shalei Ren, a researcher at the University of California, Riverside who has been trying to calculate the environmental impact of generative AI products such as ChatGPT.

In a paper due to be published later this year, Ren's team estimates ChatGPT gulps up 500 milliliters of water (close to what's in a 16-ounce water bottle) every time you ask it a series of between 5 to 50 prompts or questions. The range varies depending on where its servers are located and the season. The estimate includes indirect water usage that the companies don't measure - such as to cool power plants that supply the data centers with electricity.

"Most people are not aware of the resource usage underlying ChatGPT," Ren said. "If you're not aware of the resource usage, then there's no way that we can help conserve the resources."

Google reported a 20% growth in water use in the same period, which Ren also largely attributes to its AI work. Google's spike wasn't uniform -- it was steady in Oregon where its water use has attracted public attention, while doubling outside Las Vegas. It was also thirsty in Iowa, drawing more potable water to its Council

Growing demand for AI tools carries hefty costs

AI tech behind ChatGPT built in Iowa – with a lot of water

Accelerate cloud adoption

Microland and Serco AsPac form strategic partnership to drive digital transformation

BENGALURU, India, Sept 11: Microland Limited and Serco AsPac, a division of Serco Group, one of the world's largest providers of public services, has announced a strategic partnership to drive digital transformation leveraging cloud for business agility and resilience. The strategic partnership for AsPac Serco extends to an 18+ year technology delivery relationship between Microland and Serco. These initiatives are aligned with Serco's 2027 strategy to accelerate innovation in business services that can fuel the next wave of growth and expansion.

As part of Serco AsPac's 2027 strategy, Microland is helping them exit data centers and transition to the cloud transforming them into a cloud-adopted organization. Serco AsPac is leveraging Microsoft Azure for its cloud and data center transformation.

As part of the ongoing engagement with Serco AsPac, Microland will deliver end-user device management services, which include evergreen managed desktop services with deskside support, managed services

around network and connectivity, security tooling, and governance, risk & compliance (GRC). Microland is implementing advanced toolsets to measure and improve Digital Employee Experience (DEX), which focuses on employees' interactions with the technology they encounter in their daily jobs. There is also a clear focus on the automation of infrastructure management activities and implementation of self-heal services that reduce manual intervention and deliver better value from existing infrastructure and device investments.

Transformation

Jason Richardson, Chief Digital Officer, Serco, said, "Digital transformation is core to our vision of delivering innovation to our customers. Our partnership with Microland coupled with a data center exit strategy moving to the cloud, marks a significant step towards digital transformation in the public services sector which is helping drive effectiveness and efficiency in our business operations and tech-enabled

business growth." Karthikeyan Krishnan, Senior Vice President and Geo Leader - Europe, Middle East and Africa, Microland, said, "We are delighted to partner with Serco AsPac to deliver high-quality digital public services using cutting-edge technologies. It is our endeavor to continuously deploy tech at scale to improve customer experience, enhance business agility, and improve the quality of digital public services."

Microland is committed to "Making Digital Happen" by allowing technology to do more and intrude less. They make it easier for enterprises to transition to next-generation digital infrastructure through their extensive service portfolio including Cloud and Data centers, Networks, Digital Workplace, Cybersecurity, and Industrial IoT. Incorporated in 1989 and headquartered in Bengaluru, India, Microland has more than 4,500 digital specialists across offices and delivery centers in Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

Bluffs data centers than anywhere else. In response to questions from The Associated Press, Microsoft said in a statement this week that it is investing in research to measure AI's energy and carbon footprint "while working on ways to make large systems more efficient, in both training and application."

"We will continue to monitor our emissions, accelerate progress while increasing our use of clean energy to power data centers, purchasing renewable energy, and other efforts to meet our sustainability goals of being carbon negative, water positive and zero waste by 2030," the company's statement said.

OpenAI echoed those comments in its own statement Friday, saying it's giving "considerable thought" to the best use of computing power.

"We recognize training large models can be energy and water-intensive" and work to improve efficiencies, it said.

Microsoft made its first \$1 billion investment in San Francisco-based OpenAI in 2019, more than two years before the startup introduced ChatGPT and sparked worldwide fascination with AI advancements. As part of the deal, the software giant would supply computing power needed to train the AI models.

To do at least some of that work, the two companies looked to West Des Moines, Iowa, a city of 68,000 people where Microsoft has been amassing data centers to power its cloud computing services for more than a decade. Its fourth and fifth data centers are due to open there later this year.

"They're building them as fast as they can," said Steve Gaer, who was the city's mayor when Microsoft came to town. Gaer said the company was attracted to the city's commitment to building public infrastructure and contributed a "staggering" sum of money through tax payments that support that investment.

"But, you know, they were pretty secretive on what they're doing out there," he added.

Microsoft first said it was developing one of the world's most powerful supercomputers for OpenAI in 2020, declining to reveal its location to AP at the time but describing it as a "single system" with more than 285,000 cores of conventional semiconductors, and 10,000 graphics processors - a kind of chip that's become crucial to AI workloads.

Experts have said it can make sense to "pretrain" an AI model at a single location because of the large amounts of data that need to be transferred between computing cores.

Debate

It wasn't until late May that Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, disclosed that it had built its "advanced AI supercomputing data center" in Iowa, exclusively to enable OpenAI to train what has become its fourth-generation model, GPT-4. The model now powers premium versions of ChatGPT and some of Microsoft's own products and has accelerated a debate about containing AI's societal risks.

"It was made by these extraordinary engineers in California, but it was really made in Iowa," Smith said.

In some ways, West Des Moines is a

relatively efficient place to train a powerful AI system, especially compared to Microsoft's data centers in Arizona that consume far more water for the same computing demand.

"So if you are developing AI models within Microsoft, then you should schedule your training in Iowa instead of in Arizona," Ren said. "In terms of training, there's no difference. In terms of water consumption or energy consumption, there's a big difference."

For much of the year, Iowa's weather is cool enough for Microsoft to use outside air to keep the supercomputer running properly and vent heat out of the building. Only when the temperature exceeds 29.3 degrees Celsius (about 85 degrees Fahrenheit) does it withdraw water, the company has said in a public disclosure.

That can still be a lot of water, especially in the summer. In July 2022, the month before OpenAI says it completed its training of GPT-4, Microsoft pumped in about 11.5 million gallons of water to its cluster of Iowa data centers, according to the West Des Moines Water Works. That amounted to about 6% of all the water used in the district, which also supplies drinking water to the city's residents.

In 2022, a document from the West Des Moines Water Works said it and the city government "will only consider future data center projects" from Microsoft if those projects can "demonstrate and implement technology to significantly reduce peak water usage from the current levels" to preserve the water supply for residential and other commercial needs.



A Kroger grocery store sign promotes its pharmacy and fuel center at its Flowood, Miss., location, on June 15, 2017. Kroger on Sept 8 announced an agreement to pay up to \$1.4 billion to settle lawsuits that claimed the company contributed to the US opioid crisis. (AP)

Kroger agrees to pay up to \$1.4b to settle opioid lawsuits

One of the nation's largest grocery chains is the latest company to agree to settle lawsuits over the US opioid crisis. In a deal announced Friday, the Kroger Co. would pay up to \$1.4 billion over 11 years. The amount includes up to \$1.2 billion for state and local governments where it operates, \$36 million to Native American tribes and about \$177 million to cover lawyers' fees and costs. Kroger currently has stores in 35 states - virtually everywhere save the Northeast, the northern plains and Hawaii. Thirty-three

states would be eligible for money in the deal. The company previously announced settlements with New Mexico and West Virginia. Over the past eight years, prescription drug manufacturers, wholesalers, consultants and pharmacies have proposed or finalized opioid settlements totaling more than \$50 billion, including at least 12 others worth more than \$1 billion. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear arguments later this year on whether one of the larger settlements, involving OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, is legal.

Most of the settlement money is to be used to address an overdose epidemic linked to more than 80,000 deaths a year in the U.S. in recent years, with most of the latest deaths connected to illicit synthetic drugs such as fentanyl rather than prescription painkillers. Still, Jayne Conroy, a lead lawyer for the governments suing the companies, told The Associated Press in an interview Friday that it makes sense for players in the prescription drug industry to have a major role in funding solutions to the crisis. (AP)

The Conversation

Cultural practices routinely infantilize large swaths of population

Infantilization of Western culture seems to erode hallmarks of maturity

By Simon Gottschalk

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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

If you regularly watch TV, you've probably seen a cartoon bear pitching you toilet paper, a gecko with a British accent selling you auto insurance and a bunny in sunglasses promoting batteries.

This has always struck me as a bit odd. Sure, it makes sense to use cartoon characters to sell products to kids - a phenomenon that's been well-documented.

But why are advertisers using the same techniques on adults?

To me, it's just one symptom of a broader trend of infantilization in Western culture. It began before the advent of smartphones and social media. But, as I argue in my book "The Terminal Self," our everyday interactions with these computer technologies have accelerated and normalized our culture's infantile tendencies.

The dictionary defines infantilizing as treating someone "as a child or in a way that denies their maturity in age or experience."

What's considered age-appropriate or mature is obviously quite relative. But most societies and cultures will deem behaviors appropriate for some stages of life, but not others.

Behaviors

As the Bible puts it in 1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me."

Some psychologists will be quick to note that not everyone puts their "childish ways" behind them. You can become fixated at a particular stage of development and fail to reach an age-appropriate level of maturity. When facing unmanageable stress or trauma, you can even regress to a previous stage of development. And psychologist Abraham Maslow has suggested that spontaneous childlike behaviors in adults aren't inherently problematic.

But some cultural practices today routinely infantilize large swaths of the population.

We see it in our everyday speech, when we refer to grown women as "girls"; in how we treat senior citizens, when we place them in adult care centers where they're forced to surrender their autonomy and privacy; and in the way school personnel and parents treat teenagers, refusing to acknowledge their intelligence and need for autonomy, restricting their freedom, and limiting their ability to enter the workforce.

Can entire societies succumb to infantilization?

Frankfurt School scholars such as Herbert Marcuse, Erich Fromm and other critical theorists suggest that - like individuals - a society can also

suffer from arrested development.

In their view, adults' failure to reach emotional, social or cognitive maturity is not due to individual shortcomings. Rather, it is socially engineered.

Visiting America in 1946, French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss commented on the endearingly infantile traits of American culture. He especially noted adults' childish adulation of baseball, their passionate approach to toy-like cars and the amount of time they invested in hobbies.

As contemporary scholars note, however, this "infantilist ethos" has become less charming - and more pervasive.

Researchers on both sides of the Atlantic have observed how this ethos has now crept into a vast range of social spheres.

Privacy

In many workplaces, managers can now electronically monitor their employees, many of whom work in open spaces with little personal privacy. As sociologist Gary T. Marx observed, it creates a situation in which workers feel that managers expect them "to behave irresponsibly, to take advantage, and to screw up unless they remove all temptation, prevent them from doing so or trick or force them to do otherwise."

Much has been written about higher education's tendency to infantilize its students, whether it's through monitoring their social media accounts, guiding their every step, or promoting "safe spaces" on campus.

Meanwhile, tourist destinations like Las Vegas market excess, indulgence and freedom from responsibility in casino environments that conjure memories of childhood fantasies: the Old West, medieval castles and the circus. Scholars have also explored how this form of Las Vegas-style "Disneyfication" has left its stamp on planned communities, architecture and contemporary art.

Then we've witnessed the rise of a "therapy culture," which, as sociologist Frank Furedi warns, treats adults as vulnerable, weak and fragile, while implying that their troubles rooted in childhood qualify them for a "permanent suspension of moral sense." He argues that this absolves grown-ups from adult responsibilities and erodes their trust in their own experiences and insights.

What's a fast, easy and simple alternative to this political process? It's not difficult to imagine an infantile society being attracted to authoritarian rule.

Unfortunately, our social institutions and technological devices seem to erode hallmarks of maturity: patience, empathy, solidarity, humility and commitment to a project greater than oneself.

All are qualities that have traditionally been considered essential for both healthy adulthood and for the proper functioning of democracy. (AP)

Takeda announces positive results from Phase 2b study

TAK-279 improves clinical outcomes for patients with psoriatic arthritis

OSAKA, Japan, Sept 11: Takeda (TSE:4502/NYSE:TAK) has announced positive topline results from its randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multiple-dose Phase 2b trial evaluating TAK-279, an investigational oral allosteric tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) inhibitor with next generation selectivity, in people with active psoriatic arthritis. The study met its primary endpoint with a greater proportion of patients treated once-daily with TAK-279 achieving at least a 20 percent improvement in signs and symptoms of disease (American College of Rheumatology 20 response) at week 12 compared to placebo, supporting its potential as a highly selective oral option for patients with psoriatic arthritis. The safety and tolerability profile of TAK-279 in the Phase 2b trial was consistent with previous TAK-279 clinical trials. Analysis of the results are ongoing, and Takeda plans to present clinical results at an upcoming medical meeting.

Psoriatic arthritis can impose a profound burden on patients and there is an unmet need for therapeutic options that combine efficacy, safety, tolerability and convenience. These Phase 2b results highlight the potential of TAK-279, a highly selective, oral TYK2 inhibitor, to improve clinical outcomes for people living with psoriatic arthritis," said Andy Plump, President R&D, Takeda. "Our hypothesis is that high selectivity, as seen with TAK-279, can enable high levels of TYK2 inhibition, while potentially avoiding toxicities associated with JAK inhibition. We look forward to sharing the results soon and exploring the potential of TAK-279 in further clinical studies."

Chronic

Psoriatic arthritis is a chronic immune-mediated inflammatory disease, characterized by inflammation causing joint pain, stiffness and swelling, that affects approximately 10 million people globally. Chronic inflammation seen in psoriatic arthritis may result in irreversible joint damage if not managed appropriately, and progressive disease is associated with substantial physical disability⁴ and significant mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression.

Based on the Phase 2b results, Takeda intends to initiate a Phase 3 study of TAK-279 in psoriatic arthritis. Takeda will initiate a Phase 3 study of TAK-279 in plaque psoriasis in FY2023 and plans to evaluate TAK-279 in systemic

'Safe and effective'

Sinovac Biotech reports on clinical trial progress of its 'SA55 Injection'

BEIJING, Sept 11: Sinovac Biotech Ltd ("Sinovac" or the "Company") (NASDAQ: SVA), a leading provider of biopharmaceutical products in China, announced that the Company has completed the phase I clinical trial for its broad-spectrum neutralizing antibody product, the Anti-COVID-19 Antibody SA55 Injection ("SA55 Injection") in Beijing and has entered the phase II clinical trial in Shanghai after successfully enrolling its first participant recently.

Sinovac's SA55 Injection, which is intended for the treatment of COVID-19 infections, was approved for clinical trial in China on May 24, 2023. The phase I clinical trial has confirmed its preliminary safety profile in 40 healthy adults aged 18 to 65 in China.

The phase II clinical trial is a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. It is expected to enroll 150 patients aged 18 and above with mild to moderate COVID-19 infection from nearly 20 medical institutions in China. Participants will be randomly assigned to groups receiving different dosages of SA55 Injection or placebo to evaluate its ability to decrease SARS-CoV-2 virus loads and alleviate clinical symptoms, while assessing its safety. Preliminary results

are anticipated by the year's end.

Mr. Weidong Yin, Chairman, President and CEO of Sinovac, said: "After providing over 2.9 billion doses of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccines to the world, we still expect to address the fast-developing COVID-19 virus mutations with a cutting-edge technology. The neutralizing antibody with broad-spectrum effectiveness is our new tool in our ongoing battle against the persistent threat to human health posed by the COVID-19 virus."

Prevention

"We hope that our SA55 injection can continuously make valuable contributions to COVID-19 prevention and control efforts, not only in China, but also globally," Mr. Yin added.

The broad-spectrum neutralizing antibody SA55 was founded by a research team led by Dr. Xiaoliang Xie, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Dr. Yunlong Cao, researcher at Peking University's Biomedical Pioneer Innovation Center. SA55 injection is a fully humanized antibody, which is screened from the blood of recovered SARS patients who have received three doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and then recombinantly expressed, according to Dr. Xie.

Their studies underscore the SA55's efficacy in neutralizing the omicron variant and its sublineages, including BA.5, BF.7, BQ.1.1, XBB.1.5, BA.2.86 and the currently dominant strain, EG.5. Xie noted that SA55 is reportedly the only clinical antibody that SARS-CoV-2 hasn't escaped.

Monoclonal neutralizing antibodies for COVID-19 serve as both treatment and prevention. As a treatment option, their good safety profile and fewer contraindications cater to a broader population than small-molecule drugs for COVID-19.

As a prevention option, they have the advantage of rapidly increasing antibody levels post-administration and enjoy a longer half-life, making them suitable for immunocompromised individuals and those who would otherwise be ineligible for vaccination. China's National Medical Products Administration has approved SINOVAC's SA55 Nasal Spray for clinical trial in the prevention of COVID-19 infections, in April 2023.

Sinovac Biotech Ltd. (Sinovac) is a China-based biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the R&D, manufacturing, and commercialization of biomedical products that protect against human infectious diseases.

lupus erythematosus, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and additional immune-mediated inflammatory diseases.

Results from the Phase 2b study have no impact on the full year consolidated reported forecast for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2023).

TAK-279 is a highly selective, oral allosteric tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) inhibitor in late-stage development, with approximately 1.3 million-fold greater selectivity for TYK2 as compared with JAK1.7 TAK-279 has potential to become an important treatment option in multiple immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. In Phase 1 studies, TAK-279 showed a good tolerability profile, a dose-de-

pendent trend in exploratory clinical activity and a pharmacokinetic profile allowing for once-daily solid oral dosing. In a Phase 2b study in patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis, a statistically significant greater proportion of patients receiving TAK-279 achieved Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) 75, 90 and 100 in the 5mg, 15mg and 30mg dosing arms compared to placebo at 12 weeks. TAK-279 is an investigational compound that has not been approved for use by any regulatory authority.

The Phase 2b study (NCT05153148) is a randomized, multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled multiple-dose trial designed to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of

TAK-279 in people with active psoriatic arthritis. 290 patients were randomly assigned (1:1:1:1 ratio) to receive one of three doses of TAK-279 or placebo once daily for 12 weeks with a 4 week safety follow up period. The primary endpoint was the proportion of patients achieving at least an ACR20 response at week 12.

The ACR20 is a composite measure defined as both improvement of 20% in the number of tender and number of swollen joints, and a 20% improvement in three of the following five criteria: patient global assessment of psoriatic arthritis, physician global assessment of psoriatic arthritis, patient pain scale, disability history questionnaire and an acute phase reactant.⁹

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'American Fiction' a funny, jazzy riff on Black representation

Jefferson's insightful satire of race and media lights up TIFF

TORONTO, Sept. 11. (AP) — Fifty pages into Percival Everett's "Erasure" Cord Jefferson knew he wanted to adapt it into a movie script. Halfway through, he began to see Jeffrey Wright playing the book's academic protagonist, Thelonious "Monk" Ellison. By the time he was finished, he knew he wanted to direct it, too.

As quick as that, Cord Jefferson - the 41-year-old TV writer of "Succession," "Master of None" and "Watchmen" - began working toward his directing debut, "American Fiction." And just as speedily, following its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, "American Fiction" became a breakout hit of the festival, launching Jefferson as a major new voice in movies.

In the film, Monk (Wright), is a frustrated author who's agent (John Ortiz) tells him his books - the latest of which is a reworking of Aeschylus' "The Persians" - aren't "Black enough." "I'm Black," he responds, "and this is my book."

Monk, played with acerbic perfection and delightful disgust by Wright, writes as a drunken lark, a book intended to parody the kinds that sell and cater to white audiences' view of Black people. Under the pseudonym Staggy R. Leigh, he dashes off a manuscript of thug life trauma porn titled "My Pafology" that - surprise - immediately sells and gets bought for movie rights.

"All the conversations that the book was having were conversations I was having with my friends and had been having for decades," Jefferson, who was an editor for Gawker before transitioning into TV, said in an interview.

"I worked as a journalist for eight or nine years before working in

television," he added. "I was having the exact same conversations with Black colleagues in both professions: Why are we always writing about misery and trauma and violence and pain inflicted on Blacks? Why is this what people expect from us? Why is this the only thing we have to offer to culture?"

"American Fiction," which MGM will release Nov. 3 in theaters, is a funny, jazzy riff on Black representation in books and films that delights in mocking both stereotypes and identity politics while pleading for something more nuanced - something like "American Fiction."

Themes

"One of the main themes is the way we see ourselves as unique, specific individuals, and the way the world tries to put us into little boxes and sand away all the things that make us unique and special," Jefferson said.

At the TIFF premiere, Jefferson took a moment to note that he loves movies like "12 Years a Slave" and "New Jack City." But Jefferson, lamenting "a poverty of imagination when it comes to what Black life looks like," said other films on the spectrum should exist, too.

"I feel like Jewish people get 'Schindler's List' and 'Annie Hall,'" said Jefferson.

While Woody Allen's film may be a reference point to "American Fiction," direct comparisons are harder to come by for such a breezy but biting commentary. Tracee Ellis Ross, Sterling K. Brown and Erika Alexander co-star, along with Issa Rae, who plays the author of a book titled "We's Lives in Da Ghetto."

"One of the most exciting things has been in test screening when we ask people, 'What does this film remind you of?'" says Jefferson. "There's been several people who can't name a comedy or a film it reminds them of."

Jefferson, who grew up in Tucson, Arizona, wrote on some of the issues his film touched on in a 2014 piece titled "The Racism Beat." In it, he described the importance of writers from marginalized groups bringing individual perspective to journalism, but the difficulty of not being defined by it. Jefferson, who also wrote essays about donating a kidney to his father and being biracial, became a writer for "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore" before transitioning into drama and comedy series. He won an Emmy for penning the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre episode of "Watchmen" episode with Damon Lindelof.

Directing a film, Jefferson says, wasn't necessarily a lifelong ambition. He hadn't gone to film school, so he didn't think it was in the cards until he spoke with a friend directing an episode of "Master of None" who had studied business, not film.

"I realized all you need to do is have a vision and be able to articulate it other people," says Jefferson.

That "American Fiction" is hard to categorize, he says, might mean he's on the right track.

"This being my first movie, I'm eager to find what my voice is," Jefferson says. "I don't really know what my voice is yet, but I'm trying to achieve that. Having people say that the movie feels unique makes me think maybe I'm on to finding my voice somewhere along the path."

Variety



This image released by Focus Features shows Nia Vardalos, (left), and John Corbett in a scene from 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3.' (AP)

Film

Portokalos family is still loving, boisterous and invasive

'Big Fat Greek Wedding 3' feels ancient

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 11, (AP) — "We're getting married!" This rather inevitable line crops up early in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3," and if you're like me, it will inspire mixed reactions.

First: Wait, so soon? We didn't know anyone was even engaged! And second: Phew, it's about time! Because, just like there can be no sunrise over the glittering Ionian sea without a sun, there can be no "big fat Greek wedding" movie without ... you know.

Yet the mere fact that a wedding is so crucial to the DNA of this trilogy - which surely will morph into a quadrilogy and then a quintology - raises its own issues. Which Greek philosopher was it who said there's no problem that can't be solved with a wedding? Right, that would be Nia Vardalos, the franchise star, writer and now director, too. But she is also saying a wedding is the only possible happy ending?

That would be out of sync with certain obvious efforts in this script - some more swallowable than others - to modernize a formula that worked so well in the beloved, hugely successful 2002 original. It's a formula that lost luster with that first, deflating sequel in 2016, a whole 14 years later. And if "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" felt like a pale imitation of the buoyant original, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3" feels sorta like a pale imitation of that pale imitation. Or, to analogize with a favored franchise food item: like a thrice-warmed piece of baklava.

Then again, even thrice-warmed baklava can be worth the calories. So too this sequel will prove worthwhile for those most eager to reconnect with characters they loved, and willing to overlook clunky pacing and dialogue and sometimes absurd plot machinations. On the plus side: Vardalos and crew are really, really good at staging weddings.

For those who need a refresher: The last film left us at an NYU dorm room, dropping off Paris, teen daughter of Toulas (Vardalos, empathetic and appealing as usual) and her wholesomely hunky husband Aidan, oops, Ian (John Corbett, wink wink). Paris' choice to leave her hometown of Chicago for college provided much of the half-boiled suspense in

the first sequel. She got her way, but perhaps also her punishment when the whole extended family - aunts, uncles, cousins - came to drop her off. Ugh!

Because it's hard to let go of things that worked so well in the original - did we mention it was a ginormous hit? - Vardalos hasn't, really. The Portokalos family is still loving, boisterous and invasive. We've sadly lost patriarch Gus (Michael Constantine, who died in 2021). But wife Maria is still there (Lainie Kazan has only a cameo here) and Toulas is still married to hunky Ian. Everyone still uses Windex to clean objects and cure diseases.

Characters

And the clan is on the move, led by spunky, oversharing Aunt Voula (Andrea Martin, still by far the funniest onscreen presence), this time to ... Greece! Yes! The ostensible reason: a family reunion in their lovely ancestral mountain village (shooting was done in Corfu). The plan is to find Gus' childhood friends and fulfill his wish of giving them a precious journal he kept.

Why that journal shouldn't stay with Gus' adoring children is not truly explained - but neither is much else. Subplots are introduced and then largely ignored. A handful of new characters arrive with little backstory - like Victory (Melina Kotselou), the young, nonbinary mayor of the village - and even less character development.

The same lack of detail plagues the story arcs of returning characters. Toulas' brother Nick (Louis Mandylor) - poor Nick - has been saddled with an ugly habit, namely trimming nose hairs and toenails at the family table. Why? Who knows? As for Ian, he's still a nice, patient husband, with little else to distinguish him. Toulas' still the glue holding everyone together.

As for their marriage, it's fine. That's perhaps a problem. In most rom-com relationships, you don't get through three movies without some meaty conflict - we need the breakup to have the makeup! Vardalos doesn't want to go there.

Or maybe she's just in a rush to get to the altar.

That, we can understand. Here in Greece, all roads lead to ... the wedding. The party's in the quaint village square. The candlelit table is gorgeous, the food sumptuous. And the dancing is a joyous mix of Greek and Syrian tradition - one of the spouses-to-be is a migrant from Syria, a nod to contemporary Greek politics. Other efforts to contemporize include the briefest of nods to Victory's nonbinary status - one line from Aunt Voula - just as the first sequel introduced a gay couple, equally briefly.

But how contemporary are we getting if nothing brings resolution but a wedding? And more importantly, who will be married in the inevitable "Greek Wedding 4?"

Will Paris (Elena Kampouris), whose own turbulent existence is quickly hinted at, marry the cute young Aristotle? (Yes, that's his name). Will there be a big fat Greek alternative wedding? Who knows, but if there's a movie, there will be a wedding. "My Big Fat Just-Cohabiting-For-Now" doesn't quite cut it.

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3," a Focus Films release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association "for suggestive material and some nudity." Running time: 91 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: It being the beginning of the month, Hulu has a lot of great new offerings, including the Coen brothers "Hail Caesar!" and "Raising Arizona," **Lars von Trier's** "Melancholia" and the always re-watchable "The Devil Wears Prada." And on Sunday, **Mark Mylod's** fine-dining satire "The Menu" arrives, too, with its terrific ensemble, including **Ralph Fiennes, Anya Taylor-Joy** and **Nicholas Hoult**, and sharp critiques of wealth and privilege. In his review, AP Film Writer **Jake Coyle** wrote that while it may be aimed at "somewhat low-hanging fruit," that Mylod brings an icy, stylish flare in another kind of cleverly staged eat-the-rich comedy that - particularly thanks to the elite eye-rolling of Taylor-Joy and Fiennes' anguished artist - is still a very tasty snack.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Film

LOS ANGELES: Like many horrors before it, bad reviews didn't scare off moviegoers from buying tickets for "The Nun II." The sequel to the 2018 hit, released in 3,728 theaters by Warner Bros, topped the box office in its first weekend in North American theaters earning an estimated \$32.6 million, the studio said Sunday.

AP's **Mark Kennedy** wrote in his one star review that it's "a movie that seems destined to pound a nail into this franchise's undead coffin" and audiences gave it a C+ CinemaScore. But it hardly matters: Horror is perhaps the most reliably critic-proof genre, at least when it comes to opening weekend.

The **Michael Graves**-directed sequel starring **Taissa Farmiga** and **Storm Reid** fell far short of the debut for the first film (\$53.8 million), but it's still a solid launch. "The Nun" movies are part of the so-called Conjuring universe, which now has nine films, and \$2.1 billion in box office, to its name. The sequel also played well internationally, picking up \$52.7 million from 69 markets (Mexico being the strongest with \$8.9 million) and boosting its global debut to \$85.3 million.

"To have a horror universe is really powerful in terms of the revenue generating potential," said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "It's a great bet that Warners made on the horror moviegoing experience never waning."

And there are many more scary movies on the calendar through the fall including "A Death in Venice," which opens next week, "Saw X" on Sept. 29 and "The Exorcist: Believer" on Oct. 6.

"The Nun II" bumped **Denzel Washington's** "Equalizer 3" to second place in its second weekend. The Columbia Pictures release added \$12.1 million, bringing its domestic grosses to \$61.9 million and its worldwide earnings to \$107.7 million.

Third place went to another new movie: The third installment of **Nia Vardalos's** "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," which arrives 21 years after the first film became a massive sleeper hit earning some \$369 million against a \$5 million production budget. Released by Focus Features in 3,650 theaters, the third film earned an estimated \$10 million, overwhelmingly driven by female audiences (71% who were 25 or older (83%).

Vardalos wrote, directed and stars in "Greek Wedding 3," which brings back **John Corbett** and takes the gang to Greece. AP's **Jocelyn Noveck** wrote in her review that the movie, which has gotten mostly poor marks, is "like a thrice-warmed piece of baklava."

The Indian revenge thriller, "Jawan," starring **Shah Rukh**



Khan



Washington

Khan, opened in fourth place with \$6.2 million from only 813 locations. It was released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Khan, a Bollywood superstar, also led another box office sensation this year, "Pathaan," which has made \$130 million worldwide. (AP)

VERMONT: A Vermont armed robbery suspect who police say eluded capture in the past week in a vehicle, on a stolen bike, on foot and in a stolen sailboat was arrested after he was spotted in a kayak on a river, authorities said.

Eric Edson, 52, was wanted on accusations of a robbery of a store in Burlington on Aug. 24, imped-

ing and assaulting two police officers, and the theft of a sailboat and vehicles, police said.

"Because of the unusualness of Mr Edson's various modes of flight, from cars to bikes to paddle boards to sailboats to tractors, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that Mr. Edson is a dangerous person," **Burlington Police Chief Jon Murad** said. (AP)

People & Places

Books

'Disclose AI material'

Award is a milestone, not tombstone: Dove

NEW YORK, Sept. 11, (AP): Poet **Rita Dove** has a sharp, simple goal in response to receiving a National Book Award for lifetime achievement: "I want it to be a milestone, not a tombstone."

"It may seem like a rather macabre metaphor, but I simply meant - knock on wood - that I haven't reached the end of my journey as an artist. I'm still observing, questioning, exploring," she adds.

The National Book Foundation, the nonprofit which presents the book awards, announced Friday that Dove is this year's winner of its medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, an honor previously given to Toni Morrison, Edmund White and Art Spiegelman among others. Dove, 71, has been a published author for 50 years, her notable books including her Pulitzer Prize-winning collection "Thomas and Beulah," inspired by her maternal grandparents.

She is best known for her poetry, but has worked in other art forms and is currently planning a memoir. She has published short fiction, the novel "Through the Ivory Gate," the play "The Darker Face of the Earth" and even collaborated with the Oscar-winning film composer John Williams on the song cycle "Seven for Luck."

"Rita Dove's oeuvre - from poetry, plays, and songs to essays and fiction - is a testament to her dazzling skill across genre and form," Ruth Dickey, the National Book Foundation's executive director, said in a statement. "Dove's work transforms the everyday into the remarkable, brilliantly blending music, politics, and, let's not forget, pleasure."

The National Book Award ceremony is scheduled for Nov. 15 in Manhattan, with Drew Barrymore hosting. Besides the tribute to Dove, winners will be announced in five competitive categories: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, translation and young people's literature.

Creative

The foundation also will present a Literarian Award to Paul Yamazaki, the longtime buyer at San Francisco's famed City Lights Booksellers & Publishers. Poet and City Lights co-founder Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who died two years ago, received the inaugural Literarian prize in 2005.

Dove, a native of Akron, Ohio, has long excelled academically and professionally. As one of the country's top high school students, she was named a Presidential Scholar. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Miami, in Ohio, and later received a master's from the prominent creative writing program at the University of Iowa. In 1993, in her early 40s, she became the youngest person at the time appointed US poet laureate and the first Black writer to hold the position.

Dove has received so many previous honors, lifetime and competitive, that it's almost surprising the book foundation didn't get around to her sooner. Besides the Pulitzer, she has received both a National Humanities Medal and National Medal of Arts, an NAACP Image Award, the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize from the Poetry Foundation, a National Prize for Poetry from the Library of Congress and a gold medal for poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, along with honorary doctorates at dozens of colleges.

A fellow Pulitzer winner, poet Jericho Brown, will introduce Dove at the National Book Awards.

Dove's influences range from Shakespeare to a parody of William Blake that appeared in *Mad* magazine. Her subjects are equally eclectic, whether her grandmother dusting and bringing "dark wood to life," the "trim name" and daring dream of Rosa Parks, or the poet's own love for dancing. When her house in Charlottesville, Virginia, was badly burned by a lightning strike in 1998, she and her husband Fred Viebahn learned ballroom dancing as a way to heal: They even added a ballroom space when the home was rebuilt. She called her first poem written after the fire "Foxrot Fridays," which reads in part:

Thank the stars there's a day each week to tuck in the grief, lift your pearls, and stride brush stride quick-quick with a heel-ball-toe.

Authors often speak of declining values and standards, but Dove welcomes the evolution of poetry since she started out. For a Black woman poet, the field once seemed restricted to one favorite at a time, with the expectation that the poet would address "the Black experience," she recalls. Dove now sees far more possibilities, and praises such organizations as Cave Canem, a New York City-based organization that supports young Black poets. Dove herself has guided young writers as a creative writing teacher at the University of Virginia, while also working to expand poetry's appeal during her time as the US laureate.

"People seem frightened of poetry, and somehow separate it from their lives, when, in fact, poetry is the essence of life," she says.

Also:

NEW YORK: After months of complaints from the Authors Guild and other groups, Amazon.com has started requiring writers who want to sell books through its ebook program to tell the company in advance that their work includes artificial intelligence material.

The Authors Guild praised the new regulations, which were posted Wednesday, as a "welcome first step" toward deterring the proliferation of computer-generated books on the online retailer's site. Many writers feared computer-generated books could crowd out traditional works and would be unfair to consumers who didn't know they were buying AI content.

In a statement posted on its website, the Guild expressed gratitude toward "the Amazon team for taking our concerns into account and enacting this important step toward ensuring transparency and accountability for AI-generated content."

A passage posted this week on Amazon's content guideline page said, "We define AI-generated content as text, images, or translations created by an AI-based tool." Amazon is differentiating between AI-assisted content, which authors do not need to disclose, and AI-generated work.

But the decision's initial impact may be limited because Amazon will not be publicly identifying books with AI, a policy that a company spokesperson said it may revise.

Guild CEO **Mary Rasenberger** said that her organization has been in discussions with Amazon about AI material since early this year.



Paul Simon performs at Global Citizen Live in Central Park on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021, in New York. 'In Restless Dreams: The Music of Paul Simon' premiered Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Toronto International Film Festival. It is an expansive look at Simon's decades-spanning career, from growing up in Queens, New York, with Art Garfunkel to the success of 'Graceland,' the sensational 1986 album made with South African musicians. (AP)



Cord Jefferson poses for a portrait to promote the film 'American Fiction' during the Toronto International Film Festival, Sunday, Sept. 10, in Toronto. (AP) — Details Page 11



Robison



Dylan

Variety

SAN ANTONIO: Charlie Robison, the Texas singer-songwriter whose rootsy anthems made the country charts until he was forced to retire after complications from a medical procedure left him unable to sing, died Sunday. He was 59.

Robison died at a hospital in San Antonio after suffering cardiac arrest and other complications, according to a family representative.

Robison launched his music career in the late 1980s, playing in local Austin bands like Two Hoots and a Holler before forming his own Millionaire Playboys. In 1996, he released his solo debut, "Bandera," named for the Texas Hill Country town where his family has had a ranch for generations.

When he was approached by Sony in 1998, Robison signed with its Lucky Dog imprint, which was devoted to rawer country. His 2001 album "Step Right Up" produced his only Top 40 country song, "I Want You Bad."

In 2018, Robison announced that he had permanently lost the ability to sing following a surgical procedure on his throat. "Therefore, with a very heavy heart I am officially retiring from the stage and studio," he wrote on Facebook.

Robison served as a judge for one year on USA Network's "Nashville Star," a reality TV show in which contestants lived together while competing for a country music recording contract.

He is survived by his wife, **Kristen Robison**, and four children and stepchildren. Three of his children were with his first wife, **Emily Strayer**, a founding member of the superstar country band The Chicks. They divorced in 2008.

Robison's breakup with Strayer inspired songs on the 2009 album "Beautiful Day." He recorded it while living across from the Greyhound bus station in San Antonio, in a loft apartment with mismatched furniture and strewn beer bottles, "the quintessential bachelor pad," he recalled.

"People come up to me and say they're going through something right now, and it's like this is completely written about them," Robison told *The Associated Press* in 2009. "I wasn't meaning to do that, but it's been a residual effect of the record."

Robison's final album, the rock-tinged "High Life" from 2013, included a cover

Music

Lil Nas X documentary premiere delayed

Simon takes a bow with life docu at TIFF

TORONTO, Sept. 11, (AP): After a three-and-a-half-hour documentary on his life, Paul Simon had only sympathy for the audience.

"You're probably exhausted," Simon told the crowd after the premiere of Alex Gibney's "In Restless Dreams: The Music of Paul Simon" on Sunday at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The 81-year-old Simon, himself, hadn't watched the film before its debut, and he didn't watch it Sunday, either. "I'll get up the courage to see it, no doubt," he promised.

The film, which is seeking distribution at TIFF, is an expansive look at Simon's decades-spanning career, from growing up in Queens, New York, with Art Garfunkel to the success of "Graceland," the sensational 1986 album he made with South African musicians.

"In Restless Dreams," which takes its name from a lyric in "The Sound of Silence" ("In restless dreams I walked alone"), also intimately captures Simon painstakingly assembling his latest album, "Seven Psalms," which was released in May.

He began the album, his first in several years, he says, after a dream in 2019 in which he envisioned an album of seven songs. His work at his home studio in Wimberly, Texas, was made more difficult by Simon's hearing loss in his left ear, throwing off his musical equilibrium.

"I haven't accepted it entirely, but I'm beginning to," Simon told the audience of his hearing loss in a post-screening Q&A.

Simon reached out to Gibney, the veteran documentarian of "Going

Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief" and "Taxi to the Dark Side," after admiring his 2015 documentary "Sinatra: All or Nothing at All." Though the cameras took some adjusting to, Simon was content for Gibney to assemble a narrative around his life.

"Having the truth about me depicted by an observer is very interesting to me," Simon said. "I think I'm probably not the person to want to describe what the truth is. I'm biased on both sides. I overestimate myself and I dislike myself to a sufficient degree that I'd rather give it to someone else to document."

Recording

Further, Simon said, he wished some of his earlier recording sessions had been filmed, like those for 1970's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" or "Graceland." "In Restless Dreams" does include some rare footage, including 16mm dailies from the making of the 1969 documentary "Songs of America" and early rehearsals of "Graceland."

After some prodding, Simon acknowledged that he is still making music and recently wrote a new song. Ideas are also still coming to him at night, too.

"The other night I dreamed again," Simon said, to applause. "I dreamed it would be a good idea if I wrote a song called 'It's What's His Name.'"

Meanwhile, the premiere of the documentary "Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero" was delayed after a bomb threat was called in at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The Saturday night premiere of

the film at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall was delayed by about 20 minutes while authorities verified that the threat wasn't credible. Lil Nas X was kept off the red carpet during that time.

Judy Lung, vice president of public affairs and communications for TIFF, said in a statement that Toronto police investigated the vicinity of the red carpet ahead of the screening.

"Our standard security measures remained in place during this time and the screening commenced with a slight delay," Lung said. "To our knowledge, this was a general threat and not directed at the film or the artist."

"Long Live Montero," directed by Carlos López Estrada and Zac Manuel, documents the pop superstar's eight-month tour beginning in September 2022 for his full-length debut album "Montero."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Six years after **Vic Mensa** released his debut album, "The Autobiography," the Chicago rapper is back with a sophomore release - the self-titled, self-reflective "Victor." Across 18 tracks, Mensa explores culture, sobriety, **Ghana**, home and himself, leading to his most zealous work to date. "This album is a story of redemption; trial and triumph, pain and glory," Mensa said in a statement. On the single "Blue Eyes," he takes on Eurocentric standards of beauty; on "Strawberry Louis Vuitton (feat. Thundercat)" he pays homage to the late-great **Virgil Abloh**.

version of **Bob Dylan**'s "When I Paint My Masterpiece."

Memorial services are pending. (AP)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: A pair of Alaska teachers needed good news after they lost nearly all their possessions when their house collapsed into a river swollen by a glacial outburst flood and their cat went missing.

Elizabeth Wilkins was holding onto hope that if any animal would survive the house falling into the Mendenhall River on Aug 5, it would be Leo, the couple's

resilient big-eyed, black-and-white cat who shows no fear of bears.

"I knew that he's pretty smart, and so I felt pretty confident that he would escape and be OK somewhere," she said.

That faith paid off 26 days after the flood when Tonya Mead posted a photo of Leo to the Juneau Community Collective Facebook page. Wilkins immediately knew it was Leo, the "COVID kitten" they rescued in 2020. She rushed to meet Mead.

"I just started walking down the street calling for him, and he just ran out and was like, 'Oh hey, here I am, you know, like,

where have you been?'" she said.

The river flooding was caused by a major release of water from Suicide Basin, a Mendenhall Glacier - dammed lake in Juneau, that eroded the river bank.

Wilkins and her partner, **Tom Schwartz**, moved into the home shortly before the flood hit, but they were away on a mountain biking trip to Bend, Oregon.

Friends called and sent videos, warning their house was in danger of being washed away.

Ultimately, several homes were destroyed or partially destroyed, with others condemned or flooded. None of the destruction was as famous as the house being rented by Wilkins and Schwartz, with video of it collapsing into the river going viral.

The couple returned to Juneau three days later to sort out new living arrangements and to look for Leo.

They returned to the site of the house, calling out Leo's name and leaving food for him in the chicken coop.

By then, it seemed like everyone in Juneau was looking for him. There were plenty of sightings of Leo, but Wilkins said it appears that there are just many black-and-white unadopted cats in Juneau.

When he did turn up, he appeared to be in good health.

"Leo was a little thinner, but otherwise totally fine," Wilkins said. "He ate four cans of tuna and went outside to kill a mouse. I imagine that is how he survived."

She said it is amazing to have Leo back, though he currently is staying with a friend while they look for another place to live.

"It's super joyful because everyone in their community was looking for him, and it's nice to have some good news," she said. (AP)



Dakota Johnson, (from left to right), Sean Penn and Christy Hall attend the premiere of 'Daddio' at the TIFF Bell Lightbox during the Toronto International Film Festival, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, in Toronto. (AP)

Health

Adults only warning

Spicy chip challenge death raises concern

WORCESTER, Mass., Sept 11, (AP) — The death of a Massachusetts teenager after his family said he ate an extremely spicy tortilla chip has led to an outpouring of concern about the social media challenge and prompted retailers to pull the product from their shelves at the manufacturer's request.

The family of **Harris Wolobah** held a vigil Friday, a week after his death on Sept. 1, to remember the basketball-loving 10th grader while they await the results of an autopsy to determine what killed him.

Wolobah's family has blamed the One Chip Challenge for the teen's death.

The challenge calls for participants to eat an eponymously named chip and then see how long they can go without consuming other food and water. The family has declined interview requests.



Wolobah

Police said they were called to the home on Sept. 1 and found Wolobah "unresponsive and not breathing." He was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The state medical examiner's office said it will likely take weeks before Wolobah's cause of death is determined. But the chip's manufacturer, Paqui, asked retailers to stop selling the product.

People have been weighing in about their own experiences with the chip, which costs roughly \$10 and comes individually wrapped in foil in a coffin-shaped box that warns, among other things, that it is made for the "vengeful pleasure of intense heat and pain," is intended for adults and should be kept out of the reach of children.

Despite the warning, children have had no problem buying the chips.

A 10-year-old Florida girl was suspended this week for bringing one to school, her father, D'Anton Patrick, told West Palm Beach television station WPTV. Six children at Forest Park Elementary School needed medical attention after coming into contact with the chip Wednesday, according to the suspension letter sent the girl's parents.

Consumption

Patrick said his 12-year-old son bought the chip at a Walgreens on Tuesday, but the boy's mother made him throw it away. He said his daughter, though, fished it out of the garbage and brought it to school.

"The box says keep out of the hands of children. It says it's for adult consumption only. Why are y'all selling it to a 12-year-old child?" Patrick said.

There have been reports from around the country of teens who have gotten sick after taking part in the challenge, including three students from a California high school who were sent to a hospital. Paramedics were called to a Minnesota school last year when seven students fell ill after taking part in the challenge.

Friends of Wolobah said they heard about the chip challenge on social media and his death has convinced them it is more dangerous than they previously believed.

"I feel bad that his life ended short because of a social media challenge," said Marcus Kaba, 15, who remembered playing basketball with Harris.

David Adjer, another teenager at the vigil who went to school with Harris, said he heard about Wolobah getting sick from the chip but found it hard to believe he died.

"People were telling me Harris passed away. I was just angry," he said. "I don't think we should have this chip anymore. If someone dies from this chip, you should take out ... They should take the chip off the shelves because we don't need any more accidents like this."

Adults, too, have been testing their spice tolerance.

Joaquin Diaz, a 31-year-old construction worker from the Bronx, in New York, said he tried the chip a few weeks ago after coming across social media videos about the challenge. He said he loves spicy food and wanted to see how he'd stack up.

Diaz told The Associated Press by phone Friday that the chip was very hot, but he didn't expect the stomach cramps and diarrhea that followed and led to him missing work the next day.

"It hurt, I'm not gonna lie. I was actually a little nervous," he said. Despite the stomach issues, Diaz said he had planned to try the chip again with some friends. But he decided not to after he heard about Wolobah's death.

Roger Trier, a 56-year-old content creator and graphic designer from Palatine, Illinois, posted video on TikTok and YouTube of himself completing a 100-chip challenge this month.

He told the AP that he has trained for over 20 years to build up his spice tolerance.

"Most people you see on social media - with any challenges - don't understand the consequences," he said.

Trier said he thinks people under the age of 18 shouldn't be allowed to do spicy challenges without adult supervision because they might not know how to deal with the intense reactions the food can cause or the peer pressure that can push them to take risks they don't understand.

Although the chip could still be bought in some stores as of Thursday, by Friday it had disappeared from the shelves of major retailers, including 7-Eleven and Walgreens. Amazon halted sales and was notifying customers who bought the product recently that Paqui was removing it. And eBay said it was blocking One Chip Challenge listings.

Sales of the chip seem largely driven by people posting videos on social media of them or their friends taking the challenge. They show people, including children, unwrapping the packaging, eating the chips and then reacting to the heat. Some videos show people gagging, coughing and begging for water.

Neither Meta, which owns Instagram and Facebook, Google, which owns YouTube, nor TikTok immediately replied to Friday requests for comment about whether they were taking any action.

Paqui, a Texas-based subsidiary of The Hershey Company, said in a statement posted on its website Thursday that it was "deeply saddened by the death" of Wolobah.

"We have seen an increase in teens and other individuals not heeding these warnings," the company said. "As a result, while the product continues to adhere to food safety standards, out of abundance of caution, we are actively working with retailers to remove the product from shelves."

Stories

At the vigil Friday, a crowd of about 100, including many of Wolobah's friends and teammates, turned out to a park in Worcester, down the hill from his home. They lit candles, swapped stories and ate pizza. Huge photos of the dreadlocked teen hung from a statue, surrounded by his name in gold letters and blue and white balloons. Tiny basketballs were handed out.

The most poignant moment came when Wolobah's mother, Lois, approached her son's photo, staring up at it, calling out his name several times and sobbing. She almost collapsed at one point and had to be held up by other family members as a relative addressed the crowd.

"I look around and see a community bond together by candlelight, by love and by the memory of our brother, of our son, of our nephew Harris," his cousin Valerie Richardson said. "Harris had this gift for bringing people together. I can't think of a better way to honor him than what we are doing right here, right now."

Massachusetts authorities posted a warning to parents about the challenge. And physicians cautioned that eating such spicy foods can have unintended consequences.

"You can have very mild symptoms like burning or tingling of the lips in the mouth, but you can also have more severe symptoms," like significant abdominal pain or nausea and vomiting said Dr. Lauren Rice, the chief of pediatric emergency medicine at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.



Dr. Starling Tolliver, a dermatology resident at Wayne State University poses at Wayne Health in Dearborn, Mich., Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023. (AP)

Health

Can medicine diversify without affirmative action?

Patients need docs who look like them

DETROIT, Sept 11, (AP) — Dr. Starling Tolliver knew she wanted to become a doctor. Yet, as a Black girl growing up in Akron, Ohio, it was a dream that felt out of reach.

She rarely saw doctors who looked like her. As a child, she experienced severe hair loss, and struggled to find a dermatologist who could help.

Tolliver made a pact with two childhood best friends to become doctors who would care for Black and underserved communities like their own. Now 30, she is in her final year of dermatology residency at Wayne State University in Detroit.

She plans to spend her career caring for the body's largest organ, where differences in melanin give humans the skin colors underpinning the construct of race. In dermatology, only 3% of U.S. doctors are Black.

Despite her success, the girls' pact remains unfulfilled. While her friend Charmaine became a nurse, Maria, who wanted to become a pediatrician, was killed in their hometown at the age of 19.

Her friend's death only strengthened her resolve.

"I'm going to continue to go on this path of medicine," Tolliver said. "Not only for myself, but for Maria, and to potentially help others in the future from similar backgrounds as mine know that they can do it as well."

But more than two months after the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in college admissions, concerns have arisen that a path into medicine may become much harder for students of color. Heightening the alarm: the medical field's reckoning with longstanding health inequities.

Black Americans represent 13% of the U.S. population, yet just 6% of U.S. physicians are Black. Increasing representation among doctors is one solution experts believe could help disrupt health inequities.

Disparities

The disparities stretch from birth to death, often beginning before Black babies take their first breath, a recent Associated Press series showed. Over and over, patients said their concerns were brushed aside or ignored, in part because of unchecked bias and racism within the medical system and a lack of representative care.

A UCLA study found the percentage of Black doctors had increased just 4% from 1900 to 2018.

But the affirmative action ruling dealt a "serious blow" to the medical field's goals of improving that figure, the American Medical Association said, by prohibiting medical schools from considering race among many factors in admissions. The ruling, the AMA said, "will reverse gains made in the battle against health inequities."

The consequences could affect Black health for generations to come, said Dr. Uché Blackstock, a New York emergency room physician and author of "LEGACY: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine."

"It's really about holding these larger organizations, institutions accountable and saying: 'Right now, we're in a crisis - a crisis of human-

ity,'" Blackstock said.

With affirmative action off the table at predominantly white institutions, historically Black colleges and universities may see an increase in applications, said Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, president and CEO of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

The college, which typically has 115 openings for new medical students, receives between 7,000 and 9,000 applications per year, a number Rice said she believes will increase in light of the Supreme Court ruling. HBCUs have long served as a direct pipeline of Black doctors.

Experts say diversity is especially needed within specialty medicine. In dermatology, just 65 of the 796 applicants for residencies in 2020 were Black, data from the Association of American Medical Colleges shows. Only 39 were Latino.

For a field focusing on the skin, the unequal access among patients of color is stark: Patients of color are half as likely as white patients to see a dermatologist for the same conditions.

The consequences can be devastating.

Impact

"The skin is a window to the rest of your health," said Dr. Ginette Okoye, professor and chair of dermatology at Howard University, who is a programming lead for the American Academy of Dermatology's Pathways program.

"If you have kidney disease, if you have cancer, sometimes those clues show up on the skin first. We are able to preemptively diagnose cancer sometimes just by the way a specific rash shows up on the skin," Okoye said. "That's pretty impactful."

Black men are more likely to die of melanoma, compared with men of other races, according to a study co-authored last month by dermatologist Dr. Ashley Wysong in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. They also are more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage, when the condition is more difficult to treat. Melanoma is the most invasive and serious form of skin cancer.

The reasons for the different cancer rates are unclear, and more research is needed to understand in particular how economic and social conditions impact the cancer rates, Wysong said. The study found survival rates in men with melanoma were highest among white men, 75%, while the survival rates were lowest among Black men at only 52%.

"As medical professionals, any time we see disparities in care or outcomes of any kind, we have to look at the systems in which we are delivering care and we have to look at ways that we are falling short," Wysong said.

Without affirmative action as a tool, career programs focused on engaging people of color could grow in importance.

For instance, the Pathways initiative engages students from Black, Latino and Indigenous communities from high school through medical school.

The program starts with building

interest in dermatology as a career and continues to scholarships, workshops and mentorship programs. The goal: Increase the number of underrepresented dermatology residents from about 100 in 2022 to 250 by 2027, and grow the share of dermatology faculty who are members of color by 2%.

Tolliver credits her success in becoming a dermatologist in part to a scholarship she received through Ohio State University's Young Scholars Program, which helps talented, first-generation Ohio students with financial need. The scholarship helped pave the way for medical school, but her involvement in the Pathways residency program also was central.

Azariah Providence, a 17-year-old rising high school senior who lives in the U.S. Virgin Islands, participated in the high school Pathways program last month. She wants to become a dermatologist because of her own scalp psoriasis diagnosis, which is a skin disease causing a rash with itchy, scaly patches.

Her condition hampered her self-esteem as a 9-year-old girl. The dermatologist she saw, one of very few on the island, prescribed medication causing Providence's skin to burn and her hair to fall out.

Experience

"It was a difficult experience because as a little girl, your hair is very important to you," Providence recalled. "After going through that, I wanted to help little girls who have similar conditions that I have. I want to be that person for them that I didn't have when I was younger."

Providence, who would be a first-generation medical student, said the program exposed her to college students and doctors of color, something she had never before seen.

"I think it's important for more Black people to get into the field of dermatology for the simple reason that some conditions may appear differently on Black skin," Providence said. "I want to enter the field so that people who look like me can have their skin understood and fully studied so that when they come to get diagnosed, it's a correct diagnosis and they could get the correct treatment."

Dermatology also is working to diversify its textbooks to help improve the spectrum of skin colors so doctors can be better equipped to diagnose and provide equitable care, said Dr. Adam Friedman, chair of dermatology at George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C.

But targeted programs to diversify the pipeline of talent are crucial for the future of medicine, Friedman said.

As Tolliver prepares to leave residency, she hopes to be one of the people pushing for better outcomes, especially for Black women.

"Our patients are looking for us, and that kind of pushed forward my love for this field," Tolliver said. "And that really has been my goal ongoing from when I was a little girl for Black women to see the beauty of themselves, within themselves."



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station Sunday morning, Sept. 10, 2023 carrying the SILENTBARKER/NROL-107 mission for the US Space Force and the National Reconnaissance Office. (AP)

Discovery

Ill worker now in hospital: An Australian who fell ill while working at an Antarctic research station is now in a hospital in Australia after being rescued by an icebreaker, a government agency said Sunday.

The icebreaker RSV Nuyina's round trip between the Australian Antarctic Division headquarters in Hobart, Tasmania state, and Australia's Casey Station covered more than 6,500 kilometers (4,000 miles) and took more than two weeks as the Southern Hemisphere winter became spring.

"The RSV Nuyina has returned to Hobart after the successful medical evacuation of an unwell expeditioner from Casey research station," a division statement said.

"The expeditioner has disembarked the RSV Nuyina and been transferred to the Royal Hobart Hospital, where they will receive specialist assessment and care," the text added.

The division has not identified the patient or specified the medical condition.

A helicopter evacuated the patient from the research station on an ice cap, flying him on Sept 3 to the Nuyina, which was 144 kilometers (89 miles) away.

The icebreaker has a medical facility in which the patient was cared for by doctors and nurses from the Hobart hospital.

The icebreaker began its rescue mission from Hobart on Aug 24 and returned on Sunday, the division said.

During the summer, more than 150 people are at the Casey research station. But over winter, fewer than 20 remain to perform maintenance work.

The icebreaker is preparing to return to the frozen continent for the summer season. (AP)

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

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

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

Obtaining the dye the old fashioned way is slow, tedious and painstaking. It comes from the crushed bodies of tiny female insects that contain carminic acid and feed on the pads of nopal cactus plants.

Each insect, known as *Dactylopius coccus*, must be bred to a larvae stage and "planted" on a previously wounded cactus pad, and then left for months to feed and mature.

Then each must be harvested by hand, usually with a tiny brush, sifted, cleaned and left to dry in the sun.

The Mixtecs of Oaxaca first developed the method to obtain the precious pigment centuries before the Spaniards arrived. A symbol of status, carmine red was already employed by the nobility of Mexico's Indigenous peoples to dye garments, and widely

used in the arts, to write codices, decorate ceramics and paint murals. Spain's prime minister is **Pedro Sánchez**.

Mayeli Garcia and her family run a greenhouse in the village of San Francisco Tepeyacac, east of Mexico City, which specializes in the slow, old production process. Mexico's president is **Andrés Manuel López Obrador**.

At their greenhouse, rows of hundreds of cactus pads are held on racks suspended in



Sánchez



Obrador

the air and covered by a white powder. That is the sign of the insects working beneath, drawing nourishment from the juices of the nopal and protecting themselves with the waxy powder.

"You have to wait three or four months for them to complete their life cycle, and then we harvest," Garcia said. "You have to keep monitoring and watching every cactus pad."

That's essentially the way the best red was produced for three centuries. (AP)

SPORTS

Lee recovers to win City Championship

Norrman rallies for Irish Open title

STRAFFAN, Ireland, Sept 11, (AP): Vincent Norrman gave Sweden two straight wins on the European tour when he shot 7-under 65 to capture the Irish Open title on Sunday as Rory McIlroy faltered in the final round by hitting into the water on three holes.

A week after 23-year-old Ludvig Aberg won the European Masters in Switzerland to secure a spot on the Ryder Cup team, the 25-year-old Norrman won at The K Club to earn his second victory in two months. He won the Barbasol Championship in July, co-sanctioned by the European and PGA Tour.

Play was delayed for about 90 minutes because of bad weather soon after the leading groups teed off, with McIlroy at that stage in a four-way share of the lead on 12-under par. But he hit into the water from the fairway on Nos. 7 and 11, and twice found water on the 16th. McIlroy shot 74

later, they were tied.

Lee had to make a 7-foot par putt on the last hole to join Hull at 16-under 272. On the second extra hole on the 18th, Lee's wedge rolled out to 2 feet for birdie and Hull missed her birdie putt from about 15 feet.

Women's PGA champion Ruoning Yin closed with a 67 to finish alone in third, and that should be enough for the 20-year-old from China to reach No. 1 in the world when the next ranking is official on Tuesday.

Steve Flesch put all parts of his game together Sunday and matched his career-low on the PGA Tour Champions with a 9-under 62 that took him from a two-shot deficit to a three-shot victory in the Ascension Charity Classic.

Flesch seized control early by playing the opening six holes at Norwood Hills in 6-under par, including an eagle on the par-5 second hole when his approach caught a slope at the back of the green and rolled back to tap-in range.

Flesch finished at 19-under 194, three shots ahead of Kevin Sutherland, who birdied his last two holes for a 67. Sutherland and Y.E. Yang began the final round with a share of the lead.

Making it better for Flesch was having his son, Griffin, as his caddie. His son was on the bag for Fred Couples when Couples won on the PGA Tour Champions.

Flesch won for the first time this year and the fourth time on the PGA Tour Champions. Nataliya Guseva of Russia won the inaugural Black Desert Resort Championship by closing with a 7-under 65 for a two-shot victory. It was her first Epon Tour victory. The tournament ended Saturday.

Guntaek Koh of South Korea closed with a 4-under 68 and beat Phacharra Khongwatmai with a birdie on the first playoff hole in the Shinhan Donghae Open. The tournament was co-sanctioned by the Japan Golf Tour and the Asian Tour. Koh won for the third time in South Korea this year.

Martin Couvra of France became the seventh amateur to win on the Challenge Tour. He closed with a 5-under 65 and then won a three-man playoff with two pars in the Challenge de Espana.

Hayden Spring closed with a 4-under 67 for a five-shot victory in the Fortinet Cup Championship on PGA Tour Canada.

Sora Kamiya closed with a 4-under 68 to come from two shots behind and win the JLPGA Championship Konic Minolta Cup. It was the second win this year for the 20-year-old rookie on the Japan LPGA.

Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand won her first Ladies European Tour title when she shot 5-under 67 for a one-shot victory in the Big Green Egg Open in the Netherlands.

Adilson da Silva of Brazil closed with a 3-under 68 to wrap up a three-shot victory over Michael Jonzon in the WCM Legends Open de France on the Legends Tour in Europe.

GOLF

and tied for 16th.

Hurly Long of German had a 72 to finish second.

Shane Lowry (68) tied for third with Ryan Fox (70), Grant Forrest (70) and Thriston Lawrence (66) in a confidence-boosting performance ahead of the Ryder Cup.

Minjee Lee lost a five-shot lead on the back nine Sunday and recovered at just the right time, hitting wedge to 2 feet for birdie to beat Charley Hull on the second playoff hole in the Kroger Queen City Championship.

Lee, a two-time major champion, won for the first time this year after closing with a 1-under 71. It was her second playoff victory on the LPGA Tour, and she never imagined it would get to that point. She led Hull by five through 10 holes. Six holes



Vincent Norrman poses with the trophy following day four of the Irish Open at The K Club, County Kildare, Ireland. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Sunday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	6	3	.667	-
Detroit	5	3	.625	-
Toronto	5	3	.625	-
Boston	4	3	.571	-
NY Mets	2	2	.500	-
Houston	12	2	.857	-
NY Yankees	4	2	.667	-
Texas	9	4	.692	-

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	z-Atlanta
Baltimore	90	52	.634	-
Tampa Bay	88	56	.611	3
Toronto	80	63	.559	10-1/2
Boston	73	70	.510	17-1/2
Baltimore	71	72	.497	19-1/2

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	z-Atlanta
Atlanta	93	49	.655	-
Pittsburgh	78	64	.549	15
Miami	74	69	.517	19-1/2
St. Louis	65	77	.458	28
Arizona	64	79	.448	29-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	Milwaukee
Chicago	77	67	.535	3
Cincinnati	74	71	.510	6-1/2
Pittsburgh	66	77	.462	13-1/2
St. Louis	63	80	.441	16-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	Los Angeles
Houston	82	62	.569	-
Seattle	79	64	.552	2-1/2
Texas	78	64	.549	3
Los Angeles	67	77	.465	15
Oakland	44	99	.308	37-1/2

Braves 'become' first MLB team to clinch playoff spot



Pittsburgh Pirates' Joshua Palacios hits a single in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta. (AP)

Yankees edge Milwaukee

ATLANTA, Sept 11, (AP): The Atlanta Braves became the first team to clinch a playoff berth, rallying past the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-2 on Sunday as Matt Olson went 2 for 3 with three RBIs.

Atlanta (93-49) secured at least a wild card and reached the postseason for the sixth straight year, the second-longest streak in franchise history. The Braves held a 15-game lead over second-place Philadelphia in the NL East.

Ronald Acuña Jr. put Atlanta ahead with a two-run single in the seventh. Olson added a two-run single later in the inning.

Brad Hand (4-1) won in relief of rookie Allan Winans. Raisel Iglesias pitched a scoreless ninth for his 29th save in 31 chances.

Colin Selby (2-1) gave up four runs in one-third of an inning.

Yankees 4, Brewers 3, 13 Innings

In New York, Milwaukee, rookie right fielder Sal Frelick preserved a no-hit bid with a leaping catch at the wall of Anthony Volpe's drive in the 10th inning to keep the game scoreless, but New York rallied when Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer in the 12th off Andrew Chafin and Kyle Higashioka hit a winning double in the 13th against Hoby Milner (2-1).

After Corbin Burnes pitched eight hitless innings, Devin Williams worked a 1-2-3 ninth and Abner Uribe a hitless 10th. Tyrone Taylor hit a run-scoring single in the 11th as Milwaukee went for the first 11-inning no-hitter in major league history, but Oswaldo Cabrera hit a tying RBI double with one out in the bottom half off Joel Payamps.

Joey Wiener had an RBI double and Andrew Monasterio a sacrifice fly off Nick Ramirez in the 12th. Anthony Misiewicz (2-0) pitched around a walk in a hitless 13th.

Yankees rookie center fielder Jasson Dominguez was scratched because of a torn ligament in his throwing elbow and needs Tommy John surgery, interrupting an impressive start to his major league career that included four home runs in his first seven games.

Rays 5, Mariners 3

In St. Petersburg, Zach Eflin (14-8) tied for the AL wins lead as Tampa Bay took three of four. The Rays have a 7 1/2-game lead over Toronto for the top AL wild card, while Seattle trails AL West-leading Houston by 2 1/2 games.

Eflin allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings and four pitchers combined for scoreless, two-hit relief, with Pete Fairbanks working the ninth for his 21st save.

Yandy Diaz had a leadoff single, Brandon Lowe walked, Harold Ramirez hit a two-run double in the first off Bryce Miller (8-5) and Josh Lowe had a run-scoring double.

Astros 12, Padres 2

In Houston, Kyle Tucker hit two RBI triples in an eight-run sixth inning as Houston routed San Diego.

Tucker became the 12th major leaguer with two triples in an inning and first since Colorado's Cory Sullivan on April 9, 2006, at San Diego.

Jose Altuve homered and drove in three runs for Houston, which has won five of six to open a 2 1/2-game AL West lead over Seattle. The defending World Series champion Astros (82-62) are a season-high 20 games over .500.

J.P. France (11-5) allowed one run, four hits and five walks in six innings. Matt Waldron (0-3) yielded four runs in five innings.

Tucker was the first Houston

player to triple twice in an inning, hitting his three-baggers off Tim Hill and Rich Hill.

Cubs 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Chicago, Christopher Morel, Cody Bellinger and Dansby Swanson each hit a solo homer in the third inning, and Chicago snapped a three-game skid with a victory over Arizona.

Swanson added two singles and Kyle Hendricks (6-7) tossed 5 2/3 effective innings to help the Cubs strengthen their hold on the second NL wild-card spot. Arizona's four-game winning streak ended, but the Diamondbacks have a half-game lead over Miami for the third and final wild card.

Swanson finished with two RBIs and Seiya Suzuki doubled in a run for the Cubs. Morel also tripled, and Julian Merryweather pitched the ninth for his first save.

Arizona opener Joe Mantipty (1-2) took the loss.

Blue Jays 5, Royals 2

In Toronto, Kevin Kiermaier hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Toronto took advantage of three consecutive wild pitches by Cole Ragans to complete a three-game sweep of Kansas City.

BASEBALL

The Blue Jays hold the second AL wild card by one game over Seattle and 1 1/2 over Texas, which begins a four-game series in Toronto on Monday.

Kiermaier broke a 2-2 tie with a solo shot off Taylor Clarke (2-5). Santiago Espinal and Cavan Biggio made it 5-2 with RBI singles off Jackson Kowar in the eighth.

José Berríos (10-10) allowed two runs in seven innings to snap a five-start winless streak. Jordan Romano got his 34th save in 37 chances as the Royals left the bases loaded in the ninth.

The major league-worst Royals (44-100) lost their fourth straight, giving them 100 losses for the first time since 2019. Ragans extended his scoreless-innings streak to 26 with five shutout innings to begin the game, but his outing unraveled in the sixth.

Red Sox 7, Orioles 3

In Boston, Triston Casas hit a three-run homer off Cole Irvin as Boston averted a three-game sweep with a rain-delayed victory that halted Baltimore's seven-game winning streak.

A day after getting 23 hits in a 13-12 loss, the Red Sox wiped out a 3-0 deficit with two runs in each of the third and fourth innings against Grayson Rodriguez (5-4).

Brayan Bello (12-8) worked five innings, giving up three runs and seven hits.

Rangers 9, Athletics 4

In Arlington, Marcus Semien homered twice among his four hits,



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Kenny Rosenberg throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

Corey Seager went deep for the 30th time this season and Texas won consecutive games for the first time in September.

Andrew Heaney (10-6), the odd man out of the Rangers' rotation with All-Star right-hander Nathan Eovaldi back from the injured list, struck out six over 3 2/3 scoreless innings after taking over for Jon Gray in the third.

Semien matched his career high with four hits for the second time in four games. He set a franchise record with his eighth leadoff homer this season, part of a three-run first inning off rookie Luis Medina (3-9).

Dodgers 7, Nationals 3

In Washington, James Outman homered and Los Angeles moved closer to another division title with a victory over Washington.

Jason Heyward drove in two runs for the Dodgers, who lead the NL West by 13 games over Arizona. Los Angeles reduced its magic number to six for wrapping up the division crown.

The last-place Nationals have dropped 10 of 13.

Rain halted play for 58 minutes in the top of the fifth inning, the third consecutive day the teams endured a delay.

Wander Suero (1-0), called up from the minors before the game, allowed a run in 1 1/3 innings for his first big league victory since he pitched for Washington in 2021.

The Dodgers took the lead against starter Trevor Williams (6-10) on Heyward's two-run single in the first.

Marlins 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Bryan De La Cruz hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Miami, held hitless until the seventh, rallied past Philadelphia.

Dane Myers broke up a no-hit bid by Phillies starter Ranger Suárez with a one-out double in the seventh. Yuli Gurriel drove in two runs for the Marlins, who pulled within a half-game of Arizona for the final National League wild card. Miami has won eight of 10 after taking two of three games from Philadelphia.

Trea Turner and Kyle Schwarber homered for the defending NL champion Phillies, who are two games in front of the Cubs for the league's top wild card.

Miami went ahead in the eighth on De La Cruz's two-run homer off Seranthony Dominguez (4-4).

David Robertson (6-6) struck out Alec Bohm with the bases loaded to end the bottom of the seventh.

Reds 7, Cardinals 1

In Cincinnati, Hunter Greene allowed one hit in six innings. Joey Votto homered on his 40th birthday and Cincinnati stopped a three-game losing streak by beating St. Louis.

Votto connected after missing 16 games with discomfort in his surgically repaired right shoulder. Jonathan India, Will Benson and TJ Friedl also hit solo home runs as the

Reds avoided a three-game sweep. India also was playing his first game after missing 39 with left foot plantar fasciitis.

Cincinnati is 1 1/2 games behind Arizona for the final NL wild card.

Greene (4-6), who had been sidelined with COVID-19 that kept him isolated in San Francisco for five days, gave up one unearned run and struck out nine. He walked four in the first four innings before settling down to retire his last seven batters.

Miles Mikolas (7-11) fell to 1-6 over his last nine starts. The Cardinals (63-80) have lost 80 games for the first time since 2007 when they finished 78-84.

Giants 6, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Keaton Winn had a career-high nine strikeouts in six innings to get his first major league win, and San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of Colorado.

Thairo Estrada, Mitch Haniger and Joc Peterson homered for the Giants, who edged back into the playoff race with three straight wins following a six-game slide. San Francisco pulled within 1 1/2 games of Arizona for the final NL wild card.

The Giants have won eight of nine against the Rockies this season and are 16-1 versus Colorado dating to Aug. 21, 2022.

Winn (1-2), who began his career in June as a reliever, was crisp against the Rockies in his third major league start. He allowed three runs and threw 62 of his 80 pitches for strikes.

Mets 2, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, DJ Stewart hit a two-run double in the ninth inning and New York overcame a career-high 14 strikeouts by Minnesota starter Pablo López to avoid a three-game sweep.

López went eight innings for the Twins, who have a 7 1/2-game lead in the AL Central over Cleveland.

Stewart doubled off reliever Griffin Jax (6-9), who took over for López in the ninth. Francisco Lindor led off with a bloop double and Jeff McNeil was hit by a pitch.

Brooks Raley (1-2) struck out two in the eighth to earn the win. Adam Ottavino allowed a leadoff double in the ninth but held on for his ninth save.

Angels 2, Guardians 1

In Anaheim, Kenny Rosenberg gave up one run over five innings to earn his first career win as Los Angeles held off Cleveland.

Mike Moustakas and Randal Grichuk each drove in a run for the Angels, who took advantage of two balk calls on Guardians starter Tanner Bibee in the third. Cleveland lost three of four in the series and is 7 1/2 games behind first-place Minnesota in the AL Central.

Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani missed his seventh straight game with an oblique strain. Los Angeles manager Phil Nevin was optimistic Ohtani will return Monday at Seattle.

Kole Calhoun homered for the Guardians against his former team, and Bibee (10-4) allowed two hits over seven innings. The rookie from nearby Mission Viejo retired his last 14 batters and did not issue a walk. He struck out eight in his first appearance at Angel Stadium.

Tigers 3, White Sox 2

In Detroit, Sawyer Gipson-Long won his major league debut and Spencer Torkelson hit a two-run double in a three-run third inning as Detroit beat Chicago.

Gipson-Long (1-0) threw 5 1/3 innings, allowing two runs and four hits. Four relievers finished for the Tigers, with Alex Lange getting his 23rd save. Jesse Scholtens (1-8) gave up three runs and eight hits in five innings.

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Los Angeles Galaxy rally for draw vs St Louis City

CARSON CITY, Calif., Sept 11, (AP): Billy Sharp scored in the 82nd minute and the Los Angeles Galaxy rallied from a two-goal deficit to earn a 2-2 draw with St. Louis City on Sunday night.

St. Louis City (15-10-3) jumped in front early when Samuel Adeniran took a

pass from Jared Stroud in the 4th minute and scored his seventh goal of the season.

João Klauss found the net for a sixth time this season, using an assist from Aziel Jackson in the 28th minute to push the lead to 2-0 at halftime.

The Galaxy (7-10-9) got on the scoreboard in the 53rd minute on a penalty-kick goal by Riqui Puig. Puig's sixth goal of the season came after a handball foul on Adeniran. Adeniran was hit with a second yellow card in the 60th minute, forcing St. Louis City to

SOCCER

play a man down through 10 minutes of stoppage time.

Sharp used an assist from Uri Rosell to notch his second netter of the campaign.

Jonathan Bond finished with one save for the Galaxy. Roman Bürki stopped six shots for St. Louis City.

The Galaxy improve to 12-1-2 in their last 15 regular-season home matches against expansion teams. The Seattle Sounders handed LA its only loss in the run, 2-0 in 2009. Los Angeles FC played to a 1-1 draw in 2018.

REQUIRED

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- C) Showroom Salesman (5 Years Experience) - 2
- D) Outdoor Salesman (5 Years Experience) - 2
- E) Driver (5 Years Experience) - 2

SEND CV @ EMAIL:

Jobsaamco1959@gmail.com

South Africa squeeze Scotland to open title defense

Heartbreak for Fiji against Wales at Rugby World Cup

BORDEAUX, France, Sept 11, (AP): The tryline was right there in front of Semi Radradra. All he needed to do was gather a long pass out to the vacant left wing and Fiji could have pulled off one of the great Rugby World Cup comebacks.

Alas, the center spilled the ball, Wales players heaved a huge sigh of relief and they celebrated a breathless 32-26 win in the latest instalment of the teams' gripping World Cup rivalry.

In the game of the tournament so far, Wales struggled to hold off the entertainers from the Pacific Islands, who started explosively and finished like a train at Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux.

It was the hour in the middle that cost them dear as Wales just about doused the threat of the dangerous Fijians, even claiming an attacking bonus point for going over for four tries. Josh Adams, the top try-scorer in the 2019 World Cup, got off the mark four years later with the first of them.

This was the fifth straight World Cup where these two teams have met in the pool stage and Fiji's only win remains that epic 38-34 in Nantes in 2007, the last time the tournament was staged in France.

RUGBY

This didn't quite reach those levels, though it wasn't far off. Fiji produced some spellbinding rugby early on that had Welsh tacklers flapping at thin air as Waisea Nayacalevu and Lekima Tagitivalu scored classic Fijian tries from deep in the space of four minutes to vault their team into a 14-8 lead by the 17th.

Then came the late drama as a yellow card for each team - Tagitivalu for Fiji and replacement prop Corey Domachowski for Wales - opened up more space on the field for the fast-finishing Fijians to exploit.

The sin-binnings eventually came and so did the late drama that almost resulted in a famous win for Fiji, which will rue prop Eroni Mawi knocking on when attempting to ground over the line late in the first half and then the match officials ruling out Peni Ravai's 77th-minute try for an adjudged double movement.

Manie Libbok wasn't even looking where his pinpoint cross-kick was going when he set up the try that sealed South Africa's 18-3 win over a game Scotland to start its Rugby World Cup title defense.

It still went exactly where he wanted.

The Springboks' new flyhalf was glancing, almost cheekily, at Scotland defenders at the moment he connected for the kick. It landed in Kurt-Lee Arende's arms on the right wing for South Africa's second try and breathing space in a tricky opener in Marseille on Sunday.

Libbok was inconsistent again off the kicking tee, missing three out of his five shots at goal. But his timely piece of vision showed why the Boks coaching team of Nienaber and director of rugby Rassie Erasmus have backed him as the only specialist No. 10 in the squad to set free a backline with try-scoring potential in Arende, Cheslin Kolbe and others who weren't used against Scotland.

Arende cruised in untouched from the cross-kick for a 12th try in 11 tests to continue a fantastic strike rate from one of South Africa's new backline stars.



Wales' Louis Rees-Zammit (left), is tackled by Fiji's Simione Kuruvuli during the Rugby World Cup Pool C match between Wales and Fiji at the Stade de Bordeaux in Bordeaux, France. (AP)

Cowboys rip error-prone Giants 40-0

Dolphins rally past Chargers

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., Sept 11, (AP): Noah Igbinoghene returned a blocked field goal 58 yards for a touchdown on the opening series, DaRon Bland scored on a pick-6 later in the first quarter and the Dallas Cowboys embarrassed the New York Giants again, posting a season-opening 40-0 victory Sunday night.

Tony Pollard scored on two short touchdown runs for Dallas, which forced three turnovers and sacked Daniel Jones seven times in shutting down New York's supposedly improved offense. The Cowboys beat the Giants for the fifth straight time and 12th in 13th meetings.

The shutout loss was the largest between the teams, topping the Cowboys' 35-0 win in 1995, also in a season opener at the Meadowlands. It was also the Cowboys' biggest shutout victory, topping their 38-0 win over the Baltimore Colts in 1978.

The Cowboys didn't need much from quarterback Dak Prescott and the offense. They got two field goals from new kicker Brandon Aubrey and Pollard got Dallas' first TD on offense on a 2-yard run midway through the second quarter to push the advantage to 26-0 at halftime.

Jones finished 15 of 28 for 104 yards with a quarterback rating of 32.4.

Ravens 25, Texans 9

In Baltimore, J.K. Dobbins ran for an early touchdown before leaving with a torn Achilles tendon, Justice Hill scored twice in the second half and Baltimore beat Houston.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh announced Dobbins' injury after the game and said he would miss the rest of the season, a significant blow to Baltimore's offense.

Lamar Jackson turned the ball over twice, and Baltimore looked out of sync for much of its first game with new offensive coordinator Todd Monken. But the Ravens kept Houston and rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud out of the end zone.

The Texans made a game of it for a half under new coach DeMeco Ryans, and Stroud directed a couple of solid drives, but Houston couldn't move the ball consistently enough. Stroud threw for 242 yards.

Jackson threw for 169 yards, and rookie receiver Zay Flowers was the main source of excitement for Baltimore's new-look offense. He caught nine passes for 78 yards on a day when the Ravens were without tight end Mark Andrews because of a quad injury. Odell Beckham Jr. caught two passes in his Baltimore debut.

Dolphins 36, Chargers 34

In Inglewood, Tua Tagovailoa threw for 466 yards and three touchdowns, Tyreek Hill had 11 catches for 215 yards and two scores, and Miami rallied past Los Angeles.

Hill caught a 4-yard pass in the right corner of the end zone with 1:45 remaining for the clinching touchdown as the Dolphins finished with 536 yards of offense.

Hill also had a 35-yard score on a go route late in the third quarter to put the Dolphins up 27-24.

Eagles 25, Patriots 20

In Foxborough, Jalen Hurts threw a touchdown pass and Darius Slay had a 70-yard interception return for a score as Philadelphia built a big early lead, then hung on to beat New England.

The Eagles capitalized on two early turnovers by the Patriots, spoiling a day when New England honored former quarterback Tom Brady at halftime.

Hurts was 22-of-33 for 170 yards and the TD but had a costly fumble in fourth quarter that gave the Patriots a chance. Jake Elliott kicked four field goals for Philadelphia, which didn't reach the end zone after the first quarter.

49ers 30, Steelers 7

In Pittsburgh, Brock Purdy threw for 220 yards and two touchdowns to Brandon Aiyuk in his return from off-season elbow surgery, and San Francisco beat Pittsburgh.

Purdy, who led the 49ers to the NFC championship game as a rookie, completed 19 of 29 passes, including scoring strikes of 8 and 19 yards to Aiyuk. Christian McCaffery ran for 151 yards and caught three passes for 17 more for the 49ers.

Browns 24, Bengals 3

In Cleveland, Deshaun Watson ran for a touchdown and threw for another, and Cleveland's defense bottled up Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow.

Watson bolted for a 13-yard TD late in the first half, making the kind of dynamic play the Browns envisioned when they signed him to a \$230 million contract in 2022. Watson missed 11 games last season for violating the league's personal conduct policy but is in uniform from the start this season.

He added a 3-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter to tight end Harrison Bryant, and Watson converted the 2-point try with a run up the middle.

Buccaneers 20, Vikings 17

In Minneapolis, Baker Mayfield recovered from a rough start to throw two touchdown passes without a turnover in his debut for Tampa Bay, which forced three first-half turnovers by Minnesota.

Chase McLaughlin matched his career long with a 57-yard field goal for the lead with 5:10 left, and the Buccaneers forced a three-and-out on each of the Vikings' last two possessions.

Mayfield, the first overall pick in the 2018 draft who landed with his fourth team in three years to take over for the retired Tom Brady, completed 21 of 34 passes after a 3-for-11 start.

Packers 38, Bears 20

In Chicago, Jordan Love looked like he might be ready to follow in the footsteps of Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers, throwing for three touchdowns to lead Green Bay past Chicago.

Aaron Jones ran for a touchdown and caught one, helping the Packers pull away in the second half for their ninth straight win over the Bears. Green Bay was 25-5 against Chicago with Rodgers, including the playoffs.

Rams 30, Seahawks 13

In Seattle, Matthew Stafford threw for 334 yards even without favorite target Cooper Kupp, Kyren Williams ran for two touchdowns, and Los Angeles stunned Seattle.

FOOTBALL

Stafford was brilliant picking apart Seattle's secondary for the 58th 300-yard passing game of his career. He did it without Kupp, who will miss at least the first four games with a hamstring injury.

Rookie Puka Nacua had 10 catches for 119 yards and was targeted 15 times in the first game of his career. Tutu Atwell had a career-high 119 yards on six catches. And the Rams were at their best on third downs, where they converted 11 of 17 chances.

Raiders 17, Broncos 16

In Denver, Jimmy Garoppolo threw two touchdown passes to fellow newcomer Jakobi Meyers in their debuts for Las Vegas, which spoiled Sean Payton's first game as Denver's coach.

The Raiders stretched their winning streak over their AFC West rivals to seven games despite the absence of star pass rusher Chandler Jones, who's involved in a feud with the front office.

Jaguars 31, Colts 21

In Indianapolis, Tank Bigsby made up for a big mistake by scoring the go-ahead touchdown and Travis Etienne Jr. added a 26-yard scoring run to seal Jacksonville's win over Indianapolis.

The AFC South champs snapped a five-game losing streak at Lucas Oil Stadium.

DeForest Buckner stripped the ball from Trevor Lawrence on a sack and then scooped up Bigsby's subsequent fumble before sprinting 26 yards to give Indy a 21-17 lead late in the third quarter.

Saints 16, Titans 15

In New Orleans, Derek Carr passed for 305 yards and a touchdown in a difficult but successful debut for New Orleans, which held on to beat Tennessee.

The Saints' defense did not allow a touchdown, intercepted Ryan Tannehill three times, sacked him three times, and stopped Tennessee on 10 of 12 third down plays.

Falcons 24, Panthers 10

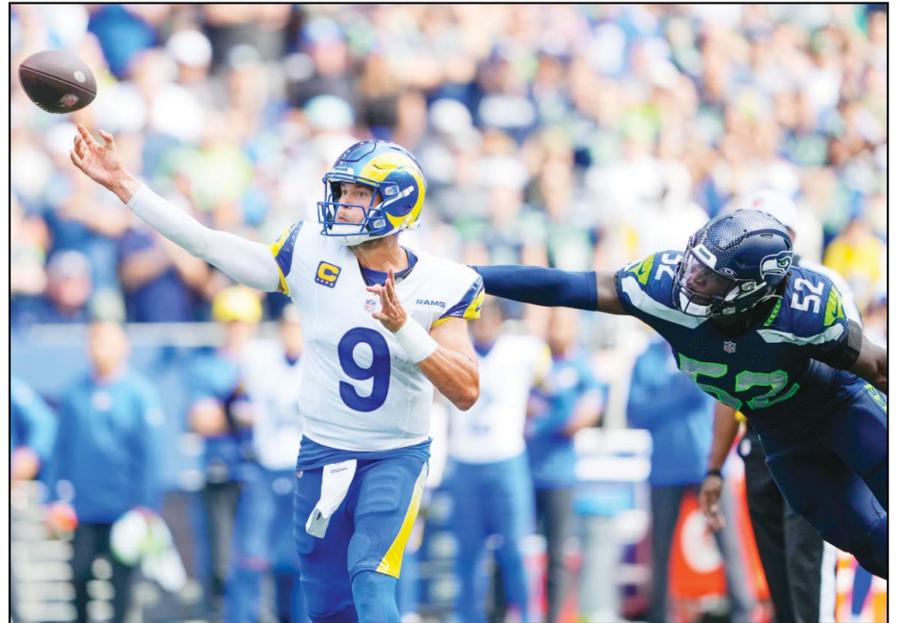
In Atlanta, Bijan Robinson outshined top overall pick Bryce Young in their NFL debuts, leading Atlanta past Carolina.

Young was intercepted twice by Jessie Bates in a rough start for the former Alabama star who is being counted on to lead a resurgence for the Panthers.

Commanders 20, Cardinals 16

In Landover, Sam Howell threw a touchdown pass and ran for another score to make up for two turnovers and Washington rallied to beat Arizona in its first game under new ownership.

In front of a sellout crowd and with several prominent alumni back to celebrate the start of a new era, the Commanders were sloppy with a pair of turnovers and several penalties along the offensive line that allowed Howell to be sacked six times.



Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford passes under pressure from Seattle Seahawks linebacker Darrell Taylor during the second half of an NFL football game in Seattle. (AP)

Dixon gives Ganassi 1-2 finish in final standings

MONTEREY, Calif., Sept 11, (AP): Scott Dixon snagged his third win of the season - one week too late to contend for the IndyCar championship - with a strategic run in Sunday's season finale at Laguna Seca.

Alex Palou, Dixon's teammate at Chip Ganassi Racing, had already become the first driver in nearly 20 years to clinch the IndyCar title before the season finale. Palou won his second title in three years with his victory last week at Portland, his fifth of the season.

Dixon had been mathematically eligible to challenge Palou for the title until the Portland victory. He was still guaranteed to finish second in the standings, but the greatest driver of his generation was determined to grab one more win.

The 43-year-old won three of the final four races of the season and ensured Ganassi finished 1-2 in the final standings. Palou's title is the 15th in IndyCar for Ganassi.

Dixon's win was the 56th of his career - 11 shy of AJ Foyt's record - and helped him close his season strong. Just

a month ago, Dixon was in danger of ending his streak of 19 years with at least one victory.

Scott McLaughlin, like Dixon from New Zealand, finished second for Team Penske and was followed by Palou, who scored 10 podiums in 17 races this season.

Will Power of Team Penske finished fourth and ended his run as IndyCar champion by snapping a 16-year streak of

CAR RACING

winning at least one race. Callum Ilott of Juncos Hollinger Racing tied his career-best finish of fifth and was followed by Christian Lundgaard of Rahal Letterman Lanigan.

Alexander Rossi of Arrow McLaren was seventh and followed by Marcus Armstrong, who won rookie of the year honors for Ganassi. Pato O'Ward of McLaren was ninth and Ryan Hunter-Reay of Ed Carpenter Racing finished 10th.

NFL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): NFL results and standings on Sunday.

Detroit	21	Kansas City	20	Washington	20	Arizona	16
Atlanta	24	Carolina	10	Green Bay	38	Chicago	20
Baltimore	25	Houston	9	LA Rams	30	Seattle	13
Cleveland	24	Cincinnati	3	Las Vegas	17	Denver	16
Jacksonville	31	Indianapolis	21	Miami	36	LA Chargers	34
New Orleans	16	Tennessee	15	Philadelphia	25	New England	20
San Francisco	30	Pittsburgh	17	Dallas	40	NY Giants	0
Tampa Bay	20	Minnesota	7				

American Football Conference

AFC East				
W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Miami	1	0	01.000	36 24
Buffalo	0	0	0.000	0 0
NY Jets	0	0	0.000	0 0
New England	0	1	0.000	20 25

AFC South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	1	0	01.000	31	21
Houston	0	1	0.000	9	25
Indianapolis	0	1	0.000	21	31
Tennessee	0	1	0.000	15	16

AFC North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	0	01.000	25	9
Cleveland	1	0	01.000	24	3
Cincinnati	0	1	0.000	3	34
Pittsburgh	0	1	0.000	7	20

AFC West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Las Vegas	1	0	01.000	17	16
Denver	0	1	0.000	16	17
Kansas City	0	1	0.000	20	21
LA Chargers	0	1	0.000	34	36

National Football Conference

NFC East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	1	0	01.000	40	0
Philadelphia	1	0	01.000	25	20
Washington	1	0	01.000	20	16
NY Giants	0	1	0.000	0	40

NFC South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	1	0	01.000	24	10
New Orleans	1	0	01.000	16	15
Tampa Bay	1	0	01.000	20	17
Carolina	0	1	0.000	10	24

NFC North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	1	0	01.000	21	20
Green Bay	1	0	01.000	38	20
Chicago	0	1	0.000	20	38
Minnesota	0	1	0.000	17	20

NFC West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
LA Rams	1	0	01.000	30	13
San Francisco	1	0	01.000	30	7
Arizona	0	1	0.000	16	20
Seattle	0	1	0.000	13	30

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Albania's Mario Mitaj (left), and Poland's Matty Cash (right), go for a header during the Euro 2024 group E qualifying soccer match between Albania and Poland in Tirana, Albania. (AP)

Sports

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Poland in trouble

Dutch recover to beat Ireland in European Championship qualifying

DUBLIN, Ireland, Sept 11, (AP): The Netherlands recovered from Virgil van Dijk conceding an early penalty to beat Ireland 2-1 and overcome a hurdle in its European Championship qualifying campaign.

Van Dijk gave away a penalty for handball at a corner in just the second minute in Dublin and the spot kick was promptly converted by Ireland's Adam Idah.

Ireland's physical style seemed to make the Netherlands wary in the early stages but the hosts soon conceded a penalty of their own when goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu tripped Denzel Dumfries, allowing Cody Gakpo to score from the spot.

A strong Dutch start to the second half was rewarded when Wout Weghorst scored in the 56th after Dumfries headed on a ball from deep into his teammate's path.

The Netherlands and Greece are fighting for the second qualifying spot in Group B behind France, which is top with five wins from five games and didn't play. Both the Netherlands and Greece have nine points after Greece beat Gibraltar 5-0 on Sunday, but Greece has played one more game.

Poland is in danger of missing out on a European Championship spot for the first time since 2004 following a 2-0 loss to surprise Group E leader Albania.

Goals from Jasir Asani and Mirind Daku - who scored just seconds after coming off the bench - gave Albania a win to overtake the Czech Republic by two points at the top of the group standings. Poland is fourth after three losses in five games. Albania has only qualified for a major tournament once before, at the 2016 European Champi-

onship.

Moldova is also in contention to qualify. It's level on eight points with the Czech Republic after beating the Faeroe Islands 1-0. Only the top two in each group qualify automatically for the tournament in Germany next year.

Pierre-Emile Højbjerg's 86th-minute goal gave Denmark a 1-0 win over Finland to take a step toward qualifying.

SOCCER

Just one point separates the top four teams in the group.

Denmark dominated the game but couldn't break through the Finnish defense. With the end of the match in sight, Finland dropped deep into its own penalty area, giving Højbjerg time and space on the edge of

the box to line up a powerful, low shot which beat goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky.

Denmark and Slovenia top Group H with 13 points - one point ahead of Finland and surprise contender Kazakhstan, which beat Northern Ireland 1-0. Kazakhstan has never before qualified for a European Championship or World Cup. Slovenia eased past San Marino 4-0.

Montenegro beat Bulgaria 2-1 on a goal from Stevan Jovetić in the seventh minute of added time to put pressure on qualification rivals Hungary and Serbia in Group G. Montenegro played most of the second half with 10 players after a red card for Igor Vujčić.

Hungary and Serbia are level on 10 points at the top of the group after Serbia beat Lithuania 3-1. Montenegro has eight points. Hungary didn't play Sunday.



Netherlands' Xavi Simons (center), and Republic of Ireland's Josh Cullen battle for the ball during the Euro 2024 Group C qualifying soccer match between Ireland and Netherlands at the Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland. (AP)

Djokovic 'wins' US Open for 24th Grand Slam title

Medvedev beaten

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): Halfway through a second set that lasted 1 hour, 44 minutes, a test of tenacity as much as talent amid a U.S. Open final as exhausting as it was exhilarating, Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev engaged each other in a 32-stroke point.

It was among many such elongated exchanges between two men whose styles are nearly mirror images, and Djokovic capitulated by netting a backhand. He fell to his back and stayed down, chest heaving. The crowd roared. Djokovic sat up but remained on the ground for a bit. The crowd roared some more, appreciating the effort, saluting the entertainment.

TENNIS

Using every ounce of his energy and some serve-and-volley guile - an old man with new tricks - Djokovic emerged for a 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 victory over Medvedev at Flushing Meadows to claim a historic 24th Grand Slam title on Sunday night in a match more closely contested than the straight-set score indicated.

"I never imagined that I would be here standing with you talking about 24 Slams. I never thought that would be the reality," said Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia and the tournament's oldest male champion in the Open era, which dates to 1968. "But the last couple of years, I felt I have a chance, I have a shot for history, and why not grab it if it's presented?"

He moved one major singles title ahead of Serena Williams and is the first player to win 24 in the Open era. Margaret Court also collected a total of 24, but 13 of those came before professionals were admitted to the Slam events.

There were snapshots, particularly in the miniseries of a second set, when it appeared Djokovic was faltering. After some of the most grueling points - and there were many - he would lean over with hands on knees or use his racket for support or pause to stretch his legs. And then, suddenly, he would snap to.

"That's Novak," Medvedev said. "No matter what, he can be there."

There was an inescapable sense, on



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, in the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

the part of the participants and any observer, that whichever man succumbed in the second set would be unable to overcome it.

"I don't think I have ever played a longer set in my life," Djokovic said.

Medvedev's take on that segment of the match?

"Oh, regrets, for sure," he said. "Should have won it."

Medvedev came within a single point of taking that set while returning at 6-5. Djokovic rushed the net behind his serve, and while Medvedev had an opening for a backhand passing shot by hitting it down the line, he instead went cross-court, and Djokovic had it covered. In the tiebreaker, Medvedev

led 5-4 before Djokovic grabbed the next three points.

One key adjustment: When Djokovic was looking more bedraggled, he turned to serve-and-volleying, not his usual sort of tactic. He won 20 of 22 points he played that way, and 37 of 44 overall on the points when he went to the net, some with spectacular volleys or half-volleys at angles a pool shark would appreciate.

Medvedev never countered. "I should have been less stubborn," Medvedev said.

This was the 27-year-old Russian's fifth major final and he is 1-4, with two losses apiece to Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. The victory came against Djokovic in the 2021 final at Flushing Meadows, stopping a bid for the first men's calendar-year Grand Slam in more than a half-century.

That weighed on Djokovic. "I really did my best in the last 48 hours not to allow the importance of the moment and what's on the line get to my head," Djokovic said Sunday, "because two years ago that's what happened, and I underperformed."

Djokovic's fourth championship in New York, where he was unable to compete a year ago because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19, goes alongside 10 trophies from the Australian Open, seven from Wimbledon and three from the French Open, extending his lead among men. Nadal is next with 22; Roger Federer retired with 20.

With president Luis finally out, Spanish soccer ready to leave 'embarrassing' chapter behind

MADRID, Sept 11, (AP): Spanish soccer is ready to move forward, three weeks after its women's team won the Women's World Cup but had its celebrations marred by a kiss that ignited a crisis.

Luis Rubiales, the Spanish soccer federation president resigned late Sunday following weeks of relentless pressure from inside the sport and Spanish society in general.

The decision, which many in the country had been hoping to see much earlier, was expected to help Spanish soccer start overcoming one of its most embarrassing chapters. It should also clear the way for Spain to get back on track with its bid to host the men's World Cup in 2030 along with Portugal, Morocco and possibly Ukraine.

"It's over," Irene Montero, the acting minister of equality in Spain, wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

Rubiales had been widely criticized for his behavior towards Jenni Hermoso during the awards ceremony following Spain's 1-0 win over England in the Women's World Cup final on Aug. 20 in Sydney. Hermoso said the kiss was without her consent.

Rubiales had been expected to resign at an emergency general meeting of the federation shortly after the World Cup final, but instead said he was victim of a "witch hunt" by "false feminists."

His defiant stand did not make the problem go away. "The feminist country is advancing faster and faster," Yolanda Diaz, Spain's acting Deputy Prime Minister, wrote on X after Rubiales made his resignation public. "The transformation and improvement of our lives is inevitable. We are with you, Jenni, and with all women."

Spain's National Court announced Monday it has agreed

to a request from prosecutors to look into whether Rubiales should face charges of assault. That means the court will gather evidence in the case, likely including asking Rubiales to testify before deciding whether it can go ahead.

Rubiales could face a fine or a prison sentence of one to four years if found guilty of assault.

Rubiales had been without public supporters other than his mother, who held a short-lived hunger strike in a church in southern Spain. His own federation also publicly asked him to step down and one of his biggest supporters, women's team coach Jorge Vilda, was fired last week.

Pedro Rocha has been in charge of the federation since Rubiales was provisionally suspended by FIFA, the governing body of world soccer. The Spanish federation said in a statement early Monday that it would start proceedings to call for a new presidential election.

"The reputational damage that this has caused to Spanish soccer is tremendous," said Spanish soccer league president Javier Tebas, who often clashed with Rubiales in the past. "Now we have to work to recover from it, and it's not going to be easy."

Rubiales also said he has resigned as a vice president of European soccer body UEFA because of the reputational danger the scandal could inflict on Spain's joint bid to host the men's World Cup.

"I don't want Spanish soccer to be hurt by this exaggerated campaign against me, and above all, I take this decision after being assured that my exit would help contribute to the stability that will allow both Europe and Africa to stay united for their dream of 2030, which will permit the greatest sporting event in the world to go to our country," Rubiales said.



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, returns a shot to Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, during the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)