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# HARDLINERS MPs LOOKING FOR 'FALSE VICTORY IN AN EASY BATTLE' Banning co-ed ... 'Taliban' imposes guardianship

■ Canceling classes means that the government is unable to exercise its authority and that the parliamentarians have become guardians

■ What the parliament's Ethics Committee imposed contradicts the societal customs and culture that have prevailed in Kuwait since the state existed

■ Insisting on implementing the coed ban in this way increases social backwardness and reflects a lack of confidence in young people

■ The current guardianship is the second stage of seizing the reins of society, and there is great fear of what will happen in the future

■ The government is "pushover" and

the decline in legislation is due to the absence of a Cabinet decision

■ The decision costs the state budget a lot, in addition to other complications in the educational process

■ Will the Ethics Committee order the segregation of female state employees from male employees in government departments in the coming

■ The region is going through difficult circumstances that call for a confrontation strategy instead of disagreements over "segregation or not."

Have we returned to the era of the Brotherhood of Safa. Is the approach of ISIS, the Taliban, and the "supreme leader" being imposed on us?!

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: For a parliamentary committee to become a de facto authority is something that does not bode well at all. This committee summoning a minister and the director of the university and ordering them to implement its visions means that the Council of Ministers has become incapable of exercising its authorities, there are a few parliamentarians who are guardians of it, and the vision must be imple-

mented on all even though it violates the constitution and laws. Informed political circles took notice of this matter and said, "What was imposed by the parliament's Ethics Committee contradicts the societal customs and culture that have prevailed in Kuwait since the inception of the state.'

They wished that such an alignment by parliamentarians of the Islamic movement had occurred on issues related to raising the standard of living of citizens, such as by increasing salaries and raising the minimum pension

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

Al-Jarallah

They expressed their fear that the hardline position on the issue of banning coeducation would be in search of a "victory" that would improve the image of some in their own electoral bases after their failure so far in improving the standard of

> living of citizens. They warned that insisting on implementing the ban in this way increases social backwardness

> They asked, "Do the committee members not trust Kuwaiti youth to this extent? Are they not the leaders of society in the future?"

> They said the guardianship imposed by the Ethics Committee on the Minister of Education and Higher Education and the administration of Kuwait University is the second stage of seizing the reins of society.

> They recalled the controversy that arose in the council regarding Article No. 16 in the draft election law submitted by the government, stressing that, "There is great fear that what comes will be greater than what we see today.

> > **Continued on Page 4**

# Fitch affirms Kuwait at 'AA-' ... stable



KUNA photo

Military forces from 19 countries, including Kuwait, conducted combat and defensive drills on Thursday as part of the 2023 Exercise Bright Star being hosted by Egypt. The drills encompassed a display of maneuvers implemented alongside the naval forces at Mohammad Naguib Military Base, according to a statement from the Egyptian Armed Forces. The exercise also included defense tactics against distinctive threats with the use of different calibers of artillery, while also including an onshore attacking maneuver by the special unit's air, sea, and

parachute droppings.

Air strikes were also exercised with onshore targets with the use of multi-mission aircrafts, in addition to air defense tactics. US-led commissioned situ-ational military training, Bright Star '23, was launched on the first of September with more than 8,000 soldiers and 19 nations taking part, with 15 others as supervisors alongside civil-police units, and legal experts of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Opposing governments struggle to respond

# Libya toll over 11,000 ... Search on for 10,000 missing

DERNA, Libya, Sept 16, (AP): Libyan authorities have opened an investigation into the collapse of two dams that caused a devastating flood in a coastal city as rescue teams searched for bodies on Saturday, nearly a week after the deluge killed more than 11,000 people.

Heavy rains caused by Mediterranean storm Daniel caused deadly flooding across eastern Libya last weekend. The floods overwhelmed two dams, sending a wall of water several meters high through the center of Derna, destroying entire neighborhoods and sweeping people out to sea.

More than 10,000 people are missing, according to the Libyan Red Crescent. Six days on, searchers are still digging through mud and hollowed-out buildings, looking for bodies and possible survivors. The Red Crescent has confirmed 11,300 deaths so far.

Claire Nicolet, who heads the emergencies department of the Doctors Without Borders aid group, said that rescuers found "a lot of bodies" on Friday and were still searching.

"It was a big number ... the sea is still ejecting lots of dead bodies unfortunately," she told The Associated Press.

For most of the past decade, Libya has been split between rival administrations - one in the east, the other in the west - each backed by powerful militias and international patrons.

One result has been the neglect of crucial infrastructure, even as climate change makes extreme weather events more frequent and severe. Jalel Harchaoui, an expert on Libya at the Londonbased Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security

**Continued on Page 4** 



Rescuers recover the body of a victim killed during flooding in Derna, Libya, Friday, Sept. 15, 2023. (AP)

'Crucial first step'

# **Houthis in Riyadh talks**

DUBAI, Sept 16, (AP): A delegation from Yemen's Houthi rebels has flown into Saudi Arabia for talks with the kingdom on potentially ending the yearslong war tearing at the Arab world's poorest nation, officials said.

It remains unclear what terms are being discussed between Riyadh and the Iranian-backed Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital of Sanaa since September 2014. But this first public trip by a senior Houthi delegation comes after regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran reached a Chinese-mediated détente earlier this year and as there has been a flurry of diplomatic activity between the different parties in the proxy war.

This latest effort appears to have begun with a visit Monday to Oman by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Oman long has served as an interlocutor between both Iran and the Houthis during the war.

On Thursday, King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed reportedly received letters from Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, who is a protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The substance of the letters was not publicly acknowledged by either country, but they came as an Omani delegation visited Houthi officials in Sanaa.

Analysts have described the move by Saudi Arabia to welcome the Houthi delegation publicly as a positive step. However, it isn't yet likely the definitive moment in reaching a peace in Yemen, though it is important, said Farea Al Muslimi, a research fellow at Chatham House.

This is no doubt a crucial step in further de-escalation in Yemen," he said. "It can build on a comprehensive U.N.-led ceasefire as well as further measures that will help lessen the suffering of

### **Biden remembers Amini**

### Clerics deploy 'Basij muscle to cover hair

DUBAI, Sept 16, (AP): Volunteer members of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard could be seen on the streets Friday in western Iran as the country neared one year since 22-yearold Mahsa Amini died in police custody, prompting protests that challenged the country's theocratic rule.

In Tehran, Iran's capital, and other cities, the public noticed a heightened presence of police and security forces that went unreported by the country's state-run and semiofficial media.

The demonstrations over Amini's death on Sept. 16, following her arrest by the country's morality police for allegedly violating the country's mandatory headscarf law, represented one of the largest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. A security force crackdown that followed saw over 500 people killed and more than 22,000 people de-

Iran's theocracy is trying hard to both ignore Saturday's anniversary and tamp down on any possibility of more unrest.

**Continued on Page 4** 

Protesters stage a demonstration near the Iranian embassy on the occasion of the one-year anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, in Rome, Sept. 16, 2023. (AP)

### **Navigation pact** ruling protested

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah held a meeting on Friday in his office in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the State of Kuwait Al-Manhal Al-Safi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, the bilateral relations that bring together the two brotherly countries were discussed, especially with regard to the ruling of the Federal Supreme Court in the Republic of Iraq regarding the agreement that was concluded between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Republic of Iraq concerning the regulation of maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah, which was ratified by the Iraqi Parliament pursuant to law No. 42/2013 and ratified by Kuwait's National Assembly pursuant to law No. 4/2013, which was filed at the United Nations.

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### Newswatch

UNITED NATIONS: The Security Council on Friday voted unanimously to end, a year from now, a U.N. probe into activities of Islamic State extremists in Iraq. The vote came at the request of the Iraqi government.

The U.K.-sponsored resolution noted that Baghdad also asked that U.N. investigators hand over evidence they have gathered so far to the government, so that Iraqi authorities can pursue IS members' accountability, as well as that of those who assisted and financed "this terrorist organization." (AP)

WASHINGTON: A former top U.S. ambassador was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay a \$93,350 fine Friday for improperly helping a wealthy Arabian Gulf country influence U.S. policy and for not disclosing gifts he received from a disgraced political fun-

Richard G. Olson, the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the end of the Obama administration, pleaded guilty last year to illegally providing aid and advice to Qatar while working for Imaad Zuberi, a once prolific political donor who is serving a 12-year prison sentence for tax evasion, campaign finance violations and failing to register as a foreign agent. (AP)

'Asset-rich'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Fitch Ratings has affirmed Kuwait's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'AA-' with a stable outlook.

Kuwait's 'AA-' rating balances its exceptionally strong fiscal and external balance sheets against a political context that makes fiscal consolidation and other reforms difficult, evidenced by the absence of meaningful fiscal adjustment and the absence of legislation since 2017 to authorise debt issuance.

Fiscal and structural challenges stemming from heavy oil dependence, a generous welfare state and a large public sector and low governance indicators also constrain the rating, according to the latest report by credit rating agency.

With exceptionally strong external assets, Kuwait's fiscal and external balance sheets remain among the strongest of Fitchrated sovereigns. "We forecast Kuwait's sov-

ereign net foreign asset position will average 505 percent of GDP in 2023-24, remaining one of the highest among all Fitch-rated sovereigns and more than 10x the 'AA' median," according to Fitch report.

The bulk of the assets are held in the Future Generation Fund (FGF) managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which also manages the assets of the General Reserve Fund (GRF), the government's treasury account.

Gross government debt/GDP is low, at 8.7 percent of estimated GDP in the fiscal year ending March 2023 (FY22; gross government debt includes liabilities by government entities that borrow separately from the Treasury).

However, assuming the passage of a debt law in FY24, limited fiscal reform and lower oil prices, we forecast government debt will more than double to 24 percent of GDP in FY25 and rise further in subsequent years, owing to projected fiscal deficits. Nonetheless, during the fore-

cast period, we expect debt levels to remain well below the projected 2025 'AA' median of 43.6 percent of GDP.

Opposition Dominates New Parliament: Politicians critical of government policies retained a majority of elected seats after parliamentary elections in June 2023, the third since December 2020 and the seventh since 2012.

The gridlock between government and parliament has undermined the government's ability to pass key legislation and implement significant reforms.

Fitch believes that while a ioint committee bringing together the government and the national assembly has been set up and a new speaker elected unanimously, it is unclear if this will be sufficient to unlock the legislative process.

Even if there is progress, opposition MPs may also not want to pass some laws without concessions on their populist demands, preventing speedy reform of fiscal rigidities.

On structural fiscal challenge, the report says that nearly 80 percent of government spending consists of sticky current spending, including salaries and subsidies, and about 84 percent of Kuwaiti nationals in the labour market are employed in the public sector.

**Continued on Page 4** 

31 33 35

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 10Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 10-30 km/h. Station Max Exp **Kuwait City** Kuwait Airport

Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Ahmadi Nuwaisib Wafra

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

### **KRCS says Derna situation 'tragic'**

# Kuwait sends 3rd batch of relief supplies to Libya

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Upon the aircraft take-off, the representative of the foreign ministry and the diplomatic attache, Saad Al-Nuwaif, affirmed in remarks to KUNA that the humanitarian bridge has been launched in line with guidelines of the

Colonel Dr. Meshari Al-Fars, a member of the UN team for assessing catastrophes, said he was flying to Libya in response to a notification by the UN branch for emergency response indicating that he would join a UN team operating in Libya.

Yousef Al-Siddiqi, the representaive of the Kuwaiti Society for Relief, said that the departing plane boarded ten tons of supplies including materials needed for treating the injured.

The first Kuwaiti planeload of relief supplies was dispatched on September 13 and the second one two days ago. Head of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) mission to Libya Dr. Musaed Al-Enezi said Thursday the situation is "tragic and beyond description" in the Libyan city of Derna, was

hard hit by Storm Daniel early this week.

Speaking to KUNA by phone from Derna, Al-Enezi highlighted the need of more concerted efforts to speed up provision of every possible aid to

"KRCS team saw the extent of the massive destruction that befell the city and caused the killing, injury, and displacement of thousands of Libyans, describing the situation in the town as catastroph-

Al-Enezi revealed that the victims of the flood disaster caused by Hurricane Daniel, which struck cities in eastern Libya last Sunday, exceeded 7,000 dead, in addition to thousands of injured and miss-

Al-Enezi said that the operations to extract victims from under the rubble of buildings swept away by the torrential rains are facing extreme difficulty, adding that the teams sent by the Libyan

authorities lack modern devices and equipment. Al-Enezi added that the mission will work in

coordination with the Libyan Red Crescent Society to distribute the Kuwaiti aid that arrived in Libya on two planes yesterday and today within a Kuwaiti air bridge and includes food supplies, medicines, medical supplies, tents, and rescue boats for those affected by the repercussions of the Hurricane Daniel disaster.

The second relief plane from the Kuwaiti Air Bridge landed at Benina Airport in the Libyan city of Benghazi, carrying 41 tons of urgent aid for those affected by Storm Daniel.

The first relief plane from the Kuwaiti Air Bridge arrived at Benina Airport yesterday carrying 40 tons of medical relief materials and rescue boats, accompanied by a Kuwait Red Crescent Society delegation headed by Dr. Musaed Al-Ene-

Storm Daniel is the most violent of its kind in over 30 years, as torrents swept away buildings, uprooted trees, and left thousands dead, missing,

### **(** (F) - Caba **(3)** (F) 100 Cade (F) **(** (F) LCade **(3)** Caba (F) (F) Cuba **(**€) \*\* **(b)**

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah shakes hands with the Cuban President Miguel Mario Bermudez during the summit.

HH Amir rep at Cuba G77+China meet

# 'Non-segregated' depts pledged

Law obstacle in students' progress: MPs

### **Bid to avert traffic congestion**

### Security leaders, officers mobilized

**By Munaif Naif** Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ministry of Interior, in keeping with its efforts to secure the appropriate atmosphere for the beginning of the new academic year, mobilized its security leaders and about 3,000 security officers in all areas of the country to prevent crowding and traffic congestion.

The Ministry of Interior, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, has completed its preparations to deal with traffic congestion with the start of the school year. Instructions have been issued to all security leaders in public security, traffic, or emergency services in all governorates to go onto the street to monitor traffic movement, especially with the participation of more than 3,000 security per-



and roads.According to informed sources, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the Undersecretary of the Millistry of Interior Lieutenant General Anwar Al-

sonnel in all areas

Barjas, and the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security, Traffic, and Operations Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Rujaib supervised the traffic plan for dealing with traffic congestion and alleviating it with the start of the new school

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) had approved the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Interior to implement flexible working hours in three stages, with the aim of reducing traffic congestion and giving the employees flexibility to enter and exit upon completing the required working hours.

In parallel, the General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior confirmed that the relevant security sectors have taken all security and traffic measures and procedures in preparation for the start of the new academic year.

It explained that it has developed an awareness plan that will be implemented throughout the year under the slogan "One Heart" to educate students about the seriousness of some crimes, especially the scourge of drugs and psychotropic substances, and the devastating negative effects resulting from their abuse.

It will also focus on cyber crimes, their types, and ways to confront them, promoting traffic culture and adhering to the traffic law, not driving without a license, avoiding recklessness, consolidating principles, values, and loyalty to the homeland, tolerance and rejecting violence in all its forms, encouraging dialogue between students, staying away from the phenomenon of bullying, and preserving public and private

Schools begin today

### **382,000** more to join

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Amid the ongoing preparations by the educational leaders, the wheel for the 2023/2024 academic year will start rolling this morning with first-year primary school students and about 43,500 university students. About 382,000 primary, intermediate, and secondary school students will join them tomorrow.

The number of students in the primary stage is 160,745 male and female students, in intermediate schools is 129,832 male and female students, and in secondary schools is 91,578.

The number of new students at Kuwait University is 7,533 male and female students, distributed among 15 colleges in various literary and scientific specializations. These colleges completed the student schedules.In this context, Kuwait University has bared its administrative, academic and technical capabilities in all departments, colleges and work centers at the university to receive new and continuing students.

It has spared no effort in providing an appropriate academic climate for its students, and has exerted great efforts to provide support services, especially in terms of preparing buildings, laboratories, study halls and parking lots within the university.

Meanwhile, the Acting Director of Kuwait University Professor Dr. Fayez Al-Dhufairi congratulated the entire university family, students, administrative body and all university employees on the occasion of the start of the new academic year.

He said he hopes it would be a distinguished year full of achievements at the educational, academic and student levels.Dr. Al-Dhufairi called on the students to be diligent, hardworking and persevering from the first day of the academic year, as they are the nation's most valuable investment and through them will be its renaissance and pro-

He stressed that Kuwait University is counting on them to be the best people to express its message and goals through their ambition and excellence in study.Dr. Al-Dhufairi affirmed that Kuwait University, throughout its journey and in continuation of its approach to carrying the message of science and education, is keen to provide the appropriate educational climate to develop their capabilities and provide them with the tools of science and knowledge to be able to keep pace with modern developments and face challenges.

### **By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Chairman of the parliamentary Financial and Economic Affairs Committee MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri has confirmed completion of reports on four bills included in the agenda of the next legislative session – increase the children allowance from KD50 to KD100, increase the minimum retirees pension, increase the retirees loan and reduce loan installments to range from five to 15 percent of the pension on a case-by-case basis, and cancel the local agent condition for foreign companies to participate in public tenders.

He added the committee will discuss a number of bills in its upcoming meetings; such as improving the standard of living of citizens, controlling prices, protecting national wealth, writing off loans obtained from Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) upon the borrowers' death as it is unacceptable to pass on debts to the heirs, increasing the high cost of living allowance from KD120 to KD250 per month to cope with inflation, amending the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Law such that the approval of the National Assembly should be sought before granting loans to any country except the urgent cases like natural disasters, mandating public institutions to obtain loans only from Kuwait Investment Authority, suspending the privatization of Kuwait Airways, and amending the Kuwait Chamber for Commerce and Industry Law.

Meanwhile, MPs Muhannad Al-Sayer, Abdullah Al-Mudhaf and Osama Al-Zaid revealed in a joint press statement that they had a telephone call with Minister of Education Ali Al-Mane who affirmed his commitment to open non-segregated departments in Kuwait University colleges when the need arises. These MPs expressed concern for the interests of the students, indicating they reject obstacles to the progress of students due to the erroneous enforcement of the Segregation Law.

In a relevant development, Chairman of the Values Enhancement Committee MP Muhammad Hayef confirmed that the registration of students at Kuwait University and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) will continue as there will be no changes, pointing out the non-segregated classrooms are

He clarified this is due to the error committed by the assistant dean of the college who posted his views against segregation on social media. He added that the assistant dean promised to rectify his mistake during the meeting of the committee with Al-Mane.

He disclosed that 275 sections in the college are nonsegregated, although the number of students is around 3,000; while most of the sections at the College of Education are segregated even if the total number of students is estimated at 8,000.

He added the size of the buildings in the two colleges is the same. On the other hand, MP Jenan Bu Shehri intends to submit a bill on cancelling segregation in educational institutions, and to leave the issue in the hands of the administrations of Kuwait University and PAAET the need and the academic criteria.

such a step is taken.

in the College of Law at Kuwait University.

to organize the sections and lecture rooms according to

MP Abdulwahab Al-Essa said the weak Kuwait University administration succumbed to political pressure at the expense of students' interests, warning that the closure of non-segregated lecture rooms will negatively affect the students, especially those at the College of Law whose graduation will be delayed by two years if

### 'Kuwait backs multi-polar order' challenges for sake of attaining sustain-

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who is taking part in the G77+China Summit hosted by Cuba, has affirmed Kuwait's adherence to the multi-polar global or-

According to a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber, the head of the Kuwaiti delegation at the summit, was addressing the conference at its venue in Havana. The summit, due on September 15-16, is themed "challenges of sustainable development, role of science, technology and innovation.'

The State of Kuwait advocates greater cooperation among States of the globe to address complex challenges facing the human race, the Representative of His Highness the Amir said.

It is a necessity to proceed with reforming regional and international organizations, namely the UN and international financial agencies, to ensure their performance transparency and effectiveness and render them more capable of dealing with current and future crises,

Science, technology and innovation play a pivotal role in "empowering our states to face the current and emerging able development and ensuring that no one is left behind.

"Kuwait has always adopted such a role and considers it as a basis upon which coming generations can hinge upon." The Representative of His Highness the Amir continued in his address at the international summit, conveying greetings from His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and expressing gratitude to Cuba for the warm hospitality and good organization of the event.

He called for innovative solutions to overcome challenges that have hindered attaining objectives of the sustainable development 2030.

In line with its responsibility of boosting joint international action, the State of Kuwait through Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has drawn up a better future for the Middle East in particular and the world in general, he said, alluding to KFAED's record of aiding more than 153 states and institutions.

Kuwait aspires, within the approach to implement its 2035 development strategy, to invest in the human resources, namely the youth, he said, and accordingly, it has taken concrete steps to achieve digital transformation and good governance.

### **Cash for welfare home residents**

## Nine surrogate mothers taking care of 35 children, says official

By Fares Al-Abdan Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Director of the Family Nursery Department in the Social Welfare Homes affiliated with the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi says efforts exerted have contributed to providing financial support to the residents of the welfare

homes through the Secretariat General of Awqaf and the Public Authority for Minors' Affairs, and achieved the success of the projects supporting this category.In a press statement issued yesterday, Dr.



Dr. Al-Ajmi

Al-Ajmi revealed that there are nine surrogate mothers who are taking care of 35 children, including those with special needs, indicating that an actual change has been observed in the children's personalities.

He explained that the department

launched the "Marriage Project", which succeeded in marrying two of the residents of welfare homes in the past two

They look forward to cooperating with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to help this category marry each other, especially since they need special and continuous care.Kuwait had proposed and made great strides in terms of the marriage of these residents, in coordination with partners of

the same category in the GCC countries, where there are liaison officers to facilitate the task and make it successful.

Dr. Al-Ajmi noted that family nurser-

ies receive about 12 cases annually, in-

dicating that there are not many children inside the nurseries, due to the activation of the role of the foster family according to strict conditions. He revealed that there are 36 families

waiting for their turn to foster children, adding that there are 655 children fostered by Kuwaiti families.

Dr. Al-Ajmi affirmed the keenness of the department to provide special services to foster, as well as integrate them through the Civil Service Commission into jobs and meet their other needs.

He stated that Kuwait is the only country in the world that provides a salary to every fostered child under the age of 21, amounting to KD 559 per month, adding that it is paid to the foster families to care for them, and provide assistance to them, under the follow-up of the Family Nursery Department.

Dr. Al-Ajmi indicated a plan in place to support children's independence and their integration into society, adding that there is care even for older age groups if needed.

He revealed that there is a wait for the approval of the Council of Ministers regarding the medical center, after coordination between the MInistry of Social Affairs, Public Authority for Disabled Affairs and the Ministry of Health in

# New bus service in for students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The CEO of the Kuwait Public Transportation Company (KPTC) Mansour Al-Saad announced the launch of the service for transporting school students in all governorates through the launch of 760 buses to serve 16,500 students, indicating that the new service comes in implementation of the company's strategy under the theme of "K-SCHOOL", reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, Al-Saad explained that the buses that will be sent off today from the company's locations in Amghara and Fahaheel will distributed as follows - 100 buses for Hawally Governorate, 155 for Farwaniya Governorate, 125 for religious education, 300 for special education, 40 buses for Al Amana schools affiliated with special education, and 40 for Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC).

The capacity of most of the buses is 22 passengers, and there are 40 buses with a capacity of 12. The company's future strategy focuses on providing distinguished services of high quality, professionalism and great experience that extends for more than 60 years, with the precedence and priority in providing land transportation services. All the capabilities of KPTC are harnessed to serve students.

These operations came after the company won the tenders that were put forward, the most important terms of which are providing the best prices and services. Al-Saad praised the efforts and cooperation of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education to find solutions for transporting students with ease and safety.

### Mol detains 16 persons with various drugs, pills

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior declared on Friday arresting 16 persons, charging them with 13 counts and possessing some amounts of drugs and methamphetamine pills.

Additionally, the MoI personnel found two pieces of weapons, ammunition and some caches of money reaped in illegal transactions, in their possession. The statement said the personnel found 6.2 grams of

various narcotics and 550 antipsychotic drugs in their possession. The detainees confessed during interrogations that they had the drugs for trading.

(the MoI receives any reports about illegal acts on the emergency phone number: 112. The hotline to reach the anti-drugs department is: 1884141.

# No one can hack data: MEW

### **By Mohammad Ghanem** Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Service Affairs at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy announced the appointment of Eng. Falah Al-Mutairi who affirmed that information security in the customer service sector is very strong and no one can hack that data.In a press statement issued yesterday, Al-Mutairi said the electricity theft gang infiltrated the ministry building illegally and tried to enter the system by mistake, indicating that their case is with the prosecution and is being investigated.

He revealed that the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy addressed government agencies in the coun-

try to pay their dues, adding, "From the beginning of the fiscal year from April until September 10 of this year, the ministry obtained about KD 230 million. We are seeking to collect the full dues during the current year." Al-Mutairi stated that the Ministry of Electricity and Water has a customer service office at the Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4. Currently it has an office at Terminal 1.

Within days, it will open an office at Terminal 5.He indicated that there is a great demand for expatriates with pending dues to pay these dues before traveling, adding that if there is any problem, it is dealt with in the offices before travel. In response to a question about smart meters, Al-Mutairi said, "The first phase of the smart meter project

# diwaniya 🕝 چیوانیة

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Deep understanding for any confusion between the issue and problem crucial'

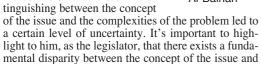
"I tuned in to a local television station broadcasting a serious and candid discussion between the station's announcer and a young man who recently secured a seat in the National Assembly. The on-air conversa-tion primarily revolved around a crucial matter of public interest," columnist Muhammad Salem Al-Balhan wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The newly-elected MP presented a compelling and successful argument regarding the solution and implementation of this matter. Unfortunately, however, he seemed to blur the lines between the concept of the issue and the intricacies of the problem, failing to out-

line the necessary steps to address the underlying challenges related to the problem at hand.

"This was disappointing, given that the issue in question was of great importance and had garnered widespread anticipation and demand for its resolution and success from the public."

"The new representative's speech was articulate and worth paying attention to. However, the confusion that arose in dis-



the complexities of a problem." "The concept of the issue and the ramifications of a problem are fundamentally different, each having its distinct effects, dimensions, and goals. To elucidate this difference, let's delve into an example that encapsulates the definitions of these two aspects — the issue

"In Kuwait presently, our issue revolves around managing urban sprawl, necessitated by the need for expanded housing. This situation places an imperative on the state to devise successful strategies for housing, ensuring suitable accommodation for citizens in need. However, a problem arises — how to effectively manage the land required for these new housing projects, in addition to meeting the modern living needs for the residents of these new housing structures. One significant aspect is the provision of potable water and ensuring a reliable supply of electrical energy, which is, in itself, an issue that demands comprehensive fulfillment of the modern human resident's requirements within these new projects.

"The issue here pertains to the state's role in providing housing for the growing population, but what about the problem? The problem is the scarcity of land and a deficiency in manpower. It involves the lack of necessary technical and mechanical equipment. These and various other problems act as formidable barriers hindering the successful realization of the cause.'

"In essence, we identify a problem conflicting with the implementation and achievement of the issue. This problem necessitates a resolute capability to address and eliminate these obstacles to pave the way for achieving the overarching issue — constructing new residential neighborhoods to accommodate those in the country who require housing. "Given the importance of the issue, all necessary measures must be taken to decisively tackle and eradicate the problem in all its implications and requirements, enabling the successful realization of the cause."

"Hence, the distinction between an issue and a prob lem becomes evident. An issue is not a problem, and a problem is not an issue -- they exist on opposing ends of the spectrum."For those tasked with legislating the issue, a comprehensive understanding of this distinction is crucial to prevent any confusion between the two domains.'

### Also:

"The government's responsiveness to parliamentary inquiries and their prompt engagement with committee sessions to correct courses is indeed commendable. However, it is vital to address the behavior of certain representatives who interfere with appointment mechanisms for leadership and supervisory roles, attempting to promote individuals affiliated with them through various means. These representatives seek to position themselves as heroes and secure gains by overshadowing those who are genuinely qualified for the positions," columnist Dr. **Mubarak Al-Abdulha**di wrote for Al-Jarida daily."

"Simultaneously, they rush to criticize members of the executive authority under the guise of advocating for reform, combating corruption, and addressing imbalances. They use propaganda to leak false information to portray themselves as immaculate, showcasing a significant inconsistency, duplicity, and manipulation in the processes of accountability, oversight, and monitoring. Particularly concerning is how they shield those affiliated with them from accountability for their

"This conduct deviates from the true role of a representative, who is expected to uphold their oath and ensure justice for the oppressed and those lacking support after suffering injustices. These individuals rights are in plain view of everyone, yet the representatives fail to prioritize their needs.'

"It is essential for members of the legislative authority to reflect on their role and primary responsibilities granted to them by the people. True reform cannot be achieved through breaking the law and infringing on the rights of others. Despite the various justifications provided, these actions serve the selfish interests of individuals seeking unlawful gains, whether through securing undeserved positions or other unlawful means.'

"Targeting reformist ministers through such actions only creates an unhealthy atmosphere and reverts progress by resorting to disruptive tactics, attempting to distort the image of anyone who challenges their transgressions. Each time we place hope in certain parliamentary figures, we are disillusioned by the unveiling of their true intentions.'

"What's both ironic and disheartening is their eagerness to publicize government interactions with their proposals, which often result in minor achievements that fall short of what is expected of a representative. They should focus on issues that concern the entire populace, demonstrating true leadership and deserving the roles they hold."

"It's crucial for them to reevaluate their actions, realign with the right path, and reconsider their positions to ensure they do not face the same fate as those before them who faced the consequences of their misguided actions. In the end, the upcoming session will unveil many masks, exposing the true nature of these indi-

"The least I could call it is the 'summit of the bright economic future of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' in the Indian capital — New Delhi, columnist **Tariq Boursly** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The G20 Summit 2023 was held in India with the Gulf brilliance of Saudi Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who put the most prominent results of the summit on the path toward the recovery of the Gulf economy. It brought several major countries together — United States of America, Japan, Germany, India, United Kingdom, France, Russia, Canada, Italy, Brazil, Australia, South Korea, Mexico, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Argentina and South Africa, while China was absent

"As for the achievements, the sessions led to an agreement to sign the transport project by India, Gulf states and European Union. The summit resulted in the approval of the African Union's membership in the G20, similar to the European Union. It opened horizons of global cooperation — from East to West — at all levels to achieve development. This is in addition to sustainable development and the Gulf economic vision that each country announced according to their strategy and plans to launch sustainable development and mega projects.

"In fact, there was a dispute among the participating countries regarding the Russian-Ukrainian war. As a follower of the economic summit sessions, the results made me feel good. Politics has no permanent friend or permanent enemy. Agreement on economic interests is tantamount to political cooperation and a stage of permanent peace, that is, without war.

"In my opinion, the summit succeeded par excellence, because the participating countries agreed to manage huge projects related to renewable energy and find solutions to the global climate crisis. We are in the era of digital government and sustainable development in a new world imposed by the artificial intelligence revolution on the reality of peoples."Therefore, the Gulf region must take a unified position and support efforts to reform the environment, combat pollution, present programs and implement them urgently and continuously, and adopt clean energy as permanent source of life energy in GCC countries.

"We have been placed on the path of first world countries in economics and sustainable development. We must benefit by establishing mechanisms through mutual experience with participating countries to exploit natural resources for our countries to prosper and protect the well-being of Gulf peoples. I am not exaggerating if I say that the initiative of His Royal Highness, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, put the G20 Summit 2023 on the path of the Gulf

"Overseas treatment is one of the most important issues concerning citizens, because it is related to health that some describe as 'the crown of healthy people,' columnist Dr Mohamad Al-Azmi wrote for Al-Rai

daily.
"No matter how wealthy or financially stable a person is, he will not enjoy anything if his health condition is poor or if he suffers from diseases. We always implore God to protect us from illness and to heal all those who are sick.

"Indeed, a large number of Kuwaitis need overseas treatment as per the recommendation of the concerned committees. We do not deny that some patients do not need to undergo treatment abroad that costs the State huge money. The treatment they need is available in the country, yet they use back doors through mediations to obtain something they do not deserve.

"The number of such patients is not small. This should be taken into account in assessing the need for treatment abroad. It must be addressed through committees tasked to scrutinize cases to determine who really needs to be treated abroad."Some have suggested bringing senior and specialized doctors to Kuwait and establish a mini-hospital for the treatment of patients with serious diseases, which cannot be treated in public and private hospitals in Kuwait.

'This is a good proposal, but it needs a feasibility study by specialists in the medical and financial fields. Will it save or increase costs? This can only be decided by specialists through a feasibility study."It is also necessary to remove obstacles in front of patients like the administrative procedures, including those concerning their companions. It is necessary to address travel and residency issues in countries where they are being treated.'

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

### 65% men, 26% women culprits: report

# 1,000 violate red traffic lights every day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: It is surprising that 42 motorists of both sexes in Kuwait cross the red light every hour, that is, an average of 1,000 people per day who commit this grave violation thus exposing their lives and the lives of other motorists to danger which more often not lead to death, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This is what informed security sources revealed to Al-Qabas, confirming that direct and indirect red traffic violations since the beginning of the current year 2023 and until the end of last August amounted to about 240,000 violations.

The sources said men accounted for about 65% of the total these violations, while females committed about 26% of them, and 9% of the violations were registered against companies.

The sources indicated that direct violations for jumping the red light amounted to about 40,000 violations, while indirect violations amounted to about 200,000 violations.

The sources stressed that the instructions issued by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, are clear and explicit not to tolerate perpetrators of serious violations who endanger lives, and to take the harshest penalties against them. 

**Drugs found with Syrian:** The securitymen affiliated to the Farwaniya Governorate have taken into custody an unidentified Syrian who was wanted by law, reports Al-Anba

The daily added, the suspect after seeing the police patrol panicked and entered an open area and when the police patrol followed his trail the man got out of his vehicle, and attempted to escape on foot.



Kuwaiti charities carry blankets and other items to Morocco. Inset: Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdulatif Al-Yahya

### **Kuwaiti charities reach quake-hit areas**

#### By Mustafa Al-Muraini

A number of Kuwaiti associations and charities has taken part in the relief operations dispatching teams to the quake-stricken regions to de-termine needs for survivors of the catastrophe and relieve them rap-

idly.

The general supervisor for the Kuwaiti Morocco humanitarian campaign, Omar Al-Thuwaini, told KUNA that up to 14 Kuwaiti societies have taken part in the humanitarian efforts, in coordination with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Af-

fairs.
"We have reached some regions

that have been ravaged by the earthquake and examined volume of the damage," he said, noting that the Kuwaiti team focused in the beginning of the operation on secur-ing shelter and food for the afflicted. The Kuwaiti associations have

distributed 1,100 food parcels, 2,200 blankets to more than 7,000 people who were affected with the disaster, he said, indicating that some of the victims lost some of their loved ones in the tragedy. The State of Kuwait Embassy in Morocco has organized a blood donation campaign as part of the aid for victims of the recent devastating

quake.
The embassy said in a state-

ment, a copy of which was obtained by KUNA on Friday, that the campaign was in response to appeals by the local authorities to donate blood and save lives of many peo-ple injured in the fiery tremors.

Abdulatif Al-Yahya, the State of Kuwait Ambassador to the kingdom and staff of the diplomatic mission took part in the campaign and were given a hand by ordinary Kuwaiti citizens currently present in the country. Meanwhile, Meshari Al-Enezi, an official at the Kuwaiti "Al-Najat" charity indicated that the Kuwaiti groups would focus in the second phase of the operation on rebuilding houses, schools and medical centers in the ravaged areas. (KUNA)

# Arrest runaway workers, deport them: authorities

Plan to hire domestics from East Asia

**By Munif Naif** Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16:** In a step to tighten the grip on violators of residence and labor laws, especially those who escape from their sponsors to work for others, security sources said strict instructions have been issued to the Residence Affairs Investigation Department officers to arrest all violators of Article 20 law (domestic workers) and refer them to

deportation. The security sources said those who flee from their sponsors usually end up working on farms or stables or some end up engaging in vice (flesh trade) or shops. Many shop owners also hire these workers in spite of them being residence and labor law violators in the belief the security authorities will turn a blind eye to this phenomenon stressing that campaigns against

violators are continuing. The sources pointed out that the violating domestic workers -- Africans and Asians are engaged in working for others in all regions of the country even though they are violators of the laws. A majority of them have been reported absconding by their employers.

The sources said those who harbor

such workers will be punished and necessary legal measures will be taken against them.

Meanwhile, the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior announced that 595 violators of various nationalities of the residence and labor laws were recently

### 23 Asian bootleggers nabbed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of 23 people of Asian nationality in possession of 540 bottles of homemade brew in various areas of including Khaitan, Mahboula, Fahaheel and Sulaibikhat, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior stated that all those arrested have been referred to the deportation center. Meanwhile, the Central Prison authorities have arrested one of its employees for attempting to smuggle drugs into the facility, reports Al-Anba daily. A security source told the dai-

ly that the arrest came following information that the suspect intended to smuggle drugs into the Correctional Facility by hiding the contraband in his underwear.

Accordingly, the security personnel put the soldier under surveillance and caught him when he was about to enter the facility.

arrested during campaigns in Khaitan, Farwaniya, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Al-Ahmadi, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Hawalli, Salmiya, Shuwaikh Industrial City, Mahboula, and Al-Mangaf and are in police custody awaiting deportation. This is in addition to a woman who was caught begging for alms.

Workers from East Asia: According to Bassam Al-Shammari, an expert in domestic labor affairs, the coming period will witness the announcement of the opening of the door to recruiting domestic workers from new East Asian countries, led by Bangladesh, in implementation of the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled on the need to open cooperation frameworks to recruit expatriate workers in the private and domestic sectors from new countries in order to fill the major shortage in the market, especially for professional and technical workers, reports Aljarida daily.

He explained that, coinciding with the end of the summer vacation and the start of the new school year, the need for Kuwaiti and expatriate families to seek the

However, the current numbers in the market are not sufficient to meet the needs of these families.Al-Shammari called on the relevant government agencies, led by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to accelerate the pace of signing memorandums of understanding with new countries for recruitment of domestic workers so that the current

shortage can be filled and the absence of

Filipino workers can be compensated.

services of domestic workers increases.

He said, "There are several complaints being filed continuously by families about the low quality of the current domestic workers, amid the continuation of the decision to stop issuing visas for new Filipino workers, especially due to the language barrier and the lack of proficiency of most expatriate workers in the English language, which increases the chances of non-adaptation and refusal to work."

Al-Shammari stressed that opening new recruitment markets creates a balance in the market, solves labor shortage problems, and reduces recruitment costs in a way that does not burden the citizens and residents.

### 256 bottles of 'liquor' seized

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Shuwaikh Industrial Police officers have seized 256 bottles of locally manufactured alcohol from a van which was found parked on an open ground opposite garages and shops selling spare parts inside the Shuwaikh Industrial City.

The daily said officers inspecting the workshops in the areas suspected a van with its doors open, and after inspecting it found 256 bottles of booze ready for sale.

The bus owner has been arrested and referred for interrogation. Meanwhile, the Independent List at Kuwait University has called on the students to hold a sit-in on Monday in the colleges of Arts and Education, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This is in protest against the decision to cancel the mixed-gender classes at the university, which the Independent List described as an ill-considered move.



### National days greetings sent to Honduras, Guatemala, Papua New Guinea and Mexico

# HH Amir congratulates Swedish King on 50th ascension 'versary

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Friday a cable to Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf, congratulating him on the 50th anniversary of his ascension to the

His Highness the Amir praised all that Sweden has achieved during the reign of the King, and wished him good health and the people of Sweden further progress and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

Sabah sent a cable to King Carl XVI Gustaf, congratulating him on the 50th anniversary of his ascension to the throne, and wishing him good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to King Carl XVI Gustaf.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad sent Friday a cable to President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, congratulating her on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and to the people of Honduras all progress and prosper-

ity.
His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent a cable to President Xiomara Castro.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf sent a cable of congratulations to President Xiomara Castro.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent Friday a congratulatory cable to President of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei, on the country's National

His Highness the Crown Prince sent a congratulatory cable to President Alejandro Giammattei and also His Highness the Prime Minister sent a congratulatory cable to President Alejandro Giammattei.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Bob Dadae, on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince sent a cable of congratulations to Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae.

His Highness the Prime Minister sent a cable of congratulations to Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae.

Also, His Highness the Amir has sent a cable of congratulations to President of the United Mexican States (Mexico), Andres Manuel Obrador, on his country's National Day.

# 'Public security' employees to be added for fingerprint attendance

Guidelines for control over licensing private health facilities

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Minister** of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, has issued a decision endorsing a set of stipulations and guidelines essential for the licensing of private health facilities, reports Al-Seyassah daily

This initiative is part of the broader objective to empower local medical expertise and enact the provisions of Law No 70 of 2020 concerning the practice of the medical profession, its allied professions, and the entitlements of patients and healthcare establishments.

In a statement the Ministry outlined that the decision encompasses various categories of facilities, including medical and specialized centers, day surgery centers, dental clinics, general medical and physical therapy centers, nutritional wellness centers, radiology facilities, prosthetic centers, remote care units, telemedicine facilities, and private

The regulations underscore that at least one of the owners listed in the contract for establishing medical companies must be a Kuwaiti doctor. Additionally, the facility cannot be sublet or utilized for investment purposes by any entity other than the licensed owner.

The regulations are comprehensive and

are categorized into five sections - general prerequisites for health facility licensing, the licensing procedure, essential requisites, the encompassed centers and the mandatory conditions for licensing a private dispensary.

These endorsed regulations are a vital step Dr Al-Awadhi in structuring civil institutions and bolstering healthcare services, providing a founda-

healthcare within the nation. Centers included in the decision are the single day operations, dentistry, physiotherapy, health and nutrition, X-rays, artificial limbs, remote care, communicable diseases

tion for organized and efficient delivery of

medicine and private dispensaries. Meanwhile, starting either at the end of this month or end of October, employees working in the public security sector - officers, military personnel, professionals, and

civilians, will be covered by the fingerprint attendance system, reports Al-Anba daily.

A reliable source told the daily, that this fingerprint system - hand and face recognition - has already been installed in collaboration with the Information Systems Administration and is designed to ensure the accurate attendance and departure records for every individual, granting allowance exclusively to eligible persons.

The source clarified that the fingerprint system for civilians in the public security sector is integrated with the overarching system at the Civil Service Commission.

Consequently, its application will be in coordination with the CSC, which will directly oversee the deduction of days when an employee is absent.

Additionally, collaboration with the Info Systems will enable adjustments for officers, soldiers, or professionals who are unable to work due to partial or complete

Furthermore, the source mentioned that starting October, the traditional paper work will be replaced by the electronic version. This transition aims to ensure the integrity of records for leaves, attendance and patrol assignments.

### Banning co-ed ...

### **Continued from Page 1**

They said, "This decline in Kuwaiti legislation is due to the absence of a decision from the Council of Ministers, which has become a pushover. Whenever an MP comes out with a statement, the government acquiesces to him. In this regard, many Kuwaitis ask - Is there no one who has the ability to stop this absurdity?"

The sources close to the higher decisionmaking circles said, "It goes without saying that such a decision, and others to which the government is subject, costs the state budget a lot. If segregating students costs KD 200 million annually, not to mention the other disruptions in the educational process, this indicates that there is no prudence in approaching any of these issues.

There are questions that Kuwaitis are asking, and they must be answered, such as "Will the Ethics Committee order the segregation of female state employees from its male employees in coming days? Will about 60 percent of the workers in the public sector be women? Will the committee summon the Minister of Finance and order him to act according to what it sees, or will it impose on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to act according to its directives?

At a time when the region is facing difficult and sensitive circumstances, and there are direct and indirect threats to Kuwait, instead of working to develop a confrontation strategy that protects the country, the members of this committee and other parliamentarians come out with outdated blasphemy and impose it on society values that are alien to this community.

That is why some Kuwaitis are asking, "Where is the state heading? Has the compass been lost? Is this committee now leading the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers? Why this complete silence in the face of practices that no country in the world followed except Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban?

On the other hand, there are observers who wonder, "Have we returned to the era of the Al-Safa and Al-Wafa brothers, who worked to change the philosophy of the Islamic State by putting pressure on the rulers indirectly and declaring all who oppose them as infidels? Or was the approach of ISIS and the Taliban forcefully imposed on us; and the "supreme leader" who rules through his own visions, and not through the constitution and the law?" The political circles said, "Despite all the

campaign in the press and social media, and despite the enormity of this decision, the Council of Ministers is still deaf and dumb. It does not hear, and does not move a finger. Rather, the ministers, as soon as any MP calls on them, tremble and sweat, and this has led to confusion. This is a foolish thing, and we no longer

know what the mission of the Council of Ministers is, or even that of the National Assembly. It has reached the extent of Kuwait becoming a laughingstock in the

Doesn't the government, and those who have the decision-making power, know the country's interests and work to protect them? Or is the matter left to some parliamentarians?"

They concluded by saying, "While the people were waiting for the repeal of some laws restricting freedoms, here is a parliamentary committee that ignores all of this, and imposes further retrogress. This requires standing up to that, even if the matter requires dissolving the National Assembly, or the departure of the government. Enough is enough ... It is unfortunate that there is no one to stop this nonsense."

### Fitch affirms

### **Continued from Page 1**

The fiscal break-even oil price (excluding investment income) will remain high (at an average of around USD 90/bbl in FY23-FY25) and the non-oil primary deficit/nonoil GDP is extremely weak at around 90 percent, significantly worse than regional

In a fresh attempt for debt law, the government is seeking to pass a new debt law to allow relaunching government debt issuance, which has been halted since 2017.

"We incorporate the assumption in our forecast, notably for government debt, that a debt law is passed in FY24, despite considerable risks of further delays," the report

In the absence of a debt law, Fitch assumes the government would still be able to meet its limited debt service obligations in coming years given the assets at its dis-However, the difficulties in passing the

rely on stop-gap measures, unusual for Kuwait's rating level, to replenish the liquid assets of the GRF. The government cannot directly access the FGF's assets without parliamentary

law forced the government in recent years to

approval. On the possibility of budget deficits' return, the report says that the budget recorded a surplus in FY22 due to surging oil revenue, marking its first surplus in the past nine years under the government's reporting convention, which does not include KIA's investment interest income in

The fiscal surplus was KWD6.4 billion (12 percent of estimated GDP), following a deficit of KWD 4.3 billion (10.1 percent of estimated GDP) in FY21.

Fitch's budget calculations include an estimate for investment interest income, which is not officially disclosed.

"We forecast a return to budget deficitsto-GDP ratios of 0.7 percent and 0.9 percent in FY23 and FY24, respectively, as oil prices fall, spending pressures persist, and progress with fiscal reforms remains limited," the report cautioned.

Excluding investment income, the deficits would average 9.7 percent of GDP, marking a substantial increase in financing needs.

Regarding the large expenditure increase, Fitch said, The FY23 budget proposes an expansionary fiscal policy, with spending up 17 percent over the FY22 outturn, despite the assumption of lower revenues due to a lower average oil price and further oil production cuts

The budget projects salaries to rise by about 14 percent over FY22, reflecting the costs of nearly 22,000 new public sector hires and increased employees' allowances, while subsidies (including temporary electricity subsidies) are set to rise by 35 percent to cushion the impact of rising cost of living on Kuwaitis.

### **Navigation pact**

### **Continued from Page 1**

The Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Arab World Affairs Ambassador Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al-Bakr held a meeting on Friday at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the State of Kuwait Al-Manhal Al-Safi.

Ambassador Al-Bakr handed over the State of Kuwait's memorandum of protest against the ruling issued by the Federal Supreme Court in the Republic of Iraq over the agreement concluded between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Republic of Iraq regarding the regulation of maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah.

On Thursday, the Federal Supreme Court in Iraq announced that the law ratifying the agreement regulating maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah with Kuwait was unconstitu-

In a statement issued on Thursday, the court explained that there were four reasons on which the ruling was based - the nonexistence of the so-called "Revolutionary Command Council", which was dissolved. the violation of the president of the republic's ratification of article No. 57 of the Kuwait Constitution, and the lack of twothirds of majority members of the House of Representatives required by the constitution for ratification, and harming the Iraqi side.

The court based its ruling on the unconstitutionality of law No. 42/2013, the law ratifying the agreement between Iraq and Kuwait regarding the regulation of navigation in Khor Abdullah, and on the provisions of article No. 61/4 of the Iraqi Constitution issued in 2005. It is not possible to implement a legal text that contradicts the Constitution despite the validity of that text because the mechanisms for its implementa tion are disrupted.

### Clerics deploy

### **Continued from Page 1**

Video shared by Hengaw, a Kurdish rights group, showed what the group described as volunteer members of the Revolutionary Guard, known as Basij, in the city of Sanandaj on Friday. The Associated Press could not immediately verify the videos, though they resembled the wider region around Iran's Kurdistan province, the same area where Amini was buried.

Meanwhile, President Joe announced new U.S. sanctions Friday on "some of Iran's most egregious human rights abusers" as he marked the anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died while being held by the country's morality police.

Biden said Friday that the U.S. reaffirms its "commitment to the courageous people of Iran who are carrying on her mission." "They are inspiring the world with their resilience and resolve. And together with our allies and partners, we stand with them," he said.

### Libya toll

### **Continued from Page 1**

Studies, said that an investigation could pose "a unique challenge" to judicial authorities, since it could lead to the highest ranks of leadership in eastern and western Libya.

Since 2014, eastern Libya has been under the control of Gen. Khalifa Hifter and his selfstyled Libyan National Army. A rival government, based in the capital, Tripoli, controls most national funds and oversees infrastructure projects. Neither tolerates dissent.

"The key challenge to a thorough investigation is the Hifter coalition's longstanding behavior; its historic lack of accountability writ large could obstruct the unearthing of truths," Harchaoui said.

Local officials in the city had warned the

public about the coming storm and last Saturday ordered residents to evacuate coastal areas in Derna, fearing a surge from the sea. But there was no warning about the dams, which collapsed early Monday as

most residents were asleep in their homes. A report by a state-run audit agency in 2021 said the two dams hadn't been maintained despite the allocation of more than \$2 million for that purpose in 2012 and 2013.

A Turkish firm was contracted in 2007 to carry out maintainence on the two dams and build another dam in between. The firm, Arsel Construction Company Ltd., said on its website that it completed its work in November 2012. It didn't respond to an email seeking further comment.

Local and international rescue teams were meanwhile working around the clock, searching for bodies and potential survivors in the city of 90,000 people.



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### **Ambassador Al-Ghanem commends Kuwait Office for Charitable Projects' role**

## Kuwaiti charity honors expatriate female students of Al-Azhar University

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Sept 16, (KUNA): Kuwait Office for Charitable Projects honored on Friday a number of expatriate female students enrolled at Al-Azhar University under a scholarship program from Kuwait Zakat House.

The students have completed a cultural course organized by the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs at Abo-Bakr Al-Seddiq camp in Alexandria between September 13 and 16.

The honoring ceremony gathered Egyptian Minister of Awqaf (religious endowments) Dr. Ali Jomaa, Kuwait Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Delegate to the Arab League Ghanem Al-Ghanem, Indonesia Ambassador Lutfi Rauf, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs Mohammad Ezzat and Director of Kuwait Office for Charitable Projects Sara Al-Mutairi as well as several other



A group photo of foreign female students studying at Al-Azhar University.

tive of the Zakat House, plays a key

senior officials.

In a speech to the gathering, the Egyptian minister praised the Egyptian-Kuwaiti relationship as historical,

Dr. Jomaa said that Kuwait Office for Charitable Projects, as representa-

role in supporting the expatriate students in Egypt in collaboration with the Ministry of Awqaf. exemplary and deep-rooted.

On his part, Ambassador Al-Ghanem expressed hope that the students will be religious scholars who help promote the correct religious science, the moderate ideology of the Noble Al-Azhar, and the true message of Islam which brought to us by Prophet Mohammad, Peace Be upon Him.

He commended the role of the Su-

### **Issa bin Ali Volunteer Work Award** honors 15 prominent Arab figures

MANAMA, Sept 16, (KUNA): Issa Bin Ali Award for Volunteer Work honored on Thursday 15 pioneers of volunteer work in the Arab world in recognition of their outstanding and distinguished contributions to the service of humanity and their significant role in promoting this culture.

organizing such cultural courses for

students from around the globe and

the efforts of the Egyptian Ministry of

Awqaf in promote the moderate values

Kuwait maintains fruitful longstand-

Ambassador Al-Ghanem noted that

Undersecretary of the Bahraini

Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Honorary President of the Good Word Society Sheikh Issa Al Khalifa said in a speech during the closing ceremony of the annual award that the aim of the award is to enhance the values of volunteerism as one of the fundamental pillars of the progress and renaissance of

ing cooperation with Egypt in all areas, including the cultural and religious ones, under the wise leaderships of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his brother the Egyptian President Abdul-

### **Initiative in question being reviewed**

### MEW plans to increase electricity production by 4,780 MW by 2028

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad, stated, that the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has a future plan to increase electrical energy, by 4,780 megawatts by 2028 by implementing several projects related to the Ministry, reports Al-Rai daily.

In his response to a parliamentary question by MP Hamad Al-Obaid regarding what was circulated about "freezing the global initiative to establish a giant power plant in Kuwait for free," the Al-Ostad said the ministry's preparations for the upcoming electricity shortage crisis and the reasons for the ministry ignoring such initiatives are being reviewed by the ministry.

He disclosed that the ministry has a future plan to increase electrical energy by 4780 megawatts by 2028 through the implementation of several projects, four of which are specific to the ministry, such as the installation and maintenance of the project to convert the second phase of the gas turbines at the Subbiya plant to a 250 megawatt combined cycle system; supply, installation, operation and maintenance of gas turbine units operating on a combined cycle system to increase electrical energy at the Subbiya electrical power and water distillation plant by 900 megawatts and the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of photovoltaic panels on the roofs of Subbiya underground water tanks, 30 megawatts and a project to supply, install, operate and maintain gas turbine units operating on a combined cycle system of 3,600 MW at the Nuwaiseeb site.

He went on to say, there are joint projects between the Ministry and the Public-Private Partnership Authority to produce electrical energy amounting to 7,200 megawatts by 2029.

These projects, he said, include Al-Zour North Station - the second and third phases; Al-Khiran Station - the first phase, and Al-Shaqaya plant – the second and fourth phases (PV solar panels) and Al-Shaqaya station - the third phase - (CSP solar panels) and Al-Shaqaya station - the fifth stage - (PV solar panels).

He explained, "The news published Jan 30, 2023 did not include any details, and "we do not have any information about the initiative in question, noting that several initiatives have been presented to the ministry in this regard, and that the ministry welcomes all initiatives that are presented to it, as the relevant sectors in turn study them from the technical and legal aspects of contracting according to sound frameworks."

# **KUFPEC** and Equinor to develop Eirin natural gas field in Norway

Recoverable reserves estimated at 27.6 mln barrels of oil

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA):** The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MPE) has awarded Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) new exploration license via its Norwegian subsidiary KUFPEC Norway AS to develop Eirin field in Norway.

A statement by (KUFPEC) said that the license is in cooperation with international energy company (Equinor) to develop The Eirin field, which was discovered in 1978, as a subsea facility tied to the Gina Krog plat-

form in the North Sea. Recoverable reserves in the field are estimated at 27.6 million barrels of oil equivalent, most of which is gas, the statement added. Eirin field is a subsea facility

tied to the Gina Krog platform in the North Sea and with partial electrification of Sleipner, production from Eirin will have low Al-Haimer emissions, the statement said. KUFPEC CEO Mohammad

Salem Al-Haimer stated that working in this project aims at developing KUFPEC status in the field of development, operation and maintaining its status in the



Gina Krog offshore platform

KUNA photos

market to enhance its capital returns.

Extending Gina Krog's productive life also gives the opportunity to mature additional new reserves in the area with good profitability and low CO2 emissions from production, he added.

Condensate from the Eirin gas will be exported to Sleipner A via a planned oil pipeline from Gina Krog to Sleipner A. Rich gas will be transported by pipeline to the Sleipner A facility for further processing, Al-

The license partners are Equinor (78.2%) and KUFPEC Norway (21.8%) with Production expected as early as 2025 with a total investment cost of USD 108.4. KUFPEC is an international upstream company engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside the State of Kuwait and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.



Dr. Manar Al-Enezi pose for a group photo of the participants in the awareness campaign for atopic eczema.

Dr. Al-Enezi leads vital awareness campaign

# Over 10 thousand children under age 12 afflicted by atopic eczema

By Fares Al-Abdan Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Dr. Manar

Al-Enezi, who serves as the Head of the Dermatology Department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital and holds the role

of Treasurer in the Dermatologists Association, has affirmed that approximately 30% of skin cases are classified as "eczema," with the majority falling under the category of "atopic eczema." Additionally, she highlighted that more than 10,000 cases of this condition af-

### **KCCC** to launch regional training course on radioactive treatment

(KUNA): Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) announced Saturday the launch of a regional training course on the use of radioactive materials for patients with prostate cancer and neurohormonal tumors

on Sunday. The five day course is held in cooperation with International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA) to boost exchanging expertise with Arab and Asian coun-



tries taking part in the event.

Head chief of Nuclear medicine at KCCC Abdulredah Abaas told KUNA that holding such course in the center aims at making KCCC a regional training center Through the Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA). He added that such step aims to

showcase Kuwaiti competencies as a result of continuous cooperation between nuclear medicine departments in Kuwait and the International Atomic

Energy Agen-

cy (IAEA) in

the field of

technical pro-

jects and train-

ing courses.

On



Al-Kandery

part, head of training course Faredia Al-Kandery said that 40 participant

taking part in this event. The course also includes lectures by four prominent scientist and six local experts, she added. She also noted that the course is registered in the Continuing Medical Education(CME)in Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS).

form Arab and Asian countries are

fect children under the age of 12, leading them to seek treatment in the nation's hospitals annually.

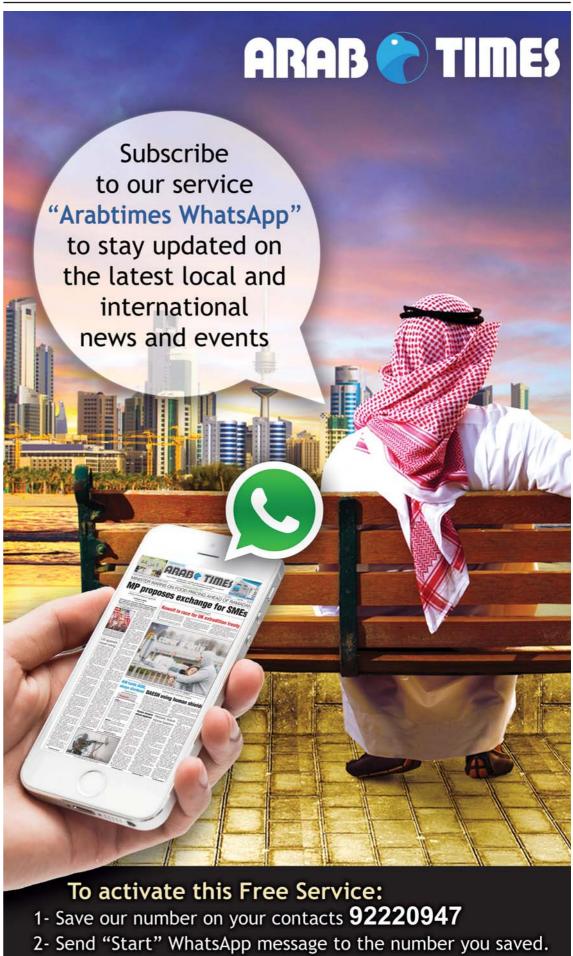
These remarks were made during the launch of an awareness campaign focused on "atopic eczema," which was headed by Dr. Manar Al-Enezi, Head of the Dermatology Department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital and treasurer of the Kuwaiti Dermatologists Association.

Dr. Al-Enezi outlined the campaign's primary objectives, which encompassed educating the public about the disease, its causes, associated symptoms, and the most up-to-date medical and therapeutic approaches for its management.

Furthermore, she emphasized the critical importance of raising awareness about this condition to mitigate its adverse physical and psychological effects on individuals, as well as its impact on their educational and professional performance.

Dr. Al-Enezi pointed out that atopic eczema manifests as dry, itchy, and inflamed skin and is more prevalent in young children, although it can occur at any age. Atopic dermatitis, she noted, is a chronic condition that can vary in severity, occasionally causing discomfort, but it is not contagious.

In addition to skin issues, individuals with atopic dermatitis are at risk of developing food allergies, hay fever, and asthma. Regarding the campaign's execution, Dr. Al-Enezi confirmed that informative brochures and advice were distributed to the public through designated booths within hospital dermatology departments and one at the Avenues Mall. She also mentioned that the campaign had garnered positive feedback and cooperation from the community.



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### Greece wins new credit rating boost that stops short of restoring Greek bonds to investment grade

Greece's economy received a substantial vote of confidence late Friday from Moody's ratings agency, which upgraded the Greek credit rating by two notches but stopped just short of returning the formerly struggling country to formal financial respectability.

Moody's said it was upgrading Greece's rating from Ba3 to Ba1, with a stable outlook. But that still leaves the country's bonds one notch shy of investment grade, which would clear the way for purchases by many major global investors.

Finance Minister Kostis Hatzidakis said the upgrade was "mainly a proof that the government must remain faithful to a sober fiscal policy," to be combined with "sensitivity" on social issues.

The last time Moody's upgraded Greece's rating was in November 2020. It had downgraded the country's bonds to non-investment, or junk, status in 2010, at the height of the financial crisis that forced three international bailouts in return for severe spending cuts, tax hikes and economic reforms.

Moody's announcement Friday came a week after DBRS Morningstar upgraded Greece's rating to investment grade. DBRS, Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Fitch are the four ratings agencies taken into account by the European Central Bank - with the latter two expected to recalibrate Greece's sub-investment grade rating by the end

of the year. Moody's said the center-right government's parliamentary majority following June elections "provides a high degree

of political and policy certainty for the coming four years, fostering the ongoing implementation of past reforms and the design of further structural re-

It said it expects Greece's GDP to grow an average 2.2% annually in 2023-27 driven by investment and consumption, a "very significant improvement" compared to average growth of 0.8% in the five years before the pandemic.

It said Greece's debt will likely fall to close to 150% of GDP as early as 2024

due to stronger GDP growth than projected earlier.

Moody's said it sees the Greek government's commitment to reform implementation and fiscally prudent policies as "credible and strong," adding that there is also "broad consensus in society for these policies.

But Moody's warned that Greece's economy is susceptible to external shocks, given the size and importance of key sectors like tourism and shipping.

### **Market** Movements

15-09-2023

Change Closing pts UAE +0.23 4,043.40 33.533.09 JAPAN Nikkei +1.10 **PAKISTAN** KSE 100 45,796.77 SAUDI Tadawul +0.29 11,154.54 19,540.33 EGX 30

PHILIPPINES - PSEi

Change Closing pts 6,126.34

# Business

# LuLu Financial Holdings inaugurates milestone 300th Customer Engagement Center in Dubai

LFH scripts new chapter in its illustrious journey

### DUBAI, Sept 16: 14 years, 10 countries, 300 customer engagement centers and counting.

UAE based financial services conglomerate LuLu Financial Holdings (LFH) scripted a new chapter in its illustrious journey with the grand opening of its 300th Global Customer Engagement Center in Dubai's Al Rigga.

The new Engagement Center is the company's 96th in the UAE under the LuLu Exchange brand, and was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Saad Cachalia, South African Ambassador to the UAE.

The event was also attended by the Guest of Honor - Hon. Renato N. Dueñas, Jr., Philippine Consul General in Dubai, as well as the company's Managing Director, Mr. Adeeb Ahamed, and other senior management from the global and regional offices.

Congratulating LuLu Financial Holdings on achieving this milestone, H.E. Mr. Saad Cachalia, said, "I am delighted to be part of the celebrations of LuLu Financial Holdings' 300th Customer Engagement Center, a global company hailing from the shores of UAE, which has in a short span of time emerged as one of the most trusted names in cross-border payments. The company's approach to growth, through meaningful partnerships and people-centric services, has been key to its expansion and enabling the cause of financial inclusion in low- and middle-income countries. I congratulate the team on today's remarkable achievement and wish them many more years of success.'

Hon. Renato N. Dueñas, Jr., said, "LuLu Financial holdings has achieved tremendous growth over the last 14 years, fostering a sense of community among the diaspora they serve, in UAE and other countries. I congratulate the team on reaching this grand milestone of 300 Customer Engagement Centers and convey my best wishes as they aspire to touch newer milestones.'

Mr. Adeeb Ahamed said, "The inauguration of our 300th Customer Engagement Center signifies our remarkable journey and unwavering dedication to transforming cross-border payments.

This journey wouldn't have been possible without our valued customers, as well as various regulators & industry partners, who have spurred us to embed a culture of innovation into our fabric.

Today's milestone is a significant step forward, and we look forward to continue innovating value and inspiring experiences for all our stakehold-

Since its inception in 2009 with the opening of the first LuLu Exchange Customer Engagement Center in Abu Dhabi, the company has evolved



LuLu Exchange 300th Branch Opening.

into a diversified player in the global payments industry. With a strong emphasis on digital transformation and platform-based innovations, the

company's various investments serve segments such as cross-border payments, foreign exchange, banknotes, and microfinance.

### Part of Diraya campaign

# KFH cautions customers against online fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has urged its customers to exercise caution and attentiveness when managing their banking transactions, under the Diraya campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association and local banks.

KFH pointed out the importance of coordination between banks and other parties such as telecommunications and internet companies and social media platforms to confront electronic fraud targeting users of digital banking

Through its regular awareness messages, KFH emphasized the customer's role in protecting data privacy, dealing with fraud and money theft at-



Diraya logo

tempts, and the importance of achieving greater cooperation and exchange of information between the relevant

KFH explained through its social media platforms that as online shopping and digital banking services become more prevalent, there has been a corresponding rise in fraudulent activities and attempted theft. Therefore, the customer must avoid this type of financial scam, and help in taking the necessary precautions in this regard.

KFH stressed that the customer must not provide any personal and financial data to any party, whether online, SMS, website, or through a phone call. Also, the Bank has advised the customer to refrain from responding to any phone calls or text messages that seek to elicit disclosures of bank information or OTP.

It is noteworthy that Diraya campaign aims to educate the community about online banking security and promote financial inclusion. Since its launch in 2021, KFH continues to play an active role in supporting the campaign's objectives through its social media accounts and other channels.

The campaign focuses on raising awareness of customer rights, the principles, and rules of dealing with banks, information security and protection from hacking, combating financial fraud and other systems and warnings related to banking and financial transactions and cybersecurity

### Asian shares gain

# WS closes lower, giving S&P 500 another losing wk

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): Wall Street capped a choppy week of trading with a broad slide for stocks Friday, giving the S&P 500 its second losing week in a row.

The benchmark index fell 1.2%, its first loss in three days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8% and the Nasdaq composite gave

U.S. automaker stocks proved to be resilient after members of the United Auto Workers union walked off the job at several plants overnight. Ford slipped 0.1% and General Motors rose 0.9%. Shares in Stellantis gained 1.9% in trading on the Milan Stock Exchange in Italy.

The market posted some gains earlier this week following several healthy indicators on the economy. Wall Street has been watching economic updates ahead of the Federal Reserve's interest rate policy meeting next week. The central bank is expected to hold interest rates steady after spending much of the last two years pushing rates higher in its bid to tame inflation.

Boosting market sentiment this week was a report Thursday that said U.S. shoppers spent more at retailers last month than economists expected. A separate report Thursday morning said fewer workers applied for unemployment benefits last week than

A third report on Thursday said prices getting paid at the wholesale level rose more last month than economists expected. That could be a discouraging signal for households if the higher-than-expected inflation gets passed on to shoppers at the consumer level.

Meanwhile, a closely-watched survey from the University of Michigan showed consumer sentiment slipped a bit in September. The latest reading, though, shows that overall sentiment remains strong. It also said consumers lowered their expectations for inflation in the year ahead to 3.1%, which is the lowest reading since March 2021.

"Things were fairly in line from a data perspective," said Matthew Stucky, senior portfolio manager at Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management. "Really, the market is laser-focused on what's going to impact Federal Reserve activity.

The central bank raised rates aggressively through 2022 and 2023 in an effort to tame inflation, but it maintained interest rate levels at its last meeting. Inflation has generally been easing back to the central bank's target of 2%.

"A lot of the optimism about the Fed pausing is priced into markets,' Stucky said. Inflation at the consumer level

edged higher than expected in Au-

gust, but high gasoline prices were the biggest driver. Oil prices have been climbing over the summer after Saudi Arabia decided to maintain production cuts. That raised concerns about gasoline prices rising and stok-

ing inflation. Investors are overwhelmingly betting that the Fed will hold interest rates steady when it closes a two-day meeting on Wednesday. They also expect the central bank could hold rates steady for the rest of the year. The Fed has said it remains willing to continue raising rates if it seems necessary to continue fighting inflation.

All the sectors in the S&P 500 ended in the red Friday, with technology stocks the biggest drag on the index. Microsoft fell 2.5% and chipmaker Nvidia slid 3.7%.

### Asia

Asian shares advanced Friday, with solid gains for Chinese markets after the central bank eased the reserve requirements for banks to encourage more lending and prop up the slowing economy.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng surged 1.3% to 18,280.11 and the Shanghai Composite index was up 0.4%, at 3,138.94.

Late Thursday, the People's Bank of China said it would cut the reserve requirement for banks by 0.25 percentage points as of Friday, "In order to consolidate the foundation for economic recovery and maintain reasonable and sufficient liquidity."

Further boosting sentiment, the government reported Friday that China's industrial output rose 4.5% in August from a year earlier, up from 3.7% in July. That is seen as a sign the economy may be breaking out of its post-pandemic malaise.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 surged 1.0% to 33,511.91. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 jumped 1.7% to 7,311.30. South Korea's Kospi added 0.6% to 2,588.38.

SoftBank Group Corp., which fully owned chip designer Arm Holdings before it debuted on Nasdaq on Thursday, rose 2.9% in Tokyo morning trading.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 57 cents to \$90.73 a barrel. Crude has been climbing for months as oil-producing countries try to support its price by curtailing their supplies. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 48 cents to \$94.18 a barrel.

Currencies In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched up to 147.46 Japanese yen from 147.42 yen. The euro cost \$1.0642, little changed from \$1.0645.

# **OPEC+** – the united front

By Kamel Al-Harami

Independent Oil Analyst THE unity within the oil organization,

since the arrival of the biggest oil producer, resulted in a higher oil price of almost \$100 per barrel in no time. The current level of \$94 is a comforting figure and represents good news for OPEC+ due

solidity.



Al-Harami

USA, The which is the biggest consumer, is unable to do anything at this time, as it has used all of its tools, including its strategic reserve. It has reached the lowest level within a period of more than 40 years, having used 350 million barrels already. Oil is currently too expensive to buy, which will result in further escalation in the barrel price.

In addition, the global oil demand is reaching more than 103 million barrels per day, which is in turn tightening the market supply with the oil organization restricting its throughput in its effort to calm down the demand if possible, avoid further escalation in inflation, and dampen the future demand for oil. This of course could lead to shortage of oil, with OPEC+ being the only available source of supply.

The united front of the oil group is largely due to the arrival of Russia after it agreed to join the oil organization following years of persuasion by Saudi Arabia. Now we are witnessing full collaboration and commitment that we have never seen before. Russia has committed to voluntary cuts of 500,000 barrels until the end of the current year.

The next step that OPEC+ should take is to preserve and maintain the price levels to cover its investments in new oils, exploration, transportation, pipelines, and other expenses. This will result in a balanced budget by the end of fiscal year for OPEC+. This should be its oil policy, as it should not exceed \$100 a barrel in order to meet the future demand, which will go over the current level of \$103. It should be prepared for this, as other oil producers are not investing with the main intention of cash-back, dividends and reinvesting in their entity, thereby passing to OPEC+ the duty of investing in

The united front should stay, and its members should be rewarded with returns that have been long awaited for.

more oil discoveries.

email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

# The auto workers strike will drive up car prices

DALLAS, Sept 16, (AP): Car shoppers are heading for a new round of sticker shock if the strike by the United Auto Workers doesn't end soon, particularly for popular vehicles that are already in short supply.

The number of vehicles on dealer lots will shrink the longer the walkout goes on. Dealers are likely to lose incentives that the manufacturers pay them to boost sales by cutting prices.

And consumers might make things worse with panic-buying.

Many analysts think it will take several weeks before dealer lots start to look a bit empty. Ford, General Motors and Stellantis built up inventories of vehicles ahead of Thursday night's strike, and the UAW decided to limit the walkout to just

three plants - at least for now. "Guys at the dealerships are going to tell you, 'The UAW this and that, but their lots are full of cars now," says Ivan Drury, the director of insights at Edmunds, a provider of information about the auto industry. He estimates that at current inventory levels and the pace of vehicle sales, most car shoppers shouldn't notice much change for a couple of months.

Vehicles from the Detroit Three sat in inventory an average 52 days before being sold in August, up from 31 days at the start of last year, according to Edmunds data.

The UAW began striking at factories that make only a few vehicles - Ford Broncos and Rangers, Jeep Wranglers, Chevrolet mid-size pickups and GMC vans. Dealers have good inventories of those.

If the strike isn't ended soon, however, there could be shortages of some makes and models -big sellers or vehicles that are already in short supply, such as Chevrolet Silverado and Tahoe, GMC Sierra and Ford F-Series pickups. The car companies have plants in Mexico that could keep producing some models - as long as they

have a supply of parts.

China, Zambia elevate ties

### California targets smash-and-grabs with \$267m program

California will spend \$267 million to help dozens of local law enforcement agencies increase patrols, buy surveillance equipment and conduct other activities aimed at cracking down on smash-and-grab robberies happening around the state.

Officials from the California Highway Patrol and San Francisco and Los Angeles law enforcement agencies made the announcement Friday. It follows a string of

brazen luxury store robberies in recent months, where dozens of individuals come into a store and

begin stealing en masse. Videos of the incidents have quickly spread online and fueled critics who argue California takes too lax an approach to crime. "Enough with these brazen

smash-and-grabs - we're ensuring law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to take down these criminals," Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement about the grants.

The spending comes from a pot of money Newsom first requested in late 2021, after he signed a law to reestablish a statewide taskforce to focus on investigating organized theft rings. The money will be given through grants to 55 agencies, including local police departments, sheriff's and district attorney's offices. (AP)

### companies in his first two days, including the Yantian Interna-

China and Zambia announced their decision on Friday to eltional Container Terminal, BYD, evate bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, with both sides hailing their "profound" traditional friendship. The move came during Zambian President Hakainde Huawei, Tencent and ZTE Hichilema's seven-day state visit to China at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Busi-

During the two leaders' talk on Friday, Xi said that China stands

ready to work with Zambia to transform the profound traditional friendship into a strong driving force for win-win cooperation in the new era and push bilateral

relations to a new level. Win-win cooperation Across the vast savanna between Tanzania and Zambia, the Tanzania-Zambia Railway is a symbol of true friendship and sincere assistance of the Chinese people toward the people of Africa.

Back in the 1960s, a time when many countries and international organizations all declined to help, China provided an interest-free loan of 988 million yuan to the project with no conditions attached. (AP)

# Shifting gears to carbon neutrality

Toyota's multi-pathway approach to sustainable mobility

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16:** As the world gears up for COP28 in Dubai, UAE, the urgency to address carbon emissions intensifies across governments globally. With experts aiming to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius, every major sector, including the automotive industry, is shifting gears to reassess the status quo and adapt to collectively meet the challenge of achieving carbon neutrality.

Toyota, in particular, has long recognized its role in this global endeavor. The company's pursuit of carbon neutrality began over two decades ago with the introduction of the iconic Prius, the world's first mass-produced Hybrid Elec-



Koji Sato, President and CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation

tric Vehicle (HEV), in 1997. In 25 years, Toyota sold more than 20 million electrified vehicles, significantly cutting CO2 emissions globallybyover160 million tons. Toyota remains committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 through a multi-pathway approach to crafting sustainable mobility solutions that leave no one behind.

Toyota affirms that there are many paths to carbon neutrality and that just as mobility landscapes are different from country to country, so are the pathways to achieving it. This multi-pathway approach encompasses diverse eco-friendly vehicle technologies to cater to different usage needs, economic circumstances, energy sources, and infrastructure readiness. allowing everyone to immediately start contributing to carbon neutrality. This has led to Toyota developing various powertrain options, including Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs), Plug-in □□Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs), Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs), Hydrogen Combustion Engines, while alsoenhancing the efficiency of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehiclesand expanding its carbon neutral fuels ini-

In addition to making all factories carbon neutral by 2035, Toyota's lineup of eco-friendly vehicles continues to grow. The company aims to develop and offer a full lineup of 30 BEV models by 2030, including passenger and commercial vehicles, with a target of 3.5 million annual global sales within the same timeframe. This includes plans for the shorter run where, in April 2023, the company announced its target to introduce 10 Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) models by 2026 and 1.5 million electrified vehicle sales. While these seemingly only begin to scratch the surface, the



ness is high on the agenda, as

the African leader covered five

Toyota BEV line-up

company's efforts are anticipated to yield a 33% CO2 emissions reduction by 2030 and a 50% reduction by 2035 compared to 2019.

Koji Sato, President and CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation, emphasized Toyota's mission to 'produce happiness for all,' protect the Earth, and enrich people's lives worldwide. Toyota aims to change 'Minus(-)' to 'Zero' and create value beyond Zero. Sato highlighted the need to transform the future of the car to ensure its continued relevance and benefit to society.

Toyota's electrification drivemarked a significant milestone with its new BEV Factory. Established in May 2023, this specialized organization is envisioned as an "ALL in ONE TEAM" that will not only lead Toyota's development, production, and business operations, but will also spearhead the company's advancement in next-gen BEVs. One of the BEV Factory's primary directives includes the development of an energy and cost-efficient solid-state battery for a 2026 next-gen BEV launch with a ,000 km range.

The newly established Hydrogen Factory aims to promote business across three key axes: localizing R&D and production in major markets, strengthening alliances with leading partners to provide affordable fuel cells, and competitiveness and tech-

The Hydrogen Factory is preparing for the 2026 launch of a next-gen fuel cell (FC) system for commercial use that prioritizes longevity, costefficiency, and low fuel consumption, targeting a 20% range boost, and 37% cost cut through technological advancements, volume efficiency, and

While Toyota recognizes the need for vehicle electrification, it also believes in the importance of diversified strategies, suggesting an optimal mix of PHEVs and HEVs to efficiently utilize limited resources. For instance, the lithium resources of a single BEV equivalent to 100 kWh could be spread among six PHEVs for their smaller batteries, leading to better emission reductions overall. Similarly, the same lithium resource could be spread across a much more affordable option of 90 HEVs, effectively replacing the greatest number of conventional combustion engine vehicles on the road. On a larger scale, this has a much higher overall impact on reducing emissions while optimizing the use of limited lithium resources. Hence, while the company aims to produce more BEVs in the long term, it recommends adopting a mix of HEVs and PHEVs, particularly in regions with limited electrification

Toyota also focuses on lower carbon and carbon-neutralfuel technologies in its multi-pathway approach.It is important to not only promote the widespread adoption of electrified vehicles through new car sales, but also to reduce the CO2 emitted by vehicles that are already being used by peopleon the road today.

### Panel will reconsider 'denying' key permit

BISMARCK, N.D., Sept 16, (AP): North Dakota utility regulators in an unusual move granted a request to reconsider their denial of a key permit

for a proposed carbon dioxide pipeline. North Dakota's Public Service Commission in a 2-1 vote on Friday granted Summit Carbon Solutions request for reconsideration. Chairman Randy Christmann said the panel will set a hearing schedule and "clarify the issues to be considered."

Reconsideration "only allows additional evidence for the company to try to persuade us that they are addressing the deficiencies," he said.

Denying Summit's request would have meant the company would have to reapply, with a monthslong process that would start all over again without any of the information in the current case, including lengthy testimony.

Summit Executive Vice President Wade Boeshans told The Associated Press that the company appreciates the panel's decision and the opportunity to present additional evidence and address the regulators' concerns.

The panel last month unanimously denied Summit a siting permit for its 320-mile proposed route through the state, part of a \$5.5 billion, 2,000-mile pipeline network that would carry lanet-warming CO2 emissions from 30-some ethanol plants in five states to be buried deep underground in central North Dakota.

Supporters view carbon capture projects such as Summit's as a combatant of climate change, with lucrative, new federal tax incentives and billions from Congress for such carbon capture efforts. Opponents question the technology's effectiveness at scale and the need for potentially huge investments over cheaper renewable energy

The panel denied the permit due to issues the regulators said Summit didn't sufficiently address, such as cultural resource impacts, potentially unstable geologic areas and landowner concerns, among several other

Summit had asked for reconsideration, highlighting an alternative Bismarck-area route in its request, and for a "limited rehearing."

### 'We will do that because it is in the interest of Polish farmers'

## EU lets Ukrainian grain ban expire even as some member countries impose their own

LONDON, Sept 16, (AP): The European Union on Friday decided not to

party is trying to attract farmers' votes. Hungary announted that it will not export of wheat, corn, rapeseed and Ukraine - a major global supplier of renew a ban on Ukrainian food heading to nearby countries that have complained that an influx of agricultural products from the war-torn nation has hurt their farmers.

The move sets up a clash with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, which have said that food coming from Ukraine has become stuck within their borders, creating a glut that has driven down prices for local farmers and hurt their livelihoods.

The issue threatens European unity on supporting Ukraine against Russia's

Poland's prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, reacted by saying that his government will extend its own the ban on Ukrainian grain, regardless of any lack of consent from the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. Officials said the measure would be published Friday.

"We will do that because it is in the interest of Polish farmers," Morawiecki said during a campaign rally ahead of Oct. 15 parliamentary elections in which the governing Law and Justice only extend its ban on grain imports from Ukraine but unilaterely restrict the import of 24 other Ukrainian agricultural products as of midnight Friday, among them rapeseed and sunflower seeds, flour, vegetable oil, honey, certain meats and eggs.

"We are defending the interests of farmers, so now that Brussels has decided to no longer maintain the ban on imports of Ukrainian agricultural products, our country will do so under national competence and even extend it to a wider range of products," said Hungarian Minister of Agriculture

Istvan Nagy. Slovakian Prime Minister Ludovit Odor said in a statement that his government decided to extend the ban on grain imports from Ukraine till the end of the year.

"We have to prevent the Slovak market from the excessive pressure and be fair to local farmers," Odor said.

The European Commission said

that "the market distortions" created by Ukrainian grain have disappeared. Ukraine has agreed to put measures in

sunflower seeds to neighboring EU countries.

It also will introduce proposals - for example, an export licensing system within 30 days to avoid grain surges, the EU said.

In a turnaround, Bulgaria lawmakers on Thursday approved resuming imports of Ukrainian food products. Finance Minister Asen Vassilev says the ban has deprived the government of tax revenue and led to higher food

Ukraine praised Bulgaria's decision and had pressed for an end to the ban, saying any further restrictions would have "a clear destabilizing effect on the global food market," Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a state-

Grain and other Ukrainian food had been allowed to pass through the five European countries on the way to parts of the world in need.

In July, Russia pulled out of a U.N.brokered deal allowing Ukraine to ship grain safely through the Black Sea. Routes through neighboring countries wheat, barley, corn and vegetable oil to export its commodities to parts of the world struggling with hunger.

Recent attacks on Ukraine's Danube River ports have raised concerns about a route that has carried millions of tons of Ukrainian grain to Romania's Black Sea ports every month.

That has meant road and rail routes through Europe have grown increasingly important. While facing blowback from neighbors, they aren't ideal for agriculture-dependent Ukraine either, whose growers face higher transportation costs and lower capacity.

After the countries passed unilateral bans earlier this year, the EU reached a deal allowing them to prohibit Ukrainian wheat, corn, rapeseed and sunflower seeds from entering their markets but still pass through their borders for export elsewhere.

The EU also provided an additional 100 million euros (\$113 million) in special aid on top of an initial support package of 56.3 million euros (\$60.2 million) to help farmers in the affected countries.

of dismantling the current federal

workforce, capitalizing on the grow-

ing suspicion from their base that in

A small city ended its bus service to find out

### What if public transit was like Uber?

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): When a small city abruptly parked all its buses to launch a publicly subsidized van service offering \$1.50 trips anywhere in town, only one of its bus drivers a big-city transplant - went along for the ride.

Milton Barnes used to oversee packed subway stations in Washington, D.C., a far cry from the sparsely filled buses he drove after moving to Wilson, North Carolina, to care for his elderly parents. Although transit ridership plummeted almost everywhere due to the pandemic, it has been surging in Wilson since its September 2020 switch from a fixed-route system to an on-demand one powered by a smart-

phone app.
"All day long I'm picking up people and dropping them off," Barnes, 59, the only driver to work under both systems, said while driving his van on a typically busy morning. "When you've got door-to-door, corner-to-corner service, it's going to be more popular."

Long wait times made the bus route almost unusable for David Bunn, even when his car broke down and he couldn't afford to replace it. Instead, Bunn, who has two broken discs in his back, would take a 5-mile (8-kilometer) roundtrip walk to pick up groceries. Then he spotted one of the public vans and dialed the phone number posted in a rear window.

"I don't have to walk everywhere I want to go now," said Bunn, 64. "They come pick me up, they're respectful, and they're very professional. It's a great asset to Wilson and a great service to me.'

The city of less than 50,000 people is frequently cited as a model for how less-populated areas can capitalize on transit in the same way as bustling metropolises. Wilson landed federal and state

infrastructure grants to support the shared, public rides residents summon - usually within 15 minutes - through a service operating like Uber and Lyft, but at a fraction of the cost to riders. Trips are now \$2.50, a dollar more than they were at launch, and Bunn quips, "you can't drive a Pinto for that.

Other communities in North Carolina and elsewhere took notice and have tapped into available public funding to start programs of their own, heightening Wilson's competition for continuing grant money.

These smaller-scale, tech-based solutions to public transportation problems, known broadly as microtransit, have emerged as a great equalizer in the battle for infrastructure dollars that has traditionally pit the bus, train and subway needs of urban areas against the road construction projects sought by rural communities.

"We don't view transit as something only for big cities," U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg told The Associated Press. "We want people to benefit wherever they live, including in less-dense, rural areas. The point of transit is not to have a bus. The point of transit is getting people where they need to be.'

Ryan Brumfield, director of the North Carolina's Department of Transportation integrated mobility division, said Wilson's transition to microtransit came largely by necessity. Officials seeking to lower Wilson's sluggish unemployment rate first had to address the fact that in some pockets of the 23-square-mile (59-square-kilometer) city, as many as 3 in 10 residents lacked access to

a car to get to work. "That combination of a lot of people needing a service and it happens to be fairly dense makes on-demand a perfect fit," Brumfield said.

More than half the rides are for residents using the vans to "maintain or get employment," said Rodger Lentz, Wilson's assistant city manager who pushed for the switch.

But need and convenience weren't the only reasons behind the city's 300% spike in public transit ridership. Image was a factor, too.

"In small, southern towns, the perception of public transportation is that it's for the low-income," said Gronna Jones, Wilson's transportation manager. "There's a stigma attached to riding the bus. Going to microtransit and nontraditional vehicles removed that stigma.'

Wilson partnered with New Yorkbased Via, one of the nation's top microtransit companies, to create the software and launch the on-demand public van service known as RIDE.

Via started operations seven years earlier with what was then a consumer service offering shared van rides in parts of Manhattan's Upper East Side where the New York City subway didn't go. But founder and CEO Daniel Ramot said he always considered Via a public transit company, not a private competitor to Uber, though it took a while for cities to buy in.

"We literally could not get a meeting," Ramot said. "They said it was the dumbest idea they'd ever heard, that it was never going to work, that public transit was buses and trains.'

### **GOP** hopefuls vow to slash workforce

# Biden aims to beef up safeguards for govt workers

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): The Biden administration on Friday took steps meant to strengthen protections for government employees as leading Republican presidential candidates, including former President Donald Trump, campaign on shrinking and remaking the federal workforce.

The effort outlined by the Office of Personnel Management includes clarifications that federal employees can't lose certain civil service protections unless they give them up voluntarily, and a provision meant to ensure that certain rules covering political appointees won't be "misapplied" to career, nonpolitical workers, according to the

It would also, in effect, make it tougher to shift federal workers to a classification status that would make it easier for the employees to be stripped of their civil service protections, OPM

The announcement comes as Trump allies and other conservative outside groups begin mapping out a government-wide effort that would dismantle what Republicans call a "deep state" bureaucracy that would be in place to thwart Trump or a Trump-like figure should the party retake the White House in 2024. That push could lead to the firing of as many as 50,000 federal

In a statement, the current OPM director, Kiran Ahuja, said the proposal is meant to help ensure that the 2.2 million federal workers in nonpolitical positions "can carry out their duties without fear of political reprisal."

"Career federal employees deliver critical services for Americans in every community," Ahuja said. "Prior attempts to needlessly politicize their work risked harming the American

The OPM's proposal follows President Joe Biden's move soon after his inauguration to revoke a Trump-era executive order that would make it easier to fire tens of thousands of federal workers by reclassifying them as essentially at-will employees. That order from Trump, called "Schedule F," would form the foundation for much of the conservative remaking of the federal workforce, and Trump, as well as other contenders for the GOP presidential nomination, have said they would reinstate it.

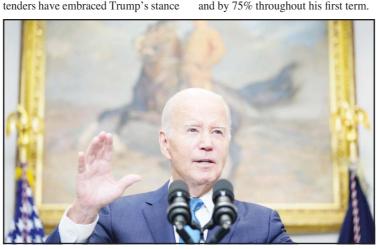
Russ Vought, who served as director of the Office of Management and Budget under Trump, said Friday that OPM's announcement only underscores that Schedule F is legally sound, "is going to succeed spectacularly and the only chance to stop it is to install procedural roadblocks.'

"Fortunately, from experience, I

know that once a president issues an executive order setting it as a policy, it will have the intended impact of moving toward a professional, experienced, and mission-focused workforce," said Vought, now the president of Center for Renewing America, a conservative think tank led by former Trump administration officials. "In the meantime, we will vigorously be opposing OPM's new rule at every turn." Other Republican presidential con-

the government lies a so-called "deep state" that worked against Trump's priorities while he was in office. For instance, businessman Vivek

Ramaswamy vowed during remarks at the America First Policy Institute in Washington earlier this week that he would aim to cut the federal workforce by half during his first year as president and by 75% throughout his first term.



President Joe Biden speaks about the auto workers strike from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. (AP)

# Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait collaborates with H&S to offer customers a 50% discount for back-to-school season

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently partnered with H&S, a leading electronics store, for the back-to-school season, offering customers a 50% discount on all electronic devices, gadgets, and accessories at The Avenues Mall. This collaboration reflects the Bank's commitment to providing added value to its customers beyond traditional banking services.

Expressing her enthusiasm, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, stated, "We are dedicated to enhancing customer experience by delivering exceptional value. As such, our collaboration with H&S for the back-to-school season allowed us to ensure access to the best products at incredibly discounted prices.'

"These efforts represent our determination to give back to our customers and increase their satisfaction with the Bank's products and servic-

NAIROBI,

Sept.16, (PR Newswire):

Abu Dhabi Future En-

ergy Company PJSC -

bridge the infrastructure

funding gap and mobi-

lize public and private

Signed by Mohamed Jameel

Al Ramahi, Chief Executive

Officer of Masdar and Alain

Ebobissé, Chief Executive Offi-

cer of Africa50 on the sidelines

of Africa Climate Summit,

the first of four global climate

summits ahead of COP28, the

agreement will see both parties

work collaboratively to cata-

lyze sustainable development

of the clean energy sector in

Masdar, one of the world's

largest clean energy companies

and the largest in Africa, com-

mitted US\$2 billion of equity

as part of the UAE finance ini-

tiative, which was announced

during Africa Climate Sum-

mit by HE Dr. Sultan Al Jaber,

Chairman of Masdar and COP28

President-Designate. The initia-

tive brings together public, pri-

vate, and development capital

from UAE institutions, notably

from Abu Dhabi Fund for Devel-

opment (ADFD), Etihad Credit

Insurance (ECI), Masdar, and

AMEA Power. Africa50 is ex-

pected to also join this initiative

HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE

Minister of Industry & Ad-

vanced Technology, Chairman

of Masdar and COP28 President-

Designate, said: "We welcome

this important partnership with

Africa50 which brings a key

stakeholder to the table for an

inclusive, equitable and just en-

ergy transition. We look forward

to working with Africa for Af-

rica. The world must continue to

close the gap on climate finance

for clean energy investment in the global south which is dispro-

portionately affected by climate

change. We need the public and

private sectors to work together

to deliver clean energy access

across Africa – a key mission

and objective of Africa50. This

can be accelerated in countries

with robust regulatory frameworks, clear transition strategies

and a real commitment to devel-

Chief Executive Officer of Mas-

dar said: "As the largest renew-

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi,

oping grid structure.'

as a strategic partner.

es," she said, "By developing worthwhile rewards and promotions, we strive to demonstrate our strong position in the competitive local market."

Marafi highlighted ABK's endeavor to create strong collaborations with leading companies, emphasizing its commitment to presenting cardholders with more upcoming tailored promotions and offers from across multiple sectors. She said, "I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the Bank's ongoing aim to fulfil customers' needs to offer a truly unique banking experience with ABK."

Marafi concluded with an invitation to follow the Bank's social media accounts to remain up to date with the latest marketing initiatives and to benefit from the current promotional campaigns and offers throughout the year.

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

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

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

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities,



and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently

provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application re-



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

quirements, digital services, and

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

# **Masdar and Africa50 join forces to** accelerate clean energy transition

COP28 President-designate welcomes initiative

### 'Points, Cash and Summer Splash'

# Gulf Bank draws curtain on campaign

Masdar has announced a partnership with Af-KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: As part rica50, the pan-African of its keenness to reward its customers, Gulf Bank has concluded infrastructure investthe "Points, Cash and Summer ment platform to iden-Splash" campaign for all credit and tify, fast-track and scale prepaid cardholders, enabling cusclean energy projects tomers to accumulate more points for their purchases and expendiacross the continent. tures during the summer – locally The UAE's clean energy and internationally – in addition to champion has signed a chances to win cash prizes up to KD 20,000. memorandum of under-The campaign lasted from July standing (MoU) with Africa50 which will work to

Kenya,

1, 2023, until September 15, 2023, with three draws to select 50 winners with prizes of KD 20,000 for the one winner, 25 winners of KD 1,000 each, and 24 winners of KD 500 each. The last and final draw to be held on 24 September.

Chances of winning were open to all Gulf Bank customers, including credit and prepaid cardholders. Every customer earned one chance to enter the draw for every KD 10 spent in Kuwait, and three chances for every KD 10 spent internationally, during the campaign period.

Additionally, customers earned double chances for transactions made using digital wallets such as Google Pay, Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, with a minimum spend of KD 100 during the campaign period to qualify for the draw.

بنك الخليج GULF BANK

Mohammed Taqi

In parallel with the valuable prizes obtained by customers, customers will continue to collect points, within the best and fastest points program in Kuwait, which can be exchanged for free airline tickets, hotel accommodation and special travel offers.

Gulf Bank's Assistant General Manager of Consumer Banking, Mr. Mohammed Taqi, said: "We would like to congratulate all the winners as Gulf Bank continues to provide its costumers with the most tailored products and services to enhance their customer experi-

Taqi further mentioned that Gulf Bank's credit cards carry many advantages that customers can benefit from, including offers across various sectors such as restaurants, hotels, travel and tourism, entertainment, health and beauty, car rentals, and others.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the commu-

nity at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking ex-

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

tonnes by the same year.

About Africa50 Africa50 is an infrastructure investment platform that contributes to Africa's growth by developing and investing in bankable projects, catalyzing public sector capital, and mobilizing private sector funding, with differentiated financial returns and impact. Africa50 currently has 34 shareholders, comprised of 31 African countries, the African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), and Bank Al-

Logo: https://mma.prnewswire.com/media/1973446/4258455/ Masdar\_Logo.jpg

### 'Most Financially Stable Insurance Company'

### 'The Global Economics magazine' grants Kuwait Insurance an award

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kuwait Insurance Company won the "Most Financially Stable Insurance Company" award from The Global Economics magazine, the institution specialized in launching annual classifications in the fields of economics and business. This came from The Global Eco-

nomics magazine's selection of outstanding companies in the insurance sector category, joining an elite group of international companies selected in various sectors such as banking, finance, insurance, real estate, energy, transportation, hospitality, health care, telecommunications, and information technology

Kuwait Insurance Company also won the title of "Most Financially Stable Insurance Company" in Kuwait in recognition of the company's performance and economic position in the local insurance market through several criteria audited by a specialized committee. The said criterium is not only based on financial capacity and a promising future, but also on fulfilling obligations towards shareholders and customers, as well as amongst stakeholders and the business community.

On this occasion, Mr. Sami Sharif, CEO of Kuwait Insurance Company, said: "The title is a certificate of trust for Kuwait Insurance Company, and an affirmation of competence, professionalism, and work with the highest professional standards in the industry, and that it is the



The Global Economics magazine

best in its field of work".

Mr. Sharif concluded: "We have worked hard to maintain our position as a leading insurance company in Kuwait for over 60 years, and have continuously developed the work environment and culture within the company, so that we can support all our clients to achieve their financial goals and insure them against risks. We are also committed to excellence in providing the best innovative insurance solutions to all our customers".

# **KIB** announces the winners of Al Dirwaza account's 8th draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The best account of its kind in Kuwait for offering the highest monthly expected returns and cash prize draws

Kuwait, 16 September 2023: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the names of the winners in the eighth Al Dirwaza account monthly draw, based on customers' August deposits. The draw was held in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. In this draw, Abdulwahab Ali Abbas Redha won KD 10,000, whilst the KD 1,000 prize was awarded to 10 winners in total: Sharefa Ahmed Ali AlKandery, Yousef Abdullah Mohammad Ahmad, Basmah Salem AlOthman, Naser Abdulrahman Ahmad AlAhmad, Semri Mohammad Semri AlAzmi, Hamad Abdullah Yousef Alkandari, Jassim Yaqoub Teaib AlShaheen, Eissa Ahmad Ali Ahmad, Hamad Fhaid AlHashmi AlAimi, and Adel Abd Jaber.

On this occasion, Ali Alsane, Manager - Product Development, Digital Transformation and Innovation at KIB, said: "Today we reaffirm KIB's commitment to continue ensuring the success of this distinctive monthly draw. We are delighted to congratulate our esteemed customers who were the lucky winners this time around and extend the best wishes to the rest



Ali Al Sanee

of Al Dirwaza account holders in the upcoming monthly draws." He added: "At KIB, we are constantly striving to introduce products and solutions that enable us to reward our customers, earn their loyalty, and achieve the highest satisfaction level among them. Driven by KIB's 'Bank for Life slogan, we continue to exert great efforts toward offering the best banking experience that caters to the modern lifestyles of all customer segments and meets their expectations.'



Dirwaza

able energy company in Africa, through our joint venture with Infinity Power, it is fitting that Masdar, with Africa50, should take this bold step forward which will unlock much needed climate finance for the energy transition. It is a key strategic market for Masdar and we are proud of our long-term partnerships and projects in Africa. Our portfolio today includes Senegal's first utility-scale wind farm, under Masdar's Infinity Power Holding platform (IPH), Mauritania's first and largest solar photovoltaic project, and the development of Africa's largest wind farm in Egypt with IPH and other partners. With Africa50, Masdar looks forward to unlocking the enormous clean energy potential across the continent,

Masdar has committed a total of US\$10 billion in clean energy finance, of which US\$2 billion will be generated from equity, with an additional US\$8 billion mobilized from project finance. This landmark investment will target the delivery of 10GW of clean energy capacity in Africa by 2030.

Alain Ebobissé, Chief Executive Officer of Africa50, commented: "Partnerships are key to our goal of scaling up and accelerating the delivery of bankable and sustainable infrastructure across Africa. We are pleased to join forces with Masdar through this signing. We believe that this step will become one of many, on a journey to drive transformative projects that support Africa's path to net-zero and help builder cleaner economies for future generations." Africa50 and Masdar will also explore opportunities to collaborate on the implementation of the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa (AGIA) which was launched at COP27 by the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and Africa50.

The UAE investment initiative sits under the umbrella of Etihad 7, a development platform launched by the UAE at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in 2022 and spearheaded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Announced in 2022, Etihad 7 aims to provide 100 million people across the African continent with clean electricity by

Established in 2006, Masdar is the UAE's clean energy powerhouse. It is active in over 40 countries and has invested in a portfolio of renewable energy projects with a combined capacity of around 20 gigawatts (GW). Masdar aims to grow this to at least 100 GW by 2030. The company is also targeting green hydrogen production of 1 million tonnes per annum by the same year.

For more information please visit: http://www.masdar.ae and connect: facebook.com/masdar.ae and twitter.com/masdar **About Masdar** 

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) is the UAE's clean energy champion and one of the largest companies of its kind in the world, advancing the development and deployment of renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies to address global sustainability challenges. Established in 2006, Masdar is today active in over 40 countries, helping them to achieve their clean energy objectives and advance sustainable development. Masdar is jointly owned by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), and Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA), and under this ownership the company is targeting a renewable energy portfolio capacity of at least 100 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 and an annual green hydrogen production capacity of up to 1 million

Maghrib. For more information, visit: www.africa50.com.

Photo: https://mma.prnewswire. com/media/2203476/Masdar\_Af-

### California settles with Google for \$93mn

Search giant Google agreed to a \$93 million settlement with the state of California on Thursday over its location-privacy practices.

The settlement follows a \$391.5 million settlement with 40 states, reached in November 2022, to resolve an investigation into how the company tracked users' locations.

The states' investigation was sparked by a 2018 Associated Press story, which found that Google continued to track people's location data even after they opted out of such tracking by disabling a feature the company called "loca-

"Our investigation revealed that Google was telling its users one thing - that it would no longer track their location once they opted out but doing the opposite and continuing to track its users' movements for its own commercial gain. That's unacceptable, and we're holding Google accountable with today's

settlement," Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement.

As part of the settlement, in which Google admitted no wrongdoing, the company also agreed to a number of restrictions, including providing more transparency about location tracking, disclosing to users that their location information may be used for ad personalization, and showing additional information to users when enabling location-related account settings. (AP)

# **Apple to update iPhone 12 in France**

Apple has agreed to install updates for the iPhone 12 in France after French regulators ordered the company to stop selling the model because it emits electromagnetic radiation levels that exceed Euro-

pean Union standards.
The company, which just unveiled its newest generation of iPhones, insists the 12 model is safe and the phones have been certified in countries around the world since its introduction in 2020. It says the problem raised by the French government agency that manages wireless communications frequencies is "related to a

specific testing protocol." The French agency said the iPhone 12 recently failed one of two types of tests for electromagnetic waves capable of being absorbed by the body. On Tuesday, France's government ordered a halt to sales of the iPhone 12 and told Apple to

issue a software update to address

the problem or face a recall

Apple said in a statement Friday that it "will issue a software update for users in France to accommodate the protocol used by French regulators." It did not elaborate.

The French ban could have extended to all 27 EU countries after three months if Apple had refused to issue updates and if no other government objected, European Commission spokesperson Sonya Gospodinova said Thursday. (AP)

### Law to make it easier for individuals to erase personal data

# California's 'Delete Act' targets shadowy data brokers

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 16, (AP): You may not know it, but thousands of often shadowy companies routinely traffic in personal data you probably never agreed to share - everything from your real-time location information to private financial details. Even if you could identify these data brokers, there isn't much you can do about their activities, including in California, which has some of the strongest digital privacy

That's on the verge of changing. Both houses of the California state Legislature have passed the Delete Act, which would establish a "one stop shop" where individuals could order hundreds of data brokers registered in the state to delete their personal data - and to cease acquiring and selling it in the future - with a single request.

The Delete Act isn't law yet. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom still has to decide whether to sign the measure, whose impact could potentially extend well beyond state lines given California's history of setting similar trends. Here's what you need to know.

While California law already gives individuals the right to request data deletion, doing so currently require making

separate requests to hundreds of data brokers registered in the state, many with their own unique requirements for drafting and handling such requests. Even then, nothing stops these companies from simply reacquiring the data after they

#### Identity

The Delete Act would require the state's new privacy office, the California Privacy Protection Agency, to set up a website where consumers can verify their identity and then make a single request to delete their personal data held by data brokers and to opt out of future tracking. Proponents call it a "do not track" signal similar to the "do not call" list for telemarketers maintained by the Federal Trade Commis-

California already regulates data brokers, but the Delete Act would strengthen those provisions by requiring the companies to disclose more information about the data they collect on consumers and beefing up the state's enforcement

The Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washing-

ton, D.C., nonprofit focused on bolstering the right to privacy, defines data brokers as companies that collect and categorize personal information, usually to build profiles on millions of Americans that the companies can then rent, sell or use to provide services.

The data they collect, per EPIC, can include: "names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, gender, age, marital status, children, education, profession, income, political preferences, and cars and real estate owned.'

That is in addition to "information on an individual's purchases, where they shop, and how they pay for their purchases," plus "health information, the sites we visit online, and the advertisements we click on. And thanks to the proliferation of smartphones and wearables, data brokers collect and sell real-time location data."

Privacy advocates have warned for years that location and seemingly non-specific personal data - often collected by advertisers and amassed and sold by brokers - can be used to identify individuals. They also charge that the data often isn't well secured and that the brokers aren't covered by laws that require the clear consent of the person being tracked. They have argued for both legal and technical protections so consumers can push back.

Data brokers say they get a bad rap for serving a vital

Dan Smith, president of the Consumer Data Industry Association, which describes itself as "the voice of the consumer reporting industry," called the Delete Act "severely flawed" and warned in a Wednesday release that the change could lead to unintended consequences by undermining consumer fraud protections, hurting the competitiveness of small businesses and entrenching big platforms such as Facebook and Google that collect vast amounts of consumer data but don't sell it.

Smith also argued that the heart of the bill - the one-stop data deletion program - could potentially allow malicious outsiders to impersonate consumers and delete their data without permission. The organization also argues that the cost of the legislation will be much greater than California regulators currently suggest.

In other respects, though, the information collected by these companies can be startlingly easy to abuse.

### Failed to protect kids' privacy

# TikTok hit with \$368mn fine under EU data privacy rules

LONDON, Sept 16, (AP): European regulators slapped TikTok with a \$368 million fine on Friday for failing to protect children's privacy, the first time that the popular short video-sharing app has been punished for breaching Europe's strict data privacy rules.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission, the lead privacy regulator for Big Tech companies whose European headquarters are largely in Dublin, said it was fining TikTok 345 million euros and reprimanding the platform for the violations dating to the second

The investigation found that the sign-up process for teen users resulted in settings that made their accounts public by default, allowing anyone to view and comment on their videos. Those default settings also posed a risk to children under 13 who gained access to the platform even though they're not allowed.

Also, a "family pairing" feature designed for parents to manage settings wasn't strict enough, allowing adults to turn on direct messaging for users aged 16 and 17 without their consent. And it nudged teen users into more "privacy intrusive" options when signing up and posting videos, the watch-

### **Criticisms**

TikTok said in a statement that it disagrees with the decision, "particularly the level of the fine imposed."

The company pointed out that the regulator's criticisms focused on features and settings dating back three years. TikTok said it had made changes well before the investigation began in September 2021, including making all accounts for teens under 16 private by default and disabling direct messaging for 13- to 15-year-olds.

"Most of the decision's criticisms are no longer relevant as a result of measures we introduced at the start of 2021 - several months before the investigation began," TikTok's head of privacy for Europe, Elaine Fox, wrote

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): The US Supreme Court on Thursday temporar-

ily blocked a lower court order curbing

Biden administration efforts to combat

controversial social media posts on

topics including COVID-19 and elec-

ers, the surgeon general and the FBI

are among those affected by the order,

which resulted from a lawsuit claiming

the White House and executive branch

agencies unconstitutionally squelched

conservative points of view. The ad-

ministration asked the Supreme Court

to put the order on hold while it pre-

White House communications staff-

tion security.

The Irish regulator has been criticized for not moving fast enough in its investigations into Big Tech companies since EU privacy laws took effect in 2018. For TikTok, German and Italian regulators disagreed with parts of a draft decision issued a year ago, delaying it further.

To avoid new bottlenecks, the Brussels headquarters of the 27-nation bloc has been given the job of enforcing new regulations to foster digital competition and clean up social media content - rules aimed at maintaining its position as a global leader in tech

### Measures

In response to initial German objections, Europe's top panel of data regulators said TikTok nudged teen users with pop-up notices that failed to lay out their choices in a neutral and objec-

"Social media companies have a responsibility to avoid presenting choices to users, especially children, in an unfair manner - particularly if that presentation can nudge people into making decisions that violate their privacy interests," said Anu Talus, chair of the European Data Protection Board.

The Irish watchdog, meanwhile, also had examined TikTok's measures to verify whether users are at least 13 but found they didn't break any rules.

The regulator is still carrying out a second investigation into whether Tik-Tok complied with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation when it transferred users' personal information to China, where its owner, ByteDance,

TikTok has faced accusations it poses a security risk over fears that users' sensitive information could end up in China. It has embarked on a project to localize European user data to address those concerns: opening a data center in Dublin this month, which will be the first of three

Media platforms pressured

**SC** halts order curbing Biden admin

efforts to block social media posts

# Workers strike at major US auto makers, pressure for better pay

'Record profits' should be shared: President Biden

DETROIT, Sept 16, (AP): Nearly one in 10 of America's unionized auto workers went on strike Friday to pressure Detroit's three automakers into raising wages in an era of big profits and as the industry begins a costly transition from gas guzzlers to electric vehicles. By striking simultaneously at General

Motors, Ford and Chrysler owner Stellantis for the first time in its history, the United Auto Workers union is trying to inflict a new kind of pain on the companies and claw back some pay and benefits workers gave up in recent decades.

The strikes are limited for now to three assembly plants: a GM factory in Wentzville, Missouri, a Ford plant in Wayne, Michigan, near Detroit, and a Jeep plant run by Stellantis in Toledo, Ohio.

The workers received support President Joe Biden, who dispatched aides to Detroit to help resolve the impasse and said the Big 3 automakers should share their "record profits."

Union President Shawn Fain says workers could strike at more plants if the companies don't come up with better offers. The workers are seeking across-theboard wage increases of 36% over four years; the companies have countered by offering increases ranging from 17.5%

### **Profits**

Workers out on the picket lines said they hoped the strikes didn't last long, but added that they were committed to the cause and appreciated Fain's tough

"We didn't have a problem coming in during COVID, being essential workers and making them big profits," said Chrism Hoisington, who has worked at the Toledo Jeep plant since 2001. 'We've sacrificed a lot. Still, Hoisington said she hopes the

strike ends quickly so she doesn't have to tap her savings to buy a house. "Hopefully this doesn't last long or else I'm going to have to spend my down payment on groceries," she said. In its previous 88-year history, UAW

had always negotiated with one automaker at a time, limiting the industrywide impact of any possible work stoppages. Each deal with an automaker was viewed as a template, but not a guarantee, for subsequent contract negotiations

Now, roughly 13,000 of 146,000 workers at the three companies are on strike, making life complicated for automakers' operations, while limiting the drain on the union's \$825 million strike fund.

If the contract negotiations drag on and the strikes expand to affect more plants - the costs will grow for workers and the companies. Auto dealers could run short of vehicles, raising prices and pushing customers to buy from foreign automakers with nonunionized workers. It could also put fresh stress on an economy that's been benefiting from easing inflation. The new negotiating tactic is the

brainchild of Fain, the first leader in the union's history to be elected directly by workers. In the past, outgoing leaders picked their replacements by choosing delegates to a convention.

But that system gave birth to a culture of bribery and embezzlement that ended with a federal investigation and prison time for two former UAW presidents. The combative Fain narrowly won his

post last spring with a fiery campaign against that culture, which he called "company-unionism," which he said sold out workers by allowing plant closures and failing to extract more money from

"We've been a one-party state for longer than I've been alive," Fain said while campaigning as an adversary to the com-



United Auto Workers member Brian Rooster Heppner raises his fist as he cheers during a rally in Detroit, Friday, Sept. 15. The UAW is conducting a strike against Ford, Stellantis and General Motors. (AP)

### Move aimed at distorting supply chain

## 'EU probe into Chinese EV exports is protectionist'

HONG KONG, Sept 16, (AP): China's Commerce Ministry has protested a decision by the European Union to investigate exports of Chinese electric vehicles, saying Thursday that it is a "protectionist" act aimed at distorting the supply chain.

The EU announced Wednesday it will probe government subsidies provided to Chinese automakers that the EU contends keep EV prices artificially low. China has become the biggest market for electric vehicles after investing billions in subsidies to gain an edge. Automakers like BYD and Geely have quickly gained market share after launching sales of EVs to Japan and Europe.
"What I want to emphasize is that the investigation measure that the European Union plans to take is to protect its own industry in the name of fair competition," Commerce Ministry spokesperson He Yadong said at a

briefing in Beijing. "It's naked protectionist behavior that will seriously disrupt and distort the global automotive industrial chain and supply chain including the European Union, and will have a negative impact on China-EU economic and trade relations," he said.

In a statement, the ministry urged the EU to create a "fair, non-discrim-

Biden's claim to being the most union-

The limited-strike strategy could have

ripple effects, GM CEO Mary Barra said

Many factories are reliant on each oth-

friendly president in American history.

Friday on CNBC.

inatory and predictable" market envi-

In China, EV prices start as low as 100,000 yuan (\$14,500) for a compact SUV with a 400-kilometer (250-mile) range on one charge.

Ōn Thursday, Čui Dongshu, head of the China Passenger Car Association, also opposed the investigation in comments written on his WeChat social

media account. "I personally firmly oppose the EU's evaluation of China's new energy vehicle exports, not because it has received huge state subsidies, but

because China's industrial chain is

highly competitive," Cui said.

Ford avoided bankruptcy protection. Many say it's time to get the concessions back because the companies are

er for parts, Barra said. "We've worked to have a very efficient manufacturing network, so yes, even one plant is going workers at joint-venture electric vehicle

to start to have impact. **Pensions** Even Fain has called the union's demands audacious, but he says the automakers are raking in billions and can af-

ford them. He scoffs at company claims that costly settlements would force them

In addition to the wage increases, union negotiators are also seeking: restoration of cost-of-living pay raises; an end to varying tiers of wages for factory jobs; a 32-hour week with 40 hours of pay; the restoration of traditional defined-benefit pensions for new hires who now receive only 401(k)-style retirement plans; and pension increases for retirees, among

Starting in 2007, workers gave up

making huge profits and CEOs pay packages are soaring. Looming in the background is the historic transition to electric vehicles. The union wants to make sure it represents

battery factories the companies are building so that members have jobs making vehicles of the future. Top-scale assembly plant workers make about \$32 per hour, plus large annual profit-sharing checks. Ford said average annual pay including overtime and

bonuses was \$78,000 last year. The Ford plant that's on strike employs about 3,300 workers. The Toledo Jeep complex has about 5.800 workers. and GM's Wentzville plant has about 3.600 workers.

The union didn't go after the companies' big cash cows, which are full-size pickup trucks and big SUVs.

Automakers say they're facing unprecedented demands as they develop and build new electric vehicles while at the same time making gas-powered cars, SUVs and trucks to pay the bills. They're worried labor costs will rise so much that they'll have to price their cars above those sold by foreign automakers with

David Green, a former local union leader elected to a regional director post this year, said it's time for a new way of bargaining. "The risks of not doing something different outweigh the risks of doing the same thing and expecting a different result," Green said. During his more than two-decade

panies rather than a business partner.

career at General Motors, Green saw the company close an assembly plant in Lordstown, Ohio, that employed 3,000 workers. The union agreed to a series concessions made to help the companies get through the Great Recession. "We've done nothing but slide backward for the last 20 years," Green said, calling Fain's strategy "refreshing."

Carlos Guajardo, who has worked at Ford for the past 35 years and was employed by GM for 11 years before that, said he likes the new strategy

"It keeps the strike fund lasting longer," said Guajardo, who was on the picket line in Michigan Friday before the

The strikes will likely chart the future of the union and of America's homegrown auto industry at a time when U.S. labor is flexing its might and the companies face a historic transition from building internal combustion automobiles to making electric vehicles.

The walkouts also will be an issue in next year's presidential election, testing

to raise vehicle prices, saying labor accounts for only 4% to 5% of vehicle costs.

other items.

cost-of-living raises and defined benefit pensions for new hires. Wage tiers were created as the UAW tried to help the companies avoid financial trouble ahead of and during the Great Recession. Even so, only

pares an appeal. The lower court order was to take effect Monday. Thursday's Supreme Court order delays the effective date until Sept. 22. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit have until Wednesday to file a response. À federal judge in north Louisiana

previously issued a sweeping order on July 4 that effectively blocked multiple government agencies from contacting platforms such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) to urge that content be removed.

A panel of three judges on the New Orleans-based 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals last week significantly whittled down that order, eliminating some defendants and cutting away language that prohibited mere encouragement of But the panel also said the ad-

ministration had likely brought

unconstitutional pressure on media platforms and it said officials cannot attempt to "coerce or significantly encourage" changes in online content.

The softened order still went too far, the administration said Thursday. The 5th Circuit ruling came "despite the absence of even a single instance in which an official paired a request to remove content with a threat of adverse action - and despite the fact that the platforms declined the officials' requests routinely and without conse-

The states of Missouri and Louisiana filed the lawsuit, along with a conservative website owner and four people opposed to the administration's COVID-19 policy. They accused administration officials of coercing platforms to take down content under the threat of possible antitrust actions or changes to federal law shielding them from lawsuits over their users' posts.

COVID-19 vaccines, the FBI's handling of a laptop that belonged to President Joe Biden's son, Hunter, and election fraud allegations were among the topics spotlighted in the lawsuit.

"Of course, the government cannot punish people for expressing different views," the brief said. "Nor can it threaten to punish the media or other intermediaries for disseminating disfavored speech. But there is a fundamental distinction between persuasion and

Paragon 28's first in the world 3D-printed Patient Specific Talus



Paragon 28 gets IDE nod for SMART Total Talus study

Paragon 28, Inc (NYSE: FNA), has announced they have received an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) approval from the FDA to commence a feasibility study for configurations of the SMART Total Talus™ System used in conjunction with the Paragon 28® APEX 3D™ Total Ankle Replacement System. The study is

expected to begin in early 2024. This milestone is an important achievement in the advancement of Paragon 28's SMART 28□ strategy, which targets to provide meaningful options to their surgeon customers and significantly improve patient outcomes. The

IDE of the SMART Total Talus adds to the company's existing Patient Specific Total Talus offering by expanding use of the technology as an option for prospective total ankle replacement candidates.

Paragon 28 acquired Additive Orthopaedics in June 2021, providing the Company with the first and only FDA approved Patient Specific Total Talus replacement for treatment of avascular necrosis (AVN). With approval of the IDE to support future regulatory applications, the company's SMART Total Talus is on the path to become the only device on the market intended

for talar replacement in the setting of adjacent

joint arthritis.
Paragon\_28's CEO, Albert DaCosta, commented, "The approval of this IDE study is another great example of our commitment to improve the lives of patients suffering from foot and ankle conditions, and it is an important advancement for our SMART 28 ecosystem and total ankle portfolio. We are very pleased that the FDA has recognized the potential benefits of expanding access of this technology to more ankle patients, and we are excited to get this IDE study underway." (AP)

### **Arcturus, CSL granted EU review for shot**

# ARCT-154 a longer lasting vaccine against pervasive COVID virus

SAN DIEGO, Sept 16: Arcturus Therapeutics Holdings Inc. (the "Company", "Arcturus", Nasdaq: ARCT), a global late-stage clinical messenger RNA medicines company focused on the development of infectious disease vaccines and opportunities within liver and respiratory rare diseases, and CSL (ASX:CSL), and its vaccine business, CSL Seqirus, one of the largest influenza vaccine providers in the world, has announced that the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has validated the marketing authorization application (MAA) for ARCT-154, a next generation mRNA vaccine, for active immunization to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 in individuals 18 years of age and older. The companies (Arcturus and CSL Seqirus) anticipate an approval decision by the European Commission in 2024. The EMA submission is based on successful Phase 3 clinical results of ARCT-154 against the ancestral D614G variant as a primary series and booster. In an analysis of 6-month data from the pivotal Phase 3 study, the primary effi-cacy endpoint was met and ARCT-154 as a primary series resulted in 56.6% efficacy for prevention of symptomatic COVID-19 overall, and 95.3% efficacy for prevention of severe COVID-19 including COVID-19 related deaths. The study was conducted when Delta variant was dominant in Vietnam. The booster data result was previously announced by CSL Seqirus' partner, Meiji Seika Pharma, indicating that the primary endpoint was achieved in a Phase 3 booster vaccine study by demonstrating non-inferiority of immune response against SARS-CoV-2 ancestral strain compared to Comirnaty®. Superiority of ARCT-154 in neutralizing antibody response against SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.4/5 variant was a key secondary endpoint.

### Development

"EMA acceptance of the marketing application for ARCT-154 represents another major achievement in the development of this innovative mRNA vaccine platform. This is also an important milestone for Arcturus and our global exclusive partner, CSL Seqirus, as we work towards achieving approval in Europe," said Joseph Payne, President & CEO of Arcturus Therapeutics. "ARCT-154 is expected to be efficiently updated as new variants of concern arise and has the potential to be a longer lasting against the pervasive and everchanging COVID virus.

"This pivotal regulatory milestone brings CSL one step closer to bringing innovative mRNA vaccines to Europe," said Emmanuelle Lecomte Brisset, Head of Global Regulatory Affairs at CSL. "We look forward to working with regulatory authorities to continue to advance how we protect public health.

Founded in 2013 and based in San Diego, California, Arcturus Therapeutics Holdings Inc. (Nasdaq: ARCT) is a global late-stage clinical mRNA medicines and vaccines company with enabling technologies: (i) LUNAR® lipid-mediated delivery, (ii) STARR® mRNA Technology (samRNA) and (iii) mRNA drug substance along with drug product manufacturing expertise. The Company has an ongoing exclusive global collaborative partnership for innovative mRNA vaccines with CSL Seqirus. The Company also has a joint venture with the Japanese CMO, AR-CALIS. Arcturus' pipeline includes RNA therapeutic candidates to potentially treat ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency and cystic fibrosis, along with its partnered innovative mRNA vaccine programs for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), influenza, pandemic preparedness and a range of other respiratory pathogens. Arcturus' versatile RNA therapeutics platforms can be applied toward multiple types of nucleic acid medicines including messenger RNA, small interfering RNA, circular RNA, antisense RNA, self-amplifying RNA, DNA, and gene editing therapeutics. Arcturus' technologies are covered by its extensive patent portfolio (patents and patent applications issued in the U.S., Europe, Japan, China, and other countries).

#### Prevent

CSL (ASX:CSL) (USOTC:CSLLY) is a global biotechnology company with a dynamic portfolio of lifesaving medicines, including those that treat haemophilia and immune deficiencies, vaccines to prevent influenza, and therapies in iron deficiency and nephrology. Since our start in 1916, we have been driven by our promise to save lives using the latest technologies.

KBI Biopharma, Inc. (KBI), a JSR Life Sciences company, has announced the launch of SUREmAb™, an offering built on the robustness of KBI's SUREtechnology Platform™, that allows for optimized, safe, and cost-efficient monoclonal antibody (mAb) development and manufactur-

ing.
SUREmAb is a vertically integrated global offering designed to minimize development timelines for global biopharmaceutical manufacturers, delivering research cell bank (RCB) development in as little as 9 weeks and the ability for customers to move from DNA to GMP drug substance in as few as 11 months. In addition, SUREmAb is engineered to achieve titers of up to 10 g/L with a lower-cost workflow to optimize operational efficiency and maximize ROI.

"SUREmAb represents not just the culmination of decades of biologics production expertise but our vision for KBI Chief Scientific Officer, Sigma Mostafa. "In an era where time, efficiency, and innovation converge, we're proud to introduce a platform that can not only accelerate the development journey but is high quality and cost-effective, from the start. At KBI, we believe in anticipating market shifts and pioneering solutions that address tomorrow's challenges today, and SUREmAb is a testament to that commitment.'

The operational consolidation of KBI Biopharma and Selexis, announced during BIO International 2023, played an important role in the operations that power the SUREmAb technology, enabling KBI to streamline processes and offer greater efficiencies in monoclonal antibody development and manufacturing.

Bad cholesterol contributes to development of disease

# **Genome variants and environment** impact cardiovascular disease risk

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, Sept 16: Scientists at deCODE genetics, a subsidiary of Amgen, and their collaborators from the Icelandic healthcare system and The Copenhagen University, publish a study in the journal Cell titled "Complex effects of sequence variants on lipid levels and coronary artery dis-

The work described in the paper is based on searching for variants in the genome that associate with variance in quantitative traits and the assumption that those variants must interact either with other variants or components of the environment.

It is well established that the "bad" cholesterol (also called non-HDL cholesterol and LDL cholesterol) directly contributes to the development of cardiovascular disease.

The environment and the genome both influence bad cholesterol and consequently cardiovascular health. This influence can be complex and intertwined. For example, drinking alcohol tends to increase bad cholesterol, but the study showed that carriers of a particular sequence variant that is known to slow down the metabolism of alcohol are protected against the negative effects of alcohol consumption on coronary artery disease. Carriers of a particular sequence variants that associate with liver fat are more susceptible to increases in bad cholesterol upon consumption of oily fish than non-carriers.

### Interact

Similarly, the authors show that variants in the genome interact with each other to affect cholesterol levels. The study demonstrates that homozygotes of the APOE2 allele that protects against risk of Alzheimer's disease risk are as likely to have high levels of bad cholesterol (noncholesterol) as non-carriers but have much fewer particles carrying the cholesterol (ÂpoB). These homozygotes are at similar risk of developing coronary artery disease as non-carriers, demonstrating that is the amount of bad cholesterol and not the number of bad cholesterol carrying particles that confers risk of disease. Furthermore, the authors show that blood group secretor status influences cholesterol levels and cardiovascular disease risk among individuals who are not in the A1 blood group, but has no influence among those in the A1 blood group.

These examples highlight the complex and fascinating ways in which the genome and the environment interact to affect health and demonstrate that a broad range of models are required for comprehensive understanding of the **Move offers benefits to customers** 

# Freudenberg 'innovates' with hypotube coating automation

16: Freudenberg Medical, a global CDMO for finished medical devices, components, and minimally invasive solutions, has amplified its production capacity by introducing an innovative coating process for hypotubes. By embracing automation, Freudenberg not only meets expanding customer requirements but also delivers marked improvements in operator health and safety, and environmental

Cardiovascular diseases stand as the paramount cause of death globally, representing a staggering 32% of global fatalities, per data from the World Health Organization. Metal hypotubes, pivotal in cardiac catheters, play a significant role in deploying stents, reopening constricted coronary arteries, and averting heart attacks. Current statistics indicate that in the US alone, over one million patients annually receive an implanted stent.

The core challenge lies in coating hypotubes, crafted from medical-grade metals, which requires the utmost precision during application and thermal curing. Freudenberg's latest automation initiative has significantly boosted energy efficiency, reduced material waste, and enhanced operator ergoand safety with turing and robotic handling.

The coating material and associated chemical use has been cut in half with A Freudenberg Medical operator in Galway initiating the automated coating process for hypotubes. the automated process. Enhanced au-

tomation encompasses multiple stages from handling and loading of hypotubes to automated thermal curing – all processes focused on precision, operator safety, and sustainability.

Sealing their commitment to continuous innovation and sustainability, Freudenberg Medical's Galway fac ity has recently received a nomination for the Freudenberg Group's "We All Take Care" award, celebrating advancements in the hypotube manufacturing process. Steven Langan, General Manager, stated, "In line with Freudenberg's enduring commitment to innovation and sustainability, we are thrilled to roll out our cutting-edge automated hypotube coating process. This strategic move not only offers substantial benefits to our co and a safer workplace for our staff but also considerably diminishes our environmental impact.

genetics of human diseases. 

Agilent Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: A) and Exact Sciences Corp. (Nasdaq: EXAS), a leading provider of cancer screening and diagnostic tests, has announced they have entered into a definitive agreement for the sale of Resolution Bioscience to Exact Sciences. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed and are not material to

either party. "We are pleased that Exact Sciences is acquiring Resolution Bioscience," said Sam Raha, senior vice president, Agi-

lent, and president, Diagnostics and Genomics Group. "Exact is a leading centralized laboratory for advanced cancer diagnostic testing with significant capabilities and resources in this area, which makes Resolution Bioscience a strategic fit for them. This agreement will enable the talented Resolution Bioscience team to continue their work advancing diagnostic solutions for their customers and patients, a very positive outcome of this transaction."

"We are excited to work with the Resolution Bioscience team to integrate their innovative diagnostics into our Precision Oncology portfolio," said Brian Baranick, general manager of Precision Oncology at Exact Sciences. "Resolution Bioscience's high-quality liquid therapy selection platform perfectly complements our OncoExTra test, allowing Exact Sciences to help more cancer patients determine their best treatment options.

Resolution Bioscience develops and commercializes next-generation sequencing-based precision oncology solutions. Agilent acquired the company in 2021.







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# Kelly welcomes Trump for interview 8 years after debate clash

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): When Donald Trump sat down with Megyn Kelly for a satellite radio interview that aired on Thursday, it was a long way - in time and circumstance - from their most memorable encounter in the summer of 2015.

That was when Kelly, then a Fox News star, infuriated the future president at a GOP debate with a question about his treatment of women. He bitterly attacked her after the debate, and his supporters joined in, leaving her worried about threats.

Kelly, who later worked at NBC News, is now resurrecting her career as a journalist-commentator, with a podcast that was picked up as a two-hour weekday show on SiriusXM satellite radio. Sirius last week announced it had signed Kelly to a deal that extends through the 2024 election and beyond.

Do the bad feelings linger?

"All that nonsense between us," Kelly said this summer, "is under

It seemed that way through the mostly friendly, occasionally chal-It seemed that way through the mostly mentally, occasionally charlenging interview taped this week at Trump's Bedminster, New Jersey, home. There was only a brief, quickly brushed aside mention of that moment during the debate eight years ago.

"That was a bad question," Trump said in the interview.

"That was a great question," Kelly responded.

"No, it was a nasty question," he said.
"It was awesome," Kelly said before quickly pivoting to tell him, "You handled it well. Your poll numbers went up. Let's move past that."

A startling 24 million people tuned in to Fox in August 2015 for the first Republican primary debate of the 2016 election season.

Setting up one of her questions as a moderator, Kelly said to Trump, "You've called women you don't like fat pigs, dogs, slobs and disgust-

Trump interrupted with what he hoped would be a laugh line. "Only Rosie O'Donnell," he said.

Kelly pressed on. "For the record, it was more than Rosie O'Donnell," she said. "Your Twitter account has several disparaging comments about women's looks. You once told a contestant on 'Celebrity Apprentice' it would be a pretty picture to see her on her knees. Does that sound to you like the temperament of a man we should elect as president?

After the debate, in the middle of the night, Trump began going after Kelly on Twitter and later in interviews, including one on CNN in which he said, "You can see there was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever.'

#### **Boycotted**

Trump later boycotted another debate telecast by Fox because Kelly was one of the moderators. Fox News chief Roger Ailes called on Trump to apologize, although Kelly said in a later interview that Ailes was reluctant to fight back against attacks on Kelly by the Breitbart website for fear of alienating Fox's audience.

It was a rough time.

"It's not that I'm worried that somebody is going to shoot me down," Kelly later said in an interview with CBS News. "But I do worry that somebody is going to try to hurt me in the presence of my children.' Kelly left Fox for NBC News, an ill fit where she was taken off the air following an uproar when she suggested that it was OK for white people to wear blackface on Halloween. NBC and Kelly negotiated a divorce agreement in January 2019, in the second year of a three-year

Kelly went into business for herself, starting a podcast in September 2020. A year later, SiriusXM picked up her show, and video began be-

ing shown on YouTube. She has built her show into one of the highest-ranked in Chartable's list of news podcasts. She has also had 2024 presidential candidates Ron DeSantis, Vivek Ramaswamy, Nikki Haley, Tim Scott, Chris Christie and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on her show.

Some of her questions to Trump in the interview airing Thursday were friendly, like when she said, "Can you believe they never put (former first lady Melania Trump) on the cover of Vogue? They put (White House press secretary) Karine Jean-Pierre there.

She challenged Trump at a number of points, such as why he didn't end birthright citizenship when he was president and why he didn't remove COVID-era medical adviser Anthony Fauci, a villain to many conservatives, from his job.

She asked him about complying with a subpoena in the documents case against him.

"This is very scary for you," she said. "You're facing left-wing judges. You're facing some likely left-wing juries, at least three out of four. There is a realistic chance of you going to prison. Can you see that happening?

Kelly was notably silent, however, when Trump made false accusations about "a lot of fake ballots" in the 2020 presidential election.

### **Variety**



This image released by the Toronto International Film Festival shows a scene from the film 'Les Indésirables.' (AP)

Film

by all they've left behind. Their home. The dogs they

"In the Rearview," which documents several hundred

"I come from an aristocratic family," one woman

As the Toronto International Film Festival winds

down after a week of wall-to-wall premieres, on screen

there has been no more fraught turf than the land that

families try to eke out a life on, amid geopolitical

who took filmmaker Maciek Hamela's van out of eastern

Ukraine in the first month of Russia's attacks, movingly

condenses a mass migration into a four-door flight.

says in the film. "Now I am just a traveling frog.

set loose. Their cow, Beauty.

"She cried as we left," a child says.

Stories about land and immigrant crises resonate

# On TIFF screens, home is a battleground

27 years and two children.
"We have been blessed to share almost 3 decades together as husband and wife in a wonderful,

**NEW YORK:** Hugh Jackman

loving marriage. Our journey now is shifting and we have decided to separate to pursue our individual growth," they said in the joint statement. Their separation was first reported by People magazine.

be their only one on their breakup. They added that their family is their highest priority and that they'll undertake "this next chapter with gratitude, love, and kindness."

confirmed the statement to The

Associated Press Friday.
The couple met in 1995 on the set of an Australian television show where both were actors. Deborra-lee Furness at the time was the more established of the two. They married in 1996 and had two children: Oscar, now 23, and Ava, now 18. Jackman also ascended to major stardom in Hol-

The couple have been red carpet mainstays for years, posing together at the Oscars, at Broadway events and at the Met Gala, including the most recent edition in May. They attended Wimbledon

their 27th anniversary with a

we have created a beautiful family And life," he wrote. "Your laughter, your spirit, generosity, humor, cheekiness, courage and loyalty is an incredible gift to me.'

orphans and adoption, especially in her native Australia, and one of the founding members of National Adoption Awareness Week.

Jackman, 54, who played the superhero Wolverine in several movies, is reprising the role in "Deadpool 3," which is on hold due to the actors strike. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Contract talks ers strike are set to resume next

week, studios said Thursday. The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents the industry's studios,

TORONTO, Sept 16, (AP): Three generations of a Ukrainian family sit in a van in the documentary "In the Rearview." They stare straightforward, staggered

They said the statement would

A representative for the couple

together in July.

In April, Jackman celebrated

"I love you so much. Together

Furness, 67, is an advocate for

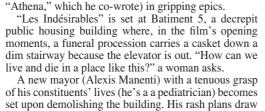
that could end Hollywood's writ-

and Deborra-lee Jackman have decided to end their marriage after

storms knocking on the front door. The biggest battleground isn't just a war zone but the home. In the dystopian Korean thriller "Concrete Utopia," directed by Um Tae-hwa, an earthquake destroys everything in Seoul - except for one high-rise apartment complex. Um, who made the film - a hit in South Korea - amid skyrocketing housing prices, follows the increasingly grim and fearful decision-making of the lywood and on Broadway. building's leadership, led by its elected delegate (Lee Byung-Hun). Surrounded by ruins and desperate sur-

vivors, the building's "residents only" policy is carried out to dark extremes A tower block also looms at the center of Ladj Ly's "Les Indésirables." Ly, born and raised in the immigrant suburbs of Paris known as the banlieues, has cast potent tales of urban uprising and police oppression (his Oscar-nominated first feature "Les Misérables," and

tribute on Instagram.



the protests of a young woman (Anta Diaw) who finds

housing for immigrants and who, herself, lives in Bati-

ment 5. The building, under amped-up pressure from the police, becomes a concrete front in its residents' stifled struggle to build a life in France.

Such stories perhaps resonate especially at TIFF. Before each screening runs a video message narrated by festival CEO Cameron Bailey, thanking Ontario's native tribes for use of the land the festival takes place on. In recent years, Canada has reckoned with its past treatment of Indigenous people, including heinous sterilization programs and forced-schooling systems.

Against that backdrop, Taika Waititi premiered his 'Next Goal Wins," a crowd-pleasing sports comedy about a woeful America Samoa soccer team, with a personal introduction and welcome from an Indigenous family. Waititi, the charismatic Maori director, took a moment to make a serious point in between an impromptu boxing match with the lectern microphone.

### Highlights

"Coming to New Zealand, being Maori, we don't see enough of ourselves on screen," Waititi said. "Growing up we often didn't see ourselves on screen and I'm very proud of where I come from.

Toronto, an omnibus of fall films, awards contenders and international highlights, was diminished from its usual frenzy this year due to the dual strike by the actors and screenwriters guilds. Few stars attended and the buzz was notably lesser around the festival's string of theaters on King Street.

The strikes, which have carried on from summer into fall, reached an inflection point in July when an anonymous studio executive was quoted by Deadline saying: "The endgame is to allow things to drag on until union members start losing their apartments and losing their

Hollywood's awards season got off to a muted start at TIFF, which wraps Sunday. Some of the most acclaimed films of the fall festivals - Yorgos Lanthimos' Venice-winner "Poor Things," Andrew Haigh's "All of Us Strangers" - also skipped Toronto, leaving a small

but noticeable vacuum of top movies in the lineup. There were still undoubtably many high points, among them Cord Jefferson's thrillingly sardonic comedy "American Fiction," with Jeffrey Wright as a bitter author; Hayao Miyazaki's poignant maybe-swan-songmaybe-not "The Boy and the Heron," as boundlessly imaginative as anything Miyazaki made as a younger man; and Alexander Payne's "The Holdovers," a richly humanist '70s-set tale about three disparate people (Paul Giamatti, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Dominic Sessa - all tremendous) with essentially no home to go to over

Christmas break at a New England boarding school. But it was striking how many filmmakers approached stories where larger forces - war, institutional racism, climate change - bring new pressures to bear on the basic necessities of life, shaping who has land and who

That was true in not just films about the migrant crisis, like Agnieszka Holland's "The Green Border," a drama about Syrian refugees along the Belarus-Poland border; Kasia Smutniak's "Walls," a documentary focused on similar territory - but something like Raoul Peck's "Silver Dollar Road." The veteran Haitian documentary filmmaker of the James Baldwin film "I Am Not Your Negro" details the Reels family's decadeslong fight to keep ownership of their 62-acre property on the North Carolina coast.

After generations of ownership of land purchased in the post-slavery Reconstruction era, the Reels find themselves under siege from developers through thorny legal processes, ultimately leading to the jailing of two family members - the brothers Melvin and Licurtis Reels - for trespassing on the land they grew up on.

Peck puts their story in the context of Black ownership, opening with the 1865 encounter between Union general William Tecumseh Sherman and 20 Black ministers in Georgia. Asked what they need, Rev. Garrison Frazier replies: "The way we can best take care of ourselves is to have land, and turn it and till it by our own labor."

In "Zone of Interest," filmmaker Jonathan Glazer chooses a particularly sinister home setting to contemplate the human capacity to compartmentalize violence. Rudolf Höss (Christian Friedel), and his wife Hedwig (Sandra Hüller) have achieved a kind of domestic bliss at a sickening cost. Glazer, who initially focuses on the harmony of their well-ordered home, reveals that Auschwitz lies next door; the Höss' dream life is built on the mass murder of Jews.

streaming services and production companies in union negotiations, said in a statement that they had reached out to the Writers Guild of America on Wednesday and the two sides agreed to resume negotiations next week.

Leaders are still working out the details, the statement said, and no further specifics were provided.



Deborra-lee

"Every member company of the AMPTP is committed and eager to reach a fair deal, and to working together with the WGA to end the strike," the statement said.

There are no talks yet planned to settle the actors strike. Writers have been on strike for

4 1/2 months over issues including pay, job security and regulating

the use of artificial intelligence. A previous attempt to restart talks fell flat. The two sides had a handful of meetings in mid-August, including one that included

Warner Bros. Discovery. But writers said that after exchanging contract proposals, "they were met with a lecture about

the heads of Disney, Netflix and

how good their single and only counteroffer was," and the talks trailed off. California lawmakers on Thurs-

day voted to allow striking workers to claim unemployment benefits. If signed by Newsom, the bill would benefit Southern California hotel workers along with the striking actors and screenwriters. (AP)

### People & Places

### **Books**

### **Big Tech targeted**

### Ishiguro's next book is collection of lyrics

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): Nobel laureate Kazuo **Ishiguro**'s next book will be one for music lovers.

Alfred A. Knopf announced Thursday that Ishiguro's "The Summer We Crossed Europe in the Rain, coming out March 5, is a collection of lyrics written for the million-selling jazz singer Stacey Kent. Ishiguro and Kent are longtime friends and collaborators; Ishiguro wrote lyrics for a handful of songs on Kent's "Breakfast on the Morning Tram," which in 2009 received a Grammy nomination for best jazz vocal album, and also contributed to such Kent albums as "Dreamer in Concert" and "I Know I Dream."

"I've built a reputation over the years as a writer of stories, but I started out writing songs," Ishiguro, best known for such novels as "The Remains of the Day' and "Never Let Me Go," said

in a statement Thursday.

The book combines older compositions dating back to 2007 and four "cinema' works for an upcoming project with Kent. "The Summer We Crossed Europe in the Rain" also includes an introduction by Ishiguro, illustrations by the Italian artist Bianca Bagnarelli and a QR code that links to an album of Kent performing

songs by the author. "Kazuo Ishiguro has often said that he views the songwriting he did in his youth as an apprenticeship for his work as a novelist, and in this beguiling book of lyrics for the American jazz musician Stacy Kent one feels a variation on the haunting sorrow and hopefulness that echo through each of his novels," Knopf Senior Vice President and Editor-in-Chief Jordan Pavlin said in a statement.

As a leading blogger in the pre-Substack era, novelist and public-interest technologist Cory Doctorow often warned that Big Tech was rendering of cyberspace a polluted, dystopian, crassly commercial and often hostile world of limited options.

Now it's happened. Facebook, Instagram and other walled fiefdoms of surveillance capitalism distract discourse with scrolls of targeted ads and trending video reels. More genteel competitors were long ago muscled out.

Hateful trolls, violent speech and addictive algorithms thrive. And when a user account is mistakenly or unjustly shuttered, platform automation means the aggrieved will encounter callous indifference. It's gotten to where anti-Big Tech initiatives enjoy bipartisan backing in an otherwise teetering US democracy.

"There is no fixing Big Tech," Doctorow, who blogged for years on the website "Boing Boing," writes in his new book "The Internet Con: How To Seize The Means of Computation." The breezily written 173-page manifesto is for people who want to de-

Doctorow is adamant that no one be allowed to wield as much power as Mark Zuckerberg, who he deems a "feudal warlord" of middling intellect. "We don't need a better Zuck. We need to abolish Zuck."

He singles out Google, Facebook ("which bizarrely insists that it is called 'Meta'") and Apple in particular for robbing us of choice - of the ability to pick up and relocate from the online spaces where we commune with friends, relatives and colleagues.

How did these megacorporations do it? With behavior that would have been deemed illegal in other times, and with lawyers and lobbyists who got them laws like the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act. It effectively criminalizes the invention of competing products.

Doctorow shows how such laws have let HP and Epson make us purchase overpriced printer ink. They're what let auto dealerships and John Deere elbow independent mechanics out of the car and tractor repair business.

And they're what discourage the kind of reverseengineering that allows competitors to create products that can seamlessly converse with, say, Facebook Messenger or Apple's iMessage.

Imagine if you could chat online with all your friends, nevermind which messenger service, operating system or device they use. Such a world actually existed - this grizzled tech journalist can attest - before Generation Z landed in maternity wards.

A few apps such as Pidgin still cling to that model of open-platform engineering. It's enabled by what's called "interoperability," something the European Union is demanding Big Tech revert to next year under its Digital Markets Act.

Back in the day "if you had an account on Yahoo Messenger, AIM and Skype, Pidgin could let you manage them all from one app." And it had its own super-secure encryption to protect your digital interactions from prying eyes.

A simple, well-crafted vision of a more civil, civicminded online life - peppered with selected sad tales of the human cost of Big Tech greed - make for an illuminating read. Not least because Doctorow, an accomplished novelist and longtime former activist with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, lays out a plan of action.

Vanquishing Big Tech and restoring "adversarial interoperability" - what the EFF calls "competitive compatibility" - will take political will and, above all, technical competence.

There's no taking back the internet without the kind of knowledge Doctorow imparts.

**NEW YORK:** Historical novels by Jayne Anne Phillips and Paul Harding and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's dystopian prison novel "Chain-Gang All-Stars" are among the nominees on the National Book Awards long list for fiction.

Phillips, a former National Book Award finalist, was cited for "Night Watch," and Harding, a Pulitzer Prize winner, was nominated for "The Other Eden."

The 10 fiction titles announced Friday by the National Book Foundation also include Mona Susan Power's multigenerational "A Council of Dolls, Eliot Duncan's coming-of-age novel "Ponyboy," and two other historical works: **Hanna Pylväinen**'s "The End of Drum-Time" and **Tania James**'s "Loot."

The other nominees are Justin Torres' "Blackout," his first novel since his acclaimed debut "We the Animals" was published more than a decade ago, and a pair of story collections: Aaliyah Bilal's "Temple Folk" and LaToya Watkins' "Holler, Child."

Some of the year's most highly praised and anticipated fiction releases were left off the list, including former National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward's upcoming "Let Us Descend," former National Book Award winner James McBride's "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," former National Book Award finalist Lauren Groff's "The Vaster Wilds" and former National Book Award finalist Jamel Brinkley's "Witness."





### THE SUMMER WE CROSSED EUROPE IN THE RAIN

Lyrics for Stacey Kent

This cover image released by Alfred A. Knopf shows 'The Summer We Crossed Europe in the Rain,' by Nobel laureate Kazuo Ishiguro. (AP)

Eno Ichikawa attends a press con-

ference in Tokyo, Japan, Sept 2011.

Ichikawa, who revived the spectacu-

lar in Japanese Kabuki theater to woo

died. He was 83. (AP)

**Variety** 

LOS ANGELES: Ashton Kutcher has

resigned as chairman of the board of an

anti-child sex abuse organization that he

wrote letters seeking leniency for their

victed rapist, Danny Masterson

day, the group said in a statement.

co-founded, after he and wife Mila Kunis

former "That '70s Show" co-star and con-

Kutcher stepped down from the board

of Thorn, an organization he founded with

then-wife Demi Moore in 2009, on Thurs-

of listening, personal reflection, learning,

and conversations with survivors and the

employees and leadership at Thorn, I have

determined the responsible thing for me to

do is resign as Chairman of the Board, ef-

fectively immediately," Kutcher wrote in a

letter to the board. "I cannot allow my error

in judgment to distract from our efforts and

A Los Angeles judge sentenced Master-

son to 30 years to life in prison on Sept. 7.

The actor was convicted in May of raping

two women in 2003, when he was starring

The day after the sentencing, letters to

on the Fox retro sitcom "That '70s Show

the judge from Kutcher, Kunis and many

others were made public. In Kutcher's, he

called Masterson a man who in his experi-

Kutcher and Kunis apologized the next

day in an Instagram video for writing the

letters, which Kutcher said "were intended

for the judge to read and not to undermine

the testimony of the victims or retraumatize

Kutcher said in his resignation letter,

offered "my heartfelt apology to all victims

of sexual violence and everyone at Thorn

**NEW YORK:** A man accused of repeat-

edly stalking celebrities has been arrested

for barging into a dressing room at a New

he wanted to marry actor Emma Watson,

rymore, pleaded not guilty Saturday to

criminal trespass and disorderly conduct

Ralph Lauren show at the Brooklyn Navy

next court date is Oct 2. A message seeking

According to prosecutors, Busto entered

the fashion show dressing room Friday night and screamed: "I want to marry Emma

Watson. Let me speak to Emma Watson. Let

me take a photo with Emma Watson.'

comment was left with a lawyer listed for

Busto, 43, was released without bail. His

charges in the incident last week at the

York City fashion show and screaming that

Chad Michael Busto, who was arrested last month after a run-in with Drew Bar-

who I hurt by what I did." (AP)

first reported by Time magazine, that he

ence had treated people "with decency,

the children we serve.

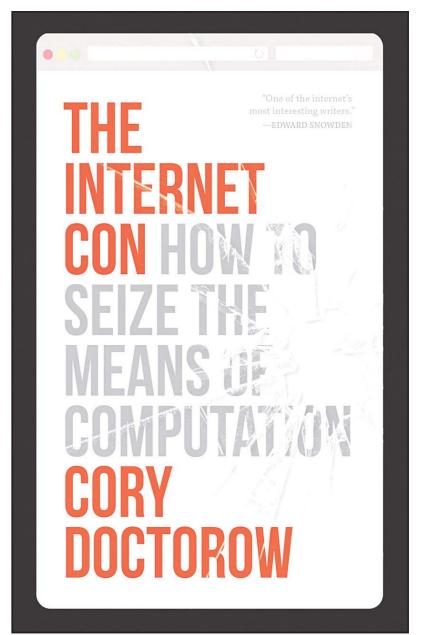
with Kutcher and Kunis.

equality, and generosity.'

them in any way.'

authorities said.

"After my wife and I spent several days



This cover image released by Verso shows 'The Internet Con: How to Seize the Means of Computation' by Cory Doctorow. (AP)



# **Tony Award-winner McGrath mourned** Kabuki theater actor Ichikawa dies

TOKYO, Sept 16, (AP): Eno Ichikawa, who revived the spectacular in Japanese Kabuki theater to woo younger and

global audiences, has died. He was 83. Ichikawa died after suffering heart problems on Wednesday in Tokyo, the entertainment company Shochiku Co., a major Kabuki producer, said Satur-

Ichikawa, or Masahiko Kinoshi, became known for "Super Kabuki," incorporating modern music and storytelling as well as the circus-like elements of the tradition — such as "flying" supported by ropes — that had been discarded over the years. He focused on what he called the three S's: 'Speed, story and spectacle.'

Kabuki, which features live music and dance on a revolving stage, originated in the 17th Century Edo era and is traditionally performed only by men. So, Ichikawa played beautiful damsels, as well as witches, samurai and even animals throughout his career.

### **Translate**

He is best known for bringing back the stunt "chunori," which translates as "lifted into space," portraying a joyous fox that receives from a princess a small drum made from the hide of its slaughtered parents.

Ichikawa was listed in the Guinness World Records in 2000 for having "flown across the stage and audience for 5,000 performances since April 1968."

Hailed as "the rebel in Kabuki" by Japanese media. Ichikawa also created new works. "Yamato Takeru," based on Japanese mythology and centered on a prince who battles evil forces. debuted in 1986. At the end, the hero transforms into a magnificent white bird that flies through the theater.

Ichikawa not only collaborated with modern writers and composers but also recruited and trained people outside the Kabuki families as actors. That had been unheard of, although such collaborations are routine now due to Ichikawa's efforts.

After he divorced from actress Yuko Hama, Ichikawa became estranged from his son, Teruyuki Kagawa, a well-known actor in movies and TV shows. They later reunited, and Kagawa took up Kabuki as Chusha Ichikawa when he was in his 40s. Most Kabuki actors start as children, learning the art that is passed down from grandfather to father to son.

"He was an actor who devoted his life to blazing new trails, always with a heart that aspired to fly to the heavens, no matter the obstacles," Kagawa said in a statement.

"He was truly blessed to have been loved by so many people and for giving his all to his own Kabuki Way. Kagawa's son Danko has now start-

ed acting in Kabuki and is on track to

was asked to leave and refused to do so, police said. The outburst disrupted preparations for the event, part of the biannual

starring roles in the "Harry Potter" and live action "Beauty and the Beast" films, attended the fashion show. A message seeking comment was left with her representatives. Last month, a man identifying himself as

# **Colombian painter & sculptor** Fernando Botero dies aged 91

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 16, (AP): Renowned Colombian painter and sculptor Fernando Botero, whose depictions of people and objects in plump, exaggerated forms became emblems of Colombian art around

the world, has died. He was 91. Lina Botero told the Colombian radio station Caracol that her father died Friday morning in Monaco of pneumonia complications.

Botero depicted politicians, animals, saints, and scenes from his childhood in an inflated and colorful form that was instantly recognizable. During his lifetime the artist attained global fame and influence, despite his humble origins, and his paintings were exhibited in museums globally, while his imposing bronze sculptures can be found in the parks and avenues of many European and Latin American capitals.

"His success was truly immense" Botero's son Juan Carlos, wrote in a biography of his father, published in 2010. "Fernando Botero has created a unique style, that is original and easy to recognize.

Botero's paintings fetched millions of dollars at international auctions, and the artist was highly esteemed in his native Colombia, not just because of his success abroad, but due to the generous donations he made to his home country, including 23 statues, that are now in a park in downtown Medellin, and have become one of the city's most visited attractions.

Botero also donated 180 paint-

inherit the family roles. "There was so much more I wanted to learn from my grandfather," Danko said. "I vow to keep doing my best, never

forgetting the drive to soar above and

the power to dream that he so treasured," he added. Ichikawa continued to act even after suffering a stroke in 2003, delivering his final performance in 2013. He has

been honored with numerous cultural prizes, including from the Japanese and French governments. Tragedy struck Ichikawa's family earlier this year when his brother and fellow Kabuki actor Danshiro Ichikawa and his wife died in an apparent triplesuicide attempt. Their son, Ennosuke

face trial over the deaths. A public memorial for Ichikawa is being planned for a later date, following family services, according to

Ichikawa, whose attempt failed, is set to

ings to Colombia's Central Bank which were used to create the Botero Museum in Bogota.

Many Colombians appreciated Botero's art because it evokes nostalgia for the country as it was in the early 20th century. His characters wear bowler hats, and sport neatly trimmed mustaches. They move around in a colorful universe of green hills and lush trees, where homes are made with clay roof tiles.

"The painter of our traditions and our defects, the painter of our virtues has died," President Gustavo Petro wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, on Friday. "He painted violence and peace. He painted the pigeon that was rejected one thousand times, and put one thousand times on a throne.

Botero was born on April 19, 1932 in Medellín, Colombia. As a child he was enrolled by an uncle in a bullfighting school that he soon left, but it was a world captured later in his paintings. Botero decided at age 14 to dedicate his life to the arts, after managing to sell some sketches of bullfights to fans outside the city's bullfighting arena. His mother supported the decision, but told him he would have to pay for his studies.

As a teenager, Botero participated in a group exhibition in Bogota. and had his first individual exhibition there in 1951. In the following year, he went to Madrid to study at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando.

Shochiku.

### Also:

NEW YORK: Michael McGrath, a Broadway character actor who shined in zany, feel-good musicals and won a Tony Award for "Nice Work If You Can Get It," has died. He was 65. McGrath died Thursday at his home

in Bloomfield, New Jersey, said his publicist, Lisa Goldberg. No other details were announced.

"Michael McGrath was as wonderful offstage as he was on," wrote Michael Urie in tribute. "Adorable, mischievous, brilliant. His loss cuts deep, but I will continue to take everything he taught me wherever I go.

McGrath was in over a dozen Broadway shows including "Plaza Suite," "She Loves Me," "Tootsie" and "Spamalot" as well as on television as the sidekick to Martin Short on "The Martin Short Show.

Busto did not have permission to be at the fashion show, became irate when he New York Fashion Week, prosecutors said. It wasn't clear if Watson, known for







Busto rushed a Manhattan stage where Barrymore was interviewing singer and actor Reneé Rapp. Rapp helped guide Barrymore to safety and security guards escorted the man out of the theater.

Days later, Busto was arrested in the Hamptons and charged with stalking after police say he was spotted going door-todoor asking for directions to Barrymore's home. The "Scream" actor and "Drew Barrymore Show" TV host was not there at the time. (AP)



### **Science**

### **Scientists call fraud**

### NASA urges more study & less stigma on UFOs

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 16, (AP): NASA said Thursday that the study of UFOs will require new scientific techniques, including advanced satellites as well as a shift in how unidentified flying objects are perceived.

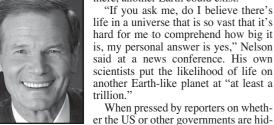
The space agency released the findings after a yearlong study into UFOs.

In its 33-page report, an independent team commissioned by NASA cautioned that the negative perception surrounding UFOs poses an obstacle to collecting data. But officials said NASA's involvement should help reduce the stigma around

what it calls UAPs, or unidentified anomalous phenomena.
"We want to shift the conversation about UAPs from sensationalism to science," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said. He promised an open and transparent approach.

Officials stressed the panel found no evidence that UAPs had extraterrestrial origin. But Nelson acknowledged with bil-

lions of stars in billions of galaxies out there, another Earth could exist.



ing aliens or otherworldly spaceships, Nelson

Nelson said: "Show me the evidence." NASA has said it doesn't actively search for unexplained sightings. But it operates a fleet of Earth-circling spacecraft that can help determine, for example, whether weather is behind a strange event.

The 16-member panel noted that artificial intelligence and machine learning are essential for identifying rare occurrences, including UFOs

NASA recently appointed a director of UAP research, but refused to divulge his identity at Thursday morning's news conference in hopes of avoiding the threats and harassment faced by panel members during the study.

Eight hours later, however, NASA said it's Mark McInerney, who previously served as a liaison on the subject of UAPs between the space agency and the Defense Department. He's also worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Hurricane Center.

No top-secret files were accessed by the panel's scientists, aviation and artificial intelligence experts, and retired NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, the first American to spend nearly a year in space. Instead, the group relied on unclassified data in an attempt to better understand unexplained sightings in the sky.

Officials said there are so few high-quality observations that no scientific conclusions can be drawn. Most events can be attributed to planes, drones, balloons or weather conditions, said panel chairman David Spergel, president of the Simons Foundation, a scientific research group.

The government refers to unexplained sightings as UAPs versus UFOs. NASA defines them as observations in the sky or elsewhere that cannot be readily identified or scientifically

The study was launched a year ago and cost under \$100,000. Meanwhile, supposed aliens landed in Mexico's Congress but there were no saucer-shaped UFOs hovering over the historic building or bright green invaders like those seen in Hol-

The specter of little green men visited Mexico City as lawmakers heard testimony Tuesday from individuals suggesting the possibility that extraterrestrials might exist. The researchers hailed from Mexico, the United States, Japan and Brazil.

The session, unprecedented in the Mexican Congress, took place two months after a similar one before the U.S. Congress in which a former US Air Force intelligence officer claimed his country has probably been aware of "non-human" activity since the 1930s.

Mexican journalist José Jaime Maussan presented two boxes with supposed mummies found in Peru, which he and others consider "non-human beings that are not part of our terrestrial

The shriveled bodies with shrunken, warped heads left those in the chamber aghast and quickly kicked up a social media

"It's the queen of all evidence," Maussan claimed. "That is, if the DNA is showing us that they are non-human beings and that there is nothing that looks like this in the world, we should

But he warned that he didn't want to refer to them as "extraterrestrials" just yet.

The apparently desiccated bodies date back to 2017 and were found deep underground in the sandy Peruvian coastal desert of Nazca. The area is known for gigantic enigmatic figures scraped into the earth and seen only from a birds-eyeview. Most attribute the Nazca Lines to ancient indigenous communities, but the formations have captured the imagina-

In 2017, Maussan made similar claims in Peru, and a report by the country's prosecutor's office found that the bodies were actually "recently manufactured dolls, which have been covered with a mixture of paper and synthetic glue to simulate the presence of skin."

### **Aliens**

The report added that the figures were almost certainly human-made and that "they are not the remains of ancestral aliens that they have tried to present". The bodies were not publicly unveiled at the time, so it is unclear if they are the same as those presented to Mexico's congress.

On Wednesday, Julieta Fierro, researcher at the Institute of Astronomy at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, was among those to express skepticism, saying that many details about the figures "made no sense."

Fierro added that the researchers' claims that her university endorsed their supposed discovery were false, and noted that scientists would need more advanced technology than the Xrays they claimed to use to determine if the allegedly calcified bodies were "non-human".

"Maussan has done many things. He says he has talked to the Virgin of Guadalupe," she said. "He told me extraterrestrials do not talk to me like they talk to him because I don't

The scientist added that it seemed strange that they extracted what would surely be a "treasure of the nation" from Peru without inviting the Peruvian ambassador.

Congressman Sergio Gutiérrez Luna of the ruling Morena party, made it clear that Congress has not taken a position on the theses put forward during the more than three-hour session.

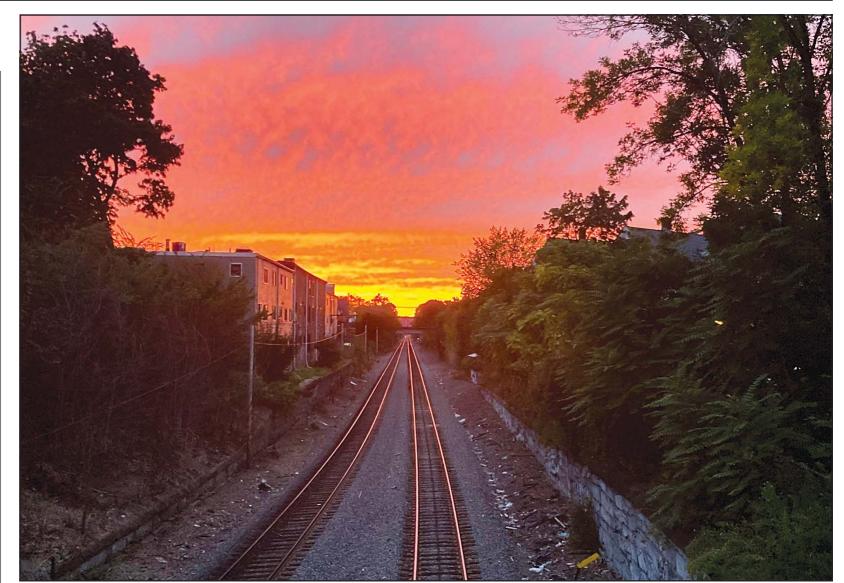
Believing or not was up to each member of the legislative body, but those who testified had to swear an oath to tell the

Gutiérrez Luna stressed the importance of listening to "all voices, all opinions" and said it was positive that there was a transparent dialogue on the issue of extraterrestrials.

In the US in July, retired Maj. David Grusch alleged that the US is concealing a longstanding program that retrieves and reverse engineers unidentified flying objects. The Pentagon has

Grusch's highly anticipated testimony before a House Oversight subcommittee was the US Congress' latest foray into the world of UAPs - or "unidentified aerial phenomena," which is the official term the US government uses instead of UFOs.

Democrats and Republicans in recent years have pushed for more research as a national security matter due to concerns that sightings observed by pilots may be tied to US adversar-



The sun sets Friday, Sept. 15, in Cambridge, Mass., ahead of expected stormy weather as the region prepares for the anticipated arrival of Hurricane Lee. (AP)



This Wednesday, Sept. 6 image, provided by the Irvine Police Department shows a pit bull puppy that California police believe got into its owners' fentanyl stash. The photo was taken after an overdose-reversing drug was administered. The puppy is recovering. The dog's owners, a man and a woman, were arrested and could face charges including drug possession and animal cruelty, according to the

Irvine Police Department. (AP)

Braverman

Moreno

Andalusia region to expand park: The government of Spain's southern Andalusia region plans to expand a prized national park that is home to one of Europe's largest wetlands but is in danger of drying up.

Discovery

Andalusia's regional president Juan Moreno announced his administration's plan to allow the Doñana park to annex some 7,500 hectares (18,500 acres) that it plans to purchase from a private owner for 70 million euros (\$75 million).

Doñana currently covers 74,000 hectares (182,000 acres) on an estuary where the Guadalquivir River meets the Atlantic Ocean on Spain's southern coast. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, Doñana is a wintering site for half a million waterfowl and a stopover spot for millions more birds that migrate from Africa to northern Europe.

Ecologists working in and near the park have alerted that its ecosystem made up of marshes and lagoons is at risk due to the strain on its underlying aquifer caused by agriculture and tourism. That has been made worse by climate change and a long drought, along with record-high temperatures.

However, Andalusia's regional government also has plans in the works since last year to extend irrigation rights for farmers near the park, a move that UNESCO, Spain's central government and ecologists have criticized for putting more pressure on the aquifer. Spain's Ecological Transition Minister

Teresa Ribera applauded the planned expansion of the park, but she said that adding more land wouldn't solve the problem of water scarcity in the area. She also insisted that Andalusia drop its plans to expand irrigation near Doñana. '(The expansion) is a move in the right

direction and will favor the park's biodiversity," Ribera has said. "(But) it will do nothing to reduce the stress on the aquifer and the water available for the park." (AP) 

20 rattlesnakes found in garage:  ${\rm An}$ Arizona man called a snake removal company after seeing what he thought were three rattlesnakes lurking in the garage of his Mesa home. He was wrong.

There actually were 20 snakes - five adult western diamondback rattlers and 15 babies. One of the adult snakes also was pregnant. Snake wrangler Marissa Maki found

most of the rattlers coiled around the base of a hot water heater in the unidentified homeowner's cluttered garage Tuesday. "That is a lot of snakes. I'm not going to lie. This is crazy," Maki said in a YouTube

video recorded by the company, Rattlesnake The western diamondbacks, with their distinctive triangular-shaped heads, are found throughout the Southwest. And

though their venom is far less toxic than

other rattlesnake species, they still require

oping Alzheimer's.

Some genetic mutations or variants interact with other genetic alterations that lead to Alzheimer's disease. In some cases, gene alterations can interact with Alzheimer's-causing genetic variants in a way that proves actually suppress the pathological brain changes the other mutations would normally lead to. These protective gene variants can drastically slow or prevent cognitive decline. In two recent case reports on familial Alzheimer's disease, mutations delayed Alzheimer's symptoms for decades.

or delay cognitive decline.

In the early 1990s, scientists proposed the amyloid hypothesis to explain how Alzheimer's disease develops. The first neuropathological changes detected in the brain of Alzheimer's disease patients were the formation of amyloid plaques - clumps of protein pieces called beta-amyloid. Other changes in the Alzheimer's brain, such as the accumulation of another type of abnormal protein called neurofibrillary tangles, were thought to develop later in the course of the disease.

Beta-amyloid begins to accumulate in the brain up to 15 years before symptoms emerge. Symptoms correlate with the number of neurofibrillary tangles in the brain - the more tangles, the worse the cognition. Researchers have tried to determine whether pre-

### **The Conversation**

### **Genes benefit in some may lead to treatments for all**

# Genes that delay Alz's offers hope

By Steven DeKosky University of Florida

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

Diseases that run in families usually have genetic causes. Some are genetic mutations that directly cause the disease if inherited. Others are risk genes that affect the body in a way that increases the chance someone will develop the disease. In Alzheimer's disease, genetic mutations in any of three specific genes can cause the disease, and other risk genes either increase or decrease the risk of devel-

I am a neurologist and neuroscientist who has spent my career studying Alzheimer's disease and dementia both in the laboratory and in the clinic. Determining how genes affect brain chemistry is vital to understanding how Alzheimer's disease progresses and devising interventions to prevent

Maki used tongs to pick up each snake

"This is our record for the most rattle-

before dropping them into large plastic

buckets and relocating them to a natural

care when being handled.

habitat in a desert area

venting or removing amyloid plaques from the brain would be an effective

treatment.

Imagine the excitement of the scientific community in the 1990s when researchers identified three different genes causing familial Alzheimer's disease - and all three were involved with beta-amyloid.

The first was the amyloid precursor protein gene. This gene directs cells to produce the amyloid precursor protein, which breaks down into smaller fragments, including the beta-amyloid that forms amyloid plaques in the

The second gene was termed presenilin 1, or PSEN-1, a protein needed to cut the precursor protein into betaamyloid.

The third gene, presenilin 2, or PSEN-2, is closely related to PSEN-1 but found in a smaller number of families with familial Alzheimer's disease.

These findings added strength to the amyloid hypothesis explanation of the disease. However, uncertainty and opposition to the amyloid hypothesis have developed over the past several decades. This was in part tied to a recognition that several other processes - neurofibrillary tangles, inflammation and immune system activation - are also involved in the neurodegeneration seen in Alzheimer's.

### **Hypothesis**

The hypothesis also got significant pushback after many clinical trials attempting to block the effects of amyloid or remove it from the brain were unsuccessful. In some cases, treatments had significant side effects. Some researchers have come up with strong defenses of the hypothesis. But until a clinical trial based on the amyloid hypothesis could show definitive results, uncertainty would remain.

The vast majority - more than 90% of Alzheimer's cases occur in late life, with disease prevalence increasing progressively from age 65 and up. Such cases are mostly sporadic, with no clear family history of Alzheimer's.

However, a relatively small number of families have one of the three known genetic mutations that cause the disease to be passed down. In familial Alzheimer's, 50% of each generation will inherit the mutated gene and develop the disease much earlier, usually from their 30s to early 50s.

In 2019 and 2023, researchers iden-

snakes caught in one call!" said company

The number could have been higher.

Hughes said several shedded skins were

found in the garage, indicating as many as 40

snakes may have lived there at some point.

owner Bryan Hughes.

tified changes in at least two other genes that markedly delayed the onset of disease symptoms in people with familial Alzheimer's disease mutations. These mutated genes were found in a very large family in Colombia whose members tended to develop Alzheimer's symptoms by their 40s. A woman in the family carrying a

mutated PSEN-1 gene did not have any cognitive symptoms until she was in her 70s. A genetic analysis showed that she had an additional mutation in a variant of the gene that codes for a protein called apolipoprotein E, or ApoE. Researchers believe the mutation, called the Christchurch variant named after the city in New Zealand where the mutation was first discovered - is responsible for interfering with and slowing down her disease.

Importantly, her brain had a great deal of amyloid plaque but very few neurofibrillary tangles. This suggests that the link between the two was broken and that the suppressed number of neurofibrillary tangles also slowed down cognitive loss.

In May 2023, researchers reported that two siblings in the same large family also did not develop memory problems until their 60s or late 70s and were found to carry a mutation in a gene that codes for a protein called reelin. Studies in mice suggest that reelin has protective effects against amyloid plaque deposition in the brain. In these patients' brains, as with the patient who had the Christchurch variant, there were extensive amyloid plaques but very few neurofibrillary tangles. This observation confirmed that the tangles are responsible for the cognitive loss and that there are several ways to "disconnect" amyloid and neurofibrillary tangle accumulation.

Finding medicines that might mimic the protective effects of the Christchurch variant or the reelin mutation could help delay Alzheimer's disease symptoms for all patients. Since the vast majority of nonfamilial Alzheimer's manifests after age 70 or 75, a 10-year delay in the emergence of first symptoms of Alzheimer's could have a massive effect in decreasing the prevalence of the disease.

These findings demonstrate that Alzheimer's can be slowed and will hopefully lead to additional new therapies that can someday not only treat the disease but prevent it as well. (AP)

Rattlesnake Solutions made headlines in July when the company successfully re-

moved a non-venomous coachwhip snake from a Tucson home. (AP) UK may ban XL bully dogs: Britain's

home secretary has said she is seeking "urgent advice" on banning a type of American Bully dog, highlighting an attack on a 11-year-old girl over the weekend. Suella Braverman said she has commissioned advice on outlawing XL Bully dogs after police said they were investigat-

ing an incident in the central English city of

Birmingham on Saturday, when a girl was

injured by one of the dogs. Two men who intervened were also injured.

"This is appalling. The American XL Bully is a clear and lethal danger to our communities, particularly to children," Braverman wrote on social media. "We

can't go on like this.' Police said the incident took place on a busy road after the dog broke free from its owner. The girl sustained serious injuries to her shoulders and forearms, and was recovering after hospital treatment. The animal was seized by officers and officials will consider

what to do with the animal, police added. For months, some campaigners have been calling for a ban on the XL Bully, which was originally bred from the American pitbull terrier. (ÅP)



A man looks at a pelican sitting on a park bench, in St. James's Park, London, Thursday, Sept. 14. (AP)

### **Championship slated for November 17th to 26th**

# Draw for 26th Asian Club Handball Championship kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The draw for the 26th Asian Club Handball Championship will take place at the Symphony Hotel in Kuwait. This championship will be hosted by Al-Qadsia Club from November 17th to 26th, with all matches scheduled to take place in the main hall of the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

The Asian Handball Federation announced the list of the 12 participating teams in the championship last week. These teams include Al-Qadsia and Kuwait (representing Kuwait), Al-Arabi and Al-Gharafa (from Qatar), the Iraqi Army, Sai and Golden Eagle (from India), Al-Khaleej (Saudi Arabia), Al-Salah (Palestine), Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), Al-Shabab (Lebanon), and Al-Najma (Bahrain).

The participating teams will be grouped into two divisions, and the top two from each group will progress to the semi-finals.

Below is the championship's historical record:

1998 and 1999: Kazma Kuwait 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003: Al-Sadd Qatar

2004: Al-Fehaheel 2005: Al-Sadd Qatar 2006 and 2007: Al-Qadsia Ku-

2008: Al-Ahli Saudi Arabia 2009: Salibekhat Kuwait

2010: Al-Sadd Lebanon 2011: Muthar Saudi Arabia

2012: Al-Rayyan Qatar 2013 and 2014: Qatar Army

2015: Al-Duhail Qatar

#### HANDBALL

2016: Al-Nur Saudi Arabia 2017: Al-Najma Bahrain 2018: Al-Duhail Qatar

2019: Al-Arabi Qatar 2020: The competition was canceled due to the COVID-19 pan-

2021: Al-Duhail Qatar 2022: Kuwait Kuwait 2023: Al-Najma Bahrain.



A file photo of players in action.

### Michel runs for three TDs, leads Air Force over Utah State

# Maryland blows out Virginia in first meeting since '13

COLLEGE PARK, Md., Sept 16, (AP): Taulia Tagovailoa threw for 342 yards and a touchdown, and Maryland came back from an early deficit to rout Virginia 42-14 on Friday night in the teams' first meeting

### **FOOTBALL**

Braeden Wisloski scored on a 98-yard kickoff return to help the Terrapins (3-0) climb out of a 14-0 hole. Freshman quarterback Anthony Colandrea again showed some promise for Virginia (0-3), but he threw three interceptions and lost a fourth-quarter fumble as the game got away from the Cavaliers.

Maryland and Virginia hadn't played each other in football since 2013 - the Terps left the ACC for the Big Ten after that season.

Colandrea threw for 377 yards last week against James Madison, with Week 1 starter Tony Muskett injured. Colandrea got the start again at Maryland, and he connected with Malik Washington for a 49-year flea-flicker on Virginia's first offensive play.

Perris Jones ran for a 13-yard touchdown and Colandrea added a 19-yard scoring pass to Kobe Pace, but the Cavaliers weren't up by 14 for long because Wisloski took the ensuing kickoff all the way back for a touchdown.

Maryland's Roman Hemby capped a 97-yard drive in the second quarter with a 3-yard touchdown run that made it 14-all at halftime.

"You see when we get comfortable, everything's just flowing smooth," Tagovailoa said. "I'm happy that we caught our momentum going into the half."

Tagovailoa then put Maryland ahead to stay, rolling out to his right and throwing deep to Jeshaun Jones for a 64-yard touchdown that gave the Terps a 21-14 lead in the third.

Early in the fourth, Colandrea made his biggest mistake of the game, underthrowing a pass into the end zone on third-and-10 from the 12. It was intercepted by Tarheeb Still and the Cavaliers came away with no points.

"He's going to have moments where he's going to have to learn on the field," Virginia coach Tony Elliott said. "In that situation, you instruct him in the huddle, 'Hey, if it's not there, throw it away. We got points.""

Maryland turned the game into a blowout after that, tacking on short TD runs by Hemby, Antwain Littleton II and Colby McDonald.

Colandrea threw for 263 yards, 141 of which were to Washington. Emmanuel Michel scored three

touchdowns on short runs and Air Force dominated the first half in a 39-21 victory over Utah State in a Mountain West Conference opener.

Michel sandwiched 1- and 2-yard touchdown runs around a 4-yard scoring run by quarterback Zac Larrier and the Falcons (3-0) led 21-0 after one quarter.

John Lee Eldridge III ran 13 yards for a score, Matthew Dapore kicked a 49-yard field goal on the final play of the second quarter and Air Force led 32-7 at halftime.

Michel's 2-yard TD run midway through the third quarter made it

McCae Hillstead threw a touchdown pass in each of the last three quarters for the Aggies (1-2). Hillstead tossed a 2-yarder to Terrell Vaughn in the second quarter. He connected with Jalen Royals from 9 yards out in the third quarter and with Micah Davis from the 6-yard line in the fourth.

Larrier completed 3 of 4 passes for 84 yards and ran 10 times for 56 yards for the Falcons. Owen Burk rushed 15 times for 110 yards, while Michel added 106 yards on 28 carries. Air Force piled up 428 yards of offense, including 344 on the ground.

Maryland running back Colby McDonald (23) dives toward the end zone, for a touchdown past Virginia defensive tackle Michael Diatta, left, during the second half of an NCAA college game. (AP)

### **Liberty down Mystics in Game 1 of playoff series**

71-65 on Brittney Sykes'

three-point play with 8:02

to play. That was as close

as the Mystics got. Ionescu

hit back-to-back 3s over the

next 80 seconds to restore

the double-digit lead and

whip the crowd, which in-

cluded Billie Jean King and

big when I was shooting,

said Ionescu, who had 20

of her points in the second

half. "To win this first game

**BASKETBALL** 

Washington never threat-

ened the rest of the way

thanks in large part to the

play of Ionescu, Jones and

Betnijah Laney, who fin-

"Transition 3s are daggers,

they do hurt," Mystics guard Ariel Atkins said. "When

you get them back-to-back,

it takes the air out of the

room. But I do think we had a

scored a playoff career-high

21 points and Sykes had 16

Breanna Stewart, the As-

sociated Press Player of the

Year, had a rough shooting

night for New York. She

missed her first five shots

and didn't score her first

points until hitting two free

throws with 7:25 left in the

second quarter. Stewart

finished with 10 points on

3-of-16 shooting. She aver-

aged a career-best 23 points

Hines-Allen

chance down the stretch."

Myisha

for the Mystics.

ished with 19 points.

at home is huge."

"The basket felt really

Sue Bird, into a frenzy.

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu scored 29 points, hitting seven 3-pointers, to help the New York Liberty beat the Washington Mystics 90-75 in Game 1 of their WNBA playoff matchup on Friday night.

Jonquel Jones added 20 points and 12 rebounds to give New York its first home playoff victory since 2015. Game 2 of the bestof-three series is Tuesday night in New York. Given the three-day break, the Mystics are heading home between games.

Ionescu scored eight points in the third quarter, including the final five of the period with a deep 3-pointer and then a floater in the lane just before the buzzer to give New York a 69-57 advantage. It was New York's biggest lead of the game to that point.

The Liberty extended their advantage to 14 before Washington scored the next eight points to get within

### Change Name

I, MOHAMMAD GHOUSE
ABDUL RAHIM S/O ABDUL
RAHIM KASSIM SAHEB
HOLDER OF INDIAN
PASSPORT NO. W7996103
ISSUED AT KUWAIT ON
22/02/2023 HAS CHANGED
MY NAME FROM
MOHAMMAD GHOUSE
ABDUL RAHIM TO SHAIK
MOHAMMAD GHOUSE IN
ALL MY DEALINGS AND
DOCUMENTS, I WILL BE
KNOWN BY NAME OF
SHAIK (SURNAME) AND
MOHAMMAD GHOUSE
(GIVEN NAME).

### **MLB Results/Standings**

WASHINGTON	N, Sept	16, (AP	): Resu	ılts and st	andings from MLB	game	s on Fri	day.	
Toronto Tampa Bay NY Yankees Cleveland Minnesota Kansas City Detroit	3 Boston 0 7 Baltimore 1 7 Pittsburgh 5 12 Texas 3 10 Chicago W. Sox 2 4 Houston 2 11 LA Angels 2				San Diego LA Dodgers Cincinnati Milwaukee Colorado Philadelphia Arizona		8 Oakland       3         6 Seattle       3         5 NY Meshington       3         3 San Francisco       2         5 St Louis       4         6 Chicago Cubs       4		
American League					National League				
	East Division W L Pct GB				'	East Division W L Pct GB			
Baltimore	91	56	.619	GD.	x-Atlanta	96	51	.653	GD.
Tampa Bay	92	57	.617	_	Philadelphia	80	67	.544	16
Toronto	81	67	.547	10-1/2	Miami	76	72	.514	20-1/2
New York	75	73	.507	16-1/2	New York	68	79	.463	28
Boston	74	74	.500	17-1/2	Washington	65	83	.439	31-1/2
Central Division					Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	78	70	.527	_	Milwaukee	83	64	.565	
Cleveland	70	78	.473	8	Chicago	78	70	.527	5-1/2
Detroit	68	79	.463	9-1/2	Cincinnati	77	72	.517	7
Chicago	56	92	.378	22	Pittsburgh	69	79	.466	14-1/2
Kansas City	47 West D	101	.318	31	St Louis	65 Maat D	82	.442	18
West Division W L Pct GB					West Division W L Pct GB				
Houston	83	65	.561	<u> </u>	Los Angeles	89	57	.610	GD.
Texas	82	65	.558	-1/2	Arizona	77	72	.517	13-1/2
Seattle	81	66	.551	1-1/2	San Francisco	75	72	.510	14-1/2
Los Angeles	68	80	.459	15	San Diego	70	78	.473	20
Oakland	46	101	.313	36-1/2	Colorado	54	92	.370	35

### Vanderbilt gets 4-yr contract extension

LOS ANGELES, Sept 16, (AP): The Los Angeles Lakers have agreed to a fouryear, \$48 million contract extension with forward Jarred Vanderbilt, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Friday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Lakers haven't announced the long-term deal with their defensive specialist. The contract includes a player option in the fourth year.

The Lakers acquired Vanderbilt from Utah in February, and he quickly became a key rotation player during their impressive late-season run to the Western Conference

While not a major offensive contributor, Vanderbilt averaged 7.2 points and 6.7 rebounds per game in the regular season while frequently being asked to guard the opponents' top scorer. Vanderbilt started 24 regular-season games and started 13 of the Lakers' 15 playoff games.

After Orlando drafted Vanderbilt in the second round in 2018, he began his NBA career in Denver. He joined Minnesota for 140 games over parts of three seasons before the Jazz acquired him last summer.

The Lakers went 18-8 and then won two playoff rounds after dramatically improving their roster at the trade deadline, and general manager Rob Pelinka has spent the summer improving or locking down the core of last season's team around LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

Los Angeles has agreed to contract extensions with Vanderbilt, Davis, D'Angelo Russell, Austin Reaves and Rui Hachimura while acquiring Jaxson Hayes, Taurean Prince, Gabe Vincent, Cam Reddish and

# **Dodgers on cusp** of NL West 'title'

### Rays draw even in AL East

BALTIMORE, Sept 16, (AP): Zach Eflin and two relievers combined on a two-hitter, Brandon Lowe and Harold Ramírez homered, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Baltimore Orioles 7-1 on Friday night to pull into a virtual tie atop the AL East.

Tampa Bay, which has won 18 of 24, has erased a season-high four-game deficit in a span of six days thanks in part to winning the first two of a four-game series against Baltimore.

Heston Kjerstad homered leading off the sixth - his first major league hit - for the Orioles, who have dropped four in a row to match their longest skid of the season. Baltimore (91-56) still leads the Rays (92-57) by percentage points in the division race.

Dodgers 6, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Miguel Rojas and James Outman homered, J.D. Martinez had two key run-scoring singles and Los Angeles beat Seattle to move closer to the NL West title.

Los Angeles can wrap up the NL West for the 10th time in the last 11 seasons Saturday with a win over Seattle or help elsewhere. San Francisco plays a doubleheader in Colorado, and Arizona hosts the Cubs and a number of scenarios could leave the Dodgers celebrating by the time Saturday night

Brewers 5, Nationals 3

In Milwaukee, Carlos Santana hit two solo homers and William Contreras added a three-run shot as Milwaukee rallied to beat The Brewers erased a 3-0 deficit in the

fifth on consecutive homers by Contreras and Santana off Jake Irvin (3-6).

Santana opened the eighth with his 21st homer for his 1,000th career RBI.

### Padres 8, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Fernando Tatis Jr. homered in the first, added a two-run single in the second and set a career high for hits while playing in his 400th career game, leading San Diego past Oakland.

San Diego's José Azocar hit a three-run shot in the ninth for his first career home

Tatis surpassed his previous career best of 135 hits from 2021.

Tigers 11, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Tarik Skubal struck out nine over seven innings of three-hit ball, and Javier Báez had a homer and a three-run double in Detroit's victory over Los Angeles.

Jake Rogers also homered for the Tigers, who have won four of six. Spencer Torkelson and Kerry Carpenter drove in two runs

Skubal (6-3) was dominant in his third straight victory, issuing no walks and retiring the Angels' first nine hitters.

Royals 4, Astros 2

In Kansas City, Bobby Witt Jr., Nelson Velazquez and Michael Massey homered, Angel Zerpa gave up one run over four innings and Kansas City beat Houston.

Salvador Perez gave Kansas City a 1-0 lead with a sacrifice fly in the third inning. Velazquez homered to center in the fourth to make it 2-0. In the fifth inning, Witt homered to left for a 3-0 lead.

The Astros got one back after a single by Jeremy Pena and a double by Yordan Alva-

### Rockies 3, Giants 2

In Denver, Chase Anderson worked seven hitless innings and Colorado took a combined no-hit bid into the ninth before Nolan Jones scored the game-ending run on a throwing error to beat San Francisco.

The Giants didn't get a hit until J.D. Davis led off the ninth with a double off Nick

San Francisco's Logan Webb took a shutout into the eighth, when he gave up a tying RBI single to Ezequiel Tovar.

### Guardians 12, Rangers 3

In Cleveland, Lucas Giolito struck out a season-high 12 over seven scoreless innings, Josh Naylor and Andrés Giménez each drove in three runs, and Cleveland beat Texas to snap the Rangers' six-game winning streak.

Giolito (8-13) allowed two hits and one walk. The right-hander had lost his previous five starts, and was 1-8 with a 6.99 ERA in

### Yankees 7, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, Aaron Judge and Gleyber Torres scored when a potential game-ending double play turned into a game-turning error as New York rallied past Pittsburgh.

The Yankees trailed by two in the ninth before taking advantage of some shaky

pitching by Colin Holderman (0-3) and some sloppy defense.

New York drew within one when Holderman walked Estevan Florial with the bases loaded and one out. Anthony Volpe hit a chopper to Pittsburgh shortstop Liover Peguero, who flipped the ball to second baseman Ji Hwan Bae for one out. But Bae's throw to first baseman Connor Joe deflected off Joe's glove, allowing Torres and Judge to race home and put the Yankees in front.

Reds 5, Mets 3

In New York, Jonathan India hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Cincinnati beat New York to keep pace in the tight National League wild-card race.

Grant Hartwig (4-2) plunked Luke Maile leading off the seventh. India then homered on a 2-2 pitch. Pete Alonso had tied it for New York in

the sixth with a 425-foot shot to left against Hunter Greene.

Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 4 In Phoenix, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Alek Thomas hit three-run homers, rookie Brandon Pfaadt delivered 5 1/3 quality innings

### **BASEBALL**

and Arizona beat Chicago.

The clubs are in the middle of a six-team dogfight for three National League wild-card spots. Arizona moved into a tie with the Cincinnati Reds for the final spot, while the Cubs are in the second position, 1 1/2 games in front of the D-backs and Reds.

### Marlins 9, Braves 6

In Miami, Luis Arraez homered twice and Jacob Stallings had two doubles, the second a go-ahead line drive with the bases loaded in the seventh, and Miami beat Atlanta.

In their first game since winning the division title Wednesday, the Braves lost star slugger Ronald Acuña Jr. after 7 1/2 innings because of right calf tightness. Acuña felt discomfort when he grounded into a double play to end the top of the inning.

Blue Jays 3, Red Sox 0

In Toronto, José Berríos and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a three-run home run and Toronto beat Boston to snap a four-game losing streak.

Berríos (11-10) allowed all five hits and struck out eight over seven innings.

Jordan Hicks worked the eighth and Jordan Romano finished Toronto's 14th shutout, earning his 35th save in 38

Twins 10, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Royce Lewis set a franchise record with his fourth grand slam of the season in Minnesota's victory over Chicago.

Matt Wallner, Max Kepler, Willi Castro and Ryan Jeffers added RBI singles to help the Twins maintain their eight-game lead in the AL Central over the Cleveland Guard-

Minnesota got to Chicago early with help from Lewis in the second inning. The Twins loaded the bases with two outs before the rookie followed with a homer to left field for a 4-0 lead.

### Phillies 5, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Nick Castellanos hit a threerun homer, lifting NL wild-card leading Philadelphia to a victory over St. Louis and assuring the Cardinals of their first losing season since 2007.

It's only the second time in the last 24 seasons (2000-present) that the Cardinals (65-82), currently in last place in the NL Central, have endured a losing season. St. Louis has MLB's second-longest active streak of winning seasons at 15 (2008-22). The Yankees currently have 30 winning seasons.



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Zach Eflin throws to the Baltimore Orioles in the fourth inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. (AP)

# Vets Reus, Hummels rescue Dortmund

BERLIN, Sept 16, (AP): Borussia Dortmund veterans Marco Reus and Mats Hummels scored late to earn a 4-2 win at Freiburg on Saturday and reduce talk of a crisis at the club after its poor start to the

Bundesliga. The 34-year-old Reus went on as a substitute and set up Hummels to squeeze the ball over the line from close range in the 88th minute, then sealed the win himself in the third minute of injury time.

It meant Dortmund ended a twogame winless run ahead of its visit to Paris Saint-Germain for their Champions League opener on Tuesday.

Union Berlin slumped to its second straight defeat - losing 2-1 at Wolfsburg - before its Champions



Leipzig's Xavi Simons celebrates scoring their side's first goal of the game during the German Bundesliga soccer match between RB Leipzig and FC Augsburg at the Red Bull Arena in Leipzig, Germany. (AP) League debut at Real Madrid on Wednesday.

Leipzig warmed up for Europe's top club competition with a 3-0 win at Augsburg. Leipzig plays Swiss team Young Boys in Bern on Tuesday.

Serhou Guirassy scored a hat trick for Stuttgart to beat Mainz 3-1 away, and Cologne was beaten 3-1 at home by Hoffenheim as it celebrated 100 years of the Müngersdorfer Stadium.

Exequiel Palacios scored a penalty in injury time for Bayer Leverkusen to hold 11-time defending champion Bayern Munich 2-2 away and declare itself a Bundesliga title contender.

Dayot Upamecano scored with the last kick of the game for Bayern, but the France defender was confirmed offside by a video review and Thomas Tuchel's team had to settle for a point against the only other side to have started the league with three wins.

It seemed like Leon Goretzka had earned Bayern a late win to maintain the champion's perfect start.

#### **SOCCER**

Substitute Mathys Tel crossed from the left and found Goretzka free in the middle to fire what many presumed was the winner in the 86th minute.

"It looked like we landed the lucky punch, but then we had the iffy decision against us," Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said.

Alphonso Davies was penalized through VAR for a foul on Jonas Hofmann and Palacios scored the equalizer in the fourth minute of stoppages.

"A very soft penalty," Bayern veteran Thomas Müller complained. "It wouldn't have been awarded in England."

Referee Daniel Schlager defended his decision, saying there was contact between Davies' leg and Leverkusen hold Bayern



Dortmund's Donyell Malen (left), scores his side's second goal of the German Bundesliga soccer match between SC Freiburg and Borussia Dortmund in Freiburg, Germany. (AP)

Hofmann's calf.

Harry Kane earlier scored again for Bayern. The club's record-signing was left free at the far post to head in the opener from a corner in the seventh minute. Leverkusen defender Edmond Tapsoba headed on Leroy Sané's corner and Granit Xhaka wasn't close enough to Kane

PARIS, Sept 16, (AP): Terem Moffi

upstaged Kylian Mbappé with two goals and an assist to help Nice win 3-2 at Paris Saint-Germain in the

French league on Friday, handing the

defending champion its first defeat un-

fans despite Mbappe also scoring twice, with PSG's opening game of

the Champions League on Tuesday

A worrying one, too, for home

der new coach Luis Enrique

against Borussia Dortmund.

to prevent the England captain grabbing his fourth goal in four

Alejandro Grimaldo equalized with a perfectly struck free kick into the top right corner in the 24th after he had been fouled in front of the penalty area with a high foot from

PSG's lingering defensive frailties

were again exposed, this time by the clinical finishing of the Nigeria strik-

er. Moffi's pace and wide runs off the

ball were ideally suited to the excel-

lent counterattacking of unbeaten

This was a costly defeat for PSG,

which is one point behind second-place

Nice and two behind leader Monaco,

Moffi set up Nice's other goal with

which plays at Lorient on Sunday.

Müller and Tuchel also complained about that decision. Tuchel was booked at the time for protesting while counterpart Xabi Alonso remained cool as Grimaldo celebrated in the corner.

The visitors' confidence visibly grew after the goal. Victor Boniface went close, then had a goal ruled

a fine run down the left and a pinpoint

cross to striker Gaetan Laborde at the

ited from a scramble in the penalty

area to clip a slightly deflected shot

inside the near post past goalkeeper

Gianluigi Donnarumma in the 21st

minute. Mbappé equalized eight min-

utes later when he whipped in a quick

shot from 20 meters past former PSG

Moffi put Nice ahead when he prof-

out for offside.

But Leverkusen also needed Lukas Hradecky at his best, first with a save to deny Müller, then another to thwart Serge Gnabry from the rebound.

Leverkusen's Florian Wirtz struck the post in the second half before the late drama.

Sainz on pole at Singapore GP

### Struggling Lyon hire former Italy defender Grosso as new coach

far post.

# Verstappen's winning 'streak' Moffi upstages Mbappé as Nice edge PSG in doubt after qualifying 11th

SINGAPORE, Sept 16, (AP): Max Verstappen's historic run of 10 Formula One wins in a row looks set to end after he qualified down in 11th place on Saturday for the Singapore Grand Prix.

Carlos Sainz Jr. took pole for the race for Ferrari on Sunday ahead of George Russell of Mercedes and the second Ferrari of Charles Leclerc as Verstappen's Red Bull team had its worst qualifying results of the sea-

"It's the best opportunity since the beginning of the season, for sure" for other teams to stop a Red

Bull sweep of winning every race in 2023, Leclerc said.

Verstappen, the runaway championship leader after recordbreaking 10th straight win at the Italian Grand Prix,



was eliminated by .007 seconds in the second session by rookie Liam Lawson of sister team AlphaTauri.

Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez was 13th after a spin. The two drivers have won every race this season between them.

Verstappen told his team over the radio that it was an "absolutely shocking experience.'

There could be worse to come for him. The Dutch driver is under investigation for two incidents in which he appeared to impede oth-

Verstappen stopped at the exit of the pit lane in the first part of qualifying and held up AlphaTauri's Yuki Tsunoda while driving slowly in the second.

Verstappen has won races this season from sixth on the grid in Belgium and ninth in Miami, but the Red Bull car performed better on those tracks than it has so far in Singapore. He and Perez complained that their cars felt unbalanced during practice.

Sainz took pole - for the second straight race - by .072 seconds from Russell and Leclerc. Sainz, who finished third in Italy behind Verstappen and Perez, said it might be easier to win in Singapore than in Italy despite concerns over Ferrari's race pace.

"I'm more confident mainly because of the track layout. I think it's a bit easier to hold onto a track position," Sainz said. He added that Ferrari might have less pace in the race than other teams including Mercedes. "It could be that tomorrow we have to run, yet again, a bit of a defensive race but I don't discount that even around this track we could hold on to our P1."

Russell said the hot, humid conditions in Singapore were "like you're sat in a sauna," and praised Mercedes for finding the right setup

for the city streets "This is a great opportunity this weekend to get a victory," said Russell, who added Mercedes had conserved tires over the weekend to give it more strategy options in the race than rival teams.

Lando Norris starts fourth for McLaren, ahead of Lewis Hamilton in fifth for Mercedes. Kevin Magnussen is sixth for Haas, with Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso seventh, Alpine's Esteban Ocon eighth, the second Haas of Nico Hulkenberg ninth and Lawson 10th.

### **MOTOR RACING**

The first qualifying session was red-flagged when Lance Stroll lost control of his Aston Martin and speared into the wall on the final corner. The Canadian was able to walk away and said he was

The crash caused a lengthy delay as crews worked to clear away the debris and repair the barrier.

One of those to lose out was McLaren's Oscar Piastri, who only narrowly missed the wreckage of Stroll's car and couldn't complete his lap before the red flag came out leaving him 18th. Stroll was 20th

With Alonso qualifying seventh, the incident was a reminder of Stroll's underwhelming record this season at the team headed by his father, Lawrence Stroll. Alonso has racked up 170 points to Stroll's 47 and the Canadian has not reached the podium this season.

Kuwait secure victory over Saudi Arabia DOHA, Sept 16: In the inaugural pressive performance in both innings secured their win against the Saudi

Sri Lanka's Sadeera Samarawickrama plays a shot during the Asia Cup cricket match between Pakistan and Sri

Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by 2 wickets, face India in Asia Cup final. (AP)

Gulf Cricket Championship held in Doha until the 23rd of this month, the Kuwaiti cricket team emerged victorious over their Saudi counterparts with a narrow margin of 143 runs to 142.

Following the match, team manager Captain Mahmoud Abdullah expressed that the Kuwaiti team's im-

Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz gestures after the qualifying session of the Sin-

gapore Formula One Grand Prix at the Marina Bay circuit, Singapore, Sat-

urday, Sept. 16, 2023. Sainz took pole position. (AP)

team. He pointed out that in this tournament, a victory grants two points, CRICKET

> while a draw results in one point. He elaborated on the tournament

format, which operates as a league with points accumulation. The two teams with the highest point totals will progress to the final round to

fied the rules of the game, highlighting that one team bats while the other defends the field, preventing the ball from leaving. Each team comprises 11 players, and the score is determined by the number



compete for the championship title.

Captain Abdullah further clariof runs.'

The championship logo

But Moffi then set up Laborde for a sliding finish in the 53rd before getting the goal of the night in the 68th. Controlling a pass in midfield with

his back to goal, he flicked the ball astutely to Laborde down the right and collected his return pass before advancing across the area to plant a low shot past Donnarumma into the bottom

His celebration, where he removed his jersey and waved it over his head, earned him a yellow card and also annoyed Mbappé, who exchanged words with him at the halfway line.

Forward Randal Kolo Muani was already on as a substitute and he set up Mbappé's close-range finish in the 87th. Kolo Muani became the third most expensive signing in PSG's history when he joined from Eintracht Frankfurt for 95 million euros (\$101

Only Neymar and Mbappé have cost

### SOCCER

Struggling French club Lyon hired former Italy defender Fabio Grosso as its new coach on Saturday.

Grosso replaces Laurent Blanc, who left by mutual consent following a terrible start to the season. Lyon is in last place with only one point from four

Lyon said that the 45-year-old Grosso has a contract until the end of the season, with the option for an extra season.

He will watch the home game against promoted Le Havre on Sunday night and take charge of the team on

Monday. Deputy coach Jean-Francois Vulliez will oversee the Le Havre game.

Grosso won the World Cup with Italy as an attack-minded left back in 2006. He played 75 games for Lyon from 2007-2009, helping the club win the league and French Cup double in 2008 in an era when it dominated

French soccer. Last season, Grosso showed his coaching credentials when he guided Italian club Frosinone to the secondtier Serie B title.

Diana Ordonez scored in the 54th minute and the Houston Dash defeated Racing Louisville 1-0 on Friday night to end Louisville's seven-match home undefeated streak.

The Dash dismissed coach Sam Laity last week after the team went 6-10-8 across all competitions this year. The team promoted assistant Sarah Lowdon as interim coach for the rest of the

With just three games remaining, time is short for both teams in securing one of six spots in the National Women's Soccer League playoffs.

The Dash (5-6-8) moved up a spot to ninth in the standings, while Louisville (5-4-9) remained in seventh.

Louisville's Kirsten Davis outsprinted a defender to challenge Dash goalkeeper Jane Campbell in the 14th minute, but Campbell's kick save kept the game scoreless.



Juventus' team celebrates after defeating 3-1 Lazio during a Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Lazio, at Turin's Juventus Stadium, northern Italy. (AP)

# Sports

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# Double late strike keeps Man City top

United fans jeer as Hojlund is substituted in 3-1 loss to Brighton

LONDON, Sept 16, (AP): Manchester City needed two late goals to overcome resistance from West Ham and seal a 3-1 win at the London Stadium to stay top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Bernardo Silva gave the champions the lead for the first time 14 minutes from the end after latching onto a superb pass from Julian Alvarez, before Erling Haaland completed the job with a well-taken finish as West Ham pressed for an equalizer.

Earlier, James Ward-Prowse had given David Moyes' side a first-half lead that had the Hammers on course to overtake City at the top of the table, heading home from Vladimir Coufal's cross for his second goal since joining in the summer.

Jeremy Doku, making just his second start, leveled with an expertly taken individual effort seconds after halftime, as City took charge of a difficult situation to send the hosts to their first defeat of the season and maintain their own perfect start.

City's response was swift and should have yielded an instant equalizer. Doku, looking to make amends, cut inside Coufal on the left and crossed along the ground for Haaland who failed to make good enough contact to sneak it past Aguerd who shoveled it off the goal line. Phil Foden struck left-footed from range but was denied by a crowd of claret and blue shirts as West Ham saw the half out.

It took the champions just 40 seconds to level after the break. Doku received the ball wide near the left touchline and looked up to find little on inside the box.

Instead he drove Coufal backwards into the area, standing him up and slipping inside with a deft right-foot touch before rolling it inside Areola's far post in one cleverly executed motion.

Alvarez then hit the post from a free kick, Haaland volleyed left-footed from 10 yards after being teed up by Rodri's exquisite chipped pass, with a strong right hand thrust into the air from Areola denying the visitors the

Then came West Ham's turn to go within a whisker, Michail Antonio bursting beyond Dias in a foot race from Lucas Paqueta's probing ball but taking a fractionally heavy touch at the crucial moment to allow Ederson to smother.

### SOCCER

Suddenly the hosts were on top. Emerson spotted a gap in the heart of City's defense to run into, his effort deflecting narrowly wide, and from the resulting corner Kurt Zouma's thumping header required a sensational div-

ing save from Ederson.
With 15 minutes to go, City led for the first time and it was the vision and touch of Alvarez that made it. He received the ball near the edge of the box from Silva, who dashed forward and was brilliantly picked out by Alvarez's chip. Aguerd was inches from intercepting with his head, but it landed back with Silva who dinked it into the corner beyond Areola.

Haaland was denied at close range when getting on the end of Kyle Walker's cross, West Ham's goalkeeper adding to a string of impressive saves.

But the Norwegian would not be denied. In the final minutes as West Ham pushed forward, Silva broke with the ball and rolled it across for Haaland to sweep coolly home and cap a fine win.

Loud jeers rang around Old Trafford on Saturday as Manchester United fans reacted angrily to manager Erik ten Hag's decision to take off new signing Rasmus Hojlund in a 3-1 loss to Brighton.

United was trailing 2-0 when Hojlund, an \$82 million signing from Atalanta, was replaced by substitute

Anthony Martial in the 64th. Boos filled the air when the Denmark forward's number came up on the electronic board and he started to jog to the touchline.

Hojlund, making his first start for his new club and his first appearance in front of its home fans, had already seen a first-half goal ruled out by VAR. But with United needing to get back into the game after going behind to strikes from Danny Welbeck and Pascal Gross, Ten Hag decided to withdraw him in a bid to mount a comeback.

Hojlund missed the start of the season while recovering from injury and that might have been a reason for his substitution. But the crowd appeared unimpressed and vociferously made its feelings known before showing their appreciation for the striker's efforts by applauding him as he left the field.



Manchester United's Victor Lindelof (left), challenges Brighton's Evan Ferguson during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Brighton and Hove Albion at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)



Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad

To make matters worse for United,

the change didn't have the desired ef-

fect as Brighton extended its lead soon

after when its own substitute Joao Pe-

dro made it 3-0 in the 71st to add to

a troubled start to the season for Ten

Brighton had a number of chances

to add further goals, with Onana de-

nying Kaoru Mitoma, Evan Ferguson

and Ansu Fati late on before more boos

Liverpool scored two late goals on

Trailing 1-0 at half time to a Hwang

Hee-Chan goal at Molineux, the Mer-

seyside team fired back through Cody

Gakpo and Andy Robertson before

an own goal by Hugo Bueno in time

Liverpool is unbeaten after five

It has been an impressive start for

games this season and moved to the

top of the table above Manchester

Jurgen Klopp's team, which missed

out on qualification to the Champions

League last season for the first time

It was Liverpool's fourth win in a

But the game didn't go to plan from

row after drawing with Chelsea in its

the start with Hwang opening the scor-

ing in the seventh minute to give the

home side a lead it kept until the break.

into the second half for his first Liver-

the 85th and Bueno's own goal ended

all hope of a Wolverhampton come-

Gakpo evened the score 10 minutes

Robertson fired Liverpool in front in

opening game of the campaign.

pool goal of the season.

back in the 91st.

City, which plays later in the day.

since 2016.

Saturday to secure a come from behind

were heard at the final whistle.

3-1 win against Wolverhampton

'Hosts placed on world map of bowling' Kuwait set to host bowling World Cup in October

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad, the president of both the International and Asian Bowling Federations, has announced that Kuwait will host the World Cup for men and women in the game of bowling on October 4th, with the participation of 24 men's teams and 12 women's

Al-Mohammad, who also heads the Kuwaiti Bowling Club organizing the tournament, stated in a recent press release that this global event is the largest ever in the sport

Brazil striker Richarlison and Dejan

Kulusevski scored in stoppage time

as Tottenham rallied to beat Sheffield

United 2-1 in the Premier League on

Richarlison headed home fellow

substitute Ivan Perisic's corner and

Kulusevski fired the winner to spark

ond, behind leader Manchester City.

Richarlison struck in the eighth min-

ute of stoppage time and Kulusevski

hit the winner two minutes later to

maintain coach Ange Postecoglou's

impressive start at the club, which saw

him win manager of the month for Au-

off for a second yellow card in the 14th

76-year-old manager Roy Hodgson

was taken ill ahead of the match. The

former England head coach did not

travel to Villa Park, leaving Paddy

McCarthy and Ray Lewington to take

Hodgson agreed to stay on in the

off-season, after returning for his

second spell at the club earlier in the

His team took the lead two min-

utes into the second half against Villa.

Jean-Philippe Mateta spun Pau Torres

on the right and sent in a cross that was

perfect for Odsonne Edouard to slide

minute of stoppages.

charge of team affairs.

Sheffield's Oli McBurnie was sent

Palace suffered a blow when

and will run until October 15th. He emphasized that hosting this international championship in Kuwait places the country on the world map of bowling.

### **BOWLING**

He explained that the organizing committee, under his leadership, is making optimal preparations to welcome the world's top-ranked players in the sport. The working committees are putting in their utmost effort to finalize all necessary arrangements to ensure the success of this major sporting event. It aims to showcase Kuwait's cultural and organizational capabilities on a global scale and affirm its ability to host top international tournaments.

He mentioned that the Kuwaiti national team players, both male and female, are preparing vigorously to deliver their best performance. Their participation in the Bowling World Cup will contribute significantly to enhancing their experience, especially considering the presence of promising players with a bright future. He affirmed that the Interna-

tional Bowling Federation is dedicated to developing the sport in the future by increasing the number of participating teams in its tournaments across different age categories. Furthermore, they will provide full support to emerging nations in this sport and encourage continental federations to regularly organize their tournaments, which have a significant impact on elevating the sport and raising the level of players.

### **Women's World Cup winners maintain boycott of** Spain's national team, coach delays picking squad

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 16, (AP): The new coach of Spain's women's team had to delay the announcement of her first squad Friday after nearly all of the country's World Cup-winning players maintained their boycott of the national team as part of their fight against

Spain coach Montse Tomé was set to announce her squad on Friday. But 20 minutes before she was supposed to hold a news conference, the federation said it was postponed to a time to be determined.

The federation said the players had rejected their attempts to convince them to return to the team early.

That leaves Tomé with the difficult decision of whether to still call up the players revolting, or select a completely different team for upcoming Nations League games against Sweden and Switzerland on Sept. 22 and 26. According to Spanish sports law, athletes are required to answer the call of its national teams unless there are circumstances that impede them from playing, such as an injury. Spain's women have had little

chance to celebrate their greatest soccer achievement because Luis Rubiales, the now former president of the federation, caused an uproar. The team members, along with doz-

ens of other players, responded to his subsequent refusal to step down by announcing that they would not play for their nation again until the federation underwent deep reforms and had new leadership.

The federation has been in upheaval since. Rubiales was first suspended by soccer governing body FIFA, then his interim replacement fired women's national team coach Jorge Vilda, who was unpopular with players. Rubiales himself eventually resigned under immense pressure.

Many expected that the firing of Vilda and the exit of Rubiales would clear the path for the return of the players, but the players want more changes and, it appears, more officials and employees to be removed from the federa-

The players, through the FUT-PRO players' union, issued a statement Friday signed by 21 of its 23 World Cup winners, and 18 other players, explaining that "the changes that have been made are not suf-

wild celebrations from the home Spurs had looked set for its first league defeat of the season when trailing to Gustavo Hamer's 73rd-minute But the London club secured its sexism in soccer. fourth win of the season to stay sec-



Manchester City's Erling Haaland attempts a shot at goal during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Manchester City at London Stadium in London. (AP)

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