



HARDLINERS MP's 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...

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: For a parliamentary committee to become a de facto authority is something that does not bode well at all.

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 co-education 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.

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.

parachute droppings. Air strikes were also exercised with onshore targets with the use of multi-mission aircrafts, in addition to air defense tactics.

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.

Continued on Page 4

'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 authorize 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 Fitch-rated sovereigns.

"We forecast Kuwait's sovereign 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 forecast 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 joint 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

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.

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 detente 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 Yemeni people."

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-year-old 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 semi-official 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 detained.

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)





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 throne.

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 fur-

ther 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 prosperity.

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 Day.

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 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



Dr Al-Awadhi

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 clinics.

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 in structuring civil institutions and bolstering healthcare services, providing a foundation for organized and efficient delivery of 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 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 detention.

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 decision-making 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 world.

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."

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 unconstitutional.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the court explained that there were four reasons on which the ruling was based - the non-existence 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 two-thirds 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 implementation are disrupted.

## Clerics deploy

Continued from Page 1

Video shared by Hengaw, a Kurdish rights group, showed that 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 Biden 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.

## 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/non-oil GDP is extremely weak at around 90 percent, significantly worse than regional peers.

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 reads.

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 disposal.

However, the difficulties in passing the law forced the government in recent years to 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 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 revenue.

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 deficits-to-GDP ratios of 0.7 percent and 0.9 percent in FY23 and FY24, respectively, as oil

## 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 self-styled 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 maintenance 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.

albander hotel & resort

# September

## Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Terms & conditions apply\*

### 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, Indonesian 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.

senior officials.

In a speech to the gathering, the Egyptian minister praised the Egyptian-Kuwaiti relationship as historical, exemplary and deep-rooted.

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

tive of the Zakat House, plays a key role in supporting the expatriate students in Egypt in collaboration with the Ministry of Awqaf.

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 Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs for

### 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.

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 societies.

organizing such cultural courses for students from around the globe and the efforts of the Egyptian Ministry of Awqaf in promote the moderate values of Islam.

Ambassador Al-Ghanem noted that Kuwait maintains fruitful longstand-

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-Fattah Al-Sisi.

### 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 dis-

tillation 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 platform 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 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-

Haimer added.

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-

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.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (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 (IAEA) to boost exchanging expertise with Arab and Asian countries taking part in the event.

Head chief of Nuclear medicine at KCCC Abdulredah Abas 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 Agency (IAEA) in the field of technical projects and training courses.

On her part, head of the training course Faredia Al-Kandery said that 40 participant form Arab and Asian countries are 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).



Abas



Al-Kandery

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

### 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 efficacy 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.

laborative partnership for innovative mRNA vaccines with CSL Seqirus. The Company also has a joint venture with the Japanese CMO, ARCALIS. 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.

#### 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 vaccine against the pervasive and ever-changing 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 col-

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 manufacturing.

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 the future of mAb development," said 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

Move offers benefits to customers

## Freudenberg 'innovates' with hypotube coating automation

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 disease".

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 (non-HDL cholesterol) as non-carriers, but have much fewer particles carrying the cholesterol (ApoB). 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

SEATTLE, BEVERLY, Mass., Sept 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 protection.

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 ergonomics and safety with improved fixturing 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 automation 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 facility 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 customers 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 the bridge."

It seemed that way through the mostly friendly, occasionally challenging 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, slob and disgusting animals."

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 contract.

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

Media

### Variety

# Features

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



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

### Film

Stories about land and immigrant crises resonate

## On TIFF screens, home is a battleground

NEW YORK: Hugh Jackman and Deborra-lee Jackman have decided to end their marriage after 27 years and two children.

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

They said the statement would 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."

A representative for the couple 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 Hollywood and on Broadway.

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 together in July.

In April, Jackman celebrated their 27th anniversary with a tribute on Instagram.

"I love you so much. Together 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."

Furness, 67, is an advocate for 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 that could end Hollywood's writers 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 by all they've left behind. Their home. The dogs they set loose. Their cow. Beauty.

"She cried as we left," a child says.  
 "In the Rearview," which documents several hundred 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.

"I come from an aristocratic family," one woman says in the film. "Now I am just a traveling frog."

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 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 building's leadership, led by its elected delegate (Lee Byung-Hun). Surrounded by ruins and desperate survivors, 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 "Athena," which he co-wrote) in gripping epics.

"Les Indésirables" is set at Batiment 5, a decrepit public housing building where, in the film's opening moments, a funeral procession carries a casket down a dim stairway because the elevator is out. "How can we live and die in a place like this?" a woman asks.

A new mayor (Alexis Manenti) with a tenuous grasp of his constituents' lives (he's a pediatrician) becomes set upon demolishing the building. His rash plans draw 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 houses."

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 undoubtedly 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-song-maybe-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 has power.

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 decades-long 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 Licurtus 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.



Hugh



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 the heads of Disney, Netflix and Warner Bros. Discovery.

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

how good their single and only counteroffer was," and the talks trailed off.

California lawmakers on Thursday 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 &amp; 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.



Ishiguro

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 Stacey 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 destroy it.

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 reverse-engineering 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, civic-minded 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.

## Also:

**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.

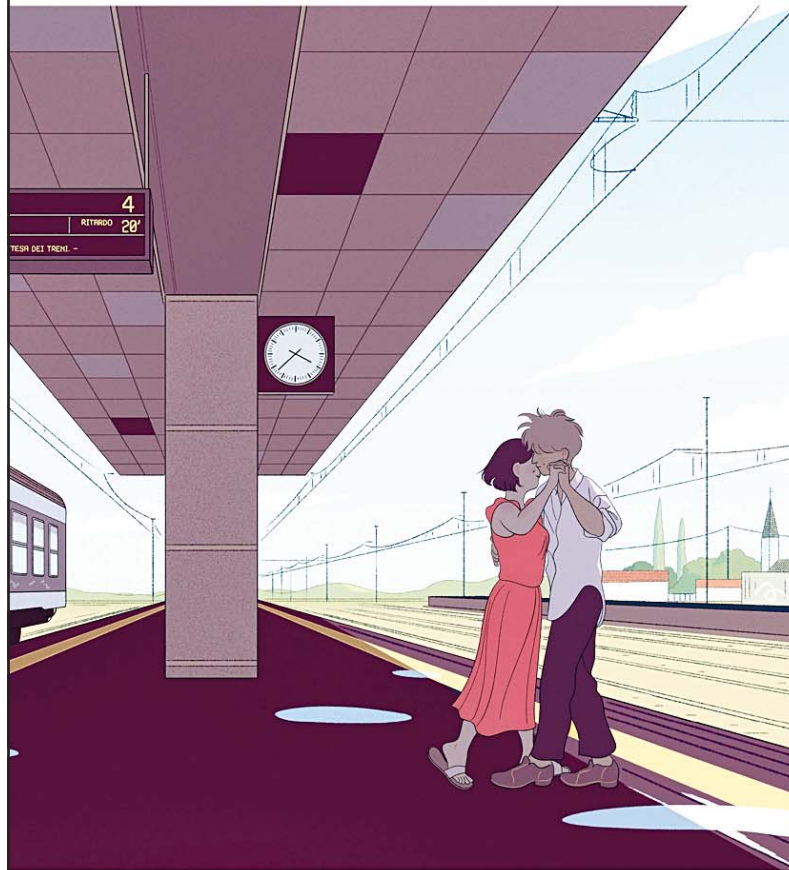
Phillips, a former National Book Award finalist, was cited for "Night Watch," and Harding, a Pulitzer Prize winner, was nominated for "The Other Eden."

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**'s "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**'s "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."

## KAZUO ISHIGURO



## 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)

"One of the internet's most interesting writers."  
—EDWARD SNOWDEN

# THE INTERNET CON HOW TO SEIZE THE MEANS OF COMPUTATION

## CORY DOCTOROW

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

## Obituaries

## 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 Saturday.

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 started acting in Kabuki and is on track to

Busto did not have permission to be at the fashion show, became irate when he was asked to leave and refused to do so, police said. The outburst disrupted preparations for the event, part of the biannual New York Fashion Week, prosecutors said.

It wasn't clear if Watson, known for 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



Kutcher



Barrymore

Busto rushed a Manhattan stage where Barrymore was interviewing singer and actor **Renée 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-to-door asking for directions to Barrymore's home. The "Scream" actor and "Drew Barrymore Show" TV host was not there at the time. (AP)



Eno Ichikawa attends a press conference in Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 2011. Ichikawa, who revived the spectacular in Japanese Kabuki theater to woo younger and global audiences, has 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 co-founded, after he and wife **Mila Kunis** wrote letters seeking leniency for their former "That '70s Show" co-star and convicted rapist, **Danny Masterson**.

Kutcher stepped down from the board of Thorn, an organization he founded with then-wife **Demi Moore** in 2009, on Thursday, the group said in a statement.

"After my wife and I spent several days 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, effectively immediately," Kutcher wrote in a letter to the board. "I cannot allow my error in judgment to distract from our efforts and the children we serve."

A Los Angeles judge sentenced Masterson 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 on the Fox retro sitcom "That '70s Show" with Kutcher and Kunis.

The day after the sentencing, letters to the judge from Kutcher, Kunis and many others were made public. In Kutcher's, he called Masterson a man who in his experience had treated people "with decency, equality, and generosity."

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 them in any way."

Kutcher said in his resignation letter, first reported by Time magazine, that he offered "my heartfelt apology to all victims of sexual violence and everyone at Thorn who I hurt by what I did." (AP)

**NEW YORK:** A man accused of repeatedly stalking celebrities has been arrested for barging into a dressing room at a New York City fashion show and screaming that he wanted to marry actor **Emma Watson**, authorities said.

**Chad Michael Busto**, who was arrested last month after a run-in with **Drew Barrymore**, pleaded not guilty Saturday to criminal trespass and disorderly conduct charges in the incident last week at the **Ralph Lauren** show at the **Brooklyn Navy Yard**.

Busto, 43, was released without bail. His next court date is Oct 2. A message seeking comment was left with a lawyer listed for him on court records.

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."





## SPORTS

# Vets Reus, Hummels rescue Dortmund

## Leverkusen hold Bayern

**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 two-game 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

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.



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)

## 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



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

to prevent the England captain grabbing his fourth goal in four games.

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 Müller.

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

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

# Verstappen's winning 'streak' 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 season.

"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 his record-breaking 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 others.

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 unhurt.

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 and last.

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.



Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz gestures after the qualifying session of the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix at the Marina Bay circuit, Singapore, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023. Sainz took pole position. (AP)

## Struggling Lyon hire former Italy defender Grosso as new coach

# Moffi upstages Mbappé as Nice edge PSG

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 under new coach Luis Enrique.

A worrying one, too, for home fans despite Mbappé also scoring twice, with PSG's opening game of the Champions League on Tuesday against Borussia Dortmund.

PSG's lingering defensive frailties were again exposed, this time by the clinical finishing of the Nigeria striker. Moffi's pace and wide runs off the ball were ideally suited to the excellent counterattacking of unbeaten Nice.

This was a costly defeat for PSG, which is one point behind second-place Nice and two behind leader Monaco, which plays at Lorient on Sunday.

Moffi set up Nice's other goal with

a fine run down the left and a pinpoint cross to striker Gaetan Laborde at the far post.

Moffi put Nice ahead when he profited 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 minutes later when he whipped in a quick shot from 20 meters past former PSG keeper Marcin Bułka.

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 left corner.

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 million).

Only Neymar and Mbappé have cost more.

## 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 games.

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 second-tier 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 Latty last week after the team went 6-10-8 across all competitions this year. The team promoted assistant Sarah Landon as interim coach for the rest of the season.

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 outsprung a defender to challenge Dash goalkeeper Jane Campbell in the 14th minute, but Campbell's kick saved kept the game scoreless.



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)

# Kuwait secure victory over Saudi Arabia

DOHA, Sept 16: In the inaugural 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-

pressive performance in both innings secured their win against the Saudi 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 compete for the championship title.

Captain Abdullah further clarified 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 of runs."



The championship logo.



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

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

## 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 lead.

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 diving 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 Atlanta, 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)

'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 teams.

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

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 ut-

most 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 prom-

ising players with a bright future.

He affirmed that the International 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.



Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad

To make matters worse for United, the change didn't have the desired effect as Brighton extended its lead soon after when its own substitute Joao Pedro made it 3-0 in the 71st to add to a troubled start to the season for Ten Hag.

Brighton had a number of chances to add further goals, with Onana denying Kaoru Mitoma, Evan Ferguson and Ansu Fati late on before more boos were heard at the final whistle.

Liverpool scored two late goals on Saturday to secure a come from behind 3-1 win against Wolverhampton.

Trailing 1-0 at half time to a Hwang Hee-Chan goal at Molineux, the Merseyside team fired back through Cody Gakpo and Andy Robertson before an own goal by Hugo Bueno in time added on.

Liverpool is unbeaten after five games this season and moved to the top of the table above Manchester City, which plays later in the day.

It has been an impressive start for Jurgen Klopp's team, which missed out on qualification to the Champions League last season for the first time since 2016.

It was Liverpool's fourth win in a row after drawing with Chelsea in its opening game of the campaign.

But the game didn't go to plan from the start with Hwang opening the scoring in the seventh minute to give the home side a lead it kept until the break.

Gakpo evened the score 10 minutes into the second half for his first Liverpool goal of the season.

Robertson fired Liverpool in front in the 85th and Bueno's own goal ended all hope of a Wolverhampton comeback in the 91st.

Brazil striker Richarlison and Dejan Kulusevski scored in stoppage time as Tottenham rallied to beat Sheffield United 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday.

Richarlison headed home fellow substitute Ivan Perisic's corner and Kulusevski fired the winner to spark wild celebrations from the home crowd.

Spurs had looked set for its first league defeat of the season when trailing to Gustavo Hamer's 73rd-minute goal.

But the London club secured its fourth win of the season to stay second, behind leader Manchester City.

Richarlison struck in the eighth minute 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 August.

Sheffield's Oli McBurnie was sent off for a second yellow card in the 14th minute of stoppages.

Palace suffered a blow when 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 charge of team affairs.

Hodgson agreed to stay on in the off-season, after returning for his second spell at the club earlier in the year.

His team took the lead two minutes 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 the ball home.

## 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 sexism in soccer.

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 dozens 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 federation.

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 sufficient."



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)