



# ACTIVISTS IN EUROPE MARK DEATH OF MAHSA AMINI

## IAEA hits Tehran ban on key 'eyes'



Kuwait Ambassador to the United States Sheikhha Al-Zain Sabah Nasser Al-Saud Al-Sabah welcomes Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah upon arrival in New York for the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

PM Diwan photo

'Noble goals'

## PM in US for UN session

### NewsWatch

**CAIRO:** The Somali national army said Saturday its forces killed 30 members of Al-Shabab militia in **Mudug** region, Central Somalia.

The military operation led also to seizure of two vehicles and a quantity of weapons, and the destruction to four vehicles of the militia, the Somali National News Agency (SONNA) reported. (KUNA)

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**BRUSSELS:** Belgian Prime Minister **Alexander De Croo** said on Friday that he will seek the help of government experts on extremism in the wake of a series of school arsons. Officials believe the attacks are connected to a controversial sexual education school program.

De Croo spoke just hours after a sixth school in the French-speaking Wallonia region was torched this week. Signs protesting the so-called Evras program were discovered in some of the schools, according to authorities. (AP)

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**ISLAMABAD:** An Afghanistan-based nonprofit said Saturday it is working with the United Nations and others for the swift release of 18 staffers, including a foreigner, detained by the Taliban.

The International Assistance Mission said the 18 people were detained on two separate occasions this month from its office in central **Ghor** province and taken to the capital, **Kabul**.

Local media reported that a U.S. national is among those detained and that staff members were detained for preaching about Christianity. The nonprofit said it still has no information about the nature of the allegations. (AP)

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**BERLIN:** German police said dozens of people, including at least 26 officers, were injured during unrest surrounding an Eritrean cultural festival in the southwestern city of Stuttgart.

Shortly before the event was set to begin Saturday afternoon, around 200 protesters gathered in the area outside and began throwing stones, bottles, and other items at police officers and participants of the event. Six of the 26 injured police officers were treated in a hospital for their injuries, police said. Four event participants and two protesters were also injured, according to police, although information wasn't immediately available about the severity of their injuries. (AP)

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**LONDON:** London police arrested a 25-year-old man early Saturday morning after he allegedly climbed over a wall and entered the royal stables at Buckingham Palace.

The man was detained at 1:25 a.m Saturday for trespassing on a protected site, London's Metropolitan Police Service said in a statement. He was taken to a London police station, where he remained by late morning.

Officers found the man outside the royal stables following a search of the area. He didn't enter the palace or its gardens at any time, police said. (AP)

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrived in New York on Saturday to lead Kuwait delegation to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He was welcomed by Kuwait Ambassador to the United States Sheikhha Al-Zain Sabah Nasser Al-Saud Al-Sabah and Permanent Delegate to the UN Tareq Mohammad Al-Banai, as well as the diplomatic staff of the embassy in Washington and the mission in New York.

In press remarks upon his arrival, His Highness the Prime Minister spoke highly of the special partnership and close relationship between the State of Kuwait, on one hand, and the United Nations and its affiliate agencies, on the other.

"The growing relations with the UN help realize the noble goals of the global organization and contribute to its efforts in maintaining the world peace and security," he said.

The Kuwaiti government is committed to the UN efforts to promote development, protect human rights, promote amity and peace, mediate in regional and international disputes, and provide assistance to disaster-hit countries, His Highness the Prime Minister added.

## Jericho gets Heritage tag

JERICHO, West Bank, Sept 17, (AP): A U.N. conference voted Sunday to list prehistoric ruins near the ancient West Bank city of Jericho as a World Heritage Site in Palestine, a decision likely to anger Israel, which controls the territory and does not recognize a Palestinian state.

Jericho is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities on earth, and is in a part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank that is administered by the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority. The listing refers to the Tell es-Sultan archaeological site nearby, which contains prehistoric ruins dating back to the ninth millennium B.C. and is outside the ancient city itself.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the U.N. World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO. Israel quit UNESCO in 2019, accusing it of being biased against it and of diminishing its connection to the Holy Land. Israel also objected to UNESCO's acceptance of Palestine as a member state in 2011. But Israel remains a party to the World Heritage Convention, and it sent a delegation to the meeting in Riyadh.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for their future state. Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and cultural heartland of the Jewish people.

## Gunmen attack paramilitary forces

**BERLIN, Sept 17, (AP):** The U.N. nuclear watchdog has harshly criticized Iran for effectively barring several of its most experienced inspectors from monitoring the country's disputed atomic program.

The strongly worded statement came amid longstanding tensions between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is tasked with

monitoring a nuclear program that Western nations have long suspected is aimed at eventually developing a nuclear weapon. Iran insists the program is peaceful.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the IAEA, said Iran had withdrawn the designation of "several experienced Agency inspectors," barring them from taking part in the monitoring of its program.

"Iran has effectively removed about one-third of the core group of the agency's most experienced inspectors designated for Iran," he said.

Grossi went on to "strongly condemn this disproportionate and unprecedented unilateral measure," saying it "constitutes an unnecessary blow to an already strained relationship between the IAEA and Iran."

Iran's Foreign Ministry linked the move to what it said was an attempt by the United States and three European countries to misuse the IAEA "for their own political purposes."

The U.S., Britain, France and Germany criticized Iran in a joint statement at an IAEA board meeting in Vienna this week, calling on Tehran to step up co-operation with the agency.

Britain, France and Germany also said Thursday that they would maintain sanctions on Iran related to its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

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People attend a protest rally in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 to mark the first anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's morality police last year, sparking worldwide protests against Iran's conservative Islamic theocracy. (AP)

## Political leaders deflect responsibility

# Libya floods spark rallying call for unity

TRIPOLI, Sept 17, (AP): Zahra el-Gerbi wasn't expecting much of a response to her online fundraiser, but she felt she had to do something after four of her relatives died in the flooding that decimated the eastern Libyan city of Derna. She put out a call for donations for those displaced by the deluge.

In the first half-hour after she shared it on Facebook, the Benghazi-based clinical nutritionist said friends and strangers were already promising financial and material support.

"It's for basic needs like clothes, foods and accommodation," el-Gerbi said.

For many Libyans, the collective grief over the more than 11,000 dead has morphed into a rallying cry for national unity in a country blighted by 12 years of conflict and division. In turn, the tragedy has ramped up pressure on the country's leading politicians, viewed by some as the architects of the catastrophe.



Rescue teams search for victims in Derna, Libya, on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023. Libyan authorities have opened an investigation into the collapse of two dams that caused a devastating flood in Derna as rescue teams searched for bodies on Saturday, nearly a week after the deluge killed more than 11,000 people. (AP)

The oil-rich country has been divided between rival administrations since 2014, with an internationally recognized government in Tripoli and a rival authority in the east, where Derna is located. Both are backed by international patrons and armed militias whose influence in the country has ballooned since a NATO-backed Arab Spring uprising toppled autocratic ruler Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. Numerous United Nations-led initiatives to bridge the divide have failed.

In the early hours of Sept. 11, two dams in the mountains above Derna burst, sending a wall of water two stories high into the city and sweeping entire neighborhoods out to sea. At least 11,300 people were killed and a further 30,000 displaced.

An outpouring of support for the people of Derna followed. Residents from the nearby cities of Benghazi and Tobruk offered to put up the displaced. In Tripoli, some 1,450 kilometers (900 miles) west, a hospital said it would perform operations free of charge for any injured in the flood.

Ali Khalifa, an oil rig worker from Zawiya, west of Tripoli, said his cousin and a group of other men from his neighborhood joined a convoy of vehicles heading to Derna to help out with relief efforts. Even the local scout squad participated, he said.

The tragedy follows a long line of problems born from the country's lawlessness. Most recently, in August, sporadic fighting broke out between two rival militia forces in the capital, killing at least 45 people, a reminder of the influence rogue armed groups wield across Libya.

Under pressure, Libya's General Prosecutor al-Sediq al-Sour said Friday that prosecutors would open a file on the collapse of the two dams and investigate the authorities in the Derna, as well as past governments.

But the country's political leaders have so far deflected responsibility. The Prime Minister of Libya's Tripoli government, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, said he and his ministers were accountable for the dams' maintenance, but not the thousands of deaths caused by the flooding.

Meanwhile, the speaker of Libya's eastern administration, Aguila Saleh, said the flooding was simply an incomparable natural disaster. "Don't say, 'If only we'd done this, if only we'd done that,'" said Saleh in a televised news conference.



## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:14	Asr .....	15:11
Sunrise ..	05:33	Maghrib ..	17:51
Zohr .....	11:43	Isha .....	19:09

## Local

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

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with

## Weather

light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec			
Kuwait City	44	32	Abdaly	44	28
Kuwait Airport	45	33	Jahra	45	30
			Salmiyah	39	33
			Ahmadi	40	34
			Nuwaisib	44	29
			Wafra	44	30

## ‘Take tough steps to end crime against Kuwaitis’

KUNA photo  
Kuwait Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al- Al-Sa'adoun received UNHCR representative in Kuwait and other officials in his office.

## Parliament speaker receives UNHCR rep

Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al- Al-Sa'adoun received in his office, Sunday, UNHCR Representative in Kuwait Nisreen Rubaian, External Relations Officer Loulwah Al Turkait and Protection Officer Amal Al Beedh.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ah-

mad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah earlier today. (KUNA)

## MPs rap attack on citizen in Turkiye

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: MPs Muhannad Al-Sayer, Osama Al-Zaid and Muhammad Al-Regaib have called on Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah to take the necessary action regarding the attack on a Kuwaiti by some Turkish man (group) in Trabzon City, Turkiye.**

Al-Zaid stressed the need for the Embassy of Kuwait in Turkiye to quickly take action against those behind the barbarian attack on a Kuwaiti tourist in front of his wife and children. He emphasized the need to provide proper treatment for the Kuwaiti and protection for his family until they return home under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He asserted that legal measures must be taken against the attackers who should be punished for their crime. He affirmed that the dignity of Kuwaitis inside the country is protected by Kuwaiti laws, but their protection is the responsibility of the ministry whenever they are abroad.

Al-Sayer asked the Kuwaiti Embassy in Turkiye to exhaust all diplomatic means to protect the Kuwaiti and his family. “Diplomacy is useless if it cannot defend and protect the citizens. Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah should immediately issue a statement on the steps taken and reassure the people of Kuwait about the health condition of their compatriot,” he stated.

## Tough

Al-Regaib urged the ministry to take tough measures to end the repeated crimes against Kuwaiti tourists in Turkiye. He appealed to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Turkiye to make an official announcement of the measures it has taken regarding the attack.

Footages of the crime have gone viral on social media, showing the Kuwaiti tourist being hit on the head until he fell down with his head strongly hitting the ground. Screams were heard, believed to be that of the citizen's wife and children.

Meanwhile, MP Dawoud Maarefi forwarded queries to HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah about the vacant senior positions in ministries and public institutions. He wants to know the number of such vacancies, number of senior officials who are still in office despite the end of their term, and number of senior officials whose term will end in fiscal 2023/2024.

He requested for a list of nominees to senior positions, reasons behind the delayed issuance of decrees to fill up vacancies, criteria for the appointment of senior officials, and target date for filling up all vacancies.

Moreover, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi said the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) has committed financial and administrative violations, including illegal payments and contracting with certain companies. He asked Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Malek Al-Sabah to take action regarding such violations and the manipulation of public funds allocated for the disabled.

On the other hand, the Government-Parliament Coordinative Committee on Sunday discussed the priorities for the upcoming parliamentary year.

MPs Hassan Jawhar, Osama Al-Shaheen, Fahd Al-Massoud, Abdullah Al-Anbai and Soud Al-Asfour represented the National Assembly in the meeting; while the government party included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al- Kandari, and Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba.

During the meeting, they highlighted the importance of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. They also underscored the need to lay down the foundations for ensuring cooperation between the two authorities in the coming parliamentary year. They agreed on prioritizing bills aimed at raising the citizens' standard of living, political and administrative reforms, and completion of development projects. The committee will hold another series of meetings to discuss the suggestions of MPs.

In another development, the coordinator of the Independent Students List at Kuwait University highlighted what he considers the worst timing for the decision of Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Mane and the College of Law at Kuwait University to close the mixed-gender sections as per Segregation Law number 24/1996.

He pointed out that the decision was taken just a few days before the new academic year, causing a lot of problems for the students and the professors. He said 90 percent of the College of Law professors have announced that there will be no classes in the first week of the new academic year due to the admission and registration problems, which surfaced after the issuance of the decision. He added some students might not be able to enroll this academic year due to this decision. He holds the acting university president, the Admission and Registration dean, and College of Law dean responsible for the consequences of the decision. He indicated that the mixed gender sections are opened only in case of necessity as per the Kuwait University Law. He thinks the problem lies in the interference of some politicians in the affairs of the university, which are covered by the relevant executive regulations.

The E'tetlafiya Student Union also issued a statement, voicing objection to the decision. They urged the university administration to cancel the decision, taking into consideration the students' interests.

Furthermore, Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al- Saadoun recently met with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative in Kuwait Nisreen Rubaian, External Relations Officer Loulwah Al- Turkait and Protection Officer Amal Al-Beedh.

In addition, Al-Sa'adoun visited MP Hamad Al-Medlej at Al-Razi Hospital, wishing him speedy recovery.



Al-Sayer



Al-Zayed

## Other Voices

## Case of forged experience in Kuwait's medical sector

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb

Attorney and Visiting Professor at Kuwait International Law School

In an era where the integrity of our professions is paramount, and in a country that prides itself on the pursuit of excellence, a recent incident has brought to light the severe repercussions of neglecting our primary duty. The duty of honesty.

The heart of the matter concerns an Egyptian consultant doctor with a long history of service and a genuine medical degree, working diligently in a private hospital in Kuwait.

This medical professional, over the years, ascended the ranks due to his dedication and expertise, becoming a senior figure in his field. However, recently, a shadow was cast over his esteemed reputation.

Upon deciding to branch out to another Gulf country, this doctor furnished a resume and experience certificates, including one that attested to the duration of his employment at the private hospital in Kuwait. However, when a specialized authentication company in the receiving country undertook a routine verification process, the dark truth unravelled. This senior consultant doctor had forged the ‘Certificate of Experience’ related to his tenure at the Kuwaiti hospital.

To say this revelation was shocking would be an understatement. It serves as a powerful reminder of the fragile nature of trust, and how quickly it can crumble. The duty of honesty, which forms the bedrock of any professional undertaking, was severely compromised.

From a legal lens, forgery, especially in official documents, is a criminal offense. It not only tarnishes the reputa-

tion of the individual but also compromises the authenticity of professional standards in the entire sector. Beyond the immediate legal consequences, which includes potential imprisonment and deportation, the moral and ethical implications of such actions are profound.

This is not merely a case of an individual's dishonesty but a call to arms for Kuwait's authorities. It underscores the necessity for data verification processes for all professionals working within our borders. We, as a nation, must ensure that the honesty and authenticity of our professionals are above reproach.

In legal academia, there's a consistent emphasis on the importance of transparent, honest dealings, which play a pivotal role in shaping the conscience of any society. This incident is a reminder, albeit a grim one of the chasm that exists between academic teachings and real-world practices.

Our nation's employers, both in the private and public sectors, would greatly benefit from incorporating authentication and verification companies into their hiring processes. These entities ensure that the credentials provided by potential employees are genuine, safeguarding the trust placed in them by the larger community.

Kuwait has always been a beacon of progress in the Gulf, with its rich heritage and forward-thinking policies. To maintain this status, we must ensure that the very foundations of our professional sectors are robust, unyielding, and uncompromised.

In closing, let this incident serve as a resounding reminder of our collective duty to uphold honesty. It is our hope that the concerned authorities will heed this call and enforce rigorous data checks, ensuring the credibility of all professionals working in Kuwait. After all, a society thrives on trust, and trust is built on honesty.



Fawaz@tahergp.org

KUNA photo  
Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf, Deputy Chief of the National Guard inaugurating the specialized clinics.

## New clinics opened in Specialized Med Center

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf, Deputy Chief of the National Guard, inaugurated the specialized clinics, dialysis suite, and diagnostic radiology center within the newly established medical center at Liberation Camp, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Nawaf conveyed warm regards from His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali, Chief of the National Guard, expressing the leadership's pride in the enhanced medical services provided to its members. He meticulously inspected the center's departments, marveling at the cutting-edge medical devices and equipment, which were on par with the latest technologies found in Ministry of Health hospitals and premium medical facilities. During the visit, he received a comprehensive briefing on the services accessible to members, retirees, and, subsequently, members' families.

Emphasizing the leadership's unwavering commitment to bolstering medical services while prioritizing the human factor as the cornerstone of institutional success, Al-Nawaf stressed their dedication to furnishing all essential resources for expanding healthcare provisions.

He underscored that the inclusion of dialysis services at the Specialized Medical Center marks a significant milestone in the National Guard's commitment to serving its members and their families, aligning with directives from the country's political leadership, embodied by His Highness the Amir, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Furthermore, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf emphasized that the leadership's concern extends beyond active members, encompassing retirees as a token of appreciation for their service, and later extending to members' families. He emphasized the imperative of a continuous evolution of medical services across all National Guard clinics.

The Specialized Medical Center stands as a crucial component of the National Guard's medical initiatives, boasting a five-story building with specialized medical clinics, state-of-the-art laboratories, administrative offices, a conference room, and comfortable spaces for medical personnel.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including Lieutenant General Engineer Hashim Al-Rifai, Undersecretary of the National Guard, Major General Hamad Salem Ahmed, Commander of Protection and Reinforcement, and Major General Engineer Essam Nayef Essam, Assistant for Administrative Support.

## Court to hear appeal on pensions on Wed

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Constitutional Court has set the upcoming session on Wednesday to consider the appeal submitted against article 80 of the Social Security Law regarding the invalidation of exceptional pensions.

In a press statement, the appellant lawyer Mohammad Al-Ansari said, “Our refuge, our resort, and our fortress is the judiciary. The Constitution stipulates equality, and the exceptional pensions that allow increases and exceptions for leaders but not citizens indicate discrimination, not equality.

Article 80 of the law failed to set a clear standard for entitlement to the exceptional pension and left it open to interpretation, under the pretext of the existence of an article that allows the Council of Ministers to grant whomever it deems appropriate an exceptional salary without a fixed and fair standard for all.

KUNA photo  
Al-Quds Fund and Endowment honors the Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Organization presents a certificate of appreciation to Kuwait's Dr. Abdul-lah Al-Ma'atouq.

## Kuwait remains loyal to Palestine

## IICO chairman Al-Ma'atouq honored

RAMALLAH, Sept 17, (KUNA): Al-Quds Fund and Endowment honored the chairman of the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq in the closing ceremony of Jerusalem International Conference on Sustainable Development held in Ramallah.

Al-Quds Fund and Endowment Board of Directors chairman, Munib Al-Masri said to KUNA that Al-Maatouq and members of the Arab and Islamic delegations that participated in the conference were honored, in appreciation of the charitable and humanitarian efforts in Palestine.

Al-Ma'atouq affirmed in a speech during the conference that Kuwait will

remain loyal to the Palestinian people, stressing that Palestine's situation is the most important in the charitable organizations work agenda.

Jerusalem International Conference on Sustainable Development was held on Friday, by Al-Quds Fund and Endowment, in partnership with Al-Quds University and the Regional Network for Social Responsibility, with the participation of multiple Arab and Islamic figures.

The conference, held at Al-Quds University, focused on Arab and international partnerships and their role in supporting charitable organizations in Jerusalem to achieve sustainable development.

## ‘Arab countries export worth \$10bn’

## Kuwait exported \$280m oil to US

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Official data showed that the total exports of crude oil from 5 Arab countries to the United States of America amounted to 141.041 million barrels, worth 10.078 billion dollars, during the first seven months of 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The five countries are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Libya, Kuwait, and the Emirates.

According to data from the US Department of Commerce, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came at the top of the list of the five countries in terms of the highest exports, as the value of its oil exports amounted to \$6.63 billion, at about 81.525 million barrels, while it exported \$946.11 million during last July with a quantity of 12.16 million barrels.

Iraq came second with oil exports amounting to 47.15 million barrels, with a value of 3.44 billion dollars, while the value

of exports for the seventh month of the current year amounted to about 424.97 million dollars, with a quantity amounting to 5.92 million barrels.

In third place come Libyan oil exports to America at about 7.301 million barrels, worth \$627.45 billion, and during its seventh month it exported 608,000 barrels worth \$53.188 million.

Kuwait's oil exports to America ranked fourth, with the amount of its exports reaching 3,634 thousand barrels in the same period, worth \$279.73 million, and the amount of its exports reaching 819,000 barrels in July, worth \$67,906 million.

The UAE ranked last, which did not export oil to America during the months of May, June, and July in 2023, while the total UAE oil imports before these two months since the beginning of the year reached 1.427 million barrels, worth 123.169 billion dollars.







# Union awaits EPA nod for mead fishing as diesel crisis resolved

KFU expresses gratitude for authorities' efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Kuwait Fishermen's Union expressed gratitude for the efforts of the authorities involved in supporting the fishermen, commending the resolution of the diesel crisis. They praised the officials from relevant government agencies who attentively responded to the appeals of the

fishermen and played a role in resolving this issue, reports Al-Rai daily.

In an official statement, the Fishermen's Union mentioned that a coordination meeting of concerned authorities was headed by Saad Al-Alati, Assistant Undersecretary for Budgets at the Ministry of Finance.

Also present were Eng. Nasser Taqi, Acting Director General of The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources (PAAAFR); Mohsen Al-Mutairi, Acting Deputy Director General of PAAAFR; and Eng. Salem Al-Hai, Director of the Marine Control Department.

### Representatives

Additionally, representatives from various key institutions attended the meeting, including Hamid Al-Dhafiri from the Ministry of Commerce's emergency team, Ghanem Al-Otaibi from the Kuwait Oil Company's local marketing department, Dhaher Al-Sawyan and Nabil Al-Mudahka, the President and Vice President of the Fishermen's Union respectively. Amna Al-Jamal, the coordination and follow-up supervisor in the general budget affairs sector, also contributed to the discussions. The meeting yielded crucial recommendations, the primary one being the reinstatement of the previously reduced share of subsidized diesel.

The union emphasized their commitment to the conditions set during the meeting and stressed the significance of addressing issues related to street vendors. They clarified that all the catch is intended for the local market and is sold at the Sharq and Fahaheel markets.

The committee's decision was met with contentment from the fishermen, alleviating one of the challenges they faced. The union remains steadfast in advocating for the fishermen's rightful demands and will actively engage in seeking solutions for various challenges, including improvements to the fishermen's village, increased fish support, and addressing concerns regarding mead fishing and its location.

They are awaiting a response from the Environment Public Agency regarding the Federation's request to fish mead in Kuwait Bay in accordance with the prescribed regulations and conditions set by the concerned authorities.

## 300 motorbikes pressed into service

### Smooth traffic flow on first day of school

By Munaif Naif  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: With the start of the new academic year and the implementation of flexible working hours, the streets and roads witnessed a smooth flow of traffic yesterday morning. However, Shadadiyah University and some entrances to Sabah Al-Salem area witnessed congestion.

The General Traffic Department worked on facilitating traffic outside all schools. Security leaders, security and traffic officers, non-commissioned officers, and individuals from the Public Security, Traffic, and Rescue sectors were deployed in front of the schools under the supervision of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas, the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security, Operations, and Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Rajaib, and the Director General of Traffic Department Major General Yousef Al-Khadda.

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas visited the Central Control Room and the Operations Room of the General Traffic Department in South Sabahiya area



Lieut-Gen Al-Barjas during the launch of 300 motorbikes.

in order to monitor the traffic movement due to the start of the new school year in the country. He inspected the efforts of the Ministry of Interior's agencies in preparing to welcome the new academic year and follow up the implementation of comprehensive security and traffic measures.

To the officers of the traffic, public security, and operations sectors present on the roads and in front of the schools, Lieutenant General Al-Barjas said, "I advise you to protect your brothers and your families and ensure their return safe and

sound ... God bless everyone."

He listened to a briefing on the functioning of the Central Control System, the monitoring of traffic signals via the Central Control Room, the traffic monitoring system via surveillance cameras, and the traffic counting system of the traffic volume on roads and intersections.

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas supervised the launch of 300 traffic motorbikes to contribute to monitoring the movement on the roads and access to some crowded places that are difficult for patrol vehicles to reach.

# Kuwait elementary schools receive first-grade students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Students of the first grade in elementary schools began their academic year, on Sunday, to move forward on

the path of science and knowledge. The schools received students in a festive atmosphere to face students' fear and shyness.



Some of the students in their first year of study.

KUNA photos

## Chinese Cultural Center opens

### Meeting mulled between Kuwait's Crown Prince & China's president

By Fares Al-Abdan  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Assistant Minister for Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Yassin has suggested holding a meeting between His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad and the Chinese President Xi Jinping during His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad's visit expected this week to attend the Asian Games in China.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the Chinese Cultural Center yesterday, Al-Yassin affirmed that there is a strategic partnership between Kuwait and China, the foundations of which were laid by the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad during his visit to China in 2018.

He explained that there are negotiations ongoing between the two sides to prepare for signing a number of memorandums of understanding during the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince.



Jianwei

Kuwait is the first Arab country in the region to sign the Belt and Road Agreement. There is a Chinese desire to participate in major development projects in Kuwait, which is welcomed by Kuwait.

Regarding the signing of the Shanghai Treaty, Al-Yassin said, "It is considered part of the interest of the political leadership in strengthening its relations with the countries of the East, and it happened a year ago. Kuwait had joined as a dialogue partner, and also joined "Sika". About two weeks ago, Kuwait signed the Treaty of Cooperation and Friendship as a dialogue partner with ASEAN."

Meanwhile, the Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei affirmed that the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games will advance the strategic partnership between China and Kuwait and raise it to a higher level, adding that work

will be done to accelerate the pace of bilateral cooperation in various fields, including in the field of culture.

He explained that the Chinese Cultural Center in Kuwait is considered a symbol of Chinese-Kuwaiti friendship. Kuwait is the first and only Gulf country in which a Chinese medical team is stationed.

As the Chinese Cultural Center in Kuwait - the first of its kind in the Gulf region - celebrates its trial operation, Kuwait will be at the forefront of cultural exchanges between China and the GCC countries in the new era. It will establish a more solid cultural foundation for building a Chinese-Arab community with a common future, which once again highlights the special relationship between Kuwait and China.

The center will launch a variety of services and activities, including Chinese language teaching and information services.

Furthermore, Assistant Secretary-General for the Arts Sector at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) Musaed Al-Zamil revealed the presentation of a cultural week in Hong Kong in November.

He indicated that agreements are being prepared to translate Chinese literature books into Arabic and translate Kuwaiti literature books into Chinese.

In addition, Director of the Chinese Cultural Center Xia Jianfeng said the center in Kuwait aims to implement the agreements signed between the two governments, and to tell the Chinese story to friends here in Kuwait and the international community.

He highlighted the organization of language learning lessons, seminars to exchange ideas, in addition to cultural exchange events and cooperation for our peoples.

Also, the chief representative of the Sinopec Group office in the Middle East Lian Mingxiang announced the donation of books and bookshelves on the occasion of the opening of the Chinese Cultural Center in order to contribute to cultural exchanges between China and Kuwait.

Mahsa Jina Amini and the many others cannot have died in vain, said Maryam Namazie, an Iranian human rights activist in the U.K. "We have to have a better society as the result of this huge, Herculean fight."

In Paris, Mayor Anne Hidalgo announced that a garden in the French capital now carried Amini's name. The mayor called Amini an Iranian resistance hero and said Paris "honors her memory and her battle, as well as those of women who fight for their freedom in Iran and elsewhere."

The Villemain Garden that now also bears Amini's name is in Paris' 10th district, next to a canal with popular boat tours for tourists.

## Manila voices

Continued from Page 1

He hoped to work to organize and do good on all the previous mistakes and negatives that led to the deterioration of relations between the two friendly countries on the labor side, in the domestic and private sectors, which caused a clear imbalance in the labor market.

In turn, the owner of a domestic worker office praised the statement of the Philippine Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, considering it to be a glimmer of hope for resolving the crisis that clearly caused huge losses to both sides.

He added that there has been a great demand for Filipino workers in Kuwait for years, and this has caused harm to many employment agencies, hoping that negotiations will quickly begin to return to normal.

Al-Shammari stressed the necessity of resolving the crisis with the Philippines before the end of this year because of its negative repercussions on Kuwaiti families.

He pointed out that Filipino female workers occupy first place in the domestic workers sector, at a rate of 50 percent of the total domestic workers in Kuwait currently, according to the latest official statistics, with approximately 195,000 domestic workers.



# 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\*



## LOCAL

# 'Rapid digital transformation, boosting cybersecurity'

## Huge leap in gov't services

By Fahad Al-Saeed

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA):** Ushering rapid digital transformation, bolstering cybersecurity, and implementing with the fourth industrial revolution are integral goals within Kuwait's Vision 2035, said the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) on Wednesday.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) prior to the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York, on September 18-19, Secretary General of SCPD Dr. Khaled Mahdi said that implementing digital transformation would smoothen the path for Kuwait to be part of the fourth industrial revolution.

He added that government services in Kuwait would make huge leaps through digital transformation, noting that sustainable development in all aspects would boost the capital of human resources and help future generations excel.

There would be no development without investing in future generations and this matter is within Kuwait's 2035 Vision, pointed out Mahdi.

Sustainable development is not a recent development, Kuwait had been working on it since establishing the future generations fund in the era of late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in 1979, a step aimed at ensuring the prosperity of future generations, added the official.

In regards to the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Dr. Mahdi affirmed that Kuwait was eager to contribute to the 17-points plan ranging from eradicating poverty worldwide to providing proper health care and more.

Kuwait's 2035 Vision is in line with the SDGs, said Mahdi, revealing that Kuwait had taken considerable strides into realizing its own development goals through the involvement of SCPD.

In regards to digital transforma-

tion and the fourth industrial revolution, which integral to the Kuwait Vision 2035, Dr. Mahdi stressed that Kuwait had made important jump in transforming paper government transactions into digital.

He added that the "Sahel" and "Hawiyati" government application transformed how government transactions were carried out; however, this was just the beginning of seek better digital transformation.

Mahdi went on to say that the infrastructure for digital transformation were laid down in Kuwait through the use of fiber optics cables and communication towers throughout the country to ensure smooth phone services and internet.

Cybersecurity was amongst the State's top priorities, said Mahdi who pointed out the recent agreement with Google Cloud would boost security and help citizens and residents to better protect their digital information and assets.

### Digital transformation

Digital transformation had been implement in the health sector in Kuwait via using "robot surgeons" in surgery, indicated the official, adding that such transformation also was used in environment sustainability via constructing various eco-friendly buildings and structures in Kuwait.

He went on to say that technology was used to better regulations for residency in Kuwait and also was used more importantly to boost the country's economy.

He indicated that media played a crucial role in Kuwait's Vision 2035, lauding on this occasion the Ministry of Information and Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) got their contributions to the state's development vision.

One of the major goals to achieve digital transformation was in economy, where Kuwait was eager to collaborate with foreign investors to achieve mutual goals, the SCPD chief said.

For example, Kuwait had extended its hand in cooperation with China via signing in 2018 an agreement to develop the northern region the country as part of the Harir "Silk" project, which includes the Mubarak seaport, new residential areas and industrial cities and more.

In 2009, Kuwait was also among the first from the Middle East to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with China as the latter country was embarking on its Belt and Road initiative of 2013, he said.

The upcoming 2030 Sustainable Development Summit in New York would look into has been achieve in regards to the plan launched in 2015.



KUNA photo

Group photo during the VO Academy celebration of the 40 participants graduating in its second training course of the program.

## 'Program a unique experiment in empowering and inspiring talented youth'

# VO Academy celebrates completion of 2nd training course

Exhibit aims to consolidate process of communication

## PAAET holds 2nd student exhibition

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17:** The Deanship of Student Affairs is organizing the second student exhibition, under the title 'Enlighten Your Ideas' which will be held from September 18 to 20, the aims of which is to consolidate the process of communication between the student and the employee, to respond to his inquiries and provide him with the right direction, so that he/she can begin his academic journey successfully with a clear mind, without any obstacles that might hinder his/her path, reports Al-Rai daily.

The official spokeswoman for the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Siham Al-Enezi, said the exhibition is held "Under the patronage of the Minister of Education, Dr. Adel Al-Mana.

She pointed out that "this year's

exhibition will be attended by the guidance and registration offices in the authority's colleges and institutes, in addition to the Deanship of Admission and Registration, and the Quality and Academic Accreditation Department."

For her part, the general coordinator of the exhibition, Laila Majki, said, the exhibition this year is distinguished by the participation of everyone, in addition to the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), as their participation is considered an asset for the students in facilitating the process of obtaining the documents required to apply for the social reward."

The exhibition will be during in the morning from 8 am to 1 pm, in the Technology Complex, in the College

of Technological Studies, Building A, opposite Gate No. 5.

She invited all students from all colleges and institutes to attend the exhibition, communicate closely with those concerned, and clarify everything they need in their academic journey.

Al-Enezi said PAAET is keen to provide all means that serve the requirements of students of its colleges and institutes.

She explained that "every year, with the start of the school year, a student needs to become familiar with the laws and regulations of the school day and the answers he needs for inquiries related to choosing the academic schedule, social rewards, the registration mechanism, his rights and duties, and how to benefit from guidance and counseling."



KUNA photo

A group photo of participants in the forum's workshops.

## Transformation supports sustainable economy

# Arab Planning Institute highlights importance of 'digital conversion'

## Ministry launching project to increase pace of extending fiber-optic network

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17:** The Ministry of Communication announced that, "in fulfillment of the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (New Kuwait 2035), and within the framework of the Ministry's efforts to develop its services for users and activate its role in the state's plan to transition to the digital economy, it seeks to complete the final stage in the national project of extending the optical fiber network to all parts of the country to provide the infrastructure for the communications network to include coverage of existing and new areas of Kuwait, thus providing competitive opportunities to provide communications services with high quality and diverse services comparable to those available in developed and pioneering countries in this field, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Ministry indicated that it will coordinate with the Public-

Private Partnership Projects Authority to choose a strategic partner through open competition for specialized and qualified international and regional companies.

The ministry added, this partnership will take the form of a specialized company licensed by Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), in which the competent operator participates and is managed alongside the entity representing the state and through public subscription in accordance with the public-private partnership law.

This is in addition to establishing, developing and operating the fixed telecommunications network which the Ministry will maintain and will provide communications interconnection services exclusively to telecommunications and information technology companies licensed in the country, which in turn will provide their services directly to users.

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA):** Director General of the Arab Planning Institute (API), Dr. Bader Malallah stressed Sunday the importance of digital conversion and creativity in enhancing sustainable economy.

This came in a statement by Dr. Malallah during the second Youth Scout Forum that starts Sunday and remaining five days.


Creativity and digital transformation depends on modernity requirement, research development and highly advanced education, he added.

Dr. Malallah also pointed out the API offers workshops for youth, highlighting creativity and digital transformation.



Furthermore, he assured that using digital transformation in governmental transactions positively resulted in facilitating citizens' services through mobile applications and websites.

From his side, Chairman of the Arab scout committee and head of KSA Dr Abdullah Al-Tarjji stated that heads of Arab scout Committees all approved that supporting youth is the main objective of the scout organization.

The forum main goals are to exchange expertise, beside discovers methods to beat any difficulties with a participation of 38 Arab countries, Arab Scout Organization and the regional director Amr Hamdi stated earlier.




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U.S. judge orders Argentina to pay \$16 billion for expropriation of YPF oil company

A U.S. judge ruled that Argentina must pay \$16.1 billion to minority shareholders of state-controlled oil company YPF due to the government's 2012 nationalization of a majority stake in the firm.

U.S. District Judge Loretta Preska in New York issued final judgment Friday detailing the dollar amount that the South American country would have to pay.

Preska on Friday ordered Argentina to pay \$14.38 billion to Petersen Energia, including \$7.5 billion in damages and \$6.85 billion in interest and \$1.7 billion to Eton Capital, including \$897.75 million in damages and \$816.58 million in interest.

Interest will continue to accrue if Argentina fails to pay, Preska said.

Argentina, which is currently suffering dire economic woes that include a low level of Central Bank reserves, rising poverty and a galloping inflation of more than 100% per year, has vowed to appeal the ruling.

A week earlier, Preska had made clear it was siding with the plaintiffs in the long-running dispute. Burford Capital, which funded much of the litigation, had said after last week's ruling that it represented "a complete win against Argentina."

More than a decade ago, the government of President Cristina Fernández, who served from 2007-2015 and who is now vice president, decided to expropriate a majority stake in Argentina's largest energy company, YPF.

Congress passed a law expropriating 51% of the shares of YPF from then-majority shareholder Repsol, a Spanish firm. Repsol ultimately received compensation worth some \$5 billion.

Yet minority shareholders Petersen Energia and Eton Park filed suit, saying the government had violated the company's statutes by not offering to tender for the remaining shares in the company.

YPF is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, so

the plaintiffs were able to file their suit in U.S. court.

In a ruling earlier this year, Preska agreed with the shareholders and said they were owed compensation by Argentina and that YPF had no responsibility in the expropriation.

Argentina had argued it should not have to pay more than \$5 billion.

The opposition has used the ruling to criticize Fernández as well as Buenos Aires Gov. Axel Kicillof, who was then deputy economy minister and widely seen as the mastermind behind the expropriation. Kicillof is running for reelection in October. (AP)

Market Movements				16-09-2023			
		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
UAE	- DFM	+0.23	4,043.40	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-1.32	6,126.34
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+1.10	33,533.09				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.23	45,796.77				
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.29	11,154.54				
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+0.92	19,540.33				

# Business

US inflation rose above forecasts in August

## European Central Bank hikes to 4%, hinting at peak

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States  
Inflation Rises above Forecasts

Driven by rising energy costs, US inflation rose above forecasts in August, likely complicating the Federal Reserve's battle to keep prices under control. Consumer prices rose by 3.7% on a yearly basis, up from 3.2% in July and beating consensus forecasts of 3.6%. On a monthly basis, prices increased 0.6% following a 0.2% gain the month prior. More than half the monthly increase in price pressures were driven by a recent jump in petrol prices after Saudi Arabia and Russia renewed efforts to push oil prices higher. Brent crude was last seen trading at a 10-month high of \$92.50.

Underlying price pressures were also marginally stronger than expected, but continued to decline year on year, providing the Fed cover to leave interest rates unchanged next Wednesday. The core figure gained a more modest 0.3% m/m, slightly above the 0.2% rate for July. However on an annual basis, it fell from 4.7% to 4.3%.

After hiking rates 11 times since March 2022 in an effort to bring inflation back towards its 2% target, the Federal Reserve is widely expected to keep interest rates steady at its next meeting on September 19-20. Moving forward however, investors are split as to whether the central bank will make another interest rate rise later in the year.

PPI Accelerates on Gasoline

Prices paid to US producers increased in August, boosted by rising energy and transportation costs. The producer price index rose 0.7% last month, marking the largest gain since June 2022. Wholesale goods prices jumped 2.0% last month, with a 20% surge in gasoline prices accounting for 60% of the increase. Excluding volatile components, the core figure nudged up 0.1%.

Retail Sales Beat Expectations

US retail sales picked up in August, boosted by higher gas prices while spending on other items grew modestly. Retail sales rose 0.6% m/m, slightly faster than July's revised 0.5% gain, marking the fifth straight month of growth. The acceleration was largely driven by spending at gas stations, which advanced 5.2% last month. Higher oil prices due to OPEC+ production cuts, strong demand and disruption in Libya have all contributed to higher prices at gas stations. Excluding sales at gasoline stations, retail spending advanced a more modest 0.2% in August from July. The data illustrates

Highlights

- US inflation rose above forecasts in August, rising 3.7% y/y and 0.6% m/m. The core figure gained 0.3% m/m and 4.3% y/y. Producer prices also accelerated, gaining 0.7% last month.
- American shoppers continued to spend, with retail sales rising 0.6%, slightly faster than July's revised 0.5% gain, marking the fifth straight month of growth.
- Britain's economy contracted in July, weighed down by strikes in hospitals and schools and unusually bad weather.
- The European Central Bank delivered its 10th consecutive rate hike, taking the main deposit facility rate to a record 4% while hinting that this may be the peak.
- Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed net employment rose 64,900 in August from July, while the jobless rate held steady at 3.7% while the participation rate surged to 67%.
- China's industrial output grew 4.5% in August from a year earlier, accelerating from the 3.7% pace seen in July.
- The US Dollar index is up 1.65% so far this month, with the euro dropping to a six-month low in reaction to a dovish European Central Bank. The pound also declined, breaking below the 1.24 level.

trates resilient shoppers despite 11 interest rates hikes by the Federal Reserve.

Europe & UK

UK Activity Battered by Strikes & Bad Weather

Britain's economy contracted in July, weighed down by strikes in hospitals and schools as well as unusually rainy weather which hurt output. Gross domestic product shrank 0.5% in July from June, worse than the 0.2% contraction expected. The figure followed a better than expected 0.2% growth in the second quarter of the year, and heightened fears of a recession in the second half of

Rates – 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0714	1.0629	1.0768	1.0655	1.0500	1.0800	1.0705
GBP	1.2478	1.2377	1.2547	1.2389	1.2200	1.2600	1.2395
JPY	147.01	145.89	147.96	147.82	145.00	149.00	145.67
CHF	0.8911	0.8895	0.8977	0.8974	0.8800	0.9100	0.8892

the year. The drop in Q3 output goes beyond sectors affected by strikes and rain. All three major sectors (manufacturing, services and construction) contracted for the first time since the summer of 2022.

Investors' expectations regarding future interest rate rises have edged lower in recent days, but traders still expect the BoE to raise rates at their next meeting to 5.5%. Moving forward, investors are split on whether or not that will be the central bank's final rate increase.

ECB Hikes Rates at Record Level

The European Central Bank announced its 10th consecutive hike in its main interest rate, as the fight against inflation took priority over a weakening economy. Rate hikes have now taken the central bank's main deposit facility from -0.5% in June 2022 to a record 4%. The main reason for the hike seems to be upward revisions in macroeconomic projections. For the euro area, inflation is seen averaging 5.6% this year from a prior forecast of 5.4%, and 3.2% next year from a previous forecast of 3%.

The ECB's statement shook markets as it indicated further hikes may be off the table for now. "Based on its current assessment, the Governing Council considers that the key ECB interest rates have reached levels that, maintained for a sufficiently long duration, will make a substantial contribution to the timely return of inflation to the target," it said. "The Governing Council's future decisions will ensure that the key ECB interest rates will be set at sufficiently restrictive levels for as long as necessary."

Asia Pacific

Australia's Employment Surges

In a sign that decade-high interest rates have yet to soften demand in the labor market, Australia's employment surged in August. The data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed net employment rose 64,900 in August from July, while markets had forecast an increase of around 23,000. The jobless rate held steady at 3.7% while the participation rate surged to 67%, the highest since records began in 2013. The labor market has proven its resiliency with 410,700 net jobs added in the 12 months to August, despite interest rates climbing 400 basis points to an 11-year high of 4.1%. Markets maintained their bets that the Reserve Bank of Australia would keep rates steady next month, with an about 40% chance of one final hike early next year.

Optimistic Data out of China

China's industrial output grew 4.5% in August from a year earlier, accelerating from the 3.7% pace seen in July. Meanwhile retail sales, a gauge of consumption, grew at a faster 4.6% pace in August compared to a 2.5% increase in July. The figures followed better than expected bank lending data, narrowing in the declines of exports and imports, as well as easing deflationary pressure. The latest bulk of data indicates that the recent support measures may be starting to stabilize a choppy economic recovery. However, the economy remains pressured by an ailing property sector and high youth unemployment.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar  
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30840.

# Gold prices soar to \$1,923

Dollar-yuan dynamics, Fed rate fears cited for rise

'Prospects and Expectations'

## Warba sponsors Digital Public Relations Forum

Kuwait Insurance 'Back to School'

## Bayt Abdullah Hospital hosts event

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait Insurance organized a "Back to School" event for the new academic year 2023/2024 with the Kuwait Society for Children's Care and Bayt Abdullah Hospital, for the hospital's Children's Hospice (KACCH & BACCH).

This initiative comes within the framework of the Company's social responsibility and humanitarian and charitable initiatives, as an expression of the spirit of social participation. The company is always keen to provide various means of support to the relevant charitable and health institutions and societies in the country.

A number of children under care and their parents, preparing for the new school year, participated in the event. The event included activities on various topics, most notably the basics of proper nutrition, physical health, artistic and linguistic skills, and musical activities. This event aimed at putting children at ease and preparing them for return to school.

On this occasion, Fajr Al-Sayegh, Manager of Corporate Communication Department at Kuwait Insurance Company, said: "The dozens of children and their families in attendance to celebrate the return to school at Bayt Abdullah, were gifted school supplies, and enjoyed sweets and drinks during the event. The Company presented the children with sets of "Friends of Kuwait Insurance Company" entertainment dolls, to put smiles and joy on their



Some of the children at the event.

faces. The Company also donated to purchase toys, entertainment and educational tools for the game rooms affiliated with KACCH & BACCH at eight government hospitals to help create a suitable environment for sick children and their families, ensuring a pleasant stay and improve morale during their medical journey".

At the conclusion of the event, Al-Sayegh expressed

her deep thanks to all the volunteer workers at Bayt Abdullah and for their great efforts in bringing joy to the hearts of the children. She also affirmed the Company's commitment to continuing its ongoing support for charitable projects, which confirms its role as a leading Kuwaiti institution, keen to fulfill its social responsibilities towards the various segments of Kuwaiti society.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Gold prices surged to \$1,923 in response to the weakening of the US dollar against the yuan, spurred by favorable economic data from China, a key consumer of gold worldwide. However, apprehension loomed among investors due to the potential for the Federal Reserve (the US central bank) to raise interest rates once more.

Spot gold prices saw a 0.3% uptick, reaching \$1,923 per ounce, while US gold futures contracts also gained by 0.2%, closing at \$1,936.90.

The yuan appreciated to its highest levels against the dollar in two weeks, following robust August data that exceeded expectations in Chinese factory production and retail sales. This shift in the dollar's value made gold, priced in US currency, more appealing to international buyers, as reported by Reuters.

Despite these advances, gold was still on track for a modest weekly decline after dipping close to the \$1,900 mark on Thursday, marking its lowest point since August 23.

Yip Jun Rong, an expert in financial markets at IG, remarked, "The anticipation of prolonged high-interest rates is exerting pressure on gold prices, as gold doesn't yield returns." He further added, "Current economic conditions in the United States do not appear to warrant an imminent interest rate reduction, with the expected timing of any reduction continuing to be pushed back to the middle of next year."

Al-Mutairi:  
■ We believe in the role of the public relations profession and its great impact on supporting activities that serve the Kuwaiti society

■ We are keen to participate and support many humanitarian and social activities to highlight the Bank's image as an integral part of the society

Al-Nasrallah:  
■ We praise the role of "Warba" in supporting the forum and providing various programs to qualify young people capable of achieving economic and social development

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the Digital Public Relations Forum (Prospects and Expectations), which is organized by the Kuwait Public Relations Association and with the participation of an elite group of international, Arab and Gulf experts in the profession, as well as a group of specialized media professionals in Kuwait.

On this occasion, the Director Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, said that Warba Bank's sponsorship of this forum comes from its belief in the important role of the public relations profession, and its great impact on supporting all activities that serve the Kuwaiti community. Adding that this forum is an opportunity for public relations departments in ministries and state institutions to meet and exchange experiences among themselves. Pointing out that the essence of public relations is to achieve human understanding, which requires thinking and planning to achieve this understanding, which is closer to the interim goal than to the direct means.

Al-Mutairi highlighted the active role played by the Public Relations Department of Warba Bank in establishing communication relationships, whether at the internal level among the Bank's employees by providing care, support, and honoring the employees, or at the level of social, humanitarian, sports, and educational events that the Public Relations Department sponsors within the framework of the Bank's policy in serving the community, stressing the important advertising role played by the management, which aims to confirm Warba's excellence in providing innovative banking services to clients, so that Warba Bank remains the bank of choice for all segments of society.

Al-Mutairi pointed out Warba Bank's keenness to participate and provide support to many humanitarian and social ac-



Jamal Jasim Al-Nasrallah



Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi

tivities that contribute to highlighting the Bank's image as an integral part of the society in which it operates, enhancing the development process in various fields and maintaining its role in the local and regional market.

Al-Mutairi stressed the importance of developing national professionals through training programmes, conferences and various events during which the experienced professionals in various fields get the opportunity to transfer professional skills to trainees, in addition to exchanging experiences among them, indicating that Warba's endeavor to support these events comes within the priorities of social responsibility.

He stated that the institutions should realize the extent of development of the public relations and media industry today through the entry of social media into this industry, as these media occupy a large part of it, and with traditional media such as the press, radio, and television continuing to attract followers from various segments through their use of social media as well. Institutions today must pay attention to such development and other future developments that will follow.



Egypt extends car import initiative

In response to the ongoing dollar scarcity crisis, Egypt's Council of Ministers has granted approval during its weekly meeting for the renewal of the initiative allowing Egyptians residing abroad to import cars. This renewal spans an additional three months and can be extended once for those who did not benefit from the initial iteration of the program.

The draft law awaits consideration and approval by the Egyptian Parliament upon its reconvening in early October.

This initiative, which permits Egyptians living abroad to bring vehicles into Egypt with a customs exemption in exchange for a dollar deposit, was initially introduced last year and concluded in May after generating approximately \$900 million in revenue.

As part of a broader set of initiatives introduced by the Egyptian government, the program aimed to revise customs and all associated fees concerning Egyptians' gold imports. Data reveals that since the government's decision in May to allow Egyptians to import gold without customs duties, more than 600 kilograms of gold have been brought into the country, contributing to efforts aimed at stabilizing the local gold market.

World Manufacturing Convention to be held in Hefei

The 2023 World Manufacturing Convention is set to take place in Hefei, Anhui from September 20th to 24th. This year's Convention, themed "Smart Manufacturing for a Better World," will feature China's Anhui Province's key manufacturers, including manufacturers of new energy vehicles, integrated circuits, and smart home appliances, as they come together to showcase their strengths.

According to reports, the World Manufacturing Convention will have exhibition areas for key industries, major manufacturing countries, advantageous industry chains, digital transformation, and national specialized and innovative "Little Giants." The Convention will focus on the latest achievements in the global manufacturing industry, including quantum computers, powerful rockets, maglev trains capable of speeds up to 600 kilometers per hour, superconducting proton therapy systems, and 80,000-ton precision die forging presses. The number of participating companies and exhibition areas will reach a historical high.

Since 2018, the World Manufacturing Convention has been held in Hefei, the capital of Anhui province for five consecutive years. It has attracted over 14,800 guests, secured 3,021 project agreements, and seen actual investments exceeding a trillion RMB.

# KFH celebrates ‘Qadha’ distinguished employees for Q2



Honored employees with the executive management.

‘We are keen to invest in our cadres’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has celebrated its distinguished employees for the second quarter of 2023 as part of Qadha program. The honoring ceremony was held in the presence of the Acting Group CEO, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, KFH Kuwait CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, executive management and a number of officials.

Periodically, KFH organizes a ceremony to recognize and motivate outstanding employees for their exceptional performance, to show appreciation and reward them for their efforts. It also aims to create a competitive environment and encourage employees to attain superior accomplishments and maintain KFH's leading position in Islamic banking world-wide.

Expressing KFH's pride in the employees, Acting Group CEO Abdulwahab AlRushood, saidin his speech during the ceremony:“We are proud of you and your efforts, which resulted in achievingthe highest-ever quarterly profit in KFH's historyof KD 333.4 million for the first half of 2023”.

“In addition to these strongresults and record profits, KFH has become the largest bank in Kuwait in terms of assets and market capitalization.

“And the largest company listed on Boursa Kuwait. Thank you and all of KFH family members for your efforts.” he added.

AlRushood expressed his confidence that the excellence of employees will continue, and that they will further excel in diverse areas as they are capable of fulfilling their responsibilities towards customers.

Meanwhile, KFH Kuwait



Al-Rashood delivers his speech.

CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan praised the efforts of KFH's employees during the first half of this year, which resulted in historic profits.

AlShamlan stressed that the Executive Management is keen to honor and encourage employees throughout the year in appreciation of their tireless efforts, which are the core of success by the grace of Allah.

He added that KFH is proud of its employees and invests strongly in them to maintain its position as the largest bank in Kuwait and the second largest Islamic bank in the world.

It is worth mentioning that KFH received the Gold Award from Brandon Hall Group in 2023 for Qadha program as the best employee recognition program in the world.

Serving as the official platform for various encouragement initiatives at KFH, Qadha aims to honor and recognize exceptional employees, following a rigorous evaluation process that considers multiple professional aspects across all sectors and departments.

The program operates in an organized manner, integrating the latest studies and best international practices.



Honored female employees with the executive management.

DALLAS, Sept 17, (AP): Car shoppers are heading for a new round of sticker shock if the strike by the United Auto Workers doesn't end soon, particularly for popular vehicles that are already in short supply.

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

And consumers might make things worse with panic-buying.

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

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

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

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

Labor negotiations continue in good faith, said Mark Stewart, chief operating officer for North America at Stellantis. He detailed on Saturday his company's latest offer to the union, which included cumulative raises of nearly 21% in hourly wages. That's roughly in line with proposed wage increases from Ford and GM, though short of what the union wants.

Stewart also said Stellantis has contingency plans to limit any impact on consumers, though he declined to give details about them.

“We really want to encourage customers: Don't be afraid,” Stewart said, while suggesting they see the deals available at dealerships.

## St. Louis Area Foodbank receives \$525,000 from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

ST. LOUIS, Sept 17, (Business Wire): In recognition of national Hunger Action Day, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem) announced a renewed commitment of \$525,000 over the next three years to support St. Louis Area Foodbank (STLAFB) senior outreach programs, including Food on the Move (FOTM), as well as a new co-branded semi-truck which was unveiled today. This collaboration represents one of Anthem's most significant philanthropic investments in Missouri.

In recognition of Hunger Action Day, Anthem associates present the St. Louis Area Foodbank with a \$525,000 award for senior outreach programs over the next three years.

“At Anthem, we continue to redefine healthcare with a commitment to whole health that takes a broad view of the physical, social, and behavioral factors affecting the health of our communi-



Carlos Tavares, Chief Executive Officer of Stellantis, (left), and Mike Koval, RAM Brand Chief Executive Officer, introduces the REV Ram 1500 at the New York International Auto Show in New York. (AP)

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

While the supply of cars from Detroit's Big Three will largely depend on how long the strike lasts and how quickly it spreads to other plants - there were rumors Friday that additional factories could be added next week - there are other factors.

Garrett Nelson, an auto analyst for CFRA Research, expects manufacturers to eliminate incentives they pay to dealers to boost sales. Those incentives let dealers reduce their sticker prices, and they're often targeted at slower-selling models.

The biggest wild card could be consumer psychology - panic-buying that would drive up prices.

“The impact on prices would be almost instantaneous,” Nelson says. “Dealers will say, ‘Look, we're not sure how many additional vehicles we're going to be getting.’ There could be somewhat of a panic effect that could stimulate consumers to make

that purchase sooner rather than later.”

As cars from Ford, GM and Stellantis, the successor to Fiat Chrysler, become harder to find, there will be a ripple effect. Consumers who need a vehicle would likely turn to nonunion competitors like Toyota, Honda and Tesla, who would be able to charge them more.

“You'll start to see that pricing gets affected everywhere - and not just on the new end of the business,” Drury says. “Used-car values, which have been seeing a bit of a decline from last year's highs, could start going back up” as consumers look for an affordable alternative to new vehicles.

Consumers who lease their vehicle and are coming to the end of the term could be especially vulnerable. Drury says leasing companies want their cars back while the used-car market is hot, and might be unwilling to extend the lease.

Anyone shopping for a new, used or leased car right now will also be hit by higher interest rates. The average rate for a new-car loan this week stood at 7.46%, and for a used car, it was 8.06%, according to Bankrate.

High rates are contributing to a spike in rejections for consumers looking to buy a ride. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York said this month

that the rejection rate for auto loans is now 14.2%, the highest since the bank started tracking figures in 2013 and up from 9.1% six months ago. (Rejections are also up for mortgages, credit cards and other loans, as lenders recoil at the growing number of people falling behind on payments. Household debt is rising.)

Car prices were rising long before the auto workers even raised the possibility of a strike. A chip shortage, disruptions in the global supply chain and strong demand pushed prices higher.

The average price for a new vehicle jumped from \$39,919 in 2020 to \$48,798 so far this year, according to Kelley Blue Book. Cheap cars have all but disappeared, and consumers are forced into ever-longer loans to limit their monthly payments. Prices for used cars rose sharply in 2021 and 2022, but have slipped slightly this year.

Prices are almost certain to rise even if the strike is settled quickly, because the auto makers' labor costs will increase.

“It's almost a foregone conclusion that the UAW will succeed in getting substantial wage increases,” says Patrick Anderson, the founder of Anderson Economic Group, a research firm that conducts market analysis. “Part of that is simply due to inflation, part of that is due to the profits of the auto-makers, and part of that is due to the leverage that the UAW has right now with a short inventory and an economy that still has a lot of people that want to buy cars.”

The UAW is asking for a 36% increase in wages over four years, plus other demands that would increase expenses for the companies. Ford, GM and Stellantis have countered with offers to boost wages by about half that amount.

UAW President Shawn Fain is sensitive to the impression that the union's gains will come out of consumers' pocketbooks. He points out that prices were rising before the strike, and says labor accounts for a fraction of the Big Three's total costs.

“They could double our wages and not raise car prices and still make billions of dollars in profit,” he said during an online presentation to union members this week.

## Benson Hill in receipt of continued listing standard notice from NYSE

ST. LOUIS, Sept 17, (Business Wire): Benson Hill, Inc. (NYSE: BHIL, the “Company” or “Benson Hill”), a food tech company unlocking the natural genetic diversity of plants, today announced that on Sept. 13, 2023, it received a notice (the “Notice”) from the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) notifying the Company that it is not in compliance with the NYSE's continued listing standards because as of Sept. 12, 2023, the average closing price of the Company's Common Stock, was less than \$1.00 per share over a consecutive 30 trading-day period. The Notice does not result in the immediate delisting of the Company's Common Stock from the NYSE.

The Company intends to respond to the NYSE within ten business days of receipt of the Notice affirming its in-

tent to cure the deficiency. Pursuant to the NYSE's rules, the Company has a six-month period following receipt of the Notice to regain compliance with the NYSE's minimum share price requirement.

The Company intends to consider a number of available alternatives to cure its non-compliance with the applicable price criteria in the NYSE's continued listing standards. In particular, as previously announced, the Company is working through a strategic review process to accelerate Benson Hill's full potential and leverage its competitive advantages in technology. Management expects to share an update with investors on progress related to this strategic review, the strength of its proprietary product portfolio, and cost and liquidity improvement initiatives by late October.





Gait Store - The Avenues

### Gait is now ‘Apple premium partner’

Gait announced today that it has changed its status from ‘Apple Premium Reseller’ to ‘Apple Premium Partner (APP)’. Gait’s first APP store opened at Place Vendome Mall in Doha, its second APP store is located in Kuwait’s The Avenues mall. With these stores, Gait stands as the first Apple Premium Partner in the Gulf region, and the only one in Kuwait.

Gait’s stores offer a comprehensive range of Apple products, including Mac, iPhone, iPad, and various accessories. Additionally, they provide exclusive Apple

services such as consulting with Apple experts, after-sales support and trade-in services

The Gait team consists of Apple experts dedicated to assisting customers and providing a unique shopping experience. They offer not only a wide range of Apple products, but also exclusive services, including personalized assistance in selecting devices, device setup services, repair services, and comprehensive post-purchase support. Gait also provides in-store workshops and demos to help customers maximize

their Apple products’ capabilities, along with trade-in services to facilitate easy upgrades by exchanging old devices for new ones.

Gait has recently introduced extended warranty options through GaitCare and GaitCare+ services, offering subscribers various warranty choices to access additional coverage for device repairs and compensation in case of loss or theft. The store also provides convenient installment plans, discounts, and corporate benefits.

Exclusive discounts offered on Careem rides to and from Sultan locations

# Careem forges new partnership with Sultan in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY Sept 17: Careem, the region’s Everything App, announced a new partnership with Sultan to help facilitate easier transportation exclusively for the renowned retail grocery chain’s customers. As part of the partnership, Careem will be offering a 30% discount to locals, residents, and visitors who choose to use its ride-hailing service while traveling to and from any Sultan branch and location in Kuwait, up to four times every month.

Sultan customers can benefit from the discount by downloading the Careem application and inserting the promo code “SULTAN30” before requesting a Careem ride to or from one of the retailer’s stores and markets spread across the country, excluding Sultan Express stores.

Commenting on the new partnership, Antonio Al Asmar – General Manager, Ride Hailing – UAE, GCC & Jordan, said: “We are thrilled to announce our latest partnership with Sultan and extend our services to the retailer’s customers. This collaboration is driven by our efforts to forge new relationships with partners in Kuwait and elevate the Careem experience. As we continue to grow and adapt to the country’s needs and requirements, we aim to deliver greater value for our diverse customer segment as well as Sultan’s, Careem customers can benefit from Sultan’s top-notch products tailored to the preferences of locals and visitors alike, while Sultan customers can enjoy Careem’s ride-hailing services.”

He added: “We also understand that rush hour traffic and city driving are often stressful, especially for visitors and tourists. For this reason, we are delighted to offer exclusive discounted rides to Sultan shoppers and have them

enjoy a convenient, reliable, and stress-free transportation experience. This step stems from our main purpose to simplify and improve the lives of people in the region, one ride at a time.”

On his part, Bassam Zantout, Chief Operating Officer of Sultan, said: “This collaboration with Careem is a testament to our commitment to driving greater value. Our customers can now experience the perfect blend of convenience and savings as we join forces to introduce an exclusive 30% discount on Careem rides, available four times a month, at any of our 18 locations. This partnership exemplifies our dedication to putting our customers in the driver’s seat, not only saving time but also putting money back in their pockets. Sultan and Careem’s alliance promises an enhanced, cost-effective experience for all.”

It serves to note that Careem has been operating in Kuwait since 2016. Since then, it has been revamping, elevating, and redefining the local standard of transportation. The partnership with Sultan is one of many for Careem in Kuwait, as it has held partnerships with other local shopping malls, most notably The Avenues and Promenade Mall.

**About Careem**

Careem is building the Everything App for the greater Middle East, making it easier than ever to move around, order food and groceries, manage payments, and more. Careem is led by a powerful purpose to simplify and improve the lives of people and build an awesome organisation that inspires. Since 2012, Careem has created earning opportunities for over 2.5 million Captains, simplified the lives of over 50 million customers, and built a plat-



The agreement being signed.

form for the region’s best talent to thrive and for entrepreneurs to scale their businesses. Careem operates in over 70 cities across 10 countries, from Morocco to Pakistan.

# ‘Kuwait’s Chamber in consultative meeting with Gulf Trade Ministers’

Ministers deliberate on streamlining customs procedures

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry actively engaged in a consultative meeting held on September 14th in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. This meeting brought together trade and industry ministers from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and leaders of GCC Federations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Representing the chamber were Ali Hussein Makki Al-Jumaa, a member of the Board of Directors, and Imad Abdullah Al-Zaid, the Director General Assistant.

This recurring meeting is part of ongoing collaboration between Gulf private sector representatives and GCC governments. Their aim is to strengthen trade and economic relations among member states, boost commercial activity, promote joint projects among institutions and companies within the GCC countries, and fortify their economies to tackle emerging international challenges, including rapid economic growth, inflation, supply chain disruptions, and fluctuations in energy and food prices.

At the meeting, trade and industry ministers, along with the leaders of GCC Federations and Chambers of Commerce, discussed various topics. These included the latest developments within the GCC’s economic legal framework and the commercial laws of GCC member states. They also explored ways to streamline and expedite customs procedures at border crossings within the GCC, addressing obstacles affecting import and export operations, the concept of unified Gulf content, and certification matters. Additionally, it was agreed to hold a workshop in conjunction with the Second Gulf Industrial Exhibition, focusing on a key aspect of joint Gulf economic efforts.

Representatives of the Gulf private sector emphasized the significance of aligning Gulf strategies in the realm of transport and logistics services through partnerships with the private sector. They called for active involvement in developing policies and systems supporting sectoral growth and advocated for the creation of international partnerships to establish Gulf shipping lines connecting numerous ports worldwide. Furthermore, they stressed the need for continuous infrastructure development and procedural enhancements capable of accommodating and anticipating future requirements.



AU A+ and ISIC PR Image

## ABK upgrades its A+ Student Account and ‘ISIC Youth Prepaid Mastercard’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently participated in the Australian University of Kuwait’s September orientation tour by promoting its A+ Student account as well as its innovative banking solutions.

Promoted its A+ Student Account at the Australian University of Kuwait (AUK) to the new students to university life. It promoted its innovative banking solutions by participating in the Australian University’s September orientation tour.

The A+ Student Account is designed for the younger demographics, for ages between 16 to 25, the A+ Student account providing provides them with a wide range of valuable features and benefits, including a dedicated personalized debit card and a free prepaid card for two years, granting financial freedom and convenience.

This includes a free prepaid card for two years, granting them financial freedom and convenience. Furthermore, students can enjoy an exclusive ‘Buy 1 Get 2 Tickets Free’ offer from VOX Cinemas, thus providing quality entertainment at a worthwhile price. Moreover, various discounts at a range of stores and partners in Kuwait are available, making student life both more affordable and enjoyable.

The Bank also introduced its first-ever ABK ISIC Youth prepaid MasterCard Mastercard which simplifies students’ lives by combining their university ID with a prepaid bank card. Amongst its many benefits, the card provides access to discounts at over 150,000 establishments in 130 countries, making it

the perfect companion for students who wish to explore and travel. Special travel offers on Emirates flights and booking accommodations through booking.com are also included, enabling students to save money while enjoying unforgettable experiences.

Expressing her content, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, said, “Our presence at the Australian University of Kuwait reflects our commitment to meeting student needs, particularly as they embark on their higher education journey. We have devoted great effort to provide them with exceptional advantages and offers that will assist them throughout their academic path.”

She emphasized that ABK’s is dedicated dedication to supporting the education sector in Kuwait, such as by providing students with tailored banking solutions for students. Marafi concluded, “The A+ Student account and ISIC Youth prepaid MasterCard Mastercard are designed to meet students’ unique financial needs and represent our desire to empower this segment. By offering a range of benefits and discounts, we aim to ensure that students can both focus on their studies while and enjoying a worry-free university lifeexperience. With ABK by their side, they can embark on their educational journey with confidence and peace of mind.”

Marafi concluded by inviting everyone to follow the Bank’s social media accounts to remain updated on the latest marketing initiatives, promotional campaigns, and offerings throughout the year.

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

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

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

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association’s ‘Let’s Be Aware’ awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

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

## KIB announces winners of the second ‘Surprises for Every Season’ prize draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the five lucky winners of the second prize draw held under its exclusive ‘Surprises for Every Season’ campaign, which is based on customers’ transactions throughout August. In partnership with global digital payments leader, Visa, the campaign is dedicated to rewarding KIB’s Visa Credit, Prepaid or Debit Card holders, reaffirming the Bank’s commitment to enhancing its customers’ banking experience.

The first winner of the second draw, Abdullah Ahmad AlKandari, became the owner of a SuperJet from Yamaha. The second winner, Omar Sami AlFuraih, received four fully paid round-trip tickets to Abu Dhabi and Yas Island, as well as tickets to two of Abu Dhabi’s most popular theme parks, such as Ferrari World, SeaWorld, Yas Waterworld, and Warner Bros World. The other three winners, Khaled Nasser AlShammari, Mariam Mohammad AlAli and Abdulrahman Rashed AlKharafi, each won a fun-packed chalet stay in Kuwait for an outstanding weekend experience.

Commenting on the occasion, Khalid Al Hulaibi, Segments Manager at KIB, said, “KIB continues to strive to reward its customers by offering everything that is new in the world of unique banking benefits, services and products. These innovative campaigns, launched every season, will elevate the experience of shopping and financial transactions to a new and advanced level, meeting their needs and keeping up with their modern lifestyle, stemming from KIB’s ‘Bank of Life’ slogan.”

Al Hulaibi congratulated the lucky winners of these amazing prizes, inviting all customers to take advantage of the campaign’s third season entitled “School Season is Better with KIB Cards”. Running from the 1st to the 30th of September 2023, the season’s 13 winners will get a cashback worth 750 KWD each. They are set to be announced during the first week of October 2023.

Artii Thancki, Visa’s Head of FinTech and Partnerships for Kuwait and Qatar, said, “We are delighted to support KIB with their latest initiative to offer Visa cardholders in Kuwait with unique experiences. The ‘Surprises for Every Season’ promotion was a great way to reward the Bank’s customers while supporting the government’s efforts to promote digital commerce in Kuwait. Congratulations to all the winners and I look forward to more valuable partnerships with KIB.”

The ‘Surprises for Every Season’ campaign launched with new prizes every month enables all customers who carry KIB Visa credit, prepaid, or debit cards to qualify for the draws automatically without the need to sign up. They become instantly eligible and get a chance to win when they spend a minimum of KD 250 using their KIB Visa Credit or Prepaid Card within or outside Kuwait during each promotional period. Visa Debit Cardholders can also become eligible when they spend at least KD 500 outside Kuwait.

Customers holding KIB’s Visa credit or prepaid cards will get one chance to enter the draws for every KD 10 spent locally, and two chances for every 10 KD spent internationally.



Khalid Al Hulaibi



Artii Thancki

Additionally, for the first time, Visa debit cardholders will also be qualified in the monthly draws, getting one chance for every KD 10 spent internationally.

It is worth noting that KIB continues to encourage its customers to follow its accounts on digital platforms to remain updated on the various seasonal prizes the Bank will launch throughout the year. The accounts also keep customers informed on the Bank’s various exclusive products and services that are designed to cater to their needs.

**About KIB**

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari’ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: “Bank for Life”.

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.



School Season is Better with KIB Cards.



Buffett's co trims investment in HP

Warren Buffett's company sold off 5.5 million of its HP Inc. shares this week, trimming a stake that it established just last year, but even after the sales, Berkshire Hathaway still owns nearly 12% of the printer and computer maker's stock.

HP stock dropped nearly 2% to sell for \$27.80 Thursday in the first trading session after the stock sales were disclosed in a

filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Many investors follow Buffett's moves closely because of his remarkably successful track record over the years.

Even after this week's sales, Berkshire still holds more than 115 million HP shares. But it likely won't be clear for some time whether Buffett is just trimming the position or whether he has soured on the stock. The

billionaire investor never comments on these transactions that he's only required to disclose because Berkshire owns such a big chunk of the company.

The HP investment raised some eyebrows last spring because throughout his career Buffett has been famously reluctant to invest in technology companies because he said it was too hard to pick the long-term winners. (AP)

Evadore works for a sustainable future thru ReFi

Evadore, the transformative Regenerative Finance (ReFi) ecosystem by EvaLabs, is now listed on leading cryptocurrency exchanges like Lbank, Bitmart, P2PB2B and XT The platform aims to unite blockchain entrepreneurs, start-ups, and communities through eco-friendly blockchain technologies that are forging a more sustainable world.

Cryptocurrency exchange list-

ed Evadore works for a sustainable future through ReFi (Graphic: Business Wire)

In its tokenomics analysis, the Evadore whitepaper notes that 39.045% of the total initial supply was sold in the Initial Exchange Offering (IEO). The remaining allocations are: 4% for marketing, 3% for AirDrops, 7.5% for staking rewards, and 16% has been set aside for the Evadore Foundation.

Evadore, an EvaChain-based initiative by EvaLabs, advocates for applying ReFi principles-centered on sustainability, social justice, and environmental stewardship-to blockchain financial systems. EvaLabs CIO Isiah Cargo highlighted the urgent need for change, noting that "87% of energy used by blockchain technologies comes from non-renewable sources." (AP)

'Backup plans are critical during the trip'

Airbnb, Vrbo or other rental hosts ghosted you ... now what?

By Sally French  
NerdWallet

Lauren Gumport was en route to a vacation on the island of Chios, Greece, in July, where she was set to stay in an Airbnb for five nights with her best friend.

But upon her arrival in Athens to connect to her flight to Chios, she received a WhatsApp message from someone stating that their dad owned the Airbnb property, but that they managed it. The son said they'd be out of town - and that their dad didn't speak English - but that Gumport would still be able to check in with the dad.

Gumport, who works for the travel insurance company Faye, is no stranger to stories of travel mishaps. She sensed something was off but forged ahead with the Chios flight. When she arrived at the meeting spot near the Airbnb, no one was there.

"It was hot and not in a touristy area, so it didn't feel great," she says. "We were exhausted from the flights and just wanted to drop our bags, so that was frustrating."

She had an international cell phone plan, so after 15 minutes of waiting for the owner, she called Airbnb customer service. An hour later, an Airbnb customer service agent finally offered to rebook them elsewhere. But with no other suitable Airbnb listings, Gumport declined the offer. Airbnb then offered to pay for two nights at a hotel.

"Airbnb didn't give any type of nightly cap on cost, and frankly the island didn't have a ton of options," she said. "We found a great hotel and sent Airbnb the receipt."

The two-night hotel stay came out to \$443.50, and Gumport received a reimbursement from Airbnb to her bank account in a few days. Airbnb also refunded the \$434.22 cost of her original five-night reservation.

As for the other three nights they were supposed to spend in Chios? Gumport took the opportunity to check out another Greek island, where she booked a last-minute stay.

Compensate

Gumport contacted Airbnb as soon as she realized her host wasn't there and says Airbnb appropriately compensated her for the inconvenience.

"Luckily, my friend and I have traveled so much that when things go wrong, we just quickly pivot and laugh it off," she said. "We stayed two nights in the other hotel, had a great time, then hopped on a ferry to Samos, Greece, for the rest of our trip."

But not all vacation rental companies have robust customer support, and not all will be as generous with compensation. Plus, not all travelers will be able to pivot like Gumport.

And it's not just vacation rental companies, like Airbnb or Vrbo, where

Enjoy seamless travel experience with Travis

AI can now help you book perfect trip itinerary

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, Sept 17: Guide to Europe has announced a groundbreaking advancement in travel planning: Travis, an AI travel planner powered by generative AI, now offers users optimized travel itineraries based on customer preferences, attraction proximity, a unique blend of review data, opening hours, and other critical variables.

Using a state-of-the-art genetic AI algorithm, Travis curates an unparalleled selection of attractions and optimizes routes to offer a seamless travel experience.

The Chatbot goes beyond conventional planning by packaging the best

services tailored to customer preferences and reviews. This allows users to view and book an entire trip in one simple booking process.

Dr. Helgi Helgason, the Head of AI at Guide to Europe and the visionary of Travis, says, "We're delighted to introduce a chatbot that revolutionizes how people plan their travels. Travis allows users to interact and search for the perfect trip using natural language. You don't even have to specify a destination; you can also just input your desired experiences such as weather, region, or culture. Travis can save time and prevent stress by allowing customers

show up, the company might instead send a Tesla.

But even an upgraded Tesla might not come without some stress. Turo says you need to wait at least 30 minutes past the trip start time before you can contact customer support, according to a note on its help page. That's 30 minutes you might be sitting on a curb in a foreign city, followed by the transport time hauling your bags to a different location once the company has found an alternative.

ghosting is a risk. It's a challenge facing the ever-growing list of peer-to-peer travel platforms. That includes RV rental companies like Outdoorsy or RVshare, and rental car companies like Turo. There's also a boat equivalent called GetMyBoat.

Each company has its own set of policies to mitigate mishaps. Some immediately rebook the closest alternative, which can often entail an upgrade. If the owner of the Toyota you booked through Turo doesn't

to quickly book perfectly planned trips with confidence."

Helgi adds, "Travis is not just an itinerary planner; it's a game-changer. Leveraging a massive amount of data, it can meticulously plan your trip in a way that we are confident surpasses human capabilities both in precision and speed. It's not just about booking a trip; it's about making that trip perfect."

With the launch of this innovative service, Guide to Europe solidifies its position at the forefront of travel technology, offering an entirely new dimension in trip planning, finding, and booking vacations in Europe.

Also, the second option might not be exactly what you wanted. You may have to sacrifice features found in your initial vacation rental booking, like laundry or a kitchen, given the last-minute arrangement. Potential "upgrades" might not be much better, such as a larger car that just proves harder to park.

What if you make it to the check-in time and the host hasn't canceled but also hasn't materialized? Sometimes careful pre-trip research can't prevent

ghosting, but backup plans during the trip are critical.

■ Understand the booking company's policies. For example, Airbnb promises to help rebook guests into a similar place if the host cancels, but the promise only applies to cancellations made by the host within 30 days of check-in. So, if the host cancels 31 days before Super Bowl Sunday for a home in the host city, good luck finding affordable alternative lodging.

■ Carefully read the reviews and only book listings that have plentiful, positive reviews. Previous guests might offer insights into the host's reliability and help indicate which rentals to skip

■ Have contact information handy for the host and customer support. Should you be abroad, consider purchasing an international phone plan or at least know where to find free Wi-Fi (such as train stations or cafes).

■ Research nearby alternatives, including other available listings. Be prepared to be flexible and change plans if necessary.

■ Take advantage of last-minute deals. Just as Gumport ferried to another Greek island for part of her stay, you could be similarly flexible. Hotels can often be cheaper when booked last-minute anyway. Jamie Lane, chief economist at vacation rental data platform AirDNA, says the same holds true with lodging beyond hotels.

"Ask for last-minute deals," Lane says. "Unbooked weeks or recent cancellations can lead to big discounts to fill open nights." (AP)

Will customers go along?

Starbucks' iconic cup to get sustainable revamp

TEMPE, Ariz., Sept 17, (AP): Bethany Patton steps up to the counter and places her pink mug into a shoebox-sized dishwasher. It spins. It whirs. Water splashes inside. After 90 seconds, the door opens and steam emerges. A barista grabs the mug, dries it and prepares Patton's order - a 16-ounce Starbucks double espresso on ice.

For bringing her own cup, Patton gets \$1 off her drink.

"Saving the environment is important and all, but I probably come here more in knowing that I'm going to get a dollar off," says Patton, 27, a cancer researcher at Arizona State University. Two friends who came on the afternoon coffee run nod as they hold the cups that they, too, brought along.

Just as noteworthy as what they're carrying is what they are not: the disposable Starbucks cup, an icon in a world where the word is overused.

For a generation and more, it has been a cornerstone of consumer society, first in the United States and then globally - the throwaway cup with the emerald logo depicting a longhaired siren with locks like ocean waves. Ubiquitous to the point of being an accessory, it has carried a message: I am drinking the world's most recognizable coffee brand.

Now, in an era where concern for sustainability can be good business, the Starbucks disposable cup may be on its way to extinction thanks to an unlikely force: Starbucks itself.

Disposable

By 2030, Starbucks wants to move away completely from disposable cups, which represent big portions of the company's overall waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

The stated reason is that it's the right thing to do for the environment, and Starbucks has a history of lofty sustainability goals around various aspects of their global operations. Some have been met, such as new stores being certified for energy efficiency; others have been revised or scrapped entirely. For example, in 2008 the company said that by 2015 it wanted 100% of its cups to be recyclable or reusable. Today, that's still a long way away.

Today's drive to overhaul the cup comes with an obvious business imperative. Producing disposable products like cups creates greenhouse gas emissions, which warm the planet and lead to extreme weather events and other manifestations of climate change. That goes against customers' increasing expectations for companies to be part of the solution to climate change.

Still, while customers want companies to be environmentally conscious, that doesn't mean they're willing to give up convenience. And there's this: Could eliminating the millions of paper and plastic cups used each year hurt Starbucks? After all, those cups, in the hands of customers, are advertising - a market penetration that makes Starbucks feel ubiquitous.

At the store where Patton gets her coffee, Starbucks already doesn't serve any in disposable paper or plas-



A reusable cup is washed at an Arizona State University Starbucks shop Wednesday, June 7, 2023, in Tempe, Ariz. (AP)

tic cups. Customers who don't bring their own are given a reusable plastic one that can be dropped off in bins around campus. It's one of two dozen pilots over the last two years, aimed at changing how the world's largest coffee maker serves its java.

The goal: to cut the company's waste, water use and carbon emissions in half by 2030. Pulling that off will be tricky and fraught with risks. It provides a window into how companies go from ambitious sustainability targets to actual results.

"Our vision for the cup of the future - and our Holy Grail, if you will - is that the cup still has the iconic symbol on it," says Michael Kobori, head of sustainability at Starbucks. "It's just as a reusable cup."

Starbucks sees the change as an opportunity to cast the siren, and the company, in a different light. It also wants to push more suppliers in its production chain to provide recycled material and partners, such as universities and other locales that house stores, to be able to handle all that comes with reusable cups.

Erin Simon, vice president for plastic waste and business at World Wildlife Fund, says commitment from major companies can help. But ultimately, she says, major change can happen only with corporate collaboration - and government regulation.

"Not one institution, not one organization, not even one sector can change it on its own," Simon says.

At Starbucks, the changes will create ripple effects. Jon Solorzano, a Los Angeles lawyer who advises companies on developing climate-friendly operations and disclosures, (an area referred to as "environmental, social and governance"), says the company likely has hundreds of suppliers that help manufacture cups.

"It's kind of like turning an aircraft carrier around," Solorzano says. "Little tiny tweaks, which seem insignificant, can actually have big operational challenges for an organization."

Starbucks is not the first company to push toward a reusable cup. From large companies in Europe, such as REcup in Germany, which uses reusable cups and other food packaging, to local coffee houses in cities like San Francisco, the goal for years has been to shed disposable paper and plastic.

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Robot car talk: Wayve's new AI model Lingo-1 to transform self-driving tech

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BELLEVUE, Wash., Sept 17: T-Mobile (NASDAQ: TMUS) will offer iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus, featuring a durable, aluminum and color-infused back glass design, the Dynamic Island, A16 Bionic chip, an advanced camera system including a powerful 48MP Main camera and new 2x Telephoto option, and USB-C; iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max, Apple's lightest Pro models ever, featuring a strong and lightweight titanium design, a new Action button, powerful camera upgrades including a more advanced 48MP Main camera system, which enables the equivalent of seven pro lenses with incredible image quality and a 5x Telephoto, the longest zoom ever on iPhone, exclusively on iPhone 15 Pro Max, the A17 Pro chip unlocking next-level gaming experiences and pro performance, and USB-C with USB 3 speeds.

With T-Mobile's latest plans, Go5G Next, Go5G Plus and select Go5G Business plans, new and existing customers can get iPhone 15 Pro on Us (up to \$1000 off with trade-in). And only at T-Mobile can customers upgrade on their terms - every year or every two - and once they're ready to upgrade they'll always get the same great phone deals as new customers. Plus, only T-Mobile customers get faster nationwide 5G standalone (5G SA) speeds on Apple's latest products.

T-Mobile will also offer the advanced new Apple Watch Series 9, delivering systemwide improvements and brand-new features including the all-new S9 SiP, a magical new double tap gesture, and a brighter display; Apple Watch Ultra 2, bringing new features to Apple's most capable and rugged smartwatch; and AirPods Pro (2nd generation) with USB-C charging capabilities, additional dust resistance, and Lossless Audio with Apple Vision Pro in addition to new experiences like Adaptive Audio and Conversation Awareness with iOS 17. Starting today, September 15, customers, including businesses, can pre-order iPhone 15 lineup and order Apple Watches

ing the boundaries of cutting-edge science to deliver a safer, smarter and more sustainable future of transport, resulting in Lingo-1. Lingo-1 opens up many possibilities for self-driving, improving the intelligence of our end-to-end AI Driver as well as bridging the gap of public trust - and this is just the beginning of maximising its potential."

Wayve is on a mission to reimagine autonomous mobility through embodied

intelligence. Founded in 2017, Wayve is made up of a global team of experts in machine learning and robotics from top organisations around the world. We were the first to deploy autonomous vehicles on public roads with end-to-end deep learning, pioneering the AI software, lean hardware, and fleet learning platform for AV2.0: a next-generation autonomous driving system that can quickly and safely adapt to new driving

domains anywhere in the world.

Wayve has raised over \$258M and is backed by Eclipse Ventures, D1 Capital Partners, Baillie Gifford, Moore Strategic Ventures, Balderton Capital, Virgin, and Ocado Group. The team is based in London and California, with a fleet of vehicles testing in cities across the UK. Wayve aims to be the first to deploy autonomy in 100 cities.



## BUSINESS

Bottles of Johnson's baby shampoo are on display in a store in New York on April 18, 2006. The health care giant said on Sept 14 that it will replace the well-known signature script it has used since 1887 with a modern look that reflects its sharpened focus on pharmaceuticals and medical devices. (AP)



## Johnson &amp; Johnson getting rid of its script logo

Johnson & Johnson is signing off on a new logo.

The health care giant has said that it will replace the well-known signature script it has used since 1887 with a modern look that reflects its sharpened focus on pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

The original script - based on co-founder James Wood Johnson's signature - will still be seen for now on consumer products like baby shampoo from Kenvue, a new company recently spun off from J&J.

Johnson & Johnson itself narrowed its focus to pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The new look, which includes a different shade of red, aims to recognize J&J's shift into a "pure play health care company," said Vanessa Broadhurst, a company executive vice president.

The signature logo was "one of the longest-used company emblems in the world," J&J declared in a 2017 website post.

But it started showing its age in an era of texting and emojis. Many children no longer learn to write

cursive in school, noted marketing consultant Laura Ries. People may recognize the signature, but they weren't necessarily reading it, she said. The new logo, she said, is easier to process.

"Because it's easier, it almost even draws your attention to it," said Ries, who wasn't involved in the logo change.

Ries also noted people likely identified the script logo more with the Kenvue products they see on drugstore shelves, such as Band-Aids, Listerine and Tylenol. (AP)

## Starton advances multiple myeloma research with STAR-LLD trial

## TNAX's IMB1001 treats immune-mediated inflammatory diseases

SAN RAFAEL, Calif, Sept 17: IMIDomics Inc, a patient-centric drug discovery and development company focused on Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases (IMIDs), has announced an exclusive license agreement with TNAX Biopharma Corporation (TNAX), an innovator in biotechnology. Under this agreement, TNAX is granting IMIDomics the worldwide rights to develop, manufacture, commercialize and sublicense IMB1001, a highly promising humanized antibody targeting CD226, a breakthrough target with the potential to treat IMIDs.

CD226 was identified by IMIDomics as a priority target using the company's proprietary Clinical Discovery Engine™, a multidimensional, integrated, and data-driven platform for uncovering the underlying mechanisms of IMIDs. This identification of CD226 and the subsequent licensing of IMB1001, a promising preclinical drug candidate, validates IMIDomics' approach to accelerating the development of treatments for these complex conditions.

"We are delighted to partner with TNAX to further advance the development of IMB1001," said H. Daniel Perez, MD, Chief Development Officer of IMIDomics. "In licensing this promising new drug candidate, we are demonstrating our commitment to applying our proprietary Clinical Discovery Engine™ in service of discovering and developing impactful medicines for IMID patients and underscoring our confidence in the potential of this therapeutic candidate."

## Reinforces

Perez continued, saying, "TNAX's expertise in CD226 makes them an ideal collaborator to bring this groundbreaking therapy to patients. This license reinforces our commitment to addressing unmet medical needs and improving the lives of individuals suffering from IMID-related conditions. The license of IMB1001 from TNAX accelerated our efforts to translate our scientific discoveries into meaningful therapeutic options. We are confident that IMIDomics' resources and expertise will enable the development of this potentially life-changing therapy for patients worldwide."

IMB1001 is a pre-clinical drug candidate with a one-of-a-kind mechanism of action that has potentially broad applicability across multiple diseases, especially for patients who do not respond to, or cannot tolerate, the current standard of care. IMIDomics aims to accelerate development of IMB1001 and maximize its application across multiple IMIDs.

IMB1001 specifically targets CD226, also known as DNAX accessory molecule-1 (DNAM-1), a transmembrane glycoprotein that plays a crucial role in the immune response, offering a promising avenue for effective treatment. Expression of the immunoreceptor CD226 and its ligand CD155 is negligible in healthy tissues, but both are significantly upregulated during the inflammatory response. IMB1001 blocks CD226 signaling thereby downregulating the production of pro-inflammatory

cytokines, increasing levels of anti-inflammatory cytokines, and upregulating Treg function. Additionally, the mouse surrogate antibody TX42.2, also licensed to IMIDomics, demonstrated anti-fibrotic activity in animal models, indicating a disease-modifying effect.

The licensing agreement encompasses all patents, rights, and know-how related to the compound, including its use in both humans and animals. While the financial terms of the agreement remain confidential, it includes upfront payments, milestone achievements and royalties.

"We are excited to join forces with IMIDomics in the development of this exceptional humanized antibody targeting CD226," said Tak Mukohira, CEO & Co-founder of TNAX. "This collaboration aligns perfectly with our mission to pioneer innovative therapies and transform patient outcomes."

## Unlock

With the licensing agreement in place, IMIDomics and TNAX are poised to unlock the full therapeutic potential of IMB1001. Both companies look forward to a fruitful collaboration that will ultimately bring hope and improved treatment options to IMID patients in need.

IMIDomics is a biotechnology company focused on patient-centric drug discovery for immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMIDs). Our goal is to discover new and impactful IMID drugs by focusing on carefully selected patients, and stratifying populations to identify those most likely to respond. IMIDomics is powered by a unique Clinical Discovery Engine™, which integrates and analyzes proprietary clinical, epidemiological and patient-derived biomolecular datasets, generated in partnership with the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Research, to establish a deeper understanding of IMID diseases. IMIDomics has identified previously unrecognized targets, six of which have been selected for development within IMIDomics' active drug pipeline. By relying on access to well-defined patients and their clinically relevant samples, IMIDomics enhances the probability of successful IMID drug discovery and development for those in need.



Starton Therapeutics Inc. ("Starton" or "the Company"), a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on transforming standard-of-care therapies with proprietary continuous delivery technology, has announced Gabrail Cancer Center (GCC) in Canton, Ohio as the first site activated in the STAR-LLD Phase 1b clinical trial. Dr. Nash Gabrail, medical oncologist and founder of the Center, is the study's lead investigator.

Quality of life is just as important as life itself," said Dr. Gabrail, the author and clinical researcher who believes that involvement in clinical trials, when available, is a fundamental part of patient care and the best option for cancer patients. "I'm thrilled to be the study's lead investigator and excited about the potential opportunity STAR-LLD can bring multiple myeloma patients."

ALAMEDA, Calif, Sept 17: Exelixis, Inc. (Nasdaq: EXEL) and Insilico Medicine ("Insilico") have announced that the companies have entered into an exclusive license agreement granting Exelixis global rights to develop and commercialize ISM3091, a potentially best-in-class small molecule inhibitor of USP1, which has emerged as a synthetic lethal target in the context of BRCA-mutated tumors.

Under the terms of the agreement, Insilico granted Exelixis an exclusive, worldwide license to develop and commercialize ISM3091, and other USP1-targeting compounds, in exchange for an upfront payment to Insilico of \$80 million anticipated in the third quarter 2023. Insilico is also eligible to receive future development, commercial, and sales-based milestone payments, as well as tiered royalties on net sales.

"ISM3091 represents a potentially best-in-class approach to inhibiting USP1, an important oncology target with broad applicability in BRCA-mutant tumors," said Dana Aftab, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Discovery and Translational Research and Chief Scientific Officer, Exelixis. "We believe preclinical data on ISM3091's potent anti-tumor activity, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics set the compound apart from competing USP1 inhibitors and make it an important addition to Exelixis' growing clinical-stage pipeline. Following the FDA's clearance of Insilico's IND earlier this spring, we're looking forward to accelerating phase 1 trial enrollment."

## Multiple

"ISM3091 is the third clinical-stage program made possible by Chemistry42, Insilico Medicine's generative AI platform for small molecule drug discovery," said Alex Zhavoronkov, Ph.D., founder and CEO of Insilico Medicine. "The compound's novel structure, anti-tumor activity, and excellent drug-like properties give it significant potential as a differentiated program directed at BRCA-mutant tumors, which include forms of ovarian, prostate, and breast cancer. This program attracted significant interest from multiple potential partners in the pharmaceutical industry, but we were most impressed by the level of technical expertise and development and commercial capabilities of Exelixis. With a track record of commercial and clinical development success in oncology, Exelixis is the best partner to take ISM3091 forward, and we're excited to see the program take flight as a component of the company's pipeline behind cabozantinib, its global oncology franchise."

USP1 facilitates DNA damage re-

Exelixis, Insilico elevate fight against cancer

## Insilico ISM3091 brings innovative solutions to patients with tumors

## Pierre acquires Vertical for lung cancer therapy

## Vertical Bio AG's 'VERT-002' targets and degrades c-MET

CASTRES, France and BASEL, Switzerland, Sept 17: Pierre Fabre Laboratories, the French pharmaceutical and dermo-cosmetic company, has announced the acquisition of Vertical Bio AG, a developer of novel cancer therapies. This first acquisition of a biotechnology company allows Pierre Fabre Laboratories to add VERT-002 to its oncology discovery pipeline. VERT-002 is a monoclonal antibody with a novel and differentiated mechanism of action, acting as a degrader of c-MET. This target is a known disease driver in patients suffering from Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) with mutations or amplification of MET. Deal terms were not disclosed.

Vertical Bio was founded by Versant Ventures and was launched out of the firm's Ridgeline Discovery Engine based in Basel, Switzerland. Leveraging Ridgeline's biology capabilities, Vertical Bio advanced VERT-002 through preclinical studies and towards an IND submission. The first-in-human studies are expected to begin in 2024.

This acquisition enables Pierre Fabre Laboratories to further strengthen their R&D portfolio in precision on-

colony with a product about to enter clinical development. In line with its innovation strategy, the Group has made oncology its top priority in medical care and dedicates every year circa 80% of its R&D spendings to this therapeutic area. In 2022, the Oncology Franchise achieved revenues of 467 Me, a sharp 221% increase vs 2019 revenues.

## Treatment

Pierre Fabre Laboratories have a long history in the treatment of lung cancers, dating back to the 90's with the launch of their first chemotherapy. Earlier this year, a collaboration agreement was signed with Scorpion Therapeutics to co-develop and commercialize two candidates for patients with EGFR-mutant NSCLC. And through its longstanding partnership with Pfizer, the company expects to harness soon the full potential of a promising clinical development program in NSCLC.

"We are excited about the acquisition of this biotechnology company and the addition of VERT-002 to reinforce our research and development portfolio in lung cancer. This acquisition is another testimony of our com-

mitment to invest in the discovery and development of innovative treatments in precision oncology" said Eric Ducournau, Chief Executive Officer of Pierre Fabre Laboratories.

"We are proud of the rapid progress that Vertical Bio made in developing its lead antibody, which represents a potential new option for patients with difficult-to-treat forms of lung cancer," said Alex Mayweg, Ph.D., chairman of Vertical Bio and managing director at Versant. "Pierre Fabre Laboratories are an ideal partner to take VERT-002 into the clinic and we look forward to the to the continued progress of this differentiated molecule."

VERT-002, an antibody targeting c-MET that leads to its degradation, with potential as best-in-class therapeutic option for patients with MET alterations, including resistance settings.

VERT-002 is currently completing IND-enabling studies and Vertical Bio expects to begin first in human studies in 2024.

Pierre Fabre Laboratories is a leading French medical and beauty care company with over 4 decades of experience in innovation, development, manufacturing, and commercialization in oncology.

pair by removing ubiquitin from multiple substrates including proteins that stabilize the replication fork. A small molecule discovered using Insilico Medicine's generative AI platform with extensive multiparameter optimization capabilities, ISM3091 was designed to inhibit the activity of USP1. In preclinical experiments, ISM3091 was found to be potentially efficacious against multiple tumor cell lines and in vivo models with BRCA mutations, as well as in homologous recombination DNA repair (HRR)-proficient models, both as a single agent and in combination with PARP inhibitors. It is also well tolerated in different species with a high margin of safety. Insilico disclosed select data in a poster presentation at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting in April 2023. On April 17, 2023,

the FDA cleared the initial IND for ISM3091 for the treatment of patients with solid tumors.

Insilico Medicine, a global clinical stage biotechnology company powered by generative AI, is connecting biology, chemistry, and clinical trials analysis using next-generation AI systems. The company has developed AI platforms that utilize deep generative models, reinforcement learning, transformers, and other modern machine learning techniques for novel target discovery and the generation of novel molecular structures with desired properties. Insilico Medicine is developing breakthrough solutions to discover and develop innovative drugs for cancer, fibrosis, immunity, central nervous system diseases, infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, and aging-related diseases.

Exelixis is a globally ambitious oncology company innovating next-generation medicines and regimens at the forefront of cancer care. Powered by bi-coastal centers of discovery and development excellence, we are rapidly evolving our product portfolio to target an expanding range of tumor types and indications with our clinically differentiated pipeline of small molecules, antibody-drug conjugates and other biotherapeutics. This comprehensive approach harnesses decades of robust investment in our science and partnerships to advance our investigational programs and extend the impact of our flagship commercial product, CABOMETYX® (cabozantinib). Exelixis is driven by a bold scientific pursuit to create transformational treatments that give more patients hope for the future.

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Daytime TV becomes the latest battlefield

Hollywood strikes enter new phase as daytime shows return

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): “The Drew Barrymore Show” will begin airing fresh episodes on Monday but a lot of off-air controversy will be clinging to its typically bubbly host.

Barrymore - a daughter of a proud acting dynasty - is making new batches of her syndicated talk show despite picketers outside her studio, as daytime TV becomes the latest battlefield in the ongoing Hollywood labor strife.

“We’re four months approximately into this strike and it’s not surprising that there are defectors,” said Michael H. LeRoy, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “I couldn’t predict that this would happen on daytime TV, but everybody has a breaking point in a labor dispute.”

“The Drew Barrymore Show,” operating without its three union writers, isn’t the only daytime show to resume. “The View” has returned for its 27th season on ABC, while “Tamron Hall” and “Live With Kelly and Ryan” - neither are governed by writers guild rules - have also been producing fresh episodes. “The Jennifer Hudson Show” and “The Talk” are also restarting Monday.

As long as the hosts and guests don’t discuss or promote work covered by television, theatrical or streaming contracts, they’re not technically breaking the strike. That’s because talk shows are covered under a separate contract - the so-called Network Code - from the one actors and writers are striking. The Network Code also covers reality TV, sports, morning news shows, soap operas and game shows.

“I know there is just nothing I can do that will make this OK to those that it is not OK with. I fully accept that,” Barrymore said in a video posted Friday on Instagram that was later deleted. “I just want everyone to know my intentions have never been in a place to upset or hurt

anymore. It’s not who I am.”

The ongoing strike pits Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents Disney, Netflix, Amazon and others.

The return of daytime hosts, producers and studio crews will make for some awkward exchanges, predicted Zayd Ayers Dohrn, a writer, professor and director of the MFA in Writing for Screen and Stage at Northwestern University.

**Support**

“It’s kind of amazing that they’re going to go back to work with their own writers picketing outside the doors of the studios,” said Dohrn, a writers guild member. “They’re literally walking past the picket line of the workers who they say they’re supporting.”

Barrymore’s decision to return to the air was met with pushback on social media. “You have the heart and mind to be more tapped into the needs of the community than this,” wrote one viewer on Instagram. Another was more blunt: “You don’t get to play a generous and relatable character when it’s financially expedient for you and then scab when your pocketbook is at risk.”

Actor and activist Alyssa Milano, whose friendship with Barrymore stretches back years, also criticized the return, calling it “not a great move.”

“I love her very much - I grew up with her - but I’m not sure that this was the right move for the strike. I’m sure in her eyes it’s the right move for her and the show, but as far as the WGA and SAG and union strong - not a great move.”

Barrymore’s stance was also met with some puzzlement since she walked away as host of the MTV Movie & TV Awards in May, the first big awards show to air during the strike. Back then, she wrote: “I have listened to the writers, and in order to truly respect them, I will pivot from hosting the MTV Movie & TV Awards live in solidarity with the strike.”

She has since lost another hosting gig: the National Book Awards in November. The organization rescinded her invitation “in light of the announcement that ‘The Drew Barrymore Show’ will resume production.”

LeRoy, who has studied labor-employer struggles for 30 years, warned that TV shows like Barrymore’s may think they can get by without using union writers but may find long-term costs.

“No members of the Writers Guild will ever work with that show again,” he said. “It’s a short-term, feel-good moment or get-by moment for Drew Barrymore and maybe the others, but long term they really have, in my view, basically given themselves an early retirement.”

He noted other strikes in the past that left bitter feelings for decades, like when Major League Baseball umpires went on strike in 1999. New umpires were hired and integrated with veteran ones but tensions continued.

“For the next 25 years, those umpires would not talk to each other if they were assigned to work games together,” LeRoy said. “Twenty-five years of shunning. People do not forget it.”

Viewers who tune into new episodes of daytime talk shows these days will find a changed landscape. Guests aren’t always the A-listers with blockbuster TV shows or films to promote. Since the strike began, authors, musicians and comedians are filling the gaps.

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Haley Lu Richardson in a scene from ‘Love at First Sight.’ (AP)

Film

Richardson gives an empathetic, endearing performance

A sappy rom-com in ‘Love at First Sight’

LOS ANGELES, Sept 17, (AP): The last time we saw Haley Lu Richardson - at least, the “White Lotus” version of Haley Lu Richardson - her Portia was in an airport, leaving the murderous mayhem of Sicily (and one dead boss) behind and exchanging contacts on her phone with nice young Albie.

Now, in an amusing bit of symmetry, we re-join the charming Richardson at an airport again in “Love at First Sight” - with another young man, this time trying but failing to get his contact info into her phone. (Spoiler alert: one really needs to keep one’s phone charged when looking for love.)

It’s this theme of missed connections - and fate, and inadequately charged iPhones - that anchors the plot of this sweet, often moving but also painfully corny rom-com that survives on the appeal of Richardson and also her co-star, Ben Hardy, a couple that could triumph over anyone’s saccharine dialogue.

The Netflix film, directed by Vanessa Caswill, is based on the popular YA novel “The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight” - a more interesting title, but one can understand the desire to avoid anything that could potentially be shortened in conversation to “Statistical Probability” (likely the least romantic title in the history of rom-coms).

In any case, those already fans of Jennifer E. Smith’s book will need no prompting to root for this couple who meet cute at New York’s John F. Kennedy Airport on December 20, which the film’s narrator tells us is the airport’s busiest day of the year (the narration is full of such factoids). On this day, we learn, Hadley Ella Sullivan, American, age 20 and 65 inches tall, is traveling to London but misses her flight by four minutes.

And those four minutes will change everything, because waiting in the airport lounge is one Oliver Jones, age 22, a Brit studying statistics at Yale, whose average phone battery life is 94 % (compared to Hadley’s, which is 21 % - also the percentage of times she is late.)

The two meet when Oliver (“As in Twist?” says Hadley - see what we mean by corny?) offers his phone charger. Then they head to dinner, at which point they realize that they share a hatred for mayonnaise. We also learn that Hadley is heading to London for her father’s wedding to the woman he left her mom for.

**Twist**

As for Oliver, he indicates he’s also traveling to a wedding, but he’s actually traveling to something a lot sadder. The two end up sitting together on the plane, through yet another twist of fate, but maybe also because the flight attendant who seats them is the very same narrator (Jameela Jamil) who pops up throughout in different roles, sort of a hip fairy godmother.

In any case, the two talk all night, but get separated in the customs line the next morning. Before running off, Oliver gives Hadley his number, but it doesn’t make it into her phone before she loses juice, yet again.

If you’re like me, you might recall here Jesse and Celine, aka Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, who also fell in love, overnight, while traveling, in “Before Sunrise” and agreed to meet at the same place in six months. Celine couldn’t make it, and poor Jesse, with no phone number, had to wait nine years and write a best-selling novel in a bid to find her.

This was before social media. Now, as our narrator acknowledges, there are so many ways to

find someone: Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter (or X). But even with those helpful tools, you need to know the person’s last name. Somehow, Hadley and Oliver don’t.

And then, through an ingenious, yep, twist of fate again, they find each other. And then, annoyingly, they lose each other again! Still with no name and no number! Really?!

The supporting cast features a few lovely performances, namely the very moving Sally Phillips and Dexter Fletcher as Oliver’s parents, a pair of Shakespeare-loving thespians struck by tragedy. As Hadley’s father, Rob Delaney is saddled with some of the sappier lines in the script as he tries to explain his divorce to his daughter with piercing thoughts like “Love is a lot of work.”

Richardson, throughout, gives an empathetic and endearing performance, and Hardy matches her for charm, even if he doesn’t convince as a self-described “maths nerd.” Both are playing college students about a decade younger, but we’ll suspend the disbelief, because darnit, we want to see these kids get together!

We won’t give the end away, but we can tell you - because the narrator told us - that 17.6 % of people walk away from the loves of their life. Does that mean that 82.4 % walk in the opposite direction, toward love? More importantly, what percentage of sappy rom-coms end in romantic failure? The odds seem pretty good for Hadley and Oliver.

“Love at First Sight,” a Netflix release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America “for brief strong language and some suggestive references. “ Running time: 90 minutes. Two stars out of four.

**LOS ANGELES:** Rapper **Jeezy** has filed for divorce from TV personality **Jeannie Mai** after two years of in marriage.

The 45-year-old rapper, whose birth name is **Jay Wayne Jenkins**, filed to end his marriage on Thursday in **Georgia’s** Superior Court of **Fulton County**.

The filing says “the marriage of the parties is irretrievably broken” and “there is no hope for reconciliation.”

The pair welcomed their first child together, a daughter, in January 2022. Jeezy and Mai began dating in 2018 and were married in March 2021.

Jeezy is seeking joint legal custody of their daughter, according to the divorce documents. The two had a prenuptial agreement that Jeezy expects will be enforced, according to the filing.

Representatives for Jeezy and Jeannie Mai did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Grammy Award-nominated rapper Jeezy exploded on the music scene in the mid-’00s and is widely considered a trailblazer of **Atlanta** trap. He has released 10 studio albums.

Mai, 44, is a **California** native and stalwart figure of daytime television best-known for her work as a host on such programs as “The Real” and “How Do I Look?” (AP)

**LONDON:** Three British news organizations reported Saturday that comedian and social influencer **Russell Brand** has been accused of rape, sexual assault and abuse based on allegations from four women who knew him over a seven-year period at the height of his fame.

Brand denied the allegations and said that all of his relationships have been consensual.

The Sunday Times, The Times of London and Channel 4’s “Dispatches” said that one woman alleged she had been raped, while three others accused him of sexual assault. One of the women also said he had been physically and emotionally abusive.

The women said that they only felt ready to tell their stories after being approached by reporters, with some citing Brand’s newfound prominence as an online wellness influencer as a factor in

their decision to speak.

Before the stories were published, Brand posted a video online denying the allegations, which had been outlined in two “extremely disturbing letters” from a “mainstream media” television company and a newspaper. He didn’t identify the news organizations by name.

“Amidst this litany of astonish-



Jeezy



Brand

ing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute,” he said. “These allegations pertain to the time when I was working in the mainstream, when I was in the newspapers all the time, when I was in the movies and, as I have written about extensively in my books, I was very, very promiscuous.”

Brand also suggested that the reports were part of a coordinated attack designed to discredit him because of his views. Brand has been criticized for expressing skepticism about COVID-19 vaccines and interviewing contentious podcasters like Joe Rogan.

“To see that transparency metastasized into something criminal,

that I absolutely deny, makes me question is there another agenda at play,” Brand said.

Brand rose to fame as a stand-up comic in **Britain** in the early 2000s, which led to starring roles on Channel 4 and later BBC Radio, where he capitalized on a reputation for outrageous behavior and risqué banter. (AP)



People & Places

Music

Singer gets key to NYC

Diddy made music a ‘priority’ over biz

LOS ANGELES, Sept 17, (AP): If **Sean “Diddy” Combs** had a choice, the self-proclaimed serial entrepreneur would be hunkered down in a recording studio rather than running his many successful businesses.

But for more than a decade, Diddy put creating albums on hold. He credits a late-night dream a couple years ago with waking him up from his musical slumber.

“I stepped away for a little bit, went through a lot of things in life, and then got that call one day from God. She was like, ‘It’s time,’” he recalled in a recent interview. The three-time Grammy winner said the soft voice he heard instantly motivated him to refocus his attention back to making his own music again.

Last Friday, Diddy released his new album called “The Love Album - Off the Grid.” His fifth studio project features nearly 30 guests including Mary J. Blige, Justin Bieber, H.E.R., Babyface, John Legend, Busta Rhymes, Summer Walker, Teyana Taylor, Coco Jones and Jazmine Sullivan. The album’s lead single “Another One of Me” features The Weeknd, French Montana and 21 Savage.

It’s his first solo studio project since his 2006 chart-topping “Press Play,” which had two top 10 hit singles: “Last Night” with Keyshia Cole and “Come to Me” featuring Nicole Scherzinger.

After his epiphany, Diddy built a recording studio at his home and started to work on music.

“It was God as a woman. ... And I was like, ‘It’s time,’” he said, describing his dream.

“I was asking myself the question: ‘If you had to do one thing for the rest of your life, what would you do?’ And that would be to make music.”

“What would bring you joy?” That would be music.

“What has helped you to have a positive effect on the world? That would be music.” But I wasn’t doing music. From that second on, I jumped headfirst into this project.”

Responsibilities

But first, he had to offload his business responsibilities. Diddy had lots to delegate: He’s the head of his widely-popular label Bad Boy Records, Revolt TV and its focus on music, the fashion clothing line Sean John and Empower Global, a curated marketplace featuring Black-owned brands that launched in July.

This month, Diddy reassigned his Bad Boy publishing rights back to artists and songwriters. The move came after some over the years criticized him for mistreating his artists.

“I am passionate about driving progress in all industries,” he told The Associated Press after the interview. “If I speak about change, I am committed to being an active participant in that change. Reassigning the publishing was simply the right thing to do.”

Diddy was one of the popular suitors looking to purchase BET Media Group until Paramount Global decided against selling the majority stake of the network. He’s in a dispute with spirits giant Diageo after he sued the company over allegation of racism over how they handle his liquor brands. The company denies his claims.

“I love being a businessman. That’s my job. Making music is my love,” said Diddy, who received the Global Icon Award at the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday. He recently donated \$1 million each to the Jackson State University football team and the Earn Your Leisure fund, which is expected to be used toward financial literacy investments.

“I had to have self-love and choose what I really love to do. Business is still getting done. But I can’t be in no meeting for three or four hours no more. I need to be making music and living life and spreading this frequency of love. I’m going to handle my business. But this right here, it’s like a kid in a candy store. This is what I love to do. This is my joy. This is my blessing.”

Diddy said the most rewarding part during the recording process was working with all the artists, producers and writers. He imagined how Motown Records founder Berry Gordy must’ve felt when stars like The Temptations and Marvin Gaye recorded at the Hitsville U.S.A. studio back in the days.

“I would take over the studio,” he said. “Everybody was calling to be a part of the ‘Love Album.’ Nobody made me wait more than 30 seconds for an answer if they wanted to do it. It was all authentic. I thank God, nobody told me ‘No.’”

Diddy said he wanted to tell a story on the album that mirrored his fun-filled love life.

“It was important to make an album that people can make love to, baby-making music, for them to dance and go off the grid for 48 hours,” he said. “Turn off your phone and lock in with a significant other. Laugh, dance, cry, make love, eat, chill and do it all over again. That’s important.”

Meanwhile, Diddy Combs got the key to New York City on Friday, the same day that he released his first studio album in 17 years.

“The bad boy of entertainment is getting the key to the city from the bad boy of politics!” Mayor Eric Adams said as he presented a giant key to Combs in Times Square.

The entertainer thanked Adams and shouted, “Diddy finally has the key to the city!”

Combs, 53, was born in New York City and raised in nearby Mount Vernon.

His new album “The Love Album - Off the Grid” is his first solo studio project since 2006.

Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Drake is no stranger to an inventive roll-out: the OVO rapper has a preference for surprise drops (last year’s “Honesty, Nevermind” is evidence enough). But this year, he gave fans a bit of a heads up for his highly-anticipated “For all the Dogs” album. At select dates, on stage at his massively popular “It’s All A Blur” Tour, Drake teased collaborations with **Nicki Minaj** and **Bad Bunny**. The latter marks the duo’s first collaboration since 2018’s “MIA,” where Drake’s Spanish-language singing was heard ‘round the world.

And now, to look away from pop’s present and into its future! **Chappell Roan**, the **Missouri**-raised, LA-based dark pop balladeer first made headlines for her queer theatrical pop hit “Pink Pony Club,” and later, the Gen-Z situationalism anthem, “Casual,” which she worked on with **Olivia Rodrigo**’s chief collaborator and producer, **Dan Nigro**. “The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess” is Roan’s solo debut, an enterprising collection of explicit ballads and bangers. Next year, Roan will open for Rodrigo on the “GUTS” singer’s first-ever arena tour. Big things are on the horizon.



Sean 'Diddy' Combs performs during the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. (AP)



Richard Linklater poses for a portrait to promote the film ‘Hit Man’ during the Toronto Film Festival, Sunday, Sept 10, in Toronto. (AP)

Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** **Olivia Rodrigo** is going on tour, and she’s bringing the next generation of pop talent - as well as a beloved ‘90s alt-rock band - with her.

In 2024, Rodrigo will be joined by funk-and-soul up-and-comer **Remi Wolf**, dark pop princess **Chappell Roan**, song of the summer contender **PinkPantheress** and perhaps most surprisingly, the Breeders (fronted by the Pixies’ **Kim Deal**), across a 57-date run.

The tour announcement Wednesday follows the release last week of Rodrigo’s highly anticipated and critically celebrated sophomore album, “GUTS.” It also comes a day after she performed at the MTV Video Music Awards.

The GUTS World Tour, Rodrigo’s first-ever arena tour, kicks off on Feb. 23, in **Palm Springs, California**, at the Acrisure Arena. It will hit most major cities in **North America** and **Europe** before returning stateside and closing out with two nights at the Kia Forum in Los Angeles County that August.

The singer will also sell a limited number of \$20 (or the local currency equivalent, plus taxes and applicable fees) Silver Star Tickets in an attempt to make attending her concert more affordable. Those must be purchased in pairs, with a limit of two per purchase, and will allot seats located next to one another. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** **Jann Wenner**, who co-founded Rolling Stone magazine and also was a co-founder of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, has been removed from the hall’s board of directors after making comments that were seen as disparaging toward Black and female musicians.

“Jann Wenner has been removed from the Board of Directors of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation,” the hall said Saturday, a day after Wenner’s comments were published in a New York Times interview.

A representative for Wenner, 77, did not immediately respond for a comment.

Wenner created a firestorm doing publicity for his new book “The Masters,” which features interviews with musicians **Bob Dylan**, **Jerry Garcia**, **Mick Jagger**, **John Lennon**, **Bruce Springsteen**, **Pete Townshend** and **U2’s Bono** - all white and male.

Asked why he didn’t interview women or Black musicians, Wenner responded: “It’s not that they’re inarticulate, although, go have a deep conversation with **Grace Slick** or **Janis Joplin**. Please, be my guest. You know, **Joni (Mitchell)** was not a philosopher of rock ‘n’ roll. She didn’t, in my mind, meet that test,” he told the Times.

“Of Black artists - you know, **Stevie Wonder**, genius, right? I suppose when you use a word as broad as ‘masters,’ the fault is using that word. Maybe **Marvin Gaye**, or **Curtis Mayfield**? I mean, they just didn’t articulate at that level,” Wenner said. (AP)

**LONDON:** A red sweater adorned with a flock of sheep worn by the young **Princess Diana** has sold at auction for \$1.1 million,

Film

‘Filmmaking is gone with the algorithm’

Linklater’s ‘Hit Man’ a hit at TIFF

TORONTO, Sept 17, (AP): There’s been no shortage of hit-man movies at film festivals this fall. You could line them up on a rooftop somewhere, each with their sniper rifles aimed out at audiences: David Fincher’s “The Killer,” Michael Keaton’s “Knox Goes Away,” Harmony Korine’s “Aggro Drift.”

But the one that has most resonated - killed, you might say - has been a gentler, funnier take on the genre that says right up front: The hired hit man is a Hollywood myth.

Richard Linklater’s “Hit Man” stars Glen Powell as Gary Johnson, a real-life guy who worked for the police as a fake hit man in sting operations to catch would-be murders looking for someone to do their dirty work.

The film takes Johnson’s true story and has some fun with it. Gary, thrust into his faux-hit-man role, dons increasingly colorful personas and finds himself in an especially tricky conundrum of selfhood after falling for a wife (Adria Arjona) who wants her husband dead.

The film, which played at both the Venice and Toronto festivals, is an extremely entertaining showcase for the charismatic Powell, the “Top Gun: Maverick” star who co-wrote the script with Linklater.

For Linklater, the 63-year-old director of “Boyhood,” “Dazed and Confused” and “Before Sunset,” “Hit Man” is a typically existentialist film but playfully twisted into a genre-bending noir screwball. Linklater also made the film without a distributor. “Hit Man” is for sale at TIFF, and - given the response - may be the hottest property at the festival.

“It used to be the head of studio would sit down with you, talk, maybe say, ‘I think you’ve got the movie in you. Let’s do it.’ Now, they don’t even want to hear from you. You’re up against algorithms and marketing in advance,” says Linklater. “So it was kind of great to go: ‘Let’s just make the movie and bet on ourselves.’”

**AP:** Around your Venice premiere, you said an era of filmmaking was “gone with the wind - or gone with the algorithm.” Is it that bleak?

**Linklater:** I’m a very optimistic person. It’s an optimistic business. It’s a good time to be a filmmaker. I’m not a pessimist by nature. But you have to acknowledge changing times. I’ve seen it change over the years, we all have. My thing is trying to get outside our little insular world. The attack is on human consciousness. It has a formidable opponent in something grabbing our brains and grabbing our attention.

**AP:** That idea was present in your last film, the animated “Apollo 10 1/2” for Netflix, which fondly recalled a less structured, pre-digital upbringing.

ing.

**Linklater:** Yeah, it was kind of an analog, free-range childhood where you really had to make your own fun. Nothing was catered to you. There were very few movies or TV shows that catered to kids. You find your way in. They weren’t just spoon-feeding you. They saw kids as a nuisance or a thing to be put up with, not such a market.

**AP:** The question of how much people change seems to hover over your films. “Boyhood,” filmed over an 12-year period, seemed designed to measure change in your actors.

**Linklater:** Yeah, I think so. Identity or the development of self. It’s hard to inject that into a narrative. This one, it wasn’t so much in the article I read for “Hit Man” in 2001. It’s really more in the flight of fancy part. I was always in the school - they talk about it in “Before Sunset” - saying you can change but you have your set points. I’ve always been on that. I’m as happy as I can be given my set points. I had more recently read stuff that said you can change quite a bit. But can you really tweak up that dial? I would like to be different.

**AP:** How so?

**Linklater:** Everything you say, you can always follow with, “Then I wouldn’t be me.” But I wish I enjoyed things that other people seem to enjoy so much.

**AP:** Like what?

**Linklater:** Oh, I don’t know. The big premiere of your movie. (Laughs) Going to awards show. Dressing up. Being on. I’d really rather be watching a movie or reading. I have the opposite of FOMO. I don’t really want to be anywhere. (Laughs)

**AP:** Your films have a rare amiability and gentleness to them. How does that get filtered in?

**Linklater:** If you take things really serious or it’s a big deal, then it’s a big deal in your film. I don’t really take anything too seriously. I’m kind of like, “Eh.” I just can’t do certain things with a straight face. It’s all stupid. As an old-school existentialist, I just go through life with a certain detached, fun, irony. Engaged. I care about a lot of things. But I’m not that invested in outcomes. I don’t believe mostly in fictional plotting. That’s why it was interesting to be a little more plotty, to be more in some genres I’m mashing up. Plotting I’ve always said is just fake. It’s not how life works. We don’t have plot-driven lives. We have character-driven lives.

**AP:** Here, you’re kind of mocking the idea of one of Hollywood’s favorite plots.

**Linklater:** I’ve had to talk about this with the movie now. “Hit men don’t exist?” Of course they don’t exist. Do the math. Do you ever hear

about hit men getting arrested? They don’t exist at the retail level. The notion that someone you’ve never met who’s this icy professional you meet for five minutes is going to risk the death penalty. (Laughs) I think as a culture we have to believe in it. We enjoy believing in it.

**AP:** Could you tell Powell had something special when you cast him at 14-year-old for a small role in “Fast Food Nation”? The real revelation was “Everybody Wants Some!”

**Linklater:** That was the big leap. For “Fast Food Nation,” I mean, I cast him out of hundreds of kids. I went: “That guy’s kind of interesting to play this small part. There’s something about that kid.” But it was when he came back on “Everybody Wants Some!” he was just fully formed. Anyone who knows Glen knows he’s a star. I think the times we’re living in, the industry isn’t as invested in creating stars as much. Maybe they don’t want to pay ‘em.

**AP:** What do you think changed?

**Linklater:** Well, there’s a lot of YouTube stars. They’re coming from everywhere. It used to be that movies and music was it. Now, this century has produced famous people that we’ll never know or hear about. There’s a glut, and in our industry there’s a shortage.

**AP:** Your films have launched quite a few stars so you’ve watched it happen. What does it take?

**Linklater:** I’ve worked with a lot of people over the years and think, “If things break right for them or they get that part...” But planets have to align. You’ve got to kind of get lucky. You have to get that right part at the right time. Kind of like Matthew (McConaughey) with “A Time to Kill.” He had been in a bunch of movies. Even Glen, I knew he was up for certain parts in different movies and I was like, “They didn’t cast Glen against that stuff?”

**AP:** So in this age of the algorithm, do you still enjoying moviemaking?

**Linklater:** When it’s in my control, I love it. I love everything about making movies. “Apollo 10½.” I loved that whole experience. It was such a personal experience. And then one day it showed up on a platform with no fanfare. It’s always kind of sad when you realize even your friends don’t know your film is out. To me, if anything good happens from this stage on, it’s just lucky. You know there’s an audience for your movie, it’s just whether they find it. I’ve never made a film that I didn’t think people would like. Even some strange, weird-ass film, you think, “There’s a way this could catch on.” You gotta be a little delusional. I’m good at self-delusion. (Laughs) It’s what keeps me going.



Princess Diana



Rodrigo

leapt to \$1.1 million after a final flurry of bids.

The previous record for a piece of Diana memorabilia was \$604,800 for a **Victor Edelstein**-designed ballgown sold by Sotheby’s in January.

The sale also smashed the existing auction record for a sweater, the \$334,000 paid in 2019 for **Kurt Cobain**’s green cardigan from Nirvana’s MTV Unplugged concert. (AP)



Climate

UN pushes ‘phase out’

‘Heat’ to turn up on fossil fuels, warming

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): The heat is about to be turned up on fossil fuels, the United States and President Joe Biden. As a record-smashing and deadly hot summer draws to a close, the United Nations and the city that hosts it are focusing on climate change and the burning of coal, oil and natural gas that causes it. It features a special UN summit and a week of protests and talk-heavy events involving leaders from business, health, politics and the arts. Even a royal prince - William - is getting in on the action. The annual Climate Week, which coincides with the UN General Assembly, was to kick off Sunday with tens of thousands of people expected in the “March to End Fossil Fuels” Manhattan rally, one of hundreds of worldwide protests.



This week “is the start of an incredible pressure cooker that we are all part of,” said Jean Su, a march organizer and energy justice director for the Center for Biological Diversity. “It is coming from the top down, from that chief of the United Nations and now it is coming from bottom up in over 400 distributed actions across the world.” Much of the heat is coming from Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**, who is convening a new Climate Ambition Summit on Wednesday that has a special twist: Only leaders from nations that bring new and meaningful action will be allowed to speak. And the UN isn’t saying yet who will get that chance. It won’t be Biden, who is speaking Tuesday at the UN, the White House said. Nor will it be the leaders of China, the United Kingdom, Russia or France - all major players in the development and use of fossil fuels -- who won’t even be in New York. Guterres has repeatedly aimed his criticism at fossil fuels, calling them “incompatible with human survival.” He and scientific reports out of the United Nations have emphasized that the only way to curb warming and meet international goals is to “phase out” fossil fuels.

Negotiations

Phase-out is a term that world leaders in past climate negotiations and meetings of large economic powers have refused to back, instead opting for watered-down phrases such as “phase down” of unabated coal, allowing fossil use if its emissions are somehow captured and stored. The president of the upcoming international climate negotiations in Dubai is an oil executive from the United Arab Emirates and will be speaking at Wednesday’s summit, though his dual role has upset activists and some scientists. “This really is an unprecedented soft power moment where the UN chief is throwing fossil fuels into the limelight and forcing heads of states to respond,” Su said. “Whether it’s yes or no, he’s at least forcing them to respond as to will you commit to no new fossil fuel development in line with climate science?”

But UN chiefs have little real power, said Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, a climate scientist. “They can talk. They can persuade. They can from time-to-time constructively criticize and that’s all the tools that he’s got,” Hare said. “The UN secretary-general has moral authority and he’s using that.” Guterres “can shame leaders who show up with pitiful offers in terms of climate action,” said Power Shift Africa Director Mohamed Adow, a longtime climate diplomacy observer. “We’ve got to a point where we can no longer be able to afford the velvet glove diplomacy.” Guterres will ask nations to accelerate their efforts to rid themselves of carbon-based energy, with the richest nations that can afford it going first and faster, and providing financial aid to the poorer nations that can’t afford it, said Selwin Hart, Guterres’ special adviser for climate action. “They can talk. They can persuade. They can from time-to-time constructively criticize and that’s all the tools that he’s got,” Hare said. “The UN secretary-general has moral authority and he’s using that.”

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But the same 20 richest economies who promise to slice carbon emissions “are now issuing new oil and gas licensing at a time when the (International Energy Agency and the science-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has clearly stated that this is incompatible with the 1.5 degree (Celsius, 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) goal of the Paris Agreement,” Hart said.

Yet speeding to net zero emissions of carbon requires rapid and huge reshaping of the energy landscape that “could inflict serious harm on the economy,” American Energy Alliance President Thomas Pyle said last month.

Environmental activists calculate that five rich northern countries - the United States, Canada, Australia, Norway and the United Kingdom - that talk about cutting back emissions are responsible for more than half of the planned expansion of oil and gas drilling through 2050. The United States accounts for more than one-third.

So activists and protesters at Sunday’s march say they are aiming their frustration - and pressure - at Biden and America.

However, Biden has repeatedly trumpeted last year’s Inflation Reduction Act, which includes \$375 billion to fight climate change, mostly on solar panels, energy efficiency, air pollution controls and emission-reducing equipment for coal- and gas-fueled power plants.

“They want to be seen as the good guys, but the fact is they have very little to back it up,” said Brandon Wu, policy director at ActionAid USA. He pointed to the new drilling plans and said the United States has failed to deliver on its promised climate-based financial aid to poor countries and has not increased its money pledges like other nations.

“How much carnage does the planet have to suffer for global leaders to act?” Su said. “We want President Biden and other major oil gas producers to phase out fossil fuels.”

Also:

**MORIGAON, India:** Monuvara Begum is growing weary of moving every time water pours into her home.

The 45-year-old farmer, who lives on an island in the mighty Brahmaputra River in the northeastern state of Assam, said she and her family suffer from more violent and erratic floods each year.

They live in knee-deep water inside their small hut, sometimes for days. Cooking, eating and sleeping, even as the river water rises.

Then when the water engulfs their home completely, “we leave everything and try to find some higher ground or shift to the nearest relief camp,” Begum said.

Begum is one of an estimated 240,000 people in the Morigaon district of the state that are dependent on fishing and selling produce like rice, jute and vegetables from their small farms on floating river islands, known locally as **Chars**.

When it floods, residents of Char islands often row in makeshift rafts with a few belongings, and sometimes livestock, to dry land. They set up temporary homes with mosquito nets.

Having nowhere else to permanently go, they then go back when the water subsides, clean up their homes and resume farming and fishing to make ends meet.

Begum said the river has always intruded on the Chars but it has become much more frequent in recent years.



Giselle Barker, 14, (from left), Azuri Brown, 15, and Charlotte E., 17, listen to speakers for the Global Climate Strike protests in New York on Sept. 23, 2022. The annual Climate Week, which coincides with the UN General Assembly, kicks off Sunday, Sept. 17, with tens of thousands of people expected in the ‘March to End Fossil Fuels’ Manhattan rally, one of hundreds of worldwide protests. (AP)



A stork is about to fly away from its nest in New-Anspach near Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday, Sept. 17. (AP)



Gann Vilsack

Discovery

**‘\$1 bln for tree plantings’:** Hundreds of communities around the country will share more than \$1 billion in federal money to help them plant and maintain trees under a federal program that is intended to reduce extreme heat, benefit health and improve access to nature.

US Department of Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** will announce the \$1.13 billion in funding for 385 projects at an event recently in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The tree plantings efforts will be focused on marginalized areas in all 50 states as well as Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and some tribal nations.

“We believe we can create more resilient communities in terms of the impacts of climate,” Vilsack told reporters in previewing his announcement. “We think we can mitigate extreme heat incidents and events in many of the cities.”

In announcing the grants in Cedar Rapids, Vilsack will spotlight the eastern Iowa city of 135,000 people that lost thousands of trees during an extreme windstorm during the summer of 2020. Cedar Rapids has made the restoration of its tree canopy a priority since that storm, called a derecho, and will receive \$6 million in funding through the new grants.

Other grant recipients include some of the nation’s largest cities, such as New York, Houston and Los Angeles, and much smaller communities, such as Tarpon Springs, Florida, and Hutchinson, Kansas.

Brenda Mallory, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, planned to join Vilsack at the Iowa event. She told reporters earlier that many communities have lacked access to nature and that all the tree grants would benefit marginalized and underrepresented communities.

The federal money comes from the Inflation Reduction Act. (AP)

**Jericho a World Heritage Site:** A UN conference voted Sunday to list ruins of the ancient West Bank city of Jericho as a World Heritage Site in Palestine, a decision likely to anger Israel, which controls the territory and does not recognize a Palestinian state.

Jericho is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities on earth, and is in a part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank that is administered by the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority. The listing refers to the Tel es-Sultan archaeological site nearby, which contains ruins dating back to the 9th millennium B.C.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the UN World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO.

The modern city of Jericho is a major draw for tourism to the Palestinian territories, both because of its historical sites and proximity to the Dead Sea. In 2021, the Palestinian Authority unveiled major renovations to one of the largest mosaics in the Middle East, in a Jericho palace dating back to the 8th century. (AP)

**Environmental groups sue US:** The

Health

Legal psilocybin access launched amid high demand

MDMA eases PTSD symptoms

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): The psychedelic drug MDMA can reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, researchers reported in a new study published recently.

The company sponsoring the research said it plans later this year to seek US approval to market the drug, also known as ecstasy, as a PTSD treatment when combined with talk therapy.

“It’s the first innovation in PTSD treatment in more than two decades. And it’s significant because I think it will also open up other innovation,” said Amy Emerson, CEO of MAPS Public Benefit Corporation, the research sponsor.

Earlier this year, Australia became the first country to allow psychiatrists to prescribe MDMA and psilocybin, the psychoactive ingredient in psychedelic mushrooms. The drugs are gaining wider cultural acceptance in the U.S. in part because of efforts by the nonprofit advocacy group Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies.

For the new study, researchers measured symptoms in 104 people with PTSD who were randomly assigned to get either MDMA or a dummy pill during three sessions, one month apart. Both groups received talk therapy.

Common side effects in the MDMA group were muscle tightness, nausea, decreased appetite and sweating. But only one person in the MDMA group dropped out of the study.

After treatment, 86% of the MDMA group improved on a standard PTSD assessment compared to 69% of the placebo group. The assessment measures symptoms such as nightmares, flashbacks and insomnia.

By the study’s end, 72% of people in the MDMA group no longer met the diagnostic criteria for PTSD, compared to about 48% of the placebo group.

“The results that they got are very exciting,” said Barbara Rothbaum, who directs the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program in Atlanta. She was not involved in the research, which was published in the journal Nature Medicine.

PTSD also can be treated with other medications or talk therapy.

“They are very effective, but nothing is 100% effective,” Rothbaum said. “So we absolutely need more options for treatment.”

Before MDMA could be prescribed

in the US, the Food and Drug Administration would need to approve it and the Drug Enforcement Administration would need to change its classification. MDMA is currently classified as Schedule 1, on par with heroin and deemed to have “no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.”

Psilocybin tea, wind chimes and a tie-dye mattress await those coming to an office suite in Eugene to trip on psychedelic mushrooms. For roughly six hours, adults over 21 can experience what many users describe as vivid geometric shapes, a loss of identity and a oneness with the universe.

Epic Healing Eugene - America’s first licensed psilocybin service center - opened in June, marking Oregon’s unprecedented step in offering the mind-bending drug to the public. The center now has a waitlist of more than 3,000 names, including people with depression, PTSD or end-of-life dread.

Prescription

No prescription or referral is needed, but proponents hope Oregon’s legalization will spark a revolution in mental health care.

Colorado voters last year passed a measure allowing regulated use of psychedelic mushrooms starting in 2024, and California’s Legislature this month approved a measure that would allow possession and use of certain plant- and mushroom-based psychedelics, including psilocybin and mescaline, with plans for health officials to develop guidelines for therapeutic use.

The Oregon Psilocybin Services Section, charged with regulating the state’s industry, has received “hundreds of thousands of inquiries from all over the world,” Angela Allbee, the agency’s manager, said in an interview.

“So far, what we’re hearing is that clients have had positive experiences,” she said.

While psilocybin remains illegal in most of the United States, the Food and Drug Administration in 2018 designated it a “breakthrough therapy.” This summer, the FDA published draft guidance for researchers designing clinical trials for psychedelic drugs.

Researchers believe psilocybin changes the way the brain organizes itself, helping a user adopt new attitudes and overcome mental health issues.

The Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association, however, opposed Or-

egon’s 2020 ballot measure legalizing psilocybin, saying it “is unsafe and makes misleading promises to those Oregonians who are struggling with mental illness.”

Allbee noted that psychedelic mushrooms have been a part of tribal spiritual and healing practices for thousands of years. Her agency is focused on safety, she said.

First, customers must have a preparation session with a licensed facilitator who stays with clients as they experience the drug. The facilitator can deny access to those who have active psychosis, thoughts of harming anyone, or who have taken lithium, which is used to treat mania, in the past month.

The clients can’t buy mushrooms to go, and they must stay at the service center until the drug wears off.

Besides approving psilocybin, Oregon voters in 2020 decriminalized possession of hard drugs, cementing the state’s reputation as a leader in drug-law reform. Oregon was the first state to decriminalize marijuana possession and one of the first to legalize its recreational use.

But these days, the regulated marijuana industry is struggling with massive oversupply. And drug decriminalization has not greatly expanded addiction treatment or reduced overdoses as hoped. According to AP VoteCast, 58% of Oregon voters in the 2022 midterm elections thought Oregon’s drug decriminalization effort had been a bad thing.

It’s too early to assess Oregon’s mushroom legalization.

Oregon Psilocybin Services spent two years establishing regulations and began accepting license applications in January. There are now 10 licensed service centers, four growers, two testing labs and dozens of facilitators.

While Epic Healing Eugene has a long waitlist thanks in part to early media attention, other service centers say business is picking up as awareness spreads.

Omnia Group Ashland, which opened this month in southern Oregon, has a prospective client list of 150, said co-founder Brian Lindley. Jeanette Small, the owner of Lucid Cradle in Bend, said she intends to see only one client per week to give close attention to each and is already booked through December.

The law allows local jurisdictions to ban psilocybin operations, and several rural counties have done so.

rare ghost orchid found mainly in Florida and Cuba should be immediately protected by the US as an endangered species, three environmental groups claimed in a lawsuit arguing that federal officials are unduly de-

laying a decision.

The lawsuit filed in Florida federal court contends the US Fish and Wildlife Service missed a January deadline on the orchid’s status and now doesn’t plan to make a deci-

sion until possibly late 2026.

“We regret that we must file this lawsuit, but the world famous and critically imperiled ghost orchid is out of time,” said **George Gann**, executive director at The Institute for Regional Conservation. “Only the Endangered Species Act can provide both the deterrence against poaching and the resources needed to respond to growing threats from hurricanes, invasive species, and counterproductive management decisions such as increased oil exploration.”

The other plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the Center for Biological Diversity and the National Parks Conservation Association. The Fish and Wildlife Service, a part of the Interior Department, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Ghost orchids are found mainly in the Big Cypress National Preserve, the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, all east of the Naples area. They are also found in Cuba, in certain restricted places.

“The ghost orchid, with its long, delicate petals and spur of nectar has become a symbol of the South Florida landscape,” the National Park Service says on its Big Cypress website. “Habitat destruction and hydrologic changes due to human development in South Florida have been partially responsible for the decline of ghost orchid populations. Also, over-collecting has had a negative impact on this special plant.” (AP)



Expedition 70 NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara, (left), Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko, and Nikolai Chub, (right), pose for a group photograph while in quarantine behind glass during a press conference, Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Cosmonaut Hotel in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. O'Hara, Kononenko, and Chub blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and docked at the station three hours later. O'Hara will spend six months there while Kononenko and Chub will spend a year.



Ingebrigtsen wins Bowerman Mile

Coleman edges world champion Lyles in 100m at Prefontaine Classic

EUGENE, Ore., Sept 17, (AP): American Christian Coleman edged world champion and fellow countryman Noah Lyles in the 100 meters at the season-ending Prefontaine Classic on Saturday.

Coleman won in 9.83 seconds, matching Lyles' world best this season, with Lyles finishing in 9.85. Coleman roared after his time became official and slapped the hand of a cheering fan at Eugene's Hayward Field.

The annual Prefontaine Classic, normally run earlier in the year, served as the Diamond League finale this season. Thirty-two champions were to be crowned over the two-day event, each

winning \$30,000.

Lyles won gold medals in the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay at the track and field world championships in Budapest, Hungary, last month. Coleman finished fifth in the 100, so on Saturday he got a bit of revenge.

"As a professional, you definitely want to take advantage of every opportunity that you can," Coleman said. "I knew this one would be a good one. It was a world-class field, a chance for me to redeem myself a little bit coming off of a world final."

Lyles was treating the Prefontaine as something of a victory lap in his own country. After Saturday's race, he

celebrated second place with a salted caramel milkshake.

"I gotta come bring it back home," Lyles said about running one final race this year on American soil.

ATHLETICS

denied a chance to run in the Tokyo Games because of a positive drug test for marijuana.

She ran a world-best time this season of 10.65 in Budapest but on Saturday she finished fourth in 10.80. Jamaican Shericka Jackson, the second-place finisher at the worlds, won the 100 in 10.70.

"I want people to understand, it is not related to just winning," Richardson said about her resurgence. "I'm having fun because I'm embedded within my spirit, within my mind, and within my community that I created for myself. So that's the happiness that you guys see. And the wins are just a

bonus."

Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway won the Bowerman Mile, an event unique to the Prefontaine Classic, in a European record 3:43.73. It was also a Diamond League record.

American Rai Benjamin won the 400-meter hurdles in a Diamond League and meet record 46.39. He bested Norway's Karsten Warholm, who won the event at the worlds.

"I came out here with no expectation, just to have fun and close out the season," Benjamin said.

Grenada's Kirani James won the men's 400 in 44.30, ahead of American Quincy Hall. Matthew Hudson-

Smith of Great Britain did not finish because of what appeared to be a hamstring injury.

Winnfred Mutile Yavi of Bahrain won the steeplechase in 8 minutes, 50.66 seconds a world-leading time and personal best that topped her world championship winning time. Kenyan Simon Kiprop Koech won the men's steeplechase in 8:06.26.

Japan's Haruka Kitaguchi won the women's javelin and Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic won on the men's side. South Korea's Sanghyeok Woo won the men's high jump. Italy's Andy Diaz Hernandez won the triple jump.

Dodgers wrap up NL West title for 10th time in 11 yrs



The Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate after clinching the NL West title after winning against the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game in Seattle. The Dodgers won 6-2 in 11 innings. (AP)

Orioles shut out Rays

SEATTLE, Sept 17, (AP): The Los Angeles Dodgers won the NL West title for the 10th time in 11 seasons with a 6-2 victory in 11 innings over the Seattle Mariners on Saturday night.

Max Muncy's single off Gabe Speier (2-2) scored Mookie Betts from second base with one out in the 11th to give the Dodgers the lead. Chris Taylor and Kike Hernández followed with two-run singles off Isaiah Campbell.

Evan Phillips (2-4) pitched the 10th inning and Joe Kelly got the final three outs. Afterward, the Dodgers held a brief celebration on the field filled with hugs, and division-title shirts and hats.

Orioles 8, Rays 0

In Baltimore, Gunnar Henderson homered and drove in three runs, Grayson Rodriguez pitched eight outstanding innings and Baltimore secured a potentially crucial tiebreaker in the AL East with a victory over Tampa Bay.

After losing the first two of this four-game set, the Orioles (92-56) moved a game ahead of second-place Tampa Bay (92-58) and won the season series. That means if the teams tie for first in the division, Baltimore would win.

Diamondbacks 7, Cubs 6, 13 innings

In Phoenix, Gabriel Moreno singled to right to score Evan Longoria in the 13th inning and Arizona rallied to beat Chicago.

With runners at the corners and two outs, Emmanuel Rivera hit liner off pitcher Hayden Wesneski's shoulder that rebounded toward shortstop. Dansby Swanson let the ball bounce, but it spun away from him for a hit that allowed the tying run to score. Moreno followed with his single, and Longoria slid headfirst and got his left hand around Yan Gomes' mitt after the catcher gloved Seiya Suzuki's throw.

The Diamondbacks closed within a half-game of the Cubs for the second NL wild-card berth and are tied with Cincinnati for the third and final spot, with Miami a half-game behind the tied teams. The Cubs lost their fourth in a row and fell 6 1/2 games behind Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Marlins 11, Braves 5

In Miami, Jake Burger hit a go-ahead two-run homer and Jazz Chisholm Jr. added a grand slam in the eighth inning to help Miami beat Atlanta.

Luis Arraez and Yuli Gurriel also went deep for the Marlins, who became the first NL East team to win a series against division opponents. The Braves were 11-0-1 in their previous series against division opponents.

Matt Olson hit his major league-leading 52nd homer and overtook An-

drew Jones as Atlanta's single-season home run leader. Jones hit 51 in 2005.

Josh Bell drew a two-out walk against Braves reliever Kirby Yates (7-2) before Burger made it 7-5 with a drive over the wall in center for his 32nd homer and seventh since he joined Miami on Aug. 1.

Gurriel singled, and Jesús Sánchez and Garrett Hampson walked before Chisholm connected off Michael Tonkin for Miami's first grand slam of the season.

Yankees 6, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo home run in the third inning for just his second hit in eight games, New York relievers retired 15 consecutive batters and the Yankees beat the Pittsburgh.

BASEBALL

Stanton led off the third with his 24th home run this season, a 418-foot solo drive off Luis Ortiz (4-5) into the left-field bleachers that extended the Yankees' lead to 4-2. The five-time All-Star is 2 for 27 since Sept. 6 and has three hits, each a home run, in 31 at-bats since Sept. 5. He is hitting a career-low .195.

Reds 3, Mets 2

In New York, Christian Encarnacion-Strand hit a two-run homer and Cincinnati held off New York for another important victory in the race for the last National League wild card.

With two runners aboard, Derek Law retired Mets slugger Pete Alonso on a game-ending groundout for his second save.

Encarnacion-Strand, who made his first big league start at third base, singled and stole second in the second inning before hitting a 428-foot homer to right-center in the fourth.



Arizona Diamondbacks' Evan Longoria (left), scores the winning run as Chicago Cubs catcher Yan Gomes applies a late tag during the 13th inning of a baseball game in Phoenix. The Diamondbacks won 7-6 in extra innings. (AP)

Rockies 9, Giants 5, 1st game

Rockies 5, Giants 2, 2nd game

In Denver, San Francisco's playoff chances were damaged when the Colorado a day-night doubleheader, taking advantage of seven walks in the opener and two errors and a pair of wild pitches in the nightcap.

Ezequiel Tovar finished with five hits and five RBIs on the day, including a career-high four RBIs in the opener for the Rockies.

The Giants fell 2 1/2 games behind Cincinnati for the last NL wild card.

White Sox 7, Twins 6

In Chicago, Eloy Jiménez and Gavin Sheets homered during Chicago's five-run first inning and the White Sox beat Pablo López and Minnesota.

Touki Toussaint (4-7) struck out eight in five effective innings as lowly Chicago stopped a four-game slide. Tim Anderson had three hits and started a key double play in the seventh. Tanner Banks got his first career save.

Minnesota had won three of four. With the loss and Cleveland's 2-1 victory over Texas, the Twins' magic number for winning the AL Central title remained seven.

Brewers 9, Nationals 5

In Milwaukee, Mark Canha hit a tie-breaking grand slam off Kyle Finnegan with two outs in the eighth inning and NL Central-leading Milwaukee beat Washington.

The Brewers bounced back after blowing a four-run lead and won for the 13th time in their last 15 home games.

Phillies 6, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Kyle Schwarber hit his 44th homer, sparking NL wild-card leading Philadelphia past St. Louis.

Schwarber's three-run homer came on a 2-2 pitch in the fifth inning, extending the Phillies' lead to 5-1. The homer snapped a 0-for-16 slump for

Schwarber, who sports a .197 season average. He hiked his RBIs total to 97.

Guardians 2, Rangers 1

In Cleveland, Steven Kwan drove in Bo Naylor following Tyler Freeman's tying single in the eighth inning, rallying Cleveland past Texas.

The Rangers, who remain in the second AL wild-card position, dropped their second straight in the series. They entered the day a half-game behind first-place Houston and one game ahead of third-place Seattle in the AL West.

Royals 10, Astros 8

In Kansas City, Kyle Isbel's bunt single highlighted a three-run seventh in Kansas City's victory over Houston.

Reliever Hector Neris (6-3) flipped head over heels trying to glove Isbel's squeeze bunt RBI hit in the seventh inning. Breaking a 6-all tie, the Royals added two more runs, aided by third baseman Alex Bregman's throwing error.

With Texas losing 2-1 at Cleveland, Houston maintained a half-game lead in the American League West despite the loss.

Tigers 5, Angels 4, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Miguel Cabrera hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning and Detroit beat Los Angeles after blowing a three-run lead in the ninth.

Earlier in the day, the Angels announced Shohei Ohtani will have surgery soon on the ligament tear in his pitching elbow after the two-way star was ruled out for the rest of the season due to an oblique injury.

Sawyer Gipson-Long struck out 11 in his second major league start and Zack Short hit a three-run homer for the Tigers. They led 4-1 in the ninth before closer Alex Lange (7-4) gave up Jared Walsh's two-run homer and Brett Phillips' solo shot.

Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 3, 13 innings

In Toronto, Whit Merrifield singled in the 13th inning to lift Toronto past Boston.

Merrifield's infield single off Mauricio Llovera (1-3) drove in Vladimir Guerrero Jr. from third base. Chad Green (3-0) pitched an inning for the victory.

Guerrero hit a solo home run and reached base five times as the Blue Jays ensured they would not lose ground in the AL wild-card race. Toronto began the day a half-game behind Seattle for the third wild-card spot.

Padres 5, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Juan Soto hit a sacrifice fly and drew a bases-loaded walk, Matt Waldron struck out five pitching into the sixth for his first major league victory and San Diego secured a series win for manager Bob Melvin against his former Oakland club.

Soto put the Padres on the board in the first on the sacrifice fly and Xander Bogaerts hit an RBI single one batter later to stake San Diego to a quick lead in support of Waldron (1-3). Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his 29th save.

Oregon routs Hawaii 55-10

Sanders sparks Colorado to a thrilling win over Colorado St

BOULDER, Colo., Sept 17, (AP): Shedeur Sanders threw a TD pass to Michael Harrison in the second overtime after leading a 98-yard drive to tie the game with 36 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter and No. 18 Colorado rallied to beat Colorado State 43-35 early Sunday in front of a full house packed with celebrities.

Sanders connected with Harrison for an 18-yard score and then found an open Xavier Weaver on the 2-point conversion. The Colorado defense took it from there, with Trevor Woods intercepting Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi's pass on fourth-and-23 to end the game at nearly 12:30 a.m. local time.

It set off a celebration as fans rushed the field for a second straight week. This was the biggest fourth quarter-back comeback for Colorado since 2005.

Oregon 55, Hawaii 10

In Eugene, Oregon, quarterback Bo Nix was brimming with pride over the performance of teammate Tez Johnson, who was taken in by the Nix family as a teenager.

Johnson caught caught a 49-yard scoring pass from Nix on the first series of the game and No. 13 Oregon went on to beat Hawaii 55-10.

FOOTBALL

The Ducks (3-0) have won 32 straight nonconference games at Autzen Stadium, the longest streak in the nation. Oregon hasn't lost to a nonconference opponent at home since 2008.

Jordan James ran for a pair of touchdowns for the Ducks while Johnson and Traeshon Holden each caught two scoring passes. Nix completed 21 of 27 passes before heading to the bench after one series in the second half.

Johnson, who moved in with Nix's family in Pinson, Alabama, in 2018, spent the last three seasons at Troy before transferring to Oregon. He finished with four catches for 77 yards and the two TDs against Hawaii. It was the first time he'd had two touchdowns in a game.

Fresno State 29, Arizona State 0

In Tempe, Fresno State coach Jeff Tedford took a couple moments after the game to greet some of the fans who had made the road trip to watch the Bulldogs dominate a team from the Pac-12.

It wasn't a hard thing to do. Those clad in Fresno State gear were basically the only people left in the stadium.

Mikee Keene threw for 281 yards and two touchdowns, Fresno State's defense forced eight turnovers and the Bulldogs rolled to a 29-0 win over Arizona State.

Arizona 31, UTEP 10

In Tucson, one of Jedd Fisch's top priorities when he took over as Arizona's head coach was to rebuild one of the FBS' worst defenses.

Through recruiting and the transfer portal, the Wildcats are faster, stronger and deeper - as UTEP found out.

Jayden de Laura threw for 285 yards and three touchdowns, and Arizona's defense shut down the Miners for a 31-10 win.

The Wildcats (2-1) bounced back from an overtime road loss to Mississippi State last week with a dominating defensive performance. Arizona forced the Miners (1-3) into a fumble, a turnover on downs and seven punts in 10 drives before scoring a late touchdown.

UC Davis 23 Southern Utah 21

In Davis, Miles Hastings threw two touchdown passes, Lan Larison finished with eight receptions for 106 yards, including a 73-yard TD, and UC



Ottawa Redblacks' Douglas Coleman III (35) intercepts a pass intended for B.C. Lions' Keon Hatcher (4) and runs the ball for a touchdown during the second half of a Canadian Football League game in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

Davis beat Southern Utah 23-21.

Hastings completed 21 of 37 passes for 236 yards with no interceptions and Larison added 60 yards rushing on 14 carries for UC Davis (2-1).

Kansas 31, Nevada 24

In Reno, Devin Neal and Daniel Hishaw Jr. combined for 137 rushing yards and four touchdowns, Jalon Daniels threw for 298 yards, and Kansas pulled away from Nevada in the fourth quarter for a 31-24 victory at Mackay Stadium.

The game was tied at 24-all when Daniels went 4-for-4 for 55 yards, leading to Neal's third touchdown on a 3-yard run and a 31-24 lead with 6:20 left to play.

Nevada was not able to cross mid-field on its final two possessions.

The Jayhawks (3-0) were a 28-point favorite at Nevada sports books.

Texas State 77, Jackson State 34

In San Marcos, TJ Finley accounted for five touchdowns, including two of Texas State's eight rushing touchdowns, and the Bobcats beat Jackson State 77-34.

Finley was 17-of-21 passing for 251 yards and connected on touchdown throws of 14 yards to Drew Donley, 27 yards to Ashtyn Hawkins and 20 yards to Kole Wilson, the last of which capped a 35-point second quarter by the Bobcats and made it 56-20 going into halftime.

Cal Poly 41 Lincoln (CA) 20

In San Luis Obispo, sophomore Sam Huard matched a program record with six touchdown passes - three to Giancarlo Woods - to help Cal Poly rally from an early deficit to beat Lincoln (CA) 41-20.

Huard completed 28 of 39 for 325 yards without an interception against a Lincoln, a program that started in 2021 and is not affiliated with the NCAA or NAIA. Woods finished with seven receptions for 77 yards and Logan Booher had 97 yards receiving and a TD, also on seven catches for Cal Poly (2-1).

Otis Weah scored on runs of 28 and 15 yards to make it 13-0 in the first quarter and TJ Goodwin's 3-yard TD pass to Mathew Quesada early in the second gave Lincoln a 20-7 advantage as the Oaklanders capped each of their first three drives with touchdowns.

Woods, whose 30-yard TD reception got the Mustangs on the scoreboard in the first period, scored on catches of 6 and 8 yards to make it 20-all before Tyrece Fairly-Diyem caught a 26-yard touchdown strike for Huard to give Cal Poly its first lead of the game at 27-20 with 45 seconds left in the first half.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Saturday.										
Toronto	4	Boston 13 inn	3	Colorado	9	San Francisco	1st			
San Diego	5	Oakland	2	game	5					
Cleveland	2	Texas	1	Miami	11	Atlanta	5			
NY Yankees	6	Pittsburgh	3	San Diego	5	Oakland	2			
Baltimore	8	Tampa Bay	0	Philadelphia	6	St Louis	1			
Chicago W. Sox	7	Minnesota	6	Cincinnati	3	NY Mets	2			
Kansas City	10	Houston	8	Milwaukee	9	Washington	5			
Detroit	5	LA Angels 10 inn	4	Colorado	5	San Francisco 2nd game 2				
LA Dodgers	6	Seattle 11 inn	2	Arizona	7	Chicago Cubs 13 inn	6			
American League					National League					
East Division					East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Baltimore	92	56	.622		x-Atlanta	96	52	.649		
Tampa Bay	92	58	.613	1	Philadelphia	81	67	.547	15	
Toronto	82	67	.550	10-1/2	Miami	77	72	.517	19-1/2	
New York	76	73	.510	16-1/2	New York	68	80	.459	28	
Boston	74	75	.497	18-1/2	Washington	65	84	.436	31-1/2	
Central Division					Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	78	71	.523	—	Milwaukee	84	64	.568		
Cleveland	71	78	.477	7	Chicago	78	71	.523	6-1/2	
Detroit	69	79	.466	8-1/2	Cincinnati	78	72	.520	7	
Chicago	57	92	.383	21	Pittsburgh	68	80	.463	15-1/2	
Kansas City	48	101	.322	30	St Louis	65	83	.439	19	
West Division					West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Houston	83	66	.557	—	x-Los Angeles	90	57	.612	—	
Texas	82	66	.554	-1/2	Arizona	78	72	.520	13-1/2	
Seattle	81	67	.547	1-1/2	San Francisco	75	74	.503	16	
Los Angeles	68	81	.456	15	San Diego	71	78	.477	20	
Oakland	46	102	.311	36-1/2	Colorado	56	92	.378	34-1/2	



Awadhi will be missing from the lineup

# Al-Arabi launch Asian Federation Cup campaign against Al-Zawraa

BASRA, Sept 17: Al-Arabi is set to commence their journey in the Asian Federation Cup as they pay a visit to Al-Zawraa in Iraq at the Basra City Stadium, marking the inaugural round of matches in Group Three.

Group Three also features Bahrain's Riffa and Lebanon's Al-Najma, who are slated to compete today as well.

This tournament adopts a round-robin format with both home and away fixtures, deviating from the previous editions that employed a single-round knockout system.

In the previous edition, "Al-Arabi" fell short of advancing after a 2-1 defeat to Omani side Al-Seeb in the West Asia region semi-finals.

As they step onto the field, Al-Arabi seeks a robust and fitting start in the tournament, relying on their homegrown talents. This includes players from the Olympic team, Bandar Al-Salama and Badr Al-Mutairi, who have received the green light to join the team today from the Football Association. Furthermore, the foreign player roster has been finalized with the one-season acquisition of Moroccan Walid Sabbar,

joining Nigerian Anayo Iwuala, Algerian Sofiane Bouchar, Senegalese Mamadou Thiam, and Moroccan Hamza Khaba.

Under the guidance of their German coach, Thomas Berdardic, Al-Arabi aims to secure valuable points in this match. However, Berdardic is acutely aware that this task won't come easy, given the formidable strength of the opponent and the ab-

## SOCCER

sence of several key players. Notably, Suleiman Abdulghafour, Sultan Al-Anzi, and Salman Al-Awadhi will be missing from the lineup due to a three-match suspension imposed by the Asian Football Confederation, stemming from incidents in the previous edition against Omani side Al-Seeb.

The participation of Hussein Ashkanani, who sustained a muscle injury during the U23 Asian Cup qualifiers last week, remains uncertain.

Despite these notable absences, Al-Arabi boasts a squad teeming with local talents renowned for their po-

tential and extensive experience. Key figures include Hassan Hamdan, Abdullah Ammar, Hamad Al-Qalaf, Ali Khalf, Badr Tarek, Saif Al-Hashan, Issa Walid, and Jumaa Aboud.

The match will unfold without the presence of spectators, in accordance with the Asian Football Confederation's decision, following incidents that occurred during Al-Arabi's match against Iran's Zob Ahan in the previous edition of the tournament.

Meanwhile, under the guidance of Egyptian coach Hossam El-Badry, Al-Zawraa aims to leverage their home advantage and exploit the absence of their opponents to secure a favorable outcome. They have diligently prepared with a training camp that commenced in Baghdad, including three previous friendly matches.

They drew one against Al-Mosul and clinched victories against Salah al-Din and Al-Rusafa with scores of 3-0 and 4-0, respectively. Their most recent preparatory match ended in a 2-2 draw against Al-Kahraba last Thursday, held at the Al-Fayhaa Stadium in Basra.



Al Arabi line up for group photo.

# Sainz wins thrilling Singapore Grand Prix



Kuwaiti Al-Dawas with other winners on the podium.

## 'Reaffirmation' of trust in Triathlon Association for the 2023-2027 term

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Kuwait Club and the Kuwait Triathlon Association's General Assembly have once again expressed their confidence in the current board of directors following their election two days ago for the new term spanning 2023-2027. The triathlon elections were held at the Kuwait Olympic Committee headquarters in Hawalli, with the incumbent board members securing victory.

Rashed Al-Kandari continues in his role as Chairman of the Board, with Mohammad Haider as Vice Chairman, Saud Al-Kandari as Secretary, Shaimaa Al-Hamdan as Assistant Secretary, Saad Al-Ali as Treasurer, and Talal Qais as Assistant Treasurer. The presence of Ali Al-Marri, Assistant Secretary of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, and Olympic Committee member Fatma Hayat added prestige to the elections, which were overseen by the electoral committee of both the Kuwait Club and the Kuwait Triathlon Association.

In response, Rashed Al-Kandari, President of the Board of Directors of both Kuwait Club and the Kuwait Triathlon Association, extended his sincere gratitude to the club's General Assembly for reposing their trust in the board of directors. He affirmed the club's unwavering commitment to continuing their diligent efforts to build upon previous achievements, elevate the sport, and proudly represent Kuwait on the national and international stages.

Al-Kandari further stated, "Our goal is to elevate the athletes' capabilities and provide them with comprehensive support." He also outlined the board of directors' commitment to advancing and enhancing their previous work plan.

Al-Kandari commended the invaluable support received by the club and the Kuwait Triathlon Association from the General Authority for Sports and the Ku-



Rashed Al-Kandari

wait Olympic Committee, which have significantly contributed to the sport's development and its impressive track record in past competitions. Additionally, Salman Al-Kandari, a member of the triathlon electoral committee, reported a seamless electoral process for the triathlon club, characterized by its smooth execution and the General Assembly members' dedication to adhering to regulations and rules.

## El Goumri wins Sydney Marathon

SYDNEY, Sept 17, (AP): Moroccan Othmane El Goumri and Kenyan-born American Betsy Saina have won the men's and women's races at an unseasonably warm Sydney Marathon on Sunday.

The 31-year-old El Goumri finished the hilly 42m kilometer (26-mile) course around prominent Sydney landmarks in 2:08:20 to win his first marathon title since winning the Dublin Marathon in 2019.

Kenya's Laban Kipngetch Korir was second in a time of 2:08:43, with

## Kuwaiti racer Al-Dawas secures top spot at Sharjah International Jet Ski Championship

SHARJA, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwaiti racer Rashid Al-Dawas clinched the top spot in the GP1 category at the Sharjah International Jet Ski Championship in the United Arab Emirates. Al-Dawas expressed his elation over this remarkable achievement in a statement to (KUNA) and highlighted that the competition comprises a total of four rounds. The forthcoming round is scheduled for the upcoming week, followed by two more rounds in November and December.

## JET SKIING

Reflecting on his victory, he stated, "Securing first place in the Sharjah International Jet Ski Championship is an immense honor, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors and fans who stood by me throughout the tournament." Al-Dawas commended the exceptional organization of the Sharjah International Marine Sports Club, praising their exemplary handling of technical, logistical, and organizational aspects.

On a vibrant Saturday, the Sharjah Club hosted the second round of thrilling Jet Ski races along the shores of Al Khan Lake in Sharjah. This event saw the participation of 55 competitors hailing from 10 different nations, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, as well as various European countries.

## Félix and Canelo score in Barca rout

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 17, (AP): João Félix and João Canelo scored after making their first starts for Barcelona in a 5-0 rout of Real Betis in the Spanish league on Saturday.

The pair of Portugal internationals made their debuts last round for Barcelona as substitutes two days after they joined the defending champions on loan just hours before the summer transfer market closed.

Félix opened the scoring and Canelo capped the biggest win so far this season for the defending champions.

"I would underscore that I see both (Félix and Canelo) as very happy to be here and motivated to help the team," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández said. "They give us more variety and improve the team thanks

to their individual talent, and today the team was brilliant."

Félix scored in the 25th minute and then cleverly let a pass run between his legs in the area that Robert Lewandowski fired home to double the lead in the 32nd.

Ferran Torres, who also made his first start of the season, added a third goal in the 62nd when he became the first Barcelona player to score directly from a free kick since Lionel Messi did so against Valencia in May 2021, according to OPTA statistics.

After substitute Raphinha struck from just outside the area in the 66th, Canelo topped the victory in the 81st with a great solo effort after he cut back twice to ditch his marker and beat goalkeeper Rui Silva from an angle.



Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz of Spain leads the field into turn one at the start of the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix at the Marina Bay circuit, Singapore. (AP)

## Max run ends

SINGAPORE, Sept 17, (AP): The dominant Red Bulls were out of the picture and Formula One had its most thrilling fight for a win this season.

Runaway standings leader Max Verstappen's winning run ended at 10 races and Red Bull's at 15 - both F1 records - as Carlos Sainz Jr. won the Singapore Grand Prix for Ferrari on Sunday.

Red Bull dreamed of winning every race this year but had Verstappen fifth and Perez eighth after struggling all weekend in Singapore.

Sainz started on pole position and held on with badly worn tires over several tense final laps for his second career win in F1 ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris and the Mercedes of Lewis Hamilton. It was a four-car fight for the win before George Russell crashed the other Mercedes on the final lap from third position to promote Hamilton to the podium.

## MOTOR RACING

"I felt under control. I felt like I could manage well and we brought it home. That was the best feeling," Sainz said after celebrating with his team as fireworks lit up the Singapore circuit.

Sainz admitted after the race he had slowed down to ensure Norris stay within the one-second window that allowed the McLaren driver access to the DRS straight-line speed boost - a valuable aid in holding off the two Mercedes.

"Carlos was very generous trying to help me get DRS. It helped my race and also helped his," said Norris, who has placed second in three of the last six races but has yet to win in F1. "We held (Mercedes) off, we did everything we needed to do and more." Norris said he clipped the wall in the same spot where Russell later went off.

Mercedes had Russell on course for second before taking a risk with a second stop for both cars in the hope of taking the win on fresher, faster tires. Russell dropped back to fourth, ahead of Hamilton, and they both passed Ferrari's Charles Leclerc but couldn't get past Norris to reclaim second.

"We rolled the dice this weekend," Hamilton said after a Mercedes strategy call saw both cars stop for fresh tires late on, meaning Russell dropped back from second in pursuit of the win.

Leclerc was fourth after failing to hold off the Mercedes cars on older tires, ahead of Verstappen in fifth. The champion had an eventful race after starting 11th and was briefly second on track behind Sainz, though only because almost all other cars stopped for fresh tires. After Verstappen's own pit stop, he fought his way back through the field from 15th.

Despite his worst result since Nov. 2022, Verstappen increased his championship lead to 151 points over Perez with seven races to go.





South Africa cricket team celebrates their 3-2 series win against Australia at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa. (AP)

# Sports

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## India dominate Sri Lanka to win Asia Cup



Indian players celebrate with the trophy after their win in the Asia Cup cricket final against Sri Lanka, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

### Hosts suffer historic loss

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Sept 17, (AP):** India cruised to a comfortable ten-wicket win in the Asia Cup final, handing Sri Lanka a historically heavy defeat at R. Premadasa Stadium on Sunday.

Having bowled out Sri Lanka for 50 runs, Indian openers Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill knocked off the target in just 6.1 overs to secure the victory.

Kishan finished off the run chase with a single off part-time spinner Charith Asalanka as the rain-affected tournament's final ended inside just two hours.

"It was a great performance," said India captain Rohit Sharma. "To come out and play like that in the final shows the mental character. Great start with the ball and clinical finish with the bat." Pacer Mohammed Siraj was the hero for India claiming career best figures of 6-21 while all-rounder Hardik Pandya took three wickets to bowl out Sri Lanka.

"Very pleased with the effort today," said Siraj. "I have been bowling well since a long time. Was missing the edges earlier in the tournament but found the rhythm today."

It's the lowest total in an ODI final and Sri Lanka's second lowest total after its 43 all out against South Africa in Paarl in 2011.

### CRICKET

It was also Sri Lanka's lowest total at home with the previous lowest being the 98 all out against South Africa at the same venue in 1993.

It is also the lowest total in the history of Asia Cups.

Jasprit Bumrah had opening batsman Kusal Perera caught behind for no score in the first over of the innings and then Siraj took over, claiming four wickets in his second over, becoming the first Indian bowler to do so.

Pathum Nissanka, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya de Silva all fell in the space of six deliveries as Siraj wrecked Sri Lanka's innings in a manic over.

Siraj then bowled captain Dasun Shanaka in his next over to reduce Sri Lanka to 12 for six. He had a sixth wicket by cleaning up Kusal Mendis.

Mendis' 17 was the top scorer in Sri Lanka's innings in a dismal display as five batters were dismissed without scoring. Siraj's six for 21 is now the fourth-best bowling figures by an Indian bowler in ODI cricket.

Sri Lanka had opted to bowl first on a wicket that was expected to assist spin bowling, but it was the Indian quicks who ran through the Sri Lankan batting in front of a full house of 35,000 fans.

Sri Lanka and India had progressed to the Asia Cup finals while Pakistan and Bangladesh were knocked out in the Super Four stage. Afghanistan and Nepal failed to get beyond the first round.



India's Mohammed Siraj delivers a ball during the Asia Cup final cricket match between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

### Job 'done' as SAfrica thump Romania 76-0

**BORDEAUX, France, Sept 17, (AP):** All of South Africa's plans came together at the Rugby World Cup on Sunday.

The first objective was achieved in a thumping 76-0 win over underdog Romania, with hat tricks by scrumhalf Cobus Reinach and wing Makazole Mapimpi among the Springboks' 12 tries without reply in Bordeaux.

The defending champions had the first four of their tries and a bonus point inside 12 minutes, and Reinach sniped from close-in for his third try in the 24th minute to just miss his own record for the fastest hat trick at the Rugby World Cup. He set that four years ago with three in 20 minutes against Canada.

South Africa went over five times in the first half and seven times in the second to dismantle the Romanians in a Pool B match that was one-sided from the start.

Away from the convincing result, South Africa also made

### RUGBY

big gains with a series of experiments. At least one of them might have a significant impact for the business end of the tournament, starting with South Africa's next pool game, a huge showdown with top-ranked Ireland next weekend.

Ireland showed it's ready by mauling Tonga 59-16 on Saturday night.

Among the experiments, Grant Williams, a scrumhalf starting on the wing, collected two tries for South Africa in the second half. Faf de Klerk, yet another scrumhalf showing his versatility, came on as flyhalf and ran the backline for the last 24 minutes.

And Deon Fourie, a flanker who switched to reserve hooker, marked his Rugby World Cup debut at the age of 36 with a try in the middle of a rolling maul two minutes after he came off the bench at halftime.

## Injury-hit Chelsea held by Bournemouth in EPL

**BOURNEMOUTH, England, Sept 17, (AP):** Injury-hit Chelsea could not catch the break it badly needs in a 0-0 draw at Bournemouth on Sunday and stayed in the bottom half of the Premier League standings where it finished last season.

Chelsea twice had shots strike the frame of Bournemouth's goal and the 51st-minute free kick by Raheem Sterling bounced down from the bar on to the goal line. Though defender Levi Colwill followed up to put the ball in the net, he was ruled offside.

Nicolas Jackson's shot in the 13th had struck the post after exchanging passes with Ukraine winger Mykhailo Mudryk.

Chelsea needed goalkeeper Robert Sanchez to preserve the point

### SOCCER

with a save in the 79th from Dominic Solanke, the Bournemouth forward who started his career at the London club.

One day after two Premier League games were decided with goals deep into added time, Bournemouth and Chelsea could not find a goal in the eight minutes given them at the end of the second half.

Time expired with Chelsea lacking urgency in attack and was met with some boos from its fans.

Chelsea now has just one win in five league games and is 14th in the league standings - one place below Manchester United and one above Bournemouth which has yet to win.

Injuries in the Chelsea squad - including captain Reece James, midfielder Moises Caicedo and forward Christopher Nkunku - meant despite the club's \$1 billion spending spree in the past year, coach Mauricio Pochettino filled his substitutes bench with teenagers yet to make their first-team debuts.

Fresh from signing a new contract, Callum Wilson struck from the penalty spot as Newcastle beat Brentford 1-0.

Wilson has just signed a one-year extension to keep him at the club until 2025. And he quickly began to repay the faith Newcastle showed in him with the winner against Brentford at St. James' Park. It was the Magpies' first win since the opening game of the season and ended a three-match losing run.

Wilson converted a 64th-minute penalty and Eddie Howe's team moved up to 11th in the standings.

Newcastle had not won since routing Aston Villa 5-1 on Aug. 12 and had since slipped to defeats against Manchester City, Liverpool and Brighton.

The win should help boost confidence ahead of the team's Champions League opener against AC Milan on Tuesday.

Newcastle was awarded a penalty after Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken's clumsy challenge on Anthony Gordon.

## Ronaldo, Neymar and Benzema set sights on Asian Champs League title



Al Nassr's Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during a friendly soccer match against Paris Saint-Germain in Osaka, western Japan. (AP)

### Heidenheim claim historic win

**BERLIN, Sept 17, (AP):** Promoted Heidenheim claimed its first-ever Bundesliga win Sunday by beating Werder Bremen 4-2 at home with help from former Bremen players.

Eren Dinkci scored twice before Jan-Niklas Beste sealed the win against their former side.

Dinkci did not celebrate after scoring Heidenheim's second goal before the break, but held his hands up as if apologizing to his parent club.

The 21-year-old Dinkci joined Heidenheim on loan from Bremen in the offseason.

Tim Kleindienst opened the scoring with a penalty in the fifth minute, then sent Dinkci on his way to make

it 2-0 on a counterattack.

Marwin Ducksch pulled one back early in the second half when he headed home the rebound from his saved penalty, and Bremen went on to miss further good chances before Mitchell Weiser finally equalized in the 64th. But Dinkci wasn't finished. Beste crossed for him to score again four minutes later with a low shot inside the right post. This time he celebrated. Beste then made sure of the win in the 76th.

Heidenheim, based in a town of 50,000 inhabitants in the south of Germany, won the second division last season to clinch its first promotion to the Bundesliga.

Wilson, who was made to wait before taking the spot kick, blasted high to Flekken's left to open the scoring.

He thought he had been handed

another penalty later when Harvey Barnes' header hit Bryan Mbeumo's arm. But referee Craig Pawson overturned the decision when asked to review the incident.



Chelsea's Malo Gusto (left) and Bournemouth's Dominic Solanke battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between AFC Bournemouth and Chelsea at Vitality Stadium, Bournemouth, England. (AP)

**SEOUL, Sept 17, (AP):** Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Karim Benzema have won a combined total of 11 UEFA Champions League titles and, starting Monday, they lead the Saudi Arabian challenge in the Asian edition.

Neymar, who last week surpassed Pele's international goal tally for Brazil, arrived at Al-Hilal in August and made his league debut on Friday as the four-time Asian champion thrashed Abha 6-1. Hilal lost the final to Urawa Reds of Japan last May.

Since then, Saudi Arabian clubs have spent around \$950 million on some of the biggest stars in the world. The spending is being fueled by a move by the kingdom's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund to take a majority ownership stake in four of the country's top clubs, Al-Hilal, Al-Ittihad, Al-Ahli and Al-Nassr.

As well as Neymar, Al-Hilal has signed English Premier League stars Ruben Neves, Kalidou Koulibaly and Aleksandar Mitrovic as well as Moroccan goalkeeper Yassine

### SOCCER

Bounou, Brazilian winger Malcom and Serbian midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic.

Mumbai City has been placed in the same group and the Indians are looking forward to a chance to take on Hilal and especially its Brazilian superstar.

"I think anyone that's seen the movement in some of these teams, and Neymar being the latest to arrive there, it's exciting," Mumbai's coach Des Buckingham said. "They're bringing that caliber and quality of player to India, which is going to be extremely exciting for us and for our club but also for the fans of India."

In total, there are four Saudi Arabian representatives among the 40 in the group stage with the ten group winners and the six-best second-placed teams progressing to the second round.

After years of games between Saudi Arabia and Iran being played in neutral venues, Ronaldo will lead Al-Nassr to Tehran on Tuesday to take on Persepolis. The visitor has never lifted the Asian trophy.

Persepolis president Reza Darvish told local television earlier this month that Al-Nassr will be provided with full access to the internet, unlike the general public in the country.

"I have spoken with the CEO of Irancell, and I told him we want to give players and personnel Irancell SIM cards with unrestricted internet so they can use it from the time they enter Iran till the time they leave," Darvish said.

Al-Ittihad is Saudi Arabian champion and, as well as Benzema, has brought in past European winners such as N'Golo Kante from Chelsea and Fabinho from Liverpool.

The two-time Asian champion starts against AGMK of Uzbekistan in Jeddah.