



Kuwait affirms support for UN efforts

Opinion

O leadership ... Kuwait ... Kuwait

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

IN a time of openness, you cannot close in on yourself, because time does not wait, and does not have mercy on anyone.

To evolve is a feature of survival. This is why renaissance goes hand in hand with work, production, knowledge, and awareness of others. This rule is unfortunately absent from the minds of officials in Kuwait who insist on closing the country, as if the world is infected with the plague, and we must isolate ourselves.

This is a brief overview of what the world has become accustomed to in the past decades.

On the other hand, the neighboring countries worked to keep up with the times and achieved many benefits because they were not governed by the "expats" complex, and knew how to benefit from them as added value.

All of this does not exist in Kuwait, because officials in the relevant ministries are looking at their feet. Neither the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has realized the meaning of strengthening the industrial sector as a stabilizing factor for society, nor has the Ministry of Finance worked according to what is prevailing in the world, and the Ministry of Interior has implemented the laws of closing the country.

All of these ministries did not pay attention to the negative impacts of these outdated decisions and laws on the national GDP. In 2022, it amounted to about USD 183 billion in Kuwait, while it was about USD 507 billion in the UAE. The reason for this is that this country worked to develop its industries and strengthen its national security in this aspect, as well as enhance food security through local production. It currently has about nine million residents of more than 200 nationalities.

As for Saudi Arabia, it opened its doors to all nationalities, and worked to develop its services, and the industrial and agricultural infrastructure. This is what enhanced its national GDP, which reached USD 1.108 trillion.

On the other hand, what did Kuwait gain from the imprudent decisions taken by its governments in recent years? Nothing at all.

In fact, imports rose to the maximum limits, while factories were closed as a result of the importing merchants' control over several ministries, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance, and Municipality, which together are today considered among the most important ministries that can advance the country.

Is it reasonable that we import everything from nails to cars and even tissue paper? Is there not a single official who realizes the extent of Kuwait's exposure to the outside world as a result of placing its fate in the hands of importers and profiteers?

Isn't the government supposed to know its interests, seek to promote them, and work on the principle of getting the best out of the situation?

When someone talks about the importance of expatriates in the national economy, some come out to us and demand their deportation. This person tells you that we do not want them, and that is exactly "what we do to the Bedouins." So what do these people rely on? Is it the employees in the public sector whose average production per day is 25 minutes?

We also beg to ask - Who built the cities of the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and other countries? Wasn't it the expatriates? And when those projects were completed, they left for their country.

In this regard, I repeat what we said previously, on the authority of the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, when some of the people of Dubai objected to Kuwaitis and foreigners owning real estate in Dubai in the 1980s, he said his famous phrase, "If you see a Kuwaiti or a foreigner carry the building to his country, then come to me. These people are the ones building Dubai."

O Ministers of Commerce, Finance, and Interior, and even the government as a whole, Kuwait is not fine as long as your decisions come in the form of a reaction, instead of an act to revive the country.

This is why you have to learn from neighboring countries because survival is for the strongest in economics and knowledge, and not according to the conversations taking place in some of the diwanis.

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Day by Day

SOME claim that the gravest mistake occurs when a politician fails to differentiate between a vital decision and a trivial one, blurring the lines between strategic governance and equating the management of a nation with the choice of a salad.

The former involves understanding the management of countries, making decisions that benefit them, comprehending people's passions, and discerning the desires of nations. The latter simply refers to a choice between cucumber and milk.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Emad Sharghi, Morad Tahbaz and Siamak Namazi, former prisoners in Iran, walk out of a Qatar Airways flight that brought them out of Tehran and to Doha, Qatar, Monday, Sept. 18, 2023. (AP)



Left: (L-R) Emad Sharghi, Morad Tahbaz and Siamak Namazi, former prisoners in Iran, walk out of the Qatar Airways flight that brought them out of Tehran and to Doha, Qatar, Monday. Right: (L-R) Morad Tahbaz, Siamak Namazi, and Emad Sharghi walk away arm in arm from a Qatar Airways flight that brought them out of Tehran and to Doha. (AP)



New sanctions on Iranians

Five Americans freed by Iran in prisoner swap head home

DOHA, Sept 18, (AP): Five prisoners sought by the U.S. in a swap with Iran were freed Monday and headed home as part of a deal that saw nearly \$6 billion in Iranian assets unfrozen.

Despite the deal, tensions are almost certain to remain high between the U.S. and Iran, which are locked in various disputes, including over Tehran's nuclear program. Iran says the program is peaceful, but it now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels.

The planned exchange has unfolded amid a major American military buildup in the Arabian Gulf, with the possibility of U.S. troops boarding and guarding commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of all oil shipments pass.

"Today, five innocent Americans who were imprisoned in Iran are finally coming home," US President Joe Biden said in a statement released as the plane carrying the group from Tehran landed in Doha, Qatar.

After the plane slowed to a stop, three of the prisoners walked down the ramp and were greeted by the U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, Timmy Davis. The former prisoners hugged the ambassador and others.

The three - Siamak Namazi, Emad Sharghi and Morad Tahbaz - then wrapped their arms around their shoulders and walked off to a building in the airport.

In a statement issued on his behalf after landing, Namazi said: "I would not be free today, if it wasn't for all of you who didn't allow the world to forget me."

"Thank you for being my voice when I could not speak for myself and for making sure I was heard when I mustered the strength to scream from behind the impenetrable walls of Evin Prison," Namazi said.

In addition to the five freed Americans, two U.S. family members flew out of Tehran, according to a senior Biden administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity when the exchange was ongoing.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the exchange would take place Monday after nearly \$6 billion in once-frozen Iranian assets reached Qatar.

"Fortunately Iran's frozen assets in South Korea were released and God willing today the assets will

start to be fully controlled by the government and the nation," Kanaani said.

"On the subject of the prisoner swap, it will happen today and five prisoners, citizens of the Islamic Republic, will be released from the prisons in the U.S.," he added. "Five imprisoned citizens who were in Iran will be given to the U.S. side."

He said two of the Iranian prisoners will stay in the U.S. Meanwhile, Nour News, a website believed to be close to Iran's security apparatus, said two of the Iranian prisoners had arrived in Doha for the swap.

Mohammad Reza Farzin, Iran's Central Bank chief, later came on state television to acknowledge the receipt of over 5.5 billion euros - \$5.9 billion - in assets in Qatar. Months ago, Iran had anticipated getting as much as \$7 billion.

The planned exchange comes ahead of the convening of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly this week in New York, where Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi will speak.

The deal has already opened Biden to fresh criticism from Republicans and others who say administration is helping boost the Iranian economy at a time when Iran poses a growing threat to American troops and Mideast allies. That could have implications in his reelection campaign as well.

In his statement, Biden urged Americans not to travel to Iran, and he demanded more information on what happened to Bob Levinson, an American who went missing years ago. Biden also announced sanctions on former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence.

The prisoners freed Monday were: Namazi, who was detained in 2015 and was later sentenced to 10 years in prison on spying charges; Emad Sharghi, a venture capitalist sentenced to 10 years; and Morad Tahbaz, a British-American conservationist of Iranian descent who was arrested in 2018 and also received a 10-year sentence. All of their charges have been widely criticized by their families, activists and the U.S. government.

Continued on Page 4

PM meets UN chief



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 shakes hands with Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

Newswatch

RIYADH: Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) **Jasem Al-Budaiwi** spoke highly of the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Yemen.

The new round of Yemen peace talks, being hosted by Riyadh, is an important step towards restoration of peace in Yemen, he said in a press release on Sunday.

The GCC chief expressed hope that the talks would lead to a positive outcome, reach a durable peaceful solution, and realize the Yemen people's aspirations for security, stability, development and prosperity. (KUNA)

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ALGIERS: Algeria's Prime Minister **Ayman Ben Abderrahmane** affirmed Sunday his country's complete readiness to support efforts aimed at boosting the joint Arab work, saying, "Algeria always supported financial and monetary stability in the Arab world."

During his chairmanship of the 47th Ordinary Session of the Arab Council of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Authorities Governors, Benabderrahmane stressed the importance of innovation and digital transformation in the financial sector, noting that through its new financial and monetary law, Algeria is moving towards the digitization of its economy along with securing the security and reliability of its financial systems.

He also praised the "Buna" system founded by the Arab Monetary Fund in 2018 as an efficient infrastructure for cross-border payments in the Arab world and shed light on foreign financing for some Arab countries in light of the high-interest rates globally. (KUNA)

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TEHRAN: A military drone crashed during a test flight in northern Iran on Monday, wounding two people and damaging buildings, state media reported.

Debris fell in different parts of the northern city of **Gorgan**, according to the official IRNA news agency.

The semiofficial Tasnim news agency released a video showing white smoke rising from different areas and the sound of anti-aircraft batteries.

Defense Ministry spokesman **Reza Taleini** told state TV that the test flight in a remote area went off track due to a "technical failure." He did not specify the type of drone, but images of the wreckage circulating on social media suggested it was the type that carries bombs. (AP)

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BRUSSELS: The EU Council of Ministers Monday gave its final green light on a new EU law that will boost the digital information exchange in terrorism cases between EU national authorities and (European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.) Eurojust

The new law offers more efficient exchange on investigations and the prosecution of terrorist offences and EU member state authorities and EU agencies will all have access to the most complete and updated information on terrorism cases, said an EU statement.

To date, EU member states share information with Eurojust on cases related to terrorism via different, sometimes insecure, channels. Furthermore, the current judicial counter-terrorism register does not allow for proper cross-checking of information. (KUNA)

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ATHENS: Greece's armed forces declared three days of national mourning after five members of a military rescue team were killed in a road accident in flood-hit **Libya**.

The bodies of the five - three military officials and two civilians - were flown back to a military base near Athens early on Monday, together with 13 injured team members who were taken to military hospitals in the Greek capital.

A bus transporting the Greek team crashed on Sunday en route to the city of Derna, which has suffered devastating flood damage. The bus hit an oncoming car, also killing three Libyan passengers, according to Libyan officials. (AP)

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ISTANBUL: Underwater teams are trying to recover a helicopter that crashed in a lake over the weekend, killing three crew members, while fighting a forest fire in western **Turkey**, state media reported Monday.

Four crew members were aboard the fire-fighting aircraft when it fell into the waters of the Tahtali dam while battling a blaze in **Izmir's Menderes** district.

One pilot, a national of **Kyrgyzstan**, swam to safety following the accident late Saturday. The bodies of three other crew members - a Turk and two Kyrgyz personnel - had been found underwater, according to state-run Anadolu news agency. (AP)

NEW YORK, Sept 18, (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 met Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

During the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed to the UN Chief the greetings of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, affirming Kuwait's support to the UN efforts to protect the world security and peace.

The State of Kuwait is committed to the principles of its foreign policy prioritizing support to the UN quest for fair and durable peaceful solutions to the regional and international issues, he reaffirmed.

His Highness the Prime Minister, who leads Kuwait delegation to the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, noted that Kuwait has been keen over the last decades on active and effective participation in the activities of the UN agencies, backing their efforts in various areas.

He praised the significant role of the UN Secretary General in promoting international cooperation and upgrading the UN.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments of regional and international issues and the UN rule in strengthening peace, security and sustainable development.

Attending the meeting were Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister's Office Hamad Bader Al-Amer and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Tareq Mohammad Al-Banai.

As part of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, heads of state and government of the 193 UN member states, including Kuwait, are set to engage in the annual high-level General Debate between Tuesday, September 19, and Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

UNGA President Dennis Francis will open the General Debate, themed "Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all."

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 leads Kuwait delegation to the gathering.

On the UNGA session, Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN Tareq Mohammad Al-Banai said Sunday, it is the most important global diplomatic event as it brings together top decision-makers, including 76 heads of states, 50 heads of government and dozens of ministers.

"The discussions will focus on key issues in politics, economy and health in the post-Covid-19 world," he said in statements to KUNA.

Ambassador Al-Banai noted that Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah will deliver Kuwait's speech to UNGA High-Level General Debate on Thursday evening where he will focus on the political and economic challenges facing the Middle East and Kuwait approach to them.

"His Highness the Prime Minister will set forth Kuwait's efforts to strengthen regional and international security and stability as well as the country's exceptional and large-scale humanitarian action.

"He will also give a glimpse of the progress made by Kuwait towards realization of the UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 15 years into the agenda," the senior diplomat disclosed.

On September 18-19, ahead of the General Debate, the leaders will gather for the SDG Summit to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the Goals.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:14	Asr	15:11
Sunrise ..	05:34	Maghrib ..	17:50
Zohr	11:42	Isha	19:08

Local

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

Saudi Arabia condemns storming

Kuwait decries Al-Aqsa incursion

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's Foreign Ministry strongly denounced the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the holy city of Jerusalem by Jewish extremists under protection of Israeli occupation police.

The incursion is a flagrant violation of the international laws and norms, the Ministry said in a press release on Sunday.

The Ministry decried the persistence of the Israeli occupation authorities in such provocative acts, which target the Muslim worshippers, urging the international community to shoulder its responsibility for preventing the repeated Israeli aggression, providing protection to Al-Aqsa Mosque, and ensuring the Muslim worshippers' freedom of belief.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly denounced the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque by Jewish extremists under protection of the Israeli occupation forces.

The incursion is a flagrant violation of the international laws and norms, and an act of provocation against Muslims, the Ministry said in a press release on Sunday.

The Ministry held the Israeli occupation forces accountable for the such provocations, urging the international community to shoulder its responsibility for halting the Israeli escalation, providing protection for civilians in the holy city of Jerusalem, and putting an end to the conflict.

The European Union stressed the need to continue funding Palestinian state-build-

ings, as well as to ensure adequate funding for UN organizations, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The UN organizations require urgent new financial support to continue delivering essential services to Palestinians and Palestinian refugees, expressed EU High Representative Josep Borrell.

Borrell co-hosted the International Peace Institute's (IPI) annual dinner with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and IPI President Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini on Sunday in New York at the sidelines of UNGA.

According to a statement issued by Borrell's office in Brussels, the discussion focused on the situation in the wider Middle East and in particular the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Participants discussed what the international community could do to ease the tensions; break the negative cycle of violence; bring the parties closer; and restore a political horizon.

Borrell reiterated the necessity to stop unilateral actions that undermine the two-state solution, and called on everyone to condemn terrorism, while also reaffirming the EU's support to the solution.

He also underlined the importance of the Palestinian authority strengthening its legitimacy via holding national elections and proceeding with intra-Palestinian reconciliation.

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north-westerly wind with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	44	33

Kuwait Airport	44	26
Abdaly	44	25
Jahra	45	30
Salmiyah	41	33
Ahmadi	39	33
Nuwaisib	41	27
Wafra	44	26



Israeli police examine the scene after forces opened fire on a man allegedly wielding a knife at an east Jerusalem checkpoint, Monday, Sept. 18, 2023. (AP)

Funds panel mulls ways to recover stolen money

MPW minister set to face grilling

'Parliament to convene Oct 31'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet approved a draft decree calling on the National Assembly to convene for the second regular session of the seventeenth legislative term on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, and submitting it to His Highness the Crown Prince.

This came during the cabinet's weekly meeting Monday, chaired by Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

After the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Issa Ahmad Al-Kandari stated the following:

The Cabinet was informed of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during his upcoming visit to Chain's city of Hangzhou.

The delegation includes, Deputy Prime Minister, Oil Minister and State Minister of Economic and Investment Affairs, Dr. Saad Al-Barak, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Commerce and Minister of State of Youth Affairs, Mohammad Al-Aiban.

Moreover, the delegation includes Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Jassim Al-Ostath, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Faleh Al-Rugba, in addition to several state officials.

On the 93rd Saudi National Day next week, Kuwaiti Cabinet expressed congratulations to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud and the Saudi people.

The Cabinet was briefed on the protest note that was handed to Iraq's Ambassador to the country by Kuwait Foreign Ministry over the whereabouts of a recent ruling by the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court, which rescinded the agreement on maritime navigation at Khor Abdullah.

Further, the Cabinet was briefed on the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Foreign Ministers, where they have called on Iraq to take "serious and urgent" steps to deal with the negative developments on the Khor Abdullah maritime agreement, signed with the State of Kuwait, after an Iraqi court's "inaccurate" ruling on the issue.

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: MP Dawoud Ma'arafi has confirmed completing the grilling motion he intends to file against Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz.

He said the grilling motion consists of these points: Kuwait International Airport, and public tenders at the Ministry of Public Works and Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART).

On the other hand, MP Adel Al-Damkhi forwarded queries to Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Mane on the alleged violation of decision number 28/2023 regarding the launching of Dentistry course at the American University for Medical Sciences (AUMS) in Kuwait for academic year 2023/2024 as per decree number 466/2010 on the establishment of AUMS.

Rationale

He asked about the rationale behind the suspension of the launching that will result in paying compensation for the affected students as per the final court ruling, why AUMS did not inform the students before receiving their applications and admission fees, and plan of the Higher Education Ministry to find slots for outstanding students who want to pursue Dentistry considering Kuwait University and the private universities have no more slots for this course; especially after suspending the scholarship of Dentistry students in the universities in Egypt and Jordan.

MP Osama Al-Zaid submitted a proposal to obligate oil contracting companies to hire Kuwaiti employees according to oil sector laws, not the Private Sector Labor Law. He explained that his proposal is aimed at protecting the rights of employees, and ensuring justice among Kuwaitis employed in public and private oil companies.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary Public Funds Protection Committee on Monday discussed the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) funds stolen by the late former PIFSS Chairman Fahd Al-Rajaan. Dr Fahd Al-Rashed, who filed the lawsuit against Al-Rajaan, attended the meeting.

Al-Rajaan died in September 2022 in London. He was convicted of committing financial violations and stealing PIFSS funds when he served as the institution's board chairman.

The committee deliberated on the steps that must be taken to recover the stolen public money.



Dawoud Ma'arafi

Other Voices

Either external darkness or upcoming dawn

By Ahmad alsarraf

None of the advanced countries has been established without the collaboration of both men and women who make up the manpower in every nation. Most of the monetary and financial institutions in India reported the weak contribution of Indian women in labor market compared to the rest of the countries in the region. This fact bounds the capability of India to catch up with countries like China, South Korea and Japan. This is one evidence to show the importance of women's role in labor market.

Hence, advocating for segregation under the false pretense that being together is inherently evil and the source of all problems is a regrettably lamentable and regressive stance.

The government faces two choices in dealing with the recent rise of such calls. It can either refrain from making statements about achieving development and aligning with sisterly Gulf countries, diversifying non-oil resources, addressing demo-



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graphic imbalances, enhancing citizen participation in development, and fully implementing the agendas of regressive parties and political Islam.

This option involves hiding and separating women from men, essentially fostering a segregationist approach. Alternatively, the government must display courage and put an end to such ideas. The populace is weary of decay and tired of backwardness, having lost hope in improving their circumstances.

People are baffled about how, despite our abundant human resources, experiences, and capabilities, we find ourselves in this situation. Members of parliament have taken control of ministers and undersecretaries, as well as the press and media, thrusting themselves into the spotlight.

Khazal Al Majidi, an Iraqi Assyriologist and scholar of ancient history, emphasizes the direct correlation between religious extremism and a nation's state of advancement or backwardness. Religious parties in general, particularly Islamic ones, possess significant potential to foster backwardness, leading to psychological, social, and economic devastation in any country they have historically governed, with no exceptions.



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A group of students at the Kuwait University protest.

Not a wise decision: teaching staff

Uproar over 'segregation' as KU stages sit-in

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Kuwait University (KU) students staged a sit-in yesterday morning in protest against the implementation of the law that bans co-education in colleges.

Representatives of the student unions and a number of Kuwait University lecturers also participated in the sit-in.

The protest, which was organized yesterday morning, witnessed the protesters in the hallway separating the Faculties of Education and Arts in the Sabah Al-Salem University City in Shadadiya. They were calling for restoration of the situation to what it was in all the sections that were canceled, and for not allowing external interference in the decisions of Kuwait University.

In this regard, a member of the teaching staff at the Faculty of Law at Kuwait University Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud said, "We are in Shadadiya between the College of Arts and the College of Education with students present in all the corridors of the campus. Was there any ill done to the education, academic life, or indecorum?"

There are no such issues at the university. Kuwait University, from its inception until today, has carried out shared education in the classrooms. Separation is automatic in nature, as the male students sit on one side and the female students on the other side. This is the up-bringing of Kuwaiti society.

I invite everyone to go to any hospital or clinic in Kuwait, where you will find resting or waiting places for men and women separated but in the same place. This is the nature of things in Kuwait, and this is how Kuwaiti society has been raised since the inception of Kuwait. The State of Kuwait is an open and normal state."

Dr. Al-Hamoud stressed that there is no doubt this issue of separating students was clearly explained by law No. 24/1996.

He said, "Likewise, the Constitutional Court eliminated doubt with certainty in explaining the concept of segregation in classrooms. Therefore, the presence of students in the same classrooms side by side is in no way considered among what is legally prohibited."

Dr. Al-Hamoud went on to say, "The sudden decision created large gaps between the timings for students. Many female students began working continuously from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. This is a fact that is not necessitated by the quality of education with the students at the university during this long period, which is exhausting both physically and mentally.

The dismissal resulted in the deletion of many sections and rearranging them, which resulted in a kind of conflict in the students' timetables, especially for the third and fourth year graduates. Their graduation will inevitably be delayed. This also resulted in

the inflation of the sections, as the section that used to have 40 students now has 120 students. So where is the quality of education?"

Meanwhile, a member of the teaching staff at Kuwait University Dr. Sheikha Al-Jassem said, "What happened with the cancellation of academic classes is a very strange matter and does not come from a wise administration or a wise ministry.

A meeting of the parliament's Ethics Committee with the Minister of Education, the university director, and only members of the Faculty of Law ended with cancellation of the registration of law students who were then told to re-register again.

Who is responsible for this error? Are they the students who registered their timetables from last June, or the employees of the Deanship of Admissions and Registration who worked 24 hours? What is their fault? The mistake, in my opinion, came from the university administration. The Ethics Committee does not have this power on the university.

The main point that everyone should pay attention to is that the Constitutional Court interpreted the concept of preventing co-education in the way that means within one hall and not separating them with buildings like what they want now. What the university director did is not respect the ruling of the Constitutional Court. If we do not respect judicial rulings, then the worst is yet to come."

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Commander of the U.S. Air Forces Central Command Lieutenant General Alexus G. Grynkeiwich says Kuwait has a special place in his heart.

In a press conference held yesterday morning on the occasion of his visit to the country, Lt. Gen. Grynkeiwich explained that the first time the U.S. forces were deployed in the Middle East was in the 1990s in Kuwait after the Gulf War and after Operation Desert Storm when the forces were enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

The relationship between Kuwait and the United States dates back to 62 years, "which means it is older than my age". The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Kuwait's independence.

He said, "Kuwait is a major ally of the USA outside of NATO, and therefore it is key to our work. We are committed to the security and stability of Kuwait, and we will continue to be committed to its security and stability for years to come."

Lt. Gen. Grynkeiwich revealed that he had previously visited Kuwait several times, and that he met yesterday with the Commander of the Kuwaiti Air Force and the Commander of the Kuwaiti Air Defense, adding, "We discussed opportunities for cooperation between us and the security issues in



Lt Gen Grynkeiwich

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Well-thought-out vision vital for govt to take control over nation’s interests’

“WHAT I have recounted pertains to a number of observations voiced on the situation, which deviate from the government’s prescribed constitutional duties. I urge you to take notice. Given the gravity of the matter, it is imperative for the government to exercise genuine control over the nation’s interests with a thoroughly planned vision and decisions. This dominance should be just and geared towards advancing the public welfare while respecting the council’s jurisdiction in legislation and oversight,” columnist **Ahmed Yaqoub Baqer** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“As outlined in the constitution, the government holds a position of dominance over the state’s interests. This implies that when the government relinquishes this role and leaves it to the Council, it breaches the constitutional directive, casting doubts on interference in the executive authority. Regrettably, this is the current scenario, as certain committees summon ministers to discuss specific topics and direct them without deferring to the Council on the matter. The ministers respond prior to presenting their reports and obtaining votes in Abdullah Al-Salem Hall.



Ahmed Baqer

“These occurrences are evident in committee discussions on various topics such as media, environment, education, and agriculture. Additionally, it’s observable that certain members threaten to cease cooperation, initiate interrogations, and apply pressure to alter the priorities outlined in the government’s program. The response comes through the Minister of Finance, diverging from the program’s stated objectives even before a general discussion. This includes threats and attacks on the judiciary, with no reaction or stance from the government.

“Numerous observers question: where is the government? Why does it not elucidate or respond to many of the concerns people harbor? Issues such as the daily concerns over Al-Abdul-Razzaq’s Darwaza, the truth regarding 9,000 non-Kuwaitis benefiting from insurance, the validity of news regarding non-Kuwaitis benefiting from the disability law, the potential impact of populist proposals on the budget and public finances, the withdrawal from the generational reserve, the credibility of reports by some governed individuals from abroad, corruption allegations, addressing the Bedoon issue, and a multitude of other raised topics necessitate the government to provide clarifications and responses with well-considered and compelling statements.

“Long and thorough meetings are required wherein the government elucidates its position, role, and plan concerning these topics, backed by law, numbers, and comparisons. This is essential to steer the political and economic landscape, ensuring people are convinced that the government genuinely oversees the state’s interests. As a departure from these unconstitutional scenes, it’s important to laud the Ministry of Justice’s stance, articulated in the memorandum, countering unconstitutional proposals by certain representatives. These include suggestions to conduct sessions without the government’s presence, prevent ministers from voting on interrogation-related matters, and hold public votes for council positions and committees. The memorandum excellently elucidated constitutional and legal justifications.

“It appears proponents of these proposals persist in asserting that the government should not vote during the opening session for certain positions, advocating for this to become a permanent law. Hence, it was unwise for the government to relinquish its constitutional powers. It’s impermissible to portray the government’s rejection of any parliamentary proposal or its adherence to its legal projects as a lack of cooperation. Similarly, compelling the government to accede to what committees or members deem necessary should only occur after a general vote or in accordance with existing laws.

“In prior articles, I highlighted constitutional violations perpetrated by the government and some members of the preceding Council, such as duplicating the election paper with a barcode, unconstitutional interrogations, postponing scheduled interrogations, advocating for the government’s overthrow immediately after its formation, failure to resort to the Constitutional Court, and misuse of Article (80) of the Insurance Law.

“Today, I’ve conveyed certain viewpoints presented on the scene that do not align with the government’s constitutional role. I stress the importance of paying heed to their gravity and call on the government to genuinely assert control over the country’s interests through a well-thought-out vision and decisions. This control should be just and aimed at advancing the public good, without diminishing the Council’s authority in legislating and overseeing.”

Also:

“The social dynamics in Kuwait are echoing past patterns, reminiscent of the Kuwait of the 1960s. During that time, there was active involvement from statesmen, the parliament, unions, and political movements,” columnist **Eng Adel Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Dissatisfaction and a struggle for influence and sway over public opinion have resurfaced to an extent, this level of activity is acceptable, showcasing a vibrant societal movement. Kuwaiti society has a history of active participation, dating back to the 1950s, whether in opposition to the tripartite aggression, in solidarity with Algeria, or other significant Arab and local events. Kuwaiti society has endured these changes, indicating its vitality, strength, and experience. However, there’s a distinction between the past and the present.

“In the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion, demagoguery subsided, possibly due to fear of external influences, actions of certain groups, or the looming presence of a fifth column. This lull was commendable and indicative. However, recent years have seen a resurgence, particularly with instances like the sit-in by Civil Service Bureau and Ministry of Electricity and Water employees. Farmers and civil aviation workers have also protested due to unresolved issues.

“This surge of protests, repeating and intensifying, evokes memories of the late 1960s and early

1970s, with various political forces vying to assert their ideologies. All this unfolds while the state confronts regional threats, such as the border crisis with Iraq, the Doura field and Iranian claims, halting development and strategic projects with China, and the crisis with Egypt concerning Kuwait’s portrayal in military academies’ maps.

“It’s essential to acknowledge differing opinions. Time is a precious resource, and accusations are circulating among public administration employees. Protests are emerging from all directions, diverting attention from the regional challenges Kuwait faces.

“Hence, the executive leadership, represented by the Council of Ministers, must address this rising dissatisfaction, for life’s problems are manifesting in sit-ins. I do not wish to witness my country’s affluent and empowered society growing dissatisfied in this manner.

“While wealth facilitates effective governance, notably by the executive authority, it’s crucial to admit that without this wealth, we wouldn’t command attention. There have been historical periods when officials and influential individuals sought refuge in neighboring powers, and Kuwait garnered no attention due to its barren state.

“Yet today, blessed with wealth, everyone seeks favor or exerts pressure. Wealth, therefore, is a double-edged sword, necessitating its wise utilization to strengthen societal unity, cast off antiquated mindsets, and march forward. Achieving this requires a committee of wise individuals within the Council of Ministers to study the roots of social dissatisfaction, especially pertaining to enhancing citizens’ living standards and addressing the underlying factors that create opportunities for those who seek to undermine us. National resilience is the ultimate remedy for Kuwait’s manifold challenges.

“Mitigating extremist tendencies demands embracing greater openness and allaying citizens’ concerns. However, if the status quo persists, there will be no remedy, and malaise will prevail.”

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“If we mention the G20 Summit held at the beginning of last week in India, we must also mention the role of the financial and economic center of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which made it an important member of this group, participating in its theses and meetings,” columnist **Dr Essa Al-Omairi** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“According to the assessment of economic experts, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has had many achievements and its position, or should we say its global classification, is with the ranks of major economic countries in the world. From a specific perspective, it has excelled in many economic and development activities.

“On the other hand, we find that the Kingdom is keen on advancing international efforts within the G20 in a bid to overcome the common challenges that the world is facing to achieve global stability and prosperity. This is based on its belief in the role of international trade as a major catalyst for comprehensive global growth, and an important factor in contributing to overcoming the challenges that the global economy is facing at the moment.

“The Kingdom is also aware of the role of the G20, which is committed to achieve the best level of cooperation among members of the international community. This is due to its belief in what international cooperation could achieve to stimulate economic flow in all countries.

“This is an effort to provide support and assistance to the global economy in general in order to build a strong and more sustainable global economy in a way that serves public interest and for the benefit of the entire world. The foundations of cooperation are vital for the success of any economic effort in the world. At the forefront of these efforts are the efforts of the G20.

“Meanwhile, we must talk about the contributions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the success of any global economic endeavor that achieves sustainability in the vision, proposition and pursuit of economic work in general within a unified system that achieves economic prosperity and enjoys its outcomes in an integrated manner.”

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“Social media has long since been the virtual alternative on the Internet for social networking sessions and even brainstorming meetings, down to the mere exchange of opinions and ordinary conversations, until people rely on it for most of their interactions with others on smart phones and actual social communication, which was the path to every interaction a long time ago,” columnist **Essa Abu Tafra** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Even after the oil boom and the urban and cultural renaissance in our country, we learned from our families and schools how to respect our neighbors and those with whom we exchange conversations, and that differences in opinion do not spoil friendship.

“But when social media became the means of communication and the place of interaction, the problem of some people not adhering to the moral standards that conservative societies and all those who value good manners are accustomed to surfaced. We began to see the audacity to belittle others and verbally assault them, to the point that it sometimes amounts to insults, especially if the user of these methods is hidden under a pseudonym and a fake account.

“With the development of the social networking site X (previously Twitter), audio spaces appeared in which interaction takes place directly through dialogues between a large number of users.

“The truth of the matter is that just as these spaces witness the presentation of beautiful and positive topics and good interaction among their patrons, they sometimes witness non-compliance with the foundations of public morals and good manners, as some tend to underestimate the value of others.

“We call on everyone who uses social media in general, and audio spaces in particular, to adhere to good moral standards for a large number of valuable reasons – the most important of which is that good manners are one of the best qualities and the most important pillars of societies. Good manners spread friendliness among people, as well as eliminate hatred, bickering and rivalry.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



The relevant Kuwaiti authorities have made every effort to ensure that this aid arrives as soon as possible. KUNA photo

Kuwait extends humanitarian air bridge

By Abdullah Al-Enezi & Salman Al-Mutairi

In the wake of the vicious hurricane Daniel and its devastating aftermath, Kuwait extended an air bridge to provide Libyan people with relief, medical equipment, tents and rescue vessels.

Kuwaiti concerned bodies and charitable organizations all came together and coordinated efforts to send Libyan people necessary aid as urgently as possible. Thus far, tons of materials have been sent on board four plane loads.

The fifth planeload of relief aid for the hurricane-struck Libya left Kuwait on Monday, carrying 10 tons of various medical supplies and other necessities.

This fifth batch of supplies came through the support and organization of Al-Salam Humanitarian and Charity Society, the cooperation of International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO), in addition to the coordination

between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the ministries of Social Affairs and Defense.

Deputy Managing Director of Al-Salam Humanitarian and Charity Society Hamad Al-Oun told KUNA that this was the second planeload organized by the society carrying medical and relief supplies to help with the people’s physical and health safety there and help in rebuilding lives in stricken communities.

He indicated that a third plane would head for Libya on Thursday organized by the society as part of the relief air bridge that was created as directed by the political leadership to provide urgent relief to the Libyan people amid the humanitarian catastrophe there.

Storm Daniel is the most violent of its kind on over three decades, killing thousands of people and leaving thousands of others injured, missing and displaced. (KUNA)

‘Aussie refusal to export live sheep threatens ties’

Probe on 7 Asian power thieves continues

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: According to a report titled “Kuwait’s firm stance: prefers live sheep over frozen meat,” SheepCentral’s website highlighted Kuwait’s continued critique of Australia’s gradual phase-out of live sheep exports, reports Al-Rai daily.

Kuwait expressed its intention to source live sheep from other nations rather than relying on frozen sheep meat from Australia.



Al-Aiban

Citing the Australian newspaper “Financial Review,” the website mentioned that Kuwait’s Minister of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Othman Al-Aiban, urged the Australian government to reconsider the live sheep export cancellation policy in a letter to Australian Minister of Agriculture, Murray Watt.

Al-Aiban referred to a virtual ministerial meeting where he criticized the ban on live sheep export as unrealistic, emphasizing that Kuwait already imports sufficient frozen sheep meat. The report emphasized Kuwait’s longstanding opposition to Australia’s plan to halt live sheep exports, stating that it could strain the relationship between the two countries.

Minister Watt was quoted as saying that commercial decisions should be driven by business interests. He affirmed that the government would not end live sheep exports during the current parliament’s term and awaited an independent committee’s report to plan a well-considered transition.

Minister Watt underscored the government’s commitment to collaborate with the industry to foster growth opportunities, including expanding land-based processing operations.

Meanwhile, the Australian sheep

4 Afghan infiltrators held

Over 40,000 travel bans imposed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The latest statistics from the Ministry of Justice revealed that 40,413 travel bans were imposed on citizens and expatriates from Jan 1 to Sept 14 this year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the statistics, indicating that 29,463 travel bans were lifted within the same period. The travel ban requests totaled 57,432 for various reasons such as non-payment of expenses, alimony, installments, electricity and telephone bills, and traffic fines.

The statistics stated that the number of files opened to modify expenses reached 669, car reservation requests reached 42,866 and single trip requests reached 2,586.

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Infiltrators nabbed: Land Border Security Investigations department has arrested 4 Afghan citizens who attempted to infiltrate into the country through the northern border from Iraq by cutting through the barbed wire, reports Al-Rai daily.

Security sources told the daily that the efforts of Border Security

Investigations men, who monitor the borders on foot spotted the men and took them into custody.

The sources indicated the men are being interrogated as to why they chose to enter Kuwait in this manner and what was the motive and how they reached unnoticed the Kuwait border fence without being noticed on the Iraqi side of the border.

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Fire wrecks chalets: Firefighting teams extinguished a fire that destroyed 48 prefabricated chalets belonging to a contracting company in the Kabd area.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the General Fire Force stated after a report was received by the Central Operations Department Sunday evening, central operations room directed fire engines from Kabd, Al-Istiqlal, Sulaibikhat, and other fire support services to the site and put out the fire without causing any injuries.

Firemen took all precautions to prevent the fire from destroying adjoining establishments.

Probe continues: The investigations of the Public Prosecution are ongoing with the seven expatriates who are accused of tampering with the Ministry of Electricity’s meters and reducing the rate of the state’s financial claims for some transactions to meager amounts, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to an informed source, this case, which was exposed last month, began to expand through investigations. All those who are involved in dealing with the defendants are being summoned by reviewing the transactions they made, in order to question them about the case. If any dealings are proven, they will be transferred for trial on serious charges, topped by the charge of money laundering.

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Over 100 members and non-members attend

AmCham Kuwait hosts Back to Business AGM event

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: ABCK – AmCham Kuwait held its Back to Business Annual General Meeting event at the Grand Hyatt Hotel – Kuwait with over 100 AmCham members and non-members in attendance, all of whom had an interest in learning about AmCham Kuwait’s overview since the beginning of the year, as they highlighted its new disabilities focus group. The event was done with the event’s hotel partner the Grand Hyatt Hotel - Kuwait, and travel and tourism partner IFA - International Travel & Tourism.

The event began with opening remarks by AmCham’s Chairman, Pete Swift who welcomed member companies and friends from across different industries in Kuwait and the GCC region to participate in this event. A special welcome was given to the Chargé d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy’s James Holtsnider and the embassy’s new sections’ chiefs, the French Embassy’s and the British Embassy’s representatives, Chairman’s Club Members, individual members, and special guests from the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped.

Gratitude

Swift expressed his gratitude to all attendees for their participation and outlined the organization’s accomplishments in 2023, highlighting the growth in membership and the expansion of membership benefits, including exclusive discounts from hotels, retailers, restaurants, and more. He also shared the significant number of events, collaborations, and focus groups that had been organized to promote diversity, inclusion, and economic participation, especially for individuals with disabilities.

The event featured presentations from key figures within AmCham Kuwait, including Dr. Arezou Harraf, Vice-Chair of AmCham Kuwait, who provided a detailed overview of the organization’s 2023 achievements. These achievements included welcoming new corporate and

individual members, expanding the benefits program, and organizing a total of 51 events, including collaborations and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Dr. Harraf also highlighted the remarkable growth of AmCham Kuwait’s social media presence and its role in promoting member companies.

AmCham Kuwait recognized the vital role of its committees and focus groups, introduced new committee chairs, and acknowledged the dedication of the board of directors members who play an essential role in the chamber’s operations.

The Kuwait Society for the Handicapped were also invited to speak about their activities, as AmCham Kuwait has recently launched a disabilities focus group which aims to involved disabled people into the business environment, and train companies on how to hire them and provide them with the necessary support.

Platform

The “Back to Business” event provided a valuable platform for networking and collaboration, reinforcing AmCham Kuwait’s mission to advocate for improved business practices, promote trade between Kuwait and the United States, and strengthen the private sector.

The AmCham Kuwait team, represented by Paola de la Roche, the Executive Director of AmCham Kuwait, conducted an exciting raffle for event participants. The raffle featured an array of generous prizes. The first prize, generously provided by 300 Fahrenheit restaurant, consisted of three vouchers. The second prize included five vouchers from Al-Mufid Pharmaceuticals, redeemable at their pharmacies. Moreover, Crowne Plaza Hotel contributed the third prize, which comprised invitations for a lunch or dinner experience at Ribeye for two people and another invitation for a dining experience at Noukhaza Seafood for two people. The fourth prize was a delightful chocolate basket filled with goodies, generously provided



A group photo from the Back to Business Annual General Meeting event.

by Towell Holding. The fifth prize, sponsored by the Grand Hyatt, offered 2 one-night stay for two, including breakfast for both guests at ‘Stambul.

The highlight of the evening was the grand prize, generously offered by our travel and tourism partners, IFA International Travel and Tourism: an economy-class ticket to the United States.

ABCK-AmCham Kuwait: Is a non-profit organization operating since 1985 and is composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait has acted as an advocate for American interests in the state of Kuwait. For more information, please visit our website at www.amcham-kuwait.org or follow us on our social media channel @abck1985

National Day greetings

HH Amir congratulates Chile

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to the President of the Republic of Chile, Gabriel Boric, congratulating him on his country’s National Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished him everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country and people.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Gabriel Boric, congratulating him on his country’s National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Gabriel Boric, congratulating him on his country’s National Day.

Kuwait 1st in Asia to use ‘radioisotopes’

Bid to treat prostate cancer

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Chairman of the Council of Nuclear Medicine Departments and Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department at the Kuwait Cancer Control Center, Dr. Abdul-Rida Abbas, confirmed that Kuwait is the first in Asia to use radioisotopes to treat prostate cancer and nerve tumors since their global adoption, reports Al-Rai daily.

This came during the regional training course on treatment using radioactive materials for patients with prostate cancer and neurohormonal tumors, which was launched yesterday, and is being held by the Kuwait Cancer Control Center in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with the participation of 40 specialists from Arab countries in Asia, including Gulf countries, Iraq and Yemen. In addition to the participation of four international and six local experts who will give a number of lectures.

Abbas stated that prostate cancer is the most common among men, but the world is currently witnessing a remarkable development in treatment methods using radioisotopes, which have proven their effectiveness and achieved tangible positive results.

He explained that treatments in the past were limited to hormonal and chemical treatments, but in the last three years there has been international adoption of the use of radioactive isotopes in treating cases of prostate cancer and nerve tumors, “and this is what the current session is based on to discuss and expand the benefit at the local and Arab levels in Asia.”

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Excellent job bonus: The excellent job performance bonus for deserving employees in the Capital, Ahmadi and Farwaniya educational districts will be deposited in their bank accounts soon; since the Bureau of Financial Controllers already approved the list of eligible workers, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting sources from the educational sector.

Sources disclosed the total excellent job performance bonus for eligible employees

Turkey inquires

FM checks on ‘well-being’ of injured citizen

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday held a phone call with a national who is receiving medical attention after he was attacked in Türkiye’s Black Sea town of Trabzon, checking on his physical well-being.

Turkish authorities will ensure that the perpetrator of the assault will be brought to justice, while the Kuwaiti embassy in Türkiye are vigorously following up on the matter, a foreign ministry statement cited him as saying. He went on to deplore such vicious acts that target innocent tourists, saying Kuwait would never compromise on the welfare of its nationals.

Meanwhile, the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait wished for the speedy recovery of the Kuwaiti who was attacked in Trabzon recently, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the embassy confirmed that Ambassador Tuba Nur Sonmez called the injured Kuwaiti to personally inquire about his health condition; during which she was assured that he is in good health condition and he has been discharged from the hospital.

She affirmed that “the concerned authorities immediately arrested the assailant and referred him to court.” She added: “This painful incident will not cast a shadow on the strong ties that bind the two countries, as it would rather strengthen the relationship.”

in the above-mentioned educational districts reached KD27 million. Sources said work is underway to finalize the list of eligible employees in other educational districts — Hawalli, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Jahra. Sources added this is after confirming that the employees included in the list met all the conditions for receiving the bonus.

Five Americans

Continued from Page 1

U.S. officials have declined to identify the two other released prisoners.

In a statement, Sharghi’s sister, Neda, said she “can’t wait to hug my brother and never let him go.”

“This is my brother, not an abstract policy,” she added. “We are talking about human lives. There is nothing partisan about saving the lives of innocent Americans and today should be a moment of American unity as we welcome them home.”

The five prisoners Iran has said it seeks are mostly held over allegedly trying to export banned material to Iran, such as dual use electronics that can be used by a military.

The two that Nour News said were in Doha were: Mehrdad Ansari, an Iranian sentenced to 63 months in prison in 2021 for obtaining equipment that could be used in missiles, electronic warfare, nuclear weapons and other military gear, and Reza Sarhangpour Kafrani, an Iranian charged in 2021 over allegedly unlawfully exporting laboratory equipment to Iran.

The cash represents money South Korea owed Iran - but had not yet paid - for oil purchased before the U.S. imposed sanctions on such transactions in 2019.

The U.S. maintains that, once in Qatar, the money will be held in restricted accounts and can only be used for humanitarian goods, such as medicine and food. Those transactions are currently allowed

under American sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic over its advancing nuclear program.

Iranian government officials have largely concurred with that explanation, though some hard-liners have insisted, without providing evidence, that there would be no restrictions on how Tehran spends the money.

Iran and the U.S. have a history of prisoner swaps dating back to the 1979 U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis following the Islamic Revolution. Their most recent major exchange happened in 2016, when Iran came to a deal with world powers to restrict its nuclear program in return for an easing of sanctions.

The West accuses Iran of using foreign prisoners - including those with dual nationality - as bargaining chips, an allegation Tehran rejects.

Negotiations over a major prisoner swap faltered after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal in 2018. From the following year on, a series of attacks and ship seizures attributed to Iran have raised tensions.

Meanwhile, Iran’s nuclear program now enriches closer than ever to weapons-grade levels. While the head of the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog has warned that Iran now has enough enriched uranium to produce “several” bombs, months more would likely be needed to build a weapon and potentially miniaturize it to put it on a missile - if Iran decided to pursue one.

Iran maintains its nuclear program is peaceful, and the U.S. intelligence community has kept its assessment that Iran is not pursuing an atomic bomb.

September

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‘Top-level visit exchanges play a key role in strengthening bilateral relations’

Kuwait, China to ink important deals during Crown Prince’s visit

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al-Aiban affirmed that the State of Kuwait is the first Gulf country to sign agreements with China since the 1950s.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of his presence at the Chinese National Day ceremony with Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah, the Head of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince, and Fahad Al-Jarallah, the Minister of Finance, Al-Aiban said, “This ceremony is considered a prelude to what is to come, as we await the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad to China during the current week.

There will be many important agreements that will reflect the extent of Chinese-Kuwaiti cooperation in the future in the fields of infrastructure, industries, financial and population cities.

Many agreements will be signed with the Chinese side at the highest level, as the Minister of Electricity, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Housing Affairs will be present, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince, on the next visit.

We are looking forward to China investing in us at the level of infrastructure, energy generators, or local Kuwaiti industries.”

He stressed that the Chinese President is considered a personal friend of His Highness

the Crown Prince and the State of Kuwait, as he personally invited His Highness the Crown Prince to attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, which expresses the depth of Kuwaiti-Chinese relations.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei stressed that the Chinese people, over the past 74 years under the strong leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, have succeeded in paving the way to socialism with Chinese characteristics, and have begun their new journey towards building a strong modern socialist country in a comprehensive manner.

He stressed that China has been and will remain a loyal friend and reliable partner of Kuwait, adding, “Thanks to the high patronage and wise guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, bilateral relations have achieved continuous progress.”

The ambassador revealed that President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad reached important and wide-ranging agreements during their meeting at the end of last year on the sidelines of the China-Arab Summit and the first China-Gulf Summit in Riyadh.

He indicated that the volume of bilateral trade exceeded USD 31 billion 480 million last year, adding that Chinese companies participated in more than 80 major projects for Kuwait.



Photos during His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visit to China.

KUNA media training center holds internet news monitoring program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): KUNA media training center kicks off its program titled “news monitoring on the internet”, which runs until September 21.

The program, presented by member of the Media council at the British Association of Journalists Ahmad Al-Sheikh, focuses on the latest tools to monitor news on the internet through Google and various social media platforms.

In the training program, Al-Sheikh discusses multiple topics including analyzing the audience and platforms, developing news photos and videos, as well as developing and issuing news according to the interest of people.

KUNA Media Development Center focuses on increasing the skills of professional journalistic work, improving media content, and bringing theory and practice closer in the field of writing media materials.



KUNA photo
Part of the training program of the KUNA Center for Media Capacity Development entitled ‘Monitoring News on the Internet’.

Ministry of Finance reveals protection protocol activated after hack attempt

Commerce ministry denies system hacking reports

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): The ministry of Finance revealed on Monday that it had encountered a cyberattack targeting one of its systems early Monday morning, which triggered its security and protection protocol system, and also disconnected and isolated hardware devices.

The ministry affirmed in a press release that salary transfer procedures are not effected by the attempted hack, pointing out that the government financial servers are isolated and work within the ministry is continuing without disruption.

The ministry has been in contact with the National Cybersecurity Center for updates and assessment of the hack.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry denied reports on hacking the ministry’s system, affirming that it is still providing online services to the public.



KUNA photo
Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries hold the third coordination meeting between diplomatic missions and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

GCC envoys meet for talks at Oman embassy

Ambassadors from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bloc assembled at Oman’s embassy in Kuwait for talks aiming to step up coordination, the Gulf Arab Sultanate’s envoy Saleh Al-Kharusi said on Monday.

The talks mainly revolved around efforts to bolster cooperation between GCC foreign missions and Kuwait’s foreign ministry, he said in a statement. (KUNA)

Al-Kandari elaborates on EPA’s important achievements

Environment Public Authority marks World Ozone Day

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) inaugurated a celebratory event to mark the World Ozone Day at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in The Avenues on Monday.

In the opening speech, the EPA Acting Director General Dr. Samira Al-Kandari affirmed that, “Celebrating and participating in this important global occasion is evidence of the international community’s keenness to achieve what we seek and aspire to in terms of seriously addressing the phenomenon of climate change.

It affirms our awareness of the magnitude of the enormous challenges facing our planet, and its environment that embraces our lives and surrounds our earth. It reflects our serious endeavor to reform the climate system, protect our planet and its environment, and restore its balance.”

Dr. Al-Kandari stressed Kuwait’s keenness and belief in the importance of participating in addressing this problem, fulfilling its obligations, and activating its role in international agreements and attached protocols related to protecting the ozone layer.

She indicated that Kuwait has prepared and implemented many projects and programs at the national and regional levels, adding that Kuwait, since its accession to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol in 1992, has sought to implement all its obligations in the Convention and the Protocol.

Dr. Al-Kandari also affirmed the keenness of the Supreme Council for the Environment in EPA to activate the state’s role in limiting the import of substances that deplete the ozone layer and continuous monitoring of their trade.

She revealed that the task of following up the implementation of this protocol was entrusted to the Supreme National Committee for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Climate Change and the Ozone Department of EPA.



Achievements

Al-Kandari elaborated on EPA’s important achievements, the most important of which are -

1. Issuing national legislation and decisions related to the Montreal Protocol and introducing them into the environmental legislation of the State of Kuwait, the most important of which is law No. 42/2014, which amended some provisions of law No. 99/2015, which included eight articles related to

‘Kuwait eager on distinguished works serving Arab community’

CAIRO, Sept 18, (KUNA): Chief of the Arab Media Excellence Award Committee Hamad Al-Badri affirmed Monday Kuwait’s keenness to search for distinguished work in the Media that serves the Arab community.

This came in Al-Badri’s statement to KUNA after the launch of the works of the first Arab Media Excellence Award Committee meeting, in its eighth session chaired by Kuwait.

Al-Badri said that one of the goals behind this award is to encourage and motivate the media and the journalists for what they have achieved and will achieve in



Al-Badri

the future to serve the Arab community.

Kuwait puts great interest on the Arab media as it largely impacts the Arab community, insuring the national cultural identity in the face of the current challenges regionally and internationally, noted Al-Badri.

He stated that the committee discussed several issues like regulations and ways to develop the award to further motivate journalists and revealed that once they attract participations, the committee will hold two more meetings, pointing that the selecting the winning works will be according to precise standards determined by the committee.

Al-Badri confirmed that the award is supported financially by Kuwait with the Arab League’s support, to highlight and honor works related to the award categories, which are divided into ten media categories of journalism, television, radio and other media sectors.

American firm wins two bids to repair and maintain roads

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Ministry of Public Works revealed to Al-Rai that the neutral technical committee to study the bids submitted by international road maintenance companies has approved “awarding road maintenance in the Hawalli and Jahra governorates to an American company.”

The sources expected that “the tender for the highways for the northern region will also be awarded to the same company, as it provided the lowest prices,” noting that the ministry will

depleted substances, and Unified Gulf Law No. 14/2015 regarding the unified Gulf system for depleted substances.

In this regard, Dr. Al-Kandari said the GCC countries agreed to adopt the update to the unified system and add the requirements for the Kigali Amendment, which was prepared by ozone officials in the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the meeting held in the Sultanate of Oman a few days ago.

2. Establishing and implementing the electronic system for import and export permits of substances that deplete the ozone layer and devices containing them.

address the concerned authorities to obtain their approvals to sign the first three contracts, in preparation for the start of maintenance operations.

The sources explained that “road maintenance practices are essentially work order contracts, meaning that the Ministry has the right to assign the work to the American company to carry out any work in other governorates, and that maintenance work is not limited to the Hawalli and Jahra governorates.

A system of rationing and gradual reduction of imports of these substances was also adopted. A quota distribution system was applied to importing companies so that the state can adhere to what was stipulated in the Montreal Protocol.

3. Regarding the program for the final disposal of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, Kuwait took upon itself an environmental path to shift to alternatives that are not exhausted and at the same time have a low global warming characteristic, which was considered at the time to be a qualitative shift in the investment project proposals related to transforming the entire agricultural sector.

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S&P affirms Saudi Arabia A/A-1 with stable outlook

Standard & Poor's (S&P) has recently confirmed its credit rating for Saudi Arabia in both local and foreign currencies, maintaining it at "A/A-1" with a stable outlook, according to their latest report.

In their report, the agency cited Saudi Arabia's sustained efforts in implementing significant reforms over the past years. These reforms have led to structural improvements that support the sustainable growth of the

non-oil sector. Additionally, the prudent management of public finances and the maintenance of a balanced level of public debt contributed to this credit rating affirmation.

S&P's projections for Saudi Arabia's economic performance indicate a modest 0.2% growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the current year, primarily due to a decrease in oil production, as reported by the Saudi Press

Agency (SPA).

Looking ahead, the agency foresees a more robust growth rate of 3.4% for the years 2024 to 2026. This growth is expected to be driven by increased demand for oil and notable expansion within the non-oil sector in the Kingdom.

S&P also emphasized the Saudi government's continued commitment to realizing the objectives of Vision 2030.

VAPORESSO lands at InterTabac 2023

VAPORESSO, the leading brand in the vaping industry, has brought its latest innovations to InterTabac, the world's largest trade fair for tobacco products and smoking accessories.

From September 14 - 16, new offerings from VAPORESSO's ARMOUR, LUXE, and XROS series are highlighted at booth B12, showcasing a plethora of new features at the forefront of vaping technology that enables

users to savor the best taste in every puff.

Taking center stage are VAPORESSO ARMOUR Max and ARMOUR S - the latest dual and single vape kits that feature thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) material and COREX heating technology to offer unparalleled rigidity and flavor enjoyment. From tank to mod, the two products are enveloped with a stretch-and-drop-resistant encl-

sure to ensure greater durability, coupled with VAPORESSO's innovative iTank 2 and the GTI coil platform providing unmatched flavor accuracy and a 50% longer coil lifespan.

Craft from the ground up the deliver a more enjoyable yet simplified experience for Direct-to-Lung (DTL) vapers, both ARMOUR Max and S boast a more compact form factor but offer longer vaping time. (AP)

Market Movements				18-09-2023			
▲	UAE	- DFM	Change	Closing pts	▼	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI
	JAPAN	- Nikkei	+0.12	4,048.42		SAUDI	- Tadawul
	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+1.10	33,533.09			
	EGYPT	- EGX 30	+0.09	45,837.41			
			+0.42	19,751.78			
							Change
							Closing pts
							6,124.57
							11,036.04

Business

Global tourism leaders and sector experts unite in Saudi to celebrate World Tourism Day 2023

Event themed ‘Tourism and Green Investment’

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 18, (PR Newswire): Leaders from across the global tourism sector are set to unite in Riyadh for this year’s UNWTO World Tourism Day (WTD), which will be celebrated from 27th - 28th September. Through a range of impactful events, global ministers, industry leaders and experts will highlight the power of tourism and explore avenues for collaboration to foster growth of the sector, placing people, the planet and prosperity front and center of proceedings.

Under the theme of “Tourism and Green Investments”, WTD 2023 will examine the role of investment in people and planet to secure livelihoods and foster mutual understanding, while exploring opportunities to extend the reach of the industry’s economic and social impact to more people around the world, safeguarding prosperity for all.

The global tourism sector is forecast to reach \$9.5 trillion in GDP contribution in 2023, according to the WTTC. This is in line with UNWTO’s forecast that tourism remains well on track to reach 80% to 95% of pre-pandemic levels this year and is widely expected to exceed 2019 levels in 2024. As one of the biggest economic drivers of the global economy, the sector is responsible for a wealth of

business and employment opportunities, while also playing a key role in bridging cultures, connecting people and enhancing mutual understanding. Reflective of the sector’s potential as a key driver for change, three themes will guide proceedings of the event: mutual understanding, economic sustainability, and social prosperity.

His Excellency Ahmed Al-Khateeb, Minister of Tourism of Saudi Arabia, said: “We have a historic opportunity to chart a new course for the global tourism sector, centered on sustainable development, job creation, and economic resilience. Tourism - as a catalyst for change - fosters mutual understanding, builds bridges and safeguards cultural heritage and environmental conservation, contributing to a more harmonious world.

“World Tourism Day 2023 is an important platform for the world to celebrate the sector’s successes and explore solutions to its challenges. Saudi Arabia is honored to host this esteemed occasion and we look forward to welcoming tourism leaders from the public and private sectors to Riyadh.”

Additionally, Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the UNWTO, added: “This World Tourism Day, we focus on the vital need to invest in building a more sustainable sector for people, planet and prosperity. The day also makes clear why UNWTO underscores the need for investment in education and for greater innovation as the foundations for long-term growth and transformation. This year’s official celebration in Saudi Arabia reflects how tourism is being embraced to diversify economies and generate opportunities for all.”

By hosting this event four years after it first opened to global tourists in 2019,

Saudi Arabia demonstrates its commitment as a dedicated tourism sector convenor that aims to showcase its progress in connecting Saudis to the world, building bridges between cultures, nurturing hospitality talent and creating investment opportunities for the international community.

Marking the most significant assembly of global tourism leaders in the 43-year history of World Tourism Day, gauged by the number of ministers in attendance, WTD 2023 will feature a series of engaging sessions, panel discussions, and workshops led by renowned sector experts and government leaders. Event participants will also attend a gala dinner in Riyadh’s UNESCO Heritage site, Diriyah, to celebrate World Tourism Day and its global significance.

The scale of the event being hosted in Riyadh showcases the importance attached by the Saudi Arabian government to the development of the global tourism sector, and follows the Kingdom’s election to Chair of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for 2023.

The event in Riyadh for the UNWTO WTD 2023 on 27 and 28 September showcases the capital’s growth as a hub for major business events and promises to be a major milestone in the global tourism calendar, offering valuable insights and inspiring discussions on the role of tourism to bridge cultures and foster mutual understanding.

About The Ministry of Tourism

Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Tourism was founded in 2020, following the opening of Saudi Arabia to international tourists in 2019. The Ministry spearheads the Kingdom’s Vision to bring Saudi tourism to the forefront.

US cbank tracks progress toward a ‘soft landing’

Fed is poised to leave rates unchanged

WASHINGTON, Sept 18, (AP): Since Federal Reserve officials last met in July, the economy has moved in the direction they hoped to see: Inflation continues to ease, if more slowly than most Americans would like, while growth remains solid and the job market cools.

When they meet again this week, the policymakers are likely to decide they can afford to wait and see if the progress continues. As a result, they’re almost sure to leave their key interest rate unchanged when their meeting ends Wednesday.

The cooling of inflation suggests that the Fed is edging toward a peak in the series of rate hikes it unleashed in March of last year - the fastest such pace in four decades, one that has made borrowing much costlier for consumers and businesses.

The focus for Wall Street investors and analysts now is shifting toward what comes next. Some clues could come in the updated interest rate projections it releases each quarter and at a news conference with Chair Jerome Powell.

Another rate hike this year will likely remain on the table, and Fed officials may project fewer cuts in their key rate next year than they did in June. This would underscore the Fed’s determination to keep rates elevated well into next year as it strives to get inflation down to its 2% target.

Inflation pressures showed signs of persistence in two government reports last week, adding some uncertainty to the outlook. Claudia Sahm, a former Fed economist, said she thinks a “soft landing,” in which the Fed manages to curb inflation without causing a recession, remains possible. But she cautioned that inflation might stay higher for longer than the central bank expects. Or, she suggested, the cumulative effects of the Fed’s 11 rate hikes could ultimately tip the economy into recession.

“We are at a point where things could plausibly go in a lot of different directions,” Sahm said. “They’re going to react as it unfolds.”

Still, most economic data in the past two months has pointed in a positive direction. Inflation in June and July, excluding volatile food and



The seal of the Board of Governors of the United States Federal Reserve System is displayed in the ground at the Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington, Feb. 5, 2018. Since Federal Reserve officials last met in July, the economy has moved in the direction they hoped to see: Inflation continues to ease, if more slowly than before, while growth remains solid and the job market cools. (AP)

energy prices, posted its two lowest monthly readings in nearly two years.

And signs have grown that the job market isn’t as robust as it had been, which helps keep a check on inflation: The pace of hiring has moderated. The number of unfilled openings fell sharply in June and July. And the number of Americans who have started seeking work has jumped. This has brought labor demand and supply into better balance and eased the pressure on employers to raise pay to attract and keep workers, which can lead them to raise prices to offset higher labor costs.

“That was a hell of a good week of data we got last week,” Christopher Waller, a member of the Fed’s Board of Governors who is close to Powell, said in an interview on CNBC this month. “It’s going to allow us to proceed carefully. There is nothing saying that we need to do anything imminent anytime soon.”

Powell’s own speech late last month at the Fed’s annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, stressed his belief that the Fed can act in a measured fashion.

“We will proceed carefully,” he said, “as we decide whether to

tighten further or instead to hold the policy rate constant and await further data.”

Last week’s inflation data underscored, though, that even a soft landing may not be a smooth one. On a monthly basis, consumer prices jumped 0.6%, the most in more than a year and 3.7% from a year earlier, the second straight such increase.

The updated projections the Fed will issue Wednesday will include estimates of where its policymakers think their key rate is headed. In June, they projected two more hikes, and in July they imposed one of them, raising their benchmark rate to roughly 5.4%, its highest level in 22 years.

Last week’s inflation readings might lead the Fed to forecast one additional rate hike this year. And some economists say the policymakers may forecast just one or two rate cuts in 2024, fewer than the three they envisioned in June, in part to dispel any overly optimistic expectations on Wall Street for deeper rate reductions.

“They’re going to want to hedge that risk,” said Jose Torres, chief economist at Interactive Brokers. “Market participants are just a little too optimistic about inflation.”

Even some moderate members of the Fed’s interest-rate committee have said recently that they may have more work to do to conquer inflation.

“I expect we’ll need to hold rates at restrictive levels for some time,” said Susan Collins, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. “And while we may be near, or even at, the peak for policy rates, further tightening could be warranted, depending on the incoming data.”

But even more hawkish officials - those who typically prefer higher rates to fight inflation - are acknowledging that the Fed risks acting too aggressively and causing a recession. That represents a shift from even a few months ago, when the Fed’s hawks worried more about doing too little to fight inflation.

Lorie Logan, president of the Dallas Fed, said that “we must proceed gradually, weighing the risk that inflation will be too high against the risk of dampening the economy too much.”

This week’s Fed meeting comes as central banks around the world are mostly raising rates to fight inflation, which spiked after the pandemic hampered global supply chains, causing shortages and higher prices. Inflation worsened after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 sent oil and other commodity prices spiking.

The European Central Bank raised its benchmark rate last week for the 10th time to 4%, the highest level on record since the euro was established in 1999, though it signaled that it could be its last hike. The Bank of England is also expected to increase its rate when it meets Thursday. The Bank of Japan, which meets Friday, is under less pressure to boost rates, although it has taken steps to allow Japanese long-term rates to tick up.

Rising rates overseas have led to higher yields on U.S. Treasuries, which are needed to attract investors.

“Globally, monetary policy is on a tightening track, and that puts some upward pressure on rates in the U.S.,” said William English, a former senior Fed official who is now a professor at Yale School of Management.



World Tourism Day 2023 logo

Asian shares lower, Tokyo closed

Wall Street ‘drifts’ ahead of Fed meeting as oil prices keep rising

NEW YORK, Sept 18, (AP): Wall Street is drifting Monday, while oil prices keep rising to raise the pressure on inflation.

The S&P 500 was 0.2% higher in afternoon trading, coming off its second straight losing week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 81 points, or 0.2%, at 34,698, as of 12:16 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.2%.

Stocks have been see-sawing since early August on uncertainty about whether the Federal Reserve is finally done with its drastic hikes to interest rates. Higher rates have helped cool inflation from its peak last summer, but they also hurt prices for stocks and other investments while slowing the economy.

Traders almost universally expect the Fed to keep rates steady at its meeting this week, which ends Wednesday. More attention will be on the forecasts Fed officials will publish about where they expect interest rates, the economy and the job market to head in upcoming years.

One of the first the market will fixate on is how high officials at the Fed see its main interest rate rising this year. Traders are betting on a roughly 40% chance the Fed will raise rates again in either November or December, according to data from CME Group.

But just as much attention will be on what Fed officials say about next year, when investors expect the Fed to begin cutting interest rates. Investors crave such cuts, which typically loosen up financial conditions and give boosts to financial markets. The big question is by how much the Fed could cut.

Economists at Goldman Sachs expect Fed officials to indicate a full percentage point of cuts next year, after raising rates one more time this year to a range of 5.50% to 5.75%.

Fears are strong that rates may have to stay higher for longer in order to get inflation fully down to the Fed’s 2% target. While underlying trends on inflation continue to improve mostly, a recent upswell in oil prices has complicated things.

A barrel of U.S. crude rose another 1.3% Monday to \$91.95. That’s up from less than \$70 in July. Brent crude, the international standard, added 0.8% to \$94.68 per barrel.

Higher prices for gasoline and other fuel were a big reason that inflation consumers are feeling accelerated last month to 3.7% from 3.2%.

The rise in fuel prices, along with worries about rates staying higher for longer, have helped push up Treasury yields across the bond market.

The 10-year Treasury yield fell slightly to 4.32% from 4.33% late Fri-

day. It’s been mostly climbing since sitting around 3.40% in May.

Europe

Shares fell Monday in Europe and Asia, as investors awaited a meeting this week of the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Germany’s DAX lost 0.4% to 15,827.65 and the CAC 40 in Paris declined 0.7% to 7,326.66. Britain’s FTSE 100 was virtually unchanged at 7,709.53.

Asia

Shares fell Monday in Asia, with Hong Kong’s benchmark pulled lower by property stocks following reports that police had detained staff at the wealth management business of troubled real estate developer China Evergrande.

Tokyo’s markets were closed for a national holiday.

On Friday, China’s national financial regulator announced it had approved the takeover of the group’s life insurance arm by a new state-owned entity. On Saturday, police in the southern city of Shenzhen, where Evergrande is based, announced the arrests of some staff of its wealth management business.

Defaults on debts in the property sector since 2021 have resulted in half-finished apartment buildings, disgruntled homebuyers and fears the industry’s troubles might further slow the world’s second-largest economy and shake global financial markets.

Evergrande’s Hong Kong traded shares were up 1.6% after plunging early in the session. Country Garden, another developer facing huge debt obligations amid a slowdown in the industry and a crackdown on excessive borrowing, gave up early gains, falling 1.9%.

The Shanghai Composite was the only major Asian benchmark to advance, gaining 0.2% to 3,123.55.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index fell 1.0% to 17,996.74. In Seoul, the KOSPI fell 0.4% to 2,574.72. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.7% to 7,230.40.

Oil

In other trading Monday, benchmark U.S. crude oil gained 86 cents to \$91.63 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It added 61 cents to \$90.77 a barrel on Friday.

Currencies

Brent crude, the pricing standard for international trading, was up 73 cents at \$94.66 a barrel.

The U.S. dollar weakened to 147.59 Japanese yen from 147.72 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.0664 from \$1.0666.

BMW Group joins Avanci 5G Connected Vehicle Licensing Program

DUBLIN, Sept 18, (Business Wire): Avanci, the independent global leader in joint licensing solutions, today announced that BMW Group, a world leading manufacturer of premium automobiles, has signed an Avanci 5G Vehicle license, covering the group’s BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce brands.

Avanci 5G Vehicle launched in August 2023 to simplify licensing of cellular technologies for next generation connected vehicles. (Graphic: Avanci)

The Avanci 5G Vehicle program provides a license to patented technologies essential for 5G, 4G, 3G and 2G connectivity, including cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) which enables vehicles to directly communi-

cate with other vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and transportation infrastructure. The program, launched in August 2023, already includes 61 participating licensors, together responsible for the vast majority of essential cellular technologies.

Founder and CEO at Avanci, said: “Back in 2017, BMW was the first OEM to believe in the Avanci 4G Vehicle program. Now, continuing their pioneering approach, BMW is one of the leaders in launching 5G connected cars. We are delighted to welcome them to Avanci 5G Vehicle, continuing our long relationship, and we thank them for their ongoing trust and confidence in Avanci and our efficient and transparent one-stop solutions.”

This new Avanci program builds on the success of Avanci 4G Vehicle. More than 130 million connected vehicles on the world’s roads from more than 80 automotive brands are covered by an Avanci 4G Vehicle license.

Avanci was created with a vision of transforming how technology is shared. We ensure that the work of thousands of inventors around the world is recognized and rewarded. At the same time, by simplifying technology access, we enable companies to build exciting new products that are improving the lives of people across the globe, every day.

Details of the Avanci 5G Vehicle program, with participants and terms

including early adopter pricing for licensees, can be found at avanci.com/5Gvehicle.

Avanci believes that sharing patented technology can be simpler. An independent, global intermediary not owned or controlled by licensors or licensees, Avanci works at the intersection of different industries. Our one-stop solutions are designed to bring efficiency, convenience, and predictability to the licensing process. Since 2016, Avanci has been driving innovation forward by making connections through our licensing platforms. Avanci is proud to be a part of the World Economic Forum’s Global Innovators Community.

www.avanci.com

Hearings in \$1b lawsuit filed by Ghosn against Nissan starts in Beirut

BEIRUT, Sept 18, (AP): Hearings in the \$1 billion lawsuit filed by auto tycoon Carlos Ghosn against Nissan and other defendants started in Beirut on Monday with lawyers of both sides meeting the judge in charge of the case, judicial officials said.

The former Nissan CEO filed the case against Nissan in May in Beirut, alleging he was detained in Japan in 2018 on false charges because of what he calls the automaker's disinformation against him. The 69-year-

old Ghosn is seeking half of the \$1 billion in damages and half for compensation including salary, retirement funds and stock options.

Ghosn is also seeking monetary compensation from a Nissan affiliate based in Lebanon, as well as from entities that took part in the investigation leading up to his arrest.

He was arrested in Japan in November 2018 on charges of breach of trust, misusing company assets for personal gains and violating se-

curities laws by not fully disclosing his compensation. In December 2019, he jumped bail in Japan in a daring escape by hiding in a box spirited aboard a private jet out of the country.

He now lives in Lebanon, which has no extradition treaty with Japan and does not extradite its citizens. Renault and Nissan have both been distancing themselves from the Ghosn scandal. Ghosn has citizenship in Lebanon, France and Brazil.

In a session that lasted about four

hours at the Palace of Justice in Beirut, lawyers representing Ghosn and Nissan met with Judge Sabbouh Suleiman at the Beirut prosecutor's office, the officials said on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. None of the lawyers or the judge spoke to reporters.

A date was expected to be set for the next session. Ghosn led Japanese automaker Nissan for two decades, rescuing it from near-bankruptcy before his 2018 arrest.



Former Nissan executive Carlos Ghosn speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Beirut, Lebanon, on June 23, 2023. (AP)

Eton Solutions expands global presence with strategic launch of a ‘new office’ in the UAE

DUBAI, Sept 18, (PR Newswire): Eton Solutions, developer of the cloud-based AtlasFive® enterprise resource platform (ERP) for the family office of the future, announced today the opening of its new office in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), a significant step in the company's ongoing global expansion. This strategic move is designed to better serve clients in the Middle East and underscores Eton Solutions' commitment to providing unparalleled, localised service in this rapidly growing market.

Over the past decade, Eton Solutions has developed a highly sophisticated ERP platform, AtlasFive®, originally built by the company founder for his own family office to meet the challenges of creating process efficiencies and operational leverage by incorporating all the operating needs of a family office into one platform in a fully integrated manner. The platform is sold to larger global family offices, generally with USD1 billion of AUM and above. Eton Solutions now has over 650 families on the platform managing over USD737 billion.

Satyen Patel, Executive Chairman of Eton Solutions, said, "Our expansion into the UAE is a testament to our commitment to the Middle East region. This new office will allow us

to better serve our existing clients and forge new partnerships in this dynamic market. The UAE office is equidistant between Asia and Europe and serves as a connection to key wealth centres. It will act as a hub to serve Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (GCC), Indian sub-continent, Africa, Turkey and parts of Central Asia. We are excited about the opportunities this expansion presents."

"I wish to express our appreciation to DIFC (Dubai International Finance Centre) for their instrumental role and unwavering support in ushering Eton Solutions into the UAE landscape," he added.

As part of the firm's new international thrust, Eton Solutions launched their brand new global Administrative Family Office (AFO)TM solution earlier this year. This solution, which packages the company's AtlasFive® software with its world classes services offering, is designed to help open access to institutional levels of family office capability to ultra-high-net-worth families starting from \$50 million in assets, helping them to launch their own virtual family office while achieving cost-effective reporting and a fully outsourced middle and back office.

The AFOTM enables clients to

Call for entries issued for the 2024 MENA Stevie Awards

FAIRFAX, Va., Sept 18, (Business Wire): The Stevie® Awards, organizer of the world's premier business awards programs, has called for entries for the 2024 (fifth annual) Middle East & North Africa Stevie® Awards, sponsored by the RAK Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

The Middle East & North Africa Stevie Awards are the region's only awards program to recognize innovation in the workplace in all its forms. The awards are open to all organizations within 18 nations in the MENA region.

All individuals & organizations - public & private, for-profit & non-profit, large & small - may submit any number of nominations to any number of the categories.

There are no entry fees in this awards program. Organizations may submit as many nominations as they would like, without cost. Instead, Gold, Silver, & Bronze Stevie Award winners will pay a "winners fee" for each successful nomination.

Nominations may be submitted online through two entry deadlines. Winning nominations submitted through the first deadline, this October 10, will require payment of reduced winners' fees. This November 7 is the second & final entry deadline.

Winners of the Gold, Silver, & Bronze Stevie Awards in the competition will be announced on January 18, 2024, & celebrated during a gala event in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE on March 2.

The 2024 competition features new categories:

The new Individual Professional Categories , Innovative Achievement in Sustainability (under Achievement Categories), Most Innovative Contact Center of the Year & Most Innovative Customer Service Department / Team of the Year (under Customer Service Categories & Award for Most Innovative HR Department / Team of the Year has been added to the Human Resources Categories.

Nominations will be accepted & judged in Arabic & English in more than 100 categories:

More than 100 professionals will judge the 2024 competition. Those who wish to apply to one of the juries may do so at <https://mena.stevieawards.com/sa-judge/register>.

Gopuff launches FAM membership

Subscription offered at 50 pct off for college students

PHILADELPHIA, Sept 18, (Business Wire): Gopuff, the leading Instant Commerce platform, today announced the launch of its Student FAM membership. The new membership program gives college and university students full access to Gopuff FAM membership benefits at a 50% discount. Priced at just \$3.99/month or \$39.99/year, Student FAM members enjoy exclusive perks and access to an average of 30% lower prices on everyday essentials, all delivered within minutes.

Gopuff launches Student FAM membership for only \$3.99 a month.

"In 2013, we founded Gopuff in Philadelphia on our college campus with the premise of improving college students' lives," said Yakir Gola, co-founder and co-CEO of Gopuff. "Today, we are excited to introduce our Student FAM membership which, at only \$3.99 a month, is a no-brainer for all college students. We are proud to bring significant value and convenience to more than 1,000 college campuses across the country."

As part of the membership program, students get all of the incredible, new FAM benefits Gopuff launched last month, including:

As freshmen at Drexel University, Rafael Ilshayev and Yakir Gola realized that Yakir - the only friend of theirs with a car - was spending a lot of time running errands for their friends. They knew there had to be a better way. A few months later, Rafael and Yakir launched Gopuff and were making deliveries in a Plymouth Voyager around campus during their sophomore year. Now, ten years later, Gopuff operates hundreds of micro-fulfillment centers and serves customers in over 1,000 cities.

The launch of Student FAM is the latest consumer benefit from Gopuff, coming on the heels of the new FAM membership benefits announcement. The launch also follows the expansion of Gopuff's Ads platform in the UK and the announcement of new Ads capabilities. Gopuff will never stop innovating for its customers, and Student FAM sets the stage for even more exciting initiatives to come.

With a .edu email address, undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to join the Student FAM membership program. To sign up for Student FAM and see a list of colleges Gopuff serves, visit the website here.

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 18, (AP): Two cargo ships arrived in one of Ukraine's ports over the weekend, using a temporary Black Sea corridor established by Kyiv following Russia's withdrawal from a war-time agreement designed to ensure safe grain exports from the invaded country's ports.

Two Palau-flagged bulk carriers, Aroyat and Resilient Africa, docked Saturday at the seaport of Chornomorsk in the southern Odesa region, according to an on-line statement by the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority. The vessels are the first civilian cargo ships to reach one of the Odesa ports since Russia exited the grain deal.

Oleksandr Kubrakov, Ukraine's deputy prime minister, said in an online statement Saturday that the two ships will be delivering some 20,000 tons of wheat to countries in Africa and Asia.

For months, Ukraine, whose economy is heavily dependent on farming, was able to safely export its grain from Black Sea ports under a deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey to ensure safe shipments. But Russia withdrew from the deal on July 17, with Kremlin officials arguing their demands for the facilitation of Russian food and fertilizer shipments had not been met.

Following the withdrawal, the Russian Defense Ministry said it would regard any vessels in the Black Sea headed to Ukrainian ports as military targets.

Since then, Kyiv has sought to reroute transport through the Danube River, and road and rail links into Europe. But transport costs that way are much higher. Some European countries have balked at the consequential local grain prices, and the Danube ports can't handle the same volume as seaports.

The interim corridor in the Black Sea, which Kyiv has asked the International Maritime Organization to ratify, was opened on Aug. 10 as

Hyundai Motor Group to Donate USD 1.1 mn for Moroccan earthquake and Libya flood recovery

SEOUL, Sept 18: Hyundai Motor Group (the Group) has announced a USD 1.1 million contribution to aid Morocco and Libya in their recovery efforts following severe earthquakes and floods.

The donations come from the four affiliates of Hyundai Motor Group (Hyundai Motor Company, Kia, Hyundai Engineering & Construction, and Hyundai Engineering). These funds – USD 500,000 for Morocco and USD 600,000 for Libya – will be channeled to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through the Korean Red Cross.

In addition to the financial contribution, Hyundai Motor Company Middle East and Africa Headquarters, in cooperation with its Moroccan distributor, Kia Middle East and Africa FZE will also donate ambulance vehicles to the Moroccan government and offer support vehicles for local NGOs.



Euisun Chung, Executive Chair of Hyundai Motor Group

Hyundai Motor's Libyan distributors have so far supported 30 truckloads of relief supplies, such as food and blankets, while Hyundai Motor Company Middle East and Africa Headquarters has initiated a special program to provide discounts on parts and free inspection of damaged vehicles.

Kia's Libyan distributor also plans to deliver daily necessities such as water, food, and medicine to the affected areas and carry out relief activity including the provision of temporary shelters. Furthermore, Kia Middle East and Africa FZE plans to provide free vehicle maintenance services in Libya.

Hyundai Motor Group has provided donations and daily necessities to several previous major international disasters, including the earthquake in Türkiye in 2023, Hurricane Ian in the U.S. in 2022, the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia in 2018, and heavy rains in Peru/Colombia in 2017.

UAW justifies wage demands

NEW YORK, Sept 18, (AP): It's been a central argument for the United Auto Workers union: If Detroit's three automakers raised CEO pay by 40% over the past four years, workers should get similar raises.

UAW President Shawn Fain has repeatedly cited the figure, contrasting it with the 6% pay raises autoworkers have received since their last contract in 2019. He opened negotiations with a demand for a similar 40% wage increase over four years, along with the return of pensions and cost of living increases. The UAW has since lowered its demand to a 36% wage increase but the two sides remain far apart in contract talks, triggering a strike.

Fain's focus on CEO pay is part of a growing trend of emboldened labor unions citing the wealth gap between

workers and the top bosses to bolster demand for better pay and working conditions. In June, Netflix shareholders rejected executive pay packages in a nonbinding vote, just days after the Writers Guild of America wrote letters urging investors to vote against the pay proposals, saying it would be inappropriate amid Hollywood's ongoing strike by writers. The WGA wrote similar letters targeting the executive pay at Comcast and NBC Universal.

Fain has pushed back against arguments that a big pay bump for the union would jack up costs of vehicles and put the Big Three automakers - General Motors, Ford and Stellantis (formerly Chrysler) - at a disadvantage against foreign competitors with lower-cost workforces in the race to transition to electric vehicles.

Aramco to enter South American retail market with Esmac acquisition

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Sept 18, (PR Newswire): Aramco, one of the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals companies, has agreed to purchase a 100% equity stake in Esmac Distribución SpA ("Esmac") from Southern Cross Group, a Latin America-focused private equity company. The transaction is subject to certain customary conditions, including regulatory approvals.

Esmac is a leading diversified downstream fuels and lubricants retailer in Chile. Its national presence includes retail fuel stations, airport operations, fuel distribution terminals and a lubricant blending plant.

Aramco's planned acquisition of Esmac would be its first Downstream retail investment in South America, recognizing the potential and attractiveness of these markets while advancing Aramco's strategy of strengthening its downstream value chain. This transaction would enable Aramco to secure outlets for its refined products and help expand its retail business internationally. The acquisition would also further unlock new market opportunities for Valvoline branded lubricants, following Aramco's acquisition of the Valvoline Inc. global products business in February 2023.

Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, Aramco Downstream

President, said: "This agreement is yet another milestone in our strategy to grow Aramco's downstream presence globally and expand our retail, lubricants and trading businesses. We are excited by the opportunities it presents, creating synergies with our extensive trading and manufacturing systems. Moreover, it creates a platform to launch the Aramco brand both in Chile and South America more broadly, unlocking significant potential to capitalize on new markets for our products. Esmac is a well-run business in Chile with more than 100 years of experience with quality assets and growth potential.



Abdulaziz Al-Bakhait

'Warba' announced winners of the weekly 'Al Sunbula' draw

Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate banking services and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the Sunbula weekly draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold draws for ten weekly winners for Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky clients of the Sunbula weekly draw, each of the 10

lucky winners received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Sabti Abdullah Al-Kandari, Yasmine Ahmed Arnaout, Isra Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Mulla, Bandar Faleh Hasan Al-Shammari, Rashed Faleh Mutlaq Al-Hajri, Saud Ali Zaid Al-Besis, Khalifa Mohammad Thamer Al-Ajmi, Mahmoud Haamed Mahmoud Najm, Nadia Fahd Fahd Al-Othman, and Nawara Ghadeer Mirbad Al-Shammari.

The Sunbula account is the ideal

choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their balances at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Regarding the conditions, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait - Area Manager of the Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Al Sunbula draws and the major draws. The client still gets one chance for every KD

10 in the account, and the chances are counted according to the lowest balance in the account during the month.

Therefore, the amount must have passed a full month in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to count the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawals and deposits, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances of winning".

Company proud to support CODED Academy's 'Kuwait Codes' program for 2nd yr

Zain celebrates Kuwait's next generation of aspiring coders

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: For the second year running, Zain joined the special graduation ceremony held to celebrate the students who successfully enrolled in the 'Kuwait Codes' program in strategic collaboration with CODED Academy. The initiative is considered the best of its kind in the nation and has contributed to upskilling over 2500 students in programming, coding, and digital competencies since its launch.

The ceremony was held at Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum, attended by Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Prof. Khalid Al Hazaa, CODED Academy co-founder and CEO Ahmad Marafi, CODED officials, students and their families, along with sponsors and supporters.

In the event, the company presented the 'Zain Award for the Most Innovative Project' to the aspiring student Bader Fadhel Qassim in recognition of his excellence and innovative approach. The ceremony also witnessed the recognition of all the students who successfully enrolled in the third season of the Kuwait Codes program, which kicked-off earlier this year under support from Zain.

During the third season, the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) hosted a fun workshop entitled "So you think you can design?", which came under a special program for female coders as part of the bigger 'Kuwait Codes' initiative. The workshop empowered girls and young women to create their own digital designs within a specific set of rules, and the designs were then presented to a judges panel that reviewed the designs and selected the winners. This particular program upskilled over 100 female students this year.

'Kuwait Codes' is the first initiative of its kind in Kuwait, and it continues its mission to create a technically advanced generation by offering the opportunity for high school students from private and public schools to learn and develop programming skills in four main streams: website design, Python programming, video game development, and smartphone app development using Flutter. This year alone, the program trained over 1100 students.

Zain is proud to be one of the main strategic partners of CODED throughout the years, a partnership that has contributed to empowering thousands of young programmers and developers into the local market. The company is keen on playing its part in empowering and creating the next generation of Kuwaiti coders.

Many of Zain's corporate sustainability strategy initiatives center around youth and education development, and as digital skills are gaining accelerating impor-



Zain CODED Graduation 2023 photos.



tance in the future of education and the economy, the company has put the development of programming and digital competencies of the youth at the forefront of its priorities. Zain is keen on contributing to preparing the next generation of local talents with the skills required by modern markets.

Zain is keen on playing a vital role as an integrated digital service provider in

light of the rapid digital changes witnessed by the modern world. The company always seeks to reach new levels of excellence with its customers through offering the best innovative services, meeting their needs and aspirations, as well as supporting programs and initiatives that embrace tech innovation and aim at developing it.

Arab Monetary Fund: Combined public debt for Arab nations reaches \$785.3b

Financial indicators stable

ABU DHABI, Sept 18: The Arab Monetary Fund has projected that Arab economies will experience growth of approximately 3.4% in 2023 and 4.0% in 2024, respectively.

In an official statement, the Fund has estimated that the collective inflation rate for Arab nations in 2023 will be around 6.8%, followed by a rate of 6.3% in 2024, considering the ongoing global developments.

These insights were shared by Abdul Rahman bin Abdullah Al-Humaidi, the Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Monetary Fund, during the opening session of the forty-seventh Council of Governors of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Institutions. This year's meeting was hosted in Algiers, attended by central bank governors and monetary institution representatives from Arab countries, alongside high-ranking officials from international financial institutions and global central banks.

Al-Humaidi also emphasized that the total public debt for Arab nations has reached a significant \$785.3 billion, equivalent to approximately 98% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of these borrowing countries.

He further pointed out the strengthened financial stability indicators within the banking sector of Arab countries during 2022. Capital adequacy ratios in the Arab region averaged around 17.4% by the end of the year.

The ratio of liquid assets to total assets for this sector reached approximately 35.3%, and the coverage ratio for loan provisions amounted to about 90.2% for non-performing loans within Arab banks by the end of 2022.

Additionally, Al-Humaidi highlighted the prominent economic challenges facing Arab nations at this juncture, including mounting inflation rates, an unemployment rate of approximately 10.7% (twice the global average), and the challenge of managing increasing debt levels amidst the evolving international landscape

Gulf Bank announces deadline for AlDanah Account Deposits as November 30, 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Gulf Bank is keen to announce that November 30, 2023, marks the final opportunity for customers to deposit and participate in the two million annual draw for the AlDanah account.

The annual grand draw, scheduled for January 18, 2024, will unveil the world's most significant cash prize linked to a bank account, where the first multimillionaire will be revealed.

In a gesture of appreciation towards its valued customers and in celebration of the AlDanah account's 25th anniversary, Gulf Bank made a groundbreaking announcement back in May. The annual grand prize value for the Al Danah account has been increased to KD 2 million, solidifying its position as the most substantial cash prize associated with a bank account.

The grand draw event on January 18, 2024, will be conducted under the supervision of representatives from both the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young.

The AlDanah Millionaire account is one of the most rewarding and prestigious savings accounts in Kuwait, with periodic draws that have been creating millionaires since its launch in 1998 – now offering an annual grand draw prize worth KD 2,000,000, monthly opportunities for ten lucky winners to win KD 1,000, in addition to quarterly draws with KD 100,000 prizes each.

Participation Conditions

Gulf Bank's AlDanah account is open to both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents in Kuwait. A minimum of KD 200 is required to open an account, and the same amount must be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming AlDanah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 monthly fee will be charged to the account, until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account



AlDanah 2M compilation banners.

and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

Gulf Bank encourages AlDanah customers to raise their chances of winning by increasing their depositing amount, using the electronic payment service available through the bank's website and mobile application.

The Al Danah Millionaire account is one of the oldest and most prestigious savings accounts in Kuwait and was designed to encourage a culture of savings in society, and reward customers for their commitment to saving on a regular basis. Hence, Gulf Bank encourages everyone to open an AlDanah Millionaire account to start saving and to enjoy the multitude of benefits the account has to offer.

Numerous Features

Amongst the many advantages enjoyed by Al Danah Millionaire account, is that it is the only account that rewards customers for their loyalty, by providing loyalty chances.

The loyalty chances are the total chances gained in the previous year, which are then transferred to the current year to reward customers for their loyalty to the bank.

All chances gained by existing AlDanah clients in 2022 have been transferred and added to the 2023 chances – taking into consideration the terms and conditions.

The AlDanah account provides a multitude of valuable services to its customers, including access to an exclusive AlDanah ATM card, that is ideal for depositing money into their accounts at any time.

Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the monthly, quarterly, and annual draws using the AlDanah calculator, available on Gulf Bank's online website and mobile application.

To participate in the upcoming quarterly and annual Al Danah draws this year, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's branches or transfer directly through Gulf Bank's Online/Mobile Banking services.

They can also direct their queries via WhatsApp on 1805805 for round-the-clock assistance from Gulf Bank representatives or call the Customer Contact Center on the same number.

Additionally, customers can visit the dedicated AlDanah account website to learn more about the account and its winners.

Customer satisfaction strategy

Kuwait Int'l Bank introduces new, enhanced contact center features

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: In continued efforts to elevate its banking experience to higher levels of quality and excellence, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of two new features to its suite of contact center services, which aim to add more ease and convenience to every customer interaction. This comes as part of the Bank's overarching strategy for achieving holistic banking distinction that resonates in every touch point with the customer.

Recognizing the convenience of texting as a means of communication, KIB introduced the WhatsApp interactive service, which allows customers to skip all hotline queues and get an instant reply to their inquiries. To initiate a conversation with the new interactive service, customers simply need to save the Bank's number (1866866) on their phones and prompt a chat using WhatsApp. In addition, the Bank announced that its Black Account segment customers now have a designated contact center team who are solely devoted to taking their calls 24/7.

Commenting on the new features, Taher Al-Baghli, Contact Center Assistant Manager at KIB, said: "We understand that time and effort are valuable resources, and that's why we are always on the lookout for innovative solutions that enable us to save our customers' precious resources. In a fast-paced market, our goal is to be able to serve our customers with speed and uncompromised quality, not to mention being available on the channels that they prefer to use for communication."

Al-Baghli affirmed that the newly launched KIB WhatsApp interactive service is a testament to the Bank's commitment to staying on par with the latest technologies available across the global banking industry. With growing advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, AI-supported chatbots can now tend to customers' queries in an accurate, personalized, and time-saving manner, making the KIB WhatsApp interactive service a valuable addition to the Bank's pool of tech-based solutions and a noteworthy step toward its digital transformation.

Moreover, Al-Baghli noted that adopting new technologies also allows the Bank to utilize its own customer service representatives in a more pro-



Taher Al-Baghli



KIB Chatbot

ductive manner. By opening up new, automated channels of communication, KIB ensures that its staff can focus their energy and attention on top-priority queries without any distractions, which ultimately guarantees better service quality for all customers.

Realizing the paramount role that the banking industry plays in individuals' lives and the effect that it has on their day-to-day experiences, KIB spares no effort to respond to its customers' growing needs and aspirations by innovating new products and services that add ease and convenience to their banking experience and overall lifestyle.

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.

IMF warns Lebanon that the country is still facing 'enormous challenges'

BEIRUT, Sept 18, (AP): Four years after Lebanon's historic meltdown began, the small nation is still facing "enormous economic challenges," with a collapsed banking sector, eroding public services, deteriorating infrastructure and worsening poverty, the International Monetary Fund warned Friday.

In a statement issued at the end of a four-day visit by an IMF delegation to the crisis-hit country, the international agency welcomed recent policy decisions by Lebanon's central bank to stop lending to the state and end the work in an exchange platform known as Sayrafa.

Sayrafa had helped rein in the spiraling black market that has controlled the Lebanese economy, but it has been depleting the country's foreign currency reserves.

The IMF said that despite the move, a permanent solution requires comprehensive policy decisions from the parliament and the government to contain the external and fiscal deficits and start restructuring the banking sector and major state-owned companies.

In late August, the interim central bank governor, Wassim Mansouri, called on Lebanon's ruling class to quickly implement economic and financial reforms, warning that the central bank won't offer loans to the state. He also said it does not plan on printing money to cover the huge budget deficit to avoid worsening inflation.

Lebanon is in the grips of the worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history. Since the financial meltdown began in October 2019, the country's political class - blamed for decades of corruption and mismanagement - has been resisting economic and financial reforms requested by the international community.

Lebanon started talks with the IMF in 2020 to try to secure a bailout, but since reaching a preliminary agreement with the IMF last year, the country's leaders have been reluctant to implement needed reforms.

"Lebanon has not undertaken the urgently needed reforms, and this will weigh on the economy for years to come," the IMF statement said.

Erdogan and Musk discuss establishing a Tesla car factory in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Sept 18, (AP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Elon Musk, the head of electric carmaker Tesla, to establish a factory in Turkey during a meeting in New York, Erdogan's office said Monday.

Erdogan, who is in the U.S.

to attend the U.N. General Assembly, also discussed potential cooperation between Musk's space exploration firm SpaceX and Turkey's space program, the Turkish president's office said.

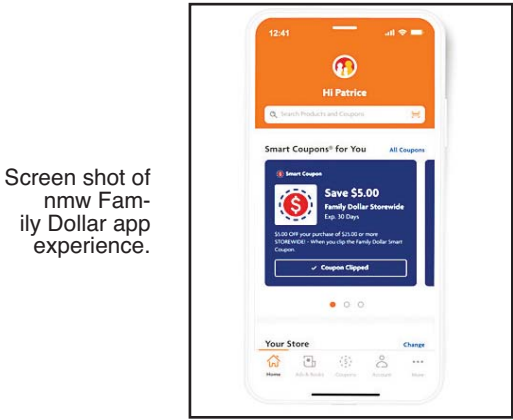
The statement said Erdogan told Musk that Turkey would

welcome cooperation on artificial intelligence and Starlink, SpaceX's satellite internet service. Musk said SpaceX wanted to secure the necessary license to offer Starlink in Turkey.

Images of the meeting showed Musk holding one of his sons as he talked to Erdogan.

Turkish Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir, who attended the meeting, said Musk described Turkey as "among the most important candidates for Tesla investment."

He added that Musk and Erdogan also discussed Turkey's armed aerial drone program.



Screen shot of nmw Family Dollar app experience.

Family Dollar prepares to launch new mobile app experience

Dollar app reflects the customer-centric approach we've applied to our digital roadmap to improve the shopping experience for our loyal shoppers and new customers alike."

Future phases of the digital transformation include Family Dollar app features in early 2024 like in-app e-commerce, personalization capabilities, and an evolved rewards experience - as well as a Dollar Tree mobile experience customers are seeking.

"At Family Dollar, we wake up every day focused on how we can help our shoppers do more and save more, and this app is one more way we'll be able to deliver on that promise," said Emily Turner, Chief Marketing Officer, Dollar Tree, Inc. "We believe this new user experience

will not only appeal to our customers, but to brands who want to promote their products to our millions of customers through Chesapeake Media Group, our retail media network."

Digital consultancy Publicis Sapient was selected to lead the program, enabling Family Dollar to offer a premier mobile experience platform. "We are proud to support Family Dollar in the launch of its new mobile experience using our core capabilities (Strategy, Product, Experience, Engineering, and Data & AI)," said Sudip Mazumder, SVP, Retail Industry Lead, North America at Publicis Sapient. "The work is designed to offer exceptional usability and a best-in-class customer experience." (AP)

Insurance product provides guaranteed income

Why retirees may want to buy an immediate annuity now

By Liz Weston
NerdWallet

An immediate annuity is an insurance product that provides guaranteed income: You give an insurer a chunk of money, and the company gives you a stream of payments that can last for life. The payments begin within 12 months of purchase.

Now may be a good time for retirees to buy an immediate annuity, since payouts are the highest they’ve been in a decade, says Rob Williams, managing director of wealth management at Charles Schwab.

But buying an immediate annuity – also known as an income annuity or a fixed immediate annuity - is effectively irreversible, so you’ll want to choose carefully.

Consider an immediate annuity

One of the big risks in retirement is outliving your savings. Having enough guaranteed income to cover basic expenses can give you assurance that you’ll keep a roof over your head and food in the fridge, no matter what.

A major source of guaranteed income is Social Security, and some people still have traditional pensions. If you don’t have enough guaranteed income to cover essential living costs, though, an immediate annuity could fill in the gap, says Wade Pfau, author of “Retirement Planning Guidebook.”

But immediate annuities shouldn’t be an “all or nothing” solution, Pfau says. Ideally, you also would have money invested in stocks for growth, as well as cash reserves for emergencies.

Immediate annuities can help you ride out down markets, Williams notes. The steady stream of income could help you avoid selling investments to meet living expenses, he says.

There are many types of annuities, and some are mind-bendingly complex. By contrast, immediate annuities are relatively straightforward: Your payout depends largely on how much you invest, your age, prevailing interest rates and the payout option you choose.

For example, a man and woman age 65 who invest \$100,000 can expect a monthly check of about \$535 if they choose the joint life option, where the payment continues for both lifetimes, according to Charles Schwab’s annuity income estimator. If they choose a cash refund option, the monthly check drops to about \$532, but their heirs will receive any money left over if the couple dies before getting back their original investment.

That’s a relatively cheap form of insurance and could provide some reassurance to people who worry the insurance company will “win” if they die early, Williams says.

Option

Payouts also depend on the insurer. According to the online marketplace ImmediateAnnuities.com, monthly checks for the couple could range from \$513 to \$565 a month for the joint life option, depending on the company.

Some companies sell annuities with cost-of-living adjustments in each subsequent year, but initial payouts are much smaller. For our hypothetical couple, a 3% annual inflation adjustment would result in payouts ranging from \$359 to \$379 to start, according to ImmediateAnnuities.com.

Inflation protection may be unnecessary if retirees have Social Security, which is inflation-adjusted, and investments in stocks, which deliver inflation-beating returns over time, Pfau says.

Because payouts vary, you’d be smart to shop around - but also consider the insurance company’s rating. A financially weak company may not be around to deliver the promised payouts. (Schwab’s online marketplace represents insurers rated A+ or better by Standard and Poor’s, while ImmediateAnnuities.com includes companies rated A- or better by AM Best.)

Your state’s guaranty association protects your annuity up to certain limits if your insurer fails. In California, for example, the association covers 80% of annuity value up to \$250,000, but the maximum coverage available per individual is \$300,000.

If you want to invest more than the state coverage limit, consider buying from different companies so all your eggs aren’t in a single insurer’s basket, Williams says. You can also “ladder” your purchases by buying immediate annuities every year or every few years. Annuity payouts are linked to the yield on highly rated corporate bonds, so laddering allows you to take advantage of higher payouts on newly purchased annuities if bond yields rise - although payouts could shrink if bond yields fall, he notes.

How your payouts are taxed depends on where you got the money to buy the annuity. If the cash came from an after-tax account, such as a savings or brokerage account, a portion of each payment will be considered a return of your investment and won’t be taxed.

If you’re buying the annuity with money in a qualified retirement account, such as an IRA or 401(k), the payouts typically will be taxable - but so would any withdrawal from such a source. The money used to buy an immediate annuity won’t be considered part of your retirement funds when it’s time to calculate required minimum distributions, which usually must begin at 73. That could be a boon for big savers who are worried about such distributions pushing them into a higher tax bracket.

Immediate annuities aren’t a solution for every retiree, but they can be an effective way to buy peace of mind, Williams says.

“Generating income on your own can be daunting and annuities are a good tool to help,” he says. (AP)

‘Contribute to local economy’

Lumifi Cyber success propels expansion plans at SkySong

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., Sept 18: Lumifi Cyber, a leading player in the cybersecurity arena, has announced its significant long-term commitment through 2030 at SkySong. The ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center. This strategic move is an endorsement of Scottsdale’s burgeoning tech community and a testament to Lumifi Cyber’s commitment to growth, innovation, and community development.

Unlike other cybersecurity solutions that require constant management and oversight, Lumifi Cyber delivers Managed Detection and Response (MDR) services that actively hunt and assess threats while keeping costs low and working with existing cybersecurity toolsets. Lumifi Cyber’s team of cybersecurity professionals defend large and small organizations all over the world. The company has clients in nearly every industry with a long history of supporting mission-critical assets for institutions in government, healthcare, financial and legal sectors.

Services

Jim Sadler, Locate AI broker responsible for the SkySong corporate services solution for Lumifi Cyber, expressed great excitement about this development, saying: “Locate and our technology and real estate services team are thrilled to support the industry leading cybersecurity firm and Lumifi Cyber’s significant growth trajectory. They’re at the forefront of redefining our city’s tech landscape and their operation fits nicely with SkySong. The ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center.”

Michael Malone, CEO of Lumifi Cyber, shared his enthusiasm: “This commitment marks a pivotal moment in Lumifi Cyber’s journey. Not only does it reflect our relentless pursuit of excellence in cybersecurity, but it also signifies our belief in Scottsdale’s potential to be a global tech powerhouse. Our commitment to our customers remains unwavering as we grow - to provide top-tier solutions and service. Furthermore, by deepening our roots here, we aim to contribute positively to the local economy and community.”

“We’re proud to be working with both Sadler and Lumifi Cyber again on this important phase of growth at SkySong,” said Sharon Harper, Chairman and CEO of Plaza Companies, the

master developer of SkySong. “Michael Malone’s entrepreneurial growth and industry leadership exemplify the enterprise growth and path towards accelerating technology transfer at SkySong that we strive to embody.”

Plaza Companies is the master developer of SkySong, in partnership with University Realty, the City of Scottsdale and Holualoa Companies.

Lumifi Cyber’s Expansion will bring these Key Highlights:

- Lease Commitment: Lumifi Cyber has signed a robust lease through 2030, reflecting its long-term dedication to the Scottsdale tech ecosystem.
- Future Expansion Plans: Lumifi Cyber is postured for significant expansion and growth and consequently has sights on similar expansion at SkySong. When completed, Lumifi Cyber will expand its existing Security Operations Center into SkySong’s larger space in the new building, estimating its growth to be up to 25,000 square feet in the next 3 years. This move will nearly triple the company’s size and solidify its consistent growth trajectory.
- Space Modernization: The current expansion enables Lumifi Cyber to redesign and modernize its workspace, fostering a more collaborative environment for its growing clientele and employee base.
- Commemorating a 15-Year Journey in Cybersecurity: Lumifi Cyber’s remarkable impact in the realm of MDR services within cybersecurity is highlighted by numerous pioneering innovations. Shield-Vision™ is an advanced multi-tenant cybersecurity platform. This platform showcases exceptional proficiency in threat hunting, detection, and rapid automated responses, significantly enhancing efficiency across a diverse range of cybersecurity solutions. Lumifi Cyber’s operational distinction is further validated by the company’s cutting-edge SOC 2 Type II certified Security Operations Center (SOC), where a dedicated team of analysts and threat-mitigation specialists work tirelessly 24/7.

Lumifi Cyber’s sense of pride originates from a continuous pursuit of advancements and certifications, including the company’s upcoming adoption of NIST 800-171, aligning with CMMC 2.0 standards.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept 18, (AP): The same Ohio river valley where the Wright brothers pioneered human flight will soon be manufacturing cutting-edge electric planes that take off and land vertically, under an agreement announced Monday between the state and Joby Aviation Inc.

“When you’re talking about air taxis, that’s the future,” Republican Gov. Mike DeWine told The Associated Press. “We find this very, very exciting - not only for the direct jobs and indirect jobs it’s going to create, but like Intel, it’s a signal to people that Ohio is looking to the future. This is a big deal for us.”

Around the world, electric vertical takeoff and landing, or eVTOL aircraft are entering the mainstream, though questions remain about noise levels and charging demands. Still, developers say the planes are nearing the day when they will provide a wide-scale alternative to shuttle individual people or small groups from rooftops and parking garages to their destinations, while avoiding the congested thoroughfares below.

Joby’s decision to locate its first scaled manufacturing facility at a 140-acre (57-hectar) site at Dayton International Airport delivers on two decades of groundwork laid by the state’s leaders, Republican Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said. Importantly, the site is near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratories.

Innovation

“For a hundred years, the Dayton area has been a leader in aviation innovation,” Husted said. “But capturing a large-scale manufacturer of aircraft has always eluded the local economy there. With this announcement, that aspiration has been realized.”

The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, lived and worked in Dayton. In 1910, they opened the first US airplane factory there. To connect the historical dots, Joby’s formal announcement Monday will take place at Orville Wright’s home, Hawthorn Hill, and conclude with a ceremonial flypast of a replica of the Wright Model B Flyer.

Joby’s production aircraft is designed to transport a pilot and four passengers at speeds of up to 200 miles (321.87 kilometers) per hour, with a maximum range of 100 miles (160.93 kilometers). Its quiet noise profile is barely audible against the backdrop of most cities, the company said. The plan is to place them in aerial ridesharing networks beginning in 2025.

The efforts of the Santa Cruz, California-based company are supported by partnerships with Toyota, Delta Airlines, Intel and Uber. Joby is a 14-year-old company that went public in 2021 and became the first eVTOL firm to receive US Air Force airworthiness certification.

With incentives of up to \$325 million from the state of Ohio, its JobsOhio economic development office and local government, plus \$500 million of Joby’s own cash, the company plans to build an Ohio facility capable of delivering up to 500 aircraft a year and creating 2,000 jobs. The US Department of Energy has invited Joby to apply for a loan to support development of the facility as a clean energy project.

Joby CEO JoeBen Bevirt told the AP that the company chose Ohio after an extensive and competitive search. Its financial package wasn’t the largest, but the chance to bring the operation to the birthplace of aviation - with a workforce experienced in the field - sealed the deal, he said.

eVTOL aircraft entering mainstream

Flying taxis production takes off in Ohio, home to the Wright bros



In this 2022 photo provided by Joby Aviation is Joby’s pre-production prototype aircraft in flight above the company’s facilities in Marina, Calif. The same Ohio river valley where the Wright brothers pioneered human flight will soon manufacture cutting-edge electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. (AP)

High-capacity energy storage system

Hithium introduces innovative 5 MWh container product at RE+ in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Sept 18: Stationary battery manufacturer Hithium exhibited recently at the major US clean energy trade show RE+, produced by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), for the second time. With an office in Fremont, California, and a team on the ground across the Americas, Hithium aims to supply the fast-growing stationary energy storage market as it respond to public and private sector energy transition incentives on both North and South American continents.

The company’s founder and senior management also joined its American team in Las Vegas to announce a new 5 MegaWatt hours container product using the standard 20-foot container structure. It was the first time Hithium has made a major product announcement outside of its headquarters in Xiamen, China.

“Ohio is the No. 1 state when it comes to supplying parts for Boeing and Airbus,” Bevirt said. “Ohio is No. 3 in the nation on manufacturing jobs - and that depth of manufacturing prowess, that workforce, is critical to us as we look to build this manufacturing facility.”

JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef noted that its dedication to aviation has carried the Dayton area through serious economic challenges. That included the loss of tens of thousands of auto and auto parts manufacturing jobs in the early 2000s and the loss of ATM maker NCR Corp.’s headquarters to an Atlanta suburb in 2009.

“This marries that heritage and leg-

The more compact second generation (ESS 2.0), higher-capacity energy storage system delivers 46% higher energy density than standard systems based on 280 Ah cells. The product will come pre-installed and ready to connect, outfitted with 48 battery modules based on the manufacturer’s new 314 Ah LFP cells, each module providing 104.5 kWh capacity and designed to meet the needs of large utility scale systems. The container will also be technically compatible with most top inverter brands’ power control systems, or bi-directional inverters.

Consumption

The new energy storage system also comes with Hithium’s mature multi-level, liquid-cooling technology, which keeps cell temperature variation below 3° Celsius. Intelligent thermal management enables the system to optimize battery power and reduce internal energy consumption.

With 11 GWh of battery products already shipped since the company was founded in 2019, Hithium is expanding its production capacity to 70 GWh by the end of this year. The company has developed some of the most advanced production lines in the world, featuring a high degree of automation and intelligence based on the precise and extensive collection and evaluation of big data, in real time. This enables Hithium to guarantee product stability and consistency in multiple dimensions. The manufacturer’s expansion plans continue into the next several years, with the goal of 135 GWh production capacity by 2025.

Founded in 2019, Hithium is a leading manufacturer of top-quality stationary energy storage products for utility-scale as well as commercial and industrial applications.

Construction on the manufacturing facility is expected to begin in 2024, with production to begin in 2025.

Toyota, a long-term investor, worked with Joby in 2019 to design and to successfully launch its pilot production line in Marina, California. The automaker will continue to advise Joby as it prepares for scaled production of its commercial passenger air taxi, the company said.

The announcement comes as a bipartisan group of Ohio’s congressional representatives has recently stepped up efforts - following an earlier appeal by DeWine - to lure the US Air Force’s new US Space Command headquarters or Space Force units to Ohio.

Advanced features, premium quality

Helios Techs unveils cutting-edge PowerView P70 Display-Controller

SARASOTA, Fla., Sept 18: Helios Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: HLIO) (“Helios” or the “Company”), a global leader in highly engineered motion control and electronic controls technology for diverse end markets, has unveiled the new PowerView™ P70, as part of the all-new Pro Series, Helios’ next-generation of premium rugged display-controllers. The new Pro Series is the first in a portfolio of products that will be tailored to meet different market requirements and is offered through Enovation Controls, part of Helios’ Electronics segment.

“We are pleased to introduce the PowerView P70, which represents a major step forward in rugged display-controller technology,” said Josef Matosevic, the Company’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “With its combination of advanced features, premium display quality, and rugged durability, the PowerView P70 is the perfect solution for both powersports and industrial customers who demand the best. This is another great example

of Helios leveraging a new platform across more than one end market to achieve a multiplier effect. We are also thrilled to announce an initial multi-million-dollar customer award for this product reinforcing the demand we have been hearing from customers.”

Format

The PowerView™ P70 is the result of combining the best features from the highly sought after PV485 and PV700 products while retaining the ruggedness expected from an Enovation Controls’ display-controller. With a 7-inch edge-to-edge, all glass, full-color touchscreen format like the PV700, the all-new P70 sets the industry standard for sunlight-readability from its optically bonded 1000 Nit glove-friendly display. It also boasts the full I/O (input/output) complement of the PV485, making it a powerful and versatile device. The PowerView™ P70 is another innovation from our world class engineering design and validation capabilities that have been gained from decades of experience.

Any creative endeavor will lead to fear of criticism

Anxiety can often be a drag on creativity, upending trope of artist

With the deadline for “Afraid” fast

Another option is to engage your brain's reward circuitry - say, thinking of the possible positive outcomes of your work, including immortality. Or you could use the fear network to your advantage, remembering a deadline, a promotion that might hinge on the work or the crummy feeling of not completing a task. Breaking the work into pieces will also make it seem more doable and less scary. (AP)

J&J's Belgium-based subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals is also under investigation, South Africa's Competition Commission said.

‘Research extremely exciting’

New drug class blocks key ageing mechanisms in organ transplants

Emma Twin to share stories

Dassault's avatar showcases how twins drive healthcare innovation



Her social media posts will document her participation in ongoing research and medical innovations including: clinical trials using Medidata solutions; the reaction of her heart to different procedures in the Living Heart project; testing CorNeat Vision's corneal transplants; epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease studies in the Living Brain project; wearing the IASO drug administration and monitoring device; and optimizing the home for older adults. They will also highlight: DAMAE Medical's portable microscope for detecting skin cancer; Dyncardia's blood pressure monitoring solution; FEops' cardiac monitoring; LUCID Implants' customized facial implants; and the VORTHEx radiotherapy simulation experience.

“Through Emma Twin, we will

Bedaquiline was approved in 2012 and is used to treat drug-resistant TB. It is desperately-needed by South Africa, where the infectious disease is the leading cause of death, killing more than 50,000 people in 2021. South Africa has more than 7 million people living with HIV, more than any other country in the world. The World Health Organization says that nearly one-third of deaths among people who have HIV/AIDS are due to tuberculosis.

Globally, TB cases increased in

Challenges

By leveraging our pioneering technology, we can draw attention to major healthcare challenges and demonstrate how the virtual world improves outcomes in real life."

For 40 years, Dassault Systèmes'

The Competition Commission said it was confirming the investigation due to heightened media interest, but would not respond to requests for comment or more information about the probe.

Emma Twin is the next act in Dassault Systèmes' "The Only Progress is Human" initiative, dedicated to health-care and patient experience.

Pfizer reported record revenues of \$100.3 billion in 2022. J&J made \$94.9 billion in sales last year.

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Television

LOS ANGELES, Sept 18, (AP): In a normal year - if there is any such thing in Hollywood anymore - the 75th Emmy Awards ceremony would be Monday night, and the many nominees from shows like "Succession" and "Ted Lasso" would be claiming their trophies or happily clapping for the winners.

Instead, the actors and writers strikes brought a postponement until January.

Here's a look at what's happening, and what may happen, with the awards that have been thrown off course.

A shadow hung over this year's Emmys from the start. Writers, who are essential to the process both as nominees and the people who provide jokes and patter for the show, had been on strike for more than two months when the nominees were announced June 11. Then just three days after "Succession," "White Lotus," "The Last of Us" and "Ted Lasso" were named as the top nominees, leaders of the actors union announced they would join writers in a historic Hollywood work stoppage.

With union rules allowing no interviews, panels or awards-show participation, acting nominees had just a few days to do the kind of media promotion that is usually rampant after a nomination. Writers couldn't do it at all.

The Television Academy and Fox TV, which was scheduled to air the show this year, initially kept the original Sept. 18 show date in place, with hopes the strikes would end quickly.

But with no realistic prospects for resolution, Fox and the academy

decided in mid-August to change the show date to Jan. 15, 2024, Martin Luther King Day, at the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles. No host has been announced.

The January date in many ways makes sense. Because they are still tied to the traditional fall-through-spring broadcast television season, the Emmys have been among the few awards shows held in September. That TV model, as the strikers know all too well, has been upended by cable and streaming structures that observe no such conventions. That traditional Emmy scheduling was starting to create odd situations. Voters were casting ballots for season one of the "The Bear" - which got 13 nominations - after season two had already aired. And now the results won't be known until nearly a year after the second season premiere.

Postponed

The January date will put the Emmys within the rest of Hollywood's awards season, when red carpets rule and performers are on the promotional prowl. The show is slated for about a week after the Golden Globes and about six weeks before the Screen Actors Guild Awards - both ceremonies that honor television along with movies.

The date also puts it in line with the Emmys' early years in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when they were held in January or February.

The delay is the first time the Emmys have been postponed since 2001, when the 9/11 attacks came just five days before the planned ceremony. Then the launch of the war in Afghanistan, which came hours

before the rescheduled October show, prompted another postponement until November, when a small, restrained show hosted by Ellen DeGeneres finally ran.

The 2020 ceremony, dominated by "Schitt's Creek" and dubbed the "Pandemmies" by host Jimmy Kimmel was seriously scaled back because of the coronavirus, with nominees accepting trophies and making speeches from remote locations, but the date was never moved.

With nothing else normal about the Emmys, the Television Academy at least wanted the voting process to go on as planned, and for the results to be as close as possible to what they would have been without the upheaval.

The Emmys are decided by votes from the nearly 20,000 members of the Television Academy. The membership is divided into 31 peer groups including animators, performers, directors and writers. Members of each group vote for Emmy winners in those categories, and all eligible voters can cast ballots for the awards that go to entire shows, including best drama series and best drama series.

This year's ballots went out as planned on Aug. 17 and had to be returned by Aug. 28. That means the winners are already decided, but it will be four months - at least - before the envelopes are opened revealing them.

The new date looked a long way off when it was scheduled, but Emmy organizers may have to face the prospect that the strikes could still be going on in January.

Variety



This image released by MGM shows Erika Alexander, (left), and Jeffrey Wright in a scene from 'American Fiction.' (AP)

Film

'Mr. Dressup' scoops top documentary award

'American Fiction' wins People's Choice at TIFF

TORONTO, Sept 18, (AP): Cord Jefferson's "American Fiction," a biting satire starring Jeffrey Wright as a disillusioned academic, has won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, a much-watched bellwether in the Oscar race.

"American Fiction" is the directorial debut of Jefferson, the veteran TV writer of "Watchmen" and "Succession," and an adaptation of Percival Everett's 2001 novel "Erasure." The film, about an author who resents that the literary industry is only interested in "Black books" that cater to the stereotypes of white audiences, emerged as a breakout hit at TIFF.

Toronto's audience award winner, voted on by festival attendees, has historically nearly always signified a best-picture contender at the Academy Awards. Since 2012, every People's Choice winner at TIFF has gone on to score a best-picture nod. In 2018, when "Green Book" won, it announced the film as a surprise awards contender. (Peter Farrelly's film went on to win best picture at the Oscars.) Last year, Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans" won Toronto's top prize.

First runner-up went to Alexander Payne's "The Holdovers," starring Paul Giamatti as a curmudgeonly boarding school teacher tasked with staying with a handful of students over Christmas break in the 1970s. Second runner-up was Hayao Miyazaki's "The Boy and the Heron," the long-awaited latest Studio Ghibli film from the Japanese anime master.

"American Fiction," which MGM will release in theaters Nov. 3, co-stars Sterling K. Brown, Issa Rae and Tracee Ellis Ross. In an interview, Jefferson said he immediately connected with Everett's book.

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

The Toronto International Film Festival, which wrapped up Sunday, was diminished this year due to the ongoing actors and writers strikes. Red-carpet premieres were mostly without movie stars, detracting from some of the buzz that the largest film festival in North America typically generates. It followed a similarly strike-affected Venice Film Festival, where the festival's top prize, the Golden Lion, went to Yorgos Lanthimos' "Poor Things." (That film skipped TIFF.)

The People's Choice winner for documentary went to Robert McCallum's "Mr. Dressup: The Magic of Make-Believe" and the midnight madness award went to Larry Charles' "Dicks: The Musical." The festival's juried competition awards were given to Tarsem Singh Dhandwar's "Dear Jassi," winner of the Platform section, and Meredith Hama-Brown's "Seagrass," which took the FIPRESCI award from international critics.

Meanwhile, Bayard Rustin, the civil rights activist and primary architect of the 1963 March on Washington, who often worked tirelessly out of the limelight, takes center stage in the new Netflix drama "Rustin."

Vision

The film, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, stars Colman Domingo as Rustin, a towering figure who worked for decades alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and whose vision of the March on Washington - site of the "I Have a Dream" speech - led to one of the most indelible moments of American history.

"I believe in social dislocation and creative trouble," Rustin once said.

"Rustin," directed by veteran theater and film director George C. Wolfe, is the first narrative feature from Higher Ground, Barack and Michelle Obama's production company. Led by a powerhouse performance by Domingo that's already being called a likely Academy Award nomination for best actor, "Rustin" aims to celebrate a pivotal but undersung civil rights hero.

"So much of what he did was compassionate and fueled by responsibility - not arrogance but responsibility," says Wolfe. "He had a brain that was organizationally astonishing. What would make him heroic was not fueled by selfishness. And he was funny."

Rustin, who died in 1987, was an openly gay Black man, who lived through a time when being either was enough to put him in jail. In 1953, Rustin spent 50 days in jail and was registered as a sex offender - a conviction that was posthumously pardoned in 2020 by California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Wolfe, a major theater figure who directed Tony Kushner's "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" and Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize-winning "Topdog/Underdog" and created the musical "Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk,'" was initially drawn to Rustin as a subject after learning about him while working as creative director for the National Center for Civil

and Human Rights in Atlanta. Wolfe, himself a Black and gay man with a laser-focus for putting together a production, identified strongly with Rustin's sense of purpose and his refusal to be neatly defined.

"My definition of myself is so much larger," says Wolfe. "I'm not going to waste time arguing with you about what I can and cannot do because I'm busy. Clearly, you aren't that busy because you're busy trying to place me in a box. That I really get. It's like: 'I'm directing 'Angels in the America' a seven-hour play, get out of my way.' 'I'm doing a movie about Bayard Rustin. I gotta do my job.' 'Can I get shame out of my way so I can go do this? Can I get fear out of my way so I can go do this?'"

Rustin, a Pennsylvania-raised Quaker, was famously hard to pin down. The illegitimate son of an immigrant from the West Indies, he was a communist, then a socialist and pacifist who believed strongly in nonviolent protest. During World War II, he spent 28 months in prison for refusing military service. Later, he became a prominent supporter of Israel.

After personal experiences of discrimination, he became committed to eradicating segregation. Rustin helped organize the first freedom rides and once spent 22 days on a North Carolina chain gang after being arrested on one ride. He was a central planner of the 1955-1956 Montgomery bus boycott.

Former President Obama, who awarded Rustin the Congressional Medal of Freedom in 2013, gave some suggestions to Wolfe after seeing a cut of the film.

"Rustin," which will open in select theaters Nov. 3 and arrive on Netflix on Nov. 17, is Wolfe's second straight film for the streaming service, following the Oscar-nominated "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." The 2020 film featured Chadwick Boseman in one of his final performances. Wolfe acknowledges there would have been a part for Boseman in "Rustin."

"Without question," he says. "We had talked about working together. He sent me a script to look at, I sent him something I had written. So it's very much to me an incomplete conversation."

"Rustin" dramatizes the frenetic work ahead of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and Rustin's balancing of many competing factions, from the NAACP to labor unions and police forces. The supporting cast includes Chris Rock as NAACP director Roy Wilkins, Jeffrey Wright as Baptist pastor Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Audra McDonald as activist Ella Baker and Aml Ameen as King.

CHICAGO: The Chicago Symphony Orchestra says it agreed Sunday to a three-year contract with its musicians union on a deal to replace the agreement that expires Sunday.

The deal must be ratified by the CSO board of trustees and the orchestra members in the Chicago Federation of Musicians.

CSO musicians struck for two days in September 2012 and for seven weeks March and April of 2019 before agreeing to a contract calling for a 13.25% wage increase over five years.

The CSO said details of the deal will be released after ratification.

Music director emeritus for life **Riccardo Muti** leads the CSO season-opening concert on Sept 21 at Orchestra Hall and will take the orchestra to **New York** to open Carnegie Hall's season on Oct 4. (AP)

NEW YORK: "The Nun 2" and "A Haunting in Venice" virtually tied for the No. 1 spot in U.S. and Canadian theaters over the weekend, with a slight edge carrying the horror sequel over the **Hercule Poirot** mystery, according to studio estimates Sunday.

In its second weekend of release, Warner Bros' "The Nun 2," a spinoff from the studio's lucrative "Conjuring" franchise, grossed \$14.7 million. If numbers hold, that will give "The Nun 2" (up to \$56.5 million total and \$158.8 million worldwide) the top spot at the box office for the second straight week.

Very close behind was "A Haunting in Venice," **Kenneth Branagh's** third **Agatha Christie** adaptation following 2017's "Murder on the Orient Express" and 2022's "Death on the Nile." It opened with \$14.5 million.

After the successful run of "Murder on the Orient Express" (\$352.8 million worldwide against a production budget of \$55 million) and the less-stellar global haul of "Death on the Nile" (\$137.3 million against a \$90 million budget), the sluggish start for "A Haunting in Venice" may have signaled the death knell for Branagh's detective.

The 20th Century Studios film, released by the Walt Disney Co., grossed \$22.7 million internationally. And it cost less than its predecessor, carrying a production budget of about \$60 million.

"The Equalizer 3," starring **Denzel Washington**, dropped to third place with \$7.2 million. "The Equalizer 3" is a 2023

American vigilante action film directed by **Antoine Fuqua**. In three weeks, it grossed \$73.7 million domestically and \$132.4 million worldwide. Fourth place went to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3" with \$4.7 million in its second weekend of release. It's grossed \$18.5 million domestically.

It was one of the quietest week-



Gerwig



Branagh

end in movie theaters this year, as Hollywood - which has spent much of the last two weeks promoting its films at the Venice, Telluride and Toronto film festivals - treads water in between the summer smashes of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" and awaits its top fall movies. Some of those, like "Dune: Part Two," have already postponed until next year

due to the SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes.

One anticipated fall film, Sony's "Dumb Money," opted for a platform release, debuting in eight theaters over the weekend before expanding next weekend and going wide Sept 29. The film, a rollicking dramatization of the GameStop stock frenzy, grossed

\$217,000, for a per-location average of about \$27,000.

And "Barbie" also remains in the picture. For the ninth straight weekend, **Greta Gerwig's** box-office sensation ranked in the top five films. It added \$4 million to bring its domestic total to \$625 million and its global haul to \$1.42 billion. (AP)

People & Places

People

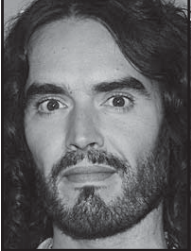
Barrymore halts show

Police urged to probe Brand's assault claims

LONDON, Sept 18, (AP): A senior British politician on Monday urged police to investigate sexual assault allegations against **Russell Brand**, as entertainment industry figures faced questions about whether the comedian's bad behavior went unchallenged because of his fame.

Brand denies allegations of sexual assault made by four women in a Channel 4 television documentary and The Times and Sunday Times newspapers. The accusers, who have not been named, include one who said she was sexually assaulted during a relationship with him when she was 16. Another woman says Brand raped her in Los Angeles in 2012.

Brand, 48, has rejected all the claims, saying in a video statement that his relationships were "always consensual."



Brand

The Times said Monday that more women had contacted the newspaper with allegations against Brand and they would be "rigorously checked."

Conservative legislator Caroline Nokes, who chairs the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, urged police in both Britain and the United States to investigate the "incredibly shocking" allegations. "This merits and needs a criminal investigation, because for too long we have seen men -- and the perpetrators of these sorts of crimes are almost invariably men -- not being held to account for their behaviors and their actions," she told BBC radio.

London's Metropolitan Police force said it would speak to the Sunday Times and Channel 4 to ensure "any victims of crime who they have spoken with are aware of how they may report any criminal allegations to police."

The claims have renewed debate about the "lad culture" that flourished in Britain in the 1990s and early 2000s, and the misogyny that still percolates on the internet.

The allegations reported by the newspapers and Channel 4 cover the period between 2006 and 2013, when Brand was a major star in Britain with a growing US profile.

Suspended

Known for his unbridled and risqué standup routines, he hosted shows on radio and television, wrote memoirs charting his battles with drugs and alcohol, appeared in several Hollywood movies and was briefly married to pop star Katy Perry between 2010 and 2012.

Brand was suspended by the BBC in 2008 for making lewd prank calls to "Fawlty Towers" actor Andrew Sachs in which he boasted about having sex with Sachs' granddaughter. He quit his radio show in the wake of the incident, which drew thousands of complaints to the publicly funded broadcaster.

The BBC, Channel 4 and the production company behind the "Big Brother" reality series - spinoffs of which were hosted by Brand -- all say they have launched investigations into Brand's behavior and how complaints were handled.

In recent years Brand has largely disappeared from mainstream media but has built up a large following online with videos mixing wellness and conspiracy theories. His YouTube channel, which has more than 6 million subscribers, includes COVID-19 conspiracies, vaccine misinformation and interviews with right-wing broadcasters including Tucker Carlson and Joe Rogan.

He also continues to tour as a comedian, performing to hundreds of people in a London venue on Saturday evening as the Channel 4 documentary was broadcast.



Drew Barrymore, who drew criticism for taping new episodes of her daytime talk show despite the ongoing writers and actors strikes, now says she'll wait until the labor issues are resolved. Hours later CBS' "The Talk" did the same.

"I have listened to everyone, and I am making the decision to pause the show's premiere until the strike is over," Barrymore posted on Instagram on Sunday. "I have no words to express my deepest apologies to anyone I have hurt and, of course, to our incredible team who works on the show and has made it what it is today."

Barrymore's initial decision to return to the air Monday - without her three union writers and with picketers outside her studio - was met with pushback on social media. Her show resumed taping in New York last week and was picketed by striking writers.

Decision

"We support Drew's decision to pause the show's return and understand how complex and difficult this process has been for her," said a CBS Media Ventures spokesperson

Other daytime shows have resumed. "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" is to restart Monday.

But "The Talk" scrapped its restart, planned for Monday. "We will continue to evaluate plans for a new launch date," CBC said in a statement Sunday.

Ariel Dumas, head writer and supervising producer for "The Late Show With **Stephen Colbert**" reacted on X, formerly Twitter: "This is really great," she wrote, saying "The Drew Barrymore Show" "decided to do the right thing. I hope @TheView and others will follow suit."

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.

Barrymore's stance prompted the National Book Awards to uninvite her as host in November. The organization rescinded her invitation "in light of the announcement that 'The Drew Barrymore Show' will resume production."

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.



This image released by NBC shows Jesse L. Martin as Alec Mercer in a scene from 'The Irrational.' (AP)

Television

Fall TV season: No 'Grey's' or 'Abbott'

New shows fill void amidst strike

LOS ANGELES, Sept 18, (AP): Sorry "Abbott Elementary" and "Grey's Anatomy" fans -- there won't be new episodes airing anytime soon.

Some viewers may be unaware, but striking screenwriters and actors have brought production to a screeching halt, including on many popular shows like "Law & Order" and "1923." So fans will have to wait to find out if Janine and Gregory can really be just friends on "Abbott" or if Kim Raver's Dr. Teddy Altman survives after collapsing on "Grey's." But there's plenty of new characters and familiar faces heading to screens via already-completed shows that are ready to air.

Some creative programming -- including shows imported from other countries, competition series and the broadcast arrival of the Paramount Network hit "Yellowstone" -- will round-out gaps in the TV schedule.

Here's a sampling of notable shows debuting in the strike-challenged season ahead:

Books remain popular inspiration for Hollywood. "The Other Black Girl," based on the novel by Zakiya Dalila Harris, follows Nella, (Sinclair Daniel), a Black editorial assistant in publishing who is thrilled by her company's new hire of another Black woman, Hazel (played by Ashleigh Murray). Nella's hope for an ally and confidante is repeatedly squashed, leaving her to wonder if the two are in competition. "The Other Black Girl" is a genre-blending mix of social satire, commentary and creepiness streaming now on Hulu.

Jesse L. Martin returns to NBC in "The Irrational," playing a behavioral science expert with a keen understanding of what makes people tick. This skill makes him an in-demand problem solver and translator-of-sorts for government agencies and big corporations. The show is based on Dan Ariely's book, "Predictably Irrational" and premieres Sept. 25. Episodes will also stream on Peacock.

In "Wilderness," Jenna Coleman ("Doctor Who" and "Victoria") and Oliver Jackson-Cohen ("Mr. Malcolm's List", "Surface") are Liv and Will, a young couple whose marriage

is on the rocks. They plan a vacation to set things right but what Will doesn't know is that Liv has cooked up an itinerary he wasn't prepared for. The thriller is adapted from a book of the same name by B.E. Jones, with Ashley Benson and Eric Balfour also starring. "Wilderness" debuts Friday on Prime Video.

Brie Larson brings the Bonnie Gar-mus novel "Lessons in Chemistry" to life for Apple TV+. It's about Elizabeth, a female scientist in the 1960s who works in a chemical lab, is smarter than most but is only permitted to do menial work by sexist colleagues. A romance with a fellow chemist named Calvin (Lewis Pullman), who sees Elizabeth as an equal, sets in motion her winding, fascinating and empowering road to a fulfilling life and career. The show debuts Oct. 13.

Characters

The heartbreaking-yet-hopeful WWII novel "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr has been turned into a four-episode series directed by Shawn Levy for Netflix. It follows the story of Marie (played by newcomer Aria Mia Loberti) as a blind, young woman in hiding in German-occupied France and a Nazi soldier named Werner (Louis Hoffman). He's an orphan who was drafted against his will and the show explores how their lives intersect. The limited series also stars Mark Ruffalo and Hugh Laurie and debuts Nov. 2.

Hollywood loves a safe bet and a number of new shows debuting this fall feature some not-so-new characters or tie-ins to films and other series that have proved popular.

"The Walking Dead" served as a mainstream introduction to several talented actors: Danai Gurira, Steven Yeun, Lauren Cohan, Jon Bernthal and yes, Norman Reedus. Reedus' character Daryl Dixon also emerged as a heartthrob. He now fronts his own spinoff called "The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon," taking place in France after the events of the original show. Daryl may be in a new country but walkers are still out there, and they've evolved. The show airs Sundays on

AMC and streams on AMC+.

The massively popular "John Wick" movie franchise starring Keanu Reeves is getting a three-night prequel event series called "The Continental: From the World of John Wick" on Peacock. It stars Mel Gibson and Colin Woodell as a younger version of Ian McShane's character from the movies. "The Continental" debuts Sept. 22.

Young adult superheroes need education too, and that's the backdrop of the new Prime Video series "Gen V," a spin-off of "The Boys." Superheroes-in-training are enrolled at Godolkin University School of Crimefighting, where they fraternize in between high-stakes competitions of strength and ability. Like "The Boys," the show takes an irreverent approach to its supes. The first three episodes drop Sept. 29.

Kelsey Grammer is back as his most well-known character, Dr. Frasier Crane, in a sequel for Paramount+. In this "Frasier," the character returns to Boston to embark on a new phase of his life. The 10-episode comedy debuts Oct. 12 and the first two episodes will air later that month on CBS.

An eight-episode anime series inspired by the 2010 movie "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" is coming to Netflix on Nov. 17. "Scott Pilgrim Takes Off" will feature the voices of the film cast including Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Kieran Culkin, Brie Larson and Anna Kendrick.

There are also programs coming to TV this fall that are obvious time-fillers to help round out primetime schedules. CBS made some interesting decisions to complete their puzzle.

Kevin Costner's "Yellowstone," which airs on Paramount Network, is now getting a broadcast run on CBS beginning Sunday.

Longtime reality competition staples "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race" return to CBS on Sept. 27 but with longer, 90-minute episodes, filling up a night's three-hour prime-time block.

"NCIS: Sydney" will begin airing on CBS Nov. 13. It's the first international edition of the franchise that originated in the United States.



Sylvester Stallone arrives at the premiere of 'Sly,' at Roy Thomson Hall during the Toronto International Film Festival, Saturday, Sept. 16, in Toronto. (AP)



Sean



Oher

Variety

MEMPHIS, Tenn: A Memphis couple who took in former NFL offensive lineman **Michael Oher** when he was in high school denied in court documents filed Thursday that they used a legal agreement between them to get rich at his expense and lied about intending to adopt him.

Lawyers for **Sean** and **Leigh Anne Tuohy** filed a response to Oher's Aug 14 request for a judge to end a conservatorship signed in 2004 when Oher was an 18-year-old high school football player in Memphis and a prized college recruit. Oher had a troubled childhood and moved in with the Tuohy family, in a story that was the subject of the film "The Blind Side," which earned **Sandra Bullock** an Oscar for her portrayal of Leigh Anne Tuohy.

Oher, 37, filed his petition in probate court accusing the Tuohys of lying to him by having him sign papers making them his conservators rather than his adoptive parents nearly two decades ago. Oher wants the conservatorship to be terminated, a full accounting of the money earned off his name and story to be done and to be paid what he is due, with interest.

He accused the couple of falsely representing themselves as his adoptive parents, saying he discovered in February the conservatorship agreed to in 2004 was not the arrangement he thought it was - and that it provided him no familial relationship to them. He claims the Tuohys have kept him in the dark about financial dealings related to his name, image and likeness during the 19-year life of the agreement.

The Tuohys have called the claims they enriched themselves at his expense outlandish, hurtful and absurd and part of a "shakedown" by Oher. Lawyers representing the couple also said the Tuohys would enter into a consent order to end the conservatorship.

In Tennessee, a conservatorship removes power from a person to make decisions for themselves, and it is often used in the case of a medical condition or disability.

But Oher's conservatorship was approved "despite the fact that he was over 18 years old and had no diagnosed physical or psychological disabilities," his petition said.

In their response, the affluent couple repeated their willingness to end the conservatorship. They said they loved Oher like a son and provided him with food, shelter, clothing and cars while he lived with them, but denied saying they intended to legally adopt him.

The Tuohys' filing said Oher referred to them as "mom" and "dad," and they occasionally referred to Oher as a son. (AP)



NASHVILLE, Tenn: Newly released

investigative files in the police shooting death of a grammy-winning sound engineer reveal there was an armed Tennessee Bureau of Investigation officer in the home when **Mark Capps** began threatening his family with guns Jan 5.



Lil Baby performs at Music Midtown, Sunday, Sept. 17, at Piedmont Park in Atlanta. (AP)

The officer, **Zachery Silva**, was the boyfriend of Mark Capps' stepdaughter, **McKenzie Acuff**, according to the records. Silva told investigators he attempted to de-escalate the situation, eventually leaving the house around 5:30 am after Mark Capps put down the weapons and returned to his bedroom. When Mark Capps, 54, fell asleep several hours later, and Acuff and her mother **Tara Capps**, Mark Capps' wife, were able to leave the house and file a police report. Police later shot and killed Mark Capps when he pointed a gun at an officer after they tried to arrest him at his home.

Mark Capps, who had won four grammys for his work on polka albums more than a decade earlier, was depressed and suicidal and had reached out to several people in the days and hours before taking his family hostage, according to the report. The depression had been going on for months but got worse after his brother died Jan. 3. He had refused to give his brother, **Jeff Capps**, money and the two had been fighting. In a video call with Jeff Capps three weeks earlier, Mark Capps had put a gun to his own head. That same day Mark Capps sent a photo of him pointing a gun to his head to friend Juanita Copeland.

At least three other people knew Mark Capps was suicidal. Jeff Capps had told his former roommate, **Tracey West**, about the video. (AP)

Environment

‘Revise park design’

Protesters ‘rally’ to save 1000s of trees

TOKYO, Sept 18, (AP): Protesters in Tokyo formed a human chain Sunday to demand the government save thousands of trees by revising its plan to redevelop a popular downtown park.

Demonstrators, many wearing green shirts and holding up signs saying, “Save Jingu Gaien,” demanded the Education Ministry take action even though the landowner is one of its agencies.

Tokyo Gov. **Yuriko Koike** approved the plan in February, a move that would allow developers - real estate company Mitsui Fudosan, Meiji Jingu shrine, Itochu Corp. and the ministry-affiliate Japan Sports Council - to build a pair of 200-meter (650-foot) skyscrapers and an 80-meter (260-foot) tower.

That would require cutting down nearly 3,000 trees at Jingu Gaien, one of Tokyo’s most historic and beloved green areas. The plan would also raze and rebuild a historic baseball stadium where Babe Ruth played and change a rugby field to one with artificial grass.

Also at stake are the well-known 150 ginkgo trees lining a century-old promenade built to commemorate Emperor Meiji, the great-grandfather of Emperor Naruhito. Critics and environmental activists say the ginkgo trees will be under threat from any construction right next to them.

“I just had to come and do something to stop tree-cutting that could start this month,” said Nahoko Shirakawa, holding a handmade sign. “I cannot just sit around and see the demise of 100-year-old ginkgo trees.”

Rochelle Kopp, a movement leader who operates a Tokyo management consulting company, said the ministry should protect the Gaien as a natural cultural heritage site. She said the ministry also should designate the area as a scenic site as a way of protecting it.

Sunday’s protest came after a United Nations-affiliated conservancy issued a “heritage alert” for Tokyo’s Gaien area. A senior member of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, or ICOMOS, said Friday that the plan goes against a global fight against climate change and raised questions of transparency around the decision-making process.

Heritage

“ICOMOS regards this as an irreversible destruction of cultural heritage,” Elizabeth Brabec, head of the organization’s International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscape, told a news conference.

“Beyond that,” she added, the plan is “an unacceptable loss of open space and mature heritage trees at a time when the world responds to climate change (and) recognizes the critical importance of maintaining urban open spaces and all parts of the urban forest.”

Brabec noted that some of the trees are 50-100 years old. She said the heritage they represent can never be replaced with the planting of new trees. “It is virtually unheard-of for a major city such as Tokyo to take some of its urban parkland, which is in very short supply, and convert it to development.”

Work to cut down the trees could begin later this month. Koike told reporters Friday that her government has urged the developers to revise the plan before they start cutting down the trees. She said the revision they promised in January has not been submitted.

ICOMOS is asking Koike’s Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the developers to respond to its alert by Oct. 10.

Developers have argued that the Jingu baseball stadium and rugby venue cannot be renovated and must be razed. The organization also urges Meiji Jingu to withdraw from the redevelopment project, saying the Jingu Gaien was created by citizens who volunteered to provide labor to make the park.

The protests led by civil groups have drawn mounting support not only from area residents but also from prominent people, including Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami and dozens of academics, writers and architects.

“I just cannot tolerate the loss of the wonderfully designed baseball stadium,” said a nursery teacher Ayako Kato, a fan of the Yakult Swallows, whose home turf is Jingu Stadium. “We need to save not only the stadium (but also) our culture that comes with watching the baseball here.”

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From Europe to Africa to southeast Asia, tens of thousands of climate activists launched protests Friday to call for an end to the burning of planet-warming fossil fuels as the globe suffers dramatic weather extremes and record-breaking heat, with plans to continue through the weekend.

The protests - driven by several mostly youth-led, local and global climate groups and organizations, including **Greta Thunberg**’s Fridays for Future movement - were taking place in dozens of countries and hundreds of cities worldwide.

Several thousand people marched in Vienna, holding up signs demanding higher taxes for carbon emissions and an end to meat consumption. Members of the student climate awareness group Last Generation sat down in front of parliament, and speakers called on government to quit oil and gas and pass laws to save the climate.

“We need national climate protection laws because Austria has a great responsibility, we have a historical responsibility for our emissions,” Global 2000 campaigner **Anna Leitner** said. “And at the same time Austria and Europe are the seat of international companies which don’t care about laws elsewhere in the world and pollute the environment and climate. That’s exactly why we need a supply chain law and we demand climate protection on all levels.”

Regulate

“It’s one year since Russia started the war against Ukraine,” World Wildlife Fund spokesman **Thomas Zehetner** said. “It’s still legal in Austria to install gas heating. ... We demand that a law needs to be passed as quickly as possible which regulates the exit from oil and gas.”

Some 250 protests were held in Germany, including thousands of people who gathered at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and marched in a long procession through the city’s government district. One person carried a sign that read “March now or swim later.” Another sign read: “There is no planet B.”

In Quezon City in the Philippines, activists lay in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and held signs demanding fossil fuels - from coal to natural gas - be phased out. Outside the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources office in Jakarta, Indonesia, protesters held signs calling for end to dirty fuels and greenwashing as police officers looked on.

In Jammu, India, protesters played dead in a protest against deforestation.

In Sweden, climate activists gathered in front of Parliament next to the Royal Palace where Sweden’s King **Carl XVI Gustaf** was celebrating his 50th anniversary on the throne. Their chants about “climate justice” could be heard in the palace courtyard as the king watched the changing of the guard during the golden jubilee celebrations.

And in Congo, dozens joined a protest march through the city of Goma, shouting slogans and waving banners and placards calling for an end to corporate control of fossil fuels. The Congolese government caused an uproar among environmentalists last year by putting 30 oil and gas blocks up for auction, including 13 blocks crisscrossing through protected areas and national parks.

The Congo Basin forest absorbs 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide - about 4% of global emissions - some of which would be released into the atmosphere if the areas are cleared for oil and gas drilling.



People gather outside of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on Sunday, Sept. 17, demanding it scrap a controversial redevelopment of Tokyo’s beloved Jingu Gaien park area, part of whose land is owned by an independent sports promotion unit overseen by the ministry, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP)



A wildfire is seen on the side of the road from a fire truck on Fire Stewart Rd on Aug. 26, 2023 at the Lions Camp fire a few miles north of Leesville, La. Louisiana has had an unprecedented wildfire season, exacerbated by extreme heat and dry conditions. In August alone, there were more than 550 fires across the state, and officials say the season is far from over. (AP)



Discovery

Quake rattles part of Italy: A 4.8-magnitude earthquake rattled parts of Tuscany early Monday, geologists and firefighters said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The quake’s epicenter was near Marradi, northeast of Florence, and it struck at 5:10 a.m., after some smaller tremors, according to Italy’s institute of geophysics and vulcanology.

The agency noted that the area is considered at high risk for quakes, citing in particular one in 1919 that struck Mugello, which was one of the strongest to strike Italy in the 20th century. Italy’s fire rescue team said they received some calls from worried residents but that to date there were no damages or injuries reported. (AP)

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Activists spray Gate: German climate activists sprayed orange paint onto Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate on Sunday morning to urge the German government to take more urgent action against climate change.

Members of the group the Last Generation used fire extinguishers filled with paint to spray all six columns of the popular landmark in Germany’s capital. The group’s priorities include getting Germany to stop using all fossil fuels by 2030 and take short-term measures, including imposing a general speed limit of 100 kilometers per hour (62 mph) on highways, to cut emissions more quickly.

“The protest makes it clear: It is time for a political change,” the group said in a statement. “Away from fossil fuels - towards fairness.”

Police cordoned off the area surrounding Brandenburg Gate and confirmed that they detained 14 activists affiliated with the Last Generation.

The group best known for its protests in which activists glue themselves to roads and block traffic plays a provocative and polarizing role in German politics and society.

Berlin Mayor **Kai Wegner** condemned the group’s actions, saying their tactics go beyond legitimate forms of protest. (AP)

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Nobel raises awards amount: The Nobel Foundation said that it will raise the award amount for this year’s Nobel Prizes by 1 million kronor (\$90,000) to 11 million kronor (\$986,270) as the Swedish currency has plummeted recently.

“The Foundation has chosen to increase the prize amount because it is financially viable to do so,” it said in a brief statement.

The rapid depreciation of the Swedish

The Conversation

Genes affect response to medications

Can DNA tests predict drug action?

By Kayla B. Rowe, Lucas Berenbrok and Philip Empey
University of Pittsburgh

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

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Have you ever wondered why certain medications don’t seem to work as well for you as they do for others? This variability in drug response is what pharmacogenomic testing hopes to explain by looking at the genes within your DNA.

Pharmacogenomics, or PGx, is the study of how genes affect your response to medications. Genes are segments of DNA that serve as an instruction manual for cells to make proteins. Some of these proteins break down or transport certain medications through the body. Others are proteins that medications target to generate a desired effect.

As pharmacists who see patients who have stopped multiple medications because of side effects or ineffectiveness, we believe pharmacogenomic testing has the potential to help guide health care professionals to more precise dosing and prescribing.

PGx tests look for variations within the genes of your DNA to predict drug response. For instance, the presence of one genetic variant might predict that the specific protein it codes for is unable to break down a particular medication. This could potentially lead to increased drug levels in your body and an increased risk of side effects. The presence of another genetic variant might predict the opposite: It might predict that the protein it codes for is breaking down a medication more rapidly than expected, which may decrease the drug’s effectiveness.

For example, citalopram is an antidepressant broken down by a protein called CYP2C19. Patients with genetic variants that code for a version of this protein with a reduced ability to break down the drug may have an increased risk of side effects.

Currently, there are over 80 medications with prescribing recommendations based on PGx results, including treatments for depression, cancer and heart disease. There are commercially available PGx tests that patients can have sent directly to their doorstep

with or without the involvement of a health care professional. These direct-to-consumer PGx tests collect DNA from either a saliva sample or cheek swab that is then sent to the laboratory. Results can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks depending on the company.

Some companies require a consultation with a health care provider, often a pharmacist or genetic counselor, who can facilitate a test order and discuss any medication changes once the results come back.

PGx testing will not be able to predict how you will respond to all medications for several reasons.

First, most PGx tests do not look for every possible variant of every gene in the human genome. Instead, they look only at a limited number of genes and variants strongly linked to specific drugs. PGx tests can predict how you will respond only to medications associated with the genes it tests for.

Limited

Some drugs are broken down in very complicated pathways entailing multiple proteins and byproducts, and the usefulness of PGx testing for them remains unclear. For example, the antidepressant bupropion has three major pathways involved in its breakdown and forms three active byproducts that can interact with other drugs or body processes. This makes predicting how you will respond to the drug much more challenging because there is more than one variable involved. In many cases, there also isn’t conclusive data to confidently predict the general function of a protein and how it would affect your response to a drug.

The applicability of PGx test results is additionally limited by a lack of diversity of study participants. Typically, populations of European ancestry are overrepresented in clinical trials. An ongoing research initiative by the National Institutes of Health called the All of Us Research Program aims to address this issue by collecting genetic samples from people of diverse backgrounds.

Another limitation of direct-to-consumer PGx tests is that they can pre-

dict drug response based only on your genetics. Lifestyle and environmental factors such as your age, liver or kidney function, tobacco use, drug interactions and other diseases can heavily influence how you may respond to medication. For example, leafy greens with high amounts of vitamin K can lower the effectiveness of the blood thinner warfarin. But PGx tests don’t take these factors into account.

Finally, your PGx results may predict that you may respond to medications differently, but this does not guarantee that the medication won’t have its intended effect. In other words, PGx testing is predictive rather than deterministic.

PGx testing carries the risk of not telling the whole story of drug response. If variations within the gene are not found, the testing company often assumes the proteins those genes code for function normally. Because of this assumption, someone carrying a rare or unknown variant may receive inaccurate results.

It may be tempting for some people to see their results and want to change their dose or discontinue their medications. However, this can be dangerous. Abruptly stopping some medications may cause withdrawal effects. Never change the way you take your medications without consulting your pharmacist and physician first.

Sharing your PGx test results with all the clinicians involved in your care can help prevent medication failure and improve safety. Pharmacists are increasingly trained in pharmacogenomics and can serve as a resource to address medication-related questions or concerns.

PGx tests that are not authorized by the Food and Drug Administration cannot be clinically interpreted and therefore cannot be used to inform prescribing. Results from these tests should not be added to your medical record.

Direct-to-consumer PGx testing can empower patients to advocate for themselves and be an active participant in their health care by increasing access to and knowledge of their genetic information. (AP)



Visitors look at the skeleton of a Camptosaurus sp., of the Late Jurassic time, displayed at the Philippe Vallois gallery in Paris, Monday, Sept. 18. The Camptosaurus sp., discovered around 2000 in northeastern Wyoming (Crook County) on private property, goes under the hammer in Paris at Drouot Auction house on Sept. 20. (AP)

been adjusted several times, it said. In 2012, it was reduced from 10 million kronor to 8 million kronor as a broad-based program to strengthen the Nobel Foundation’s finances was initiated. In 2017, the prize amount was increased from 8 million kronor to 9 million kronor. In 2020, it was raised to 10 million kronor. (AP)

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B’desh struggles with dengue: Bangladesh is struggling with a record outbreak of dengue fever, with experts saying a lack of a coordinated response is causing more deaths from the mosquito-transmitted disease.

The World Health Organization under its director **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** recently warned that diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever caused by mosquito-borne viruses are spreading faster and further because of climate change.

So far this year, 778 people in Bangladesh have died and 157,172 have been infected, according to the government’s Directorate General Health Services. The UN children’s agency says the actual numbers are higher because many cases are not reported.

The previous highest number of deaths was in 2022, when 281 people are reported to have died during the entire year.

Dengue is common in tropical areas and causes high fevers, headaches, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain and, in the most serious cases, internal bleeding that leads to death. (AP)

Marlins rout Braves

Orioles, Rays clinch postseason spots

BALTIMORE, Sept 18, (AP): Cedric Mullins hit a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 11th inning, and the Baltimore Orioles edged the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 on Sunday after both teams clinched spots in the postseason.

The winner of this game would have wrapped up a playoff spot regardless, but when Texas lost 9-2 to Cleveland, both the Rays and Orioles were in. Moments later, Adam Frazier doubled home the tying run in the bottom of the ninth off Pete Fairbanks to send the game to extra innings.

DL Hall (2-0) threw a scoreless 11th, retiring the Rays on a popup and two grounders.

Mullins flyball to center off Jake Diekmann (0-2) was easily deep enough to end it, touching off an on-field celebration in which the players wore orange shirts saying "TAKE OCTOBER" on them.

Marlins 16, Braves 2

In Miami, Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a grand slam for the second consecutive game and Miami routed Atlanta to complete a three-game sweep of the NL East champions.

Jorge Soler, Jake Burger and Nick Fortes also went deep, and Luis Arraez had three hits for the Marlins, who began the day a half-game out of the third NL wild-card spot. It was Miami's first three-game sweep over Atlanta since 2015.

Dodgers 6, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Jason Heyward, Austin Barnes and James Outman homered to lead Los Angeles to a three-game sweep one day after clinching the NL West title.

Heyward also had a double, single and two RBIs, and Amed Rosario was a homer shy of the cycle.

J.P. Crawford had two hits and drove in the only run for the Mariners, who have lost seven of nine in the midst of a playoff race.

Nationals 2, Brewers 1, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Joey Meneses hit a sacrifice fly in the 11th inning and Washington defeated NL Central-leading Milwaukee to prevent a three-game sweep.

Luis García homered early for the Nationals, who are last in the NL East.

With right-hander Thyago Vieira (0-1) on for his second inning of relief in the 11th, automatic runner CJ Abrams advanced to third base on Lane Thomas' flyout and scored on Meneses' third sacrifice fly of the season.



Los Angeles Dodgers' James Outman hits a solo home run off Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Dominic Leone during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Seattle. (AP)

Astros 7, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Yordan Alvarez and Jake Meyers homered and Framber Valdez pitched seven strong innings as Houston beat Kansas City.

The Astros salvaged the final game of the series, expanding their American League West lead to 1 1/2 games.

Valdez (12-10) pitched around three Astros errors for his fifth consecutive quality start, allowing one unearned run on five hits and a walk, striking out five.

Blue Jays 3, Red Sox 2

In Toronto, Matt Chapman hit a game-ending double off the center-field wall in the ninth inning, lifting Toronto over Boston for a three-game sweep.

The sweep of Boston put the Blue Jays back in the postseason picture after they were swept by Texas in a four-game series last week.

With All-Star closer Jordan Romano unavailable after pitching the previous two days, Erik Swanson (4-2) blew a save for the second time in six chances.

Cavan Biggio singled with one against Garrett Whitlock (5-5), and Chapman followed with his second double of the game. Chapman's 37 doubles are tied for third-most in the AL.

Guardians 9, Rangers 2

In Cleveland, José Ramírez homered on his 31st birthday to touch off Cleveland's nine-run outburst in the fourth inning, leading the Guardians to a three-game sweep of playoff-chasing Texas.

With the loss by Texas, Baltimore and

Tampa Bay clinched playoff berths.

Ramírez connected off rookie Cody Bradford (4-2) leading off the fourth and the Guardians kept swinging away. They scored a season-high nine runs on a season-best nine hits - the homer, two doubles and six singles.

Cardinals 6, Phillies 5

In St. Louis, Jordan Walker hit a tie-breaking homer in the eighth inning and Paul Goldschmidt drove in three runs to lead St. Louis over Philadelphia.

St. Louis avoided a season sweep after losing its first five meetings with the Phillies this year.

Alec Bohm homered for Philadelphia, which leads the NL wild-card race.

Walker homered off Seranthony Domínguez (4-5) with two outs to snap a 5-all tie.

Twins 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Sonny Gray closed on Gerrit Cole for the AL ERA lead, Edouard Julien and Jorge Polanco homered and AL Central-leading Minnesota earned its 11th shutout this season.

Gray (8-7) lowered his ERA from 2.96 to 2.84, just behind Cole, who leads the AL at 2.81 for the New York Yankees. Gray gave up five hits in seven innings, struck out six and walked none, ending a three-start winless streak.

Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 2

In Phoenix, Ketel Marte homered and Arizona got a great performance from its bullpen as the Diamondbacks defeated Chicago to pass them for the second Na-

tional League wild-card spot.

The latest victory moved Arizona a half-game ahead of Chicago for the second NL wild card, while the Cubs fell into a tie with Miami for the league's final playoff spot.

Mets 8, Reds 4

In New York, Pinch-hitter Daniel Vogelbach had a three-run double in the seventh inning, and New York hurt Cincinnati's wild card chances.

A trio of rookies - third baseman Noelvi Marte, first baseman Christian Encarnacion-Strand and relief pitcher Carson Spiers - made errors for the Reds, who had four errors in their previous eight games combined.

Pirates 3, Yankees 2

In Pittsburgh, Jason Delay hit a tie-breaking double in the seventh inning that benefited from a fortunate bounce off third

BASEBALL

base, and Pittsburgh edged New York to avoid a three-game sweep. Delay turned on a curveball from Carlos Rodón (3-6) and hit a bouncer that nicked the outside of the bag and rolled away from New York third baseman Oswald Peraza and into foul territory in left field, allowing Jared Triolo to score from second.

Giants 11, Rockies 10

In Denver, Thairo Estrada and Joc Pederson had two hits each in a 10-hit sixth inning as San Francisco opened a nine-run lead, and the Giants hung on to beat Colorado and stop a three-game skid that hurt their wild card chances.

San Francisco led 9-0 in the sixth inning before Colorado closed. The Giants stopped their longest road losing streak since 1996 at nine games.

Rockies starter Chris Flexen (1-8) gave up four runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings. Colorado had won a season-high five straight games but stopped to 12-33 against the NL West, their worst winning percentage against the division.

Padres 10, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Juan Soto homered twice, including his first career grand slam, and San Diego won its fourth straight game for the first time this season.

The Padres had been the only team in baseball this season to not have a win streak of more than three games. Their success resulted in another dubious mark for the A's, whose 103 losses this season are the most in franchise history since

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 18, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Sunday.

Pittsburgh	3	NY Yankees	2
Cleveland	9	Texas	2
Toronto	3	Boston	2
Houston	7	Kansas City	1
Baltimore	5	Tampa Bay 11 inn	4
Minnesota	4	Chicago W. Sox	0
Detroit	5	LA Angels	3
LA Dodgers	6	Seattle	1
San Diego	10	Oakland	1
NY Mets	8	Cincinnati	4
Miami	16	Atlanta	2
St. Louis	6	Philadelphia	5
Washington	2	Milwaukee 11 inn	1
San Francisco	11	Colorado	10
Arizona	6	Chicago Cubs	2

American League

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
z-Baltimore	93	56	.624	—
z-Tampa Bay	92	59	.609	2
Toronto	83	67	.553	10-1/2
New York	76	74	.507	17-1/2
Boston	74	76	.493	19-1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	79	71	.527	—
Cleveland	72	78	.480	7
Detroit	70	79	.470	8-1/2
Chicago	57	93	.380	22
Kansas City	48	102	.320	31

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	84	66	.560	—
Texas	82	67	.550	1-1/2
Seattle	81	68	.544	2-1/2
Los Angeles	68	82	.453	16
Oakland	46	103	.309	37-1/2

National League

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Atlanta	96	53	.644	—
Philadelphia	81	68	.544	15
Miami	78	72	.520	18-1/2
New York	69	80	.463	27
Washington	66	84	.440	30-1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	84	65	.564	—
Chicago	78	72	.520	6-1/2
Cincinnati	78	73	.517	7
Pittsburgh	70	80	.467	14-1/2
St. Louis	66	83	.443	18

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Los Angeles	91	57	.615	—
Arizona	79	72	.523	13-1/2
San Francisco	76	74	.507	16
San Diego	72	78	.480	20
Colorado	56	93	.376	35-1/2

1979.

Tigers 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Los Angeles was assured its eighth consecutive losing season, falling to Detroit as the Tigers completed a three-game sweep behind two home runs from Jake Rogers in the first three innings.

Stricker claims 6th

Theegala gets 1st ‘win’ on PGA Tour



Ryan Fox of New Zealand celebrates his putt on the 18th green during day four of the 2023 PGA Championship at Wentworth Golf Club in Virginia Water, Surrey, England. (AP)

NAPA, Calif., Sept 18, (AP): Sahith Theegala finally captured his first PGA Tour title on Sunday, building a big lead early and closing with a 4-under 68 in the Fortinet Championship to win by two shots over S.H. Kim.

With nearly three dozen family members and friends from Southern California cheering him on, Theegala started at Silverado with a two-shot lead and birdied three of the opening five holes. No one got close to him the rest of the way.

Justin Thomas, playing for the first time in six weeks, birdied the last hole for a 72 and finished alone in fifth. This was his only tuneup ahead of the Ryder Cup that starts Sept. 29 in Rome. Two-time defending champion Max Homa shot 69 and tied for seventh.

Theegala made a bogey on the final hole of the BMW Championship that kept him out of the Tour Championship, ending his season on a sour note. Even though he already is set for all the \$20 million signature events next year, he wanted to play at Silverado because he loves the tournament and competition.

It paid off in a big way. The victory gets him into the Sentry Tournament of Champions and assures his spot in the Masters.

Ryan Fox overcame a three-shot deficit and a triple bogey early in the final round Sunday with six birdies on the back nine - the last one from 6 feet on the 18th hole - for a 5-under 67 and a one-shot victory over Aaron Rai and Tyrrell Hatton in the BMW PGA Championship.

Ludvig Aberg, the Swedish rookie, never recovered from an atrocious start of his own. He took two double bogeys on the front nine with poor chips and missed putts. He missed five putts from inside 6 feet. He closed with a 76 and tied for 10th.

That turned the back nine at Wentworth into a free-for-all among four players chasing the flagship event on the European tour in the rain and a one-hour delay from lightning in the area.

Hatton opened with five birdies in seven holes and had the lead until he drove out-of-bounds on the 15th and did well to make bogey. A birdie on the 18th gave him a 66 and a momentary tie for the lead. Rai two-putted for birdie on the 18th for a 68 and joined Hatton.

That set the stage for Fox, who chose to lay up on the 18th and hit wedge to 6 feet.

GOLF

Europe had five Ryder Cup players finish in the top seven in their final start before going to Marco Simone to face the Americans.

Steve Stricker holed a 20-foot eagle putt to catch K.J. Choi and then picked up a pair of late birdies that sent him to a 4-under 66 to win the Sanford International for his sixth victory this year on the PGA Tour Champions.

Stricker earned \$300,000, leaving him just short of \$4 million for the year and setting a record for most money in a single season on the 50-and-older circuit.

He has not finished worse than eighth all year, and three of those six wins have come in majors on the senior circuit. He won the Sanford International for the third time.

Stricker started the final round with a one-shot lead but found himself trying to catch Choi, who got off to a fast start and closed with a 65. Stricker made eagle on No. 12 and then had birdies on the 15th and 16th to surge ahead toward the win.

Grayson Murray birdied four of his last five holes Sunday to close with a 6-under 66 and win the Simmons Bank Open, securing his return to the PGA Tour next year.

Murray was locked in a tight battle on the back nine at The Grove when he pulled away for what turned out to be a three-shot victory. He rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt on the long par-4 17th hole to take a two-shot lead over Jamie Love-mark, and then birdied the par-5 18th.

Lovemark missed the 17th green from the fairway and failed to save par, falling three shots behind and all but clinching the victory for Murray. Lovemark closed with a 70 and tied for second with Mason Anderson (66) and Carter Jenkins (70).

Murray won for the second time this year on the Korn Ferry Tour. He moved to No. 6 in the standings, and the top 30 earn PGA Tour cards for 2024. Murray won the opposite-field Barbasol Championship in 2017 for his lone PGA Tour victory.

Cydney Clanton birdied three of her last four holes and shot a 4-under 68 for a two-shot victory in the Guardian Championship on the Epson Tour. ... Hideto Tanihara overcame a three-shot deficit by closing with a 5-under 67 for a one-shot victory in the ANA Open. Tanihara won for the 19th time on the Japan Golf Tour. Young-han Song (67) and Koshiro Maeda (66) were one shot back.

Marco Penge won his first Challenge Tour event when he shot a 2-under 70 for a four-shot victory over Lorenzo Scalise and Julian Suri in the Portugal Open.

Lukaku & Dybala play together for first time, help Roma crush Empoli

Frosinone record best-ever start to Serie A season

MILAN, Sept 18, (AP): Romelu Lukaku and Paulo Dybala looked a powerful partnership in their first match together as they helped Roma crush newly promoted Empoli 7-0 in Serie A.

Dybala netted twice and Lukaku scored his first goal in his second match since joining from Chelsea. Renato Sanches, Bryan Cristante and Gianluca Mancini and an own-goal from Alberto Grassi secured Roma's first win of the season in style.

Dybala had missed Roma's last match against Milan - which was Lukaku's debut - through injury.

Empoli has now lost all four of its opening matches without scoring a

SOCCER

goal.

Jose Mourinho's Roma got off to the best possible start when it was awarded a penalty almost immediately following a blatant handball by Empoli defender Sebastian Walukiewicz. Dybala struck it powerfully into the top left corner to give his side the lead with less than two minutes on the clock.

Renato Sanches headed in a cross from fellow new signing Rasmus Kristensen six minutes later for his first goal for Roma and the home side extended its lead further when Grassi deflected in Cristante's strike following good work from Lukaku.

Dybala doubled his tally 10 minutes after the break and he also struck the crossbar moments later.

Cristante ensured he got on the scoresheet in the 80th after an assist from Andrea Belotti, who also set up Lukaku with a delightful through ball two minutes later.

Mancini then headed home from close range after Cristante flicked on a corner.

Giacomo Bonaventura scored a stunning goal against his hometown club to help Fiorentina beat Atalanta 3-2.

Fiorentina was trailing to Teun Koopmeiners' strike when Nicolás González nodded down a long ball into the box and Bonaventura controlled it with his boot before turning and volleying into the far side of the net in one marvelous move.

Bonaventura, who progressed



Sahith Theegala kisses his trophy on the 18th green of the Silverado Resort North Course after winning the Fortinet Championship PGA golf tournament in Napa, Calif. (AP)

through the ranks at Atalanta before leaving in 2014 for AC Milan, celebrated wildly.

And Fiorentina turned the match around completely on the stroke of halftime when Lucas Martínez Quarta headed in Alfred Duncan's cross.

Ademola Lookman equalized eight minutes after the break with a fine strike but substitute Christian Kouamé scored what was to prove the winner in the 76th following some poor defending by Atalanta.

Frosinone fought back from two goals down to beat Sassuolo 4-2 and record its best-ever start to a Serie A season.

Former Frosinone forward Andrea Pinamonti's brace had put the visitors 2-0 up in the 24th minute but Walid Cheddira won and converted a penalty in first-half stoppages to get his side back into the match.

Luca Mazzitelli netted twice in six minutes in the second half and Pol

Lirola sealed the match against his old club.

Frosinone, which also hit the

woodwork twice, has seven points from its opening four matches.

Lecce has a point more after



Empoli's Nicolò Cambiaghi, (left), challenges for the ball with Roma's Gianluca Mancini during a Serie A soccer match between Roma and Empoli, at Rome's Olympic stadium. (AP)

Group 2 considered most challenging and competitive

Al-Qadsia geared up for the upcoming Asian Handball Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Sheikh Fahd Talal Al-Fahd, Vice Chairman of the Al-Qadsia Club Board of Directors, has affirmed that the handball team will be fully prepared before the commencement of the 26th edition of the Asian Clubs Championship. This championship is set to be hosted by “Al-Asfar” from November 17th to 26th at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Hall.

During the tournament draw ceremony, organized by the Asian Handball Federation, Al-Fahd expressed their satisfaction with the transparent draw. Simultaneously, they extended a warm welcome to the Asian clubs participating in this continental event, which takes place in their second home, Kuwait.

The draw for the Asian Handball Clubs Championship placed the host team, Al-Qadsia, in Group 2, alongside Indian club Sai, Qatari club Al-Arabi, the Iraqi Army team, the UAE’s Shar-

jah, and Lebanon’s Saida Youth. On the other hand, the “Al-Kuwait” club, Kuwait’s second handball representative in the tournament, was also positioned in Group 2, which is considered the most challenging and competitive group. They will compete alongside Bahrain’s Star, Saudi Arabia’s Gulf, Qatar’s Al-Gharafa, Palestine’s Salah, and India’s Golden Eagle.

HANDBALL

Al-Fahd emphasized, “Under the leadership of Madi Al-Mutairi, the coaching staff is diligently preparing the team. The team is set to enter an external training camp in Montenegro at the end of October, lasting for 22 days. Additionally, we are in the process of signing highly skilled foreign professionals.”

He expressed his hope that the title

of the Asian Handball Clubs Championship would remain in Kuwait and that the cup would not leave the country.

It is important to note that during the summer, the Al-Qadsia handball team signed two Montenegrin players, Vasilije Kaluerović and Vladan Ljubovina. The team is being coached by the national coach, Hussein Habeib, who expressed his satisfaction with the draw, stating, “We are actively working on securing foreign professionals, with one of them being a goalkeeper and the other a center-back.”

Habeib also mentioned that the team commenced preparations at the beginning of August and will engage in several local friendly matches in the coming week. In October, there is a planned mini local championship involving Al-Qadsia, Al-Nasr, Al-Salmiya, and Al-Arabi, pending official approval from the mentioned clubs.”



Asian Handball Championship draw in progress.

Patrick, Chiefs avoid 0-2 start



Baltimore Ravens tight end Mark Andrews scores as Cincinnati Bengals safety Dax Hill (top), defends during the second half of an NFL football game in Cincinnati. (AP)

Broncos lose back-to-back home games for first time

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept 18, (AP): Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdown passes, including one to returning star Travis Kelce, and the Kansas City Chiefs overcame three early turnovers to beat Jacksonville 17-9 on Sunday for their third victory against the Jaguars in 10 months.

The Chiefs (1-1) won their eighth straight in the series and avoided becoming the first Super Bowl champions to start 0-2 since Denver in 1999.

The Jaguars (1-1), who insisted all week they owed the Chiefs because of a loss in the divisional round of the AFC playoffs in January, pretty much no-showed in their home opener.

Coach Doug Pederson’s team had another slow start, failed to capitalize on two of three turnovers and struggled to protect quarterback Trevor Lawrence.

Commanders 35, Broncos 33

In Denver, Sam Howell threw for two touchdowns and Washington rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat Denver, holding on after Russell Wilson connected with Brandon Johnson on a 50-yard Hail Mary but failed to complete the tying 2-point try.

Washington cornerback Benjamin St-Juste broke up Wilson’s pass to Courtland Sutton on the 2-point conversion attempt. St-Juste appeared to get away with pass interference, but no flag was thrown and the Commanders celebrated the franchise’s first 2-0 start since 2011.

Ravens 27, Bengals 24

In Cincinnati, Lamar Jackson tossed two touchdown passes, Gus Edwards ran for another score and Baltimore held off slow-starting Cincinnati.

The AFC North champion Bengals fell to 0-2 for the second consecutive season. The Ravens (2-0), their division rival, certainly looked like the better team.

Jackson was 24 for 33 for 237 yards. He ran for 54 more, and Edwards - with more chances because of a season-ending Achilles tendon injury to J.K. Dobbins - picked up 62 yards on 10 carries.

Seahawks 37, Lions 31, OT

In Detroit, Geno Smith threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Lockett on the opening drive of overtime, lifting Seattle past Detroit.

The Seahawks (1-1) allowed the Lions (1-1) to rally from a 10-point deficit late in the fourth quarter. Detroit extended the game with Riley Patterson’s 38-yard field goal on the final play of regulation.

Smith threw a go-ahead, 3-yard

touchdown pass to Lockett early in the fourth. Tre Brown intercepted Jared Goff and returned it 40 yards for a score on the ensuing drive to give Seattle a 31-21 lead.

Titans 27, Chargers 24, OT

In Nashville, Nick Folk kicked a 41-yard field goal in overtime in a sudden downpour and Tennessee beat Los Angeles to snap an eight-game skid.

The Titans (1-1) won for the first time since last Nov. 17 at Green Bay. They had to rally from an 11-point deficit, at which point the Chargers had more points than Tennessee had yards (8).

Giants 31, Cardinals 28

In Glendale, Daniel Jones threw for 321 yards and two touchdowns, Graham Gano connected on a 34-yard field goal with 19 seconds remaining and New York rallied from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to stun Arizona.

FOOTBALL

It was the biggest comeback win for the Giants since a 21-point rally in 1949 - also against the Cardinals. Arizona blew its biggest lead since 2011.

Dolphins 24, Patriots 17

In Foxborough, Raheem Mostert had a pair of TD runs, including a 43-yard romp in the fourth quarter, and Tua Tagovailoa added a 2-yard touchdown pass to Tyreek Hill to help Miami hold off New England.

Mostert carried 18 times for 121 yards and Tagovailoa completed 21 of 30 passes for 249 yards and an interception. Miami has opened with two road wins and will try for its second straight 3-0 start under coach Mike McDaniels when it hosts Denver next weekend.



Miami Dolphins cornerback Xavien Howard (25) intercepts a pass intended for New England Patriots wide receiver DeVante Parker (1) during the second half of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass. (AP)

Cowboys 30, Jets 10

In Arlington, Dak Prescott threw for two touchdowns, Zach Wilson had three interceptions in his first start after Aaron Rodgers’ season-ending Achilles tendon injury, and Dallas beat New York.

CeeDee Lamb had 143 yards receiving and Brandon Aubrey kicked five field goals in the 28-year-old rookie’s second game as the Cowboys (2-0) finished a season-opening sweep of the New York teams. Dallas routed the Giants 40-0 in the opener.

49ers 30, Rams 23

In Inglewood, Brock Purdy passed for 206 yards and ran for an early touchdown, Deebo Samuel rushed for an 11-yard TD with 11:28 left and San Francisco hung on for its ninth consecutive regular-season victory over Los Angeles.

Christian McCaffrey rushed for 116 yards and a score for the 49ers (2-0), whose only loss to the Rams since December 2018 was in the NFC championship game in January 2022.

Isaiah Oliver and Deommodore Lenoir intercepted passes by Matthew Stafford in the second half, finally allowing the 49ers to pull in front of their longtime rivals.

Falcons 25, Packers 24

In Atlanta, Youngbow Koo booted a 25-yard field goal with 57 seconds remaining and rookie Bijan Robinson turned in another dynamic performance, rallying Atlanta past Jordan Love and Green Bay.

Robinson rushed for 124 yards on 19 carries and hauled in four catches for another 48 yards, showing why the Falcons (2-0) selected him No. 8 in the draft even though running backs aren’t supposed to go that high anymore.

Bills 38, Raiders 10

In Orchard Park, Josh Allen rebounded from a four-turnover, season-opening dud by throwing three touchdown passes and Buffalo routed Las Vegas.

Allen completed his first 13 attempts for 94 yards, and finished 31 of 37 for 274 yards and no turnovers. His 13 consecutive completions to start the game set an individual record and matched his best run at any point of an outing. He improved to 13-4 in games following a loss, and 23-4 when he doesn’t turn the ball over.

Buccaneers 27, Bears 17

In Tampa, Baker Mayfield passed for 317 yards and a touchdown, adding to his strong debut with Tampa Bay, which beat Chicago.

With Mayfield playing turnover-free for the second straight week and Mike Evans catching six balls for 171 yards and a TD, the Bucs improved to 2-0 while handing the Bears a franchise-record 12th consecutive loss.

Mayfield completed 26 of 34 passes. He set up Rachaad White’s 1-yard TD

NFL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, (AP): NFL results and standings on Sunday.

Philadelphia	34	Minnesota	28
Atlanta	25	Green Bay	24
Baltimore	27	Cincinnati	24
Buffalo	38	Las Vegas	10
Indianapolis	31	Houston	20
Kansas City	17	Jacksonville	9
Seattle	37	Detroit OT	31
Tampa Bay	27	Chicago	17
Tennessee	27	LA Chargers OT	24
NY Giants	31	Arizona	28
San Francisco	30	LA Rams	23
Dallas	30	NY Jets	10
Washington	35	Denver	33
Miami	24	New England	17

American Football Conference

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Miami	2	0	0	1.000	60	51
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	54	32
NY Jets	1	1	0	.500	32	46
New England	0	2	0	.000	37	49

AFC South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	52	51
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	40	38
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	42	40
Houston	0	2	0	.000	29	56

AFC North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	52	33
Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000	24	3
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	7	30
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	27	51

AFC West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Kansas City	1	1	0	.500	37	30
Las Vegas	1	1	0	.500	27	54
Denver	0	2	0	.000	49	52
LA Chargers	0	2	0	.000	58	63

National Football Conference

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Dallas	2	0	0	1.000	70	10
Philadelphia	2	0	0	1.000	59	48
Washington	2	0	0	1.000	55	49
NY Giants	1	1	0	.500	31	68

NFC South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Atlanta	2	0	0	1.000	49	34
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	16	15
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	47	34
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10	24

NFC North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	52	57
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	62	45
Chicago	0	2	0	.000	37	65
Minnesota	0	2	0	.000	45	54

NFC West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
San Francisco	2	0	0	1.000	60	30
LA Rams	1	1	0	.500	53	43
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	50	61
Arizona	0	2	0	.000	44	51

run with a 70-yard completion to Evans in the first quarter. He also finished an 89-yard drive with a 32-yard scoring pass to Evans early in the second half.

Colts 31, Texans 20

In Houston, Anthony Richardson rushed for two touchdowns before leaving with a concussion and backup Gardner Minshew threw for 171 yards and a TD as Indianapolis held off Houston.

It was the first win for coach Shane Steichen, who was hired in February after spending the last two seasons as Philadelphia’s offensive coordinator.

High-stakes athletics elections kick off

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Today, the Athletics Federation is conducting pivotal elections for its board of directors during the General Assembly meeting at 7:00 PM at their headquarters in Kaifan.

Three weeks ago, the General Assembly dissolved the federation and appointed an interim committee under the leadership of Hassan Burjas Al-Shammari, setting the stage for the election of a new board of directors.

This decision arose from the rejection by the General Sports Authority of the previously formed board of directors, which was established on May 15th due to procedural errors in the election process.

Tonight’s General Assembly meeting promises an eagerly awaited presidential election showdown between Ahmed Al-Musallam, representing Al-Tadhamon Club, and Faisal Al-

Dasam, representing Al-Nasr Club. Additionally, the treasurer position will be contested between Mohammed Al-Ghasab from Fahaheel and Saad Al-Shammari from Khaitan.

ATHLETICS

The gathering will also confirm key figures, including Deputy Chairman Mohsen Al-Ajmi from Al-Jahra, General Secretary Hussein Abbas from Al-Shabab Club, Assistant General Secretary Dr. Manaa Al-Ajmi from Al-Sahel Club, and Assistant Treasurer Abdullah Al-Saadi from Salibiakhait.

The approval process will also extend to board membership, with Falah Al-Ajmi (Burgan), Farouk Al-Sha’ir (Kazma), Badr Al-Rashoud (Salmiya), and Abdulaziz Munah (Kuwait) seeking ratification.”

De Grasse rules 200m

Duplantis sets pole vault world record at the Prefontaine Classic

EUGENE, Ore., Sept 18, (AP): Sweden’s Armand Duplantis set a new world record in the pole vault with a leap of 6.23 meters (20 feet, 5 1/4 inches) on Sunday at the season-ending Prefontaine Classic track and field meet.

It was the second world record set at the two-day meet at Eugene’s Hayward Field. Earlier in the day, Ethiopia’s Gudaf Tsegay broke the world record in the 5,000 meters, finishing in 14:00.21.

Duplantis, known as Mondo, broke his own record of 6.22 meters (20 feet, 4 3/4 inches) that he set indoors earlier this year.

He was lifted up by fellow competitors after clearing the jump then hopped onto the track’s railing and struck a victory pose for fans.

Tsegay bested the record of 14:05.20 set by Kenya’s Faith Kipyegon earlier this year in Paris. Tsegay’s finish was nearly 12 seconds better than her personal best. Kenyan Beatrice Chebet was runner-up in 14:05.92.

ATHLETICS

Afterward, the 26-year-old Tsegay vowed to try to go under 14 minutes next year. “Yes, I try,” she said.

The Prefontaine Classic, normally run in late May, was this year’s final stop on the international Diamond League circuit. The 32 champions crowned during the two-day meet were set to earn \$30,000 apiece.

Canadian Andre De Grasse, the 200-meter champion at the Tokyo Olympics, won the event in 19.76 seconds to cap the season. World champion Shericka Jackson of Jamaica won on the women’s side in 21.57 for her second Prefontaine title of the weekend.



Lyon’s President John Textor, (right), and Lyon’s new head coach Fabio Grosso, from Italy, pose with a team jersey during a press conference for Grosso’s presentation, at the Groupama Stadium in Decines, near Lyon, central France. Struggling French club Lyon hired former Italy defender Fabio Grosso as its new coach on Saturday. Grosso replaces Laurent Blanc, who left by mutual consent following a terrible start to the season. Lyon is in last place with only one point from four games. (AP)



Japan's Tomoki Osada, is tackled by England's Alex Mitchell during the Rugby World Cup Pool D match between England and Japan in the Stade de Nice, in Nice, France. (AP)

Sports

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

Real edge Sociedad, extend unbeaten start



Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham (right), and Real Sociedad's Robin Le Normand fight for the ball during Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Real Sociedad at the Santiago Bernabéu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Ramos returns

MADRID, Sept 18, (AP): Real Madrid remained perfect in the Spanish league after it rallied again for a 2-1 win over Real Sociedad.

Federico Valverde and Joselu scored early in the second half at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to give Madrid its fifth straight victory to start the league season.

The only team still with a perfect record, Madrid has a two-point lead over second-place Barcelona, which has won four in a row after opening with a draw.

Ander Barrenetxea put Sociedad ahead with a goal from inside the area only five minutes into the match after a cross by Japan forward Takefusa Kubo. Valverde equalized for Madrid less than a minute into the second half with a one-timer from outside the area, and Joselu scored the go-ahead goal in the 60th with a header off a cross by Fran Garcia, who also assisted in Valverde's goal.

It was the third time that Madrid had to come from behind to pick up a win this season. It had also trailed early in victories against Almeria and Getafe.

SOCCER

"The good thing is that we have been able to overcome these early goals, but we have to analyze it and work to try to keep that from happening," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

Sociedad drew its first three matches but was coming off a win against Granada.

New Madrid signing Jude Bellingham had entered the match as one of the hottest players in the league, having scored five goals in the first four matches. The 20-year-old England midfielder nearly got his sixth goal with a diving close-range header that required a difficult save by Sociedad goalkeeper Alex Ramiro near the end of match.

Madrid, still without injured forward Vinicius Junior, will be back at the Bernabeu on Wednesday to open its Champions League campaign in a group-stage match against Union Berlin.

After a gap of 18 years, veteran defender Sergio Ramos has played again for the club where he started his career as Sevilla defeated Las Palmas 1-0 for its first win of the season.

The 37-year-old Ramos began his career at Sevilla before joining rival Real Madrid. Some Sevilla fans were not happy with his recent signing but most showed their support.

"It was very moving to be playing in front of these fans again," said Ramos, who played the entire match.

Dodi Lukebakio scored a 71st-minute winner for Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium. The victory moved the club out of the relegation zone after three consecutive league losses to start the season.

It was the third loss in five matches for promoted Las Palmas, which remains winless and in the relegation zone.

Las Palmas had to make the trip from the Canary Islands in two separate flights after the club said 15 players missed the first flight.

Nemanja Maksimovic scored in the 86th as Getafe beat Osasuna 3-2 for its second win in three matches.

Mason Greenwood came on as a substitute late in the match to make his Getafe debut. Local media said some Osasuna fans said "Greenwood, die" when the forward entered the game. Greenwood left Manchester United following a criminal investigation into a possible attempted rape that was closed by prosecutors.

It was the second straight league loss for Osasuna.

Getafe's Fabrizio Angileri was sent off in stoppage time.

Villarreal coach Jose "Pacheta" Martin debuted with a 2-1 victory against Almeria thanks to Alexander Sorloth's winning header four minutes into stoppage time.

The visitors had taken the lead through Sergio Akieime before Gerard Moreno equalized before halftime.

Villarreal had lost three of its first four games and was coming off consecutive defeats to Barcelona and Cadiz.

Almeria remains winless and in last place, with four losses and a draw.

Recruits have yet to gel

PSG start Champions League campaign against Dortmund

PARIS, Sept 18, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain started its previous Champions League campaign with a team featuring Lionel Messi and Neymar and a win over Juventus.

The two soccer greats didn't score that night and PSG later was eliminated from Europe's top competition in the last 16 for the fifth time in seven years. The premature exit, once again, highlighted the blatant failure of PSG's strategy of assembling star-studded teams without a real backbone.

The owners have changed their master plan during the offseason, though, and it's a revamped PSG that takes on Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday as the group stage of the elite European tournament kicks off.

As usual, the French champions spent a lot of money on new recruits, but they no longer seem obsessed with the need for big names.

Taking part in the group stage for the 12th consecutive time, the PSG squad facing Dortmund on Tuesday is radically different from the one that was knocked out by Bayern Munich last season.

SOCCER

Up front, Marco Asensio joined from Real Madrid, Gonçalo Ramos arrived from Benfica and Randal Kolo Muani signed to possibly form an all-French attack alongside Kylian Mbappé and Ousmane Dembélé. PSG also transformed its midfield, hiring Kang-in Lee and Manuel Ugarte. At the back, Bayern Munich's Lucas Hernandez was added, as well as Milan Skriniar.

In addition to Messi and Neymar's departures, Sergio Ramos and Marco Verratti have also left, while PSG switched to a 4-3-3 formation under new coach Luis Enrique, who does not have to bother with accommodating Neymar, Messi and Mbappé together.

The cash-rich Qatari investors, who took over in 2011, hope their new strategy will finally help them replicate the club's domestic dominance on Europe's biggest stage. And they also count on Enrique, who won the Champions League, Spanish league and Copa del Rey in his first season in charge when he coached Barcelona.

"You need ambition, but when you are obsessed with something it never works out, in any area of life," Enrique said Monday when asked about PSG's craving for the Champions League.

"We are really hopeful, we want to go out and play, we want to please our fans, we want the tournament to kick off, but we are not obsessed."

But the new players have not gelled into a solid unit yet and Enrique's possession-based system has not yielded immediate results.

In the French league, PSG has managed only eight points from five matches, its worst total since the 2010-11 season, and lost at home to Nice 3-2 over the weekend. PSG looked shaky and lacked attacking creativity as Skriniar and Dembele delivered below-par displays.

Enrique, however, said he was not troubled by the result.

"If we're talking about the three goals, two of them were deflected by our defenders," the coach said. "I'm not worried at all. I think that on Tuesday we'll play better, I'm sure we'll be better. I'm optimistic, even if it's a match against a difficult opponent."

After the feud between Mbappé and club officials over a contract dispute, the France striker has been a source of confidence for Enrique. After overcoming a small knee injury, Mbappé returned with two goals against Nice and should lead the attack against Dortmund.

History is not on Pep Guardiola's side as he tries to lead Manchester City to back-to-back Champions League titles this season.

Real Madrid is the only club to retain the trophy in the modern era by winning it three times in a row from 2016-18.

"We're incredibly happy to defend this crown, but this competition doesn't allow you mistakes," Guardiola said ahead of City's opening Group G game against Red Star Belgrade. "The competition gives us a new challenge so (we'll) at least try."

The European Cup was rebranded as the Champions League in 1992 and no team had successfully defended the trophy until a Cristiano Ronaldo-inspired Madrid in 2017. The Spanish giant went on to complete a three-peat the following year.

Madrid won the first five editions of the trophy, from 1956-60, when the competition was in its former guise as a straight knockout tournament. The European Cup was also only open to the champions of Europe's leagues, as well as the current holder of the trophy.

Teams would frequently win the trophy in successive seasons during that period, with Ajax and Bayern Munich each crowned champions of Europe three years in a row during the 1970s.

Kuwait target substantial number of medals

'Kuwait fully prepared for 19th Asian Games'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Sheikh Fahd Al-Nasser, the President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, has confirmed that Kuwait's extensive preparations for its participation in the 19th Asian Games, hosted by the People's Republic of China in Hangzhou from September 23rd to October 8th, are now complete.

This thorough preparation involved the establishment of a dedicated team within the Olympic Committee, as well as close coordination with the Games' organizing committee.

These efforts encompassed tasks such as registering participating delegations, arranging accommodations and transportation, and addressing other crucial logistics required for participation in such a prestigious event.

ASIAN GAMES

Sheikh Al-Nasser elaborated that the Olympic Committee, working in collaboration with sports federations, specialized sports clubs, and sports committees, will compete in a total of 25 individual and team sports.

These sports include athletics, rowing, shooting, boxing, football, archery, handball, squash, rhythmic gymnastics, cycling, karate, swimming, judo, tennis, fencing, e-sports, triathlon, judo, tennis, fencing, horseback riding, wrestling, climbing, taekwondo, and golf, with a total of 141 participants.

The Asian Games, often referred to as "The Masters," represent a multi-



Sheikh Fahd Al-Nasser

sport spectacle that unites athletes from across Asia. This event is organized every four years by the Asian Olympic Council, with Asian athletes earning the privilege to participate through nomination by their respective National Olympic Committees.

Sheikh Al-Nasser further emphasized that the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee's objective in this endeavor is to attain exceptional results and secure a substantial number of medals. This accomplishment will not only elevate the standing of Kuwaiti sports within the Asian continent but also underscores the remarkable journey of Kuwaiti sports in the realm of Asian Games.

Fiji upend Australia SA, England roll on

SAINT-ETIENNE, France, Sept 18, (AP): Fiji defeated Australia 22-15 for the first time in 69 years and sent a jolt of euphoria through the Rugby World Cup.

A week after an agonizing loss to Wales when the last pass was spilled with the tryline open, the Fijians had to win in Saint-Etienne to stay in the hunt for their first quarterfinal in 16 years. They lived to fight on while putting the heat back on Wales and Australia, who meet next Sunday. One of the trio won't make it out of Pool C.

Famed for being rugby's greatest ad-libbers, Fiji put the razzle-dazzle away and won in a very un-Fijian traditional way: Break-down domination, brick-wall defense, and relentless commitment for 80 minutes.

RUGBY

The Fijians were disciplined, composed and clinical in a heavily defensive game of few chances. Flanker Levani Botia and inside back Josua Tuisova led them with three turnovers each.

"I'm emotionally drained," said Simon Raiwalui, Fiji's coach only since February. "I couldn't be prouder."

This result was not on the scale of Japan beating South Africa in 2015 or that much of an upset. This result was coming. Fiji crushed the Pacific Nations Cup. It pushed France close and toppled England at Twickenham in the warmups. Fiji came to the Rugby World Cup ranked higher than pool rivals Australia and Wales, and would have beaten Wales last weekend with even an ounce of luck.

Fiji has time to celebrate its first win over Australia since 1954 in Sydney. It has a two-week break before meeting Georgia, then finishes against Portugal.

All of South Africa's plans came together. The first objective was achieved in a thumping win with hat tricks by scrumhalf Cobus Reinach and wing Makazole Mapimpi among 12 tries without reply in Bordeaux.



Connecticut Sun's Alyssa Thomas (25) and Minnesota Lynx's Napheesa Collier (24) dive for the ball during a WNBA basketball game, at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. Kayla McBride scored 28 points and Napheesa Collier added 26 points and 13 rebounds as the Minnesota Lynx beat the Connecticut Sun 82-75 to force a deciding Game 3 of their first-round playoff series. (AP)