

ARAB TIMES

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emergency number 112

16 PAGES

asian games

150 FILS

Kuwait slams attack on Bahraini servicemen



Paintings on display at the art exhibition themed around peace, titled 'The Feather of Peace', with the participation of numerous artists who presented expressive paintings in alignment with the ceremony's objectives. - See Page 5

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Director of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Lieutenant General **Khaled Al-Mekrad** inspected plans and readiness of the central operations department for upcoming rainy season.

KFF released a statement on Tuesday saying that Al-Mekrad looked into mechanisms of plan execution as well as readiness of rescue equipment and water bumps distribution.

He relayed the greetings and gratitude of Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to KFF personnel and urged them to follow plans closely and cooperate with other state bodies to ensure protection of lives and property. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The US Central Command said that its forces successfully conducted a helicopter raid in northern Syria on Saturday, September 23.

Abu-Halil Al-Fad'ani, an ISIS Syria Operational and Facilitation official, was captured during the raid, the CENTCOM said in a press release referring to the socalled Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Al-Fad'ani was assessed to have relationships throughout the ISIS network in the region. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: The Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) said they arrested the culprit in the shooting at the US Embassy in Bei-

The suspect confessed to the crime during investigations and law-enforcers found the weapon he used in the shooting, according to an ISF statement posted to X website on Monday.

No casualties resulted from the shooting which took place in Awkar town, Metn district, north Beirut, on Wednesday, September 20. (KUNA)

AMMAN: A Royal Decree was issued on Tuesday, approving a reshuffle of Prime Minister Bisher Khasawnehs Cabinet.

The Royal Decree, according to the official news agency PETRA, approved the appointment of the following:

- Raed Abu Soud as Minister of Water
- Wajih Azaizeh as Minister of State ■ Ahmad Maher Abul Samen as Minister of Public Works and Housing
- Haditha Khraisha as Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs
- Yousef Shamali as Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply
- Nadia Rawabdeh as Minister of Labour ■ Wesam Tahtamouni as Minister of
- Transport ■ Muhannad Mubaidin as Minister of **Government Communications**

The ministers were sworn in before King Abdullah at Al Husseiniya Palace, and Prime Minister Khasawneh and Royal Hashemite Court Chief Yousef Issawi attended the swearing-in. (KUNA)

GAZA: Scores of radical Israeli settlers burst on Tuesday into Al-Aqsa Mosque under protection of occupation troops, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA

reported. WAFA said the settlers entered the mosque courtyard in groups via Bab Al-Maghreb gate, toured the yard in a provocative manner, performed Talmudic rituals and listened to speeches by rabbis about the alleged Jews temple. (KUNA)

EU, Kuwait join forces to address climate change

Kuwait renewable energy pledge echoes global trends

gery with the Olympus device for the

first time in the Gulf, he said, indicat-

ing that surgeons in these procedures

are aided with 3D devices that screen

that the technology uncovers tumors

that cannot be detected with the naked

He declared that a division for train-

The hospital, he has added, already

has a special ward, called "the virtual

division," where doctors are trained on

ing staff on the AI at the hospital would

be inaugurated in October.

state of art techniques.

organs.

endoscopic

patients' internal

Moreover, the

hospital had also

conducted the first

eration with the AI

technology for pin

pointing tumors in

the colon and the

stomach -- for the

first time in Ku-

wait. He explained

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (Agencies): The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Dr. Khaled Mahdi, affirmed that Kuwait's public policies emulate the world's trend of using renewable energy in line with the cooperation of concerned parties.

This came in a speech by Dr. Mahdi during an event held by the European Union delegation to Kuwait, Tuesday, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the International Labor Orga nization office in Kuwait.

Mahdi added that the aim of the event is to discuss the importance of a just transition and address the economic and social impacts resulting from the phe-

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (KUNA): The

Ministry of Health has begun employ-

ing artificial intelligence techniques in

various realms namely for diagnosis

and treatment and has started training

The ministry is also using AI tech-

niques at hospitals for various tasks

including clinical care, researches, pro-

duction of medicines and overhauling

The AI has proven useful in diverse

medical fields, particularly radioactive

diagnosis, surgeries and scientific re-

search, affirmed Dr. Suleiman Al-Mazi-

di, the chief surgeon at Jaber Hospital in

He has confirmed that the AI decreas-

es medical errors, facilitates operations

and shortens surgeries' duration, adding

that the latest technology has been used

at Jaber Hospital for surgeries, endo-

scopic operations, indocyanine green

enhanced fluorescence (ICG) appara-

tuses in addition to the employment of

Jaber Hospital had witnessed a sur-

cadres on the emerging technology.

administrative operations.

an interview with KUNA.

aiding robots.

Tech decreases medical errors

Health ministry integrates Al

in 'diagnosis and treatment'

nomenon of climate change by also focusing on raising the level of awareness among the public.

He also pointed out that Kuwait planned to diversify energy sources by adopting renewable energy solutions, replacing fossil fuels with liquefied gas, building and developing oil refineries to produce clean environmental fuels to ensure the sustainability of energy supplies for future generations, and adopting a national carbon reduction strategy until 2050.

In turn, the Head of the European Union delegation to Kuwait, Anne Koistinen, said that the event highlights the urgent necessity of confronting the challenges of climate change and ensuring a bright future for the upcoming generations.

> Deputy Regional Director for Arab Countries at the International Labor Organization, Peter Rademaker, stressed the joint efforts of all parties participating in the event, praising the cooperation between the participants to enhance joint commitment to making the economy environmentally friendly in a fair and comprehensive manner for all parties concerned.

Also:

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday unveiled plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the country's climate-related commitments within the next seven years, including via reducing dependency on fossil fuels and boosting electric car use.

Macron said France's goal to reduce its emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, in line with a European Union target, is "attainable," after holding a special government meeting.

To get there, he said, the country must go more than twice as fast as before. "We need to succeed in reducing emissions by 5% per year over the period 2022-2030" - to compare with a 2% reduction per year over the past five years, Macron said.

'This whole strategy will enable us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, essentially coal, oil and gas... from 60% to 40% by

2030," he added.

Hacker threatens Finance with ransom of 15 bitcoins

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The 'hacker' who targeted the Ministry of Finance announced last week that the data he succeeded in obtaining from one of the ministry's systems was for sale, setting the required "ransom" amount at 15 bitcoins (\$400,000), re-

ports Al-Seyassah daily. The "hacker" gave the ministry 7 days if it wanted to retrieve the data in exchange for paying the required "ransom" or selling it to anyone who would pay.

It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Finance announced that one of its systems had been subjected to a hacking attempt via a virus last week

2 'martyrs'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (Agencies): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly denounced the "heinous attack" on a Bahraini force garrisoning on the southerner borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which left two martyrs and several injuries.

The State of Kuwait stands in full solidarity with the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain in the aftermath of the despicable aggression by Houthi militants, the Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The Ministry expressed sincere con-dolences for the leadership and people of Bahrain and the families of the two martyrs, praying for Allah the Almighty to lodge the martyrs in paradise, and grant their families solace and the wounded quick recovery.

A drone attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels killed a Bahraini officer and soldier who were patrolling Saudi Arabia's southern border early Monday, Bahrain's military command said. The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge carrying out the attack as efforts to strike a peace deal between Riyadh and the rebels con-

The military statement, carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency, says "a number" of Bahraini soldiers were also wounded in the strike, without elaborat-

"This terrorist attack was carried out by the Houthis, who sent aircraft targeting the position of the Bahraini guards on the southern border of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia despite the halt of military operations between the warring sides in Yemen," the statement said. It did not identify the site of the attack.

Bahrain later repatriated the bodies to the island kingdom, where they were met by an honor guard and top military officials.

Conflict

The tiny island nation of Bahrain is a close ally of Saudi Arabia, which has led the war against the Houthis. The deadliest attack to strike Bahrain in the conflict so far had been a September 2015 missile strike by the Houthis in Marib that killed five of its troops, along with 52 Emirati and 10 Saudi troops.

A cease-fire had largely stopped the violence, and the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis have appeared close to a peace agreement in recent months. It was unclear if the attack would derail

those efforts by Saudi Arabia and its allies

In a statement from Riyadh, the Saudi-led military coalition mourned those killed and claimed there had been attacks targeting an electrical distribution site and a police station on its southern border by "some Houthi elements."

"In line with the positive efforts being

made to seek to end the crisis and reach a comprehensive political solution, the leadership of the joint forces of the coalition affirms its rejection of repeated provocations and reserves the right to respond at the appropriate time and place," Brig. Gen. Turki al-Maliki said in a statement.

Yemen's war began in 2014 when the Houthis swept down from their northern stronghold and seized the capital, Sanaa, along with much of the country's north. In response, a Saudi-led coalition intervened in 2015 to try to restore the internationally recognized government to power.

The fighting soon devolved into a stalemated proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, causing widespread hunger and misery in Yemen, which even before the conflict had been the Arab world's poorest country. The war has killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, killing tens of thousands more.

Saudi Arabia and Iran restored diplomatic relations earlier this year in a deal brokered by China, further raising hopes for an end to Yemen's conflict. Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia welcomed a Houthi delegation for peace talks, saying the negotiations had "positive results."

A U.N.-brokered cease-fire had already largely halted the violence, and Yemen has seen only sporadic clashes since the truce expired nearly a year ago. But diplomats have warned that the situation remains volatile.

Bid to normalize ties

Saudi's new envoy to PA visits West Bank

RAMALLAH, Sept 26, (AP): Saudi Arabia's newly appointed envoy to the Palestinian Authority (PA) presented his credentials to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during his first visit to the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Tuesday, a trip linked to American efforts to normalize ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

The visit by nonresident ambassador Navef al-Sudairi, who also serves as the Saudi ambassador to Jordan, is widely seen as an attempt by the kingdom to address the key sticking point in the Saudi-Israeli normalization deal - Saudi Arabia's long-standing support for the Palestinians. The Saudi government has said it will only normalize ties with Israel if there is major progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

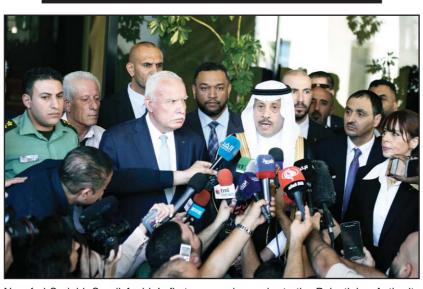
To kick off his two-day trip, the Saudi diplomat met with Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority that exercises limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank, and other senior Palestinian officials.

"God willing, this visit will be just the beginning of things to come, with the coordination of senior Palestinian officials who are architects of our relations,' al-Sudairi told journalists after meeting with Abbas.

Some 16 years ago, Arab leaders convened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to reaffirm the Arab Peace Initiative, pledging no diplomatic recognition of Israel without a just settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although Palestinians still live under an open-ended Israeli military occupation in the West Bank and under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade in Gaza, a landmark diplomatic deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia has in recent weeks appeared to gain momentum.

But several obstacles to such an agreement remain. The Saudis are seeking a defense pact with the United States and want help in building their own civilian nuclear program, which has fueled fears of an arms race with Iran.

Saudi Arabia also wants Israel to grant at least some kind of concession to the Palestinians in the West Bank, which Israel captured along with east Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war.



Nayef al-Sudairi, Saudi Arabia's first-ever ambassador to the Palestinian Authority (right), and Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki (left), make a joint statement after their meeting in Ramallah, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023. (AP)

Expected weather for the next

By Day: Hot and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southerly wind to southeasterly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Weather By Night: Rather hot to mild and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to southerly wind with speeds of 10-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will Max Exp Min Rec **Station**

Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Ahmadi Nuwaisib Wafra

Kuwait City 31 25 24 29 32 31 25 27 Kuwait Airport

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



One of the speakers at the gathering.

Civil societies hold gathering

Co-education ban law opposed

By Najeh Bilal Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Activists recently gathered at a ceremony, in which more than 25 associations and civil societies participated, to stand united in front of those demanding the implementation of the law banning coeducation and their interpretations of it, as it supports gender discrimination.

According to educational experts, the decline in the level of education in Kuwait can be attributed to the emergence of the religious hardliners movement in the 1980s, which changed the curricula and contributed to the destruction of education with their random decisions.

During the speech festival organized by the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society, the constitutional expert and professor of law at Kuwait University Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud the infringement of Court, which indi-



banning co-education issued in 1996 did not require the presence of buildings to separate male and female students in the classrooms. Rather, the goal is to separate them within the halls. Also, there is no definition in Islamic jurisprudence for the

concept of non-mixing. He stressed that the parliament's Ethics Committee does not have the mandate of talking about educational

matters Dr. Al-Hamoud said he wondered about the role of the Education Committee within the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, Head of the Kuwait Social Association Abdullah Al-Radwan affirmed that implementing the law that bans co-education at the university would cost the state more than two and a half billion dollars, as it would inevitably lead to an increase in facilities, an increase in the school day, and an increase in teaching staff members, in contrast to the student overcrowding in the halls.

He stressed that the presence of 70 percent of female students in Kuwait University will inevitably lead to delayed graduation for the male students.

Al-Radwan said the decision to ban co-education in universities is considered as gender discrimination, especially since mixing is widespread in all government departments.

He indicated that the decline in education in Kuwait began during the 1980s with the emergence of the hardliners' movements, which changed the curricula and contributed to the destruction of the education sector due to

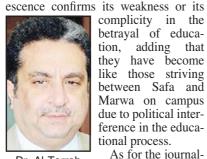
their random decisions.

On behalf of the Private Schools Union, Ghada Al-Khalaf rejected parliamentary interference in educational policies.

She stressed that priorities require attention to the quality of education, and the need for stability within the educational process, as well as the need to focus on leaders with experience in the educational sector.

Furthermore, Professor of Philosophy at Kuwait University Dr. Sheikha Al-Jassim revealed the suffering faced by faculty members and students due to intransigence in implementing the decision to ban co-education.

She said the government's acquiescence confirms its weakness or its complicity in the betrayal of educa-



Dr. Al-Tarrah

ist Khaled Al-Tarrah, he stressed that the civil forces will confront anyone who tampers with the educational process in this way, especially by the hardline religious movement, and he held the Prime Minister responsible for this.

As for the journal-

Al-Tarrah said, "Simply agreeing to their decisions to ban co-education will inevitably lead to increased interference in the educational process".

Musad Al-Shuwaird Meanwhile, who was one of those who appealed against the law prohibiting co-education in the university, said he filed the appeal in 2015 when he was studying in the College of Administrative Sciences due to the presence of a class session for male students and another for female students, and he was unable to access a specific course session. He indicated that the law did not specify the separation.

In addition, a student and the Vice President of the Democratic Youth Union Muhammad Al-Issa revealed that they, as students, reject the guardianship of education by religious move-

Muhammad Al-Asfour from the Democratic Center List said he believes the goal of some parliamentarians behind their insistence on interfering in the educational process is to satisfy their electoral base and the parties to which they belong.

Even though the university is an independent body, they explained that this hardline movement is allied with the government against the educational process.

'Only three days per month'

Official approval of e-sick leave

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday officially approved the issuance of electronic sick leave.

The decision was issued by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, and Acting Chairman of the Civil Service Council Issa Al-Kandari.

The decision stipulates that, "Sick leaves of no more than seven days at a time and no more than sixty uninterrupted days per year granted by government primary health care centers to which the employee belongs according to what is stated in their civil card or the government center assigned to a specific employer or granted through electronic means approved by the Ministry of Health without the employee visiting the aforementioned health centers, shall be issued within the following limits:-

1. Sick leave with full pay for the

first fifteen days

2. Sick leave with half salary for the next fifteen days

3. Sick leave with a quarter of salary for the next fifteen days.

4. Sick leave without pay for the last fifteen days.

The decision also stipulates that the duration of sick leave granted without the employee visiting health centers and through electronic means approved by the Ministry of Health shall not exceed three days per month.

Granting this leave by this means shall not result in an increase or modification in the maximum duration of the leave or type of determined salary for each period in accordance with what is stated in this clause.

The decision allowed the approved medical report to be replaced by means of electronic communication between the Ministry of Health, the Civil Service Commission and government agencies, provided that the decision is implemented from the date of its issuance and is published in the official

'Govt jobs only for Kuwaitis'

Hire expats only when needed: Assembly Speaker

KPL airing not banned: Info

Libya thankful for Kuwait's help

RABAT, Sept 26, (KUNA): Libya's Health Ministry spokesperson Muhyiddin Nweji on Monday said his government and people are very thankful for the aid presented by Kuwait in helping combat Hurricane Daniel's affects.

The air bridge built by Kuwait has massively helped in alleviating the effects of the hurricane while also providing the basic needs for the affected areas, he added via a phone call to KUNA.

"It's not strange that the State of Kuwait who regularly supports and aids countries and their people in disasters and crises" said Muhyiddin who also serves with the Crisis Committee.

The heavy floods hit the eastern region of Libya causing a lot of damage, and the initiative taken by the State of Kuwait has help in dealing with the effects thanks to implementations of its political leadership.

Report refuted: The Ministry of Information on Monday denied speculations that it banned airing Kuwait Premier League, also known as STC Premier League, by a local TV station.

The Ministry received a request from the broadcaster in question this morning for leasing two SNG units to air the Premier League and no decision has been made so far on the request, according to a press release from the Ministry.

It affirmed keenness on cooperation with all media outlets to meet the aspirations of the Kuwaiti media and the public as per the set rules and laws.



KUNA photo

The press conference in progress

Charities launch donation campaign

The head of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies Union Dr. Nasser Al-Ajmi, announced Tuesday, the launch of the donations national campaign to pay fees of needy students inside Kuwait to be held next Friday for five days.

In a press conference Al-Ajmi said hat the campaign will be launched in cooperation with Kuwaiti Federation of Private Schools, aims to collect donations for students who are unable to pay fees due to the limited financial situation of their families. The initiative comes to strengthen partnership and social responsibility and achieve social solidarity between individuals, institutions and needy families, noting that the campaign aims to collect KD 750.000 about (USD 2.4 million) to pay school fees for 3,000 students at an amount of KD 250 for each student, he said.

Among the sponsors, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Kuwait Banking Association, the General Secretariat of Endowments and the Zakat House, in addition to 15 associations and other charitable bodies, noting that the campaign would be in several locations to collect donations, in the Mubarakiya School, Al-Babtain Library, the National Library, and Bait Al-Othman. (KUNA)



A new batch of Kuwaiti relief aid to help refugees from Ukraine.

Kuwait sends new aid batch

Power generators for Ukraine

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (KUNA): On Monday, Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, announced that the Ukrainian Red Cross had been delivered power generators to address the repercussions of the energy crisis in Ukraine.

Dr. Al-Sayer conveyed in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this donation symbolizes the depth of solidarity between the leadership, government, and people of the State of Kuwait and the suffering populations, especially in the face of challenging humanitarian conditions.

He further noted that this humanitarian assistance underscores Kuwait's prompt response to Ukraine's most pressing needs. He highlighted that the Kuwait Red Crescent Society had previously supplied over 33.5 tons of relief aid to support Ukrainian

On his part, Khaled Al-Fadhli, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Poland, emphasized Kuwait's commitment to alleviating the hardships faced by the Ukrainian people during their exceptional circumstances. He stressed that Kuwait's humanitarian aid originates from the directives of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the political leadership, as part of Kuwait's ongoing tradition of generosity. Ambassador Al-Fadhli also commended the rapid response of various Kuwaiti institutions and their efficient mobilization of available resources to facilitate the delivery of this aid. He praised the pivotal role played by the Red Crescent Society in promptly responding to Ukraine's request

In a similar statement to KUNA, Vitaly Belay, Counselor at the Ukrainian Embassy in Poland, lauded the strong bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and Ukraine. He expressed his pride in the collaborative efforts between the two nations in various fields and conveyed sincere gratitude to the leadership, government, and people of Kuwait for their unwavering support and solidarity with the Ukrainian

Previously, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers had made the decision to provide humanitarian aid amounting to two million US dollars to Ukrainian refugees, with the assistance being channeled through the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in accordance with high-level direc**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun submitted a proposal to recommend dedicating jobs in the public sector exclusively for Kuwaiti citizens.

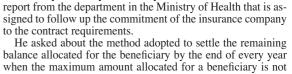
He suggested allowing to contract with expatriate workers to do jobs in the public sector only if no Kuwaitis who hold the required qualification or have the required experience have applied for such jobs. These workers should not be given salaries higher than the salaries of Kuwaiti workers occupying similar jobs.

Meanwhile, MP Fayez Al-Jomhour submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Health Ahmad Al-Awadhi, asking to be provided with a copy of the contract signed by the ministry and the relevant insurance company for the health insurance for retirees "Afia", as well as copies of the entire relevant contracts signed later.

He wanted to know the number of beneficiaries of Afia, the number of retirees holding Afia cards per year from the time the contract was enforced until today.

The lawmaker also asked if there are expatriates among the beneficiaries. If yes, he wanted to know their names and the legal basis upon which they were added to the list of beneficiaries.

MP Al-Jomhour wanted to know the amount of money provided by the Ministry of Health to the relevant insurance company, the maximum amount allocated annually for every beneficiary, and a



Al-Sa'adoun

The lawmaker asked if any violations have been recorded against the hospitals and clinics that provide Afia health service to retirees. If yes, he wanted to know the procedures taken by the ministry against them.

Submitted

Furthermore, MP Marzouq Al-Hebeini submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Sulaiman Buqamaz, asking about the progress rate of the establishment of Terminal 2 of Kuwait International Airport and the scheduled date for completion.

He asked if the ministry will enforce penalties against the contracting company in case the completion of the project is

The lawmaker also wanted to know if the contractor asked to change the vertical spiral conveyor system to ordinary elevators. If so, he wanted to know why the ministry approved such a request, as it violates the requirements included in the

In another development, MP Majed Al-Mutairi submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manee about the vacancies of supervisory positions, copies of the advertisements published to fill them, and the results of interviews with the nominated individuals.

He requested for details on the information he received, as per which the ministry refrained from paying the award allocated for excellent students in Kuwait and scholarship students. If the information is true, he wanted to know the reasons behind the nonpayment of the award.

The lawmaker asked to be provided with copies of the decisions issued by the ministry since 2020 to establish private sector universities in Kuwait, showing the criteria and requirements defined to issue the licenses for private universities.

He wanted to know the number of schools in the southern part of Kuwait including Wafra and Khairan residential area, the number of registered students, and the number of teachers. In addition, the parliament's Financial and Economic Af-

fairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the decision of the National Assembly to assign the committee to conduct a study on the reasons behind the increase in prices and the growing inflation rates, and then issue recommendations to tackle this issue.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban and several senior officials from both the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. They also discussed the bills on the loans provided by the Public Institution for Social Security to retirees. Also, parliament's fact-finding committee assigned to in-

vestigate the violations concerning the distribution of industrial, commercial and agricultural plots by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) held a meeting in the presence of former chairman of PAAAFR Ali Fahad Al-Mudhaf, and members of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Industry Ahmad Sulaiman Al-Qudhaibi, Khalid Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf and Samira Muhammad

'Over 7,000 visas issued to Kuwaitis for Austria'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Chargé d'Affaires of the Austrian Embassy in Kuwait Christian Vlazny affirmed that the embassy issued more than 7,000 visas in 2023, which is an increase of about 40 percent compared to the previous year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, he explained that the number of days of residence for Kuwaiti citizens in Austria is likely to be much higher, as the Schengen via is often used to visit several countries within the Schengen area.

The features of the new regulations adopted by the European Commission for Schengen visas for Kuwaitis represent a profitable matter for the Kuwaiti and European sides.

A one-time application could lead to the immediate issuance of a Schengen visa for Kuwaiti citizens with validity of five years. It entitles them to stay for 90 days every six

Therefore, Kuwaiti citizens will be able to make their travel plans more flexibly in the future, and will not have to worry about re-applying for a visa before each trip.

The new feature will also help in saving significant costs and time, over a period of five years. This will benefit not only travelers, but also the tourism sector in Austria and the entire Schengen region.

Ambassador Vlazny revealed that the embassy implemented the new regulations immediately, in accordance with the European Commission's decision issued on September

He said, "We have already granted the new visa for a validity period of five years. However, if the passport is valid for a period shorter than that, the visa will be valid for up to three months before the expiry of the travel document for all applications received since then".

طيوانية 🕈 diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Courage to make decisive choices to steer compass towards Kuwait of tomorrow vital'

"ON THE auspicious occasion of the 93rd Saudi National Day, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a country dear to our hearts, its esteemed king, government, and people. We wish them continued growth and prosperity," columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

'The profound historical ties between the State of Kuwait and the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with their generous people, are well-known to all. Anyone cognizant of the requirements of the modern global economy cannot overlook the remarkable growth achieved by Saudi Arabia within a relatively short pe-

"One distinctive aspect of Saudi Vision 2030 lies in its meticulous formulation, with clearly defined strategic objectives and completion timelines expressed in numerical terms. Those responsible for the vision, including distinguished leaders, have articulated these aspects with precision and maintained continuous vigilance under rigorous governance -- an approach that aligns seamlessly with the principles emphasized by leadership and strategic manage-

"A comprehensive examination across various domains such as education quality, healthcare, infrastructure, digitization of government services, and more, reveals the presence of excellence in Saudi Arabia, a fact corroborated by global indicators.

"On this occasion, Kuwait reflects on the accomplishments it has secured through seven agreements with China, envisioning the

Dr Al-Ajmi positive prospects awaiting the nation and its people.

"Our aspiration is straightforward: emulating the Saudi model in leader selection and formulating a vision with strategic objectives, complete with well-defined timelines for achievement. When can we elevate the quality standards of public education, higher education, healthcare, roads, and other pivotal projects -- executing them swiftly and cost-effectively?

"Prioritizing human capital and facilitating technology transfer are of paramount importance. Our agreements with China may very well serve as the key to a new era, heralding prosperity and growth.

"With a pool of exceptional youthful talents and seasoned statesmen at our disposal, the possibilities are endless. What we aspire to achieve commences with astute choices -- combating corruption, bringing its perpetrators to justice, and transitioning to a digital, paperless government, just as our sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has done.

"In conclusion, we beseech God Almighty to bless the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait with security, safety, prosperity, and continued growth.

"We possess all the essential elements; we have discussed this extensively in various articles. All that remains is to muster the courage to make decisive choices, steering the compass towards the Kuwait of tomorrow, a future we eagerly anticipate and pray to God Almighty to bless with accomplishments, growth metrics, and prosperity. We pray to God to guide us.

"About one week ago, a Kuwaiti tourist was assaulted and beaten by some individuals in Turkey. This incident is morally and socially unacceptable. What made matters worse was that he was not alone, as his family was with him during this incident, which became the talk among people both in the East and West", columnist Mefareh Al-Enezi wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"This incident has multiple aspects, but the one that draws our attention is the need to enhance tourism in Kuwait. A lot of work is needed in this aspect, as tourism is almost non-existent in Kuwait.

'This matter was reflected on the Kuwaiti citizen who went searching for tourism outside Kuwait, enduring the trouble and inconvenience of traveling with his children, facing multiple problems such as fraud and assault, and spending a lot of money for his family. They are not to blame for that, as they do not have another

"The strange thing is that all the elements of tourism are available inside Kuwait such as land, finances, creative ideas, engineering offices, small and medium enterprises, and permanent customers.

"What makes local tourism even more beautiful is that our dinar will stay within the borders and will not migrate abroad with the tourists. This also means diversifying sources of income away from total dependence

"On the other hand, as one of my friends told me, tourism releases the negative energy that results from the pressures of life and work, as if it were a refresh

"I am ready to spend money on tourism inside Kuwait. No matter how much money I will spend inside Kuwait on tourism, it will not reach a third of the money

that I will spend on tourism outside Kuwait in any case. In addition, I will not be exposed to potential problems on my trip outside Kuwait.

"It has therefore become clear to us that the presence of tourist facilities is a vital and important matter that supports the psychological stability of the citizen and reunites the family on a regular basis to protect children from bad companions.

"In short, citizens need typical upscale local tourism in the form of entertainment cities, touristic resorts, land and sea trips, and annual events such as the two Eids (Al-Fitr and Al-Adha) festivals, the National and Liberation Days, and the Spring Festival, which is somewhat similar to the events of the Winter Wonderland, in addition to Hala February and other occasions that can be exploited. In the field of local tourism, all of this will only happen with the government's sponsorship of this direction.

"IT does not come as a surprise that our honorable state is taking practical steps to do justice to all those who spent their lives serving its ministries and working in its institutions, and represented it well in times of peace and war, and hardship and prosperity", columnist Riyad Al-Mulla wrote for Al-Anba daily.

'This means that end-of-service rewards should not be limited to one group or another in society, or over a period of time alone. It requires returning the files of all retirees to the table to study and discuss them, with the aim of creating equality among them, and to confirm the principle of justice and equality among citizens in

"The fact that there are vast gaps in pensions, salaries or exceptional benefits between one group and another, or between those who retired before and after 2010 can-

"Retirement is one of the rights of any employee who serves his country and contributes to its construction, regardless of the sector in which he works. There is no point in ignoring any of these during any period of time.

"This requires the preparation of a study that regulates justice in this regard, preserves the rights of retirees, and ensures justice and equality with their peers from various categories of employees and their work locations. This is what we and most of society believes. It is a legitimate and right demand from people who served their state, preserved it, and fulfilled their mis-

"All civilian retirees in the public and private sectors who did not receive the end-of-service reward, bonuses and benefits that were granted to others in all sectors are looking forward to being treated equally with others, as they all served the country throughout their period of work and did not fall short. Everyone needs to be provided with what guarantees them a decent life and the fulfillment of the principle of justice and equality

"We believe that all retirees have the right to live a decent life for the remainder of their lives, just like others who were included in the recent decision, especially since the state's Constitution stipulates that citizens are equal in rights and duties. Therefore, it is fair to warm their hearts with such justice and equality.'



"It is wonderful to rise to the highest scientific position that you can reach. The most amazing aspect is that this scientific advancement is compatible with the requirements of the labor market. What is the benefit of obtaining a doctorate degree and educating students that the labor market does not need once they graduate?!' columnist **Qais Al-Osta** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"This conversation leads us to a discourse on the needs of the labor market, that is, if higher degrees such as a masteral or doctorate are required or it is enough to have lower degrees such as a bachelor's degree or

diploma, or even lower than these. "In Kuwait, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) encourages employees to obtain the highest academic degrees to be qualified for a higher salary, so an overwhelming majority of employees want to obtain higher

"In the midst of this quest for the highest academic degrees, the most important factor in the development of any employee has fallen from us -- the experience factor. In developed countries like the United States of America, Europe and the Near East, those with experience are promoted, not those who hold degrees that are usually forged or dubious.

"It is not too late to fix the defect, but we have to start recognizing it and stop working with the same strategy. I am still calling for the abolition of the CSC, because it is primarily responsible for this backwardness.

Nevertheless, it became clear to me recently that the defect in the government is worse than in the CSC. The government is not good in planning for the future. Here is the dangerous question: Can the country live without

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Part of the opening of the Blajat Beach project. Inset: TEC Executive President Fadhel Al-Dosari.

Beach includes integrated entertaining services for visitors

Touristic Enterprises Company opens Al-Blajat Beach

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (KUNA): The Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) announced Tuesday inaugurating Al Blajat Beach, which contains entertaining services for visitors as part of developing maritime destinations.

Speaking to KUNA, Fadhel Al-Dosari, TEC executive president, said the company set a plan to develop 10 km of Kuwait's seafronts including Al Blajat Beach.

He added that the beach includes

integrated entertaining services for visitors like restaurants, water park and games, and a volleyball playground as well as others.

There is a location of reservation to organize the entry process, and the use of utilities and available services, he

Visitors can use the beach from 9: a.m. until 11: p.m. (local time) in all days of the week, he said, elaborating that the capacity of the beach is 3,000 visitors per day.

The company allocated two paths for those with special needs that include offerings required services to ensure the optimal use of the beach, he pointed out.

The TEC is a government-owned entity that is responsible for operations, development, and management of touristic, entertainment and recreational as-

'Overfilled garbage containers breeding grounds for diseases'

Cleaning companies fail in their job

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Despite the pervasive presence of cleaning companies marked by the ubiquitous yellow color on the streets, evident through cars, bulldozers, and workers' uniforms, the reality on the ground underscores a genuine waste accumulation predicament within residential areas, reports Al-Rai dai-

ly. Observers of street cleanliness cannot overlook the few scattered small containers, incapable of containing the daily surge of waste, resulting in spillover and presenting a looming environmental pollution hazard.

Contamination

This danger arises from the squalor and contamination of these containers, exacerbated by the presence of stray cats, dogs, and mice, along with the increasing insect population - a glaring issue in most Kuwaiti areas.

Al-Rai conducted thorough tours of supposedly pristine residential areas, only to uncover severe neglect plaguing the majority of containers in all areas without exception.

In addition to this, Al-Rai initiated case investigations involving various stakeholders and concerned individuals. They affirmed that Kuwait faces a significant surge in waste volume, estimated at 6 thousand tons daily, coupled with a notable rise in the average waste generation per capita – reaching 1.5 kilograms each day.

This figure stands as one of the highest rates globally. Clearly, residential areas desperately require an increase in the number, size, and strategic placement of garbage containers to accommodate this

Achieving this necessitates the municipality bolstering its supervisory role over cleaning companies, holding violators ac-countable, and pioneering the development of novel mechanisms to curtail environmental pollution in both residential and investment zones.

"It is imperative to implement proposals of subterranean placement," emphasized stakeholders.

11 gamblers caught: The Sulaibikhat police officers have taken into custody 11 Asians after they were caught red-handed gambling in one of the neighborhoods, reports Al-Anba

The security sources said the suspects now await administrative deportation, and the gambling tools and money seized from them have been handed over to the concerned authority. A security source said

the arrest came following a tip-off from the suspects' neighbors.

Kuwait committed to fight corruption

CAIRO, Sept 26, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has been committed to implementing all Arab and international conventions against corruption, said Nawaf Al-Mahamel, vice president of Kuwait Anticorruption Authority (Nazaha) on Tuesday. Speaking to KUNA after

a meeting held earlier on following implementing the Arab treaty to combat corruption, Al-Mahamel said Nazaha is keen on benefiting from the countries' experiments in fighting corruption. Kuwait's pledge to all international, Arab and regional conventions is based on its keenness on fighting all types of corruption, he noted. Kuwait has effectively par-

ticipated in the meetings held on the Islamic, international and Arab levels to fight corruption, he said.

Today's meeting focused on two issues; implementing the Arab convention against corruption and reviewing the experiments of member states in this regard, he pointed out.

Other Voices

Love for 'darkness' in the nation of daylight

By Ahmad alsarraf

6 Mixing men and women together is the ultimate evil and a great danger,' stated MP Muhammad Hayef. However, he did not specify particular places or times for this perceived evil. Some individuals attacked him,

but those who should be concerned

opted to remain silent. MP Hayef is not

held accountable for his opinions, as he is entitled to adopt what he believes in. Personally, I write about certain opinions that may be considered unconventional and not in line with societal

values.



when the government accepts such opinions, it is the government that bears the blame rather than the originator of the ideas.

Academician Fatima Dashti shared the following with some modifications. "A day prior to the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for Values Enhancement with the Ministers of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research, among others, I discussed with a friend the anticipated outcome of the meeting, which I believed was already predetermined.

"This was due to the clear guidance from the Constitutional Court, leaving no room for further explanation as it defined the concept of segregation. However, we were surprised when the Minister of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research acquiesced to the committee's request to close the mixedgender sections at Kuwait University (KU), citing a violation of Kuwaiti traditions and Islamic principles.

"I would like to emphasize certain facts on this matter to ascertain if KU indeed violated national and Islamic values. At the outset of my tenure at KU, the sections, specifically lecture rooms, were mixed but also segregated.

"Female students would occupy a designated area while their male counterparts occupied another in the same lecture room. This practice persisted from the inception of KU in 1966 until the segregation law was enacted in 1996. The law was a product of political pressure, entangling KU in unrelated disputes. The law failed to account for the substantial costs associated with constructing special facilities for female students. Throughout my career at KU, I never witnessed any indecent behaviors violating traditions or Islamic values by either male or female students, particularly in seat

interactions with the opposite gender.

"Segregation was instinctively observed due to students' adherence to traditions and Islamic values. Even if there were a few violations, imposing a law with exorbitant financial and administrative costs was an unnecessary and impractical solution, especially when coeducation demonstrated compliance with traditions and Islamic values.

"The second issue I want to address pertains to whether KU breached the aforementioned law when it introduced two gender sections. To answer this question, we refer to the Constitutional Court's 2015 decision, which clarified that segregation does not imply placing female students in entirely separate rooms and buildings far removed from their male counterparts. The segregation law did not prescribe a specific form of segregation. The court highlighted that segregation meant both female and male students sharing the same sections, lecture rooms, and buildings, but with specific lines allocated for females and likewise for males. This has consistently been the

approach to implementing segregation. "Advocating for complete segregation by assigning separate buildings and lecture rooms for each gender is an excessive demand that adversely affects educational quality. KU carefully considered the burgeoning student population, building capacity, while upholding education standards and preserving traditions and Islamic values.

"In terms of the repercussions of the School of Law's response to the ministerial decision to close the mixed-gender sections, student lists that had been meticulously prepared over a considerable period were suddenly nullified. Students were required to re-register in a short period before the commencement of the new academic year. The term 'mixed-gender sections' may not be accurate, as 'mixing' implies a lack of separation, which is not the case in reality within a reputable educational institution like KU, where students and staff uphold Islamic values and national traditions.

"Colleague Abdullatif Al Duaij posted a tweet, from which I quote a portion: 'We defeated them in Jahra, and they resurfaced in Al Safat. After decades, and perhaps centuries, where the Kuwaiti people defended and sacrificed their lives for openness and peaceful coexistence, these very values are now under attack. This time however, the enemy - of openness, urbanism, and coexistence - is a part of our own society.""

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Police nab addict at checkpoint

Drugs, paraphernalia seized

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Early Monday morning, patrols from Ahmadi Security Operations took into custody an unidentified person, known for a history of drug abuse and found in possession of narcotics and drug-related paraphernalia, at a checkpoint established in the Fintas area, reports Al-Anba daily. A security source said the man was driv-

ing a Jeep was ordered to pull over after police suspected his behavior. Subsequently, a precautionary search was conducted, leading to the discovery of two pieces of hashish and drug-related items in his possession. Consequently, both the individual and the

confiscated narcotics were handed over to the General Administration for Narcotics

Meanwhile, the road security patrol successfully apprehended two intoxicated individuals causing a disturbance to passers-by, reports Al-Anba daily.

The drunkards are said to have collided with a police patrol on the Nuwaiseeb highway and then fled to the Ali Sabah Al-Salem area when police patrols answered calls from motorists about the suspects causing trouble to passersby. When they were finally arrested, they were found in possession of bottles of imported alcohol and cans of alcoholic beer.

Their car also has been impounded and referred to the police garage.



info@mughalmahal.com

Accolade a 'tremendous honor': Dr Al-Rumaihi

Arab gathering names Kuwait's Al-Rumaihi media personality of year

By Salem Al-Methen

DUBAI, Sept 26, (KUNA): Pan-Arab talks bringing together media bodies from across the region have named Kuwait's Dr. Mohammad Al-Rumaihi as the personality of the year in recognition of his contributions in the field. As he received his award, Al-Rumaihi, a professor of political sociology at Kuwait University, dedicated the achievement to his compatriots who have made notable contributions in the field of media and journalism, saying the accolade was a "tremendous honor."

He hailed the gathering as a significant initiative that helps propel the field of media and journalism in the region to greater levels, besides shining light on the importance of this

Al-Rumahi has enjoyed a prolific career in the field of journalism, having served as the chief editor of numerous Kuwaiti publications, while he has also authored a number of books delving into Arab social and politi-

Govt agencies' salary data not stored in our systems: Finance

Priority given to projects in northern region, Mubarak Port

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Ministry of Finance said that since the first day of the cyberattack, the Ministry of Finance's systems were isolated from the rest of the government agencies' systems, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry had formed a technical team consisting of several parties headed by the National Center for Cybersecurity, and with the assistance of a specialized international company that is relied upon by major international private and government agencies in combating this type of cybercrime.

It follows a strict and systematic framework to recover from the effects of the cyberattack that took place on September 18, 2023 and to follow up on everything new and everything related to this cyberattack and deal with it in the utmost professionalism

The Ministry of Finance confirms



Fahd Al-Shula

that all data related to the salaries of employees in government agencies is not stored in the ministry's systems, and that the financial transactions for all government agencies are continuing and proceeding nor-

The ministry praises the national efforts of the technical team and workers in the Ministry of Finance who have continued to work around the clock since the first hours of the cyberattack until the present time.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Finance urges those interested to obtain its news from its accounts on Twitter and Instagram @MOFKW and from reliable sources. The ministry also reserves the right to take legal measures against anyone who promotes incorrect news.

Structural plan: While the Council of Ministers approved a draft decree regarding the fourth general structural plan for the State of Kuwait 2040, and submitted it to His Highness the Crown Prince, the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shula confirmed that the project has a close connection with all the memorandums that were signed a few days ago with China, whether it is related to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port or renewable energy, as they are sites that are simultaneous and compatible with the plan, including also residential cities as well as the metro and railway, reports Al-Rai daily.

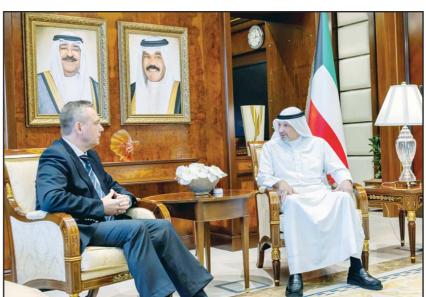
The Cabinet reviewed the visual presentation submitted by Al-Shula and municipal leaders regarding the project, which includes 4 regions - the Kuwait Urban Region, the Northern Regional Economic Region, the Southern Regional Region, and the Western Regional Region.

Al-Shula revealed, in a statement to Al-Rai, that the municipality intends to hold an extensive meeting with the authorities and institutions, to inform them of the components of the structural plan, after its approval and publication in the Official Gazette, especially 30 notes are attached to the project and what has been published is the useful summary, revealing that the priorities in implementing the projects will be for the northern economic region, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, and residential areas, in addition to distributing population density among the

In turn, the head of the Municipal Council, Abdullah Al-Mahri, said in a statement to Al-Rai that the master plan will serve as a road map for building a "new Kuwait" in line with the huge development projects included in the government's action plan, in addition to the memorandums of understanding that were signed with China, stressing the necessity of immediate meetings should be held between the municipality and the rest of the government agencies to formulate general policy to implement the content of the



French Ambassador Le Flecher.



Russian Ambassador Zheltov

FM meets French, Russian ambassadors

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met Tuesday with French Ambassador to the country, Claire Le Flecher and Russian Ambassador, Vladimir Zheltov.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that they touched on the recent developments in the region, mainly the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court's ruling over the Khor Abdullah waterway agree-ment. (KUNA)



Spanish ambassador honoring former CEO of Kuwait Airways Razouki. Performance of ex-KAC CEO commended

Spanish envoy honors Razouki

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Maan Razouki, the former CEO of Kuwait Airways, was honored with the Medal of Civil Merit by Spain in recognition of his significant efforts and contributions to fostering closer ties between Spain and Kuwait, reports

Al-Qabas daily. The Spanish Ambassador to Ku-

wait, Miguel Moro Aguilar, commended Razouki's outstanding performance during his tenure as the leader of Kuwait Airways in recent years. He highlighted that despite the strong bilateral relations between the two nations, direct flights had been absent for four decades since the last direct flight in the eighties.

He also mentioned the numerous Kuwaitis visiting Spain annually and purchasing real estate, considering them loyal tourists to Spain. However, they had to travel through other airlines and countries due to the lack of direct

Aguilar acknowledged Razouki's role in reopening the direct flight route between Madrid and Kuwait during his tenure, making it a highly sought-after travel destination.

This reopening facilitated an influx of 100,000 Kuwaiti tourists during the summer, with expectations of increased travel due to visa facilities and diversified travel routes.

Expressing his gratitude, Razouki emphasized that the honor bestowed by the King of Spain was not just for him personally but for all Kuwaitis. He took pride in the robust bilateral relations shared between the two

KDIPA to receive govt funding

AEZ to be launched in '24/'25 fiscal year

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: According to informed sources, the launch of the Abdali Economic Zone (AEZ) will take place in the second fiscal year of the government's work program, i.e. the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

They explained that the budget of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) will receive government funding through the relevant section to spend on its planned needs in the current fiscal year, including KD 600,000 allocated for consultations such as the management of special economic zones.

On February 5, KDIPA had launched an exercise to update the feasibility study for the Abdali Special Economic Zone. It has been mandated by the Council of Ministers since August 18, 2021 to proceed with offering it as a

public auction in a way that enhances the private sector's participation in the implementation of development projects and reduces the financial burden on the state budget.

KDIPA, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 116/2013, is responsible for developing economic zones in the north, south and west of the country on a total area estimated at 19 km, including (Abdali Economic Zone), for which financial appropriations began to be allocated in the authority's budget in the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

The economic zone, the structural plan of which was approved by the Municipal Council on March 24, 2022 on an area of 5.02 square kilometers, is one of the most important projects in the north of the country that will play a major role in cross-border export industries and will be a logistical center for Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.



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Summit to provide unique digital networking experience

Fundamental media space transformation shout out for Changemakers

LONDON, Sept 26: The media and advertising industry is at a crucial turning point with the magnitude of ongoing digital transformation and disruption. Leaders in the media and advertising space have more burning issues to deal with now than ever before – you can sweep it under the rug, or face them. Mediaspace Global Changemakers' Summit is for the ones who belong to the latter and want to stay ahead of the curve and extend their network outside their current circles.

Mediaspace.global, the social professional network for leaders in media, marketing, tech and regulation was designed to connect professionals from media, marketing, tech and regulation globally to facilitate conversations by meeting people, not just their social media profiles in the digital space.

The first Mediaspace Global Changemakers' Summit on 28th September 2023 is the next step for the platform, its members and potential members to provide unique digital networking experience and high-level knowledge sharing through a full day virtual event.

It'll be followed by a post-summit meetup in London which also happens to be the Q3 session in the quarterly series of premium members' Mediaspace Leadership Club London Roundtable.

Shifts and discruption in focus - to look out for

At the summit you'll be part of digital networking and high-level conversations on cutting-edge topics: ■ Addressing the biggest shift in digital advertising since the 1990s

■ Addressing the biggest tech disruption since the internet: AI

Addressing monetisation in a cross-media and platform competition ■ Addressing sustainability & effectiveness in

the media and ad space ■ Addressing digital transformation in the me-

dia and ad space Explore a new format: conversational, network-

ing-focused and anti-elitist To ensure quality interaction, Mediaspace leaders and ambassadors invite only 250 leaders, experts and innovators from the media, adtech, mar-

keting and regulatory space globally Speakers – including TIME EMEA Managing Director and World Media Group chairman, Damian Douglas, worldwide known competition economist expert, Cristina Caffarra of Keystone and Navroop K. Sahdev, Founder and CEO of The Digital Economist and more-will also be part of

the conversation that attendees can join. The good news is that you can also join the conversation, no matter what your company size or location. Contact the Summit Ambassadors named below for an invitation.

Mediaspace.global is offering an 80% discounted ticket to women leaders, innovators, changemakers in the media, advertising, legal, policy making and tech space and 20 free tickets to next-



Walid Kanafani



Damien Douglas

gen changemakers (under 30 years old).

Summit Ambassadors as gate-openers ■ Patricio Pagani /LATAM, Founder & Lead Puma @TheBlackPuma, Growth Hacker, VC, Data & Tech Angel Investor & Advisor & Futurist

■ Ellie Edwards-Scott/UK, Co-Founder of The Advisory Collective, Strategic Advisor Tamima Ibrahim/Africa, Business development

and marketing magager, Pan-Africa Network Group

Jane King/US, CEO and Founder, LilaMax Media at the NASDAQ. Host, New to the Street, NewsMax TV

■ Farrell Tan and Dr Craig J Selby/Asia, Co-Founders of Orchan Asia Consulting and The Third

Walid Kanafani, CPM /Middle East, Founder of Beyond Consulting Services, Global Vice President MENA- Education at the

International Advertising Association ■ Kinga Incze / EU, Founder and CEO of Me-

diaspace.global (kinga.incze@whitereport.global) ■ Lavina Suthenthiran / any other regions, Head of Content and Comms at Mediaspace.global (lavina.suthenthiran@mediaspace.global) Links

■ More details about Mediaspace.global: Mediaspace.global

■ More details about the Summit: https://www. eventbrite.co.uk/e/mediaspace-global-changemakers-summit-tickets-617331484087

Get invited to the Post-Summit London event and book your ticket here:https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mediaspace-leadership-club-london-q3-changemakers-summit-afterparty-tickets-698854110457?aff=oddtdtcreator

World Peace Day celebration calls for rejection of violence & racism

Kuwait's international standing praised

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (KUNA): On Monday evening, the Women's Institute for **Development and Peace hosted** the eighth edition of the World Peace Day celebration. This event aligned with the United Nations' theme for the year, "Working for peace is our ambition to achieve global goals." The ceremony commenced with a recorded speech by Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, who initiated the event under his patronage.

He emphasized the profound belief in peace's values, advocated by both human and divine laws, striving for global peace, security, and stability that every human deserves. Sheikh Ahmed Nasser stated that peace should replace the destruction and devastation caused by wars and conflicts, underscoring Kuwait's historical commitment to the inseparable elements of peace and development.

He highlighted Kuwait's prominent role as a global advocate for peace and humanitarian work, acknowledging its recognition by the United Nations as a center for humanitarian efforts and honoring its late Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as a Humanitarian Action Leader in 2014.

Resolution

He expressed his earnest desire for global peace, the resolution of disputes and conflicts, and the restoration of usurped rights, with a particular focus on the rights of



KUNA photo

Celebration of World Peace Day

Palestinians to a secure, sovereign, independent, and prosperous homeland within the borders of June 4, 1967.

Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, echoed these sentiments in a recorded speech, praising the Women's Institute's initiatives to empower Arab women in leadership roles, conflict prevention and resolution, peace building, and sustainability efforts. He stressed the importance of international and regional collaboration, emphasizing the need for governments and the international community to empower women, ensuring their full and equal participation in achieving and preserving peace. Aboul Gheit recognized the pivotal role women play in the peace equation and its sustainability. He also noted that the Women's Rights Committee, established in 1971, has supported various programs aimed at achieving justice, political, economic, and social rights for women, and the inclusion of women's perspectives in peace-building initia-

Kawthar Al-Jawaan, the head of the institute and the Arab Women's Network for Peace, emphasized the urgent need for peace in today's world, which is plagued by wars, conflicts, poverty, homelessness, hunger, and climate crisis, even in seemingly peaceful nations. She called for collective action to promote peace, combat inequality, address climate change, and protect human rights. Al-Jawaan envisioned a world free of wars where individuals coexist peacefully, making the world a more beautiful and harmonious place.



Shaping future of banking excellence

CCE-AUK, Gulf Bank collaborate on Ajyal 9th Edition

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Inspired by the collective vision of maintaining a robust sustainability program that contributes towards achieving the New Kuwait Vision 2035, the Center for Continuing Education (CCE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Gulf Bank have continued their collaborative journey through the unique flagship annual development program, "AJYAL".

The Ajyal Program commenced its 9th edition, a sixmonth comprehensive learning journey, aiming to help learners develop key banking skills, cultivating high performing, holistic bankers who are at the focus of the bank's long-term growth strategy by demonstrating promising potential on both personal and professional levels.

The objective of the program is to foster a performancedriven culture (PEOPLE), introduce technology solutions to enable a bank-wide digital transformation (TECHNOL-OGY), and adopt world-class risk management practices (RISK), which in turn, would add value to the bank's vision.

Following the success of Ajyal 7 and 8, the Center continues to resound its motto "Learning never ends" by

designing an enhanced curriculum which corresponds to Gulf Bank's Ajyal core competencies. This curriculum is delivered through CCE's reputable professors and facilitators who employ creative learning methodologies, ideas, and strategies to empower participants to become future leaders.

Ms. Amal Al-Binali, AUK executive vice president, highlighted the significance of this collaboration, "AUK's partnership with Gulf Bank isn't just a collaboration; it is a testament to the University's leading role in Kuwait's educational transformation. AUK is at the forefront of supporting educators and local talents, equipping them with the tools needed to enhance their skills and keep them up to date with the fast-changing banking industry.

Ms. Nehal El Shafei, CCE director, commented on the program and what it entails, "From concept to completion, we are delighted to support Gulf Bank in delivering this innovative program designed with an integrated and interactive approach that provides participants with distinct and all-inclusive skill sets for promising talents at Gulf Bank."

AUK is an institution deeply rooted in its unwavering commitment to education and the ceaseless pursuit of knowledge. The University serves as a conduit for educational outreach, disseminating knowledge and expertise to the world at large.

World Tourism Day focuses on sustainable future MADRID, Sept 26, (KUNA): The World Tourism Day 2023, likashvili said, "Tourism has never been more important for

to be celebrated on Wednesday in the Saudi capital Riyadh, will focus on bringing the world together around them theme of Tourism and Green Investments.

According to the UN World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO), Member States would mark the occasion in every re-

gion through a range of special events and programs. On this occasion, UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Polo-

our economies or for our societies. Its potential is enormous. And so on this World Tourism Day, we celebrate tourism's ability to drive growth while also highlighting the vital need for investments to ensure such growth is inclusive and sus-

During this year's celebrations, UNWTO will place the emphasis on Tourism and Green Investments.





















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What's On



IPS visits Crowne Plaza Hotel, Farwaniya

IPS students treated to enriching training session

On Sept 20, 2023, students from the Commerce Stream of Indian Public School were treated to an enriching training session at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Farwaniya.

Accompanied by their teachers, Saji Samuel, Mrs. Soniya Bibin, and the Principal, Mrs. Lucy A Cherian, this program aimed to elevate their understanding and expertise in delivering exceptional guest experiences within

the hospitality industry.

The focal point of this training was to equip the participants with an extensive grasp of Customer Service, effective communication, and best practices prevalent in the hospitality sector.

A group of 44 students accompanied by their teachers and principal received a warm welcome from Ganesh Kumar and his team, and were ushered into the Al-Murjan ballroom where they were introduced to the General Manager and heads of various hotel departments including Finance, HR, Engineering, and Housekeeping. The General Manager extended a warm welcome, followed by an address from the IPS Principal.

The General Manager presented the Principal with a memento to commemorate this event. The students were then divided into groups of eight and assigned to five different stations, each set up by the hotel staff: Housekeeping, Bakery, Food Carving, Mocktail Preparation, and Table Ardents wielding rolling pins while making cookies and decorating cakes was a delightful sight. The session was highly interactive, and all their questions were patiently addressed by the staff. This experience provided students

croissants, pastries, sandwiches, and juice. Following the break, the students were taken on an engineering tour, where they got a close-up view of the 11 power stations, water tanks, and 5000-ton AC units.

arrangements such as classroom style, theatre style, U setup, formal meeting setup, and formal dining setup. The students were then guided through various rooms, including the Royal Suite often used by royalty and diplomats. as well as the Normal suites.



Kevin Tran, 16, (right), speaks about the Bridge to Calculus summer pro-

Global competitiveness at risk

America's poor math skills raise concerns

BOSTON, Sept 26, (AP): Like a lot of high school students, Kevin Tran loves superheroes, though perhaps for differ-

ent reasons than his classmates. "They're all insanely smart. In their regular jobs they're engineers, they're scientists," said Tran, 17. "And you can't do any of those things without

Tran also loves math. This summer, with other high schoolers in a program at Northeastern University

But Tran and his friends are not the norm. Many Americans joke about how bad they are at math, and already abysmal scores on standardized math tests are falling even further.

The nation needs people who are good at math, employers say, in the same way motion picture mortals need superheroes. They say America's poor math performance isn't funny. It's a threat to the nation's global economic competitiveness and national security.

"The advances in technology that are going to drive where the world goes in the next 50 years are going to come from other countries, because they have the intellectual capital and we don't," said Jim Stigler, a psychology professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, who studies the process of teaching and learning subjects including math.

Education

The Defense Department has called for a major initiative to support education in science, technology, education and math, or STEM. It says there are eight times as many college graduates in these disciplines in China and four times as many engineers in Russia as in the United States

"This is not an educational question alone," said Josh Wyner, vice president of The Aspen Institute think tank. In July, the think tank warned that other nations, particularly China, are challenging America's technological dominance. "Resolving the fundamental challenges facing our time requires

Meanwhile, the number of jobs in math occupations - positions that "use arithmetic and apply advanced techniques to make calculations, analyze data and solve problems" - will increase by more than 30,000 per year through the end of this decade, Bureau of Labor Statistics figures show. That's much faster than most other kinds of

"Mathematics is becoming more and more a part of almost every career," said Michael Allen, who chairs the math department at Tennessee Technological University.

Tennessee Tech runs a summer camp teaching cybersecurity, which requires math, to high school students. "That lightbulb goes off and they say, 'That's why I need to know that, Allen said. Computer-related jobs ranging from software development to semiconductor production - require math, too. Analysts say those fields have or will develop labor shortages.

But most American students aren't prepared for those jobs. In the most recent Program for International Student Assessment tests in math, or PISA, US students scored lower than their counterparts in 36 other education systems worldwide. Students in China scored the highest. Only one in five collegebound American high school students is prepared for college-level courses in STEM, according to the National Science and Technology Council.

One result: Students from other countries are preparing to lead these fields. Only one in five graduate stucluding computer science and electrical engineering at U.S. universities are American, the National Foundation for American Policy reports. The rest come from abroad. Most will leave the U.S. when they finish their programs.

In the US, poor math skills could mean lower salaries for today's kids. A Stanford economist has estimated that, if U.S. pandemic math declines are not reversed, students now in kindergarten through grade 12 will earn from 2% to 9% less over their careers, depending on what state they live in, than their predecessors educated just before the start of the pandemic.

But it also means the country's productivity and competitiveness could

"Math just underpins everything," said Megan Schrauben, executive director of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's MiSTEM initiative, which tries to get more students into STEM. "It's extremely important for the future prosperity of our students and communities, but also our entire state.

In Massachusetts, employers are anticipating a shortage over the next five years of 11,000 workers in the life sciences alone.

"It's not a small problem," said Edward Lambert Jr., executive director of the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education. "We're just not starting students, particularly students of color and from lower-resourced families, on career paths related to math and computer science and those things in which we need to stay competitive, or starting them early enough.

The Bridge to Calculus program at Northeastern, where Kevin Tran spent his summer, is one response to that. The 113 participating students were paid \$15 an hour, most of it from Boston and its public schools, said the program's coordinator, Bindu Veetel. The university provided the classroom

space and some of the teachers. The students' days began at 7:30 a.m., when teacher Jeremy Howland had them run exercises in their heads. "Bada-bing," Howland said whenever they were right.

Knowledge

Students learned to apply that knowledge in coding, data analysis, robotics and elementary electrical engineering classes.

It's not just a good deed that Northeastern is doing. Some of the graduates of Bridge to Calculus end up enrolling there and proceeding to its highly ranked computer science and engineering programs, which - like those at other U.S. universities - struggle to

attract homegrown talent. These American high school students said they get why their classmates don't like math.

Ivanna Edith Dsouza, one of the students, delivered the vote of thanks.

rangement.
Under the expert guidance of the staff, students received a firsthand experience on how to make beds, set tables, decorate cupcakes, bake cookies, prepare Mojitos, and carve fruits and vegetables. This hands-on experience was both thrilling and novel for all the students. Witnessing stuwith a glimpse into the day-to-day operations of a 5-star hotel chain.

A break was arranged, featuring a delectable array of snacks including

Later, they were led to the ballroom where they observed different table

Bushman and Druminski to perform masterpieces

A night of Mozart's magic to enchant Kuwait

By Chaitali B. Roy Special to the Arab Times

n September 27 and 28, Ahmadi Music Group, led by the celebrated Richard Bushman, will treat music aficionados in Kuwait to the genius of Mozart performed by an ensemble of Kuwait-based and international professionals with Harriet Bushman and Manuel Druminski appearing as soloists at the AUK auditorium. The two soloists will perform Mozart Piano Concerto No 12, and Violin Concerto No 5. Both compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) are two of his most successful works. Mozart wrote his piano concertos, including No. 12, in 1782 for that winter's concert season in Vienna, after the success of his opera The Abduction from the Seraglio. Concerto No 12 was one of his first concertos to be published.

Mozart who learned to play the violin at an early age from his father, wrote his Violin Concerto No 5 during his apprentice period in 1775. Steve Lacoste, the renowned composer, makes the following observation regarding Violin Concerto No. 5, "Especially in his Violin Concerto No. 5 in A, K. 219, Mozart demonstrates great imagination in his experimentation with fluctuating tempos and diverse meters within single movements. Such freedom in his handling of material expresses not only originality of form but also Mozart's knowledge and command of both the Italian and French styles, a demonstration of his cosmopolitanism at the age of 19!"

Composer

On Sep 27 and 28, Kuwait will be treated to a special performance by Harriet Bushman, an award-winning composer of instrumental and vocal music for both theatre and the concert stage. She will play Mozart's Piano Concerto 12 accompanied by the Ahmadi Music Group. Harriet Bushman trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Florence, and Lausanne. She relocated to Saudi Arabia and, as a solo pianist and chamber musician, toured the Middle East. After returning to England, Harriet scored documentary music for the BBC and Channel 4 Television.

Harriet and her husband Richard have, through their work with the Ahmadi Music Group and through their independent work, left an indelible mark on Kuwait's cultural scene. Both have collaborated with local musicians, written songs and incidental music for local theatre productions in English and successfully navigated the difficult terrain of performing arts in Kuwait with relative ease. "This piano concerto number 12 K414 is deeply special to me," notes Harriet "It seems it was written during a happy period of Mozart's tragically short life and absolutely embodies the spirit of his musical genius. This music is playful and gentle although at times stormy, turbulent, challenging and exciting. As in all great music, it depicts human emotion on many different levels, making you feel that the music is talking directly, and only, to your own heart.

In 1782, while writing about his piano concertos to his father, a gifted musician himself, Mozart wrote, "These concertos are a happy medium between too heavy and too light. They are very brilliant, pleasing to the ear, and natural, without being insipid. There are parts here and there from which connoisseurs alone can derive satisfaction, but these passages are written in such a way that the less learned cannot fail to be pleased, albeit without knowing why." Ac-



Harriet Bushman, Manuel Druminski and the Ahmadi Music Group to perform on Sept 27 and Sept 28 at the American University Kuwait.

cording to Harriet, Mozart was an improviser of unparalleled brilliance, and even though most of the music the soloist is playing is written down, there are moments when flight and fancy take over, and the soloist can 'do their own thing'. "I love this liberty that Mozart builds into his concertos - that as the soloist, one can feel illuminated by the spirit of this great man of almost 300 years ago and play from one's own heart," she notes.

Experience

The upcoming recital on Sept 27 -28 will also feature a violin maestro. Manuel Druminski is a world-renowned German violinist and composer with years of experience and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the Academy for Music and Theatre in Munich, Germany.

In 2009, he successfully completed his studies and became 1st concertmaster of the Freiburg Philharmonic Orchestra and Munich Philharmonic Orchestra. Before the pandemic, Manuel Druminski taught at the Royal Training Centre in Kuwait at the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre.

In 2022, he also taught as a professor at the University of the Musical Arts Kuwait. In pre-pandemic years, Manuel Druminski has played at Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, and with the Ahmadi Music Group. Druminski and Harriet Bushman played as a duo many times during his stay in Kuwait. Together, they performed

the great compositions of Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Cesar Franck, Staint Saens and more. "I first heard Mr Druminski play the Bach Chaconne at a Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah concert and knew I was in the presence of an unusually fine musician as well as a consummate violinist, "Harriet recalls. "The day he left Kuwait was a tragic one not only for me but for the whole musical scene.'

In December 2022, Druminski joined the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, an Austrian ensemble founded with the help of Mozart's sons and widows in 1841, as its first concertmaster. Manuel Druminski appears both as a soloist and in chamber music formations. He appears regularly at well-known festivals like the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Rheingau Festival, ZMF (Zeltmusik Festival Freiburg), Lucerne Festival and many others.

Orchestra

When asked about his favourite violin composition, Druminski replies, "The Chaconne by JS Bach. It is not a big flashy piece like some others, which I also like, but it requires incredible accuracy and subtlety, which take complete control, so that is why it is exciting for me." Most musicians have a special routine they follow before each perfor-

mance, Druminski is no exception. "I try to go inside myself and to focus and reach a level of calm, keep my focus turned on,"he says. "I play the violin very slowly, meditation-style, then go on stage and perform. Even loud, explosive music has to be played from a calm state." Since last year, Manuel D Druminski has been concertmaster to Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg. one of the finest orchestras with roots very close to the little master himself. "Playing for the Mozarteum is a very special experience," he says. "It is a very high-quality orchestra, some days we play better or worse, just like any other orchestra, but we try to make every performance into the greatest audience experience we can, and for me, to see the effort that everyone makes is very exciting, and it is a privilege to be a member of this orchestra.'

On Sept 27/28 at the American University Kuwait, Harriet Bushman, Manuel Druminski and the Ahmadi Music Group will once again share the platform when the audience will be spirited back to the 18th century when life was not just powdered wigs and candlelit silks but deeply dramatic in the disparity of human existence." Mozart experienced it all," says Harriet, " the fine manners at royal courts versus bloody brawls in bars, or travelling around Europe as a celebrated musician versus scribbling in a garret fending off fear-filled grinding poverty. It all appears in his music, and these two concertos, accompanied by the Ahmadi Music Group orchestra directed by Richard Bushman, will bring it all

'Warba' provides educational supplies to needy families in Kuwait

Warba Bank, in cooperation with Al Salam Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works, contributed to distributing school supplies to needy familiesinside Kuwait within the "School Bags and Clothes for Our Students Sons and Daughters" exhibition, organized by Al Salam Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works in the presence of the ChairmanDr. Nabil Al-Oun, and a team of volunteers in this event held from September 6 to 10. The event was a great success and provided many school needs and supplies to needy families and

EGX 30

Regarding the arrangements for distributing "back to school" supplies in cooperation with Al Salam Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works, the Director Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, Ayman Salem Al Mutairi, said: The idea of distributing school supplies to needy families coincided with the

"back to school" season, as this initiative

comes from the Bank's belief in the neces-

sity of helping and assisting needy families inside Kuwait and contributing to providing

26-09-2023

their hearts. He continued that the Bank is keen to devote the concept of voluntary social work and contribute to various humanitarian and charitable activities within a social program that supports charitable and humanitarian initiatives directed to the needlest groups, as there are specialized committees that carefully study these cases by Al Salam Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works.

school clothing for the sons and daughters

of these families, alleviating their burdens

of living, and bringing joy and happiness to





Dr Nabil Al Oun (left) and Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi

Market Movements

Change Closing pts PHILIPPINES - PSEi +1.48 6,263.94 Tadawu +0.37

10.918.24 20,354.86

JAPAN Nikkei **PAKISTAN** - KSE 100

Change Closing pts -0.67 4,154.11 32.315.05 -1.11 46,308.54

Business

Event slated for Sept 28

Ooredoo Kuwait unveils spectacular plans for iPhone 15 launch event

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Ooredoo Kuwait is gearing up to make a resounding impact in the tech world with the announcement of their highly anticipated iPhone 15 launch event.

SAUDI

Scheduled for September 28, 2023, this event promises to be an extraordinary experience catering to tech enthusiasts, gamers, food connoisseurs, and music aficionados. It's not just about the iPhone; it's about creating an unforgettable, diverse experience for all attendees.

Tech Enthusiasts: The Age of AI For technology aficionados, this event will be an AI extravaganza. Cutting-edge AI demonstrations and the latest innovations in artificial intelligence will immerse attendees in the world of tech innovation.

Gamers Assemble: Gaming Extravaganza

Gamers won't be left behind; the event boasts challenging and entertaining gaming activities, appealing to both casual and professional gamers.

Culinary Delights and Live

Food lovers will delight in a wide selection of delectable cuisines from various food booths. Adding rhythm to the night, live music performances, including a special appearance by renowned singer Abdelaziz Louis, are set to captivate the audience.

Midnight iPhone Madness

For iPhone enthusiasts, the pinnacle of the evening will be the exclusive opportunity to be among the first to own the highly anticipated iPhone 15. Excitement begins at 8:00 PM as eager customers queue up, culminating in a climactic midnight release.



One of the bands to take part in the event.

Moreover, attendees can look forward to an array of exciting Ooredoo offers, with early birds set to reap the most rewarding ben-

efits. A Grand Celebration Antici-

With its blend of cutting-edge



Customers transacting business at one of Ooredoo's offices.

technology, gaming excitement, culinary delights, and live music, the iPhone 15 launch event is poised to attract a massive crowd.

It's expected to be one of Kuwait's most significant events this year, promising an unforgettable night for all in attendance.

Asian shares dip

Wall St drops as its Sept 'slump' gets even worse

NEW YORK, Sept 26, (AP): Wall Street's September swoon is worsening Tuesday, and U.S. stocks are falling toward their lowest level since

The S&P 500 was 1.1% lower in midday trading, coming off a rare gain and on track for its fifth drop in six days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 294 points, or 0.9%, at 33.712. as of 11:20 a.m. Eastern time. and the Nasdaq composite was 1.2% lower.

Stocks have tumbled this month, which is on track to be Wall Street's worst of the year, as the realization sets in that the Federal Reserve will indeed keep interest rates high for a long time The growing understanding has sent vields in the bond market to their highest levels in more than a decade, which in turn has undercut prices for stocks and other investments.

Treasury yields were holding near their highest levels since 2007 following a mixed batch of reports on the economy. The yield on the 10-year Treasury was holding at 4.54%.

One report showed confidence among consumers was weaker than economists expected. That's concerning because strong spending by U.S. households has been a bulwark keeping the economy out of a long-predicted recession.

A separate report said sales of new homes across the country slowed by more last month than economists expected, while a third report suggested manufacturing in Maryland, the Virginias and the Carolinas may be steadying itself following a more than year-

long slump.
While housing and manufacturing have felt the sting of high interest rates, the economy overall has held up well enough to raise worries that upward pressure still exists on inflation. That pushed the Fed last week to say it will likely cut interest rates by less next year than earlier expected. The Fed's main interest rate is already at its highest level since 2001 in its drive to get inflation back down to its target.

Besides high interest rates, a long list of other worries is also tugging at Wall Street. The most immediate is the threat of another U.S. government shutdown as Capitol Hill threatens a stalemate that could shut off federal services across the country.

Wall Street has dealt with such shutdowns in the past, and stocks have historically been turbulent in the runup to them, according to Lori Calvasina, strategist at RBC Capital Markets. After looking at the seven shut-

downs that lasted 10 days or more since the 1970s, she found the S&P 500 dropped an average of roughly 10% in the three months heading into them. Stocks managed to hold up rather well during the shutdowns, falling an average of just 0.2%, before rebounding meaningfully afterward.

Besides the threats of higher interest rates for longer and a possible federal shutdown, Wall Street is also contending with higher oil prices, shaky economies around the world, a strike by U.S. auto workers that could put more upward pressure on inflation and a resumption of U.S. student-loan repayments that could dent spending by ouseholds.

Asia

Asian shares mostly sank Tuesday over worries about a possible U.S. government shutdown and the troubled Chinese economy.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index slipped 1.0% in afternoon trading to 32,357.25. Australia's S&P/ ASX 200 dipped 0.5% to 7,044.90. South Korea's Kospi dropped nearly 1.3% to 2,463.63. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.9% to 17,576.83, while the Shanghai Composite fell 0.2% to

Investors are watching for Chinese economic indicators being released later in the week.

"The Chinese property woes are far from over, as the notorious developer Evergrande defaulted on its 4 billion yuan onshore bond repayment and delayed the restructuring meetings," said Tina Teng, market analyst at CMC Markets APAC & Canada.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude slipped 29 cents to \$89.39 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 36 cents to \$92.93 a barrel. On Wall Street, Exxon Mobil rose 1.1% and ConocoPhillips gained 1.6%. Oil prices have leaped sharply since the early summer.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 148.91 Japanese yen from 148.84 yen. The euro cost \$1.0588, down from \$1.0594.



A currency trader watches monitors near the screens showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), left, and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Sept 26, 2023. Asian shares mostly sank Tuesday, Sept 26, over worries about a possible U.S. government shutdown and the troubled Chinese economy. (AP)

US President Biden to join the UAW strike picket line

Experts can't recall the last time a president did that

WASHINGTON, Sept 26, (AP): US President Joe Biden's decision to stand alongside United Auto Workers pickets on Tuesday on the 12th day of their strike against major carmakers underscores support of labor unions that appears to be unparalleled in presidential history.

Experts in presidential and U.S. labor history say they cannot recall an instance when a sitting president has joined an ongoing strike, even during the tenures of the more ardent pro-union presidents such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Theodore Roosevelt invited labor leaders alongside mine operators to the White House amid a historic coal strike in 1902, a decision that was seen at the time as a rare embrace of unions as Roosevelt tried to resolve the dispute.

Biden will be arriving one day before former President Donald Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican nomination, goes to Detroit to hold his own event in an attempt to woo autoworkers even though union leaders say he's no ally.

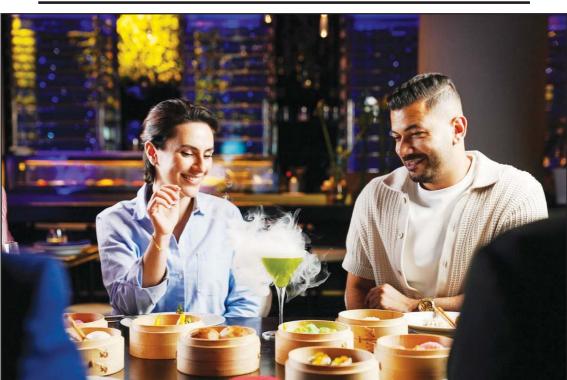
Lawmakers often appear at strikes to show solidarity with unions, and during his 2020 Democratic primary campaign, Biden and other presidential hopefuls joined a picket line of hundreds of casino workers in Las Vegas who were pushing for a contract with The Palms Casino Resort.

But sitting presidents, who have to balance the rights of workers with disruptions to the economy, supply chains and other facets of everyday life, have long wanted to stay out of the strike fray - until Biden.

"This is absolutely unprecedented. No president has ever walked a picket line before," said Erik Loomis, a professor at the University of Rhode Island and an expert on U.S. labor history. Presidents historically "avoided direct participation in strikes. They saw themselves more as mediators. They did not see it as their place to directly intervene in a strike or in labor

Biden's trip to join a picket line in the suburbs of Detroit is the most significant demonstration of his pro-union bona fides, a record that includes vocal support for unionization efforts at Amazon.com facilities and executive actions that promoted worker organizing. He also earned a joint endorsement of major unions earlier this year and has avoided southern California for high-dollar fundraisers amid the writers' and actors' strikes in Hollywood.

During the ongoing UAW strike, Biden has argued that the auto companies have not gone far enough, although White House officials have



Guests at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait.

FS Kuwait - A lifetime of memories story starter

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Create a lifetime of magical memories together at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj

From fairy tale beginnings to happily ever-after moments, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is a wonderfilled enclave in the heart of Kuwait City waiting for you to write your story of togetherness. Whether you're enjoying a romantic getaway or marking an anniversary in style in a private cabana, we're behind you every step of the memorymaking journey with world-class dining, Forbes Five-star spa facilities, resort-like spaciousness, and exclusive packages for every occasion. Here are our four ways to mark your precious moments with us: 1. Once upon a time – romantic be-

For princes and princesses at the

start of their happy-ever-after, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is the perfect backdrop to create enduring memories. Many an enchanted romance begins at our signature restaurant, Sintoho, as friends gather to enjoy sensational Asian dining and a sophisticated, warm ambiance. The glittering city views and hip DJ tunes cast an inviting spell as eyes meet over tables buzzy with chat and laughter. 2. Making magic happen... together

Craving time to get to know one another in relaxed luxury? Our spa sanctuary - the first in Kuwait to achieve Forbes Five-star status – is the place to soak up true restorative tranquility. Let life's stresses fall away in the Indoor Spa Pool as you swim lengths or chill on one of the daybeds with selections from our extensive poolside menu. Enjoy invigorating traditional hammam treatments, signature rituals and more individually, before coming together to connect hearts and minds in our spacious Jacuzzi overlooking the city's dazzling beauty.

3. True enchantment for every cou-

Whether it's your honeymoon, a special anniversary or 'just because', the Hotel's Romance Package includes a welcome of in-room cake, beautiful flowers and non-alcoholic sparkling wine in the city's largest guest rooms; breakfast for two; guaranteed early check-in and late check-out as well as plenty of thoughtful touches that allow you to focus wholly on togetherness. Soak up sumptuous spa treatments, enjoy in-room dining in huge luxurious suites, and raise a toast to forever in our rooftop restaurants. If children are part of your fairy tale, our Luxury Family Getaway Package takes care of all those little details leaving you free to enjoy a truly restorative break.

4. Mark special milestones on your journey

Wherever you are in your own fairy tale, from the very beginning to starting over again, our urban Kuwaiti sanctuary is an iconic setting to celebrate togetherness. Looking for a luxurious, private space to mark a meaningful anniversary? A unique experience in the city, our resort-like air-conditioned poolside cabanas set the scene for special occasion dining at Al Bandar, the Hotel's fourth-floor restaurant and lounge. Exclusive Cabana Packages feature thoughtfully crafted menus and private attendant service set against a buzzy club-like vibe late into the night.

repeatedly declined to say whether the president endorses specific UAW demands such as a 40% hike in wages and full-time pay for a 32-hour work

"I think the UAW gave up an incredible amount back when the automobile industry was going under. They gave everything from their pensions on, and they saved the automobile industry," Biden said Monday from the White House. He said workers should benefit from carmakers' riches "now that the industry is roaring back."

Biden and other Democrats are more aggressively touting the president's pro-labor credentials at a time when Trump is trying to make inroads in critical swing states where unions remain influential, including Michigan and Pennsylvania. Biden is leaning on his union support at a time when labor enjoys broad support from the public, with 67% of Americans approving of labor unions in an August Gallup poll.

The United Farm Workers announced their endorsement of Biden on Tuesday, calling him "an authentic champion for workers and their families, regardless of their race or national origin." Biden's campaign manager, Julie Chavez Rodriguez, is the granddaughter of Cesar Chavez, the union's co-founder.

Trump is skipping the second Republican primary debate on Wednesday and will meet with striking autoworkers in Michigan, seeking to capitalize on discontent over the state of the economy and anger over the Biden administration's push for more electric vehicles - a key component of its clean-energy agenda.

Mohammed Taqi



Gulf Bank: Parents can pay their children's tuition fees on installments

As part of its efforts to provide distinguished services, and on the occasion of the beginning of the new academic year, Gulf Bank is providing credit card holders with the opportunity to pay their children's school fees over a period of 12-months, interestfree, through Gulf Bank's Easy Pay

In addition to pay school fees, customers can request to benefit from this service when shopping from all participating stores and institutions -

for purchases of KD 50 or more for each transaction – by requesting to transfer the transaction via the Easy Pay service.

When shopping locally or internationally, customers can pay KD 150 or more for each transaction, and would then receive a text message from the bank with the transactions eligible to be transferred to the Easy Pay fea-

Gulf Bank's Assistant General Manager of Consumer Banking, Mr. Mohammed Taqi, said: "As part of Gulf Bank's continuous efforts to establish the principles of social sustainability, Gulf Bank works to keep pace with the aspirations of its customers, and meet their requirements; in parallel with its continuous endeavors to provide the best products and services, and an outstanding customer experience."

Tagi mentioned that Gulf Bank aims to contribute to alleviating the burden on parents, with the beginning of the new academic year, by providing

them with the opportunity to pay their school fees in installments over a period of 12 months, interest-free, without any additional transaction fees.

He further stated that the Easy Pay service comes as part of a large package of services provided by the bank, and its ongoing strategy, which aims to consolidate the Bank's leading position as the Kuwaiti Bank of the Future, by providing customers with the best banking solutions and services.

CODED Academy & Agility conclude 'Kuwait Codes'



2023 program expanded girls participation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: CODED Academy, the first coding academy in the Middle East - based in Kuwait, has concluded its Kuwait Codes training program, providing free programming training for over 1,100 high schools students in partnership with Agility and other local

The Kuwait Codes initiative provides basic digital skills that the country's future workforce needs in order to build a successful knowledge and innovation-led economy. The 2023 program focused on four distinct knowledge areas: website programming, game development, Python Programming, and app-building toolkit

The training ran through three main cohorts that welcomed 1147 students, 565 boys and 482 girls. An additional 102 girls participated in a special program, 'Ra'idat al Taqnia, developed by CODED to increase female participation. 'Ra'idat al Taqnia' program participants undertook

intensive training UI/UX and design of an interface for a website or mobile application; a startup workshop to teach about entrepreneurship; and Women in Tech.

During the graduation ceremony, Agility presented the Best Woman Project Award to Jenan Faisal, who developed an application using Python that helps people finding destinations during their travels which is also integrated with speech recognition for easier customer usability.

Henadi Al Saleh, Agility Chairperson, said: "Congratulations to all the participants in this year's Kuwait Codes program. Digital skills are essential for the jobs of the future, and

we're proud to have supported 1147 young people in strengthening their digital capabilities - with nearly 50% female participation. Agility is committed to creating opportunities for our young people to thrive - and our CODED partnership has helped train nearly 1,500 young people in total since 2022."

ABK announces its closure on the occasion of the Prophet's Birthday

Bank extends greetings to the Kuwaiti leadership

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) extends its greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as the government, people, and residents of Kuwait on the occasion of the Prophet's birthday (PBUH), hoping it bestows an abundance of blessings.

ABK discloses that its branches will be closed on Thursday, 28th of September 2023 to resume operations on Sunday, 1st of October 2023. During this time, ABK's newly launched digital branch in Al Khiran Mall will be functional to service customers from 10 a.m.

The Bank has also confirmed its full operational readiness to serve customers 24/7 via its various digital platforms throughout the holiday. This includes Online Banking via eahli.com, Mobile Banking through the ABK app, as well as the Bank's call center Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899

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

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

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

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



Miami - Burgan concert poster



Hessa AlNajadah

Burgan sponsors biggest audio-visual concert 'Feykom Tarab? A Night with Miami' in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: In ongoing support of the local arts and culture scene, Burgan Bank announced its sponsorship of the mega audio-visual concert titled "Feykom Tarab? A Night with Miami" in Kuwait, which is considered one of the biggest performances of the year. Between September 28 and October 2, the audience will be transported to the multi-sensory world of Miami Band at The Arena Kuwait.

With this sponsorship, Burgan Bank reaffirms its commitment to enriching Kuwait's art scene and supporting its creative energies that satisfy various tastes as part of its comprehensive social responsibility pro-

The much-anticipated grand performance promises music lovers across age groups five memorable nights that explore the limits of creativity in the music industry through its crossover with other arts, such as dynamic visual effects and outstanding live perfor-

Adding to the allure of the concert, "Feykom Tarab" will also feature a number of musicians who will be performing their top hits alongside Miami Band with a special, never-before-

heard twist. Commenting on the sponsorship, Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager - Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, said:

to avoid banking and financial fraud,

loan application requirements, digital

services, and more.

"We are very proud of our continued support for the entertainment sector in Kuwait, which we renew, this time around, through our sponsorship of the biggest and most notable music performance, 'Feykom Tarab? A Night with Miami' in Kuwait.

The highly awaited concert marks a leap in the live performance industry and a celebration of Kuwait's most prominent bands and musicians whose wonderful music remains a crossgenerational companion. To me and to many others my age, Miami's music brings about a refreshing nostalgia that transports us back to memories, places, and situations that will forever stay with us.'

"We are also delighted to be partners with Free Jabriya Productions, who are celebrated as one of the top in the domestic industry," she added. "This partnership comes in extension to Burgan's committed support for Kuwait's youthful talents and faith in their ability to elevate the arts scene through their innovative approach to music and performing arts that satisfies different tastes.

Al-Najadah went on to note that a number of top-tier Kuwaiti creatives and select international experts will be collaborating and sharing their expertise in décor, video, lighting, costume design, and music to deliver a worldclass entertainment experience that marks one of the biggest live music

For more information about ABK.

please follow the Bank's Instagram ac-

count @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com,

productions of the year. The performance announcement was met with great enthusiasm, leading to the tickets completely selling out in a very brief

On his part, Mr. Ali Al-Nusif, Executive Producer and Co-Founder - Free Jabriya, stated: "It is very important to us that we continue contributing to and producing new, creative, and inspiring works of art, and we have, indeed, introduced many outstanding projects that left a notable print on the industry. That's why we are very excited to contribute to the success of Feykom Tarab, which is set to take us all, audience and back-stage talents, on an unprecedented musical journey that is adorned with visual effects and mesmerizing stage performances that add a new flare to many of the songs we grew up listening to. We are delighted to be part of an exceptional team of worldwide talents and experts who bring phenomenal skills, each in their own scope, to this mega event.

"We would like to extend our thanks to Burgan Bank for its support and generous sponsorship of this event, which is more than a mere concert, but a celebration of the artistic journey of one of the region's most notable music icons," Al-Nusif added. "It is delightful to see institutions such as Burgan continue to dedicate efforts and resources to putting young Kuwaiti talents center stage.

contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Ku-

Oct 1st last day for depositing to enter Al Dirwaza account Nov monthly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that October 1st is the last date to open or deposit in Al Dirwaza account to enter the November monthly draw for a chance to win prizes of KD 20,000 for 11 winners. Accordingly, the Bank is reminding its current and potential customers to open or deposit more in Al Dirwaza account to increase their chances in November's Draw that will take place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from KIB.

Ali AlSane, Manager - Product Development, Digital Transformation & Innovation at KIB, said: "We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to open or deposit more in Al Dirwaza account to increase their chances in November's Draw. Each KD 1 completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. We would like to remind our customers who already opened Al Dirwaza account that their winning chances in the draw on cash prizes increase with higher deposits. As for our future customers, we invite them to open Al Dirwaza account by visiting the branches or through KIB mobile application and benefit from

the best draw account in Kuwait."

Ali AlSane further highlighted KIB's commitment to meeting and exceeding its customers' expectations by designing tailored prize offers, introducing innovative banking products, and launching promotional campaigns that add value to their lives, in line with KIB's "Bank for Life" slogan.

Each month, 11 account holders have the chance of winning valuable cash prizes, with the first winner receiving KD 10,000 and the remaining 10 receiving KD 1,000. The Bank announces the winners of the monthly



Ali AlSane

draw on its website and social media channels, as well as in newspapers.

The cash prizes are deposited in their Al Dirwaza accounts within two business days from the announcement. To enter the upcoming Al Dirwaza draws, KIB customers can open an account at any time and at any place. A minimum of KD 100 is required to open an account and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is the best-in-class savings account in the sector, with annual expected profits up to 2% disbursed on monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Moreover, Al Dirwaza account, which is compliant with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Board, comes with a wide range of benefits.



Dirwaza

Amazon is investing up to \$4 billion in Al startup Anthropic

Amazon is investing up to \$4 billion in Anthropic and taking a minority stake in the artificial intelligence startup, the two companies

The investment underscores how Big Tech companies are pouring money into AI as they race to capitalize on the opportunities that the latest generation of the technology is set to fuel.

Amazon and Anthropic said the deal is part of a broader collaboration to develop so-called foundation models, which underpir the generative AI systems that have captured global attention.

Foundation models, also known as large language models, are trained on vast pools of online information, like blog posts, digital books, scientific articles and pop songs to generate text, images and video that resemble human work.

Under the agreement, Anthropic is making Amazon its primary cloud computing service and using the online retail giant's custom chips as part of work to train and deploy its generative AI systems.

of the ChatGPT AI chatbot that made a global splash with its ability to come up with answers mimicking human responses.

Anthropic has released its own ChatGPT rival, dubbed Claude. The latest version, which is available in the U.S. and U.K., is capable of "sophisticated dialogue and creative content generation to complex reasoning and detailed instruction," the company said.

Amazon is scrambling to catch up with rivals like Microsoft, which invested \$1 billion in OpenAl in 2019, followed by another multibilliondollar investment at the start of year. (AP)



The Amazon logo is photographed at the Vivatech show in Paris, on June 15, 2023. (AP)

UN's top tech official discusses AI, bringing the world together

Inclusiveness, legitimacy and authority key in AI regulation: Gill

Artificial intelligence, and how and whether to regulate it, has gotten a lot of discussion in and around this year's UN General Assembly meeting of world leaders. With a UN advisory group on AI set to convene this fall, the world organization's top tech-policy official, Amandeep Gill, sat down with The Associated Press to talk about the hopes, concerns and questions surrounding AI.

Here are excerpts from the interview, edited for length and clarity.

AP: A number of national governments and multinational groups are talking about or beginning to take action on setting guardrails for artificial intelligence. What can the UN bring to the table that others can't?

Gill: I'd say three words. Inclusiveness - so bringing a lot many more countries together, compared with some of the very important existing initiatives. The second one is legitimacy, because there is a record of the UN helping countries and other actors manage the impact of different types of technologies, whether it's bio, chem, nuclear, space science - not only preventing the misuse, but also promoting inclusive use, peaceful uses of these technologies for everyone's benefit.

The third one is authority. When something comes out of the UN, it can have an authoritative impact. There are certain instruments at the UN - for example, the human rights treaties - with which some of these commitments can be linked. (For example, if an AI feature) leads to the exclusion of a certain community or the violation of the rights of certain people, then governments have an obligation, under the treaties that they have signed at the UN, to prevent that. So it's not just a moral authority. It creates a kind of compliance pressure for

San Francisco-based Anthropic was found-

ed by former staffers from OpenAI, the maker

Calabrio research sheds light on Al's effects

Al will impact customer service agents, but not as we expect

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept 26: Calabrio, the workforce performance company, has released its annual analysis of the contact center market, the State of the Contact Center 2023: Activating the Agent of the Future. The report highlights the essential role of hybrid and remote contact center agents, the expected impact of artificial intelligence (AI), and agents' readiness to act as brand guardians in the face of evolving consumer demands.

Calabrio surveyed 400 contact center managers from across 10 countries, 4 age groups, and 6 industries. While there is much debate in the market, this report's response is clear: AI won't be used to entirely replace agents. In fact, over two-thirds of contact center managers predict an increase in the number of agents over the next decade and believe AI's greatest promise is its ability to make agents' jobs easier and more

AP: At the same time, are there

challenges that the UN faces that some

of the other entities that are active on

this don't - or don't to the same extent?

you have to have a good process that's

not just about ticking the box on every-

one being there, but having a meaning-

ful, substantive discussion and getting

to some good outcomes. The related

challenge is getting the private sector,

civil society and the technology com-

munity involved meaningfully. So this

is why, very consciously, the Secretary

Gill: When you have such a big tent,

may sign up for.

However, managers expressed that agents are not yet ready to meet the demands of an AI-fueled future. If contact centers are not giving agents the skills to adapt and develop, they are already falling behind.

"The role of technology, including AI, is poised to gain even greater momentum in the contact center-we're already seeing customers embrace automation and AI-fueled analytics to maximize their operations," says Kevin Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer, Calabrio. "But when technology removes a large portion of the administrative tasks from humans, agents will need to adapt to embrace complex customer inquiries and become true brand guardians.'

According to contact center managers, AI has the potential to optimize business processes and create visibil-

ity and efficiencies. Managers ranked these features of AI as most impactful:

This focus on how AI can improve productivity is critical as customer experience (CX) organizations are looking for ways to boost productivity post-pandemic. Just 49% of managers believe that remote workers are meeting productivity expectations today,

which is 24% lower than in 2020. 97% of consumers agree that customer service interactions have a direct impact on brand loyalty-which directly correlates to brand revenue. With the advent of AI, the significance of delivering an effective, efficient, and personalized CX has never been more attainable.

With automation becoming the new normal, contact center managers recognize a greater need for critical thinking and adaptability to change among future agents. Yet today, these

skills are most frequently identified as lacking, and the top skills impacted when an agent is stressed or disengaged. Managers must bridge this gap through targeted training and development programs, another area where AI can assist.

Training and skills development emerge as top strategies for attracting and retaining talented agents for both current (35%) and future (30%) success. While acknowledging the need for progress, the report reveals that only 45% of contact center managers believe their agents currently possess all the required skills. This significant gap underscores the urgency of investing in comprehensive training initiatives

The research highlights that as the industry evolves, organizations need to prioritize harnessing AI's potential and activating the agent, rather than replacing them.

everyone to get on the same page?

Gill: That's a very, very important concern, something that I share. For me, it's a reason for everyone to come together in a more nuanced way: going beyond this dichotomy of "promise and peril" - which often comes up in the minds of those who have agency, who have the capability to do this - to a more nuanced understanding where access to opportunity, the empowerment dimension of it, beyond "the promise and the peril," is also front

there is the excitement. But how to seize the opportunity is a very, very important question.

AP: There's a lot of talk about bringing together the conversations going on around the world about regulating AI. What do you think that means, and how can it be realized?

Gill: Having a convergence, a common understanding, of the risks, that would be a very important outcome. Having a common understanding on what governance tools work, or might work, and what might need to be researched and developed, that would be very valuable. A common understanding on what kind of agile, distributed model is needed for governance of AI - to minimize the risks, maximize the opportunities - would be very, very valuable. And finally, having a common understanding of the political decision we need to take next year at the Summit of the Future (a U.N. meeting planned for September 2024), so that our effort across those functionalities is sustainable and has the public's un-

derstanding and the public's trust. AP: When it comes to AI, what keeps you up at night? And what makes you hopeful when you wake up in the morning?

Gill: Let me start with the hopeful side. What really excites me is the potential to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals by leveraging AI, particularly in the priority areas of health, agriculture, food security, education and the green transition. What worries me is that we let it go forward in in a way that, one, deludes us about what AI is capable of; and two, leads to more concentration of tech and economic power in a few hands. These may be very well-intentioned individuals and companies, but democracy thrives in diversity, in com-

Veracode report raises alarm

80% EMEA applications contain 'security flaws'

indicating applications developed by organisations in Europe, Middle East and Africa tend to contain more security flaws than those created by their US counterparts. Across all regions analysed, EMEA also has the highest percentage of 'high severity' flaws, meaning they would cause a critical issue for the business if exploited. High numbers of flaws and vulnerabilities in applications correlate with increased levels of risk, which is particularly notable as software supply chain cyberattacks dominate headlines in 2023.

Researchers found that just over 80 percent of applications developed by EMEA organisations had at least one security flaw detected in their most recent scan over the last 12 months, compared to just under 73 percent of US. organisations. In addition, the percentage of applications containing 'high severity' flaws was the highest of all regions, at almost 20 percent.

"Our data shows that organisations globally are continuing to deploy a worrying number of applications with a high number of flaws in the CWE Top 25," said Chris Eng, Chief Research Officer at Veracode. "We did, however, identify interesting regional differences, particularly in terms of third-party or open-source code usage and the ways in which vulnerabilities are introduced across the application lifecycle," he continued.

Analysis

Analysis of data collected from more than 27 million scans across 750,000 applications helped to produce Veracode's latest annual report on the State of Software Security. This new report showcases the EMEA-specific findings from those scans and applications, including results from UK, Germany, France, Italy and across the Middle East and Africa.

Numbers alone don't convey the consequences of hackers exploiting software vulnerabilities. With organisations across EMEA utilising an ever more complex mix of third-party software to deliver their services, the exploitation of a serious vulnerability can impact thousands of victims at once. Earlier this year, a vulnerability affecting printing software tools PaperCut MF and PaperCut NG was actively abused by threat actors. Up to 70,000 organisations in 200 countries became potential victims, and law enforcement reports found threat actors successfully compromised vulnerable entities in the education sector.

The research identified notable regional differences in preferred language usage, with Java revealed to be the preferred language for developers in EMEA. Teams using Java were found to remediate flaws at a slower rate than those using .NET or JavaScript, causing many of these flaws to

LONDON, Sept 26: Veracode, a leading global provider of intelligent soft-inficantly longer. Moreover, as over 95 ware security, has released research percent of Java applications are comprised of third-party or open-source code, Java usage is a key factor in the higher percentage of vulnerabilities introduced into applications in the region. This highlights the importance of software composition analysis (SCA), which picks up flaws in open-source code, and the research found a higher proportion of flaws reported by SCA in EMEA than in other regions.

As generative AI continues to gain strong traction in software development, the risk of vulnerabilities from external sources increases. A study, presented at Black Hat in 2022, showed vulnerabilities in 40 percent of code that had been written by large language models trained on vast troves of unrefined data, including millions of public GitHub repositories. It is therefore vital organisations leverage SCA tools to find and fix flaws, empowering developers to take advantage of AI without compromising the security of

Organizations

The research also showed new flaws continue to be introduced into EMEA applications at a far higher rate across the entire application lifecycle than in other regions. While EMEA organisations keep updating applications, there was less of a focus on quality. After a five-year timespan, 50 percent of applications in EMEA continue to introduce new flaws, compared to just over 30 percent for the rest of the world. Overall, the baseline chance that a flaw will be introduced in any given month

such, EMEA organisations would benefit from paying more attention to the latter portion of the application lifecycle and scanning applications more regularly. They should also prioritise security training for developers, with the research finding completion of 10 interactive security labs reduces the probability of flaw introduction from 27 percent to about 25 percent in any given month.

"This year's State of Software Security report shines a light on the importance of security across the entire software lifecycle, as well as the urgent need to address risks posed by third-party and AI-generated code," Eng added. "Whilst across the board globally we are still seeing a concerning volume of vulnerabilities, these figures are higher in EMEA across almost all measurements. Development teams in this region must take the opportunity to automate software security for regular scanning, and carefully consider their use of AI tools, both to increase security and empower developers."

The Veracode State of Software Security EMEA 2023 recommends four actions software development teams can take to improve their cybersecurity posture and is available to download on the Veracode website.

General's advisory body on AI governance is being put together as a multistakeholder body

A third limitation is that UN processes can be lengthy because consensus-building across a large number of players can take time, and technology moves fast. Therefore, we need to be

AP: Can governments, at any level, really get their arms around AI?

Gill: Definitely. I think governments should, and there are many ways in which they can influence the direction that AI takes. It's not only about regulating against misuse and harm, making sure that democracy is not undermined, rule of law is not undermined, but it's also about promoting a diverse and inclusive innovation ecosystem so that there is less concentration of economic power and the opportunities are more widely available.

AP: Speaking of equal opportunities, some people in the Global South hope AI can close digital divides, but there's also concern that certain countries may reap the technology's benefits while others get left behind and left out. Do you think it's possible for

So, yes, there is the opportunity,

'Everyone's contributor'

China advances common prosperity thru opening-up, rural revitalization

BEIJING, Sept. 26: As the world's "capital of small commodities," Yiwu in east China's Zhejiang Province, has trade relations with more than 230 countries and regions.

The Yiwu International Trade Market has driven the development of 2.1 million small, medium and micro-sized enterprises and is associated with the employment of 32 million people. It is known as the world's largest wholesale market for small commodities.

During an inspection tour to Zhejiang recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed that Yiwu's small commodities have broken into a big market and become a major industry, when visiting the trade market in Jinhua on

September 20.
"Everyone is a participant, builder and contributor," said Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, urging the trade market to contribute more to expanding markets at home and abroad, as well as calling on Zhejiang to take a leading and exemplary role in promoting common

Trade

Data released by China's General Administration of Customs shows that the total import and export value of trade in goods in the first half of this year was 20.1 trillion yuan (about \$2.75 trillion), a year-on-year increase of 2.1 percent. The scale exceeded 20 trillion yuan for the first time.

Private enterprises are still the main force in China's foreign trade. In the first half of 2023, the number of foreign trade companies engaged in import and export increased by 6.9 percent year-on-year. Among them, the import and export value of private enterprises was 10.59 trillion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 8.9 percent.

Efforts must be made to encourage and support private enterprises to actively participate in the global industrial division of labor and resource allocation to enhance core competitiveness, Xi stressed during his inspec-

After years of development, the China-Europe freight trains, starting from Yiwu and ending in Spain's Madrid, have entered the track of high-quality development and become a new mode of international transportation that is convenient, fast, safe, stable, green and

Dubbed Yixin'ou in Chinese (Yiwu-Xinjiang-Europe), the 13,052-km-long cargo line has become an important bridge connecting the Eurasian continent. By the end of July this year, the total number of the freight trains that have traveled on the route exceeded

A harmonious fusion of human and Al

Cinnox's virtual assistant 'redefines' work efficiency with AI, collaboration

HONG KONG, Sept. 26: Cinnox, a trailblazer in global enterprise communication and collaboration platform, has announced the launch of its groundbreaking Cinnox Virtual Assistant, a pivotal innovation designed to unleash the full potential of the businesses at The Edge Global AI & Web3 Investment Summit. This launch signifies Cinnox's unwavering commitment to pioneering information-driven intelligence, enabling businesses to leverage Artificial Intelligence's (AI) full potential, customised to their distinctive operational needs.

Cinnox Virtual Assistant is helping businesses triple their productivity, marking a new standard in work efficiency. This is just the beginning of its intelligence journey, Cinnox is on a mission to explore every piece of universal information, one data point at a time.

The Cinnox Virtual Assistant sets itself apart with its capability to transform raw data into precise high-dimensional information by connecting diverse channels and systems; backed by its parent company M800's robust infrastructure and telecom capacity, the Cinnox Virtual Assistant captures

complete contextual data beyond mere digital interactions.

Comprising of Self-Service AI and Agent-Assist AI, this innovation represents the harmonious synergy between Human and AI, setting a new standard in work efficiency and delivering a spectrum of benefits that significantly enhance interactions for both customers and agents.

The Self-Service AI integrates a responsive Q&A Bot, precise Intent Identification, an advanced Bot Builder, and a Voice Bot, ensuring seamless and intelligent engagement.

The Agent-Assist AI equips agents with features such as Chat Translation, Audio File Transcription, Auto-Labelling, and Chat Summary, all meticulously designed to optimise productivity and operational efficiency. The innovative Cinnox Copilot offers intelligent suggestions by understanding customer intent, derived from historical interactions and pertinent customer data, while the Bot Builder facilitates an end-to-end automated flow by comprehending customer intent and behaviours. Tone Enhancement aids agents in choosing the most professional and friendly tone and manner, considering the context and customer information, to ensure effective engagement and to foster happy customers.

The Cinnox Virtual Assistant is revolutionising how teams collaborate, enabling seamless sync, push, and pull of high-dimensional data across a business's tech stack. This not only enhances business intelligence and automation; it also creates synergy across teams and between humans and AI, redefining expectations in organisational intelligence.

CINNOX's journey, firmly rooted in Information Theory and the principles of entropy, is designed to overcome the limitations of human intellect.

Connectivity & Convergence: Cinnox AI does not just focus on mere data collection; it unifies telephony, social, and digital channels, breaking down silos and transforming daily CX and EX practices into high-dimensional, contextual intelligence that spans time, space, energy, and matter. This empowers the Self-Service AI and Agent-assist AI to learn from the information and revolutionise the total experience, offering precise recommendations to foster both happy teams and happy customers.

Calling on Zhejiang to continue to write a new chapter in deepening reform and expanding opening-up, Xi urged to plan reforms from a global perspective, and steadily expand institutional opening-up with regard to rules, regulations, management, and standards.

In 2021, China issued a guideline supporting Zhejiang to take the lead in establishing a demonstration zone for the promotion of common prosperity nationwide.

From developing private enterprises to advancing rural revitalization, the rich connotation of common prosperity is vividly interpreted in Zhejiang. In June 2003, Zhejiang Province

launched the Green Rural Revival Program, with the aim of improving rural production, living and ecological environments, as well as the quality of lives of farmers. For 20 years, the program has cre-

ated thousands of beautiful villages,

and fundamentally changed the face

of the province's countryside, creating

successful experiences for agricultural and rural modernization, as well as successful rural examples for promoting Chinese modernization.

Benefiting from the program, Lizu Village in Jinhua, transformed from a dirty and poor village into a place with an improved environment and prosper-

Income

When inspecting the village on September 20, Xi learnt that the annual per capita income of the village had reached 52,000 yuan (about \$7,250).

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, China has seen another year with a bumper summer grain harvest, with the summer grain output totaling 146.13 million tonnes this year.

What's more, 40 new advantageous and characteristic industrial clusters were established by the end of 2022, along with 50 national modern agricultural and industrial parks, and 200 towns with a strong agricultural sector.

Stressing efforts to concentrate on

narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas, as well as addressing disparities in regional development and income, Xi called for advancing rural revitalization across the board and vigorously fostering rural industries with distinctive local features.

"There is much to be explored and plenty of things to be done in advancing rural revitalization," Xi told villagers, urging them to strive to create a better future of common prosperity.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the strategy of "making full use of eight advantages and implementing eight major measures" in Zhejiang.

The strategy, put forward by Xi in 2003, called on the province to make use of its eight advantages, such as system and mechanism advantages, location and industry advantages, to implement eight major measures for Zhejiang's development.

Since then, Zhejiang's economic and social development has made new historical achievements.

The Conversation

Humans are harvesting frogs at unsustainable rates

More people eat frog legs than you might think, says study

By H. Resit Akcakaya, Stony Brook University (The State University of New York); C. Can Bilgin, Middle East Technical University, and Kerim Çiçek, Ege University

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

Amphibians such as frogs, toads, newts and salamanders, are the world's most threatened group of vertebrates. Of the 6,800 species assessed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 41% are classified as threatened. The main threats to their survival are well known and include disease, pollution, habitat loss and climate change.

Frogs also face another, less-known threat: Humans collect many frog species as food. This trade spreads disease, destroys their habitats and reduces control of mosquitoes and agricultural pests that frogs eat. But there has been very little research on how it affects frog populations.

how it affects frog populations.

In a newly published study, we conducted field research in Turkey, where frog harvesting has taken place for some 40 years, to assess its effect. We found that at current rates, Anatolian water frogs - the main species harvested in Turkey - may become extinct in heavily harvested areas within the next 15 to 30 years. But our research also shows that this harvest could be managed more sustainably, which would benefit both frogs and people in the region.

Global demand

Frog legs have long been associated with French gastronomy, but people also eat them in other European countries, the United States and Asia. Most of these frogs are caught in the wild in countries far from where they are consumed, such as southeast Asia and the Middle East. Frog harvesting is regulated to different degrees in different countries, ranging from total ban to unregulated harvest.

The largest importers are the U.S. and the European Union, while the largest exporters are Indonesia and China. According to one estimate, 100 million to 400 million frogs are shipped internationally as food each year

This trade has affected frog populations in many countries. For example, when France and Romania banned commercial frog hunting, exports from India and Bangladesh increased in what has been called an "extinction domino effect." And when those countries adopted their own bans, Indonesia and China became suppliers.

For this study, members of our research team caught and marked almost 14,000 frogs in the Çukurova Region in southern Turkey, a flat, fertile zone that stretches along the Mediterranean Sea. Over three years, we sampled four times per season, tagging and releasing frogs that we found in ponds, canals and streams and then noting when we recaptured them later.

We also observed how people harvest frogs. Harvesters typically work at night in groups of three or four. In one night, a harvester typically captures 45-85 pounds (20-39 kilograms) of frogs, but some manage to collect up to 130 pounds (60 kilograms) - about 3,000 frogs. They sell the frogs to processing plants for about US\$1.30 to \$5.50 per pound (\$0.60 to \$2.60 per kilogram), depending on demand.

Anatolian waterfrogs (Pelophylax spp) form a species complex made up of two to five closely related species. Frog exporters use uncertainty

about how to classify these species to their advantage by labeling all frogs as "edible frog" when they are marketed in Europe, even though the actual species known as Edible Frog (Pelophylax esculentus) does not live in Turkey.

Most consumers are not aware that they are not eating what they have come to know as "Edible Frogs," much less where their frog legs come from, or what impact their consumptions could have on natural populations

Frogs under pressure

We used the data we collected in a population model - a mathematical representation of how a frog population changes over time. Scientists use models like this to study animal and plant populations and forecast their future sizes. One of us has developed such mathematical models and applied them to a wide variety of species. They require a lot of data, which is one reason why there have been few studies analyzing the effects of harvest on frog populations.

We found that the frog populations we studied were declining rapidly, by about 20% per year. According to our models, there is a 90% chance that these frog populations may go extinct in the Çukurova Region by 2050 if harvesting trends continue.

However, not all populations of Anatolian waterfrogs are harvested. If enough frogs move between different regions, there is a chance that they could recolonize areas that undergo local extinctions.

Protecting frogs

Frog harvesting in Turkey is worth nearly \$4 million yearly. Our calculations show that Turkey exports more than 36 million frogs annually, about half of them from the Çukurova region. Frog harvesting is the main livelihood for many people in this region. Most harvesters have low incomes, no permanent job and no social benefits.

A ban on frog harvesting would cause this vital source of income to disappear. But so would extinction of these local frog populations.

The good news is that it's possible to harvest these populations at a sustainable rate. Doing so would increase the total harvest and help the local economy. Our analysis shows that the total number of frogs that can be harvested from these populations in the long term is highest at a moderate harvest rate of about 5% to 10% of the population per year. When this proportion increases to 20% and above, the risk of a population crash increases sharply, and the total amount that can be harvested declines.

Reducing the harvest rate would ensure both the frogs' survival and local livelihoods. First steps could include a ban on harvesting frogs during the mating season and effective enforcement of size limits that allow only larger frogs to be harvested. Such restrictions are commonly used for other types of wild-caught food, such as marine fish, and there is plenty of evidence suggesting that they can be effective.

As part of our research, we have made relevant government agencies aware of this issue, and hope that the measures we recommend will be implemented soon. With frogs declining worldwide, reducing threats from harvest would make an important contribution to the survival of these populations. (AP)

Pregnant population should be urged to get vaccinated

'COVID-19 vaccines and boosters' essential for maternal-fetal health

SEATTLE, Sept 26: In light of the recent FDA and CDC decision to approve two updated messenger RNA COVID-19 booster shots, it is imperative to alert the pregnant population of the importance and effectiveness of these vaccines and boosters.

In research published in Lancet Digital Health, researchers from the Institute for Systems Biology showed two important findings:

Vaccinated pregnant people are less likely to have poor birth outcomes like preterm birth, stillbirth, or very low birth weight (below 3.3 pounds) compared to unvaccinated pregnant people, and those who had a booster are even less likely to have stillbirth compared to those vaccinated without boosters.

Contract

Pregnant people who are vaccinated are less likely to contract COVID-19 than unvaccinated pregnant people, and those vaccinated and boosted are less likely to get COVID than those who are vaccinated only.

who are vaccinated only.

Three of the research paper's authors said the following:

"The take-home message is CO-VID-19 vaccination is associated with better maternal-fetal outcomes, and boosters are associated with further reduced rates of stillbirth."

■ Jennifer Hadlock, MD, Associate Professor and Director of Medical Data Science, Institute for Systems Biology "We found that vaccinated pregnant

"We found that vaccinated pregnant people had lower COVID-19 rates than those who were unvaccinated, and that the pregnant people who were vaccinated and boosted had even lower

■ Samantha Piekos, PhD, Research Scientist and K. Carole Ellison Fellow in Bioinformatics, Institute for Systems Biology

"I cite this data to my patients. Vaccines and boosters help keep mom and baby safe."

■ Tanya Sorensen, MD, Executive Medical Director, Women and Children's Institute and Acute Care Services, Providence Swedish

This research builds on the authors' previously published study that showed even mild cases of COVID-19 during pregnancy can increase risk for poor birth outcomes.

Institute for Systems Biology (ISB) is a collaborative and cross-disciplinary non-profit biomedical research organization based in Seattle. We focus on some of the most pressing issues in human health, including aging, brain health, cancer, COVID-19, and many infectious diseases. Our science is translational, and we champion sound scientific research that results in real-world clinical impacts. ISB is an affiliate of Providence, one of the largest not-for-profit health care systems in the United States.

Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. (NYSE: CRL) has announced the opening of another Right-SourceSM facility, and first in the United Kingdom, which will provide

BioTalent opens Employer Recognition Program

STEMCELL, Science World to empower girls pursuing Science-related careers

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Sept 26: STEMCELL Technologies, Canada's largest biotechnology company has announced it will be the presenting partner of the Girls and STEAM Summit at Science World in Vancouver.

The Summit, which takes place on Nov 4, 2023, is a full-day event with workshops, hands-on activities, a keynote presentation, and sessions with experienced mentors who work in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and design, and math).

"Science is about so much more than what happens in the laboratory. It provides a lens that can instill a deepseated curiosity in young minds and enrich every aspect of our lives," said Sharon Louis, Senior Vice President of Research and Development, STEM-CELL. "Scientific education – in the classroom and out in the world – can lead to life-changing experiences and limitless opportunities for young women and girls. STEMCELL is proud to support the Girls and STEAM program to make science more accessible, and help ignite the passion of the next generation of scientists and leaders."

The Girls and STEAM program provides a welcoming space where individuals aged 12-14 can participate in STEAM-based learning experiences in person and online, connect with people working in STEAM-related careers, and discover future STEAM opportunities.

"At Science World, we're committed to providing 'Science for All,' and that includes breaking down barriers that keep girls and women from fully participating in STEAM fields,"

said Tracy Redies, President and CEO, Science World. "It's about providing them with opportunities and fostering a culture of equity in STEAM industries. We're thrilled to create a platform where young women and girls in our community can be inspired by accomplished women with exciting careers in science."

BioTalent Canada is now accepting new applications for its I.D.E.A.L. (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Leadership) Bioscience Employer Recognition Program, building on the success of last year's inaugural initiative.

The program recognizes organizations in Canada's bio-economy that embody diverse and inclusive corporate principles needed to promote growth and success. Last year, 9 Canadian organizations were recognized as leaders in the area of diversity and inclusion in Canada's biotech industry.

Creative

"Diversity continues to build more inclusive, creative and innovative workplaces," says Rob Henderson, President and CEO of BioTalent Canada. "Organizations who adopt IDEA principles are more resilient, competitive and profitable.

Organizations may qualify in one of

Organizations may qualify in one of two categories: under 50 employees and over 50 employees. The process involves completing an online survey, describing in detail how they are working towards a more diverse and inclusive corporate culture based on IDEA best practices:

- Alignment of IDEA to the vision, values, strategies, and outcomes of the organization;
- Leadership accountability for IDEA;
 Measurement and assessment of the
- organization's current IDEA efforts;

 The priority the organization places
- The priority the organization places on IDEA learning and awareness;
- How the organization prioritizes inclusive talent management practices;
 Efforts put forward by the organization to create a culture of belonging,
- Efforts put forward by the organization to engage with external stakeholders: community, clients, and suppliers.

Recipients of the 2022-23 I.D.E.A.L. Bioscience Employer Recognition Program include (listed alphabetically) AgriTech North, Bio-CanRx, Health Cities, Life Sciences Ontario (LSO), Nicotine Dependence Service (CAMH), Origin Materials, Raft Brew Labs, Shift Health, and STEMCELL Technologies. Organizations who achieve the IDEAL status are recognized publicly for achieving the designation, and are permitted to utilize the accomplishment in their company branding and promotion.

"Getting recognized as an I.D.E.A.L. Employer brought validation to the team's continued commitment to a more open and accepting industry," says **Benjamin Feagin Jr.**, Chief Executive Officer at AgriTech North. "IDEA is more than a core concept for us, it is a principle that is written directly into our articles of incorporation. They are part of how we operate."

services to the Stevenage advanced therapies biocluster. RightSource is a flexible biologics testing lab, operated and managed by Charles River, making fast, reliable quality control (QC) more accessible to a broader reach of companies.

RightSource provides clients with enhanced turnaround times by bringing testing closer to manufacturing facilities, providing industry-leading capabilities without delays caused by shipping samples. This platform-based QC lab will be operated by Charles River employees who will utilize Charles River's quality management systems, test methods, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to support QC testing needs.

"Traditional testing paradigms place the burden on the client—from developing processes and upfront lab setup costs to bearing responsibility for regulatory compliance," said Ian Wyllie, Director Operations, RightSource, Charles River. "The RightSource business model significantly reduces that burden. By leveraging our flexible testing platform and robust scientific expertise, clients gain direct access to industry-leading biologics testing, located next to their manufacturing operations."

Matthew Durdy, Chief Executive of the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGT Catapult), an independent innovation and technology organization specializing in the advancement of cell and gene therapies, said: "This new facility is a valuable addition to the advanced therapies infrastructure in Stevenage. By bringing further quality control testing into the Stevenage bioscience cluster, the facility will enable more advanced testing to take place locally, reducing the turnaround time and cost for cell and gene therapy developers to manufacture their products in the area."

Charles River and the CGT Catapult have announced a collaboration to help the companies based at CGT Catapult's Stevenage Manufacturing Innovation Centre increase their productivity by working with RightSource services. CGT Catapult will assist its collaborators by providing streamlined and frictionless sample transfers and digital integration.

RightSource also offers a fully

dedicated lab-in-a-box solution for biopharmaceutical companies who are looking to have QC testing carried out onsite. While RightSource Stevenage offers decentralized testing proximal to biotech hubs, the lab-in-abox solution offers individual clients the convenience of in-facility testing. Unlike standard insourcing solutions, RightSource offers clients the complete Charles River package of proprietary assays with all of the associated quality, scientific, and digital platforms. Having a RightSource program in-house enables clients to have their own dedicated QC team without the hassle of building or maintaining it themselves.





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Writers strike is not over yet with key votes remaining on deal

LOS ANGELES, Sept 26, (AP): The deal is made, the pickets have been suspended, and Hollywood's writers are on the verge of getting back to work after months on strike. Actors, meanwhile, wait in the wings for their own resolution.

Crucial steps remain for the writers, who technically remain on strike, and for other workers awaiting a return to production of new shows. The next phase comes Tuesday, when the governing boards of the two branches of the Writers Guild of America are expected to vote on the tentative agreement reached by union negotiators with Hollywood studios.

Following the approval from the boards - which is likely - comes a vote from the writers themselves, whose timing is uncertain. The guild and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios, streaming services and production companies in the negotiations, were still finalizing language Monday on their agreement.

That could prompt a delay of Tuesday's voting and has kept union leaders from sharing with writers the details of what nearly five months of striking and hardship has earned them. The leaders have promised a series of meetings later this week where writers can learn about the terms of the deal regarding pay, show staffing, and control of artificial

intelligence in storytelling.

The guild's leaders told them only that the agreement is "exceptional," with gains for every member. A successful yes vote from the

membership will finally, officially, bring the strike to an end.

Meanwhile, though their own pickets have been suspended, writers were encouraged to join actors in solidarity on their lines starting Tuesday, just as many actors did with writers in the two months before their own strike started in July.

The studio alliance has chosen to negotiate only with the writers so far, and has made no overtures yet toward restarting talks with the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. That will presumably change soon.

SAG-AFTRA leaders have said they will look closely at the agreement struck by the writers, who have many of the same issues they do, but it will not effect the demands they have.

PBS was looking forward to a relatively free lane to offer fresh television to viewers downtrodden by the Hollywood strikes this fall, but that advantage may only last a couple of months now.

A tentative deal reached late Sunday in the crippling TV writers strike, with hopes that actors would soon follow suit, has given rise to hopes that new episodes of favorite scripted shows might return sometime this winter.

With commercial networks largely bereft of fresh material beyond reality shows, sports and game shows, PBS has a fall schedule of new programming, including a heavy dose of nonfiction, led by Ken Burns' look at "The American Buffalo."

"I have to believe that people are looking for new stuff," said Paula Kerger, CEO of the Public Broadcasting Service.

PBS' plans were virtually unaffected by the strike. One exception is a delay making "American Historia," a three-part documentary series helmed by actor John Leguizamo about Latino figures in history, Kerger said. PBS acquired the docuseries "Becoming Frida Kahlo," about the artist, to replace it and it premiered last week.

PBS has also bought a few more scripted series that were made outside of the US, she said. Most of them are aimed at PBS' streaming service, although the Danish series "Seaside Hotel" has aired on the television network.

For the most part, however, PBS has to plan well in advance and isn't nimble enough to quickly switch things up to take advantage of

how rivals were affected by the strike, she said. A British drama about the lives of people fighting World War II, "World on Fire," is premiering its second season in October. Its first season aired two years ago, but production has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Burns' series premieres on Oct. 15. Among the nonfiction projects on the docket this fall are "Evolution Earth," about how animals are

adapting to changes in their habitat caused by humans; "The Busing Battleground," about the 1970s-era integration fight in Boston; along with "American Masters" programs on Jerry Brown, lawyer Floyd Abrams and drummer Max Roach. "Frontline" will sink its teeth into Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter, Vladimir Putin's crackdown on the Russian press and the Houston

Astros' cheating scandal. The "Frontline" documentary collaboration with The Associated Press, "20 Days in Mariupol," premieres on the service on Nov. 21.

"Nova" will have a five-part series on "Ancient Earth" in October and will also look at the fight against malaria.

Other scripted series are on the docket, including "Unforgotten," "Van Der Valk," and "Little Bird," the latter about an adopted woman who tries to investigate her personal history.

Variety



This image released by Neon shows Megan Suri in a scene from 'It Lives Inside.' (AP)

Film

'Cassandro,' with Bernal as a liberated luchador, a winner

Immigrant teen's nightmare in 'It Lives Inside'

comedian Russell Brand. London's Metropolitan Police force said Monday that it had "received a number of allegations of sexual offences" after a television documentary and newspaper investigations. It said there have

LONDON: British police have opened a sex crimes investigation

triggered by news reports about

Brand, 48, 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.

The police force did not name Brand in its statement, but referred to the recent articles and documentary. It said detectives were investigating allegations of "non-recent" sexual offenses, both in London and elsewhere.

"We continue to encourage any one who believes they may have been a victim of a sexual offence, no matter how long ago it was, to contact us," said Detective Superintendent Andy Furphy of the Met's Specialist Crime Command, who is leading the investigation.

Known for his unbridled and risqué standup routines. Brand was a major UK star in the early 2000s. 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 has largely disappeared from mainstream media but has built up a large following online with videos mixing wellness and conspiracy theories

Last week YouTube said it would stop Brand from making money from the streaming site, where he has 6.6 million subscribers, due to the "serious allegations" against him.

Promoters also canceled several scheduled live shows by Brand, and he has been dropped by his talent agency and a publisher since

the allegations became public. Brand still has a presence on Rumble, a video site popular with some conservatives and far-right groups, where his channel has 1.6

LOS ANGELES, Sept 26, (AP): A beautiful Indian American teen, Samidha (Megan Suri), just wants to fit in with her suburban classmates in the new horror "It Lives Inside." But there's a demon at large and it's

> will maim and kill you and anyone who tries to help in this grisly, if imperfect, metaphor for the immigrant It's the feature debut of Bishal Dutta, who cowrote the film with Ashish Mehta, and crafts an effectively menacing PG-13 rated nail-biter centered around the interesting and conflicting dynamics of an Indian American family. The mom, Poorna (Neeru Baiwa) is determined to keep up with the traditions of the country they left behind. Samidha – sorry, Sam -- would rather not, which her dad supports, in theory.

not hormones or puberty — it's a literal monster that

She shaves her arms in the morning and posts a Kardashian-level selfie with a carefully chosen filter. She "forgets" the lunch her mother has packed her. She resents the Indian customs and holidays that prevent her from hanging out with the cute guy in her class. And she's cast aside her old best friend, a fellow Indian American named Tamira (Mohana Krishnan), hoping that maybe she can just blend in and not be the "Indian girl" anymore. Essentially, she's a normal teen, through and through.

Unfortunately for Sam, Tamira has gotten pretty weird. Her childhood friend skulks around school like a ghost, hidden behind a curtain of unbrushed hair and cradling a cloudy Mason jar like her life depended on it – not exactly the kind of person that an aspiring popular girl wants on her resume. And it just gets worse because, naturally, IT does live inside that Mason jar and that Mason jar is unable to withstand a fall to the floor. Oops.

Dutta gets your heartrate going off the bat, with a creepy prologue as screams flood out of a normal suburban house, but Sam's descent into one of the haunted never quite finds a suitable or consistent tone. It's all moody, wide-eyed paranoia with "Stranger Things" vibes that's occasionally interrupted by run-of-themill jump-scares and demonic nightmare visions. It'll startle and spook, but it also doesn't feel incredibly

original, which is an odd failure for a story that has

chosen to focus on a very original threat. Her parents are a bit confounding and frustrating too - as she becomes increasingly paranoid and scared (which seems reasonable after she witnesses the shocking death of a classmate, regardless of whether it was invisible demon or rabid wild animal) they respond like she's just a delinquent who has broken curfew or been caught skipping school. The only one who seems to care and listen is her teacher ("Get Out's" Betty Gabriel), which does not put her in the good graces of the vindictive, flesh-eating Pishacha.

The story also doesn't really grapple enough with the intriguing themes of assimilation, alienation and identity once the monster is at large – perhaps it's because we're simply plopped in the middle of a mystery that doesn't give us enough to really care about anyone involved. One kid's already dead. Tamira is already weird. Sam is already cool.

"It Lives Inside" is still a welcome respite from the other long-in-the-tooth horror franchises populating theaters this time of year in that it's just something new – new faces, new themes, a promising filmmaker to watch – but I wish it would have embraced more of the things that make it unique as opposed to trying to fit in with its genre brethren. Sort of like Sam. I mean,

"It Lives Inside," is rated PG-13 by the Motion.

Anyone who has eagerly followed Gabriel Garcia Bernal since his breakthrough roles in "Amores Perros" and "Y tu mamá también" likely never foresaw him one day in the world of lucha libra wrestling.

Bernal, far from the most brawny actor, has been a slyer shape-shifter, whether in heels as a femme fatale in Pedro Almodovar's "Bad Education" or on a motorcycle as Che Guevara in Walter Salles' "Motorcycle Diaries.

But while almost anything with Bernal in it has been worth seeing, it's been a little while - maybe his pair of movies with **Pablo Larrain**, 2012's "No" and 2016's "Neruda" - since Bernal had a sufficiently good part to, well, really go to the mat for.

He's found it, though, in "Cassandro," Roger Ross Williams' based-on-a-true-story drama about the Mexican wrestler Saúl Armendáriz. He was an exótico in 1990s lucha libra wrestling who rose to become one of the sport's most popular champions.

Exóticos, who first emerged in the 1940s, evolved to be male fighters dressed in drag who served as a contrast to the macho main events. But Armendáriz, a gay man, wanted his character, Cassandro, to be more than that. He wanted to spar with luchadores on equal ground.

"Cassandro," which opens in limited theaters Friday and debuts Sept. 22 on Amazon Prime Video, follows Armendáriz' rise from scrawny outsider to center stage. The odds are always against him, but Bernal plays Armendáriz with an infectious innocence, even when he's doing lines in the bathroom. Most of all, his transformation of the exótico into something more than is prescribed by luchador tradition makes for a stirring metaphor of gay empowerment.

Armendáriz, after struggling to catch on as the wrestler El Topo, is convinced by his trainer (Roberta Colindrez) to jump into the ring as an exótico. Armendáriz, though, has no interest in playing Cassandro as he's supposed to. For starters, he wants to win. and exóticos were intended to to be fev. flambovant victims for the hulking luchadores to easily dispatch.

They were also masked, but Armendáriz chooses to go without - an especially bold move considering the withering waves of homophobia directed at him by many in the crowd. But Armendáriz wins them over, and in doing so, achieves something spectacular, turning a gay stereotype into a hero. "I felt like Wonder Woman," the real Armendáriz once said.

"Cassandro," which co-stars Bad Bunny, doesn't always make time for some of the inner pain that Armendáriz was experiencing. (He dealt with depression and drug addiction.) And the filmmaking by Williams, in the narrative debut for the longtime documentarian, can be muddled. The story is so sensational that you almost wish "Cassandro" was instead a feature-length documentary.

million followers. The site has been criticized for allowing- and at times promoting - disinformation and conspiracy theories. (AP)

PLAINS, Ga: Former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, on Saturday made a surprise appearance at the Plains Peanut



known as Twitter. The former president and his wife are seen in a reposted video riding through the festivities in a Black SUV. "Beautiful day for President &

Festival in their Georgia home-

town, the Carter Center wrote in a

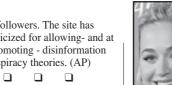
social media post on X, formerly

Mrs. Carter to enjoy a ride through the Plains Peanut Festival! And just a week before he turns 99," the Carter Center wrote on X after sharing

the video taken by a spectator. The former president is 98 and has been in home hospice care since February. He turns 99 on Oct 4. The former first lady has since been diagnosed with dementia. The couple this summer marked their 77th wedding anniversary,

extending their record as the nation's longest-married first couple.

"It was amazing considering that he is in hospice care, and he is tough enough to come out here. In my opinion, he is one of the toughest men to serve as President, and he is my favorite," Reed Elliotte, a Corbin, Kentucky resident, told WALB-TV. (AP)



People & Places

Obituary

Gifted actor, author

McCallum, iconic star of 'NCIS,' dies aged 90

LOS ANGELES, Sept 26, (AP): Actor David McCallum, who became a teen heartthrob in the hit series "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." in the 1960s and was the eccentric medical examiner in the popular "NCIS" 40 years later, has died. He was 90.

McCallum died Monday of natural causes surrounded by family at New York Presbyterian Hospital, CBS said in a statement.

"David was a gifted actor and author, and beloved by many around the world. He led an incredible life, and his legacy will forever live on through his family and the countless hours on film and television that will never go away," said a statement from CBS.

Scottish-born McCallum had been doing well appearing in such films "A Night to Remember" (about



the Titanic), "The Great Escape" and "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (as Judas). But it was "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." that made the blond actor with the Beatlesque haircut a household name in The success of the James

Bond books and films had set off a chain reaction, with secret agents proliferating on both large and small screens. Indeed, Bond creator Ian

Fleming contributed some ideas as "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." was being developed, according to Jon Heitland's "The Man From U.N.C.L.E. Book." The show, which debuted in 1964, starred Robert Vaughn as Napoleon Solo, an agent in a secretive, high-tech squad of crime fighters whose initials stood

for United Network Command for Law and Enforcement. Despite the Cold War, the agency had an international staff, with McCallum as Illya Kuryakin, Solo's Russian sidekick. The role was relatively small at first, McCallum recalled, adding in a 1998 interview that "I'd never

heard of the word 'sidekick' before.' **Attracted**

The show drew mixed reviews but eventually caught on, particularly with teenage girls attracted by McCallum's good looks and enigmatic, intellectual character. By 1965, Illya was a full partner to Vaughn's character and both stars were mobbed dur-

ing personal appearances.

The series lasted to 1968. Vaughn and McCallum reunited in 1983 for a nostalgic TV movie, "The Return of the Man From U.N.C.L.E.," in which the agents were lured out of retirement to save the world once more.

McCallum returned to television in 2003 in another series with an agency known by its initials - CBS' "NCIS." He played Dr. Donald "Ducky" Mallard, a bookish pathologist for the Naval Criminal Investigation Service, an agency handling crimes involving the Navy or the Marines. Mark Harmon played the NCIS

McCallum said he thought Ducky, who sported glasses and a bow tie and had an eye for pretty women, "looked a little silly, but it was great fun to do." He took the role seriously, too, spending time in the Los Angeles coroner's office to gain insight into how autopsies are conducted.

Co-star Lauren Holly took to X, formerly Twitter, to mourn: "You were the kindest man. Thank you for being you." The previously announced 20th anniver-"NCIS" marathon on Monday night will now include an "in memoriam" card in remembrance of

The series built an audience gradually, eventually reaching the roster of top 10 shows. McCallum, who lived in New York, stayed in a one-bedroom apartment in Santa Monica when "NCIS" was in produc-

"He was a scholar and a gentleman, always gracious, a consummate professional, and never one to pass up a joke. From day one, it was an honor to work with him and he never let us down. He was, quite simply, a legend, said a statement from "NCIS" Executive Producers Steven D. Binder and David North.

McCallum's work with "U.N.C.L.E." brought him two Emmy nominations, and he got a third as an educator struggling with alcoholism in a 1969 Hallmark Hall of Fame drama called "Teacher, Teacher."

In 1975, he had the title role in a short-lived science fiction series, "The Invisible Man," and from 1979 to 1982 he played Steel in a British science fiction series, "Sapphire and Steel." Over the years, he also appeared in guest shots in many TV shows, including "Murder,

She Wrote" and "Sex and the City." He appeared on Broadway in a 1968 comedy, "The Flip Side," and in a 1999 revival of "Amadeus" starring Michael Sheen and David Suchet. He also was in

several off-Broadway productions. Largely based in the US from the 1960s onward, McCallum was a longtime American citizen, telling The Associated Press in 2003 that "I have always loved the freedom of this country and everything it stands for. And I live here, and I like to vote here.

Theater

David Keith McCallum was born in Glasgow in 1933. His parents were musicians; his father, also named David, played violin, his mother played cello. When David was 3, the family moved to London, where David Sr. played with the London Philharmonic and Royal Philharmonic.

Young David attended the Royal Academy of Music where he learned the oboe. He decided he wasn't good enough, so he turned to theater, studying briefly at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. But "I was a small, emaciated blond with a caved chest, so there weren't an awful lot of parts for me," he commented in a Los Angeles Times interview in 2009.

After time out for military service, he returned to London and began getting work on live television and movies, In 1957 he appeared in "Robbery Under Arms," an adventure set in early Australia, with a rising actress, Jill Ireland. The couple married that same

In 1963, McCallum was part of the large cast of "The Great Escape" and he and his wife became friendly with Charles Bronson, also in the film. Ireland eventually fell in love with Bronson and she and McCallum divorced in 1967. She married Bronson in

"It all worked out fine," McCallum said in 2009, "because soon after that I got together with Katherine (Carpenter, a former model) and we've been very happily married for 42 years."

McCallum had three sons from his first marriage, Paul, Jason and Valentine, and a son and daughter from his second, Peter and Sophie. Jason died of an



Killer Mike, (left), and El-P of Run The Jewels perform during the Louder Than Life Music Festival on Sunday, Sept. 24, at Highland Festival Grounds in Louisville,



Actor David McCallum of the television show "The Man From U.N.C.L.E., poses in 1966. McCallum, who became a teen heartthrob in the hit series "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." in the 1960s and was the eccentric medical examiner in the popular 'NCIS' 40 years later, died on Monday, Sept. 25. He was 90. He died of natural causes surrounded by family at New York Presbyterian Hospital, CBS said in a statement. (AP)





Williams

Spitzer

Variety

BENNINGTON, Vt: A Vermont driver on Monday pleaded not guilty to a charge in the June crash that killed actor Treat Williams

Ryan Koss, 35, could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison if he's convicted of gross negligent operation with death

An investigation of the June 12 crash in Dorset concluded a vehicle pulled in front of Williams, who was riding a motorcycle and was unable to avoid a collision, Vermont State Police said.

Koss was turning left into a parking lot in an Honda SUV when he collided with Williams' oncoming motorcycle, police said. Williams, 71, of Manchester Center, was pronounced dead at Albany Medical Center in New York.

Richard Treat Williams' nearly 50-year career included starring roles in the TV series "Everwood" and the movie "Hair." He appeared in more than 120 TV and film roles, including the movies "The Eagle Has Landed," "Prince of the City" and "Once Upon a Time in America."

Koss, the managing creative director of the Dorset Theatre Festival in Vermont, said he knew Williams for years as a member of the tight-knit community, as well as a fellow theater member and considered him a friend. He issued a statement in August saying he was devastated by Williams' death and offered his "sincerest condolences" to Williams' family, but he denied wrongdoing and said charges weren't warranted. (AP)

DES MOINES, Iowa: The Powerball jackpot climbed to an estimated \$835 million after no one beat the immense odds Monday night and won the top prize.

The winning numbers were: 10, 12, 22, 36, 50 and 4.

With the latest bit of lottery losing, there now have been 29 consecutive drawings without a jackpot winner, dating back to July 19 when a player in California won \$1.08 billion.

That winless streak is due to the miserable odds of winning the Powerball jackpot, at 1 in 292.2 million. It's those long, long odds that result in such large top prizes, as they cause the jackpot to roll over week after week

Three people in Florida and one person in **Oregon** matched five numbers to win \$1 Music

Wilco's 'Cousin' is heavy on the slower tracks

Simpson and Jutz revive folk songs

LOS ANGELES, Sept 26, (AP): Folk artists Martin Simpson and Thomm Jutz combine to offer a real oldies collection, with ballads that date back generations and have roots on both sides of the Atlantic. They're mostly sad songs about class divide, unfaithful lovers and family strife, where bloody dreams come true and even the valleys are lonesome

It's music that still resonates today, as shown in these compelling new interpretations by Simpson and Jutz. "Nothing But Green Willow: The Songs of Mary Sands and Jane Gentry" will be released Friday.

Simpson and Jutz mined the material from a book published in 1917 by English folklorist Cecil Sharp, who transcribed traditional British songs he heard while visiting Appalachia to document a transoceanic cultural connection. North Carolina residents Sands and Gentry helped Sands' research by performing the tunes for

If that makes the album sound like a dry academic exercise, it's not. Intricate melodies are beautifully sung by Simpson, Jutz and a parade of guests, including bluegrass standouts Sierra Hull (on "Geordie") and Tim O'Brien (on "Edwin in the Lowlands Low"). Appropriately sparse accompaniment makes the songs shimmer, with the acoustic guitar interplay between Simpson and Jutz a particular pleasure.

The compositions are sturdy stuff, which is why they've lasted so long centuries, in some cases. Storylines can be challenging to follow, but there's an enchanting air of mystery to the tales, and lovely language describes fascinating characters. They're vengeful, deceitful, mournful and cynical, which has always made for a good tune.

If you like your Wilco mid-tempo, melodic and breathy, then "Cousin" is for you.

Taking yet another departure in tone after last year's epic double album "Cruel Country," the Chicago combo's

The new jackpot is one of the largest

in the world, behind grand prizes in the Powerball and Mega Millions games that

all topped \$1 billion. The biggest jackpot

November 2022 in California.

was a \$2.04 billion Powerball prize won in

Although the game highlights the \$835

latest is more along the lines of 2019's "Ode to Joy."

Wilco enlisted Welsh artist Cate Le Bon to produce the 10 tracks on "Cousin," the band's 13th studio record. It marked the first time since 2007's "Sky Blue Sky" that Wilco went outside the band for a producer.

The result is a deeply layered, musically rich record, albeit heavy on the slower tracks. At times, like on "Pittsburgh," the soundscape is so thick it feels like an aural impressionist painting, with layer upon layer of music

melded together to create a sonic image. This is music for late at night, with the lights down low, a favorite bever-

age within reach, and no distractions. "Infinite Surprise" is a standout, leading off "Cousin" slowly and then building to a cacophonous crescendo. But songwriter and Wilco impresario Jeff Tweedy quickly brings things back down with the next track "Ten Dead" that opens with, "I woke up this morning and I went back to bed/ Ten dead/Ten dead/Now there are 10

dead." It's got a catchy melody, but not exactly a tune to spin at a Friday afternoon happy hour. And that's OK.

Wilco fans who like the rocking side of the venerable band will find a lot to like in the album closer "Meant to Be," which is definitely destined to be a crowd pleaser live with the catchy chorus of "Our love was meant to be." It wasn't meant to be for the rest of "Cousin" to swing as hard, but there's still plenty to love.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: A lot can go wrong when a performer endeavors outside of the group that made their career. In the case of BTS baritone V, a lot can go right, as well.

'Layover," the first solo album from V, is moody, smooth alt-R&B, a collection of songs that feels true to the performer - and offers a glimpse into his oft-considered mysterious interior-

paid through an annuity over 30 years.

Wednesday night will be an estimated

to federal taxes, and some states also tax

\$390.4 million.

lottery winnings

Winners almost always choose the cash

payout option, which for the next drawing

The giant jackpot would also be subject

ity.
First came the two singles, the bi-

lingual "Love Me Again" and "Rainy Days" - the former, languid pop with V's voice high in the mix, the latter, a syrupy, lo-fi post-breakup ballad. "Blue" and "For Us" connect the two. "Slow Dancing" is a standout, with its impromptu flute solo at the song's

"Layover" is V's first solo album, but BTS ARMY know this is in no way his first solo experience: he's released a few with the band, including 2016's "Stigma" and 2020's "Inner Child."

But it is "Singularity," V's opening cut from BTS's 2018 album "Love Yourself: Tear," that stands out. "The illusions that torture me are still the same," V sings. "Did I lose myself, or did I gain you?"

At the time, critics theorized that V was referencing the Greek myth of Narcissus - it certainly wouldn't be the first time this K-pop group pulled out an academic reference point - but all seemed to agree that when given the opportunity to perform on his own, V has a particular musical magic, a kind of soulful, sensual approach to R&B. Where harmonies dominate, his husky tone cuts through, demanding attention. In that way, "Singularity" is the antecedent of "Layover."

Historically, when an artist goes solo, it is symbolic of a new chapter. Maybe it's a boy band member leaving to become a man-musician, individuating beyond the support network that built them, not unlike a child leaving home in young adulthood. Maybe it's a cry for creative freedom - to no longer feel their identity is tied to their fellow performers.

But the members of BTS, historymakers and record-breakers that they are, offer an alternative. They're not on hiatus; nor have they broken up. While its seven members take turns fulfilling **South Korea**'s mandatory military service (Jin and J-hope have enlisted; Suga has begun the process) the others will release their own individual records, allowing fans to spend more time with them in the process.

as Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and the **US Virgin Islands**. (AP)

NEW ORLEANS: Louisiana folklorist Nick Spitzer and Mississippi blues musician R.L. Boyce are among nine 2023 National Heritage Fellows set to be celebrated later this month by the National Endowment for the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors in the folk and traditional arts.

Spitzer and Boyce are scheduled to accept the NEA's Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship, which includes a \$25,000 award, at a Sept. 29 ceremony at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The Hawes award recognizes individuals who have "made a significant contribution to the preservation and awareness of cultural heritage."

Spitzer, an anthropology professor at Tulane University's School of Liberal Arts, has hosted the popular radio show "American Routes" for the past 25 years, most recently from a studio at Tulane in New Orleans. The show has featured interviews with Willie Nelson, Ray Charles, Dolly **Parton, Fats Domino** and 1,200 other figures in American music and culture.

Each two-hour program reaches about three quarters of a million listeners on 380 public radio stations nationwide.

"'American Routes' is my way of being inclusive and celebratory of cultural complexity and diversity through words and music in these tough times," Spitzer



US actress Jessica Chastain poses with fans after arriving at the 71th San Sebastian Film Festival, in San Sebastian, northern Spain, Monday, Sept. 25. (AP)

Energy

CO₂-free energy source

US eyes nuke fusion facility within 10 yrs

VIENNA, Sept 26, (AP): The Biden administration hopes to create a commercial nuclear fusion facility within 10 years as part of the nation's transition to clean energy, US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said Monday.

Calling nuclear fusion a pioneering technology, Granholm said President Joe Biden wants to harness fusion as a carbonfree energy source that can power homes and businesses.

"It's not out of the realm of possibility" that the US could achieve Biden's "decadal vision of commercial fusion," Granholm said in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated

Fusion works by pressing hydrogen atoms into each other with such force that they combine into helium, releasing enormous amounts of energy and heat. Unlike other nuclear



reactions, it doesn't create radioactive waste. Proponents of nuclear fusion hope it could one day displace fos-sil fuels and other traditional energy sources. But producing carbon-free energy that powers homes and businesses from fusion is still decades away.

A successful nuclear fusion was first achieved by researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California last December in a major breakthrough after decades of work.

Granholm also praised the role of the Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog in

verifying that states live up to their international commitments and do not use their nuclear programs for illicit purposes, including to build nuclear weapons.

"The IAEA is instrumental in making sure that nuclear is harnessed for good and that it does not fall into the hands of bad actors," she said.

The watchdog organization has agreements with more than 170 states to inspect their nuclear programs. The aim is to verify their nuclear activities and nuclear material and to confirm that it is used for peaceful purposes, including to generate

Nuclear energy is an essential component of the Biden administration's goal of achieving a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy by 2050.

Storage

Asked about the difficulty of finding storage sites for radioactive waste, Granholm said that the U.S. has initiated a process to identify communities across the country who may be willing to host an interim storage location. Currently, most of the spent fuel is stored at nuclear reactors across the country.

"We have identified 12 organizations that are going to be in discussion with communities across the country about whether they are interested (in hosting an interim site)," she said. The U.S. currently does not recycle spent nuclear fuel but

other countries, including France, already have experience

Spent nuclear fuel can be recycled in such a way that new fuel is created. But critics of the process say it is not cost-effective and could lead to the proliferation of atomic weapons. There are two proliferation concerns associated with recy-

cling, according to the Washington-based Arms Control Association: The recycling process increases the risk that plutonium could be stolen by terrorists, and second, those countries with separated plutonium could produce nuclear weapons themselves

"It has to be done very carefully with all these non-proliferation safeguards in place," Granholm said.

Professor Dennis Whyte, director of the Plasma Science and Fusion Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the U.S. has taken a smart approach on fusion by advancing research and designs by a range of companies working toward a pilot-scale demonstration within a decade.

"It doesn't guarantee a particular company will get there, but we have multiple shots on goal," he said, referring to the Energy Department's milestone-based fusion development program. "It's the right way to do it, to support what we all want to see: commercial fusion to power our society" without greenhouse gas emissions.

On other topics, Granholm said that depending on whether the U.S. government shuts down or not, the Biden administration could announce in October details on an \$8 billion hydrogen hub program that will be funded by the bipartisan

A hub is meant to be a network of companies that produce clean hydrogen and of the industries that use it - heavy transportation, for example - and infrastructure such as pipelines and refueling stations. States and companies have teamed up to create hub proposals.

Environmental groups say hydrogen presents its own pollution and climate risks. When released into the atmosphere, it boosts volumes of methane and other greenhouse gases.

"Our goal is to get the cost of clean hydrogen down to 1 dollar per kilogram within one decade," Granholm insisted.

As fossil fuel emissions continue warming Earth's atmosphere and extreme weather phenomena occur globally, Granholm was asked her opinion on the announcement by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that the UK will delay crucial climate targets.

Sunak said last week that he will push back the deadline for selling new gasoline and diesel cars and the phasing out of gas boilers as part of one of his biggest policy changes since taking office.

"When you see the heatwaves that the UK experienced this summer, I think it becomes obvious that we need to put on the accelerator," she said, while adding that the UK has been a "great partner" in pushing modern technologies.

"We want to see everybody moving forward as quickly as possible (on the clean energy transition), including ourselves," she said.

Also:

BATON ROUGE, La.: For months, residents in the southeast corner of Louisiana have relied on bottled water for drinking and cooking, with the water from the faucet coming out salty.

Plaquemines Parish Councilman Mark "Hobbo" Cognevich, who represents the affected area, said grocery stores are constantly having to restock plastic water bottles, neighbors have reported getting rashes after showering, and, overall, the community is "fed up" with the situation.

"We are praying for rain," Cognevich said. That is a sentiment echoed by officials across the state, as the droughtstricken Mississippi River's flow is low and slow, allowing for salt water from the Gulf of Mexico to intrude upstream and threaten communities' drinking supplies.

But with little precipitation in the forecast, officials are now hastily preparing for if and when the salt water will reach the state's most populous city - New Orleans.

Typically, the mighty flow of the Mississippi River - which stretches from northern Minnesota, through the center of the continental United States and out to the Gulf of Mexico - is enough to keep mass amounts of salt water from intruding too far upstream. But hot and dry conditions across the country this summer, triggering extreme drought, have affected the Mississippi. Officials expect the river volume to reach historic lows in the coming weeks.

Matt Roe, a spokesperson for the US Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans, said on Monday that when the flow of the river gets this weak, "it doesn't have the mass and velocity needed to push the salt water back down around the mouth of

Many communities in south Louisiana rely on the Mississippi's fresh water, with their water intake treatment facilities located along the river.



In this photo provided by I Am ALS, Dan Tate, (right), delivers a printed petition from ALS patients and advocates to Dr. Peter Marks, left, director of the Food and Drug Administration's center for biologics at the FDA campus in Silver Spring, Md., on Dec. 14, 2022. The FDA meets this week to consider approval of an experimental treatment for Lou Gehrig's disease, the culmination of a years-long lobbying effort by patients with the fatal, neurodegenerative disease. Those

advocates still face one giant hurdle: FDA regulators say the treatment hasn't

In documents posted Monday, Sept. 25, the FDA reiterated its longstanding position: drugmaker Brainstorm's lone study doesn't provide clear evidence that its stem cell-based therapy helps patients with ALS, or amyotrophic lateral



This undated image made from video provided by Eisai Co., Ltd., shows Leqembi, a drug for Alzheimer's decease that was jointly developed by Japanese and US pharmaceutical companies, at Eisai's Kawashima plant in Kakamigahara city, Gifu Prefecture, central Japan. Japan's health ministry has approved Leqembi, the first drug for the treatment of the disease in a country with a rapidly aging population. Leqembi was developed by Japanese drugmaker Eisai and US

biotechnology firm Biogen. (AP)



Health

Lula to undergo hip surgery: Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will undergo hip surgery on Friday and will work from the presidential residence for about three weeks, officials said. Doctors will replace the top of his right femur with an implant to treat his arthrosis.

Spokespeople for the South American nation's presidency said Monday that the 77-year-old leftist leader will not be able to travel for up to six weeks after the procedure. Lula has felt hip pains since August 2022.

Lula will have the surgery at a hospital in the capital city of Brasilia. Since the beginning of the week he has been wearing a mask to avoid any airborne diseases that could lead to a postponement of the surgery.

Lula is expected to remain in the hospital until Tuesday next week.

Earlier this month, Lula told supporters during a government ceremony that he didn't want to get the surgery during last year's election campaign. He narrowly beat the incumbent, Jair Bolsonaro, in October's election and returned two months later to the job he previously held in 2003-2010. (AP)

Dengue outbreak in Sudan: Outbreaks of cholera and dengue fever have been reported in eastern Sudan, where thousands of people are sheltering as deadly fighting grinds on between the country's military and a rival paramilitary force, the U.N. health agency said on Tuesday.

According to the World Health Organiza-

tion, there have been 162 suspected cholera cases admitted to hospitals in the province of Qadarif and other areas along the border with Ethiopia. Eighty cases have been confirmed and 10 people have died of cholera, a bacterial infection linked to contaminated food or water, WHO said.

Sudan was engulfed in chaos in mid-April. when simmering tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group exploded into open warfare in the capital of Khartoum and other areas across the east African nation.

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders has set up two centers to treat cholera patients along with two mobile teams in Qadarif. The UN health and refugee agencies have renovated the isolation center for cholera at the Qadarif Teaching Hospital, the province's main medical facility.

Cholera outbreaks are not uncommon in impoverished Sudan. The disease left at least 700 dead and sickened about 22,000 in less two months in 2017, the latest major outbreak in the country.

Health

ALS patients make case for experimental treatment

Trial ALS drug faces FDA scrutiny

WASHINGTON, Sept 26, (AP): The Food and Drug Administration meets this week to consider approval of an experimental treatment for Lou Gehrig's disease, the culmination of a yearslong lobbying effort by patients with the fatal neurodegenerative disease.

Those advocates still face one giant hurdle: FDA regulators say the treatment hasn't been shown to work.

In documents posted Monday, the FDA reiterated its longstanding position that a lone study by drugmaker Brainstorm doesn't provide convincing evidence that its stem cell-based therapy helps patients with ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

It's the same message the FDA delivered to company executives in early 2021 when they first shared data on the treatment, dubbed NurOwn. And again last November, when the FDA refused to accept the company's application for review.

But with the backing of thousands of ALS patients, Brainstorm took the rare step of "filing over protest," essentially forcing the agency to render

"FDA is the 800-pound gorilla here and if they're convinced that the drug doesn't work it's very hard to change their minds," said Marc Scheineson, a former associate FDA commissioner who now consults for drugmakers.

In the documents posted Monday, FDA reviewers outlined their "major concerns" about the company's evi-

Still, ALS patients see reasons for optimism.

Under pressure from the ALS community and Congress, FDA officials have recently emphasized the "urgent need" for new ALS treatments and pledged to use maximum "regulatory flexibility" when reviewing them. FDA has approved two new ALS drugs in the last year, neither of which met the agency's traditional approval standards.

Options

NurOwn is the clearest test yet of how far the agency may be willing to bend to approve a new medicine for a rare and deadly condition with few treatment options.

ALS gradually destroys nerve connections needed for basic movements and functions, including breathing.

After US approval, Japan OKs its first Alzheimer's drug Leqembi

TOKYO, Sept 26, (AP): Japan's health ministry has approved Leqembi, a drug for Alzheimer's disease that was jointly developed by Japanese and US pharmaceutical companies. It's the first drug for treatment of the disease in a country with a rapidly aging population.

Developed by Japanese drug-maker Eisai Co. and US biotechnology firm Biogen Inc., the drug's approval in Japan comes two months after it was endorsed by the US Food and Drug Administration. Legembi is for patients with mild

dementia and other symptoms in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, and the first medicine that can modestly slow their cognitive decline. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida,

who announced Japan's approval of Leqembi on Monday, called it "a breakthrough" and said that the "treatment of dementia has now entered a new era."

Kishida has pledged to step up support for the growing number of dementia patients and their families and is due to launch a panel this week to discuss measures for a dementia-friendly society.

According to the health ministry,

Japan's number of dementia patients who are 65 years of age or older will rise to 7 million in 2025, from the current 6 million. The drug, however, does not work

for everyone and - as with other Alzheimer's drugs that target plaques in the brain - can cause dangerous side effects such as brain swelling and bleeding in rare cases.

Eisai said it will conduct a post-

marketing special use survey in all patients administered the drug until enough data is collected from unspecified number of patients under health dures.

The drug will be partially covered by health insurance and is expected to be ready for clinical use by the end of the year. The price is vet to be decided but is expected to be expensive, Kyodo News agency reported.

Eisai is committed to delivering Leqembi to people who need it and their families "as a new treatment," said Haruo Naito, the company's

Most people die within five years of diagnosis.

At Wednesday's meeting, federal advisers will hear from FDA scientists, company researchers and patients before taking a non-binding vote on NurOwn's effectiveness. FDA will make the final decision on the therapy later this year. The meeting was scheduled after

ALS advocates delivered a 30,000-signature petition seeking a public vetting of the treatment. Brian Wallach, co-founder of the

advocacy group I AM ALS, says even if NurOwn only provides a small benefit for some patients, it should be made available. A former Obama White House staffer, Wallach was diagnosed with ALS in 2017.

"We do not want the perfect to be

the enemy of the good," said Wallach, speaking through an interpreter. "The key is to have treatments that make it possible to turn ALS into more of a chronic disease and to allow all patients to live longer and hopefully see a cure."

Still, there's little consensus on NurOwn among the normally tightknit ALS community.

The ALS Association, the largest organization in the field, has not endorsed Brainstorm's bid for approval despite giving the company \$400,000 in research funding. Brainstorm declined to make its complete dataset available for external review, a spokesperson noted.

"The amazing testimonials we have seen online do not align with the data that Brainstorm has shared," the group said in a statement.

WHO said more than 500 suspected cases The reported figure was "the tip of the iceberg" as the actual number is much of dengue were reported across Sudan, most of them in urban centers in Qadarif. Dengue is higher, given that most of the patients rely caused by the dengue virus transmitted to huon home remedies and often do not go to hospitals, WHO said. mans through the bite of infected mosquitoes.



US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm gestures as she speaks at the UN offices in Vienna, Monday Sept. 25. Granholm has emphasized the importance of nuclear fusion as a pioneering and future-oriented technology in the clean energy transition. As part of its clean-energy agenda, the Biden administration wants to 'create a commercial nuclear fusion facility within 10 years,' Granholm said in an interview with The Associated Press in Vienna. (AP)

The Sudanese doctors union says "hundreds" of dengue patients have died in the east of the country, describing the outbreak as "a health crisis." It did not give a timeframe for those fatalities or elaborate further but it said that most hospitals in Oadarif have been overwhelmed by patients. (AP)

'Unprepared for next pandemic': If another pandemic happens, the world will again be unprepared.

That's the bleak assessment of former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark, who co-chaired the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, after the UN General Assembly held a high-level summit aimed at heading off another pandemic. The upshot: Have another meeting.

Other pandemic experts who tracked months of negotiations on the 13-page declaration adopted by the assembly's 193

member nations were disappointed, too. "I think it's fair to say that the declaration is a missed opportunity," Clark said in an interview with The Associated Press on the sidelines of the General Assembly's highlevel leaders' meeting. "It has many pages and paragraphs and only one firm commitment and that is to hold another high-level

meeting in three years' time.' Clark, who addressed last week's summit, is the newest member of the group of former world leaders founded by the late Nelson Mandela known as The Elders. She said a key problem is the declaration's main

focus on health. (AP)

Wilson scores 34 as Aces down Wings

Bonner and Allen lead Sun past Liberty in Game 1 of semifinal series

NEW YORK, Sept 26, (AP): DeWanna Bonner scored 20 points, Rebecca Allen added 18 and the Connecticut Sun played stellar defense to beat the New York Liberty 78-63 on Sunday in the first game of their best-of-five WNBA semifinals playoff series

Game 2 is Tuesday night in New York.

Third-seeded Connecticut lost all four games between the teams in the regular season, including getting blown out twice

BASKETBALL

in New York. On Sunday, the Sun turned up their defensive effort, slowing down the second-seeded Liberty and holding them to their lowest point total of the season.

New York led by three at halftime before Connecticut went on a 16-2 run to start the third quarter. The Sun scored the first nine points during the spurt and Natisha Hiedeman hit two 3-pointers.

New York got within 53-48, but Allen - who was traded from the Liberty in the offseason to the Sun as part of the Jonquel Jones deal - hit her fourth 3-pointer of the game.

Bonner made a pull-up jumper just before the end of the third

drives to basket against New York Liberty forward Jonquel Jones, (right) and guard Courtney Vandersloot during the first quarter of a WNBA basketball game in New York. (AP)

Connecticut Sun forward Alyssa Thomas, (center),

quarter to extend Connecticut's lead back to 10. She scored the first five points of the fourth to push it to 70-55 - the team's biggest lead of the game.

New York, which was led by Breanna Stewart's 19 points,

SEATTLE,

two-hit

26, (AP): Justin

Verlander took a

into the ninth in-

ning and the Hou-

ston Astros created

some cushion in the

American League

playoff chase with

BASEBALL

a 5-1 win over the

Mariners on Mon-

The 40-year-old Verlander was on the verge

of his first complete

game since a 2019 no-

hitter against Toronto,

but was pulled after Josh

Rojas' leadoff double in

the ninth inning snapped

a string of 16 straight

batters retired.

skidding

day night.

Sept

shutout

Seattle

Stewart had a rough game, going 7 for 25 from the field,

couldn't get within single digits the rest of the way.

including missing all seven of her 3-point attempts. Jones had 14 points and 12 rebounds for New York - the 15th time that she's had a double-double this season but the first time New York has lost in one of those efforts.

The Liberty advanced to the semifinals after sweeping Washington in a hard-fought series, taking the clincher in overtime. Connecticut made it to its fifth straight semifinals by topping Minnesota in three games.

Connecticut got off to a hot start and led by nine before New York rallied and took a 40-37 lead at the half. Jones had 10 points and Ionescu nine for the Liberty. Allen had 12 to lead Connecticut while Alyssa Thomas had six points, five rebounds and five assists. Thomas finished the game with eight points, 10

Aces 97, Wings 83

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson scored 34 points, including 14 in the third quarter as the Las Vegas Aces beat the Dallas Wings in the opening game of the WNBA semifinal playoff series.

Wilson, who earlier in the week earned the league's defensive player of the year award, also had eight rebounds and four blocked shots. Kelsey Plum added 25 points for the top-seeded

Aces, Jackie Young scored 19 and Chelsea Gray 13. Young also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Satou Sabally led the No. 4 seed Wings with 16 points while Arike Ogunbowale added 12.

The Aces led by nine at the half and Sabally made two free throws to start the third quarter to cut the lead to 49-47. But Gray hit a 13-foot fadeaway and Plum knocked down two straight 3-pointers to give Las Vegas a 10-point lead.

Later in the third quarter, the Aces scored nine straight points to increase their lead to 66-54 before Kalani Brown converted a layup that ended a 3:21 scoring drought for the Wings

'Shots are going to go in, not go in," said Aces coach Becky Hammon. "Nobody's out there trying to miss. Sometimes you can help that part of the game. But you can always be on defensively with effort, focus. That third quarter, I'd love to bottle

Wings coach Latricia Trammell was happy with her bench play, which outscored the Aces 27-4, and the team only turning the ball over 12 times. However, it was what the Aces did with those 12 turnovers that made a big difference.

"That third quarter, Vegas punched us pretty hard in that area," Trammell said. "We had 12 turnovers. Most people would think that's pretty good, especially when you play fast. But they scored 21 points off those turnovers."

Warehouse space available

Contact:

Nisha: 90079810



assy of India

HIRING OF ARABIC LANGUAGE TEACHER IN THE EMBASSY OF INDIA

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites applications for Hiring of an Arabic Language Teacher on temporary basis.

1. Degree/Diploma in Arabic Language, with experience in teaching Arabic language in educational institutions for a minimum period of 5 years Knowledge of English is essential.

2. Age limit: Below 55 years as on 01.01.2023.

The Hiring will be done on a temporary basis for teaching of Arabic Language for maximum 240 class hours. The intent is to equip students with basic Arabic Communication skills. The session will be spread over a few

Embassy of India, Kuwait reserves the right to discontinue the classes without mentioning any reason for the same. In such instance, payment would be made on pro-rata basis as per the number of class hours undertaken.

3. Payment will be made at the end of each month

4. Hiring by the Embassy of India, Kuwait for teaching Arabic language classe s purely on temporary basis and would terminate with the end of 240 class

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5. Interested candidates may send their applications with their quote (hourly rate) by e-mail to eoikuwaitrecruitment@gmail.com with bio-data by 19th

GSW coach Kerr has no concerns

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 26, (AP): Steve Kerr has no concerns about his long-term status as coach of the Golden State Warriors despite heading into the final year of his contract.

Owner Joe Lacob and new general manager Mike Dunleavy Jr. have expressed a desire to get a contract extension and Kerr is confident something will work out even if it doesn't happen before the start of the season.

Kerr has a 473-238 record in nine years as Warriors coach and has led the team to four championships and two other trips to the NBA Finals. He has been a part of a championship core led by Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson. Golden State extended Green's contract earlier this offseason, keeping both him and Curry under team control through the 2025-26

Change Name

I, NANCY holder of Passport No. W 0773746 (write full name as per present passport NANCY) do hereby change my name to NANCY (as Given Name) JASSI (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name NANCY JASSI write full name as changed now and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

ARAB (*) TIMES

Verlander takes shutout into 9th as Astros top Mariners in key matchup

Yankees drop D-backs into tie with Cubs



Texas Rangers' Corey Seager hits a single during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

Verlander (12-8) struck out eight, walked one and threw 96 pitches as Houston stayed 2 1/2 games behind first-place Texas in the AL West and opened a 1 1/2game lead over the Mariners for the league's final wild card. The Astros were swept in three games at home by lowly Kansas City over the weekend.

Seattle has lost four straight and seven of 10, falling four games behind the Rangers with six to play.

Houston didn't need much offense, but managed a big two-out rally against starter Luis Castillo (14-8) that produced three runs in the second. The Astros added on with long solo homers from Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker. Alvarez's homer was his 30th of the season. Tucker tops the AL with 110

Seattle had won 10 straight games started by Castillo, but he took his first loss since July 14.

Rangers 5, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Adolis García, Mitch Garver and Nathaniel Lowe hit consecutive home runs in the sixth inning, and first-place Texas beat Los Angeles for its sixth straight victory.

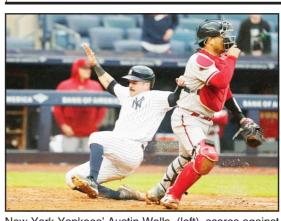
Texas maintained its 2 1/2-game lead in the AL West over Houston, which won at Seattle to drop the skidding Mariners four games behind the Rangers with six to play.

Marcus Semien also launched a solo homer for Texas, and Jon Gray (9-8) pitched six strong innings for his first win since Aug. 11. After warming up for the seventh, Gray was removed with right wrist tightness.

Texas hit three solo shots in a row off Jimmy Herget (2-4) to build a 3-1 lead. It was the ninth time in franchise history the Rangers hit three consecutive home runs and the first since 2015.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 26, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Sunday. NY Yankees 6 Arizona 5 Seattle San Diego National League American League GB GB z-Baltimore x-Atlanta 62 69 77 80 69 75 85 88 Toronto Miami New York New York 31-1/2 **Central Division** GB GB Pct .564 .526 .510 .474 .436 x-Minnesota z-Milwauke 6 8-1/2 Cleveland Detroit Chicago Cincinnati Chicago Kansas City GB Pct .564 .548 .538 .446 .308 x-Los Angeles 14-1/2 2-1/2 Houston San Diego Colorado Los Angeles Oakland



New York Yankees' Austin Wells, (left), scores against the Arizona Diamondbacks on a sacrifice fly during the eighth inning of a baseball game in New York. (AP)

Logan O'Hoppe homered early for the Angels. Patrick Sandoval exited in the fourth with tightness in his right oblique

Yankees 6, Diamondbacks 4

In New York, Kevin Ginkel blew the last of Arizona's three leads in a loss to New York that dropped the Diamondbacks into a tie with the

Namibia chase elusive first win at World Cup

Chicago Cubs for the second of three National League

Ginkel (9-1) loaded the bases in the eighth inning. He walked in the tying run by issuing a free pass to Oswald Peraza, and Gleyber Torres scored on a sacrifice fly from Estevan Florial to give the Yankees their first

West teams clinging to slim playoff hopes.

Blake Snell tossed six shutout innings in his latest terrific start for the Padres, lowering his major leaguebest ERA to 2.25 as the lefthander makes a final push for the NL Cy Young Award.

Everson Pereira added an

Ginkel's rough outing,

which followed blown leads by Merrill Kelly in the fourth

and Ryan Thompson in the

seventh, resulted in Arizona's second loss in eight

Corbin Carroll had three

hits and his 51st stolen base

homered for the Yankees.

Ian Hamilton (3-2) got the

win and Clay Holmes earned

Giants 2, Padres 1

In San Francisco, Logan

Webb pitched his second

complete game this season

and pinch-hitter Michael

Conforto delivered a two-run

single in the eighth inning to

lift San Francisco over San

Diego in a matchup of NL

for the Diamondbacks. Peraza and Austin Wells

his 22nd save

RBI single for a 6-4 advan-

Webb (11-13) had seven strikeouts and allowed nine hits on 110 pitches for the Giants (78-79), who moved within 4 1/2 games of the final National League postseason spot. San Diego (77-80) is 5 1/2 back of the Dia-

mondbacks and Cubs, who are tied for the last two of three NL wild cards. One more loss by the Padres, or one more win for the

Diamondbacks and Cubs, would eliminate San Diego. The Padres got runners to second and third with one

out in the ninth, but Webb pitched out of it. Robert Suarez (4-3) took

This marks Namibia's last and only winnable game in a pool also including France, New Zealand and Italy. Uruguay has one

Pool A game on Wednesday in Lyon.

more game, against the All Blacks next week. For the only time in the tournament, Uru-

guay will start as a favorite. It's a mental switch that will put a little pressure on Los Teros to deliver.

Uruguay has three wins at Rugby World Cups: Spain in 1999, Georgia in 2003 and Fiji in 2019. The Uruguayans targeted Italy and Namibia in France and were 40 minutes from history against the Azzurri last week. Los Teros deservedly led Italy 17-7 at halftime but the effort was taxing. Italy changed tactics

between Uruguay and Namibia but their sec-

PARIS, Sept 26, (AP): This is the one Uru-guay and Namibia have been waiting for. The one Rugby World Cup matchup they truly believe they can win. and had the capacity beyond Uruguay to go up another gear. Italy won 38-17 and Uruguay was heartbroken. This is the first Rugby World Cup match Both teams are winless heading into the

ond this year. Namibia toured South America and stopped in at Montevideo last month. Namibia fought back from 12-0 down to lead 13-

RUGBY

12 but Uruguay's better set-piece and general play prevailed to win 26-18. Both teams have

scored tries against Namibia in August.

nine survivors in the starting XVs.

first-choice tighthead Diego Arbelo and wing Bautista Basso, and starting flanker Carlos Deus and center Felipe Arcos Perez, who both

Uruguay is back to its best after restoring

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Director General of Public Authority for Sports underscores unwavering support for young athletes

Al-Baidan commends Al-Shamlan's bronze medal achievement

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, Yousef Al-Baidan, the Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, extended his admiration for the remarkable Asian accomplishment achieved by Kuwait's national fencing team member, Yousef Al-Shamlan. Al-Shamlan clinched the bronze medal during the 19th Asian Games held in China, marking a historic milestone as Kuwait's inaugural

medal in Asian fencing, and this feat transpired during the ongoing Masters' edition.

sistent dedication exhibited by the

convincing 5-1 victory.

SOCCER

Karim Benzema for the next seven

The club announced that Benzema

As a result of this injury, the

French striker will be unavailable

for the upcoming league match

against Al-Fayhaa the day after

tomorrow, as well as the AFC

Champions League clash with Iran's

Tigres 'president' Paez

shot dead after match

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 26,

(AP): Colombian second division

club Tigres FC has announced its

president, Edgar Paez, was fatally

shot after his team's loss on

According to local media

reports, the 63-year-old Paez was

driving home with his daughter

after a home loss to Atletico FC

when he was shot by two men on

a motorbike close to Tigres'

Metropolitano de Techo stadium

the attack and prosecutors have

an investigation into the murder

underway.
"The Tigres family and the

sporting community are devas-

tated by this event," the club said

in a statement that was posted to

X, formerly known as Twitter.

"His commitment to the team

and his dedication to the devel-

opment of the sport in our region

left an indelible mark on all who

had the privilege of knowing

Federation also extended its con-

dolences to Paez's family and

Federation and its Executive

Committee mourn the passing of

Mr. Édgar Paez, the president of

Tigres FC Club. From Colombian

football, we extend our condo-

lences and stand by the side of his

family, friends, and loved ones in

UEFA made two moves toward

partially reintegrating Russia into

European soccer on Tuesday

despite the ongoing war in

ing body decided to try reintro-ducing Russian under-17 teams

into its competitions this sea-

son. That's an easing of a blan-

ket ban on national and club

teams from international play

imposed within days of the

Russian invasion starting in

UEFA said it was "aware that children should not be punished

for actions whose responsibility

lies exclusively with adults and is

firmly convinced that football

should never give up sending

messages of peace and hope.'

The European soccer govern-

Colombian Football

Football

His daughter was uninjured in

Sepahan next Monday.

Saturday night.

in Bogota.

The

Ukraine.

February 2022.

team in a statement.

"The Colombian

their grief. Rest in peace.'

sustained a right thigh muscle inju-

ry, necessitating a seven-day treat-

ment and rehabilitation program.

Cristiano Ronaldo.

days due to an injury.

Al-Qaisumah.

technical and administrative teams, along with the Kuwaiti Fencing Federation's Board of Directors. Their collective efforts have propelled Kuwait's fencing onto the global stage, following significant achievements at the Arab, Gulf, and West Asian lev-

The Director General of the Authority further asserted their commitfederations without delay, in pursuit of raising Kuwait's flag high and fulfilling the visionary leadership's steadfast desire to consistently feature on podiums across all forums. This commitment encompasses participation in 25 different sports and ensuring the inclusion of women in several disciplines as a maiden step

Additionally, Al-Baidan high-

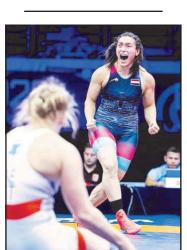
lighted the morale boost provided

ushering in a new era of achieve-

thority's unwavering support for young athletes, pledging to harness all available resources to enhance their technical and physical prowess. This commitment is driven by upcoming opportunities that demand increased effort to regain titles that



KUNA photo Al-Shamlan celebrating his medal.



Samar Hamza

Hamza claims top spot

In a recent announcement from the International Wrestling Federation, Egyptian wrestler Samar Hamza has once again claimed the number one spot in the world rankings. The Egyptian Wrestling Federation proudly revealed that Samar has maintained her commanding position in the 76 kg category, amassing an impressive 77,800 points. She outshines her competitors, with Japan's Yuka Kagami securing the second spot, and Kyrgyzstan's Medit Kizhi coming in third

Samar's remarkable achievement comes despite her recent setback at the World Wrestling Championship in Serbia this September. where she was eliminated during the quarter-finals after a hardfought match against a Colombian opponent.

'Status' of Messi remains unclear

MIAMI, Sept 26, (AP): Lionel Messi's status remains unclear for Inter Miami's U.S. Open Cup final match against Houston on Wednesday night. The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner was subbed out of a match against Toronto on Sept. 20 in the first half because of a leg issue, and did not play in the team's 1-1 tie at Orlando on Sunday. That was the third match he missed in its entirety - two for club, one for country - in the last two weeks.

Messi was not on the field for the portion of a training session that was available to reporters on Tuesday. Speaking at a post-practice news conference at the team's headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said no decision on Messi's status will be made before Wednesday.

The nature of Messi's leg problem remains unclear. Fatigue was originally cited for Messi's absences, and Martino eventually said last week that the problem stems from scar tissue from a previous injury. Messi was seen stretching at times during the Sept. 20 match, as if to indicate he was

having some sort of muscular issue. Jordi Alba, another midseason acquisition by Inter Miami, is expected to miss the Cup final because of injury, Martino said. He left the Sept. 20 match against Toronto about three

minutes before Messi was subbed out. The 36-year-old Messi missed Argentina's World Cup qualifying win at Bolivia on Sept. 12, and Inter Miami's 5-2 loss at Atlanta United on Sept. 16. He returned for the Sept. 20 match, but didn't even make it to

Inter Miami is still very much alive in the race to make Major League Soccer's playoffs and has three matches looming in the coming days. The team plays host to New York City FC on Saturday, at Chicago on Oct. 4 and returns home to face Cincinnati on Oct. 7.

Martino indicated that any decision on Messi's availability for those upcoming MLS matches will be made

after Wednesday. The team has lost only once in 15 matches since Messi first appeared for the club, winning nine and tying five. Three of those ties came in tournament play, with Inter Miami winning on penalty kicks all three times two in the Leagues Cup, including the final against Nashville for the Miami club's first-ever trophy, and another in the U.S. Open Cup semifinals.

In a press statement, Al-Baidan expressed his aspirations for Kuwait to continue amassing medals in the ongoing competitions, proudly hoisting the Kuwaiti flag on the podiums. He emphasized that Al-Shamlan's bronze medal was the result of per-

ment to supporting sports clubs and

in their international presence.

by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al Sabah, who graced the Asian Games' opening ceremony and met with the Kuwaiti delegation at his residence. The Crown Prince's directives serve as strong motivation for all participants, and these guidelines will materialize into tangible advancements in Kuwaiti sports,

ments Al-Baidan underscored the Au-

were lost in recent times.

Al-Hilal, Al-Nasr secure quarters spots

Benzema out for week, Al-Ittihad confirm



Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (1) runs with the ball past Los Angeles Rams defensive back Jordan Fuller (4) during the second half of an NFL football game in Cincinnati. (AP)

Burrow plays through calf injury, throws for 259 yards as Bengals end skid

Eagles thump Buccaneers to remain unbeaten

TAMPA, Fla., Sept 26, (AP): Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles are unbeaten, but not perfect or even as good as they feel they can be.

"Everybody wants us to be a final product now, but it's a growth. You want to grow every day," coach Nick Sirianni said after the defending NFC champions dominated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 25-11 on Monday night.

"We're not going to be playing our best football until we get going into the season," Sirianni added. "We've still got things to work on, we've still got growth to do."

Hurts threw for a touchdown, ran for another and led the Eagles on a gameending drive that lasted more than nine

Philadelphia won its first eight games a year ago and is off to a 3-0 start in consecutive seasons for the first time since 1992-93.

"At the end of the day it's about catching, it's about throwing, it's about taking care of the football, it's about taking away the football, it's about tackling, it's about blocking, it's about getting off blocks. Those are the key fundamentals to playing football, and our guys really did a good job of putting that extra work in," Sirianni said. "That's going to continue to take

us through the season. Hurts improved to 20-1 over his last 21 regular-season games. He tossed a 34-yard TD pass to Olamide Zaccheaus that helped Philly build a 13-3 halftime lead, and his 1-yard scoring run on a quarterback sneak gave the Eagles a 17-point advantage early in

The Eagles led 25-3 by the time the Bucs finally got into the end zone on Baker Mayfield's 1-yard TD throw to Mike Evans. A 2-point conversion trimmed Philadelphia's lead to 14 with 9:22 remaining, but Hurts and the Eagles never let Tampa Bay get the ball

"At that point we're hoping to get the ball back, score quick and make it interesting," Mayfield said.

"We didn't play a good ballgame. They were a lot to do with that," Bucs coach Todd Bowles said. "We can't mope about it.'

Hurts was 4 of 5 passing and ran for a first down on the final drive.

"Outside of some turnovers on my behalf, I think we did a really good job of executing," Hurts said. "We've got to do a better job of controlling the things we can. But we've got three wins down and we're going to continue to build off of that as a team and hold each other accountable. That's the name of the game.'

The Bucs (2-1) lost for the first time with Mayfield at quarterback, turning the ball over twice after playing turnover-free against Minnesota and Chicago. The Bucs' usually reliable defense struggled, too, yielding 201

A week after running for a careerhigh 175 yards, D'Andre Swift ran for 130 yards on 16 attempts for Philadelphia. Hurts was 23 of 37 passing for 277 yards and two interceptions, while A.J. Brown finished with nine receptions for 131 yards for the Eagles - one of just three NFL teams that remain unbeaten, along with Miami and San

Mayfield completed 15 of 25 passes for 146 yards, one touchdown and an interception. Evans had five receptions, giving him 700 in his career.

Twelve of the past 14 teams to start 3-0 have gone on reach the playoffs.

Ronde Barber's 92-yard interception return for a touchdown that sealed Tampa Bay's victory over the Eagles in the 2002 NFC championship game in Philadelphia is perhaps the most memorable play in Tampa Bay fran-chise history. The former Bucs star was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in August and received his Hall of Fame Ring of Excellence at halftime Monday night.

After missing most of training camp with a calf injury, Joe Burrow is still working his way back into form.

Monday night's 19-16 win over the Rams, the first by the Cincinnati Bengals this season, went a long way. The Pro Bowl quarterback shook off

the lingering effects of the right calf strain that kept his status in doubt right up until game time. He wasn't quite as mobile as usual and didn't record a touchdown pass - but he managed to help the Bengals (1-2) get up off the

"I pride myself on my availability," Burrow said. "There is risk to go out there and potentially reinjure it. But there's also risk to go out there and be

Burrow finished 26 for 49 for a season-high 259 yards and also threw his second interception this season. His favorite target, Ja'Marr Chase, broke out with 12 catches for 141 yards, although nine different Bengals were recipients of Burrow's passes during the evening.

43-yarder that came during a thirdquarter drive that led to the third of four field goals by Evan McPherson. Burrow told Chase during pregame

warmup that he was going to play. "I didn't want him to play," Chase said. "It just shows that Joe is hardheaded. But he's a football player. It takes a lot to be a quarterback and also be injured.

"We needed to get this win," Chase said. "I was just being there for Joe. All I could do is try to make Joe look good."

Joe Mixon's 14-yard touchdown run in the third quarter gave the reigning AFC North champs their first lead of the season. Meanwhile, linebacker Logan Wilson picked off Los Angeles quarterback Matthew Stafford twice and the Bengals sacked him six times.

Stafford threw a 1-yard scoring pass to Tutu Atwell with just over a minute left in the game, and the PAT got the Rams within three points, but Mitchell Wilcox fell on the ensuing onside kick to seal the win for the Bengals.

FOOTBALL

It wasn't clear until just before the game whether Burrow would play. The injury occurred early in training camp, and he aggravated it late in the Bengals' loss to Baltimore last week. Burrow returned to practice on Thursday on a limited basis, and on Saturday the team listed him as ques-

"In the workout today, (I) felt good enough to play," Burrow said. "Don't have any setbacks, was basically the criteria. It's still day to day. It's good to get through this one. It's going to be better this week than it was last week."

The Cincinnati defense was outstanding. Stafford was sacked twice by defensive end Trey Hendrickson, and Wilson intercepted him once in each half, the second two-interception game

Philadelphia Eagles' Jalen Hurts, (center), scores a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

WASHINGTON, Sept 26, (AP): Results and standings from NFL games on Monday. 25 Tampa Bay Philadelphia 19 LA Rams American Football Conference AFC East PF 130 91 42 52 T 0 0 0 1.000 .667 .333 .333 Miami Buffalo 2 1 0 3 1 2 0 3 1 2 0 3 AFC South W L T 2 1 0 1 2 0 1 2 0 1 2 0 Pct .667 .333 .333 .333 PF 74 66 57 45 Indianapolis Houston Jacksonville Tennessee AFC North V L T 2 1 0 2 1 0 2 1 0 1 2 0 Pct .667 .667 .667 .333 PF 71 73 56 46 Cleveland Pittsburgh Cincinnati Pct .667 .333 .333 .000 **PF** 78 86 45 69 Kansas City LA Chargers Las Vegas National Football Conference NFC East W L T Pct 3 0 0 1.000 2 1 0 .667 2 1 0 .667 1 2 0 .333 NFC South PF 84 86 58 43 Philadelphia Dallas Washington NFC South V L T 2 1 0 2 1 0 2 1 0 3 0 Pct .667 .667 .667 .000 **PF** 55 53 58 54 Atlanta New Orleans Tampa Bay W L 2 1 2 1 V L T 2 1 0 2 1 0 0 3 0 0 3 0 NFC West Pct .667 .667 .000 **PF** 72 80 47 69 63 62 106 82 Detroit Green Bay Chicago Minnesota .000 **PF** 90 87 72 69 L T 0 0 1 0 2 0 2 0 Pct San Francisco 3 Seattle 2 1.000

NFL Results/Standings

of the fourth-year linebacker's career. "Our defense kept us right in this

.333

Arizona LA Rams

thing," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. Stafford finished 18 for 39 for 269 yards as the Rams slipped to 1-2. Puka Nacua - whose 25 receptions for 266 yards in his first two games was a rookie record - led the Rams with five catches for 72 yards.

Mixon was a workhorse again, carrying 19 times for 65 yards. On Cincinnati's first possession of the second half, he went over left tackle and found a seam to score from 14 yards out, his first TD of the season, to cap a 10-play, 75-vard drive.

"It did feel like we were in striking distance," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "I thought the defense kept us in the game the whole night, and I thought it was really unfortunate, especially early on where we had to settle for field goals where we had some of the looks and some of the opportunities to be able to execute, and we just weren't able to get it done."



China's Ma Zhenzhao in white reacts as she fights Japan's Takayama Rika in the women's - 78kg gold medal match at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou,

Sports

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

Kuwait make strong start in squash at Asiad

Turki shines

HANGZHOU, China, Sept 26: Kuwait national squash team embarked made a strong start with a 3-0 victory against the Nepalese team at the 19th Asian Games. They Kuwait stars Abdullah Al-Muzain, Ammar Al-Tamimi, and Ali Al-Ramzi dominated the match from the beginning, asserting their playing style and controlling the course of the game.

Walid Al-Sumaie, President of the Kuwait Squash Federation, expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, highlighting the exceptional display by Al-Muzayen, Al-Ramzi, and Al-Tamimi in their debut match. He mentioned that the team has five more matches to go in the team competition and hopes to advance to the second round and compete for one of the three medals.

Al-Sumaie acknowledged that the group stage competitions would be challenging, given the presence of strong teams vying for a spot in the semi-finals. However, he expressed confidence in the players' ability to deliver top-notch performances that reflect the development of squash in Kuwait and yield positive results.

ASIAN GAMES

Kuwait is competing in the first group, which includes teams from Qatar, Pakistan, Singapore, India, and Nepal. The participating teams are divided into two groups, with the top team and runner-up from each group qualifying for the semi-finals. Today, our national squash team will face India and Qatar.

In handball competitions, our first national team is set to face the host nation, China, in the third round of the first group at 1:00 PM Kuwait time. Both teams secured their spots in the second round after defeating the Thai team. Besides today's match, the outcome of this match will determine the group

Additionally, Saudi Arabia will play against Iran, and Qatar will face South Korea today. The second round matches are scheduled for the day after tomorrow, with tomorrow being a rest day for the handball

Kuwait national shooting team continues to compete in the men's and women's skeet competitions, with three out of five rounds completed in the qualifying stage. Abdullah Al-Taraqi achieved 71 targets out of 75, Mansour Al-Rashidi hit 69 targets, and Abdulaziz Al-Saad scored 67. In the women's category, Iman Al-Shamaa achieved 64 targets, Afrah Al-Mohammad scored 64, and Fatima Al-Zaabi

reached 60 targets. Abdullah Al-Taraqi, a player on our national team, expressed optimism about their chances of qualifying for the final round. He mentioned that there are two critical rounds remaining, and they are determined to give their best to secure a spot in the final. The competition is fierce among the players. Meanwhile, Amira Awad continues competing in the women's 25m pistol shooting qualifiers for the second stage

In boxing, Kuwait's Turki Abu Qadhailah defeated his Afghan opponent by a narrow margin, securing a place in the round of 16. His next opponent will be from the Indian national team. Abu Qadhailah suffered a hand injury during the bout, and the team's medical staff is



Al-Rashidi during a skeet competi-

assessing its impact on his ability to continue in the tournament.

Turki Abu Qadhailah described the fight against the Afghan player as intense, and he credited the Tunisian coach Muhammad Al-Hamrani for helping him secure victory in the final round. He is awaiting the medical staff's report and tests to determine if he can continue competing. In taekwondo, Bandar Al-Enezi

from Kazakhstan, Gasunov. Swimmers Walid Abdel Razzaq and Saud Al-Shamroukh are participating in the 100m butterfly and 200m freestyle qualifiers, respective-





Abu Qadhailah outperformed his Afghan opponent.

Ministry refutes allegations

Zain Premier League is set to resume after a 26-day hiatus

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Zain Premier League is set to resume after a 26-day hiatus, attributed to the Olympic team's involvement in the Asian Cup qualifiers and their participation in the ongoing Asian Games in China.

There two scheduled matches with Al-Arabi facing off against Khaitan at Jaber International Stadium while Al-Salmiya will be the guests of Al-Kuwait

Friday, featuring a single match between Kazma and Al-Jahra. The round will conclude next Saturday with two matches; first, Al-Oadisia will meet Al-Fahaheel, followed by a matchup between

Al-Nasr and Al-Shabab. Al-Arabi and Al-Kuwait game is postponed due to their involvement in the AFC Cup competitions. "The Green" is set to host Lebanese counterpart Nejmeh next Monday in the second round of the third group competitions. Meanwhile, "Al-Abyad" will welcome their Jordanian guests, Al-Wehdat, next Tuesday for the second round of the second group competitions.

In today's confrontations, Al-Kuwait aims for a third consecutive victory to maintain its position at the top of the standings. Meanwhile, Al-Salmiya seeks a second consecutive win after defeating Al-Nasr 3-2 in the second round, a victory that could temporarily secure them the league lead.

In the second match, Al-Arabi looks to capitalize on the high morale of its players following their recent victory over Iraq's Al-Zawraa in the AFC Cup. However, Al-Akhdar remains cautious, aware of the potential for surprises from their opponent, Khaitan, who has displayed convincing performances in the previous two rounds.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of SOCCER

Information rebuffed claims that it had obstructed a local channel's ability to broadcast Premier League football matches (Zain League).

In a statement, the ministry clarified that it had received a request two days ago from the same channel to lease two SNG devices for broadcasting the matches. The ministry affirmed that it is currently processing the request in adherence to established procedures and protocols.

will face off against his competitor

Lastly, chess competitors Amna Al-Awadi and Badr Al-Hajri are continuing their journey in the chess qualifying competitions.

Boheng wins men's all-around at Asian Games

HANGZHOU, China, Sept 26, (AP): Chinese gymnast Zhang Boheng won the men's all-around title Tuesday at the Asian Games, putting himself up as a name to watch at next year's Paris

Zhang missed out on competing at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, but won the all-around title later in the year in Japan at the world championships.

"Missing Tokyo was actually a very precious learning experience for me," Zhang said in his biography for the Asian Games.

Takeru Kitazono of Japan took silver, with bronze for Lan Xingyu of China.

The all-around medal was one of the most high-profile events on Day 3 at the Asian Games.

Other countries win medals at the Asian Games in addition to China, but it can be difficult to notice with the host country's total dominance. Through 93 gold medals awarded so far, China has claimed 49. South Korea and Japan are far behind as China's

ASIAN GAMES

major challengers.

Thailand won the first medal ever awarded at the Asian Games in esports, beating Vietnam on Tuesday in Arena of Valor Asian Games Version to take bronze in the competition.

China won the gold medal, with silver for Malaysia.

Online games are swelling globally in players and revenue, and the esports competition at a purpose-built 4,500seat stadium in Hangzhou has proved to be one of the most popular events at this year's games.

After being a demonstration sport at the last games in Jakarta, Indonesia, it's part of the medal competition for the first time this year.

The competition features five PC games and two mobile games, covering both the multiplayer online battle arena, or MOBA, and single-player

The International Olympic Committee would like to be involved in esports in some way because of the revenue possibilities, but IOC president Thomas Bach has spoken out againt the violence portrayed in esports.

Arena of Valor Asian Games Version, also known as Honor of Kings, is a mobile game that pits two teams of five against each other on a simulated battlefield.

The other games in this year's competition are: League of Legends; Peace Elite Asian Games Version (also known as PUBG Mobile); Dota Dream Three Kingdoms 2; Street Fighter V: Champion Edition; and EA Sports FC (also known as FIFA Online

Pakistan get visas for Cricket World Cup in India after expressing concerns to ICC

ISLAMABAD, Sept 26, (AP): Pakistan has received its visas for next month's World Cup in India after expressing concerns to the International Cricket Council over delays and complaining about "inequitable treatment".

The team is scheduled to leave for Hyderabad, via Dubai, in the early hours of Wednesday and Pakistan Cricket Board spokesperson Umar Farooq said his organization had received confirmation from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad late on Monday to collect their passports.

Eighteen Pakistan players and 15 support staff are due to travel to India.

Earlier, the PCB had expressed its disappointment with the ICC over the delays.

"It's a matter of disappointment the Pakistan team has to go through this uncertainty ahead of the major tournament," Farooq said in a statement.

"There has been an extraordinary delay in getting clearance and securing Indian visas ... we have written to the ICC raising our concerns about inequitable treatment towards Pakistan and reminding them of these obligations towards the World Cup."

Farooq said Pakistan had reminded the ICC governing body for three years about its obligations but it "has all come down to the last two days".

The PCB was forced to cancel its original plan to organize a team-building process in Dubai on the way to India. "We had to rework our plan and book new

flights," Farooq said.

Pakistan is due to play New Zealand in Hyderabad on Friday before taking on Australia in another warm-up on Oct. 3.

It launches its World Cup campaign against the Netherlands on

Meanwhile, Dasun Shanaka will captain Sri Lanka at the upcoming Cricket World Cup despite his poor form with the bat while injured strike bowler Wanindu Hasaranga wasn't included in the 15-man squad announced Tuesday.

CRICKET

Shanaka has scored only 150 runs in his last 17 one-day innings but has a decent captaincy record.

Spinner Hasaranga was replaced by bowling allrounder Dushan Hemantha - a legspinner who has played just three one-day internationals for Sri Lanka. Injured quick Dushmantha Chameera will also miss the tournament.

The squad consists of six specialist batters, allrounders Shanaka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Hemantha and Dunith Wellalage, and five specialist seam bowlers.

Veteran Angelo Mathews was expected to be drafted in to strengthen the brittle batting but his exclusion in the final 15 effectively ends the limited-overs career of the 36-year-old player.

The World Cup starts in India on Oct. 5. Sri Lanka begins its campaign against South Africa two days later in New Delhi.

Tokyo Olympic champion Panipak Wongpattanakit did it again in the Asian Games. She picked up gold in taekwondo at 49 kilograms on Monday, defeating Guo Qing of China. Her gold medal was Thailand's only gold in Tokyo, and the gold in Hangzhou was the first for the country at this year's Asian Games. Teammate Banlung Tubtimdang followed up on Tuesday with gold at 63 kilograms.

Gonchigsuren Batkhuyag of Mongolia had to settle for silver in Tuesday's 100-kilogram judo final. Mongolia has yet to win a gold in this year's Asian Games and the best hope may come later in freestyle wrestling with Lkhagvagerel Munkhtur.

at the Asian Games, but Basma Lachkar took silver in wushu this year for the country's best-ever result. Wushu was introduced into Brunei about 15 years ago by China.

Brunei has never won a gold medal

India and Pakistan are favored to reach the men's cricket final on Oct. 7. The powers in the tournament - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh - don't enter play until the quarterfinal stage on Oct. 3-4. Meanwhile, teams like Mongolia will be in action. Mongolia's average cricket team age is 19.

Hong Kong defeated South Korea 14-7 to take the men's title on Tuesday, and China edged Japan 22-21 for the women's gold.

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Editor-in-Chief Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh **AHMED AL JARALLAH**

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267 P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

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