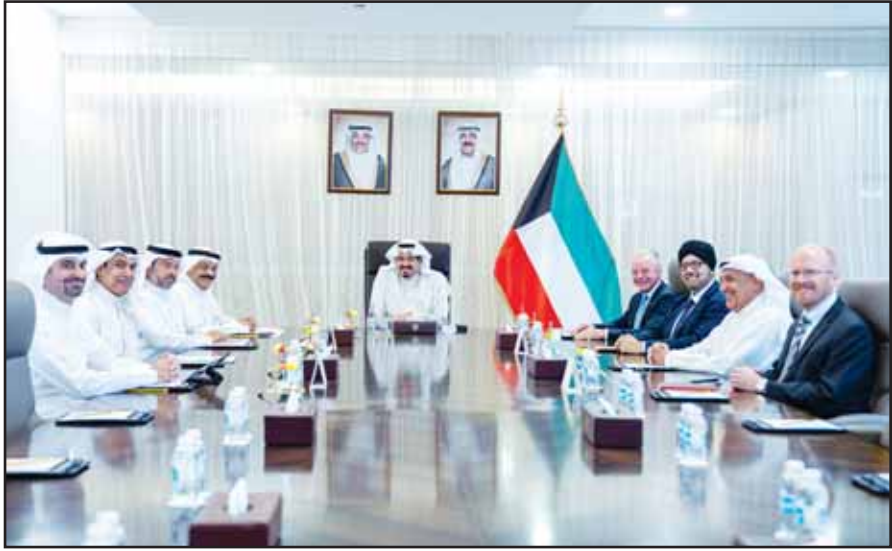




PM Diwan photo

HH the PM chairs the ministerial committee meeting at Bayan Palace.



PM Diwan photo

HH the PM meets Boeing executives at Bayan Palace.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

We must give time a chance to erase negative memories



Written on the sand: My
best friend slapped me.



Engraved on a rock: My
best friend saved my life.



My husband rented land
and farmed it on credit. May
goodness pour in.



If it rains, the pottery will
melt and we will be exposed
to calamity.



The world is not without
its ups and downs, but praise
Allah in all circumstances.



The world is full of dif-
ferences. What makes one
person happy makes another
worry.

3

PM directs oversight of China MoUs

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah directed on Wednesday at Bayan Palace, the ministerial committee – tasked with handling the agreement and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the People's Republic of China – to follow up on the implementation of the agreements.

The 25th meeting of the ministerial committee reviewed several issues, including expected visits by Chinese delegations to

Kuwait this month.

It also discussed the progress of Kuwait-China initiatives, including the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, renewable energy, low-carbon waste recycling systems, housing development, wastewater treatment infrastructure, free zones and economic areas, as well as initiatives in environmental protection, afforestation, and combating desertification.

Continued on Page 5

PM, Boeing officials push ties forward

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday received, at Bayan Palace, the President of Boeing Global Dr. Brendan Nelson and President of Boeing Middle East, Turkiye, Africa and Central Asia Kuljit Ghata-Aura on the occasion of their visit to the country.

During the meeting, both sides tackled ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and Boeing, and to develop their

partnership in the fields of aircraft manufacturing, importing, and space research, in line with the country's development vision (Kuwait 2035).

The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister's Office Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Head of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,

Continued on Page 5

Rents in Hawally, Salmiya could jump amid visa rush

Experts forecast higher demand in housing, hotels and commercial sectors

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Real Estate Union Chairman Ibrahim Al-Awadhi confirmed the positive impact of the new government facilities on the Kuwaiti economy in general, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Awadhi pointed out that opening business, family and tourism visit visas will kill six birds with one stone, as the increase in the number of expatriates will consequently lead to increased demand for housing, which will stimulate the investment real estate sector, hotels, commercial sector, restaurants, banks, and private healthcare sector.

He revealed that the occupancy rate in the investment sector currently stands at about 87 percent. "With the gradual increase in the number of visitors, coupled with the shortage of apartment supply, we will notice an increase in the rental value of apartments in the investment sector, particularly in prime areas like Salmiya, Hawally and Maidan Hawally. This is due to the lack of new investment land and the presence of 'demolition' properties — old properties that need to be developed."

He pointed out the positive impact of reopening visits on

stimulating trading activity in the mid-range hotel sector, ruling out any impact on four- or five-star hotels. He expects an increase in demand for mid-range family hotels in the coming days.

He affirmed that the increase in the number of visitors will naturally lead to higher demand for various types of markets – commercial and central, as well as the retail sector, restaurants and cafés, which will enhance the benefits and revitalization of the commercial sector in particular.

He said the banking sector will be at the forefront of sectors influencing real estate transactions due to the increased facilities provided by the government.

He explained that these facilities will boost the desire of private real estate companies to develop projects that meet the needs of this segment, which will whet the appetite of banks to finance companies and stimulate the private sector.

He stressed the importance of this decision in revitalizing the private health sector, which suffered and was significantly affected by the suspension of the 'Afiya' project.

He anticipates higher demand for private health services after opening visit visas without granting visitors any facilities in the government health sector.

On the other hand, real estate expert Qais Al-Ghanim pointed

out that discussing the economic impact of the decision is premature, as it requires at least six months to study the repercussions and analyze results. He explained that the real estate and economic benefits of these facilities are no less important than regulating the entry into and exit from the country, which guarantees national security.

He stressed that the laws and facilities in general are necessary to revive the local economy on one hand, and regulate the mechanism for bringing in expatriates on the other hand, pointing out that the decision of the government to open visit visas (family, tourist and business) and its commitment to tighten security by imposing penalties on sponsors and manipulators among visitors will have the most significant impact on the growth and sustainability of the national economy, citing the efforts of the Ministry of Interior, led by Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, in creating integrated laws and regulations to manage this file.

He pointed out that the decision will contribute to stimulating the real estate market, particularly the hotel, apartment and commercial sectors, including restaurants, cafés and others, by stimulating purchasing activity.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait security, traffic patrols ready for students' return

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs at the Interior Ministry Major General Hamed Al-Dawas inspected the Traffic Operations Department building on Wednesday.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed the in-

spection tour is part of its ongoing efforts to monitor the security and traffic preparations for the start of the new school year.

During the visit, Al-Dawas was briefed on the security preparations for the start of the school year. These include the readiness of security and traffic patrols to ease traffic flow around schools, and ensure the safety of students and parents when entering and

exiting schools.

The ministry urged parents and drivers to fully cooperate with security personnel and abide by the traffic regulations to guarantee the safety of everyone, especially the students, as well as to establish the principle of community partnership in maintaining national security and public safety.

Continued on Page 5

MoH monitors equipment misuse

Kuwait focuses on health innovation

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi pointed out that investing in human resources and health technology is considered the fundamental pillar of the plan and vision of his ministry.

Al-Awadhi made the statement during the opening of the workshop, "Drawing a Roadmap for Activating the Health Technology Assessment

System", on Wednesday.

He also confirmed that medical facilities are provided with the latest equipment and devices to better serve the public. Present at the event were a number of senior ministry officials, including the undersecretary, assistant undersecretaries, directors of technical departments, heads of medical authorities and heads of departments, whom he described as "leaders of the Ministry of Health."

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait's Deputy Army Chief, US Defense Attache hold talks



Kuwait Army photo

Deputy Chief of Staff of Kuwaiti Army Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with US senior Defense official and Defense Attache to Kuwait, Colonel Bryan McCullough.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, met with US senior Defense official and Defense Attache to Kuwait, Colonel Bryan McCullough on Wednesday.

The two talked of issues of common interest, as per a Kuwait Army statement.

Major General Al-Sabah underlined furthering cooperation between the two, and conveyed his well wishes of success to Colonel McCullough on his appointment.



4 Iraq appoints Osama Al-Nashi as new ambassador to Kuwait



8 Zain, KAFO partnership puts sustainability at the heart of youth empowerment

8 Kuwait Airways launches 'Economy Zero Bag' fare

Kuwait, Google collab to boost tourism sector

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information has launched its first specialized training program on tourism governance strategies and policies, in collaboration with the Ministry of State for Communication Affairs and Google.

The move comes within the framework of efforts to develop the country's tourism sector and beef up national personnel's efficiency, the ministry said in a press release on Wednesday.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs called on Wednesday upon mosques' imams and scholars to hold lunar eclipse prayers on Sunday.

The ministry said in a press statement that a circular had been issued by the Undersecretary, Badr Al-Mutairi, addressed to the mosques managers, naming the mosques where these prayers should be held in line with the Sunnah. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait Foreign Ministry has expressed sympathy and solidarity with the people of Sudan after a devastating landslide in Darfur region, which resulted in killing and injuring hundreds of people. (KUNA)

— See Also Page 7



National Guard photo

National Guard Chief Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during an inspection tour of the Operations Center, Security System and Crisis Management Center.

Kuwait's National Guard Chief lauds crisis management efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): National Guard Chief Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday visited the Operations Center, Security System and Crisis Management Center at the General Presidency of the National Guard.

In a press statement, the National Guard revealed that Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah praised the efforts of those in charge of the Center, and their ability to carry out the tasks assigned to them and maintain the

readiness of the institution to perform its role in ensuring the security and safety of the country in an efficient and proficient manner under its wise leadership.

It added that Head of the Operations Center Brigadier General Ghazi Sarhan and Head of the Security Systems Center Colonel Eng. Ahmed Ali briefed Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud on the Operations Center and its tasks in ensuring the security of the National

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

THE Saturday mouse who seized 46 books from a ministry's tender manipulated the type of paper.

It seems that he wanted paper that was easy for the Saturday mice to borrow.

Paper is weighed in grams and it is part of the pricing game practiced by the Saturday mouse.

He manipulates the density of paper and distributes it to others through the cooperation of those who are with him in that place.

O Allah, we do not ask you to avert fate, but rather to be kind to us. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:05	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	05:26	Maghrib ..	18:08
Zohr	11:47	Isha	19:27

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-32 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot and humid especially over coastal ar-

Weather		
eas with light to moderate south-		
easterly wind to light variable		
wind, with speeds of 06-30 km/h.		
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	34
Kuwait Airport	44	27
Abdaly	44	28

Bubyan	43	26
Jahra	45	30
Salmiyah	41	35
Ahmadi	41	30
Nuwaisib	43	28
Wafra	44	26
Salmiya	42	26



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Kuwait Amir congratulates San Marino on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable to San Marino Captains Regent Denise Bronzetti and Italo Righi on the occasion of their country's national day.

His Highness the Amir wished them good health, their country and people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Wednesday to San Marino's Captains Regent Denise Bronzetti and Italo Righi on the occasion of their country's national day, wishing them good health and further progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable to San Marino's Captains Regent Denise Bronzetti and Italo Righi on the occasion of their country's national day.

Other Voices

Why female quotas fail to deliver real equality?

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

The introduction of female quotas in politics and business has often been presented as a quick fix to gender imbalance. On the surface, such measures promise progress by ensuring women are represented in leadership roles. However, the reality is that quotas rarely deliver meaningful change. In fact, they can unintentionally reinforce stereotypes, diminish merit-based achievement, and ultimately fail to tackle the root problem of inequality.



Al-Hajeri

The central issue with female quotas is that they imply women cannot achieve positions of power on their own merit. By mandating numbers rather than nurturing genuine talent, quotas suggest that women require external help to compete with men. This undermines the very prin-

ciple of equality and risks portraying female leaders as token figures rather than competent professionals. When women are placed in positions without the full confidence of merit-based selection, any shortcomings are magnified, creating the impression that women as a whole are less capable.

The business world provides telling examples. Norway's 2003 boardroom quota law mandated 40% female representation on company boards. While the legislation increased numbers, it did not substantially improve overall gender equality in the corporate pipeline. A small group of highly connected women occupied multiple board seats, creating what became known as the "golden skirts" phenomenon. Meanwhile, opportunities for women at lower levels remained stagnant, showing that quotas elevated representation at the top without addressing systemic barriers below.

In politics, similar patterns emerge. Quotas in countries like India have increased the number of women in elected positions, yet this has not always translated into stronger

female leadership. In some cases, female representatives were sidelined or overshadowed by male relatives, turning their roles into symbolic gestures rather than genuine platforms for change. Such outcomes reinforce harmful perceptions that women in power are unqualified or incapable, which is the opposite of what true feminism seeks to achieve.

A more effective approach is to focus on building equal opportunities rather than imposing quotas. Women should be recognized for their abilities, given access to training, mentorship, and resources, and supported in environments that value merit. When women reach leadership positions because they are the best candidates, not because a rule mandated it, their success strengthens the case for equality far more convincingly than any quota could.

Quotas may appear progressive, but they are little more than a band-aid solution. The real path forward lies in dismantling systemic barriers and fostering environments where women succeed naturally on the basis of skill, ambition, and merit. True equality is not granted, it is earned.



KUNA photo
United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls Reem Al-Salem during her visit to Ministry of Interior headquarters.

UN Special Rapporteur briefed on Mol efforts to protect women

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls Reem Al-Salem visited on Tuesday the Interior Ministry's H.Q. and was briefed on efforts made to protect females.

The ministry received Al-Salem and the visit included some sectors, within the framework of Kuwait's keenness on boosting cooperation with

the UN and share expertise, the ministry said in a press release.

The tour started with a meeting with the ministry's senior officials and reviewed efforts made to protect women and girls from all types of violence, along means of empowering women in security sector, it added.

Al-Salem paid a field tour to the female po-

lice institute and Al-Sadiq Police Station, and the deportation center and female prison, it noted.

She was informed about the conditions of prisoners, and rehabilitation and medical services as well as measures taken to ensure the dignity of humanity and rights, in accordance with relevant international charters, it stated.

'No mind yet on Palestine state'

It's not 'genocide': Kaneko

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry Deputy Spokesperson Mariko Kaneko confirmed that the Japanese government has yet to make a final decision on recognizing the State of Palestine, but it is considering various options in coordination with its G7 partners.

In a recent press conference, Kaneko indicated that this issue is being seriously discussed, and that the ultimate goal remains the practical and effective realization of the two-state solution. She affirmed Japan's commitment to support the two-state solution as the only way to achieve peace.

She pointed out that Japan has provided \$230 million in humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank since Oct 7, 2023, in addition to long-term programs that support the Palestinian Authority in the areas of governance, agriculture, and the development of small and medium-sized industries.

She said Japan continues to call on all parties to de-escalate and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza, stressing that Tokyo has urged Israel to abide by international law and international humanitarian law.

She explained that Japan, while deeply concerned about the high civilian casualties, does not describe the situation as "genocide" due to the lack of confirmed information.

She added that Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Takeshi Iwaya's visit to Kuwait is within the framework of participating in the second joint ministerial meeting between Japan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). She revealed the purpose of the visit is to strengthen relations between Japan and the GCC countries, as well as bilateral relations.

She stated Minister Iwaya met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah before attending the ministerial meeting hosted by Kuwait, which holds the current presidency of the GCC.

She went on to say that such meetings are



Mariko Kaneko talking to the press.

considered an important opportunity to discuss political, security and economic issues amid turbulent international conditions. She emphasized that Japan and the GCC countries, especially Kuwait, share fundamental values and principles and seek to enhance cooperation at the bilateral and international levels within multilateral frameworks, such as the United Nations.

She revealed that Japan relies heavily on oil imports from the Gulf countries, appreciating Kuwait's contribution as one of the leading exporters, ranking third, in the crude oil supply of Japan.

She confirmed Tokyo's commitment to support efforts of Kuwait in the green transformation and economic diversification, indicating that Japanese companies possess advanced technology in the fields of water desalination and electricity, thereby, contributing to securing stable supplies to the region.

She also announced that political dialogue between the two countries on these issues resumed after a five-year hiatus, adding that bilateral relations between Japan and Kuwait are expanding in various fields.

She said the Japanese people remember with gratitude the valuable support provided by Kuwait after the 2011 earthquake. "Kuwaiti aid contributed to the operation of the first train in the affected areas, and it continues to operate today as a symbol of friendship between the two peoples. The two countries, as maritime nations, agree on the importance of freedom of maritime navigation and ensuring the security and stability of global trade routes, which are the bases for joint cooperation at the regional and international levels," she concluded.

'Focus on joint Arab action in economic, social arena'

CAIRO, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem called on Wednesday for focused efforts to enhance joint Arab action in the economic and social fields to empower the Arab League, and face regional challenges.

This came in a speech by Minister Al-Mukhaizeem, delivered on his behalf by Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Services at the Ministry of Finance, Saad Al-Alati, during the Arab League's Economic and Social Council's 116th ordinary session.

He called for establishing effective strate-

gies to deal with crises facing countries in the region, particularly the long-term crises that directly affect joint Arab action.

Al-Mukhaizeem emphasized the role the council plays in achieving comprehensive Arab development and action, hoping the decisions issued by the council will contribute to supporting Arab economic and social work.

He added that the meeting discussed the economic and social file for the upcoming 35th Arab Summit, the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, the Arab Customs Union, investments in Arab countries, and the Arab Drug Agency.

Poisoning fears shut food facility

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced the precautionary closure of a food facility, following complaints regarding suspected cases of food poisoning associated with it.

In a press statement, the authority confirmed that, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health,

it immediately initiated epidemiological investigation procedures, taking samples from the food and workers at the suspected facility.

PAFN added that the owner of the facility was instructed to temporarily close it, pending the results of laboratory tests and epidemiological investigations. The authority reaffirmed its commitment to protect consumers and guarantee the safety of food sold in the markets by taking all the necessary preventive measures.

'Decline in number of insured workers'

More women to take up leadership positions: KPC

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) intends to increase the percentage of female nationals in leadership positions in various oil sector facilities in the coming period, considering the unprecedented success achieved by Wadha Al-Khatib, CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), in leading one of the most important oil institutions in the country.

Al-Khatib also serves as acting CEO of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC).

Another leading female figure is Nadia Badr Al-Hajji, CEO of the Petrochemical Industries Company, who has shown competence equal to that of her male counterparts and has become a true partner in oil decision-making.

The newspaper obtained a copy of an internal oil sector document, which revealed the percentage of Kuwaiti women working in KPC and its subsidiaries.



Al-Khatib

It stated that the percentage of Kuwaiti women in senior management positions, such as deputy managing director and above, is 14 percent, while their representation in middle management positions, such as director and team leader, reached 20 percent.

Among female employees holding a university degree with the title of senior administrator and below, the percentage is 32 percent, while the lowest category – those with a diploma or less – accounted for four percent.

Meanwhile, statistics issued by the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), a copy of which was obtained by the newspaper, revealed a decline of 606 in the number of insured employees in the oil sector within a year.

The data stated that as of March 31, 2025, the number of insured oil workers totaled 21,703 and 18,300 of them are males with an average salary of KD 1,496, compared to 3,403 females with an average salary of KD 1,490. The overall average salary for workers in the sector is KD 1,472.

In comparison, the statistics for the first quarter of 2024 showed 22,309 insured oil sector employees and 18,806 of them are males with an average salary of KD 1,466, and 3,503 are females with an average salary of KD 1,484. The overall average salary then was KD 1,496.

Sources confirmed that several factors contributed to the decline in the number of insured

employees in the oil sector, the most important of which is the retirement of many workers.

Sources explained that the statistics covered only those currently insured and the retirees were excluded.

They pointed out that stricter enforcement of fingerprint attendance was a key factor in prompting some employees to opt for early retirement, in addition to the three-month recruitment freeze – from December 2023 to March 2024.

Sources confirmed that KPC continues to exert tremendous efforts to recruit nationals in its affiliated oil companies, as this remains a cornerstone for developing and maintaining oil production and operations.

Accordingly, KPC is developing national talent by giving them a chance to undergo internal and external training programs in order to enhance their professional experience.

Sources added that the percentage of national employment in KPC-affiliated companies is increasing steadily.

Recently, KPC announced the results of employment tests for administrative specializations and other fields, along with upcoming job announcements this year that will further raise the percentage of Kuwaiti employees, especially since the overall direction of the corporation is towards intensifying Kuwaitization in the oil sector.

EPA, private sector in joint efforts to protect environs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (Agencies): Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) affirmed Tuesday on its commitment to enhance cooperation, to support national efforts aimed at protecting environment and strengthen sustainable development.

The Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Omnia Company for Eco-friendly Buildings and Green Utilities, as part of its responsibilities to support environmental initiatives, (EPA) Acting Chief Nouf Behbehani told KUNA.

This cooperation reflects the effective role of public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals, Behbehani noted.

For her part, Omnia's Chief Operating Officer Farah Shaaban told KUNA that Omnia is one of the leading initiatives in promoting the concept of a circular econo-

my and encouraging participation through volunteer work.

The memorandum focuses on fostering a culture of plastic waste recycling, reducing its risks, and strengthening circular economy mechanisms through joint initiatives and practical projects, Shaaban added.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Environment Protection Society said extreme temperature increases threaten bird migration, indicating that recent scientific studies and research proved that bird populations have dwindled, with some becoming extinct and others threatened with extinction, as climate conditions affect bird migration schedule and movement patterns, reports Al-Anba daily.

Bird observer and head of the environmental photography team in the Society Samira Al-Khalifa pointed out that migration is one of the greatest threats to a bird's life, given the extreme heat and weather fluctuations they are forced to adapt to.

She said birds must travel long distances from their intended destination, exerting effort and energy that lead to exhaustion and loss of fluids, which sometimes make them collapse.



Behbehani

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



We must give time a chance to erase negative memories

TWO friends were walking in the desert, and then suddenly a heated argument broke out between them, prompting one of them to slap the other.

The friend was hurt by his friend’s action, but he did not say a word to him.

Instead, he wrote on the sand: “My best friend slapped me.”

They continued on their journey until they reached a beautiful oasis with a lake.

The two swam, and suddenly the friend who was slapped got stuck in the water, and almost drowned in the blink of an eye.

His friend saved him, so he went and carved on a rock the words, “My best friend saved my life.”

The friend was amazed by his friend’s action and asked him, “Why did you write on the sand when I slapped you, and on a rock when I saved you?”

He replied, “We must give time a chance to erase negative memories from our minds. I wrote the sad situation on the sand so it would disappear, and I wrote on the rock what I never want to forget about you.”

* * *

Written on the sand: My best friend slapped me.

Engraved on a rock: My best friend saved my life.

My husband rented land and farmed it on credit. May goodness pour in.

If it rains, the pottery will melt and we will be exposed to calamity.

The world is not without its ups and downs, but praise Allah in all circumstances.

The world is full of differences. What makes one person happy makes another worry.

If it rains, it is good. If it does not, it is good.

A man had two daughters, one was married to a farmer, and the other to a

pottery factory owner.

He decided to visit them a year after their marriage. He started with his daughter, the farmer’s wife, who welcomed him with joy and happiness.

When he asked about her situation, she said, “My husband rented land and farmed it on credit.

If it rains, we will be fine, but if it does not, we will be in trouble.”

The father was a little sad, but decided to go on to visit his second daughter, the potter’s wife.

She also welcomed him with joy and happiness. When he asked about her situation, she replied, “My husband bought soil on credit and turned it into a pottery.

He put it out in the sun. If it rains, the pottery will melt, and we will be in trouble.”

The father returned home, worried. When his wife asked him about his daughters’ situation, he said, “If it rains, thank Allah, and if it does not, thank Allah.”

The world is not without its ups and downs, praise Allah for everything.

The world is full of differences. What makes one person happy may be a source of anxiety for another.

Some have accumulated, greed takes them to far-reaching horizons ... They steal, lie and pretend, but in the end, they fall.

•••••

The self-confident are the humble, and the arrogant are the ones who are aware of their shortcomings. Therefore, own whatever you want in this world, but you will emerge from it as you came.

•••••

A man said to his friend while contemplating the palaces: Where were we when this wealth was divided? His friend took him to the hospital and asked him: Where were we when these diseases were divided?

•••••

You will be told things that are not true about you, you will be told things you do not like, you will be told that you did things you did not do, and you will find no one to protect you from harm. Do not despair. The important thing is to be patient, for Allah is with those who are patient.

•••••

Leave creation to the Creator. Everyone will get their share, whether good or bad. We believe in destiny, both good and bad.

•••••

He wanted to end everything, but he forgot that there were eyes watching him ... He lied and fabricated, and cooperated with those with influence, but he fell into the worst of his deeds. How hateful is greed!



KFF photo
Fire brigade at the site of blaze in a factory in Ahmadi area recently.

Minister nods KFF new organization structure

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) confirmed that First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef approved its new organizational structure, pursuant to Resolution No. 12/2025.

In a press statement, Director of the Public Relations and Media Department and official spokesperson of KFF Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Gharib disclosed that the new organizational structure includes the KFF chief, two assistant undersecretaries, six sector commanders and subordinate departments. He affirmed that through its new organizational structure, KFF is keen on improving its performance and work system.



GTD officers in one of the garages in Shuwaikh Industrial Area.

GTD conducts raids on garages open illegally

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: A recent inspection campaign led by the General Traffic Department’s Technical Inspection Division, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Kuwait Municipality, targeted vehicle service garages in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the campaign focused on workshops involved in vehicle repairs, window tinting, and accessory installations. During the operation, authorities issued 111 traffic violations and recorded four official reports against garages operating without the necessary authorization from the Ministry of Interior.

Inspectors from the Ministry of Electricity were responsible for issuing the reports, while Kuwait Municipality teams placed removal stickers on 150 abandoned vehicles found parked in public roads and open areas across Shuwaikh.

Officials emphasized that such campaigns aim to ensure compliance with licensing regulations and maintain order in industrial zones.

‘Display prices of items or face law’

MoCI monitors markets, shops

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) confirmed that the Commercial Control Department continued its intensive efforts in August to monitor markets and commercial activities in various governorates.

These efforts resulted in the issuance of 995 violation citations during 893 inspection tours, in addition to dealing with 102 consumer complaints.

Director of the department Faisal Al-Ansari told the newspaper that these results reflect the commitment of the ministry to protect consumers, regulate markets, and ensure that commercial activities comply with the laws and regulations.

He pointed out that inspection teams intensified their field presence last month, particularly in sectors that directly affect consumers, such as supermarkets, cooperative societies and commercial stores.

He added that the violations include failure to advertise prices, and those related to vegetables, fruits, licensing conditions and various commercial activities.

He stressed that the ministry will continue to implement the law firmly and will not be lenient in handling violations that harm the consumers or undermine transparency in the market.

He clarified that the department does not only monitor violations, but also educates merchants and consumers about the importance of abiding by the laws and reporting violations through the official channels of the ministry.

He added that cooperation between consumers and regulatory agencies is vital in maintaining market stability and protecting rights.

Municipality unveils strategy for safe, sustainable future

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The comprehensive future vision for developing Kuwait Municipality regulations is based on four main axes aimed at keeping pace with technological and environmental developments, and improving the quality of life in the country.

A reliable source from the Municipality told the newspaper that the first axis is the complete digital transformation of municipal services from 2025 to 2027, which will contribute to reducing transaction processing times by up to 70 percent.

He said the second axis focuses on supporting regulations with artificial intelligence technologies through automated systems for monitoring compliance and analyzing data, the third axis focuses on enhancing environmental sustainability through mandatory green building standards, advanced regulations for recycling, and the use of renewable energy, and the fourth axis is concerned with establishing an integrated urban development system in line with the concept of smart cities, including the promotion of

sustainable transportation and development of public spaces.

He revealed the process of updating regulations began in 2021, and has resulted in the development of a package of regulations, most notably the Commercial Advertising Regulation, Building Regulation, Beach Exploitation Regulation, and Public Hygiene and Waste Management Regulation.

He emphasized that all of these regulations are moving towards digital transformation and are linked to the ‘New Kuwait 2035’ vision, particularly with regard to improving the quality of life and the urban environment.

He indicated that the coming period will witness the introduction of new regulations to promote sustainable development, security and public safety.

He said the Food Security Regulation is currently being developed, in addition to regulations related to financial technology, renewable energy, smart cities, digital transactions, cybersecurity standards, solar panels, smart energy grids, and the Internet of Things (IoT) in urban infrastructure.

188 illegals nabbed in police raids

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Security campaigns conducted by emergency police patrols in various governorates resulted in the arrest of 25 individuals involved in drug and alcohol possession cases – all of them were referred to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) in the Interior Ministry.

The weekly statistics from the emergency police patrols revealed the arrest of 188 individuals wanted by law for absconding,

evading arrest and holding an expired residency permit, in addition to impounding 27 vehicles wanted by the judiciary and 49 individuals were found to have no valid proof of identification.

They also resolved nine fights, dealt with 146 traffic accidents and issued 5,418 traffic violation citations.

They affirmed the continuation of their efforts to maintain security and respond quickly to the needs of citizens and expatriates, ensuring the protection of lives and properties, and maintain public order.

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MoHE photo
Higher Education Undersecretary Dr. Bader Al-Busairi with acting Assistant Undersecretary for Scholarships, Equivalencies and Cultural Relations Ghaida Madhkur during the meeting.

Ministry lauds cultural offices’ role

Higher Education reinforces support for students abroad

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Ministry of Higher Education Undersecretary Dr. Bader Al-Busairi affirmed the vital role that cultural offices play in following up the affairs of students, and ensuring direct communication with them and their families, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Busairi praised the efforts exerted by the staff in these offices to serve the students and look after their interests.

He made the statement in a recent videoconference with the heads of cultural offices abroad, with acting

Assistant Undersecretary for Scholarships, Equivalencies and Cultural Relations Ghaida Madhkur in attendance.

Meanwhile, the ministry revealed that the meeting tackled the most important files related to scholarship students, and the mechanisms for strengthening coordination between the ministry and cultural offices to ease the academic and administrative procedures, and address the challenges that students might face throughout their academic journey.

KAEPA opens board nominations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Aircraft Engineers and Pilots Association (KAEPa), Captain Muhannad Al-Ayyar announced the opening of nominations for board membership, which will continue until next Sunday, during official working hours at the headquarters of the Association, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Ayyar disclosed that the term of board membership is two fiscal years, in accordance with the provisions

of the bylaws of the Association. He urged the Association members wishing to run for office to submit their application in person within the specified dates, and adhere to the approved terms and conditions.

He added “we, at the Association, welcome those who wish to be a board member to contribute to supporting the path of professional and union work, and to intensify the Association’s role in serving the civil aviation sector in the country.

PUC opens scholarship admissions at Kuwait International Law School

Application period runs until September 9

By Abdul-Rahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Secretariat General of the Private Universities Council announced the start of application for scholarship admission and re-admission at Kuwait International Law School (KILAW), which will continue until Sept 9, through its website.

The Secretariat explained that

applications are made in accordance with the regulations governing internal scholarships, which allow the inclusion of a student registered at his own expense in one of the accredited educational institutions within the internal scholarship plan in the same year of submitting the application, provided he meets the conditions.

It revealed that these conditions include holding a high school diploma or its equivalent, the student has no university qualification, has not been absent from study for more than one academic year upon submitting the application, passing 30 credit hours in a

bachelor’s program or 15 credit hours in a diploma program with a grade point average not lower than 2.5 and should not older than 23 years.

The regulations include special conditions for diploma holders registered in bachelor’s programs, such as university equivalency for a minimum of 30 credit hours and passing 15 credit hours with a grade point average not lower than 3, and not older than 27 years.

The re-admission regulations allow for the re-enrollment of a dismissed student once if the conditions are met, provided the reason for dismissal is not disciplinary in nature unless his reputation has been restored, the course

should be included in the scholarship plan in the year of application, and the student should not have been absent from study for more than two academic years.

In addition, the student must pass not less than 30 credit hours in a bachelor’s program or 15 credit hours in a diploma program with a grade point average of not lower than 2.5, and the rest of the general conditions for scholarship must be fulfilled.

The Secretariat advised students wishing to apply for scholarship to strictly adhere to the specified deadlines and review the detailed conditions on its website to ensure their procedures are completed correctly.

Delegation highlights smart solutions for patient care

Kuwait leads AI initiatives in Gulf healthcare

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health (MoH) participated in a Gulf workshop titled “Innovation and Artificial Intelligence in the Health Sector,” chaired by Assistant Undersecretary for External Health Services Dr. Hisham Kalander, as Kuwait currently holds the presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Health Ministers Council.

The MoH said in a press statement that the workshop, held remotely on Monday with the participation of health ministries from GCC member states, is part of the GCC General Secretariat’s efforts to enhance health integration and develop medical services using the latest technologies.

According to the statement, Dr. Kalander emphasized in his

speech the importance of employing technology and artificial intelligence to develop the health system, which contributes to improving the quality of medical services and strengthening joint Gulf cooperation.



Dr. Kalander

He praised the pivotal role of the GCC General Secretariat in organizing such workshops and training programs, describing them as vital platforms for exchanging experiences, developing competencies, and promoting collaboration in the health sector.

The statement added that the Kuwaiti delegation highlighted the country’s pioneering role in adopting medical innovation through artificial intelligence applications that answer patients’ inquiries, explain medical examination results, discuss treatment prescriptions, and help select the appropriate specialty for their health condition.

The workshop program also included presentations of the most prominent national experiences from GCC countries in health-related artificial intelligence, highlighting modern applications that serve patients and facilitate access to reliable health information, in addition to discussing the latest diagnostic and therapeutic practices using these advanced technologies.

MoE advances ‘AI integration’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Government Communication Center said the Ministry of Education promotes innovation by utilizing artificial intelligence technologies in schools, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Center stated in an awareness post on its social media accounts that this is achieved through the following points:

- Curricula development: incorporating artificial intelligence into the Computer Science subject in Grade 10 to strengthen thinking and innovation skills.
- A smart chat service provides immediate answers from the curricula to students, teachers and parents.
- Educational Authority: training 66,000 teachers, department heads and supervisors from various disciplines on artificial intelligence competencies.
- Nurturing talent: Kuwaiti students participate in Gulf camps where they gain outstanding achievements using artificial intelligence.

Ambassador Al-Safi bids farewell

Iraq appoints Osama Al-Nashi as new ambassador to Kuwait

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Munhal Al-Safi announced the appointment of Dr. Osama Al-Nashi as his country’s new ambassador to Kuwait.

In a press conference at the Iraqi Embassy recently, Al-Safi confirmed that Al-Nashi is a seasoned diplomat who has served in several missions in Vienna, Cairo and Manchester, as well as head of the Communications Department at the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He affirmed his confidence in the ability of Al-Nashi to continue developing bilateral relations.

He then pointed out that sports, especially football, are considered “the key to bringing peoples together,” starting with the World Cup qualifiers in September, followed by the 25th Gulf Cup in Basra and the 26th Gulf Cup in Kuwait. He asserted that these sporting events instilled love and mutual loyalty between the two peoples, and contributed to changing stereotypes and turning a new page.

On economic issues, Al-Safi unveiled a plan to develop inter-regional trade, indicating that Iraq has activated a transit system, making it a vital corridor for goods from Europe to the Gulf and vice versa. He said pilot trucks have already crossed from Europe through Turkiye and Iraq and arrived at Shuwaikh Port, paving the way for the opening of a new economic artery serving the economies of the countries in the region.

He disclosed that he had earlier discussed with the relevant Kuwaiti authorities about giving Iraqi trucks access to Kuwaiti ports and vice versa, in a way that serves mutual interests. He urged Kuwaiti and Gulf businesspersons to invest in Iraq, considering the availability of vast opportunities in the housing, health, transportation and infrastructure sectors.

He confirmed that Iraq has amended its labor and social security laws over the past two years to provide greater protection for capital and to attract investments.

He also expressed his pride in the Iraqi community in Kuwait, describing them as “a committed community integrated into Kuwaiti society.” He emphasized that the community has contributed to stability and has not experienced any notable problems, reflecting the commitment to peaceful coexistence in a neighboring and brotherly country with respect.

On bilateral issues, he affirmed “the serious desire of both sides to resolve the remaining issues,” indicating that some issues have already been closed, while work is underway through diplomatic channels to address the remaining issues, in addition to strengthening the path of rapprochement and serving the interests of both countries and peoples.

He thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti political leadership and everyone who supported the



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad receiving the Iraqi Ambassador, Al-Munhal Al-Safi.



Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nasser honors Ambassador Al-Safi.

joint efforts, stressing that “cooperation continues and doors will remain open for further partnerships for the benefit of both countries and the two brotherly peoples.”

He highlighted the unique characteristics of the Kuwaiti society, while praising the role of the diwanis, which he consider “open social platforms” that helped bridge the gap between him and the people of Kuwait. He revealed that frequenting diwanis and social events brought him closer to various segments of society and helped consolidate a positive image of Iraq and its embassy. He stressed that these authentic Kuwaiti traditions are an additional bridge to strengthen fraternal relations.

Meanwhile, Al-Safi posted on his account on the X platform “I was honored to meet His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad and his son Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nasser at the Shuwaikh Palace last Monday to greet them and bid them farewell at the conclusion of my mission as Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the sisterly State of Kuwait. I thanked them for the support and appreciation I received over the past five years, during which I was honored to represent my country, Iraq.”

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LOCAL

45% of traditional jobs may change

19 mln expats dominate Gulf workforce

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower Marzouq Al-Otaibi affirmed Tuesday the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) commitment to enhancing joint labor efforts and addressing common challenges.

His remarks came during the opening of the 11th meeting of GCC labor undersecretaries, hosted by Kuwait for one day.

Al-Otaibi said the meeting discusses key strategic issues

related to Gulf labor markets, nationalization efforts, private sector employment, labor development, social protection, and women's labor rights.

Meanwhile, GCC Assistant Secretary General for Economic and Development Affairs Khaled Al-Sunaïdi revealed that 24.6 million workers were employed in the GCC in 2024 Q2, including 19 million expatriates, accounting for over 78 percent.

He stressed the need to better

balance nationalization and the use of skilled labor.

He added that while progress has been made, global challenges call for continued cooperation.

He also noted that the fourth industrial revolution and digital transformation demand a reevaluation of required skills, with studies indicating that 45 percent of traditional jobs may be affected within the next two decades.

Continued from Page 1

Rents in

He added that the continuation of the implementation of the decision depends on the success of the experiment in the next few months.

Another real estate expert, Abdulaziz Al-Dughhaishim, confirmed that opening visit visas restored the confidence of real estate investors in the investment sector, especially in projects directed at visitors and temporary workers. He stated this trend opens the door for the development of more hotel apartments and furnished units, and expands investment in areas with high population density and diverse services, thereby, strengthening cooperation between real estate companies and the tourism and hospitality sectors.

He underscored the need to implement these decisions for long a period, as continuous growth in real estate investments depends on State policies related to regulating labor, facilitating residency, and expanding the base of beneficiaries of visit visas. "If these decisions are implemented within a limited period, the impact could be temporary and not enough to address the problem of vacant apartments, which still constitute about 18 percent of the total housing units in the country. The latest statistics from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) revealed that the total number of housing units in the country has reached about 796,620 and 143,725 of which are vacant. Opening various types of visit visas will revitalize the short- and medium-term rental markets, which will directly impact real estate transactions and lead to about seven to 10 percent increase in rents due to increased demand for furnished apartments and investment housing close to services and shopping centers," he explained.

Real estate broker and appraiser Mohammad Al-Sagheer affirmed the importance of opening visit visas and facilitating the recruitment of expatriates and family reunification to stimulate real estate investment activity in terms of rentals and residential unit occupancy. He said the increased demand for apartments will lead to a seven to eight percent increase in rents in the future. "For example, small apartments measuring 60 square meters in an area like Hawally currently rent for about KD280. With the opening of visit visas, it is expected to stabilize at KD300, while the rent for similar apartments in Salmiya could reach KD325 to KD330. These options will support the investment sector, thus, increasing the sales rate for investment properties, which ranges between six to 6.25 percent, and will lead to an increase in the sales price and stabilize the rate," he added.

Kuwait focuses

Al-Awadhi pointed out that over the past years, the ministry has opened numerous healthcare facilities supplied with the latest medical equipment.

"Today, we are focusing on the primary driver of these facilities -- human resources that are capable of operating and using these devices to better serve public health and improve the quality of life. This workshop aims to establish the concept of investing in technology, focusing on training and qualifying nationals to efficiently manage medical devices, reduce waste, and achieve governance in spending and operations. The use of technology has become evident in the facilities of the ministry."

He praised the developments brought about by robotic surgeries in the country, indicating that surgeries previously required large incisions and long hospital stay. "Today, thanks to robotics, surgeries are performed with small incisions and patients leave the hospital in less than 24 hours, reducing complications and improving the quality of healthcare," he asserted.

He stressed the importance of the rational use of medicines, indicating that the ministry provides the best medicines available globally, but it is more important to know which ones are most appropriate for Kuwaiti citizens and how to use them effectively and safely.

Moreover, the minister pointed out that digital transformation is not limited to the medical field, as it includes the administrative sector. He said the smart fingerprint system has been introduced for more than 70,000 employees, replacing the traditional system.

He stated that the ministry laid down a clear roadmap through 2028 to enhance investment in health technology and human capital, stressing this approach is being implemented with his full support and through the coordinated efforts of all ministry officials.

He explained that the project to develop a roadmap to activate the health technology evaluation system falls within the strategy of the ministry, specifically the pharmaceutical, medical devices and technology pillars.

He pointed out that the priority to establish a national entity specialized in health technology evaluation is a pivotal step towards enhancing the quality, efficiency and sustainability of healthcare decisions. He said this approach is in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, which calls for high-quality healthcare and effective government management.

"Evaluation systems are based on a health investment decision guide and enhancement of transparency and ac-

countability, which impact the health of citizens and expatriates, and the quality of services. The workshop aims to formulate a shared vision for the role of health technology assessment in Kuwait, how to measure progress, and adopt declared principles that balance clinical evidence, actual cost, budget impact, unmet needs and public health priorities," he added.

In other news, the Ministry of Health has confirmed monitoring a video clip circulating on social media platforms, showing a number of young people tampering with medical equipment and instruments inside a treatment room at a private health facility.

In a press statement Wednesday, the ministry clarified that the incident occurred at a private facility and it has already coordinated with the management to take the necessary legal action against the perpetrators, ensuring the safety of patients and visitors while protecting the property of the institution.

The ministry stressed that such irresponsible behavior is a serious transgression that offends the sanctity of health institutions, and hinders the use of medical equipment to serve its primary purpose of protecting lives and preserving public health.

It called on young people to be responsible and be aware of the importance of health facilities, which were established to serve the community. It affirmed its commitment to maintain a safe environment in accordance with approved health standards.

It reiterated that inspection teams continuously monitor government and private health facilities, warning that violations or undisciplined practices are dealt with firmly to protect public health, which is its top priority.

PM directs

His Highness the Prime Minister instructed the members to closely oversee the execution of the national plan under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to ensure the swift and efficient completion of it in coordination with the Chinese counterparts and to finalize them on schedule.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and Committee Rapporteur Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat noted that three official Chinese delegations will visit Kuwait in early September to advance the joint cooperation, particularly in the construction of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, renewable energy, environmental projects, and desertification control.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Diwan of the Prime Minister Abdulaziz Al-Dakhil, Minister of Public Works Dr. Nora A-Mashaan, Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Mishari, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy; Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Counselor Salah Ateeq Al-Majed, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat. (KUNA)

Kuwait security,

Al-Dawas stressed the importance of continuous coordination between various sectors in the ministry, and effective field presence in the morning and evening.

He asserted that the ministry spares no effort in ensuring a safe and appropriate environment for the students and faculty members.

Head of the Security Directorates Sector Major General Hamad Al-Munifi, Head of the Traffic Affairs and Operations Sector Brigadier Abdullah Al-Atiqi, and a number of directors general and concerned security officials warmly welcomed Al-Dawas during the inspection visit.

PM, Boeing

Deputy Director General for Investment Operations at the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Humoud Al-Sabah, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways Corporation Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Faqaan. (KUNA)

Kuwait, Saudi

in civil service and administrative development.

The MoU aims to strengthen bilateral ties through the exchange of expertise in training, workforce planning, leadership development, and human resources management. It also includes provisions for joint conferences, exchange of studies and official visits to promote best practices and modernization in government administration.

The agreement reflects both countries' commitment to advancing effective governance and supporting sustainable development, according to a government statement.

Kuwait's National

Guard sites and other vital facilities that it needs to protect.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud noted the important role of the Center in intensifying efforts to support State agencies through the automated link with ministries and institutions.

He also visited the departments at the Center, and inspected the monitoring systems and the main control unit.

Kuwait, Google

Directed by Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, the program highlights the tourism industry, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in developing the sector, and mechanisms for building national tourism strategies to enable Kuwait to adopt modern policies based on sustainable tourism growth, it added.

The program is part of a series of training programs the ministry plans to launch soon, involving all workers at both public and private tourism institutions, mainly aiming at advancing the efficiency of human resources and develop their skills in digital marketing, improve customer experience and strengthening sustainable practices, it noted.

The Ministry's Undersecretary Dr. Nasser Muhaisen said this initiative comes in the context of the ministry's strategy of improving the media and tourism infrastructure and augmenting human efficiency and digital transformation.

Kuwait's Sahel App hits 110 million transactions

9.2 mln users fuel platform success

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait "Sahel" App. has become the most used government platform whose users exceeded 9.2 million, and over 110 million transactions have been done, thanks to e-services of more than 40 government bodies.

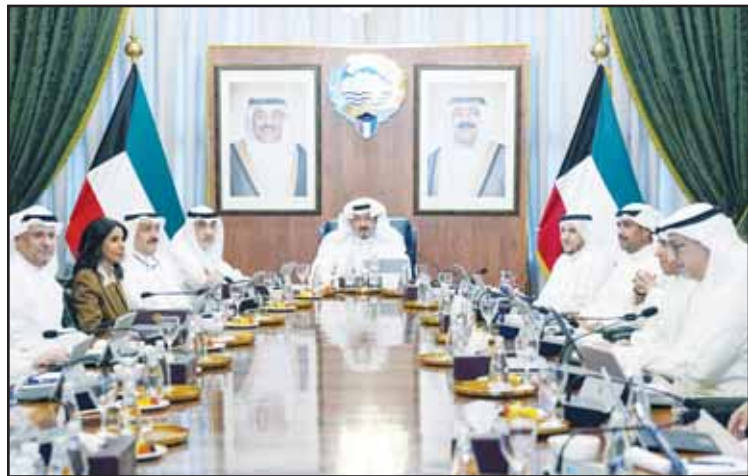
This was announced after the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Abdullah Al-Mousherji said in a statement.

The Cabinet saw a visual presentation by Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar and the executive committee of "Sahel" on the outstanding achievements and plan to develop the platform and launch further integrated digital services in the next period.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Cabinet appealed to all officials of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) board to continue applying law to all violators of plots' owners to support committed factories and encourage the private sector.

Minister of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of board of PAI Khalifa Al-Ojail informed the ministers about the decisions regarding the withdrawal of licenses of 50 industrial, service and craft plots in Shuwaikh Industrial area over the past three months.

The steps were taken due to serious violations committed by the plots' owners as they changes the main pur-



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

poses of these lands, it added.

The minister affirmed the authority's continuation to take legal measures against all violators, it stated.

The ministers dealt with the letters sent to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from the heads of some sisterly and friendly countries on means of enhancing relations with Kuwait in varied fields.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet dealt with the minutes of meeting of the ministerial committee of legal affairs included a bill on a unified system of international land transportation among GCC countries, and another bill on project and memos between Kuwait and some sisterly and friendly countries in financial and economic field. The Cabinet approved these bills and referred them to His Highness the Amir.

The Cabinet then saw the minutes of meeting of the ministerial commit-

tee of economic affairs that included some main points like the 14th annual report on the Capital Market Authority's activities and achievements for FY 2024-2025 and the fifth annual report for insurance organization unit for FY 2024-2025.

The Cabinet saw the minutes of meeting of the ministerial committee for public services on initiatives for donations from some oil companies and societies as well as private sector firms to develop agriculture on highways, and approved these donations.

The Cabinet discussed some topics listed on the agenda and endorsed them, referring some of them to the competent committees.

The Cabinet also approved the minutes of meeting of the Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Citizenship on the loss and withdrawal of the Kuwaiti citizenship, in line with the decree No. 15 of 1959.



Photo by Samer Shaqir
Assistant Ministers and officials responsible for Islamic Affairs and Endowments in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries residing in the State of Kuwait.

Kuwait hosts 10th GCC Islamic Affairs meet

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi stressed the importance of the 10th meeting of Assistant Ministers and Officials in Islamic Affairs and Awqaf in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, held in Kuwait, in strengthening Gulf cooperation.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Al-Mutairi stated this is a valuable opportunity to strengthen ties and unify visions to realize the aspirations of the peoples of the region.

Al-Mutairi disclosed that the agenda included vital topics and important papers covering various fields, particu-

larly the proposal of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on utilizing artificial intelligence in Islamic affairs, in addition to the technical guidelines for the construction and development of mosques.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Islamic Affairs in Kuwait submitted working papers on improving the performance of Imams and mosques, the Intellectual Security Charter for Mosque Imams, rationalizing energy consumption in mosques, initiatives to protect family values, and organizing the Gulf Week to Protect Religious and Moral Family Values.

He emphasized that the meeting led to recommendations that contribute to the development of joint Islamic and

endowment work, while strengthening the role of Islamic Affairs ministries in serving Gulf societies, and consolidating the values of moderation and tolerance, which reflect the position of the GCC countries in serving the causes of the Islamic nation.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary General for Legislative and Legal Affairs at Council Advisor Sultan Al-Suwaidi welcomed the participants. He conveyed the greetings of GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi, while appreciating the efforts exerted to develop the path of joint Gulf action in the Islamic and endowment fields, as well as the resulting achievements that serve the objectives of religion and develop the blessed endowment ritual.

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INTERNATIONAL

Cost difference substantial

Students without legal status drop out or delay college as US states revoke tuition breaks

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Sept 3, (AP): Carlie was hoping to spend her senior year savoring her final moments on the palm tree-lined campus of the University of Central Florida. Instead, she sits at home alone, logging on to online courses, afraid to leave her apartment and run the risk of being detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

A few months ago, Carlie was studying public relations in Orlando, envisioning one day working for nonprofits that help students like her. Thanks to in-state tuition and private scholarships, Carlie had been living a life she had only dreamed of in Haiti, a country she left behind at 13 years old.

Now, she's one of thousands of Florida students whose education is being delayed or derailed after state lawmakers revoked a 2014 law that let residents who are in the country illegally qualify for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities.

Across the country, tens of thousands of college students without legal status are losing access to in-state tuition as part of an immigration crack-down carried out by President Donald

Trump and his allies.

"It feels like all my hard work means nothing. Like, one day I can just lose it," said Carlie, who spoke on condition of being identified by only her first name because she fears being deported.

When Florida lawmakers passed the tuition waiver law more than a decade ago, it was a bipartisan effort championed by then-state Rep. Jeannette Nuñez, a Miami Republican who went on to become Gov. Ron DeSantis' lieutenant governor. That a decade later Nuñez would support dismantling what had been one of her signature achievements is a sign of how much the state's immigration politics have shifted toward Trump's priorities.

According to state data, more than 6,500 students qualified for what's known as the out-of-state tuition waiver during the 2023-2024 school year. That waiver was revoked as of July 1, after DeSantis signed the bill repealing the tuition cuts.

The cost difference is substantial. At the flagship University of Florida, a state resident is estimated to pay



Students gather around lit candles surrounding the UCF logo, June 14, 2016. (AP)

about \$6,380 in tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year compared with about \$30,900 for a nonresident student. Housing, transportation and other expenses can add another \$17,000 or more.

Florida's state colleges and universities don't specifically track the enrollment of students without legal status, but some immigrant advocates say they expect fewer students to attend in-person classes, and many to give up

on college altogether.

Diego Dulanto Falcon earned a bachelor's in psychology thanks to the tuition waiver. Now he's pursuing his master's in public health at the University of South Florida.

In losing access to in-state tuition, Dulanto Falcon said students without legal status are being cut off from a range of opportunities.

"Fully undocumented students, they have absolutely no options," Dulanto Falcon said. "They either work under the table or they just don't work at all."

Going to high school in Miami, David stacked his schedule with dual enrollment and Advanced Placement classes. He hoped to attend college and become a radiologist or physical therapist. David, who was born in Honduras, said that now feels impossible for students like him without legal status. While his friends went off to universities like Duke and Florida State, David went to work at McDonald's.

He spoke on condition of being identified only by his middle name because he fears deportation.

"When you come into this country

and your parents make the sacrifice and you're a kid, all they tell you is focus on school," David said. "I did just that."

But now, without the tuition waiver, he said he can't afford college.

Around the country, programs offering in-state tuition rates to immigrants that once had wide bipartisan support increasingly have come under criticism from Republicans. In legal challenges, the Trump administration has argued the benefits are unconstitutional.

The Justice Department has been suing states to end tuition breaks, starting with Texas in June, followed by Kentucky, Minnesota and Oklahoma. Meantime, the US Department of Education is investigating colleges that offer scholarships to students without legal status.

Rosie Curts, a high school math teacher in the Dallas Independent School District, worries she won't be able to motivate her students to learn algebra if they feel college is out of reach.

A Texas law gave college students without legal residency access to in-state tuition for decades before a federal judge blocked it in June.



Residents work to stop flames from a burning home from spreading to a neighboring house as the 6-5 Fire burns through the Chinese Camp community of Tuolumne County, Calif on Sept 2. (AP)

Wildfire scorches Calif town

A quick-moving wildfire scorched thousands of acres Tuesday and burned homes in a California Gold Rush town settled around 1850 by Chinese miners who were driven out of a nearby camp.

The fire rapidly grew to 6.25 square miles (16.1 square kilometers) in size, forcing the evacuation of the Chinese Camp Town and surrounding highways, according to CalFire, the state's chief fire agency. There were no immediate reports of injuries or deaths, but the fire remained uncontained Tuesday night.

At least five homes were burning in the rural town, which has a mix of freestanding and mobile homes.

Outside one house on Tuesday evening, seven people quickly moved large tree branches away from the structure and shoveled sand onto the fire in a desperate attempt to keep the blaze from spreading from the house next door. They worked for about 30 minutes until firefighters arrived. (AP)

Trump addresses health rumors after days without public events

WASHINGTON, Sept 3, (AP): Sometimes it feels like barely an hour can go by without hearing from President **Donald Trump**. So when he didn't appear for one day, then two, then three, speculation started to swirl online about his health.

Not even a few glimpses of the president visiting his golf course over the weekend were enough to stanch the social media rumor mill fueled by political opponents. Trump was asked directly about it Tuesday at his first public event in a week.

"How did you find out over the weekend that you were dead?" asked Fox News' Peter Doocy. "Did you see that?"

"No," the 79-year-old Trump responded flatly. The senators and administration officials gathered around him for the Space Command headquarters announcement shifted their weight and smiled.

The president said he wasn't aware that people were wondering if he had died, but he had heard there were con-

cerns about his health.

"I knew they were saying, like: 'Is he OK? How is he feeling? What's wrong?'" Trump said, calling the speculation "fake news" and saying he "was very active over the weekend."

Recently, Trump has been seen with bruising on the back of his right hand, sometimes poorly concealed with makeup, and swelling around his ankles.

The White House has said Trump was diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency, which means veins in the legs can't properly carry blood back to the heart, causing it to pool in the lower legs. It's a fairly common condition for older adults.

As far as the bruising, press secretary Karoline Leavitt said it's from "frequent handshaking and the use of aspirin," which Trump takes regularly to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Trump pointed out Tuesday that he gave a few interviews during the days when he wasn't appearing publicly, plus he was posting on Truth Social, his social media site. He wrote some "long Truths," as the posts are known, and some "pretty poignant Truths."

In one of those posts, from Sunday, he said he "NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE."



Trump



This image made from a video provided by the U.S. Geological Survey shows the erupting Halemaumau crater from the rim of the Kilauea caldera on Sept 2. (AP)

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupts

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano resumed erupting on Tuesday, firing lava 330 feet (100 meters) into the sky from its summit crater.

It's the 32nd time the volcano has released molten rock since December, when its current eruption began. So far, all the lava from this eruption has been contained within the summit crater inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Lava emerged from the north vent in Halemaumau Crater after midnight. The vent began shooting fountains of lava at 6:35 am, the USGeological Survey said. By mid-morning, it was also erupting from the crater's south vent and a third vent in between.

Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes. It's located on Hawaii Island, the largest of the Hawaiian archipelago. It's about 200 miles (320 kilometers) south of the state's largest city, Honolulu, which is on Oahu. (AP)

Russia launches over 500 drones, missiles at Ukraine as Zelenskyy seeks more support

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 3, (AP): Russia fired more than 500 drones and two dozen missiles at Ukraine overnight, authorities said Wednesday, as Ukraine's president and European leaders persevered with talks aimed at strengthening Ukrainian defenses and adding momentum to so far unsuccessful U.S.-led peace efforts.

The main Russian nighttime targets were civilian infrastructure, especially energy facilities, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as another winter approaches three years after Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor. The attacks targeted mainly western and central Ukraine and injured at least five people, the Ukrainian air force said.

Russian aerial assaults that hit civilian areas and the Russian army's drive to crush Ukrainian defenses along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line have not abated in recent months, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's attempts to stop the fighting.

While Zelenskyy has accepted Trump's proposals for a ceasefire and face-to-face peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin has raised objections.

Amid recent diplomatic maneuvering, Putin was in China meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, as well as Indian Prime Minister Narendra



Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, left, welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on the lawn in front of Marienborg, in Copenhagen on Sept 3. (AP)

Modi. Those countries are supporting Russia's war effort, Washington says. Pyongyang has sent troops and ammunition to Russia. China and India have bought Russian oil, indirectly helping Russia's war economy.

Zelenskyy described the overnight strikes as "demonstrative."

"Putin is demonstrating his impunity," Zelenskyy said on Telegram, urg-

ing tougher sanctions on Russia. "Only due to the lack of sufficient pressure, primarily on the war economy, does Russia continue this aggression."

In his daily video address on Tuesday evening, Zelenskyy said the number of Russian drone attacks is growing, including in broad daylight, and reported "another buildup of Russian forces in some sectors of the front."

White House set to order federal intervention in Chicago and Baltimore

WASHINGTON, Sept 3, (AP): US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he's ready to order federal authorities to mobilize and combat crime in Chicago and Baltimore, despite staunch opposition from elected leaders and many residents in both cities.

Asked by reporters in the Oval Office about sending National Guard troops to the nation's third-largest city, Trump said, "We're going in," but added, "I didn't say when."

"I have an obligation," the president said. "This isn't a political thing."

Illinois Gov JB Pritzker, a potential 2028 Democratic presidential contender, scoffed at the notion of sending military troops and federal agents into Chicago, reiterating Tuesday that federal intervention was not required or wanted.

Local officials in Baltimore have joined Democratic Maryland Gov. Wes Moore in similarly opposing federal law enforcement intervention.

Trump has already sent National Guard troops into Los Angeles and Washington, where he's also federalized the police force. He has said he plans similar moves in other Democrat-run cities even as a federal judge on Tuesday deemed the



Illinois Gov JB Pritzker speaks during a press conference on Sept 2, in Chicago. (AP)

California deployment illegal.

The president praised Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser for working with federal forces, but repeated his criticism of Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, a Democrat. Trump said he'd love to have Pritzker call and say, "Send in the troops" - even though the two-term governor has repeatedly said

he won't be doing that.

He said if Pritzker would "call me up, I would love to do it," Trump said. "Now, we're going to do it anyway. We have the right to do it. Because I have an obligation to protect this country and that includes Baltimore."

He added, "Baltimore's a very unsafe place"

Nawrocki to press Trump to keep strong US army presence in Poland

WASHINGTON, Sept 3, (AP): Poland's new president, Karol Nawrocki, was set to visit the White House on Wednesday, looking to strengthen his relationship with President Donald Trump and make the case that the United States needs to maintain its robust military presence in his country.

The visit to Washington is Nawrocki's first overseas trip since taking office last month. It comes after Trump took the unusual step of involving himself in the elections of longtime ally Poland, endorsing Nawrocki, who was backed by the conservative Law and Justice party.

Now in office, the former amateur boxer and historian is hoping to deepen his relationship with Trump at a fraught moment for Warsaw.

Trump is increasingly frustrated by his inability to get Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to sit down for direct talks aimed at ending the war between Poland's neighbors.

Trump last month met with Putin in



Poland's new president Karol Nawrocki, with his wife Marta Nawrocka, shows a V-sign during the inauguration ceremony in Warsaw, Poland on Aug 6. (AP)

Alaska and then with Zelenskyy and several European leaders at the White House. The Republican president emerged from those engagements confident that he would be able to quickly arrange direct talks between Putin and

Zelenskyy and perhaps three-way talks in which he would participate.

But his optimism in hatching an agreement to end the war has dimmed as Putin has yet to signal an interest in sitting down with Zelenskyy.

Europe

German authorities warn people: German security authorities are warning people against becoming "disposable agents" as worries mount about Russia using social media to find recruits for spying and sabotage in or against Germany.

Western officials have accused Russia and its proxies of staging dozens of attacks and other incidents across Europe since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in 2022. They worry that the risks are rising as untrained saboteurs are increasingly used. German officials have voiced concern over the use of "low-level agents."

Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office said Tuesday that, along with the country's domestic, foreign and military intelligence services, it is seeing increasing activity in Germany and elsewhere in which Russian intelligence services - directly or via intermediaries - apparently use social media to recruit people for espionage or sabotage. Germany's chancellor is **Friedrich Merz**.

It said the so-called "low-level agents" or "disposable agents" carry out crimes without receiving intelligence training, for only a little money and often without knowing who is ordering the activities or what their purpose is.



Merz

"They are 'used' and then 'thrown away,'" the police office said in introducing a campaign titled "Don't become a disposable agent." It warned that "anti-constitutional sabotage" carried a maximum sentence of five years in prison and espionage can carry a 10-year sentence.

It urged people to get in touch with Germany's domestic intelligence agency if they or acquaintances have been contacted by strangers offering them money to engage in activity such as spreading pro-Russia slogans, scoping out people or property, or causing damage. (AP)

□ □ □

Man killed by police after knife attack: A man who went on a stabbing rampage in the southern French city of Marseille injured at least five people before he was shot dead by police, authorities said.

Local prosecutor Nicolas Bessone said that the attack was carried out on Tuesday afternoon by a Tunisian national with legal residency status.

Bessone said that the suspect had been expelled from his hotel for not paying his rent. He returned armed with two knives and a baton, first attacking someone in the room he had previously occupied. He then attacked the hotel manager before turning on the manager's son and stabbing him in the back.

The prosecutor added that the man continued his rampage in a nearby snack bar and in the streets, trying to injure people at random, before he was "neutralized" by police.

He said the investigation was in its early stages and that the motive of the assailant was not known.

French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau was expected to travel to Marseille later on Tuesday. (AP)

Thailand’s ruling party seeks new election as way out of political crisis

BANGKOK, Sept 3, (AP): Thailand, which has been under a caretaker government since last week, saw competing efforts to resolve its political crisis on Wednesday, as the country’s main opposition party agreed to support its rival to be the next prime minister while the party in power said it wants a new election.

The Pheu Thai party, which heads the caretaker government, announced it was asking the country’s king to dissolve Parliament and call a new poll instead of having the current House of Representatives vote for a new prime minister.

No date has yet been set for a vote in Parliament, nor was it clear if the king would endorse dissolution.

The Constitutional Court last week dismissed Paetongtarn Shinawatra as prime minister for breaching ethics laws in a phone call with Cambodia’s Senate President Hun Sen about tensions over competing claims along their border, which erupted into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn alone is empowered to dissolve Parlia-



Leader of People’s Party, Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut shows the signed Memorandum of Understanding between his party and Bhum-jai Thai Party at Parliament in Bangkok, Thailand on Sept 3. (AP)

ment. However, the Council of State, which advises the government on legal matters, suggested that a caretaker prime minister cannot call for dissolution unless a vote for a new prime minister reaches a deadlock.

The opposition People’s Party, the biggest party in Parliament, an-

nounced Wednesday morning that its lawmakers would vote to appoint Anutin Charnvirakul, leader of the Bhumjaithai party, as the next prime minister.

People’s Party leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut said that the Pheu Thai party had failed to govern effectively in its two years in power.

Sudan appeals for aid, dozens of bodies recovered from village hit by landslide

CAIRO, Sept 3, (AP): Search teams have recovered around 100 bodies from a remote village that is feared to have been wiped out by a devastating landslide over the weekend in Sudan’s western region of Darfur, a rebel group said Wednesday.

The Sudan Liberation Movement-Army has said the death toll from the Aug 31 landslide in Tarasin, in the Marrah Mountains, could be as high as 1,000.

Mohamed Abdel-Rahman al-Nair, a spokesman for the group, told The Associated Press that about 100 bodies were recovered on Tuesday. He said search efforts were underway amid lack of resources and equipment. Sudan appealed for international aid. Abdel-Wahid Nour, the group’s leader, made an appeal on Tuesday for international help. “The scale and magnitude of the disaster are immense and defy description,” he said.

Pope Leo XIV has called for a coordinated response to stop “this humanitarian catastrophe” in Sudan.

The United Nations’ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, said that the death toll and the full scale of the tragedy have yet to be confirmed due to the scene being “ex-



In this Sept 1, 2025, photo provided by the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, people gather at the site of a landslide from Aug 31, that wiped out the village of Tarasin in the Marrah Mountains of Central Darfur, Sudan. (AP)

tremely hard to reach.”

The UN has said that “between 300-1,000 people may have lost their lives” in the landslide and that efforts were mobilized to support the impacted area, located more than 900 kilometers (560 miles) west of the capital, Khartoum.

Pope Leo XIV spoke of the tragedy during his weekly address on Wednes-

day, saying it has left “behind pain and despair.”

He called for “a coordinated response to stop this humanitarian catastrophe,” and initiate a “serious, sincere, and inclusive dialogue between the parties to end the conflict and restore hope, dignity, and peace to the people of Sudan.”

Putin meets North Korea’s Kim in Beijing

China holds massive military parade to mark 80th anniversary of WWII victory

BEIJING, Sept 3, (Agencies): China held a massive military parade in central Beijing on Wednesday to mark the 80th anniversary of its victory in World War II, pledging the country’s commitment to peaceful development in a world still fraught with turbulence and uncertainties.

Towering structures shaped like the Great Wall stood in Tian’anmen Square, symbolizing the Chinese nation’s courage and solidarity in resisting foreign aggression.

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, oversaw the parade and reviewed the troops.

Standing beside Xi on Tian’anmen Rostrum were Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, the top leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, along with more than 20 other foreign leaders.

Representatives of people who had supported China’s WWII fight, or their family members -- from countries such as Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Canada -- were invited to the event.

This was the second time since 2015 that China has held a military parade to commemorate the hard-won victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Helicopters flew over Tian’anmen Square carrying banners that read “Justi-

tice Prevails,” “Peace Prevails,” and “The People Prevail.” The troops marched in tight, powerful formations, their faces lit with confidence and pride. Columns of new tanks, artillery and other military equipment rumbled through the square.

Xi delivered a speech before the parade. Highlighting the significance of the victory 80 years ago, Xi said it marks China’s first complete victory against foreign aggression in modern times.

Xi noted that the Chinese people made a major contribution to the salvation of human civilization and the defense of world peace with immense sacrifice in the war. He called on nations to “eliminate the root cause of war and prevent historical tragedies from recurring.”

Japan officially surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945, by signing the Instrument of Surrender. China designated Sept. 3 as Victory Day.

An 80-banner formation honoring heroic military units from the war marched past Tian’anmen Square, highlighting China’s position as the first country to rise against fascist aggression with the longest-lasting resistance that began in 1931.

The country tied down and struck over half of Japan’s overseas forces, at the cost of 35 million military and civilian casualties -- accounting for around one-third of all WWII casualties worldwide.

More than 10,000 military personnel, along with over 100 aircraft and hundreds of ground armaments, were



Pigeons and balloons are released during a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, Sept 3. (Xinhua)

arranged into formations according to a wartime command system. The People’s Liberation Army’s (PLA) new system of services and arms -- the result of military reforms under Xi’s leadership -- was put on display for the first time.

The advanced armaments put on display included unmanned intelligence and counter-unmanned equipment, hypersonic missiles, directed-energy weapons, electronic jamming systems, and strategic weaponry capable of global strikes.

to defend the peace forged with the blood of our forefathers,” said Shao Xiaoguang, a member of the reviewed troops who previously served on a peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This was also the first military parade since Xi led China to embark on “a new journey to pursue Chinese modernization on all fronts.” The country has laid out a roadmap to basically achieve modernization by 2035.

“Eighty years ago, we were revived. Eighty years later, we are thriving with even greater vitality,” said Lyu Shouye, a spectator at the event and a graduate student studying AI.

“Now our country has reached a stage where we need to undertake greater responsibilities,” he said.

Also:

BEIJING: Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met for bilateral talks in Beijing on Wednesday.

The two leaders met formally at the Diaoyutai state guest house after attending a major military parade in the heart of the Chinese capital that marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Putin and Kim traveled from a formal reception to the negotiations in the same car, the Kremlin said in a post on social media. After a bilateral meeting between Russian and North Korean delegations, the two leaders held a one-on-one meet-

ing, the Kremlin said. Putin also invited Kim to visit Russia again, following on from the North Korean leader’s last visit to the country in 2023.

Speaking in front of journalists as the talks began, Putin praised the bravery and heroism of North Korean soldiers who fought alongside Moscow’s troops to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia’s Kursk border region.

According to South Korean assessments, North Korea has sent around 15,000 troops to Russia since last year. It has also sent large quantities of military equipment, including ballistic missiles and artillery, to help fuel Putin’s three-year invasion of Ukraine.

In his opening remarks, Kim said that cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow has “significantly strengthened” since the two countries signed a strategic partnership pact in June last year during a summit in the North Korean capital.

Although he did not specifically mention the war, Kim stressed that “if there’s anything I can do for you and the people of Russia, if there is more that needs to be done, I will consider it as a fraternal duty, an obligation that we surely need to bear, and will be prepared to do everything possible to help.”

Referencing Xi in a post on social media, US President Donald Trump wrote, “Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America.”



Homes are seen partially submerged at a flood hit area, in Tiba Gheal village, in Jhang district, Pakistan on Sept 2. (AP)

Mass evacuations in flood-hit Punjab hit 300,000

Pakistan suicide bombing kills 13

QUETTA, Pakistan, Sept 3, (AP): A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a stadium Tuesday night as supporters of a nationalist party were leaving a rally in insurgency-hit southwest Pakistan, killing at least 13 people and wounding 30 others, police and hospital officials said Wednesday.

Local police chief Majeed Qaisrani said the blast occurred near a graveyard close to the stadium on the outskirts of Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. The body parts of the attacker were recovered, he said.

Waseem Baig, a spokesman for a government hospital, said it had received 13 bodies and dozens of wounded, some in critical condition. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

The rally was held to mark the anniversary of the death of Sardar Ataullah Mengal, a veteran nationalist leader and former provincial chief minister. The leader of the Balochistan National Party, Akhtar Mengal, was unharmed in the attack but some of his supporters were among the dead and wounded, senior police officer Usama Ameen said. Mengal is a vocal critic of the government and often holds rallies to demand the release of missing Baloch nationalists.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti condemned the bombing as a “cowardly act of the enemies of humanity,” ordering the best possible medical care for the wounded and a high-level probe to bring the perpetrators to justice.

In Islamabad, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also denounced the attack, blaming “India-backed terrorists and their facilitators” for trying to destabilize the country by targeting civilians. He offered no evidence to back up the allegation.

Also:

SHER SHAH, Pakistan: Officials say nearly 300,000 peo-



Security officials examine a damaged vehicle at the site of suicide bombing on the outskirts of Quetta, Pakistan on Sept 2. (AP)

ple have been evacuated in the past 48 hours from flood-hit areas of Pakistan’s Punjab province following the latest flood alerts by India, officials said Wednesday.

The evacuations bring the total number of people displaced since last month to 1.3 million.

Floodwaters have submerged dozens of villages in Punjab’s Muzaffargarh district, after earlier inundating Narowal and Sialkot, both near the border with India.

Authorities are also struggling to divert overflowing rivers onto farmlands to protect major cities, as part of one of the largest rescue and relief operations in the history of Punjab, which straddles eastern Pakistan and northwestern India.

Brazil top prosecutor says former leader tried to overthrow democracy

BRASILIA, Brazil, Sept 3, (AP): Brazil’s prosecutor-general argued Tuesday that former president Jair Bolsonaro and his allies plotted to overthrow democracy through a series of interconnected events aimed at keeping him in power illegally, as the ex-leader’s coup trial entered the verdict phase.

The former president is accused of conspiring to stage a coup to stay in power despite losing the 2022 presidential election to current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Bolsonaro denies any wrongdoing, and has repeatedly said the trial is a politically motivated attack on spurious charges.

Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet pointed to evidence that, after the October 2022 vote, Bolsonaro summoned top Cabinet and military officials to discuss issuing an emergency decree to halt the election result by suspending powers of the electoral court and investigating suspicions of voting fraud.

“It doesn’t take extraordinary intellectual effort to recognize that when the president of the republic and then the



The Brazilian Supreme Court holds the verdict and sentencing phase of a trial for those charged in an alleged coup plot to keep former president Jair Bolsonaro in office after his 2022 election defeat, in Brasilia, Brazil on Sept 2. (AP)

defense minister summon the military leadership to present a document formal-

izing a coup d’état, the criminal process is already underway,” Gonet said.

‘US strike on vessel in Caribbean targeted Venezuela’s Tren de Aragua gang, killed 11’

WASHINGTON, Sept 3, (AP): US President Donald Trump said Tuesday the US has carried out a strike in the southern Caribbean against a drug-carrying vessel that departed from Venezuela and was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang.

The president said in a social media posting that 11 people were killed in the rare US military operation in the Americas, a dramatic escalation in the Republican administration’s effort to stem the flow of narcotics from Latin America. Trump also posted a short video clip of a small vessel appearing to explode in flames.

“The strike occurred while the terrorists were at sea in International waters transporting illegal narcotics, heading to the United States,” Trump said on Truth Social. “No US Forces were harmed in this strike. Please let this serve as notice to anybody even thinking about bringing drugs into the United States of America.”

The video appears to show a long, multi-engine speedboat traveling at sea when a bright flash of light bursts over the craft. The boat is then briefly seen covered in flames.

The video, which is largely in black and white, is not clear enough to see if the craft is carrying as many as 11 people. The video also did not show any large or clear stashes of drugs inside the boat.

Tren de Aragua originated more than a decade ago at an infamously lawless prison with hardened criminals in Venezuela’s central state of Aragua. The gang has expanded in recent years as more than 7.7 million Venezuelans fled economic turmoil and migrated to other Latin American countries or the US.



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro gives a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela on Sept 1. (AP)

Trump and administration officials have repeatedly blamed the gang for being at the root of the violence and illicit drug dealing that plague some cities. And the president on Tuesday repeated his claim - contradicted by a declassified US intelligence assessment - that Tren de Aragua is operating under Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro’s control.

The White House did not immediately explain how the military determined that those aboard the vessel were Tren de Aragua members. The size of the gang is unclear, as the extent to which its actions are coordinated across state lines and national borders.

Kuwait oil price rises to \$73.83 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil gained USD 1.06 during Tuesday trading to reach USD 73.83 per barrel compared with USD 72.77 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday.

Brent futures rose 99 cents to USD 69.14 pb and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures rose USD 1.58 to USD 65.59 pb.

Business

Company supports year-round initiatives to enhance social innovation and develop talent

Zain, KAFO partnership puts sustainability at the heart of youth empowerment

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Zain Kuwait announced the renewal of its strategic partnership with KAFO, the first national non-profit platform for showcasing youth talent and facilitating communication, search, and collaboration among them, with the aim of expanding the impact of sustainability initiatives and youth empowerment in Kuwait.

The partnership was announced at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) at the company's headquarters in Shuwaikh, joined by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait, and Dr. Fatima Al-Mosawi, CEO of KAFO, along with the Zain team.

This collaboration affirms Zain's commitment to corporate social responsibility and its efforts to promote social innovation, its belief in the role of youth in leading positive change, and its keenness to build effective partnerships capable of transforming youth ideas into measurable initiatives that create positive impact.

Zain will be a main partner for KAFO's Sustainability Track, which includes a series of specialized initiatives and events throughout the 2025–2026 season, such as the Sustainability Challenge, the KAFO Fo-



Waleed Al-Khashti and Dr. Fatima Al-Mosawi with the Zain team.

rum - AI for Impact: Prompting with Purpose, the Zero Waste Ramadan campaign, and the Green Hackathon. These initiatives aim to spark youth creativity and generate practical solutions to pressing environmental and social challenges.

Zain continues to translate its vision of building a sustainable economy and a more inclusive digital society by investing in innovation and empowering young talent, adopting initiatives that reduce the carbon footprint, enhance resource efficiency, and activate circular economy principles. The company applies an impact-measurement approach from program design to execution, ensuring scalable solutions and long-term partnerships that contribute to developing future skills, digital education, and entrepreneurship.

KAFO is a national non-profit platform that aims to showcase, connect, and empower achievers, creators, and changemakers in Kuwait and the GCC. It designs impactful opportunities that inspire collaboration, develop leadership, and promote social innovation, while providing tools to measure impact and build development pathways and capabilities for youth and partner organizations.

Kuwait equities plunge in Aug due to profit booking

S&P GCC composite index down by 2.1%

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” released its Monthly Market Review report for August 2025. The report highlights that the Kuwait equity market declined in August 2025, following three consecutive months of gains due to profit booking. However, it continues to be the second-best performing equity market in GCC on YTD basis, clocking a return of 15.4%, after Dubai’s 17.5%.

Kuwait's All Share Index declined by 1.4% during the month, weighed down by Premier market companies. Among the sectors, basic materials and utilities were the top gainers, rising 5.6% and 7.7% respectively. The banking sector index declined by 3.0% for the month, with Kuwait International Bank and Kuwait Finance House falling by 4.7% and 4.6% respectively. Commercial Bank of Kuwait was the top gainer among banks, rising 4.9% during the month. The bank has announced cash dividends of 12 fils per share to be distributed to shareholders as of 2nd September 2025. Among Premier Market stocks, Arzan Financial Group for Financing and Investment and GFH Financial Group were the top gainers, rising 15.5% and 11.8% respectively during the month. Arzan Financial Group's subsidiary acquired 67.39% stake in National Medical Consumable Industries Co. to the tune of KD 8.09 million and the company expects the acquisition to increase its operating income from Q3 2025. GFH Financial Group has reported 11% y/y increase in its net profit for H1 2025, supported by rise in income from both investment banking and commercial banking activities. Kuwait has raised KD 150 million (USD 491 million) through domestic debt issuance during August, which was oversubscribed by about 10 times amid strong interest from local banks.

The S&P GCC Composite index lost 2.1% in August 2025, weighed down by lower oil prices and subdued corporate earnings. Except Oman, all GCC markets ended the month in red. Saudi Arabia equity index declined by 2.0% during the month, amid mixed corporate earnings. Among Saudi blue chips, Saudi National Bank declined by 6.7% during the month. The bank's funding cost increased by 16 bps in Q2 2025 compared to Q1 2025 and it has lowered its guidance on net interest margin for 2025 to low-mid single digit from mid-high single digit. Saudi Aramco declined by 2.1% during the month as it reported a 22% y/y drop in net profit for Q2 2025 amid lower oil prices. Abu Dhabi's equity index fell by 2.7% in August 2025, amid broad-based declines. First Abu Dhabi Bank (UAE) declined by 7.8% while Emirates Telecommunications Group Company (UAE) declined by 4.5% during the month. Dubai's equity index closed 1.6% lower for the month. Emaar Properties (UAE) declined by 5.6% for the month. While the company's net profit for Q2 2025 had risen by 39.7% y/y, it had declined by 9% compared to Q1 2025. Qatar's equity markets declined by 0.3% for the month, amid a 3.5% decline in natural gas prices.

The IMF, in its Article IV consultation for the country, raised Saudi Arabia's economic growth forecast to 3.6% y/y in 2025 from 3% in April and estimates the economy to grow by 3.9% y/y in 2026 due to recovery in oil production. Central Bank of the UAE estimates the country's GDP would increase by 4.4% y/y in 2025 and by 5.4% y/y in 2026 underpinned by sustained economic di-

versification efforts and robust financial and banking systems.

Global markets were positive during August 2025, supported by expectation of rate cuts in September 2025. The MSCI World and S&P 500 indices rose by 2.5% and 1.9% respectively for the month. Lower than expected inflation and U.S. Fed Chair's comments on possibility of change in policy stance amid rising risks to employment during his speech at the Jackson Hole symposium raised market expectations about possible rate cuts by the U.S. Fed in its upcoming policy meeting in September. U.S. President's new tariffs for about 90 countries took effect on August 07, 2025. Apple gained 11.8% in August 2025 as it announced fresh investments of USD 100 billion to strengthen its U.S. manufacturing base, bringing its total investment commitment to USD 600 billion. MSCI EM index gained 1.2% during the month. Chinese equities rose by 8.0%, as U.S. and China agreed to extend the pause in mutual levy of tariffs until November 2025 as they plan to hold further trade discussions.

U.S. inflation stood at 2.7% y/y in July 2025, unchanged from June 2025, with the impact of newly imposed tariffs on many countries taking effect only from August 2025, its impact is yet to reflect in the inflation readings. The U.S. labor market added 73,000 jobs in July, while data for May and June saw a steep downward revision to 19,000 and 14,000 respectively. This places June's job growth as the lowest in nearly five years. U.S. GDP growth in Q2 2025 was revised up to 3.3% y/y, up from earlier estimate of 3.0%, supported by investment of corporates in artificial intelligence.

The yield on the 10-year US treasury notes declined by 14 bps during the month to 4.23%. In his annual speech at the Jackson Hole symposium, the Fed Chair highlighted rising downside risk to employment, even as inflation pressure persists. He opined that, in this backdrop, current level of policy stance is restrictive and might warrant an adjustment. While he also added that a decision on this regard was yet to be made, market bets on potential rate cuts further pressured yields during the month.

Oil (Brent) prices closed the month at USD 68.1 per barrel, falling by 6.1% during the month. Continued unwinding of production cuts by OPEC+, China's weak economic data, additional tariff levies by U.S. on India for buying Russian oil pressured the commodity. However, slowdown in Russia-U.S. peace talks dimmed hopes over a peace deal for Ukraine, lending some support to oil prices. OPEC+ plans to raise oil production by 547,000 barrels per day for September 2025. This marks a complete reversal of voluntary production cuts by OPEC+ amounting to 2.2 million bpd, undertaken by eight members of the group including Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait among others in January 2024.

The Fed's September policy meeting and incoming data on labour markets and inflation are expected to guide movements in global and regional capital markets. GCC markets stand to benefit in the event of any rate cut decision by the Central Bank. Meanwhile, with the complete reversal of one tranche of production cuts, OPEC+'s next meeting in September 2025 would also be closely watched and the consequent impact on oil prices is also likely to influence GCC markets' performance.

New app update introduces smart savings tools

Weyay Bank launches ‘Hide Your Money from Yourself’ campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Weyay Bank, a leader in digital banking, today announced the launch of its new campaign, “Hide Your Money from Yourself,” coinciding with the introduction of new digital smart savings tools in the latest update to its mobile app. The initiative is designed to inspire and equip Weyay with the modern financial habits they need to achieve their savings goals.

The “Hide Your Money from Yourself” campaign is a direct reflection of Weyay's deep understanding of the ambitions of young Kuwaitis. More than a marketing effort, it's a call to action, encouraging users to adopt a smarter, more disciplined approach to saving. By leveraging the concept of “hiding” one's savings, the campaign helps customers focus on their ultimate financial goals without the temptation of seeing their balance grow, which can often lead to impulsive spending.

Introducing Smart Savings Features for a Smarter Future

The new update offers smart solutions to help users save more effectively and reach their financial goals faster. A standout feature is the “Hide Balance” option, allowing users to focus on their savings goals without the temptation of discretionary spending triggered by seeing a constantly growing balance. This fosters better saving habits and provides a more controlled, goal-oriented digital banking experience. Additionally, users can temporarily lock their saving pot, preventing direct withdrawals until a specified goal is met. Users can unlock their pot at any time by contacting the Bank's Solutions Center.

These features, along with other new digital enhancements,



such as automatic prepaid card top-ups to ensure seamless transactions, reaffirm Weyay Bank's commitment to providing a secure, motivating, and seamless digital experience.

Zero bag category offers 7kg hand luggage only

Kuwait Airways launches ‘Economy Zero Bag’ fare

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: As part of Kuwait Airways' ongoing commitment to enhancing the services provided to its valued customers, the company has launched the “Economy Class – Zero Bag” category, enabling passengers to travel on Kuwait Airways flights with only their hand baggage.

Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fagaan stated that the launch of the “Economy Class – Zero Bag” category offers esteemed passengers with new and diverse options that align with their travel preferences, particularly for short, quick, or business trips that do not require checked baggage or large bags. This service enables more flexible travel at a lower cost, without compromising the quality of the distinguished service that Kuwait Airways provides to its valued customers.

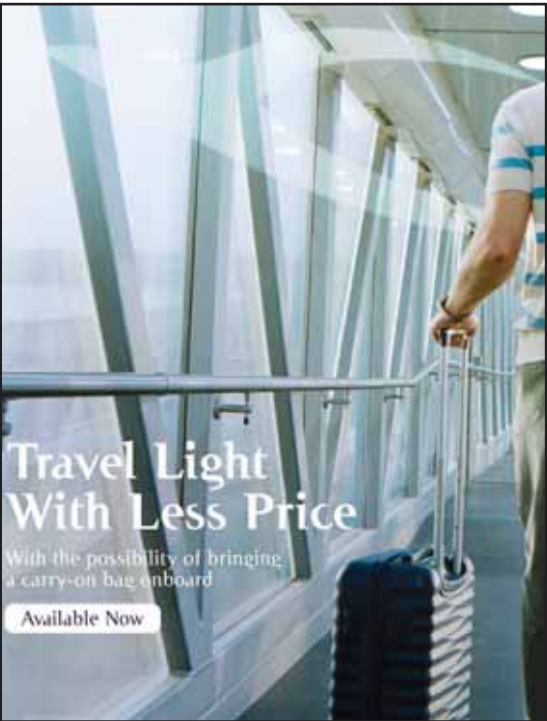
Al-Fagaan added that the “Economy Class – Zero Bag” category allows passengers to travel on Kuwait Airways flights with a hand baggage allowance of 7 kilograms. He explained that passengers can issue their boarding passes directly via the kiosk devices available at Terminal 4 (T4), saving time, or alternatively, by heading to the baggage weighing area and issuing it through a passenger services employee.

Al-Fagaan emphasized Kuwait Airways' commitment to facilitating the travel process for its valued passengers, and meeting their needs from the moment they enter the terminal through the seamless completion of their travel procedures, all the way to boarding the aircraft where passengers receive exceptional services from the cabin crew, enjoy state-of-the-art entertainment programs, and experience a comfortable, relaxing flight.

Al-Fagaan concluded by affirming that Kuwait Airways remains committed to achieving its goals of providing the highest standards of service quality, introducing new and diverse services and destinations, and offering exceptional travel options that cater to the needs of its valued customers.

Kuwait Airways' Economy Class includes four categories: Economy Class Zero Bag, which offers passengers if they are members of the Oasis Club to earn 50% of the basic miles; Economy Class Saver, which enables passengers to earn 50% of the basic miles in addition to one piece of baggage weighing 32 kg; Economy Class Regular, which allows passengers

Al-Fagaan: New and diverse options designed to meet the aspirations of travelers, especially for short and quick trips



to earn 100% of the basic miles in addition to two pieces of baggage weighing 23 kg each; and Economy Class Flexible, which allows passengers to earn 125% of the basic miles in addition to two pieces of baggage weighing 23 kg each.

ABK strengthens support for ‘Let’s Be Aware’ campaign in fifth year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) continues to enhance its efforts in support of the ‘Let’s Be Aware’ banking awareness campaign, organized in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). Now in its fifth consecutive year, the campaign aims to raise awareness across society about key banking topics, reflecting ABK's leading role in promoting financial literacy and strengthening its presence among diverse segments of the Kuwaiti community.

As part of this initiative, ABK reminds customers to remain vigilant against suspicious calls and messages, stressing that the Bank never requests personal information via phone calls, SMS, WhatsApp, or social media platforms. The Bank urged customers to be cautious of fraudulent schemes designed to steal personal data and gain access to bank accounts.

To further protect its clients, ABK continuously upgrades its systems and adopts the highest technological and security standards to safeguard data confidentiality. The Bank also remains committed to embracing technological



ABK logo

advancements that enhance the safety of financial transactions, particularly those conducted through its digital solutions, thereby improving customer satisfaction with its always-available, innovative banking services.

ABK also delivers campaign content



Diraya logo

in engaging ways across its social media platforms, publishing interactive videos that receive strong customer engagement. These materials highlight ABK's wide range of digital services and solutions, its year-round promotional campaigns, different types of banking cards, loan requirements, services tailored for people with special needs, as well as key savings and investment methods, contributing to financial inclusion across all segments of society.

Additionally, ABK provides customers with practical tips and guidance on various occasions through live broadcasts on its digital platforms, its official website, ATMs, and within its branch network.

These efforts reflect the Bank's commitment to supporting the goals of the ‘Let’s Be Aware’ campaign and have consistently secured ABK top rankings in the campaign's evaluations, conducted regularly by CBK and KBA.

Special booth with unique experiences and surprises

Warba Bank hosts launch event for Wave Banking youth account at Khiran Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Coinciding with the launch of its new youth account Wave Banking under the slogan “Your Wave, Your Way”, Warba Bank will host a day full of youth-oriented activities and events at Khiran Mall on Friday, September 5, from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm The Bank invites all members of the community to attend, where many surprises and prizes await.

On this occasion, Dr. Mohamed Barakat, Chief Marketing and Corporate Communications Officer at Warba Bank, said:”We invite the public to join us in this special event to celebrate the launch of Wave Banking. This new account has been designed around the needs of the new generation to provide a true leap in digital banking for youth. It reflects our commitment to delivering innovative solutions that align with the aspirations of the younger generation, and we look forward to meeting our customers and the community at Khiran Mall to showcase the unique benefits of Wave Banking and share this milestone with them.”

The event will feature a dedicated booth where visitors can explore all the benefits and services of the Wave Banking youth account. Attendees will be able to learn how to open accounts digitally and enjoy exclusive services such as the cashback program, the Imtiaz program for outstanding students, the weekly Wave Wednesday rewards, the exclusive digital marketplace, and advanced financial planning tools.



Dr. Mohamed Barakat, Chief Marketing and Corporate Communications Officer



Warba's Wave Banking

The event will also include the distribution of valuable giveaways and surprises throughout the day, along with ex-

clusive offers available only during the event. A specialized team from Warba Bank will be present to provide financial

consultations and answer all inquiries related to the new platform.

This event comes as part of Warba Bank’s strategy to engage directly with the community and raise awareness about its latest digital banking services, reaffirming its commitment to its vision “Let’s Own Tomorrow” by building a sustainable financial future for the next generations.

The Wave Banking youth account offers a Prepaid Visa card with up to 3% cashback on all personal transactions (up to KD 150 monthly), the Imtiaz program rewarding outstanding students with up to KD 50 per semester for maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher, as well as the weekly Wave Wednesday feature with shopping vouchers from partners such as Talabat and OLA Energy. The account also includes an exclusive digital marketplace with offers and discounts tailored for youth.

Warba Bank continues to develop its products and services to meet the evolving needs of its clients while maintaining the highest standards of quality and transparency. The Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short span of time, securing a leading position in Islamic digital banking and becoming one of the local banks with the largest shareholder base, strengthening its role as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation and social responsibility in delivering superior Sharia-compliant products and services.



J9 Abu Dhabi - Al Ain

Airline expands UAE network to three cities

Jazeera Airways relaunches flights to Abu Dhabi, Al Ain

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait’s leading low-cost carrier, has announced the relaunch of direct flights to Abu Dhabi and Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates starting 2nd October 2025. Including Dubai, the airline will now fly to three destinations in the UAE reinforcing its growing regional network and commitment to providing travelers with more affordable and convenient travel options across the Gulf.

Open for booking today, one-way fares to Al Ain start at KD 9 and to Abu Dhabi from KD 14.

Commenting on the launch, Barathan Paspupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, said:

“We are pleased to restart our services to Abu Dhabi and Al Ain – two cities that are important to both leisure and business travelers. These routes,

alongside our existing three daily flights to Dubai, reflect our ongoing efforts to expand connectivity across the region and offer passengers greater flexibility and choice when flying with Jazeera Airways. With strong demand from Kuwaiti nationals, expatriates, and UAE residents, we look forward to welcoming passengers back on board to experience our efficient and affordable service.”

Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, continues to attract travelers for its dynamic business landscape and growing portfolio of cultural attractions. Al Ain, known as the “Garden City” for its greenery and heritage sites, is a popular destination for both tourists and family visits.

Elena Sorlini, MD & CEO at Abu Dhabi Airports said: “We look forward to welcoming Jazeera Airways back to

both Abu Dhabi and Al Ain this October. This expansion offers travelers more affordable and convenient connections between the UAE and Kuwait, supporting the growing demand for regional mobility. It also reflects the strength of our partnership with Jazeera Airways and our shared commitment to enhancing air connectivity across the Gulf.”

With the addition of these routes, Jazeera Airways now offers even more options to explore the UAE, complementing its existing flights to Dubai. The airline continues to invest in its network expansion, providing value-driven travel experiences across the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.

Passengers can book their tickets on jazeeraairways.com or the Jazeera mobile app.

UK economy ‘not well,’ says Chancellor Reeves

Official calls for spending cuts to curb inflation

LONDON, Sept 3, (KUNA): UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves has acknowledged that the British economy “is not well” and called for trimming expenditures as a remedy for inflation.

While confirming that the date for proclaiming the state budget would be on November 26, Reeves stated in a video message posted today that the British economy “isn’t broken. But I know its not working well enough for working people.

“Bills are high. Getting ahead feels tougher. You put more in, get less out. That has to change. Weve got huge potential - world-leading brands, dynamic industries, brilliant universities, and a skilled workforce. Were a global hub for trade.”

“Fixing the foundations has been my mission this past year,” Reeves said, adding, “We raised the minimum wage for three million people,” indicating that she had also succeeded in cutting number of people waiting for medical treatment and worked on plans to build 1.5 million new houses.

Elaborating, the Chancellor of Exchequer indicated that billions of sterling pounds would be earmarked for overhauling the countrys infrastructure.



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves leaves Downing Street in London. (AP)

In her remarks about accomplishments, she pointed to securing trade deals with the US, India, and the EU and changed Treasury rules so investment reaches every part of the country.

“But Im not satisfied. Theres more to do. Cost of living pressures are still real.”

“And we must bring inflation and borrowing costs down by keeping a tight grip on day to day spending through our non-negotiable fiscal rules,” Reeves said.

Families of Boeing crash victims to make potential final plea for criminal prosecution

DALLAS, Sept 3, (AP): A hearing set for Wednesday in federal court in Texas could provide families of the victims killed in two crashes of Boeing 737 Max jetliners with their final opportunity to demand that the company face criminal prosecution.

U.S. District Chief Judge Reed O’Connor will hear arguments on a motion by the federal government to dismiss a felony fraud charge against Boeing in connection with the crashes that killed 346 people off the coast of Indonesia and in Ethiopia. In exchange, Boeing said it would pay or invest another \$1.1 billion in fines, compensation for the crash victims’ families, and internal safety and quality measures.

Prosecutors have said that Boeing deceived government regulators about a flight-control system that was later implicated in the fatal flights, which happened less than five months apart in 2018 and 2019.

The hearing in Fort Worth comes more than four years after the Justice Department first announced it had charged Boeing in January 2021 and reached a \$2.5 billion settlement with the aircraft maker. That deal would have protected Boeing from criminal prosecution if it strengthened its ethics and legal compliance programs,

but prosecutors revived the charge last year after they said Boeing had violated the agreement.

Boeing decided to plead guilty instead of going to trial, but in December 2024, O’Connor rejected that plea agreement. O’Connor, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, cited concerns he had over how diversity policies both at the federal government and at Boeing could influence the selection of an independent monitor charged with overseeing the company’s promised reforms.

Lawyers representing relatives of some of the victims who want a public trial and for the company to receive more severe financial punishment welcomed the judge’s decision. But the delay worked in Boeing’s favor.

The judge’s refusal to accept the agreement meant the company was free to challenge the Justice Department’s rationale for charging Boeing as a corporation. It also meant prosecutors would have to secure a new deal for a guilty plea, and they spent six months renegotiating with Boeing.

During that time, President Donald Trump returned to office and ordered an end to the diversity initiatives that gave O’Connor pause.

By late May, the two sides struck a new deal that took both the criminal charge

and Boeing’s guilty plea off the table. The Justice Department said it offered those terms in light of “significant changes” Boeing has made to its quality control and anti-fraud programs since last summer.

O’Connor has invited some of the families to speak on Wednesday. That includes relatives traveling from France, Ireland and Canada who plan to ask the judge to deny the government’s request and appoint a special prosecutor to take over the case, according to lawyers for the families.

Chris and Clariss Moore of Toronto, whose 24-year-old daughter, Danielle, died when a 737 Max crashed shortly after takeoff from Ethiopia’s Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, said in a statement that the pending agreement would allow Boeing to escape justice.

“The safety of passengers will be held in the balance,” the statement said.

Justice Department lawyers say the families of 110 crash victims either support resolving the case before it reaches trial or do not oppose the new deal. The Justice Department has also asked the judge to leave open the possibility of refiling the conspiracy charge if the company does not hold up its end of the deal over the next two years.

Via KFHOnline, website, e-branches, call center

KFH offers round-the-clock e-services during the holiday

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced it will continue providing its banking services to customers around the clock during the holiday period. Most services can be accessed through the bank’s digital platforms, including its mobile applications and e-branches in key areas. Additionally, KFH’s social media accounts and other e-service channels will remain active, utilizing the latest in financial technology and digital platforms.

KFHOnline app features a sleek, modern design with smart banking services. KFH has carried out a comprehensive update to its app, reaffirming its dedication to digital transformation and excellence in providing advanced financial solutions. These solutions meet customer needs and deliver seamless banking experience. This move also underscores the Bank’s outstanding execution of its digital transformation strategy.

The KFHOnline app offers more than 200 banking services. New services allow customers to instantly request virtual prepaid cards through KFHOnline. Customers can also control the usage limits of their bank cards, additional credit cards, and both local and international money transfers.

KFH’s hybrid branches offer a variety of services, giving customers the opportunity to access unlimited e-services through a range of digital channels. Customers can either interact directly with employees or use self-service devices and other modern technology.

KFH also launched “Fahad”, Kuwait’s first AI-powered virtual employee. This groundbreaking innovation was first introduced at the KFH branch in The Avenues (Phase 4). “Fahad” is designed to answer customer inquiries and provide comprehensive, real-time guidance on a wide range of banking services and products. The launch of “Fahad” underscores KFH’s dedication to digital transformation and its commitment to offering advanced banking experiences to its customers.

KFH’s e-branches are a smart banking channel that transforms typical customer transactions into an innovative, automated experience. These branches provide highly efficient banking services, offering over 80% of what is available at traditional locations.

KFH e-branches include the XTM device, which allows direct video calls with service personnel, as well as ATMs and cash deposit machines. The cash deposit machines accept up to 300 notes per transaction.

Moreover, customers can conduct a variety of interactive banking transactions through e-branches located in various places in Kuwait, including Kuwait International Airport. These services include: establishing Murabaha transactions, requesting credit and prepaid cards, updating data and phone numbers, activating bank cards, opening deposits and accounts, instant cheque and card printing, receiving gold biscuits (10 grams), opening (gold, savings, Al-Rabeh, electron) accounts, online gold purchase and sell, cardless withdrawals using QR code through mobile, or by using Civil ID or phone number, in addition to many other financing and banking services conducted quickly, easily and safely.

The e-banking services encompass a wide array of digital functionalities, including opening additional bank account without a branch visit, instant virtual prepaid card issuance, viewing PINs and other credit and ATM card details, activating and temporarily suspending bank cards, opening deposits, adding beneficiaries, balance inquiries, cheque book requests, opening and trading gold accounts, gifting gold, requesting and checking financing obligations and installments, perusing investment plans, receiving account balances and deposit summaries, and managing children’s accounts through the Baiti Online service, and more.

Call Center

The Call Center continues to provide services around the clock, receiving customer calls, addressing their inquiries, and responding to them through a qualified and technically advanced staff. KFH also provides the automated telephone service, 1803333, which operates with the same efficiency and speed to facilitate transfers between accounts, answer inquiries about financial transactions, among other services.

Customers outside Kuwait can contact KFH’s call center from seven countries (USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Turkey and Spain) without additional fees.

To use this service customers can call from the following toll-free numbers: USA and Canada (18008188608), UK (08000148898), France (0805086620), Germany (08001817080), Spain (900905440), and Turkey



KFH e-services

(908507712154). Local tariff charges may be applied in Turkey by local Turkish telecoms companies when calling this number.

This service is free exclusively for mobiles and landlines users in the mentioned countries only and doesn’t include the (Roaming Service).

Social media channels

KFH’s social media team remains dedicated to addressing customer inquiries and assisting them at all hours through the official social media accounts (@KFHGroup).

Money transfer and account opening

KFH successfully launched WAMD digital service, allowing customers to send and receive money instantly and for free using their mobile numbers, 24/7. Additionally, customers can request money through WAMD service by sharing or scanning a QR code from the KFHOnline app. This app also allows customers to transfer funds from their local Knet bank accounts directly to their credit and prepaid cards.

KFH also successfully launched the D-POS device for account opening, the first-of-its-kind in the market, allowing customers to open accounts at KFH immediately and anywhere.

Customers can now open accounts in major currencies through KFHOnline; previously, account opening was only available at branches. Additionally, KFH has integrated Western Union (WU) services into its app, enabling customers to make international transfers directly through the application. The Bank also offers instant transfers within the GCC countries through the AFAQ network on the mobile app.

Corporate services

KFH launched the first mobile application for corporate banking encompassing major services for business development, in addition to launching facial recognition technology based on biometric identity and other distinguished electronic services available through the corporate banking webpage.

KFH successfully introduced corporate cards, offering three different products that cater to the various local and global corporate needs. Key features include cash and cheque deposits, as well as cash withdrawals. The cards also provide access to Point of Sale (POS) terminals and online payment gateways, both in Kuwait and internationally.

In addition, KFH has introduced corporate credit cards, which are among the bank’s distinguished offerings for business owners. These cards are linked directly to the company’s account, allowing business owners to issue cards to employees for seamless expense management. They can be used to cover day-to-day business expenses, one-time travel costs, and more. The corporate credit card helps businesses better manage their cash flow while offering enhanced control over employee expenditures.



Photos during the opening of Lulu Daily Fresh.

Lulu Hypermarket launches ‘Lulu Daily Fresh’ in Hawally – bringing freshness closer to you

Lulu Hypermarket – a leading retail brand in the Middle East, offering a wide range of fresh produce, groceries, daily essentials, and household products with a focus on quality, convenience, and customer satisfaction – is set to redefine convenience and freshness with the grand opening of Lulu Daily Fresh, a brand-new store opened on 3rd September, 2025 at Al Bahar Center, Tunis Street, Hawally.

This marks one of the first Lulu Daily Fresh stores in Kuwait and represents the 17th Lulu outlet in the country, further strengthening the brand's footprint.

The store was inaugurated by prominent dignitaries: Mr. Fahad Abdul Rahman Al-Bahar - Vice Chairman and Executive Managing Director, Abdurahman Muhamed Al-Bahar of Partner Company WLL; Adel Ali Al – Ba-

har in the presence of Yusuff Ali M.A - Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group International; K.S. Sreejith - Lulu Kuwait Director; Sakeer Hussain - Lulu Kuwait Regional Director, along with other senior officials of Lulu Kuwait.

Spanning 4,700 square feet, Lulu Daily Fresh promises a vibrant shopping experience, featuring a wide selection of fresh produce, groceries, daily essentials, chilled items, and dairy products, catering to the everyday needs of families residing in and around Hawally.

The store also offers a convenient multi-store parking facility for 300 vehicles, ensuring a smooth and accessible shopping experience. To celebrate the grand opening, customers can enjoy exclusive inaugural offers from 3rd to 6th September 2025, making it the perfect opportunity to ex-

plore the store and enjoy unbeatable deals.

Lulu Hypermarket continues to expand its presence in Kuwait with the following upcoming projects to bring quality shopping closer to communities.

- Lot Store – Walkmall, Salmiya
- Lulu Hypermarket – Jaber Mall, Jaber Al Ahmed
- Lulu Fresh Market – Sabah Al Salem
- Lulu Express – Hessah Al Mubarak
- Lulu Hypermarket – Al Mutlaa City

With this new store, Lulu Daily Fresh reaffirms its commitment to offering freshness, variety, and convenience while continuing to strengthen its position as one of Kuwait's leading retail brands.



Photos during the event.

Team collects 400+ units

Gulf Janasena Kuwait hosts mega blood donation camp

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: A mega blood donation camp was organized in Kuwait on 29 August 2025 under the auspices of Gulf Janasena Kuwait to commemorate the birthday of Janasena leader and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan. Conveners Kanchana Srikanth, Ramachandra Nayak, Pagadala Anjan Kumar, Akula Rajesh, and Birada Suryanarayana expressed their happiness in distributing more than 400 units at the Jabriya Blood Bank.

Co-conveners Dandu Chandrasekhar Ummidisetty Surya, Kola Murali, and Gigili Obulesu said that they had organized a mega blood

donation camp in 2021 as well, but more people participated in the program this time than in the past.

Youth leaders Allam Prem Kumar and Kuppala Bhaskar, Balaji said that domestic workers from remote areas like Faheel, Zahra, and Mahbouda working in labor camps participated in this blood donation camp.

Leaders of various service associations, coalition leaders, and media representatives participated extensively in this program.

Similarly, the management of Bader Salam Hospital came forward to provide fruit juice and water to the people who donated blood during the program.

Reinforcing its commitment to maintaining a certified Great Place to Work® culture

talabat hosts ‘Bring Your Child to Work’ day with fun activities to celebrate team spirit

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: In line with its employee-first approach that fosters a people-centric culture, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, hosted a family-oriented “Bring Your Child to Work” day. This initiative enabled employees to share their professional world with their children, fostering an enjoyable and immersive family experience. As a certified Great Place to Work®, talabat continues to organize events that serve to highlight the invaluable importance of family and developing bonds of mutual respect between coworkers.

Commenting on this recreational social experience, Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, said: “As a people-first company and a certified Great Place to Work®, we spare no effort to express our gratitude for and pride in our employees at every opportunity, confirming that we owe talabat's success to their efforts and daily contributions, as well as the innovation and creativity they adopt in approaching every situation, whether a challenge or an opportunity. This day provided a wonderful chance to celebrate our collective achievements not only with our employees, but with their children as well – to show them the invaluable difference their parents make every day.”

Reflecting on the experience, talabat employee Mostafa Hassan said: “As a parent, I strive to always set a positive example for my children and inspire them to follow their passion and become proactive contributors to society. Today was a great opportunity to share a glimpse of my work life and enjoy several engaging activities with them. Events like these are a cornerstone of the talabat culture, highlighting that life outside of the workplace matters just as much, and celebrating it together enriches our shared professional experience.”

The day was packed with a wide range of engaging and memorable activities, including fun workshops, games, and interactive sessions that gave kids a firsthand look at their parents' daily work life. The event also featured team-



talabat x Bring your kid to work

building exercises that encouraged employees to come together and strengthen connections, fostering a more cohesive and vibrant talabat community.

As a three-time recipient of the

Great Place to Work® certificate, talabat continues to invest in providing employees with a nurturing work environment that prioritizes employee well-being, professional growth, and personal development. By combin-

ing meaningful workplace recognition with family-oriented initiatives, the company reinforces a culture where individuals feel valued, empowered, and inspired to thrive both at work and beyond.

IMA Kuwait hosts spiritual & educational gatherings on Seerat-un-Nabi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait, under the auspices of Foreign Relations Department, is pleased to announce a special series of Spiritual & Educational Gatherings to be held next week across multiple locations in Kuwait.

These Events, themed around “Building a Model Society in the Light of Seerat-un-Nabi – The Home of the Prophet: A Model for Us All”, aim to provide the Community with profound Insights into how the Teachings and Practices of the Holy Prophet Muhammad serve as a timeless Guide for Individual Development, Family Life, and Societal Progress.

The Programs will feature Eminent Scholars and Thought Leaders who will deliver Lectures and Reflections on the Prophet's Exemplary Way of Life, focusing on how his noble Household and Values can inspire us to build Stronger, more Compassionate, and Ethically grounded Communities today.

Event Details:
Thursday, 4 September 2025 (Immediately after Isha Prayer)
1. Masjid Hilal Al-Utaibi, Fahaeel
o Speakers: Maulana Umar Falahi Sahab & Arshad Habeeb Sahab
o Contact: 6697 8859
2. Maryam Masjid, Mahbouda
o Speakers: Maulana Waleed Umri Sahab & Maulana Irfan Nadwi Sahab
o Contact: 6575 9855
3. Masjid Adsani, Malya
o Speakers: Shamvel Parvez Sahab & Samoil Falahi Sahab
o Contact: 6672 2912
Dinner will be served after the program at all venues.
About the Theme

The focus on Seerat-un-Nabi is particularly timely and essential in today's Fast-Paced, Fragmented World. By Revisiting the Prophet's Life and the Role of his Blessed Household, the series will highlight Practical Lessons in Justice, Compassion, Integrity, and Unity – Values that are vital for building a Balanced and Model Society.

Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait has been at the forefront of serving the Indian Expatriate Community through Educational, Spiritual, and Social Welfare Initiatives. Guided by its vision to nurture moral Values and strengthen Communal Harmony, IMA continues to create platforms that enrich lives and inspire Positive Societal Change.

Share this message and invite others to partake in this spiritually enriching experience!

For more information, please visit:
www.imakuwait.org



Marc Jacobs, (left), and Sofia Coppola pose for a portrait photograph for the film 'Marc by Sofia' during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Tuesday, Sept. 2. (AP)

Coppola docu

‘Marc, by Sofia’ marks fashion and friendship

VENICE, Italy, Sept 3, (AP): Neither Sofia Coppola nor Marc Jacobs were convinced a documentary was a good idea. Jacobs wasn't sure he wanted to be the subject of one and Coppola wasn't sure she wanted the pressure of being the person behind the camera. This was her friend of over 30 years, after all. What if the film wasn't good?

Yet the idea, which they credit to producers R.J. and Jane Cha Cutler, started to take hold. Coppola has always been interested in fashion and the creative process. Jacobs knew that if anyone could make him feel less self-conscious, it would be her. And they decided to jump into the unknown. At least it would be together.

"There was no off limits," Jacobs said in a recent interview, alongside Coppola, with The Associated Press. "It was just like come as you are and you get what you get and that's the way it's going to be."

"Marc, by Sofia," which had its world premiere Tuesday at the Venice Film Festival, is an evocative, and very Coppola, collage of Jacobs' influences, his biography and his team at work putting together a ready-to-wear collection.

"I've never done anything like this where there isn't a plan or a script," Coppola said. "What I was trying to do is show his creative process around this one collection and then interweave inspiration and references and artists who collaborated with him to have this full portrait."

It was a very lo-fi production, they said. Sometimes it would just be Coppola coming into the office with her own handheld camera. Sometimes her brother Roman Coppola would come to help. Coppola had never done a feature length documentary before and found the process exciting, though she said it's not signaling a new phase or director for her as a filmmaker.

Freedom

She also got to see some of the behind the scenes things she's rarely privy to, including being backstage at a runway show.

"I had total freedom, which was great. I was just filming what interested me," she said. "It was really the same as like taking snapshots, which wasn't unfamiliar to me."

The two met in the early 1990s in New York, when Coppola asked her mother if she could go see the Perry Ellis show that Jacobs was working on. They quickly hit it off, bonding over shared loves of art, music, fashion and movies, and have collaborated many times, on handbags, dresses, commercials and more. Jacobs has visited her film sets and even provided clothes for some of her characters, including some of the coats Scarlett Johansson wore in "Lost in Translation."

While Coppola wanted to acknowledge their friendship, even making a little cameo in her film, she also didn't want it to be about her or even them, necessarily. The focus would remain on Jacobs.

"I didn't want it to be too much about me," Coppola said. "But I wanted it to feel that it's personal and made by me and that I'm part of it and in that way it's not just a generic interview or portrait."

In addition to the behind the scenes of designing the Spring 2024 ready-to-wear collection, "Marc by Sofia" is full of film and art references, with clips from "Hello, Dolly!" "All that Jazz," "Sweet Charity" and many more of Jacobs' most beloved films. He was particularly blown away that she was able to get the rights to use the clips.

"It made me feel very special. And I couldn't imagine all those things coming through for just anyone," Jacobs said. "I felt like it was OK because it was for Sofia. That may not be the truth, but that's the way I like to think of it."

It also includes some biography, big career moments, and some rare glimpses of Jacobs' grandmother, an influential figure in his life who he lived with as a teen in New York and who instilled in him the importance of caring for beautiful clothes. After the runway show, Coppola and her brother visit Jacobs at his home where, in his silk pajamas, he discusses his comedown. He likes to borrow a phrase coined by his friend, filmmaker Lana Wachowski, to describe the feeling: Post-art-um.

"I just sort of just felt like it could have been any conversation," Jacobs said. "Nothing felt like director and subject. It just felt completely easy."

Still, Jacobs was nervous the first time she screened it for him. He worried about what he was going to look like, and sound like, and what it was going to be.

"In very typical me fashion, when it was over I said I don't hate myself after seeing it," Jacobs laughed. "I just thought it all felt natural. I wasn't pretending. There was just nothing synthetic or false or anything. So whether people like it or not, I know that I just felt good about me being me and Sofia, you know, sort of seeing that her way."

‘Kokuho’ is a surprise hit in soul-searching Japan

Kabuki movie resonates with Japanese viewers

TOKYO, Sept 3, (AP): A three-hour film about the esoteric world of Kabuki is defying the odds at the Japanese box office, with tickets selling out at some cinemas.

"Kokuho," which means "national treasure," has already grossed more than 10 billion yen (\$68 million), making it the second-highest grossing Japanese live-action film of all time, and the first to achieve that in more than two decades.

It stars heartthrobs Ryo Yoshizawa and Ryusei Yokohama who portray longtime rivals and soulmates. They are both Kabuki "onnagata" actors, meaning they specialize in women roles, from gorgeous princesses to damsels in distress.

They look stunning, and convincing, having gone through months of training with a real Kabuki actor.

Japan has submitted the film for the international feature category at the Academy Awards. The short list of the 15 films from which the final nominations come will be announced Dec. 16.

"Kohuko" got a favorable reception at the Cannes Film Festival. And it's been seen 7.4 million times in the first 73 days in Japanese theaters, many of them repeat viewers.

The plot of "Kokuho" - pronounced Koh-koo-hoe - explores perennial themes of family and the grueling hardships of being an artist, set to the backdrop of the intense but dreamlike life of the Kabuki actor.

It also pays homage to old-style yakuza movies, as well as obliquely to Western gangster films, like "The Godfather," because one of the heroes is the son of a gangster.

In short, it's not the kind of material that usually makes a hit movie in Japan, where action-packed blockbusters or animation based on popular manga comics or spectacular special effects have drawn audiences in the past.

But the movie's theme explores something intrinsically Japanese and hit a raw nerve in a country where soul-searching about national pride is on the rise amid a widespread perception that economic and political clout is on the decline.

Being an outsider was the theme that jumped out for tourism science scholar Yosuke Kon.

"The Kabuki world seems very special, but a Kabuki kind of mentality exists in many places in Japan," he told The Associated Press, noting a closed mentality is prevalent in



A person walks by a poster of film 'Kokuho,' in Tokyo, on Aug. 29, 2025. (AP)

the village, as well as local governments he has worked with.

"Many people can relate to the film," he added.

The film is dominated by stage scenes from Kabuki, an art form dating to the 17th century, which combines stylized dance and acting to live music. It's been stereotyped as catering to old people, as younger generations turn to Western and modern forms of entertainment like boys' bands, baseball games and streaming services.

In Kabuki, all the roles are played by men, wearing thick makeup and elaborate kimono, delivering sing-song lines in tales of intrigue and violence set in the samurai era.

The film shows the dazzling esoteric elements of Kabuki, such as the backstage where actors apply makeup with their fingertips, or the flutter of paper snowflakes or flower petals on the stage.

It also reenacts the biggest hits of Kabuki - "Musume Do-joji," in which a vengeful love turns a woman into a serpent, and "Sagi Musume," whereby a heron dances taking the form of woman, a sort of Kabukiesque "Swan Lake."

As with many younger Japanese, Sara Akino, a singer,

hardly ever goes to the movies, but she was glad she went.

"It's about living so true to yourself you are putting your life on the line," she said.

People's reactions varied, with everyone seeming to get something slightly different out of it.

"The beauty of the cinematography was utterly amazing," said Miho Anzai, a nutritionist, who saw the film after hearing so much about it. She was especially impressed with the younger actors who portrayed the characters as children.

"The work was superb in how realistically Kabuki actors and their fiercely strict yet delicate aesthetic were portrayed," she said.

Hiroyuki Okada, a teacher in the traditional "ikebana" flower arrangement, said the film gave him a sense of satisfaction as though he had seen high quality theater, and that the characters seemed to represent light and darkness, or the Asian duality of "yin and yang."

"I felt the work depicted a tasteful pursuit of madness," he said.

The success of the film has sparked interest in the two-volume best-selling book by Shuichi Yoshida it is based on. Yoshida worked as a stagehand for several years to learn the workings of Kabuki.

The film has been brought to the screen by acclaimed director Sang-il Lee, whose credits include the 2007 award-winning film "Hula Girls" and the 2022 Apple TV series "Pachinko," as well as the Japanese-language version of Clint Eastwood's "Unforgiven."

Cinematographer Sofian El Fani, a Tunisian who worked on the Palme d'Or-winning "Blue is the Warmest Color," presents mesmerizing closeups that highlight the inner turmoil of the characters. His camera angles give a delightfully new and pensive perspective on Kabuki, whose official footage tends to make a point of showing full-body shots.

Lee was deeply moved to see people watching his film, glued to the screen. The scene was straight out of the movies, he recalled.

"There the barriers of generations were gone, living proof that everyone is searching for the moment that truly touches our emotions, knowing how beautiful those tears that flow for no reason can be," he said in a statement. "Films are so wonderful. They are worth the fight."

Film



This image released by Mime Films/Tanit Films shows Nesbat Sarha, (from left), Motaz Malhees, Saja Kilani and Clara Khoury in a scene from 'The Voice of Hind Rajab.' (AP)

6-year-old's final call inspires Venice film

Gaza tragedy told in ‘Voice of Hind Rajab’

VENICE, Italy, Sept 3, (AP): In January 2024, a 6-year-old girl trapped inside a bullet-riddled car in Gaza City begged for someone to rescue her. Contact was lost with the first ambulance. Hind Rajab, five family members and two medics were found dead 12 days later.

The impact of the story, and the audio of Hind's voice from that call, has been vast, inspiring songs, protest movements and now a film from Tunisian filmmaker Kaouthar Ben Hania.

"The Voice of Hind Rajab," which debuts Wednesday at the Venice Film Festival, is a shattering document of the Israel-Hamas war, set entirely inside the dispatch center of the Palestine Red Crescent Society rescue service. The film uses the real audio of Hind's call, while actors portray the first responders.

"When you hear her voice you feel powerless," Ben Hania told The Associated Press recently.

Hind's cousin, Layan, who was in the car, had told family members that Israeli forces were firing on them before she was killed. The Red Crescent said Israeli troops fired on its ambulance. Asked for comment, the military said the incident is "still being reviewed," without elaborating.

Listening to the audio, which was shared widely on social media in the 12 days after the Red Crescent lost contact with its medics and Hind, Ben Hania said she felt like she needed to do something, to help the innocent voice she was hearing.

"I felt like she was asking me to rescue her," Ben Hania said. "It's not rational what I'm saying, because I knew the tragedy already happened. I asked of myself, 'What I can do,' and I only know one thing: how to tell stories."

Her resolve intensified after she heard the full recordings of the calls that day. The urgent imperative to make the film meant that she would have to put another project, which she was preparing to shoot, on hold, and work more quickly than

she ever had before.

"There was kind of an emergency that I was feeling and I contaminated everybody," she said.

Her first step was to talk to Hind's mother, Wissam Hamadah, who gave her blessing and told her all about her daughter, from her love of the sea to her dreams of being a dentist. Then Ben Hania went about gathering her cast, including Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Clara Khoury and Amer Hlehel. It was important to her that her actors were Palestinian.

In some ways, everything was there for her to draw on with the real transcripts. She just needed to find a cinematic way to do it, and the language of movies was available to her. Here was, in essence, a rescue mission, full of urgency, high emotions and frustrating bureaucratic red tape, that plays out like a Hollywood thriller, without a happy Hollywood ending.

Fiction

"What is happening in this story and in Gaza in general, is something that is beyond fiction," Ben Hania said. "I didn't have to invent anything, which is crazy. The story, the recording, starts with her cousin dying. And now there is another child who we must rescue."

One thing she didn't want to show was a little girl trapped in a shot-out car full of dead bodies. Ben Hania's camera stays purposefully put inside the Red Crescent.

"For me, it wasn't very interesting to show the images of the horror because we see them all over the internet. It doesn't mean that they have no impact, but it's like the world became insensitive," Ben Hania said. "The choice to tell the story from this perspective for me was the best way. I felt like I was given something sacred, the voice of this little girl."

The making of the film was emotional for everyone. It wasn't uncommon for the crew members to be in tears. Then

"Raising Readers" campaign.

"Through community and collaboration, we hope to ignite children's imaginations and remind them of the endless joy and possibility that reading for fun can bring," Witherspoon said in a statement released Tuesday. (AP)

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PARIS: French film star Gérard Depardieu has been ordered to stand trial before a criminal court in Paris over allegations of rape and sexual assault against actor Charlotte Arnould.

"I feel relieved," Arnould, 29, wrote on Instagram on Tuesday, announcing that she had received the investigating judge's indictment order. "The order restores a form of judicial truth. I think I'm having trouble realizing how huge this is."

Arnould has said that the alleged crimes took place at Depardieu's Paris home on Aug. 7 and Aug. 13, 2018. She was 22 and he was 69 at the time. He has denied wrongdoing.

"The acts of rape and sexual assault have been acknowledged," Arnould said. "Now, we await the next steps."

No date for the trial has been set yet, and there was no official comment from the court.

Arnould's lawyer, Carine Durrieu-Diebolt, said in a statement that she and Arnould were "relieved and confident," describing the decision as a "moment of judicial truth" in the case, pending trial. (AP)

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NEW YORK: Drake is betting big on Jannik Sinner, wagering \$300,000 on the top-ranked men's tennis player in the world to win the US Open.

The rapper known for placing big bets on sporting events - and often losing them - posted on social media the screenshot of a betting slip from Tuesday afternoon. The six-figure gamble pays \$507,000 if Sinner captures his fifth major championship and second at the U.S. Open.

The so-called Drake Curse has been blamed for several losses over the past few years, including \$210,000 on American Taylor Fritz to beat Sinner in the 2024 U.S. Open final. According to a website tracking Drake's announced bets and the curse, he is down \$115,000 on tennis after cutting his losses by successfully picking Sinner to win the Australian Open final in January. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Oscar-winning actor and book club impresario Reese Witherspoon is teaming up with her publisher, Hachette Book Group, on a literary campaign.

Starting this fall, new audio books from Nathan Harris, Patricia Cornwell and other Hachette fiction authors will include a message from Witherspoon urging parents to read to their children at least 10 minutes a day, visit libraries and bookstores and perhaps even form a book club. Witherspoon's own club has helped boost sales for such choices as R.F. Kuang's "Yellowface," Ann Patchett's "Tom Lake" and Emily Henry's "Great Big Beautiful Life."

The initiative with Witherspoon is part of Hachette's



Witherspoon

NBC announces cast shake-up for upcoming season

5 new cast members join ‘SNL’ after high-profile departures

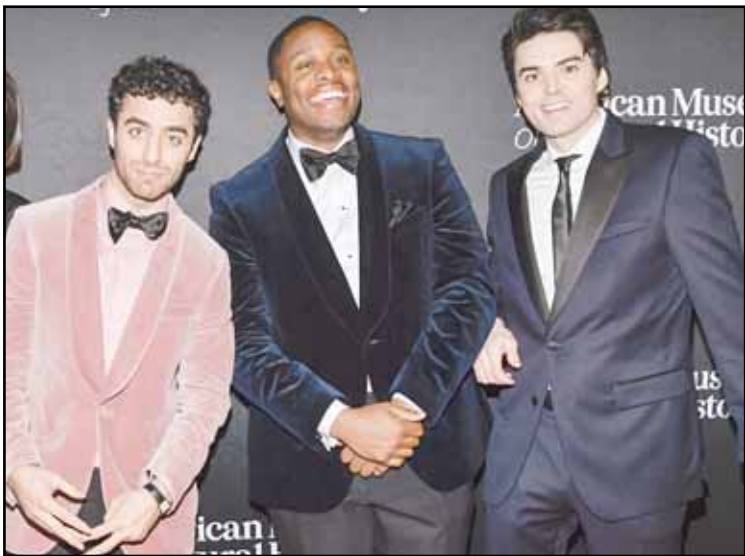
NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): Five new cast members will join the upcoming season of “Saturday Night Live,” NBC announced Tuesday on the heels of several high-profile departures.

Ben Marshall, already an “SNL” writer, will become a featured player, along with newcomers Tommy Brennan, Jeremy Culhane, Kam Patterson and Veronika Slowikowska.

The additions follow a string of cast departures in the past month as the storied program prepares for its 51st season. Devon Walker, Emil Wakim and Michael Longfellow confirmed last week on their social media accounts that they are leaving the show. Multiple news outlets reported that cast mainstay Heidi Gardner was also departing the show, but neither Gardner nor NBC have publicly confirmed.

“SNL” creator Lorne Michaels previously said he anticipated changes following the show’s historic 50th season. No cast members had announced their departure following the season’s conclusion. In an interview with Puck that ran last month, Michaels answered “yes” when asked if he expected to “shake things up.”

“It’ll be announced in a week or so,”



Emil Wakim, (from left), Devon Walker and Michael Longfellow appear at the American Museum of Natural History’s Museum Gala in New York on Dec. 5, 2024. (AP)

he said then.

Michaels told Puck at least one cast member was certain to be back: James Austin Johnson, who plays President Donald Trump.

Since its debut in 1975, the NBC program has reinvented itself often, with performers over the past 50 years ranging from John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd to Kate McKinnon and

Kenan Thompson. The 51st season will premiere Oct. 4.

Here’s a look at the “SNL” members confirmed to be leaving and joining the show so far.

All new cast members will be joining the show as featured players.

Marshall first joined the “SNL” writing staff in 2021, along with the other members of his comedy trio, Please Don’t Destroy. Digital shorts from Please Don’t Destroy, which includes John Higgins and Martin Herlihy, have been featured on “SNL” for the past four seasons. The group is currently on tour together. (Higgins confirmed Tuesday he is departing the “SNL” writing staff.)

Brennan has performed on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” and was selected as a Just for Laughs New Face of Comedy in 2023. Culhane, a regular on Dropout TV, is known for his viral videos and also performs with the Upright Citizens Brigade in Los Angeles.

Patterson is a regular on the live comedy podcast “Kill Tony,” hosted by Tony Hinchcliffe. The stand-up comedian also appears in Netflix’s “72 Hours.”

Slowikowska, known for her viral

online comedy sketches, has appeared in “Tires” and “What We Do in the Shadows.”

Longfellow confirmed his departure on Instagram on Thursday. He first joined the show as a featured player in 2022 and was promoted the previous season.

Longfellow wrote on Instagram that he wishes he could’ve stayed on, adding that his three seasons on the show were “the best three years of my life so far. I feel nothing but gratitude for the experience and everyone there. Lorne, you gave me the greatest job in the world and changed my life. You even put my mom on TV. Thank you doesn’t begin to cover it, but thank you.”

The actor and comedian had some successful stints on the “Weekend Update” segment of the show.

On Wednesday, Wakim announced he wouldn’t be returning, and indicated he had been let go, calling it “a gut punch of a call to get.” Unlike Longfellow and Walker, members of the more established repertory player group, Wakim was a featured player who joined the show just last season.

“every time i scanned into the building i would think how insane it is to

get to work there. it was the most terrifying, thrilling, and rewarding experience of my life and i will miss it dearly and all the brilliant people that work there that made it feel like a home,” he wrote in an all-lowercase Instagram post that thanked “SNL” creator Lorne Michaels.

“i was so lucky to bring some of myself in there and say things i believed in and i’m excited for whatever chapter comes next,” Wakim wrote. “here’s to making more art without compromise.”

Walker announced his departure from the show in an Instagram post last Monday.

“Me and the show did three years together, and sometimes it was really cool,” Walker wrote. “Sometimes it was toxic as hell. But we did what we made the most of what it was, even amidst all of the dysfunction.”

Walker, whose repertory of characters included Eric Adams, was promoted last year.

The note in his post was titled: “wait ... did he quit or did he get fired?”

“SNL” writer Celeste Yim announced they were leaving after five seasons, while Rosebud Baker is leaving after four seasons on the show.

People

‘Ketamine Queen’

Cardi B cleared in assault case

LOS ANGELES, Sept 3, (AP): A jury gave **Cardi B** a quick and absolute victory Tuesday at a trial in the lawsuit of a security guard who alleged the rap star assaulted her at a doctor’s office during her then-secret first pregnancy.

The jury of six men and six women at a small courthouse in Alhambra, California deliberated for only about an hour before finding Cardi not liable in the lawsuit brought by Emani Ellis, who alleged Cardi cut her face with a fingernail and spat on her in the hallway of a Beverly Hills obstetrician in February of 2018.

Only nine of the 12 jurors were required for a verdict in the civil case, but their decision in Cardi’s favor was unanimous.

“The next person who tries to do a frivolous lawsuit against me, I’m going to counter-sue, and I’m gonna make you pay, because this is not OK,” she said outside the courthouse, where she posed for pictures with fans. “I am not that celeb that you sue, and you think is going to settle. I’m not gonna settle. Especially when I’m super completely innocent.”

She said she had to miss her kids’ first day of school because of the trial, and said her forehead was “raw, raw, raw” after all the elaborate wig changes during the trial that at one point even left her lawyer confused over which was her real hair. (None of them were, she said with a laugh.)



Cardi B

During a lunchbreak before the verdict Tuesday in a moment captured by cameras from several media outlets, she threw a marker she was using for autographs at a man who shouted questions to her about whether she was currently pregnant, and who the father is. She called the questions disrespectful.

In two days of testimony last week that were livestreamed, widely viewed and full of viral moments, the hip-hop star testified she feared that Ellis was going to make her pregnancy public. She acknowledged that the two argued, but said it never got physical.

“I will say it on my deathbed. I did not touch that woman,” she said after her win. “I did not touch that girl. I didn’t lay my hands on that girl.”

Ron Rosen Janfaza, the lawyer for the plaintiff Ellis, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. He said outside court that they plan to appeal the decision.

After several days off, the trial resumed with closing arguments earlier Tuesday.

Janfaza told jurors that Ellis, who had hoped to work in law enforcement or something similar, “lost her future” along with her job over the incident.

“Whether it’s the FBI, police, attorney, whatever she wanted to do, this incident cut it off,” he said in his closing argument. “No more, because of the trauma she sustained.”

He also called out the profanity Cardi freely used during her testimony, suggesting she had scorn for the proceedings.



A woman who has come to be known as the “Ketamine Queen” is set to plead guilty Wednesday to selling Matthew Perry the drug that killed him.

Jasveen Sangha is scheduled to change her previous not guilty plea at a federal court in Los Angeles and would become the fifth and final defendant charged in the overdose death of the “Friends” star to plead guilty after a deal with prosecutors.

She agreed in a signed statement to plead to five federal charges, including providing the ketamine that led to Perry’s death. Her trial had been planned to start later this month.

In a brief statement when the deal was announced on Aug. 18, Sangha’s lawyer Mark Geragos said only, “She’s taking responsibility for her actions.”

Prosecutors had cast Sangha, a 42-year-old citizen of the U.S. and the U.K., as a prolific drug dealer who was known to her customers as the “Ketamine Queen,” using the term often in press releases and court documents.

Her guilty pleas are set to include one count of maintaining a drug-involved premises, three counts of distribution of ketamine, and one count of distribution of ketamine resulting in death.

Prosecutors agreed to drop three other counts related to the distribution of ketamine, and one count of distribution of methamphetamine that was unrelated to the Perry case.

The final plea deal came a year after federal prosecutors announced that five people had been charged in Perry’s Oct. 28, 2023 death after a sweeping investigation.

If Sangha pleads guilty as planned, a judge will schedule sentencing for Sangha. She could get up to 45 years in prison. The judge is not bound to follow any terms of the plea agreement, but prosecutors said in the document that they will ask for less than the maximum. None of the co-defendants have been sentenced yet.

Fashion



A model wears the creation Bitte_Ruhe by Russian designer Ksenia Kudryashova during the Moscow Fashion Week at Zaryadye park in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday, Sept. 2. (AP)

Fashion czar to stay in charge of magazine

Wintour taps Malle as Vogue successor

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): Anna Wintour ended weeks of fashion-world speculation Tuesday when she named Chloe Malle her successor as head of editorial content at Vogue - but the most powerful person in the business isn’t going anywhere.

Wintour, 75, remains chief content officer for Condé Nast and global editorial director of American Vogue and the magazine’s 27 other editions. Malle, editor of Vogue.com, may be stepping into Wintour’s low-heeled slingbacks but she’ll report to the original wearer while taking over day-to-day editorial and creative operations at the U.S. edition. And gone is the storied “editor-in-chief” title that Wintour held for nearly 40 years.

Malle, 39, is the daughter of actor Candice Bergen and the late French director Louis Malle. She joined Vogue as social editor in 2011, moved on to contributing editor in 2016 and has held her current position since 2023. She steered all digital content for Vogue. In June, Malle interviewed the then-Lauren Sánchez ahead of her wedding to Jeff Bezos.

“Vogue has already shaped who I am, now I’m excited at the prospect of shaping Vogue,” Malle said in the announcement.

Since late June, when Wintour told staff that she was giving up her title, a handful of names to succeed her were tossed around. Among them were Eva Chen, vice president of fashion partnerships at Meta; Nicole Phelps, global director of Vogue Runway and Vogue Business; and Sara Mooney, editor-in-chief of W magazine.

Other names that floated about soon after the job went up for grabs are Vogue’s fashion news director Mark Holgate, British Vogue’s head of editorial content Chioma Nnadi and



Vogue editor Anna Wintour attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute benefit gala on May 6, 2019, in New York. (AP)

Vogue.com’s digital style director Leah Faye Cooper. Malle and Nnadi co-host the Vogue podcast, “The Run-Through with Vogue.”

The news that Malle got the job comes ahead of the latest round of shows at New York Fashion Week, starting next week, and amid the Venice Film Festival, which includes a new documentary about her father. Her appointment is effective immediately. Malle’s mother, funnily enough, once played Vogue editor-in-chief Enid Frick on “Sex and the City” with some very Wintour-like characteristics.

Malle, a Brown graduate and mother of two young kids, has been outspoken about her liberal-leaning politics, just as Wintour has.

“I actually love working with Anna, because I love someone telling me exactly what needs to be done and exactly what she thinks about something,” Malle said in a recent pro-

file by the Independent. “There’s no indecision. There’s no ambiguity.”

Vogue was founded as a society journal 134 years ago. After Condé Nast acquired it in 1909, it became a traditional industry mainstay with models on the cover, static close-up photography done in studios and a focus on high fashion and heavy makeup.

Wintour, a risk-taker who took over the title in 1988, saw the mass appeal in a broader approach. She expanded international editions, elevated fashion’s connections to pop culture and began putting celebrities, athletes, music stars and politicians on the covers. Wintour went for a high-low approach to fashion and favored storytelling in photo shoots done outdoors.

She embraced then-emerging designers, including Marc Jacobs, John Galliano and Alexander McQueen, through initiatives like the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund. And she transformed the Met Gala from a small, private fundraiser to a global event and fashion’s most important night.

Considered the fashion bible, American Vogue has had several notable editors throughout its history. Preceding Wintour were Diana Vreeland (1963 to 1971) and Grace Mirabella (1971 to 1988), among others.

“Chloe has proven often that she can find the balance between American Vogue’s long, singular history and its future on the front lines of the new,” Wintour said in the statement on Malle’s appointment.

Under Malle’s leadership, direct traffic to Vogue.com doubled, with massive growth across all key metrics, according to the statement on her new job. Site traffic now consistently reaches 14.5 million unique visitors monthly.

ion journey during fittings in Paris for their looks. Moretz, a Louis Vuitton ambassador, thanked Ghesquière and the fashion house as she showed off their design duds:

“Thank you doesn’t even begin to cut it, but, thank you. Your vision made our day all the more meaningful. x”

Moretz wore long blue gloves and a matching veil with her look featuring spaghetti straps and a bodice ruffle. Harrison’s gown included a bit of sparkle in all-over flowing embroidery. She wore a birdcage veil around her face that went long at the back.

Moretz got her start as a child star. She

went on to star in “Carrie” and “The Miseducation of Cameron Post.” Harrison has modeled for J. Crew and Topshop.

They confirmed their engagement on New Year’s Day by showing off their diamond rings, choosing a Victorian vibe for both from Elizabeth Potts at Moon Stone.

“We are overwhelmed in a good



Moretz

way,” Moretz told Vogue while sitting in a hair and makeup chair in Paris just before seeing her completed wedding gown and the couple’s white after-party looks for the first time.

Moretz wore a custom jacket and trousers for the after-party, a white cowboy hat on her head. The ensemble was inspired by a 2019 Louis Vuitton runway look. She explained to Vogue:

“I remember seeing the runway version, and it had this cowboy hat, and to (now) see it created to my proportions, it’s just so beautiful. And a little bit of ‘Yee-haw, baby!’” (AP)

Obit

Indigenous star

Actor Graham Greene dead

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): **Graham Greene**, a trailblazing Indigenous actor whose long and successful career on the big and small screen included an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Kicking Bird in “Dances with Wolves,” has died. He was 73.

Greene died Monday in Stratford, Ontario, after a long battle with an unspecified illness. Variety first reported the news on Monday night. A representative for Greene did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

Born in June 1952 in Ohsweken, Ontario, on Canada’s Six Nations Reserve, Greene worked as a draftsman, high steelworker, welder and carpenter before becoming an actor in the 1970s, beginning with the 1979 Canadian drama series “The Great Detective” and 1983 film “Running Brave.”

He is best known for his landmark role as Kicking Bird in the 1990 film “Dances with Wolves.” Greene’s 1991 Oscar nomination was one of 12 the movie earned. It won seven, including the top prize of best picture and best director for Kevin Costner. Greene also starred as Arlen Bitterback in the 1999 Tom Hanks project, “The Green Mile.”

Greene had a storied career, also appearing in 1994’s “Maverick,” 1995’s “Die Hard with a Vengeance,” 2012’s “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2” and 2017’s “Wind River.” He also acted in many critically acclaimed television programs, including “Reservation Dogs,” “1883,”



Greene

“The Last of Us” and “Tulsa King.”

In 2000, Greene’s “Listen to the Storyteller” won a Grammy for best spoken word album for children. He also starred as elder Chief Rains Fall in the massively popular 2018 video game “Red Dead Redemption 2.”

He was also nominated for an Independent Spirit award for the 2002 film “Skins,” which documented life on the Lakota Sioux reservation.

Greene broke barriers for Native actors, demonstrating through his singular talent that Indigenous stories should and must be told by them.

Tributes poured in. “Graham Greene was one of the best to ever do it. He lived on the screen in an absolutely unparalleled way. He made everything he was in better. Funnier. Deeper. Memorable,” “Killers of the Flower Moon” star Lily Gladstone wrote on Instagram. “It’s hard to find any suitable words to express what his work meant, but his impact is unparalleled and expansive. I wish I could have met him. I probably would have thanked him.”

New achievement in research and innovation

Kuwait experts patent new sleep apnea test

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: A team of researchers from the Dasman Diabetes Institute, established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has obtained a patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for the development of a new test used to diagnose sleep apnea. This achievement reflects the institute’s strategic direction toward promoting applied research and innovation to benefit community health.

This patent is based on the development of a qualitative blood test that enables early detection of this common health disorder, which is directly linked to serious complications if not treated in a timely manner, such as the development of type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, including angina and heart attacks. This patent is the first of three currently under development to be completed.

It is worth noting that this innovation is the result of the tireless efforts



The Dasman Diabetes Institute team secures USPTO patent for sleep apnea test.

of Dr. Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Al-Turki, Consultant Otorhinolaryngologist and Head and Neck Surgeon at the Ministry of Health and Chair

of the College of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialties (KIMS). He actively par-

ticipated in the development of this invention in partnership with the research team at the Dasman Diabetes Institute, under the supervision of Professor Fahad Al-Mulla, Chief Scientific Officer at the Institute, and with the support of Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Refaei, Acting Director General of the Institute.

This success is the result of a distinguished institutional collaboration between the Dasman Diabetes Institute and the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, under the umbrella of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), which is making pivotal efforts to enhance the scientific research and innovation environment in Kuwait. The Foundation adopts an integrated strategy aimed at supporting Kuwaiti scientists and researchers, empowering young talent, and launching advanced programs to enhance the quality of scientific research, contributing to community development and strengthening Kuwait’s scientific standing at the regional and international levels.

Early help can change mental health outcomes

Mind matters: Understanding mental health

By Dr. Neethu Mariam Chacko, MD
Specialist psychiatrist, Fawzia Sultan Health Clinic

You are at a family gathering when your relative suddenly clutches his chest in pain. Within seconds, someone dials an ambulance, another rushes for water, and others gather to comfort him. Everyone knows what to do, because we are all taught that first aid saves lives.

A teenager at the same gathering quietly withdraws, avoiding food and conversation. Later, she whispers to a friend, “I don’t want to live anymore.” What happens then? Often nothing. Silence, awkward glances, quick change of subject or perhaps even a harsh like “Don’t say such nonsense” is what we see in such situations. The silence or the awkward glances are not just uncomfortable, but dangerous too.

Stigma keeps people suffering in dark. Many of them hide their struggles in fear of being judged. Employees fear discrimination at workplace if the mental health issues are being known to others. Some pretend to be fine while quietly crumbling inside. Many of us are not aware about mental health issues, a person with depression may be mistaken as a weak person, and a person with anxiety as overreactive. Mental health disorders can be considered as an illness of the brain which causes disturbances in thinking, behavior, energy or emotions and that make it difficult to meet the ordinary demands of life.

According to WHO, one in four people worldwide will face a mental health condition in their life time. Mental health problems are as real as physical prob-



Dr. Neethu Mariam Chacko

lems. Mental health problems should be addressed immediately like we do with physical emergencies. It is essential to provide immediate and appropriate help in stages of mental health crisis. Mental health issues are often viewed as invisible even when their impact on people’s life can be serious. It really matters to know more about mental health.

Why it matters?

It has been seen that many people wait for months or years before seeking psychiatric help. But we should be aware that early support can bring about marked changes in the outcome of the mental health condition.

When communities normalize the conversations about mental health, peo-

ple feel more safer to open up. They will not tend to hide their struggles from families, friends or colleagues.

Sometimes, when our dear ones approach us to seek help in their mental health struggles, most of us lack the knowledge of how to respond.

How to support a person in mental health crisis?

You do not need to fix everything, but your presence and care can make a difference in their lives. Some of the warning signs that you should notice in your loved ones are,

- Withdrawal from the family, friends or daily activities.
- Persistent changes in mood and energy levels.
- Constant anxiety or worries.
- Drastic disturbances in sleep, food intake.
- Losing interest in work, school, daily life.
- Talking about hopelessness, helplessness or death.
- Neglecting personal hygiene or personal responsibilities.
- Aggressive or risky behaviors that are unlike them.
- Decline in work or school performance.

Recognizing the warning signs of mental health struggles earlier and responding with calm and compassion is needed. A small message or visit that makes them feel that they are being taken care of matters a lot. Ask them gently “You don’t seem yourself. Do you want to talk?” It sprouts hope in them. Give them space to express their feeling without judging them.

Though it does not replace doctors

or therapists, it ensures that someone in distress is not left alone or silenced. When we normalize conversations about mental health, people feel safer asking help. It empowers them to take care of the mind just as they do to the body.

If they find it difficult to express their feelings, let them know that you are there till they are ready. Reassure them that they are not alone. Stay calm while listening to them, though it might be distressing to see your loved ones in struggles. Mental health conditions like depression or anxiety are not flaws of the person, they are medical conditions. Reassure them and offer them to seek help when they are ready.

There may be times when your family member, friend or colleagues needs urgent help. If your loved ones are having thoughts or ideas of harming themselves or others, it needs medical attention. Stay with them and guide them to seek immediate help.

Raising awareness about mental health is not just about reducing stigma but also about saving lives. When communities understand that mental health is as vital as physical health, more people feel encouraged to seek help early and to support those in need. At the same time, everyone should know how to respond in a mental health crisis like to stay calm, listen with empathy, ensure immediate safety, and connect the person to professional help without delay. Awareness gives us the knowledge, and crisis response gives us the tools, to stand by those who are struggling. Together, these steps create a society where no one has to face mental health challenges alone.

Kuwait records over 4,200 heart-related deaths

Weight-loss drug cuts heart risk by 57%

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Data presented at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress shows that Semaglutide 2.4 mg cuts risk of heart attack, stroke or death by 57% compared to tirzepatide in real-world study of people with obesity and cardiovascular disease

Cardiovascular diseases are consistently ranked among the leading causes of death in Kuwait. MOH Annual Health Reports document that circulatory diseases account for a substantial proportion of total mortality.

International estimates complement these findings. The World Heart Observatory (based on IHME data) reported that Kuwait recorded 4,201 deaths attributable to cardiovascular diseases in 2021, corresponding to an age-standardised mortality rate of 168 per 100,000.

Compared with tirzepatide, semaglutide 2.4 mg showed a significant 57% reduction in the risk for heart attack, stroke or death from any cause, in people with overweight or obesity and cardiovascular disease (CVD) who stayed on treatment.

Similarly, the study showed a significant 29% reduction in the risk for heart attack, stroke and death from any cause in the semaglutide 2.4 mg users compared with tirzepatide users in all treated people, regardless of any gaps in their treatment!

This study adds to growing evidence suggesting that the heart-protective benefits seen with semaglutide 2.4 mg are specific to the semaglutide molecule and therefore cannot be extended to other GLP-1 or GIP/GLP-1-based treatments.

Novo Nordisk today presented data from the STEER real-world study of evidence gathered from actual patient experiences at the European Society of

Cardiology (ESC) Congress 2025 in Madrid, Spain. The STEER study investigated the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) with semaglutide 2.4 mg compared with tirzepatide treatment in people with overweight or obesity and established CVD without diabetes.

Compared with tirzepatide, semaglutide 2.4 mg showed a significant 57% greater risk reduction for heart attack, stroke and cardiovascular-related death or death from any cause, in people with overweight or obesity and CVD, who did not have any gaps in their treatment lasting more than 30 days. There were 15 (0.1%) of these cardiovascular events recorded with semaglutide 2.4 mg, and 39 events (0.4%) recorded with tirzepatide. The average follow-up duration was 3.8 months for the semaglutide 2.4 mg group and 4.3 months for the tirzepatide group.

In all treated people, regardless of any gaps in their treatment, semaglutide 2.4 mg showed a significant 29% risk reduction for heart attack, stroke and death from any cause compared with tirzepatide (over an average follow-up of 8.3 months for semaglutide 2.4 mg and 8.6 months for tirzepatide).

“Our landmark trial, SELECT, showed that Wegovy® is associated with a significant 20% risk reduction of cardiovascular events, backed up with even greater risk reductions in the real-world studies SCORE and STEER. The results are clear – STEER demonstrates that Wegovy® cuts the risk of heart attack, stroke or death by 57% compared to tirzepatide,” said Ludovic Helfgott, executive vice president and head of Product & Portfolio Strategy at Novo Nordisk. “This data confirms that semaglu-

tide stands apart as the only available GLP-1-based medication with proven cardiovascular benefits for people living with obesity and cardiovascular disease, without diabetes.”

Additionally, in all treated people, regardless of any gaps in their treatment, people treated with semaglutide 2.4 mg experienced fewer events of heart attack, stroke and cardiovascular-related death, than people treated with tirzepatide.

Every year, almost 21 million people die from CVD, which is the leading cause of disability and death worldwide. Obesity directly leads to cardiovascular morbidity, mortality and hospitalisation. While cardiovascular mortality has decreased over the past two decades, obesity-related cardiovascular deaths have increased significantly, with two in three obesity-related deaths being linked to CVD.

Real-world studies of evidence gathered from actual patient experiences can complement randomised control trials, which are the gold standard for evaluating the safety and efficacy of a treatment. STEER was a retrospective, observational real-world study, evaluating the efficacy of semaglutide 2.4 mg versus tirzepatide for the prevention of MACE in US adults with overweight or obesity and established CVD with no prior history of diabetes, with a primary outcome measure of revised 5-point MACE (heart attack, stroke, hospitalisation for heart failure, coronary revascularisation, and death from any cause) and revised 3-point MACE (heart attack, stroke and death from any cause). Non-revised 5-point and 3-point MACE was also studied, which included cardiovascular-related death rather than death from any cause.

‘Huntsville chosen for mission readiness’

Trump announces that Space Command is moving from Colorado to Alabama

WASHINGTON, Aug 3, (AP): President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that US Space Command will be located in Alabama, reversing a Biden-era decision to keep it at its temporary headquarters in Colorado.

The long-expected decision from Trump caps a four-year tug of war between two states and opposing administrations about where to locate US Space Command, an intense fight because the headquarters would be a significant boon to the local economy. Alabama and Colorado have long battled to claim Space Command, with elected officials from both states asserting their state is the better location.

“The US Space Command headquarters will move to the beautiful locale of a place called Huntsville, Alabama, forever to be known from this point forward as Rocket City,” said Trump, repeating a nickname the city has used for decades already because of its early role in NASA and the US space program. “We had a lot of competition for this and Alabama’s getting it,” added the president, flanked in the Oval Office by Republican members of Alabama’s congressional delegation.

Trump said Huntsville won the race for the Space Command headquarters, in part, because “they fought harder for it than anybody else.”

GOP Sen. Tommy Tuberville, who is running for governor of Alabama, said Huntsville is the “perfect place” for the headquarters and suggested it be named after Trump. And Alabama Republican Sen. Katie Britt, who stood next to Trump during the announcement, thanked Trump for “restoring Space Command to its rightful home.”

“The Biden administration chose to make this political,” she said. “What we want to do is put the safety and security of Americans first. We want to make sure our American war fighter is put first.”

The Associated Press reported earlier Tuesday that the president would announce the move at the White House after a Pentagon website set up to livestream the remarks described the event hours in advance as a “US Space Command HQ Announcement.”

US Space Command said in a statement on X after the announcement that it “stands ready to carry out the direction of the President following today’s announcement of Hunts-



President Donald Trump speaks during an event about the relocation of US Space Command headquarters from Colorado to Alabama in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Sept. 2, in Washington. (AP)

ville, Alabama, as the command’s permanent headquarters location.” Its functions include conducting operations like enabling satellite-based navigation and troop communication and providing warning of missile launches.

Medical milestone

Kuwait hospital conducts 30 successful kidney transplants

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait’s state-owned Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital carried out 30 successful kidney transplant procedures during August in a medical achievement announced by the Ministry of Health.

This latest figure has outnumbered the usual monthly record of roughly 17 renal transplants, which reflects the health system’s capability of expanding complicated and critical services with high efficiency, the ministry said in a press release on Monday.

This medical accomplishment also shows the ministry’s com-

mitment to promoting Kuwait’s status in the field of transplanting human organs and augmenting specialized medical services, it added.

The record figure of kidney transplants is deemed the fruit of integrated national efforts exerted by Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital’s different departments and pioneering medical centers, the ministry noted.

It also commended this achievement as an additional step towards Kuwait’s endeavor to establish its position as a pioneering regional medical hub within the framework of Kuwait Vision 2035.



Palestinians struggle to get donated food at a community kitchen in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, Monday, Sept. 1. (AP)

Jordan helps Gaza amputees

Gaza famine intensifies as 185 Palestinians die

GAZA, Sept 3, (Agencies): Gaza’s health authorities said Tuesday that 185 people died from malnutrition in August, the highest in months, underscoring a rapidly worsening famine.

Since the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declared Gaza in famine, 70 people - among them 12 children - have died.

About 43,000 malnourished children under five and more than 55,000 affected pregnant and breastfeeding women; 67 percent of pregnant women have anemia, the worst rate in years, the authorities reported.

Officials warned that limited emergency response and shortages of food and medicine require urgent intervention to stem the humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, British officials are working to get critically sick and injured children out of Gaza so they can receive specialist treatment in UK hospitals, the British foreign secretary said Monday, adding that the first patients will arrive in coming weeks.

David Lammy said he was “outraged” by Israel not allowing enough aid to enter Gaza as he announced 15 million pounds (\$20 million) more for medical assistance for Gaza and the region.

“This is not a natural disaster, it’s a manmade famine in the 21st century,” he said. “I’m outraged by the Israeli government’s refusal to allow in sufficient aid.”

“We all know there is only one way out - an immediate ceasefire,” Lammy added.

He told lawmakers that British officials are also supporting students from Gaza who have been granted scholarships at UK universities so that they

can start their studies in the fall.

Lammy said a “massive humanitarian response” was needed to prevent more Palestinians from dying and starving after the world’s leading authority on food crises said in late August that the Gaza Strip’s largest city is in the grips of famine.

He did not give specifics about the number of sick children or scholars that Britain is accepting from Gaza. But Home Secretary Yvette Cooper told Parliament on Monday that officials are expediting visas for those Palestinians, as well as their accompanying families, as amputees.

A Jordanian field hospital in southern Gaza has fitted 583 prosthetic limbs for amputees since its deployment, the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) said on Monday.

The initiative, overseen by the Royal Medical Services in cooperation with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization and local partners, aims to ease the suffering of amputees and help them return to daily life, according to the statement.

The hospital said each fitting takes about an hour and is provided free of charge. Medical teams also offer physiotherapy, psychological and social support, and guidance on prosthetic care through two mobile clinics.

All procedures are documented electronically via the Hakeem program, allowing patients to follow up remotely with rehabilitation specialists in Jordan.

Jordan dispatched two field hospitals to northern and southern Gaza on Sept. 16, 2024, under the Restoring Hope initiative, launched on royal directives to support thousands of amputees affected by the war, the JAF added.

OpenAI, Meta fix AI chatbots to support teens in distress

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): Artificial intelligence chatbot makers OpenAI and Meta say they are adjusting how their chatbots respond to teenagers asking questions about suicide or showing signs of mental and emotional distress.

OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, said Tuesday it is preparing to roll out new controls enabling parents to link their accounts to their teen’s account.

Parents can choose which

features to disable and “receive notifications when the system detects their teen is in a moment of acute distress,” according to a company blog post that says the changes will go into effect this fall.

Regardless of a user’s age, the company says its chatbots will attempt to redirect the most distressing conversations to more capable AI models that can provide a better response.

South Africa routs England by 7 wickets in first ODI

Poms bowled out for 131



South Africa's Corbin Bosch bowls during the One Day International Series cricket match between England and South Africa at Headingley, Leeds, England. (AP)

LEEDS, England, Sept 3, (AP): England was bowled out for 131 before opener Aiden Markram's 55-ball 86 led South Africa to a seven-wicket win in the first of three one-day internationals between the teams.

The hosts, possibly fatigued from the just-completed domestic Hundred competition, were dismissed in 24.3 overs at Headingley as Keshav Maharaj took 4-22 and Wiaan Mulder 3-33. Opener Jamie Smith top-scored for England with 54 off 48 balls.

South Africa had won the toss and chosen to bowl first after captain Temba Bavuma saw a dry wicket and noted that teams have fared well chasing in Leeds.

The Proteas raced home with 175 balls to spare after hammering 22-year-old fast bowler Sonny Baker, who made his England debut.

Baker, who starred in the recent edition of the Hundred, served up seven wicketless overs for 76 runs - the most expensive figures by an England bowler on ODI debut.

Markram welcomed Baker in the first over by hitting three boundaries



South Africa's Nandre Burger celebrates dismissing England's Ben Duckett during the One Day International Series cricket match between England and South Africa at Headingley, Leeds, England. (AP)

in four deliveries.

Markram was caught by Smith at cover with the winning line only 11 runs away. Adil Rashid (3-26) then also removed Bavuma and Tristan Stubbs before Dewald Brevis' majestic six - with just one run needed - closed it out with the Proteas reaching 137-3.

"It's not good enough. I can't say much more than we've just had a bad day," England captain Harry

Brook said. "Obviously, you want to keep on winning and winning, don't you? But we've mis-executed a lot of our skills today. Nobody wants to come and watch that.

"You've just got to get rid of these games, I'm afraid. We've got to put it behind us as quickly as possible and move on to the next match."

With several squad members involved in the Hundred eliminator and final over the weekend, England held one sparsely attended training session Monday and only came together as a group later that evening.

Brook refused to use that as an explanation.

"In my eyes, that's an excuse. We're not a team that makes excuses up," he said.

"At the end of the day, that batting performance wasn't good enough. I think everybody will hold their hands up and say that."

South Africa was without fast-bowling star Kagiso Rabada because of an ankle injury, while Heinrich Klaasen was missing from the batting lineup after retiring from international cricket this summer.

The second ODI is at Lord's on Thursday and the third takes place in Southampton on Sunday.

Zadran and Atal smash half-centuries

Afghanistan spinners stifle Pakistan for 18-run victory

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Sept 3, (AP): Ibrahim Zadran and Sediqullah Atal smashed successive half-centuries before Afghanistan spinners strangled Pakistan's deep batting lineup to notch an 18-run win in the T20 tri-series.

The spin trio of captain Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad, playing his first game of the tournament, snared six wickets between them to limit Pakistan to 151-9.

Zadran (65) and Atal (64) followed their half-centuries against United Arab Emirates a day ago with an impressive 113-run stand as Afghanistan posted 169-5 after Khan won the toss and elected field.

It was the fourth straight game in the tri-series in which teams successfully defended totals. UAE lost both its games while chasing against Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Haris Rauf's four-wicket haul had led Pakistan to 39-run in the opening game of the tournament, but on Tuesday the No. 10 batter top-scored with 34 not out off 16 balls. Rauf's blitz came too late as Afghanistan spinners had virtually sealed the game by squeezing Pakistan to 111-9 in 17 overs.

Fast bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi set the game for Afghanistan with two wickets inside the powerplay. The left-arm-er struck off his first ball when Saim Ayub feathered a catch off a mis-timed pull shot to wicketkeeper and was dismissed without scoring.

Sahibzada Farhan (18) struck two sixes but was clean bowled by Farooqi off a delivery that nipped back into the right-handed batter and hit the off-stump.

Fakhar Zaman couldn't convert a

good start of 25 runs off 18 balls once the Afghan spinners bowled from both ends. Zaman sliced an easy catch to short third off Nabi and captain Salman Ali Agha was brilliantly run-out by Khan at the non-striker's end.

Hasan Nawaz couldn't clear Ahmad's first ball, a low leg side full toss and was caught at short fine leg before Mohammad Haris' run of poor form continues and he holed out to deep square leg of Nabi as Pakistan stuttered to 82-6 in the 12th over.

Khan then picked the wickets of Mohammad Nawaz off another mistimed shot by a Pakistan batter and rattled the stumps of Shaheen Afridi before Rauf denied Khan the hat trick. Noor then capped a perfect day when he clean bowled Ashraf off his final ball.

Earlier, Zadran and Atal shared a century stand before Ashraf's 4-27 didn't allow Afghanistan to score freely in the death overs.

Both batters joined when Ayub's bowled three economical overs in the powerplay and also accounted for the wicket of Rahmanullah Gurbaz (8) in his first over.

Zadran and Atal paced their partnership well soon after the powerplay with Rauf and the two spinners - Nawaz and Sufiyan Muqeem - conceding 95 runs off their combined eight wicketless overs.

Ashraf picked all his four wickets in the final three overs with Zadran and Atal getting caught in the outfield while deceiving Omarzai and Nabi with his slower deliveries as Afghanistan couldn't accelerate in the final five overs.

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have four points each after three games each while UAE, which faces Pakistan on Thursday, has no points.

Best of the Rest

Sampaoli takes charge of Atletico: Atletico Mineiro has appointed Argentine Jorge Sampaoli as its new head coach, the Brazilian Serie A club said. The 65-year-old signed a deal running until December 2027, according to a statement on Atletico's official website.

He replaces Alexi Stival, better known as Cuca, who was sacked last week after a 2-0 defeat to local rival Cruzeiro in their Copa do Brasil quarterfinal first leg.

Sampaoli had been out of work since leaving France's Stade Rennais in January. (Xinhua)

Ecuadorian winger Arroyo joins Cruzeiro: Cruzeiro has completed the signing of Ecuadorian teenager Keny Arroyo from Besiktas, the Brazilian Serie A side said.

The 19-year-old winger will be tied to Cruzeiro until December 2029 after the clubs reportedly agreed to a transfer fee of around eight million euros (9.3 million U.S. dollars).

Arroyo is Cruzeiro's second signing of Brazil's mid-season transfer window, joining Colombian forward Luis Sinisterra. (Xinhua)

Valkyries sink Liberty, move closer to playoff berth



Golden State Valkyries guard Kaila Charles (6) drives to the hoop against New York Liberty center Jonquel Jones (35) in the second quarter during a WNBA game at Chase Center in San Francisco. (AP)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 3, (AP): Temi Fagbenle scored 16 points and the Golden State Valkyries beat the New York Liberty 66-58 on Tuesday night for their fourth straight win to close in on becoming the first expansion team to earn a playoff berth in an inaugural season.

The Valkyries dropped their magic number to clinch a top-eight playoff spot to two, with any combination of victories by Golden State and losses for the Los Angeles Sparks doing it. LA was idle Tuesday and plays again Wednesday, so the Valkyries could have their first chance as soon as Thursday.

"We're in playoff mode right now," Fagbenle told the crowd afterward.

Despite the loss, New York clinched a playoff berth with Indiana's defeat by Phoenix on Tuesday night.

Breanna Stewart scored 19 points for the defending champion Liberty, playing without star Sabrina Ionescu for a third straight game because of a left toe injury - this time for her return home to the Bay Area.

New York's Natasha Cloud also scored 19 points, including the initial nine for her team be-

fore Emma Meesseman's basket at the 3:42 mark of the opening quarter.

The Liberty lost their fifth in a row on the road and missed securing a sweep of the four-game season series against Golden State. Stewart had scored at least 23 points in each of the three previous matchups but was held to 4-for-15 shooting.

Meesseman - Valkyries coach Natalie Nakase calls her the female Nikola Jokic - had nine points and five rebounds as New York dropped to 3-8 on the road against the Western Conference.

The Valkyries, winners of eight in the last 11, used a 26-8 run to end the second quarter for a 40-26 halftime lead.

Monique Billings entered for Golden State with 1:50 remaining in the first period to a roaring ovation as she returned from a right ankle sprain that sidelined her for 16 of the past 17 games and 14 in a row.

The Liberty visit the Seattle Storm on Friday night while the Valkyries continue their five-game homestand Thursday against Dallas.

Mercury 85, Fever 79

In Phoenix, Alyssa Thomas had 23 points,

nine rebounds and nine assists, DeWanna Bonner added 19 points off the bench and the Phoenix Mercury won their fifth straight game with an 85-79 victory over the Indiana Fever.

Phoenix (26-14), which had already clinched a playoff spot, moved into a second-place tie with Las Vegas (26-14) and Atlanta (26-14). The Mercury close the regular season against Washington, Connecticut, Los Angeles and Dallas.

Kelsey Mitchell had 29 points and five 3-pointers for Indiana (21-20). Lexie Hull added 18 points and Aliyah Boston had 11 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. Caitlin Clark missed her 19th straight game due to a right groin injury.

Satou Sabally added 13 points, Kahleah Copper scored 11 and Sami Whitcomb had 10 points and seven assists for Phoenix. Natasha Mack grabbed 10 rebounds. Bonner was 6 of 11 from the field against the team she played nine games for earlier this season.

Phoenix led 54-39 at halftime after closing on a 10-0 run, capped by Monique Akoa Makani's 3-pointer with 2.2 seconds left.

Cremaschi loaned from Inter Miami to Parma

Gundogan joins Galatasaray after 'unforgettable moments' at Man City

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 3, (AP): Ilkay Gundogan completed a move from Manchester City to Galatasaray on Tuesday, bringing an end to his second spell with the Premier League club.

The former Germany international signed a two-year contract with Turkish champion Galatasaray and is the Istanbul club's latest high-profile recruit during this transfer window after Victor Osimhen and Leroy Sane.

Gundogan helped City win five Premier League titles, two FA Cups, four English League Cups and the Champions League in his first spell with the club before leaving to join Barcelona in 2023. He returned a year later, but was unable to prevent City from enduring its first trophyless season in eight years.

"Manchester City will always hold a special place in my heart," Gundogan said in City's announcement. "We

have enjoyed so much success in our time together and there have been so unforgettable moments not least being captain for the treble-winning season."

His departure - on a free transfer - comes after Pep Guardiola embarked on an overhaul of his once dominant squad, with nine players recruited since January.

The 34-year-old Gundogan did not play in any of City's three Premier League matches this season and was pushed down the pecking order following the arrival of midfielders Tijjani Reijnders and Nico Gonzalez in recent months.

During his trophy-laden time at City, Gundogan captained the team that won a treble of trophies in 2023 - the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League. The previous year, he scored two goals on the final day of the season to secure a comeback 3-2 win against Aston Villa to

clinch the title.

City director of football Hugo Viana hailed Gundogan's time at the Etihad.

"Ilkay Gundogan is a name synonymous with success at Manchester City," he said. "He brought trophy upon trophy back to the Etihad and no one will ever forget the huge role he played in those successes.

"It may now be time for him to say goodbye," Viana added, "but we will never forget his legacy here at Manchester City. Ilkay has truly cemented his place in the history of Manchester City and we all wish him well in the next chapter of his career."

Gundogan, who is of Turkish descent, added that "lifting the Champions League trophy for this club for the first time, especially in Istanbul, will live with me forever. I have no doubts Manchester City will enjoy much more success in the future and



In this file photo, Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

I will certainly be watching on from afar as I continue my career in Tur-

key, a country that means ever such a lot to me."

He was Guardiola's first signing at City when he joined from Borussia Dortmund in 2016.

American midfielder Benjamin Cremaschi was loaned from Inter Miami to Parma - giving the 20-year-old a chance to prove himself in Serie A ahead of a home World Cup.

Parma said the loan deal includes an option to buy.

Inter Miami said in announcing the move Tuesday that Cremaschi is the club's "highest-profile academy product."

Cremaschi, the captain of the United States under-20 team, has made three appearances for the senior national team and featured at last year's Paris Olympics. He was born in the U.S. to Argentine parents.

He played 107 matches for Inter Miami, scoring eight goals and providing nine assists, and also featured for the team in the recent Club World Cup.

Spain EuroBasket title defense in jeopardy

Italy, Greece into knockouts

LIMASSOL, Cyprus, Sept 3, (AP): Spain is in danger of not getting out of Group C after losing 67-63 to Italy, but the defending EuroBasket champion still controls its destiny.

Marco Spissu put Italy in front for good at 64-63 with two free throws with 31 seconds left and made two more with 14 seconds remaining. Giampaolo Ricci converted one of two free throws with eight seconds on the clock.

Spain, which in 2022 won its fourth title, is tied with Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina at 2-2 each. Greece and Italy have clinched two of the group's four spots in the round of 16. But Georgia plays Bosnia and Herzegovina on Thursday, so if Spain defeats Greece that same day, the Spaniards will advance.

The knockout phase will be in Riga, Latvia, from Sept. 6-14. Spain beat France 88-76 in the 2022 final.

Mouhamet Diouf led a balanced Italian attack with 14 points, Ricci added 11 points and Saliou Niang had 10 points and 10 rebounds. The Cleveland Cavaliers drafted Niang in the second round this year.

Santi Aldama, who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies, led Spain with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Sergio de Larrea scored 15 points.

Deni Avdija led the way with 22 points as Israel reached the knockout stage with a 92-89 win over Belgium, when Slovenia and France also advanced. Poland is also into the next round from Group D.

Luka Doncic scored 26 points as Slovenia overcame Iceland 87-79 to

reach the last 16, qualifying France along the way. The Los Angeles Lakers star was just 2 of 10 from 3-point range.

Avdija, a Portland Trail Blazers forward, scored 23 points Sunday when Israel stunned Paris Olympics silver medalist France 82-69. This time, Maccabi Tel Aviv center Roman Sorkin backed him up with 18 points.

Israel led by 21 points at one stage in the Polish city of Katowice before Belgium closed the gap.

With four seconds left, Yam Madar sank two free throws to give Israel a 92-87 lead and ensure a tense victory in Group D.

Loic Schwartz hit four three-pointers among his 14 points for Belgium.

Greece lost 80-77 to Bosnia and Herzegovina for its first Group C defeat.

The Greeks had already qualified for the last 16 and star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo was rested in Limassol because of some knee discomfort.

Head coach Vassilis Spanoulis told Greek public broadcaster ERT that Antetokounmpo should be available to play Thursday against Spain.

Utah Jazz center Jusuf Nurkic and John Roberson both had 18 points for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which improved to 2-2 in the group phase.

Georgia kept its qualifying chances alive with a 93-61 rout of co-host Cyprus, which is winless. Barcelona forward Tornike Shengelia scored 27 points for Georgia and Orlando Magic center Goga Bitadze had 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Guerschon Yabusele made 6 of 12



Spain's Joel Parra defends against Italy's Simone Fontecchio, left, during the Eurobasket, European Basketball Championship Group C match between Spain and Italy at Spyros Kyprianou Arena, in Limassol, Cyprus. (AP)

3-pointers and scored 36 points to help France defeat Poland 83-76. Yabusele, who started 43 games

for the Philadelphia 76ers last season, also had six rebounds. Élie Okobo added 14 points and

10 assists for France and Jaylen Hoard scored 10 points. Jordan Loyd led Poland with 18

points, Mateusz Ponitka scored 16 points and Michał Sokołowski finished with 15.

Kazma youth volleyball team wins bronze at Kalba Int' Championship

ABU DHABI, Sept 3: Kazma Club's youth volleyball team claimed third place and the bronze medal at the Kalba International Championship in the United Arab Emirates. The tournament featured strong competition from several clubs, including Dar Kulaib Club (Bahrain), Al-Hilal Club (Saudi Arabia), and hosts Kalba Club (UAE).

Khaled Al-Bahwah, Kazma's Handball Director, praised the players' performance and highlighted the club's dedication to its youth volleyball teams, describing them as the future of the sport.

The bronze medal reflects the efforts of the club's technical staff, led by Volleyball Director Saad Yaqoub and team coach Abdulrahman Kamal, with administrative support from



Kazma Club youth volleyball team poses for a team shot.

team manager Hussein Al-Othman. Coach Abdulrahman Kamal added that preparations will continue for the

upcoming season, aiming to develop the youth players into a strong core for Kazma's senior and youth teams.

Burgan and Kuwait Club claim wins in Premier Handball League Opener

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The First Division Handball League gets underway today at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Hall, with two opening matches: Al-Sahel vs Khaitan at 5:00 p.m. and Al-Yarmouk vs Al-Fahaheel at 6:30 p.m.

The league features six teams: Al-Yarmouk, Al-Qurain, Khaitan, Al-Fahaheel, Al-Sahel, and the Youth National Team. Matches are played in a round-robin format, with each team facing opponents four times (home and away twice). The Youth National Team is an exception, playing each team twice only, with its points counting toward the op-



A Burgan player is challenged by Qadsia players while going for a goal.

ponent's total but not affecting the official standings.

The First Division champion will be promoted directly to the Premier League, while the runner-up will face the seventh-placed Premier League team in a playoff. The last-place team in the Premier League will be relegated to the First Division.

In the opening round of the 58th Premier Handball League, Burgan narrowly defeated Qadsia 25-24 (first half 13-12) in a closely contested match attended by a strong crowd. Defending champion Kuwait Club cruised past Al-Nasr 41-23 (first half 20-10), claiming its first two points in the hunt for a 16th league title.

Sporty, Al-Jazeera & Al-Shamiya join Kuwait First Division for new season

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Three new clubs – Sporty, Al-Jazeera, and Al-Shamiya – will compete in the Zain First Division League for the new season, marking their debut in the competition. They join the five established clubs: Al-Sulaibikhat, Al-Sahel, Burgan, Al-Yarmouk, and Khaitan.

The league draw was held yesterday, with the competition organized into three groups and the first round scheduled to kick off on September 14.

Al-Jazeera, founded earlier this year, already participated last season in the Amir Cup and the Crown Prince Cup.

The three new clubs have met the conditions and standards set by the Kuwait Football Association, and their registration was approved by the Department of Fatwa and Legislation. It was clarified that the clubs will not receive any financial support.



The Kuwait Football Association president greets one of the participating teams.

Kimmich leads Germany's midfield revamp

Yamal under tremendous pressure: Luis

MADRID, Sept 3, (Xinhua): Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has praised Barcelona youngster Lamine Yamal at the first day of training with the national team ahead of the FIFA World Cup qualifying games away to Bulgaria and Türkiye on September 4 and 7.

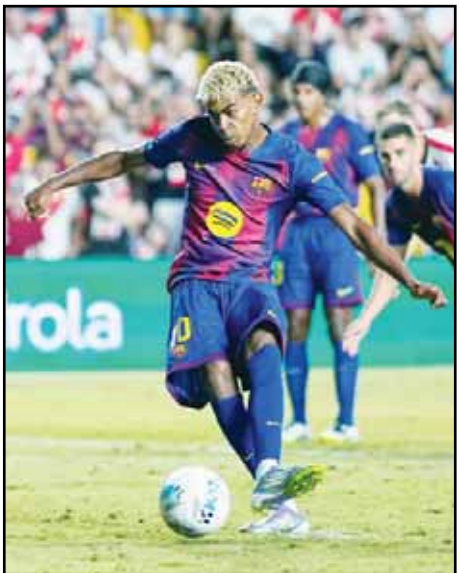
Yamal has already played over 20 games for Spain despite only recently celebrating his 18th birthday and the fact that his private life has recently become a subject of interest for gossip columns has brought him even more into the spotlight.

Speaking to the FIFA's website before his squad flies to Bulgaria, De la Fuente said Yamal was "under tremendous media pressure; he has to work incredibly hard to be able to keep up with the demands." The coach insisted Yamal had "earned everything," adding, "We have to value a kid who was already playing for the national team at 16," and focusing on the scrutiny the winger is under.

"He has to be an example both on and off the pitch; he's maturing, and we have to help him because he's very young," reflected De la Fuente, who was confident the player would be able to deal with the pressure.

"He's incredibly mature for an 18-year-old, but he has to keep growing and maturing. It's a natural process, and we're here to help him." Back to midfield, Bayern's Kimmich turns into Nagelsmann's flagman German national team coach Julian Nagelsmann has set sail for a fundamental restructuring of his team's tactics.

Ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying opener against Slovakia on Thursday, the 38-year-old turned his team's focus to a solid defense and a powerful game through the midfield.



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal scores the opening goal from the penalty spot during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Rayo Vallecano and FC Barcelona at the Valledcas stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich is set to become Nagelsmann's flagman, as the 30-year-old returns to his preferred midfield position after playing mainly as a fullback covering the right wing for a long time.

Along with the change, there is a more defensive back row, with Frankfurt's Nnamdi Collins, the national team's debutant, presumably taking over the right side, approaching the role with a less forward-bound style.

The UEFA Nations League quarterfinal against Italy is said to have sparked the change in perspective. Nagelsmann saw his team squander a 3-0 lead "after we couldn't maintain our dominance over the 90 minutes." Ahead of his second anniversary as Germany's head coach, Nagelsmann renewed his goal to win the World Cup to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico in nine months.

"To aim at the title is far from arrogant, but a natural desire from my perspective," he said.

Nagelsmann demanded a more dominant performance from former Bayern winger Leroy Sane, who has joined Galatasaray, "as the Turkish league isn't one of the leading European leagues," adding that doors remain open for Sane.

The new approach seems to be the last attempt to improve things, as there appears to be little time left for more testing.

"We have to work well right from the start," Bayern defender Jonathan Tah said, calling the short time frame an advantage "as there is no time for further thinking about it."

FIFA referee chief calls VAR success, urges refinements

HONG KONG, Sept 3, (Xinhua): Eleven years after its introduction, Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology has proven highly successful but still requires improvement, said Pierluigi Collina, the Chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee, here Wednesday at the World Football Summit.

"It seems that football didn't exist without VAR," Collina said. "Eleven years ago, we started from zero. Now all the most important competitions around the world have this technology." VAR debuted at the 2017 Confederations Cup in Russia, followed by the 2018 World Cup, and is now standard in major competitions. Collina noted its

widespread acceptance, with match officials mastering its use both on the field and at monitors.

"During the last years, we have seen that today it is very well accepted," he said. "Match officials, both on the field and in front of the monitors, are now masters in using it. So we are happy, but there are some things to be improved. This is what we do every day, we try to improve and introduce something new." One key area for refinement is the timing of assistants raising their flags. Collina emphasized the need for assistants to delay flagging to allow play to continue, enabling VAR to review incidents accurately.

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NEWS



Georgia's Goga Bitadze, left, and Tornike Shengelia defend against Cyprus' Darral Willis Jr during the Eurobasket, European Basketball Championship Group C match between Greece and Bosnia at Spyros Kyprianou Arena, in Limassol, Cyprus. Georgia kept its qualifying chances alive with a 93-61 rout of co-host Cyprus. (AP) - See Page 15

Sports

Kuwait takes total medal count to 37 at West Asia Fencing Championship



The national fencing team.

MANAMA, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait's national fencing team added 16 medals on the fourth day of the West Asia Fencing Championship in Bahrain, which features 310 athletes from 10 countries.

In the Under-15 boys' épée, Khaled Al-Houli, Ghazi Al-Enezi, Youssef Al-Shammari, and Hussein Al-Hashimi each secured silver medals, while the Un-

der-15 girls' épée saw Suhaila Al-Nakas, Hebari Al-Thuwaini, Sheikha Al-Bati, and Fatima Mohammed also claim silver.

In the Under-15 girls' foil, Noor Al-Najjar, Zaina Al-Omair, Sofia Al-Qattan, and Sheikha Al-Majleham finished second, adding four more silver medals. Meanwhile, Bader Al-Saleh, Abdulrahman Al-Subti, Abdullah Al-

Rashidi, and Ahmed Jaber earned bronze medals in the Under-15 boys' foil category.

With these results, Kuwait's overall medal tally in the championship, held at Al-Najma Sports Club in Bahrain from August 30 to September 4, has risen to 37 medals.

Kuwait settles for draw in hard-fought opener

Blues look to bounce back against Afghanistan

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

YANGON, Sept 3: Kuwait's Olympic team opened its AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifying campaign with a frustrating 0-0 draw against host Myanmar at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The result leaves the Blues with just a single point in Group A ahead of Satur-

day's second-round clash with Afghanistan. Kuwait will conclude its group stage fixtures against Japan on September 9.

Head coach Dario Basic fielded a starting XI led by goalkeeper Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, with Jassem Al-Enezi, Nasser Khudhur, Saleh Al-Mutheb, and Jarrah Al-Helaili in defense. The midfield featured Muntasir Abdulsalam, Omar and Jassem Al-Matar, and Bandar Al-Barazi, while Muath Al-Osaima and Khaled Al-Kharqawi spearheaded the attack.

Myanmar started brightly, forcing Al-Rashidi

into an early save in the second minute. Kuwait gradually gained control, creating several chances through Al-Helaili and Omar Al-Matar, but were denied by the home goalkeeper.

Despite dominating possession in the second half, Kuwait failed to capitalize on its opportunities. Basic introduced fresh legs with Yusuf Majed, Omar Al-Azmi, Mohammed Al-Shuraifi, and Ahmed Boudi, but the breakthrough never came.

The Blues pressed late on, but Myanmar held firm to secure a point, leaving Kuwait with work to do in the remaining group matches.



Kuwait and Myanmar chase the ball during the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifier.

Pegula marches into US Open semis

Alcaraz sets up blockbuster clash with Djokovic

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz finger-wagged the crowd, beat Jiri Lehecka to the net, and cruised into the semifinals at the U.S. Open.

The second-seeded Spaniard beat Lehecka 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals, making some highlight-reel shots and putting his hand to his ear afterward to encourage more cheers from fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium. It's his first hard-court semifinal appearance at a major since winning his first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open in 2023.

"I kind of met the Grand Slam version of Carlos," Lehecka said. "He just showed that he is one of the contenders, for sure. Everyone knew that, and he proved that."

Alcaraz is just 22 years old and is in the semifinals at a major for the ninth time. Only Rafael Nadal, with 10, has more before turning 23.

Next up for Alcaraz is Novak Djokovic, the 24-time Grand Slam champion who knocked him out of the Australian Open quarterfinals in January and beat him for the gold medal at the Paris Olympics last year. Djokovic got past Taylor Fritz 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 at night.

Alcaraz would supplant Jannik Sinner - whom he lost to in the Wimbledon final and beat in the French Open final - atop the rankings if he wins the U.S. Open for a second time.

Before facing Fritz or Djokovic on Friday night, Alcaraz plans to play golf on Wednesday with 2017 Masters champion Sergio Garcia. He thinks his countryman owes him more than a few strokes.

"He has to give me at least between 10 and 15 shots," Alcaraz said. "It's going to be great. I'm not that good, Sergio, come on."

On the women's side, Jessica Pegula broke through her quarterfinal wall again at the U.S. Open, defeating Barbora Krejickova 6-3, 6-3 to get to the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament for just the second time in her career.

She failed to advance into the semis in her first 22 main draw appearances at a major before reaching the final at



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, returns a shot against Taylor Fritz, of the United States, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championship in New York. (AP)

Flushing Meadows a year ago, when she lost to Aryna Sabalenka. They'll meet again in the semifinals on Thursday after Sabalenka advanced in a walkover when Marketa Vondrousova withdrew because of injury.

Pegula, who was eliminated in the fourth round at the Australian Open, the third round at the French Open, and the first round at Wimbledon, is the first woman to make back-to-back U.S. Open semifinals without losing a set since Serena Williams from 2011-14.

"I've been able to kind of go into those matches and really take care of business," Pegula said. "I've played good players but (gotten) convincing wins over those players."

Pegula, 31, is seeded fourth at the U.S. Open and aiming for her first Grand Slam championship. She and No. 8 Amanda Anisimova are the only Americans left in the women's singles field.



Jessica Pegula, of the United States, reacts after defeating Barbora Krejickova, of the Czech Republic, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Krejickova knocked out one of them, Taylor Townsend, who failed to convert eight match points when they met in the quarterfinals on Sunday. Pegula was not perfect, but she played well enough to stay in control at all times and broke Krejickova one final time to end the match in under 90 minutes - on her first match point attempt.

Venus Williams and Leylah Fernandez lost to the top-seeded pair of Townsend and Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-2 in the women's doubles quarterfinals, ending the 45-year-old Williams' first Grand Slam tournament in two years.

Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada and Alex de Minaur of Australia kick things off on Ashe, followed by Anisimova against second-seeded Iga Swiatek. Naomi Osaka, fresh off beating Coco Gauff, faces Karolina Muchova to open the night session, followed by men's No. 1 seed Jannik Sinner against fellow Italian Lorenzo Musetti.

Kuwait's Souza keeps close watch on Syria against UAE

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Sept 3: Kuwait continues its daily training sessions at Aspire Academy in Doha, where it is holding a camp that runs until September 9. As part of the preparations. The Blues will play a friendly against Syria on September 8.

The squad will also head to Dubai in early October for another training camp, ahead of the decisive Arab Cup playoff against Mauritania in November. The playoff will be staged in Doha at the start of December.

Meanwhile, Syria and the UAE face off in a friendly today in Dubai, a match expected to be closely watched by Kuwait's technical staff led by new head coach Helio Souza.

Kuwait will meet Syria next Monday at Al-Ahli Qatar's Hamad bin Khalifa Stadium, with kickoff set for 8 p.m. The match will mark Souza's first test since signing a two-year deal with the Kuwait Football Association. It will serve as an important opportunity to evaluate player performance, test readiness, and determine the most



Kuwait head coach Helio Souza.

effective tactical setup.

During the Doha camp, Souza has focused on both physical and tactical development. Players have been put through two daily sessions - morning strength and endurance training at the gym, followed by evening practices at Aspire that emphasize fitness, technical drills, tactical organization, and improving on-field chemistry.

Best of the Rest

Asisat Oshoala heads to Al-Hilal: Forward Asisat Oshoala has joined Saudi Women's Premier League club Al-Hilal on transfer from Bay FC in the National Women's Soccer League.

Terms of the agreement were not disclosed. The 30-year-old Nigerian international signed a two-year contract with Al-Hilal.

Oshoala joined Bay FC ahead of its inaugural season in 2024 from Barcelona, where she won two Women's Champions League titles. She scored a team-high seven goals in her first year with the San Francisco Bay Area team.

The 30-year-old scored Bay FC's first franchise goal on March 17, 2024, in the 17th minute of a match against Angel City.

"Asisat has been an incredibly important part of Bay FC history, not only with her impact on the pitch but also through the energy, professionalism, and kindness she brought every day," Matt Patter, Bay's sporting director, said in a prepared statement Tuesday. "She is a world-class player and an even better person, and we are grateful for everything she contributed to our club in its first season." (AP)