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## Kuwait braces for hot and sweaty weekend

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department has forecasted hot weather during the weekend, with relatively hot conditions at night.

The country will continue to be affected by an extension of the Indian monsoon depression, accompanied by a hot and humid air mass, especially over coastal areas, with northwesterly to variable winds that are light to moderate in speed.

Director of the department Dharar Al-Ali informed Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the weather on Friday will be hot and relatively humid, with southeasterly to variable winds that are light to moderate in speed, ranging from six to 32 kilometers per hour, while the expected maximum temperature will range from 42 to 44 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate with waves ranging from one to four feet.

He said the weather on Friday night will be hot to moderate and relatively humid, with northwesterly to variable winds that are light to moderate in speed, ranging from six to 30 kilometers per hour, while the expected minimum temperatures will be between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate with waves between one and four feet.

On Saturday, Al-Ali said the weather is expected to be relatively hot and humid in coastal areas, with northwesterly to variable winds that are light to moderate in speed, ranging from eight to 32 kilometers per hour, while the expected maximum temperatures range from 44 to 46 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate with waves between one and four feet.

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Beach life unfolds under the iconic Kuwait Towers as Kuwait readies for a humid weekend weather.

Photo by Samer Shiqer

# Lawbreakers to mop, not rot

Kuwait shifts road violations to restorative justice

By Munif Naif and Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The decision of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah to add Article 212 bis to the executive regulations of the Traffic Law (Ministerial Resolution

No. 8/1976) is a long-awaited step on the congested roads in the country.

It appears that restorative justice has found its way into the daily lives of citizens and expatriates.

The decision, which was published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm, last Sunday, goes beyond traditional penalties, as it opens the door to humane alternatives that give violators the opportunity to reform through community service like cleaning mosques and parks and participating in traffic awareness campaigns.

A new form of punishment will see courts replace prison sentences with activities aimed at improving behavior and instilling discipline, such as scheduling appointments at the Ministry of Health, arranging Holy Qurans in mosques, contributing to the distribution of social assistance, planting trees, working at gas stations and painting sidewalks. If the violator refuses or does not comply, the actual penalty will be imposed, that is, imprisonment. At this point, the State's seriousness in ensuring deterrence while giving violators a second chance is evident.

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Left: Abel Thomas Vinod receives his internship certificate from Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah at Arab Times HQ, with HR Supervisor Monica Botrous and Arab Times Managing Editor Marlon Aquino Malinao in attendance. Right: Sara Al-Awadhi receives her internship certificate from Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah.



Photos by Mohammed Morsi and Samer Shiqer

Editor-in-Chief Al-Jarallah recognizes emerging talent, awards certificates

## Interns dive deep into newsroom life at Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The newsroom doors at the Arab Times opened this summer to two enthusiastic interns, Sara Al-Awadhi and Abel Thomas Vinod, offering them hands-on experience that revealed the heart and craft of journalism in detail.

Their internship went far beyond simple obser-

vation, as they were immersed in a comprehensive curriculum covering essential newsroom skills: orientation with Human Resources, the basics of news writing, intensive workshops with immediate practice, rewriting and editorial production, real-world projects, and honing professional skills, including social media management and

fact-checking.

They also learned the technical aspects, such as color separation, page design, layout and prepress -- a full-circle introduction to what it takes to bring a newspaper to life.

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## Kuwait champions GCC housing integration

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari said Kuwait believes that Gulf integration is the path towards achieving qualitative leaps in the housing sector, and that developing housing policies is closely linked to building more sustainable cities, more prosperous communities and a better life for the citizens.

This statement is part of a speech that Al-Mishari delivered at the recent opening of the Second Gulf Housing Conference with the theme, "Sustainable Housing."

The two-day conference is an implementation of the outcomes of the 23rd meeting of the Committee of Ministers in Charge of Housing Affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC) countries.

According to Al-Mishari, the conference is not just a periodic event, as it is an embodiment of the joint Gulf efforts and a translation of the collective commitment to attain sustainable housing development, which keeps pace with the aspirations of citizens and meets the needs of future generations in line with the visions and directives of the leaders of the GCC countries to unify efforts towards a joint Gulf action that meets one of the most important needs of the citizens.

He added the conference is renowned for the participation of an elite group of experts from Kuwait and the entities concerned with housing affairs in the GCC countries, making it a pioneering event and an ideal platform for

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## Arab League FM's meet in Cairo amid regional crises

CAIRO, Sept 4, (KUNA): The 164th ordinary session of the Arab League's Council Foreign Ministers began on Thursday, chaired by the United Arab Emirates, with the participation of several heads of delegations including Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya

The session includes important issues, foremost among them the Palestinian cause, ongoing Israeli occupation's violations against the Palestinian people, Arab national security, in addition to various political, economic, social, and legal files.

Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalifa Al-Marar, who is presiding over the current session, said in his opening speech that the Arab region is experiencing "unprecedented and ex-



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya at the session.

tremely dangerous situations", emphasizing the need for joint Arab action to confront crises and challenges.

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## 1st Deputy Premier honors GCC social, labor pioneers

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah said the annual meetings honoring pioneering projects and figures in the fields of civil service, labor and social affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are considered a platform for commending the values of hard work, creativity and social responsibility, and an opportunity to renew partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society institutions to better serve humanity and society.

This is part of the speech that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef delivered at the ceremony in honor of pioneering projects and figures in the fields of civil service, labor and social affairs in the GCC countries, with the concerned ministers in the GCC countries in attendance.

The ceremony was held on the sidelines of the 11th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Social Affairs and Development in the GCC.

He welcomed the ministers and heads of civil service, human resources, social affairs, development, and labor agencies in GCC countries



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah delivers a speech during a ceremony honoring pioneering projects and figures in the fields of civil service, labor and social affairs in the GCC countries.

to their home country, Kuwait.

He wished the participants success in the meetings, and more achievements for the GCC countries and their citizens.

He said the ceremony affirms the importance that the Gulf countries put in supporting competencies and promoting joint action, while the meeting is a testament to the support given to the honored groups and a confirmation of the status of social and labor work and administrative competencies in the GCC agenda.

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KUNA photos

Former Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh receives the award for distinguished contributions in civil service and social development at the GCC ceremony.

### Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The State of Kuwait on Thursday utterly condemned an attack carried out by the Israeli occupation forces on the peacekeeping United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The assault is a flagrant offensive on the sovereignty of Lebanon and constitutes a direct defiance of the international community's will and relevant UN resolutions namely the UN Security Council Resolution 1701/2006, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement.

The State of Kuwait fully supports Lebanon regarding the required measures it takes to preserve its security and sovereignty, the official statement said.

At a time the State of Kuwait affirms the necessity that the UNSC uphold its responsibilities for safeguarding international security and peace, it praises the efforts by the UNIFIL troops in implementing the mandate, stipulated in the related UNSC resolutions, the Foreign Ministry stressed further. (KUNA)



JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia on Thursday tested delivery of postal parcels, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The test was executed by the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), in collaboration with the Transport General Authority (TGA). (KUNA)



4 Citizenship: When the state's higher interest prevails



8 'Bankee' wins best program in the field of social work across the GCC

10 The other half ... vital threads in Kuwait's rich tapestry



| Prayer Timings |       |            |       |
|----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr .....     | 04:05 | Asr .....  | 15:20 |
| Sunrise ..     | 05:27 | Maghrib .. | 18:07 |
| Zohr .....     | 11:47 | Isha ..... | 19:26 |

# Local

| Weather   |         |         |  |
|---|---------|---------|--|
| Expected weather for next 24 hrs:   |         |         |  |
| By Day: Hot and relatively humid with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-32 km/h. |         |         |  |
| By Night: Rather hot to mild  |         |         |  |
| Station   | Max Exp | Min Rec |  |
| Kuwait City   | 46      | 34      |  |
| Kuwait Airport  | 44      | 26      |  |

|          |    |    |
|----------|----|----|
| Abdaly   | 44 | 26 |
| Bubyan   | 38 | 23 |
| Jahra    | 45 | 29 |
| Salmiyah | 39 | 33 |
| Ahmadi   | 42 | 29 |
| Nuwaisib | 42 | 26 |
| Wafra    | 43 | 25 |
| Salmiya  | 42 | 25 |

## GCC committed to work together, improve lives of citizens: Dr Al-Huwailah



The ministers who took part in the meeting.



Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah



KUNA photos

GCC Chief Jassim Al-Budaiwi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed Thursday that advancing social development in the Gulf reflects integration among GCC states, reiterating Kuwait's commitment to supporting co-operation to achieve citizens' well-being.

This came in remarks delivered during the 11th meeting of GCC Ministers of Social Affairs and Development, where the minister congratulated attendees on the Prophet's birthday, wishing the occasion to bring more peace and mercy to the Muslim nation.

Al-Huwailah explained that the meeting discussed vital topics, including following up on previous resolutions, the

joint social development work plan until 2030, and programs supporting persons with disabilities and the elderly.

It also delved into strengthening social cohesion, developing social protection systems, addressing drug and alcohol misuse, as well as children's issues in light of technological and AI transformations.

She stressed that these discussions reflect the GCC's commitment to working in a spirit of integration and ensuring a better quality of life for citizens, expressing hope that the deliberations would yield practical recommendations enhancing Gulf social cooperation and meeting people's aspirations.

Al-Huwailah also praised the GCC General Secretariat un-

der Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi for supporting the committee's work and the efforts of the Executive Bureau of GCC Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs in translating ministerial visions into concrete programs and initiatives.

She expressed appreciation to the undersecretaries of social affairs for their preparatory efforts, which enriched the ministerial session, as well as to ministers for their active participation strengthening Gulf joint action.

For his part, GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi said the meeting reinforces joint social action and deepens Gulf integration through files such as combating drugs, social and humanitarian action plans, voluntary work, and youth support, noting that GCC states scored above the

global average in the 2025 Social Progress Index.

He highlighted key achievements, including the Supreme Council's decision in its 55th session (Kuwait 2014) adopting the GCC anti-drug strategy (2025-2028) and the GCC Secretariat's April 2022 youth initiative.

Al-Budaiwi pointed out that the agenda also included important social items to maximize citizens' benefit, notably the 2025-2028 anti-drug strategy, the committee's 2020-2030 work plan and initiatives, the 2025-2030 joint charitable and humanitarian plan, and the 2026-2030 joint volunteer work plan.

He expressed confidence that the meeting's outcomes would further advance Gulf social cooperation.

### Privatization will save KD2.5b/year

## MEWRE records huge deficit of KD3.573b in fiscal '23/'24

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The final accounts of the State Financial Administration for fiscal 2023/2024 showed that the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy recorded a deficit of about KD3.573 billion due to the large gap between expenditures, which amounted to KD4.057 billion, and revenues of KD483.6 million.

According to the report, the 'Goods and Services' item accounted for the biggest share of expenditures, amounting to KD2.9 billion, most of which are for the purchase of oil and lubricants needed to operate power and water distillation plants, while employee compensation amounted to KD740 million, including salaries, bonuses and allowances. Non-current assets amounted to KD414.2 million as expenditures for projects implemented by the ministry.

The newspaper raised the issue for discussion to find appropriate solutions to curb the annual billion-dollar deficit directed at electricity and water subsidies and improve the quality of services, achieving profitability or a break-even point between expenditures and revenues.



Bukhadour

In an exclusive statement, economic expert Hajjaj Bukhadour revealed he considers transforming the ministry into a public institution and involving the private sector in the provision of electricity and water services a step that will balance expenditures and revenues and achieve profitability.

Bukhadour pointed out that this move will make the State treasury save around KD2.5 billion annually -- the value of government support currently directed towards electricity and water production.

He explained that the success of the experiment hinges on the model, which will be adopted in Kuwait, as it ensures the achievement of key objectives, foremost of which are improving services, reducing costs, and generating more job opportunities for nationals.

He warned against repeating the negative aspects of some service models, which previously failed to achieve their goals.

He underscored the importance of privatization not only for the purpose of empowering the private sector, but also for the benefit of citizens who have become accustomed to consuming large quantities of energy without paying the true cost, as a result of building patterns that consume many times the actual electricity requirement.

He emphasized the need for the Secretariat General for Planning and Development to carefully study the issue to ensure the desired goals are achieved.

# Kuwait stands aloft in relief efforts for Gaza

Food, utilities flown in continuous air bridge: charity

AMMAN, Sept 4, (KUNA): The Secretary General of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, Dr. Hussein Al-Al-Shibli, emphasized that Kuwait has consistently remained one of the largest supporters of relief efforts for Gaza, most notably through its dedicated Kuwaiti humanitarian air bridge.

During an interview with KUNA, Al-Shibli stated that the Kuwaiti air bridge, operating under the slogan "Kuwait By Your Side" through the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), highlights Kuwait's longstanding humanitarian role and shared commitment.

He further explained that the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization maintains continuous coordination with KRCS to facilitate joint convoys, expand health and relief projects, and potentially move toward reconstruction and community de-

velopment initiatives in Gaza.

Al-Shibli pointed out that the Organization serves as the official body responsible for gathering, coordinating, and delivering humanitarian aid from Jordan to Gaza, acting directly under the directives of King Abdullah II.

He clarified that the organization oversees donations by receiving, sorting, preparing, and transporting them, ensuring delivery to rightful beneficiaries in partnership with the Jordanian Armed Forces and a range of international humanitarian organizations.

According to Al-Shibli, Jordan has become a primary international hub for aid delivery, with warehouses transformed into logistics centers trusted by states and global organizations alike.

Discussing challenges, Al-Shibli identified prolonged border procedures, waiting times, recurring settler attacks on aid trucks, and strict limitations on the number of daily vehicles as significant obstacles hindering consistent humanitarian access to Gaza.

He explained that the organization operates a joint operations room led by Jordan, in collaboration with groups like the World Food Programme, the World Central Kitchen, and local associations, ensuring fair,

effective distribution of humanitarian aid.

Al-Shibli highlighted that daily field reports from partners inside Gaza guide international agencies and the organization regarding priority needs, currently focusing on food essentials, clean water, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and emergency shelter materials.

He revealed that Jordan has conducted over 164 independent aid drops, alongside more than 400 joint missions with around 15 partner nations, including Kuwait, Egypt, the UAE, the US, France, and the Netherlands, reflecting unified humanitarian solidarity.

Airdrops, Al-Shibli explained, have proven innovative when border crossings were completely sealed, serving as a lifeline during critical moments and reaching thousands of families in northern and central Gaza, despite logistical challenges and dangerous operating environments.

However, he acknowledged that difficulties remain, including limited safe drop zones within Gaza, war-related security risks, and occasional chaos obstructing proper aid delivery, despite the essential lifeline provided to civilians during heightened crises.

## KD30.7mn disbursed in real estate loans – KCB

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Kuwait Credit Bank announced that the total value of real estate loans disbursed in August reached around KD30.7 million. The newspaper obtained a copy of the recent statistics issued by the bank, stating that the value of loans allocated for the purpose of building on private plots reached KD477,000, while loans allocated for building on government plots accounted for the largest share, totaling KD23.6 million.

The statistics indicated that loans allocated for purchasing homes amounted to about KD4 million, and the value of grants provided to people with disabilities reached KD1.9 million – a manifestation of the commitment of the bank to enable this group to meet their housing needs and provide them with a suitable living environment.

## African gang in custody for stealing cash from vehicles

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Criminal Security Affairs Sector at the Interior Ministry, represented by the Criminal Investigations General Department-Capital Governorate Investigations Division, arrested a gang of four Africans who stole money from vehicles in Shuwaikh Industrial Area.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that several theft cases were recorded recently. After extensive follow up and investigations with the use of modern technical methods, it was found that the accused targeted bank customers in Dajeej where

they tracked the victims, using vehicles with plate numbers that did not match their data as they concealed the base number, and repeatedly changed the metal plates to hide their identity and mislead security authorities.

Upon verifying the information and identifying the perpetrators, a security team was formed to monitor the bank locations. This monitoring continued for several days, until the suspects were arrested red-handed while they were inside their vehicle near a bank in Dajeej.

Four African nationals were arrested and all of them confessed to committing the thefts.

## FM, Palestinian counterpart discuss ties, regional scene

CAIRO, Sept 4, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine Varsen Aghabekian on the sidelines of the 164th session of the Arab League Foreign Ministers' Committee, held in Cairo, Thursday. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance the bilateral relations and develop them, as well as the current regional and international developments.

UNRWA Commissioner-General

Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, met in Cairo on Thursday, to discuss the latest developments in the Gaza Strip.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the 164th session of the Arab League Foreign Ministers' Committee, touched on intensified efforts to handle the alarming situation in the

Gaza Strip as well as UNRWA's relentless efforts to support the people of Palestine.

Lebanon

The State of Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Al-Yahya, on Thursday met his Lebanese counterpart Yousef Rajji on margins of the regular Arab ministerial meeting. The two sides examined bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, means of cementing these ties, regional and international issues.

Sudan

The State of Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Al-Yahya, held talks on Thursday with the Sudanese Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry and International Cooperation, Omar Mohamed Ahmed Siddig, on margins of the 164th session of the Arab ministerial meeting.

The two officials examined means of boosting bilateral relations, regional and international affairs.

## KEPS drive to empower women in tackling environment issues

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: In a pioneering step that reflects the national trend toward empowering women and enhancing their role in addressing environmental issues, the Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) announced the launch of a project with the theme, "Women's Role in Climate Change", as part of its educational and awareness program, 'Green Schools', for the 2025/2026 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Jenan Behzad, Secretary General and Director of Programs and Activities at the Society, confirmed to the newspaper that "this approach stems from the deep belief of the Society that women play a vital role in leading change toward sustainability in the family, society or educational institu-



Behzad

tions."

Behzad revealed "the project will provide a unique platform for female teachers and students through specialized workshops tackling the impact of climate change on health, society and the environment, while highlighting the leadership role of women in promoting sustainable behaviors within schools and homes."

She said "these workshops will contribute to developing skills in designing environmental initiatives led by female students and teachers, as well as using the 'Green Schools Guide' pillars in resource management, rationalizing consumption, and increasing green spaces in schools."

She pointed out that "involving women in climate change issues is no longer an option, as it has become a necessity to achieve environmental and social justice." She added the Society, through the 'Green Schools' program, is keen on empowering female students and teachers to play an active role in leading school environmental work.

### Other Voices

## Where did the shape of the heart come from?

By Ahmad alsarraf

The stereotypical heart image, two round lobes meeting at a single point, is a universal symbol of love and heart health. We see it almost everywhere -- in clinics, pharmacies, greeting cards, jewelry, bumper stickers, emoji keyboards, and even in advertising campaigns for countries, cities and football teams.

It is enough to think that about \$30 billion is spent annually on Valentine's Day.

This symbol bears no resemblance to a human heart at all. So where did it come from?

The answer lies in a long history shaped by philosophy, nature and art.

This familiar shape we know today was inspired by ancient beliefs about what the heart represents, long before modern science identified its crucial function.

The cultures and religious beliefs of most countries viewed the heart as the seat of emotion, thought, and even the soul. They had little understanding of the importance of the brain, often because the brain does not beat like the heart and does not respond to intense emotions. The pharaohs would leave the heart inside

the body after mummification, considering it more important than the brain.

In Greek philosophy, Aristotle described the heart as the source of sensation and life itself.

It was believed to be the first organ to form in the fetus and the center of human emotion.

With limited access to human anatomy, early artists and painters relied on metaphor, creating stylized, symmetrical forms that reflected the symbolic role of the heart in the soul rather than its actual anatomy.

One of the most convincing theories about the origin of the heart symbol points to ancient agriculture and plant symbolism, rather than human anatomy. The silphium plant was closely associated with love and fertility. Some historians believe the shape of its seed pod may have directly influenced the development of the heart symbol.

By the Middle Ages, the heart symbol began to appear frequently in art and religious literature in Europe, often symbolizing divine or spiritual love. In Christian iconography, saints were depicted holding or pointing toward flaming hearts, symbolizing their devotion to God. The Sacred Heart of Jesus (PBUH) featured prominently in medieval devotional art, emphasizing themes of love, sacrifice and mercy, establishing itself as a spiritual symbol of the heart.

More secular interpretations of the heart are depicted in manuscripts from the 13th and 14th centuries in a lovers' exchange of the heart im-

age, in which a man offers his heart, much like the modern symbol, to his beloved.

These early illustrations of the heart were red, symmetrical and stylized, but they did not always follow the current trend. Some were depicted with the head facing upward, while others were more angular.

The invention of the printing press in the 15th century contributed to the standardization and dissemination of the heart symbol throughout Europe.

In 1498, Leonardo da Vinci drew one of the first anatomically accurate drawings of the human heart, but his scientific rendering had little impact on the romantic symbol, which had already taken root in popular culture.

As Valentine's Day evolved into a romantic holiday in England and France, illustrators and printers began mass-producing cards and souvenirs decorated with cupid symbols, flowers and heart motifs.

In the Victorian era, heart-shaped necklaces and lace-decorated Valentine's Day cards became cherished expressions of affection.

The heart symbol was no longer associated with anatomy or philosophy, as it became a visual symbol of love and emotional connection, a role it still plays today in greeting cards and text messages around the world, transforming it into a multi-billion dollar business.

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# Benefits, drawbacks of AI and various chatbots

“ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) emerged as an idea in the 1950s, when British mathematician Alan Turing posed the question: Can a machine replace humans in thinking?” **Ghanima Habib** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“With the gradual development of computer systems in recent years, the idea of AI began to grow rapidly, leading to the emergence of ChatGPT, which enables humans to ask questions on various topics, and AI answers them. Some believed this feature would eliminate loneliness, distress and boredom.



Ghanima Habib

“However, psychologists are concerned that AI may misinterpret matters, and thus, give incorrect advice.

“Here, we recall an incident published by Al Jazeera Net about a Belgian man in March 2023, when he used one of these chatbots to solve the problem of climate change. After a lengthy discussion, AI suggested he sacrifice himself for the cause, which the man did.

“Despite the many positive aspects of AI, particularly for researchers and many economic sectors seeking quick solutions for data processing and storage, as well as its important role in uncovering some errors in the industrial sector, at the same time, I agree with the psychologists’ concerns about ChatGPT misinterpreting things, and thus, providing inaccurate prescriptions.

“A group of addicts adopted ChatGPT as a means of solving their addiction struggles, avoiding specialists or unwilling to participate in social media support groups that specialize in their conditions.

“This group does not realize that ChatGPT’s advice and prescriptions may be detrimental to them and increase their isolation from society, especially since each addict has his own unique treatment circumstances, which depend on a number of factors.

“These factors include the nature of their illness, the environment in which they grew up, their behaviors, and the motives that led them to take the path of addiction, in addition to many other circumstances that are difficult to list in one article.

“Therefore, I advise addicts to consult a specialist without being drawn into ChatGPT’s features, so as not to put themselves at risk.

“There are other risks associated with ChatGPT conversations, as they store everything a person says in general.

“The problem lies in the legal aspects that could be used and presented as evidence against them in court, especially since ChatGPT conversations are vulnerable to hacking, which makes those conversations potentially unsatisfactory for the person.”

## Also:

“It is a given in management that a leader is not measured solely by his personal capabilities, but also by his ability to manage the energies of those around him.” Major General Eng. **Faisal Musaeed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Hence, the principle of delegation emerges as a deeply rooted administrative value and a leadership behavior that combines wisdom and confidence.

“A leader who delegates effectively does not abdicate his responsibility, as he rather distributes roles well to ensure the activation of energies and the efficiency of the institution.

“Delegation is not merely a transfer of powers, because it is an expression of a leader’s faith in his staff, investing in their ability to learn, grow and bear responsibility.

“It is a school for developing second and third-tier leaders, preserving the continuity and strong presence of public institutions.

“As the saying goes: A leader who does not delegate governs only himself by being preoccupied with details, losing sight of the holistic perspective and the ability to plan strategically.

“State institutions, with the weight and responsibility they carry towards the nation and society, are in dire need of fostering a culture of delegation. These institutions cannot be managed by a single mind, as they need an integrated system in which responsibilities are distributed and roles are integrated.

“Anyone who reads the experience of successful nations will realize that building middle-level leadership and involving them in decision-making are among the greatest secrets of administrative progress and institutional renaissance.

“Delegation is also a moral value, since it is based on trust in others and granting them the opportunity to innovate and take initiative, rather than restricting or besieging them.

“It is a human value as well, because the employee who is granted trust feels his professional dignity, intensifies his efforts, and senses that his accomplishments are a contribution to serving the nation, not merely a job

performance.

“Thus, this is the sincere advice for leaders in State institutions: Let us make delegation the rule, not the exception. Let us realize that trust in the staff does not weaken leadership, as it rather strengthens and solidifies.

“A leader who nurtures leaders around him leaves a lasting impact and establishes a more stable and effective public administration.

“Delegation is not just an administrative choice, it is a civilized approach and national trust.

“My sincere condolences on the passing of Uncle Mohammad Nahar Al-Dughaim, one of the last men of the generation in the Kuwaiti Army who participated in the 1967 War and the victory of the 10th of Ramadan in the 1973 War. He received a medal from the late President Anwar Sadat.

“He is the father of distinguished Captain Zahir, coach of the Yarmouk Football Club, and Dr. Sami Al-Adwani, who exerted patriotic efforts for the State and society... May Allah reward you immensely.

“We ask Almighty Allah to have mercy on our righteous martyrs, to preserve our beloved Kuwait, and to bless the efforts of everyone who works for its renaissance under the banner of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, may Allah protect them.”



“Visitation centers are turning into arenas of rivalry, rather than friendly meetings,” **Bassam Fahad Thuniyyan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“There is a call to abolish ineffective departments and establish a humane mechanism for implementing visitation rulings.

“At a time divorce cases in Kuwait are increasing at an alarming rate, the Family Counseling Department, with its organizational structures and massive budgets, has been unable to serve its purpose: try to reconcile spouses before separation and regulating visitation rights after separation.

“This department, which consists of several sections, such as visitation centers, reconciliation centers, the Arbitration Board and others, has transformed from a reform project into a heavy burden on the Ministry of Justice and the State, especially with the ballooning operational costs, without any impact.

“Although the noble goal of establishing this system was to protect the family and reduce divorce rates, the figures indicate the exact opposite.

“Divorce cases rose from 7,865 in 2023 to 8,168 in 2024 — a rise of 303 cases or 3.9 percent.

“This is a dangerous indicator of the prevalence of family disintegration. Previously, the Islamic law appointed an arbitrator from the husband’s family and another from the wife’s family to reach reconciliation and bring viewpoints closer. This often resulted in calming tensions and preventing separation.

“Today, this Sharia-compliant approach has been replaced by family counseling, which failed to contain the crisis and even contributed to its exacerbation.

“Furthermore, visitation centers, which are supposed to be a venue for friendly meetings between children and their estranged father, often become arenas for intransigence and hostility, with the recipient being prevented from seeing their children under flimsy pretexts.

“Worse, these centers have become more like police stations, where security patrols are called for undue reasons.

“This taints the emotional atmosphere that is supposed to prevail during parent-child reunions, instilling fear and anxiety in children about this experience.

“In light of this reality, it is imperative to reconsider these sections, which have proven their abject failure in achieving their goals. Chief among them are the visitation and reconciliation centers, which have transformed into tools for complexity and obstruction rather than reform. The continuation of these structures means continuous suffering.

“Therefore, it has become imperative to abolish them and create a new mechanism for implementing visitation provisions that is more just, humane and flexible, and that preserves the emotional bond between children and their parents without exposing the child to painful psychological situations.

“The desired alternative must place the child’s best interests above all else and be implemented in a manner that is free of quarrels and security concerns, ensuring that the family reunion is a moment of warmth and affection, rather than a terrifying scene that is ingrained in the child’s mind and impacts his or her psychological development for years to come.”

— **Compiled by Mohammad Wangengi/ Simi K. Kutty**



KUNA photo

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi with the visiting delegation.

## Gulf team explores Kuwait expertise in juvenile care

By **Fares Ghaleb**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: A Gulf delegation participating in the Gulf Family Forum visited the Juvenile Care Complex of the Ministry of Social Affairs to review Kuwait’s experience in juvenile care and the social services provided to beneficiaries.

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi said in a press statement that the visit reflects Kuwait’s keenness to strengthen partnership and integration

with GCC peers in a way that entrenches social solidarity and supports joint Gulf action.

For his part, Director of the Juvenile Care Department at the Ministry Dr. Jassim Al-Kandari said the visit embodies fraternal relations and underscores a shared interest in exchanging expertise and enhancing cooperation in social care fields.

He explained that the Complex is an integrated facility offering specialized services to residents, equipped with modern systems and rehabilitation and educational programs that reflect the Ministry’s vision to develop social

work in line with best practices.

In a similar statement, Bahrain’s Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development Ziyad Adel Darwish expressed appreciation for the achievements witnessed at the Complex, praising a leading experience that can be leveraged across GCC states.

He said the organization and facilities observed reflect a successful model worthy of transfer and application in the Gulf, particularly in Bahrain, affirming the visit as part of joint Gulf cooperation and thanking Kuwait for its warm hospitality.



A child gasping for air in a swimming pool.

## ‘Drowning imminent’

### ‘Don’t leave kids alone in pool even 1 minute’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has issued a strong warning to both citizens and residents about the dangers of leaving children unsupervised in swimming pools, stressing that such negligence can quickly lead to drowning, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In a recent awareness brochure, the Fire Force emphasized the importance of closely monitoring children at all times, especially around water. They urged parents and guardians to equip swimming areas with proper safety gear, such as lifebuoys, and to never leave children alone in swimming pools – not even for a moment.

The brochure also highlighted that drowning incidents are often the result of inadequate supervision and can occur in various locations, including the sea, private pools, farms, and recreational chalets.

A source within the Fire Force warned that drowning can happen in less than a minute – and often silently – even if the child is a capable swimmer. The public is strongly encouraged to call the emergency number (112) immediately if any assistance is needed.

## Court acquits citizen

### Kuwaiti, 2 women held in drug trafficking case

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Criminal Court sentenced a citizen, a woman and her daughter to 15 years in prison with hard labor, and fined them KD5,000 each after they were convicted in a massive drug smuggling case.

Case files indicate that the three defendants attempted to smuggle about 1.7 million narcotic pills into the country, which were hidden in a furniture shipment from Türkiye. The vigilance and meticulous inspection of Shuwaikh Port Customs personnel led to the discovery of the contraband, thereby, foiling the drug smuggling attempt.

The coordinated efforts of Kuwait General Administration of Customs and the Drug Control General Department played a vital role in the discovery of the illegal shipment, tracking the suspects and referring them to the Public Prosecution, which referred them for trial. The judiciary issued a deterrent ruling against them.

## 69 people caught with drugs in August – Mol

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: In line with the intensified efforts of the Emergency Police Patrols General Department, belonging to the Ministry of Interior, to instill security discipline throughout the country, patrol officers arrested 69 individuals for the possession of narcotics and intoxicants in August.

A security source revealed to the newspaper that the extensive security deployment in various areas led to the arrest of these individuals, who were referred to the Drug Control General Department.

The source affirmed that the emergency patrols continue their work round the clock, ensuring the apprehension of violators and outlaws to guarantee public order.

He stressed these efforts are part of the security policy of the country to combat drugs and curb their spread in light of its commitment to protect the youths and society from such dangerous substances.

# Police attacked in drug bust op

## Suspects have gov’t jobs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: **Officers from the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) in the Criminal Security Sector at the Ministry of Interior confiscated an undisclosed quantity of drugs intended for trafficking and consumption in Doha, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

According to the ministry, this is part of the intensified security efforts to track down anyone who violates the laws of the country and commits crimes.

It then revealed that the confiscated items include marijuana, a weighing scale and several empty bags.

It disclosed that those arrested in possession of the narcotics are three employees of the Ministry of Justice, one of whom is a court clerk. It stated that while complet-

ing legal procedures and searching the residence of one of the accused, security personnel were physically assaulted by the mother and two sisters of the accused.

Another sister forced open a glass door against a police officer, causing severe hand injury that cut a tendon. The officer was rushed to the hospital.

It indicated that the assailants include two public sector employees -- one works at the Ministry of Education and another at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the third is a housewife.

It stressed that this assault is a serious crime, compounding the charges already recorded against the accused, pointing out that the prestige of security personnel is a red line and such assault will not be tolerated under any circumstances. It affirmed that strict legal measures will be taken against all those involved to protect the society and the rule of law.

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Other Voices

Citizenship: When the state’s higher interest prevails

By Abdulaziz Mohammed Al-Anjeri

For decades, citizenship in the Gulf has been far more than a legal document of belonging. It has been used as an instrument to serve the higher interests of the state.

One striking example comes from Saudi Arabia. Jamil Baroudi, born to a Christian family in Lebanon, was granted Saudi citizenship after meeting Prince Faisal bin Abdulaziz in London in 1939. Later, King Faisal tasked him with establishing Saudi Arabia’s first office in New York. Baroudi went on to become the Kingdom’s first permanent representative to the United Nations in

1946, and subsequently its ambassador to Washington until his death in 1979.

Kuwait offers a parallel case. In 1961, shortly after independence, Amir Abdullah Al-Sabah granted exceptional citizenship to Talaat Al-Ghussain, a Palestinian, in recognition of his diplomatic expertise. He joined Kuwait’s first delegation to the United Nations in 1962. He

later served as Kuwait’s ambassador to Washington and other capitals.

These precedents show that when states face either the challenges of nation-building or shifting strategic circumstances, citizenship can be deployed as a purposeful tool to secure vital skills and bolster state power. Gulf governments, have long pursued this deliberate form of “functional naturalization”.

Kuwait today has taken a different path. Despite good intentions, its authorities have engaged in sweeping withdrawals of citizenship, often without clear distinction or nuance. It is akin to treating a mild cold with chemotherapy. Such heavy-handed

measures may ultimately cause more harm than good.

A wise state is not one that clings rigidly to the letter of the law, but one that safeguards its spirit over its form.

As a friend once remarked about his novels: “I didn’t write them for this generation. My hope lies with the generations to come.” I, too, write not for the present moment, but for tomorrow. The truth must be spoken at all times. Citizenship should never become a whip in the hand of authority. Properly deployed, it strengthens the state and its legitimacy. Stripped away arbitrarily, it weakens trust and undermines the very national interest it was meant to serve.



Al-Anjeri



KUNA photo

Students learn scientific concepts in a fun and stimulating way.

Science hits the road

KFAS’ new ‘STEAM Bus’ breaks classroom walls

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): The Scientific Center, which is affiliated with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), has launched the ‘STEAM Bus’ educational initiative to provide a mobile and innovative scientific experience for students throughout the country.

The initiative includes conducting live experiments and simplified presentations that allow students to learn about scientific concepts and connect them to reality in an enjoyable way.

Deputy Director General for Visitor Experience at the Center Mohammad Al-Sanousi told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the initiative is an extension of the ‘Science Bus’, which KFAS launched earlier with the aim of conveying a scientific message to the students in an interactive and engaging manner.

Al-Sanousi disclosed this initiative also aims to break the boundaries of traditional classrooms through a mobile educational tool, which reaches all public and private schools as per the schedule in an environment full of vitality and interaction.

He explained that the ‘Bus’ has three main stations -- Optics Station, Energy Station and Movement Station.

He said these activities will be facilitated by a team specialized in simplifying Science to stimulate curiosity in the educational process.

He affirmed that the ‘STEAM Bus’ launch is in line with the commitment of the Center to develop innovative educational tools.

He invited those wishing to book a ‘STEAM Bus’ visit to their school to do so through the official website of the Center [www.tsck.org.kw](http://www.tsck.org.kw).



KUNA photo

Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Bosnia and Herzegovina Salah Al-Bannai with the Prime Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Nermin Niksic.

Kuwait, Bosnia explore stronger economic ties

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina Salah Al-Bannai and Bosnian Prime Minister Nermin Niksic discussed on Wednesday means of enhancing bilateral relations many all fields, mainly economy.

This was announced during Niksic’s reception of Al-Bannai at the Cabinet’s HQ, during which the Bosnian premier expressed appreciation for deep-rooted ties with Kuwait, Kuwait Embassy said in a statement received by KUNA.

Niksic invited Kuwaiti investors and companies to explore several available opportunities in his country, according to the statement.

MoE renaming schools

Two special needs facilities opened

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei issued several decisions, including the renaming of some schools and the establishment of new ones in various educational districts, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Education disclosed these decisions are based on the recommendations of the committee entrusted with this responsibility. The decisions include the naming and opening of Elite School for Girls with Hearing Impairment and Cochlear Implants, and Al-Himma School for Boys with Hearing Impairment and Cochlear Implants. Both schools are located in Hawally, Block Five, and fall un-



Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, Minister of Education

der the jurisdiction of the Special Education Schools Department. They will begin operating in the 2025/2026 academic year.

The ministry said other decisions

are on renaming two intermediate schools as follows:

■ Zaid bin Ali bin Abi Talib Intermediate School for Boys, located in Saad Al-Abdullah City and affiliated with Jahra Educational District, has been renamed Zaid bin Ali bin Al-Hussein Intermediate School for Boys.

■ Al-Khandaq Intermediate School for Boys, located in Al-Adan, Block Seven and affiliated with Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational District, has been renamed Al-Zubair bin Al-Awam Intermediate School for Boys.

These changes are effective immediately from the date of issuance of the decisions. The ministry affirmed that the relevant departments have been instructed to oversee and ensure the timely and proper implementation of these changes in accordance with the approved schedule.

Waitlists canceled, drop/add period opens

Kuwait University professors win prestigious Arab research award

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Kuwait University academic staff Dr. Bader Shafaqa Al-Anzi from the College of Life Sciences and Dr. Haneen Al-Ghabra from the College of Arts won the 43rd Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Award for Arab Researchers for 2025.

Ten researchers out of 522 applicants won the award this year.

Ghabra said she won the award in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Category for her research entitled, “The Role of Media in Manufacturing Consent.”

Al-Anzi disclosed he won the award in the Water, Energy and Food Sciences Category for his research entitled, “Innovations and Technology for Water Efficiency,” indicating the research is on the development of modern practices and technologies to improve the management and use of water resources.

This year’s award focused on 12 topics in six categories and it is in recognition of outstanding scientific outputs in the last five years prior to nomination.

Meanwhile, the Deanship of Admissions and Registration at Kuwait University (Registration Department) on Thursday an-

nounced the cancellation of course waiting lists.

The Deanship urged the students to review their class schedule through the electronic system and confirm their registered subjects to avoid conflicts or shortage in the number of credits.

The Deanship also announced the start of the third adding/dropping of subjects period without booking an appointment. It disclosed this period starts on Thursday and will continue until Saturday for students who registered with less than 12 credit units and up to a maximum of 14 units.

Reliable sources said this step aims to ease the registration procedures for the abovementioned students and provide them with the opportunity to complete their credit units in line with their academic plan.

Sources stressed the importance of following up the class schedule after making changes to ensure the schedule is finalized before the start of the semester.

They added the Deanship called on students to take advantage of the adding/dropping period and comply with academic regulations.

They stressed that all new developments and instructions will be published on the Kuwait University website and its official social media accounts.



Dr. Al-Anzi



Dr. Al-Ghabra



Participants of the first comprehensive media training program.

ISESCO, Al-Babtain Foundation hold 1st comprehensive media training program

CAIRO, Sept 4, (KUNA): Cairo Media Production City witnessed on Wednesday the launch of the first training program for making comprehensive media content, co-organized by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation.

The ten-day program aims to qualify a new generation of media creators with education in direction, photography, scriptwriting and content management through digital platforms.

Saud Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees, said in a press statement that the cooperation with ISESCO and Media City contributed to broadening cultural bonds.

The program includes participation by elite specialists across various media domains features workshops and field tours.

scriptwriting and content management through digital platforms.

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# SEPTEMBER

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Other Voices

Three key highlights of the SCO Summit 2025 in Tianjin

By Mr. Liu Xiang  
Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of China to Kuwait

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 was held in Tianjin, China from August 31 to September 1. As the largest-ever summit since the SCO’s founding, it features three key highlights that are particularly worth sharing with our Kuwaiti friends.

First, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) which became the biggest highlight of the summit. The five core concepts of the GGI which are adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by international rule of law, practicing multilateralism, advocating the people-centered approach, and focusing on taking real actions, outline the principles, methods and pathways for reforming and im-

proving global governance. The GGI is yet another important public good provided by China following the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) that have been proposed by President Xi Jinping in recent years. These four initiatives have their respective priorities and can be pursued simultaneously. Dealing with development, security, civilization and governance respectively, they will each be a source of stability and certainty for a changing and turbulent world and demonstrate China’s commitment to taking up its responsibility in international affairs.

Second, the summit voiced the call for upholding fairness and justice. At the historic moment of the 80th anniversary of the victory of World War II and the founding of the United Nations (UN), the summit released a statement calling



Mr. Liu Xiang, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of China to Kuwait

on the international community to learn from history, uphold a correct historical perspective on the World War II and safeguard the UN-centered international system. It also declared that the SCO will always stand firmly on the right side of history and on the side of fairness and justice. In response to the resurfac-

ing unilateralism and hegemonism, the summit expressed its clear support for the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, voiced an appeal for eliminating unilateral practices that violate the WTO rules, and called for seeking justice not hegemony and maintaining an open world economy.

Third, the summit announced a number of practical measures in favor of shared development. Specifically, a development strategy for the SCO within the next decade was approved. Four SCO security centers were inaugurated at the event with respective tasks of countering security threats and challenges, tackling transnational organized crimes, strengthening anti-drug cooperation and improving information security, marking a further big step in security cooperation. In addition, a political decision was made to establish an SCO development bank, which will greatly boost infrastruc-

ture development among the member states and their economic and social development. Moreover, six platforms on practical cooperation were launched, while six action plans were developed to promote high-quality development, covering such fields as sustainable energy development, green industry, the digital economy, and artificial intelligence.

A decision was also made to combine the statuses of observer and dialogue partner into a single status of “SCO partner”, making the SCO a 27-nation family that keeps bringing together like-minded countries.

Kuwait is now a SCO partner. China looks forward to working with all related sides, including Kuwait, to implement the outcomes of the summit, deepen strategic coordination and put the GGI into practice, so as to make further progress in building a closer SCO community with a shared future.

Continued from Page 1

Lawbreakers

Retired Major General Nasser Al-Enezi believes that the decision is “a corrective and appropriate step aimed at correcting the behavior of violators and enhancing discipline on the roads.”

He pointed out that alternative penalties, such as awareness programs or community service in ministries, contribute to improving traffic safety and reducing violations resulting from lack of awareness or negligence.

He told the newspaper that “intensifying awareness campaigns targeting expatriates is a necessity, as they commit a large percentage of daily violations.”

Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan stated that “alternative penalties achieve two main goals -- relieving pressure on prisons and giving violators an opportunity to reform by contributing to community service.”

He indicated that “involving violators in traffic awareness campaigns enhances legal culture and reduces accidents.”

Attorney Ali Matar Al-Wawan thinks the success of the experiment depends on “strict implementation and oversight mechanisms to ensure violators’ complete the tasks assigned to them.”

He added that “the integration of roles between the ministries of Interior, Health, Education, Municipality and Awqaf is a basic condition to ascertain effectiveness of the measure.”

In a related development, citizens expressed their satisfaction, stressing that the decision is a long-awaited reform in line with international experience and achieves greater deterrence than traditional imprisonment. They asserted that community service gives violators an opportunity to regain their sense of responsibility and instills a culture of discipline.

Some went further, believing that forcing reckless drivers to perform tasks such as cleaning streets or painting sidewalks will leave a societal impact, which neither a fine nor imprisonment can achieve, as people will see the violator compensate society for what it lost through his recklessness.

Others emphasized that this experiment will reinforce the concept of restorative justice and open the door to raise traffic awareness for future generations, calling on all drivers to abide by the law, as the rules are not just texts, but a guarantee of a safe life on the roads.

Moreover, statistics issued by the ministries of Justice and Interior reveal an accurate picture of the volume of traffic cases in the first half of 2025. It showed that more than 11,000 cases were referred to the courts within this period, along with the fines, rulings and penalties.

This is an affirmation of the seriousness of the situation and the importance of new decisions targeting road discipline, redressing the damage and implementing mechanisms.

The fifth paragraph of the new decision stipulates clear mechanisms for redressing damage, either by restoring the original condition or compensating for the damage by repairing it.

The executive paragraphs oblige the Judgment Enforcement and Traffic departments to monitor violators’ compliance and return the case to the court in the event of non-implementation of the penalty.

The serious violations, which may lead to imprisonment of one to three years or a fine of KD600 to KD1,000 (or one of these penalties), include running a red light, reckless driving, organizing races on public roads, parking in spaces for people with disabilities, driving vehicles in places other than those designated for them, using private vehicle to transport passengers, and driving beyond the speed limit. In the event of a settlement, a fixed fine of KD150 is imposed.

Since the implementation of the stricter amendments in April, the situation on the roads has changed, especially those known for scenes of recklessness and foolhardiness. Subiya and Kabad roads and Wafra farms that reckless drivers used to turn into night racing arenas, now appear quiet and empty except for normal traffic.

The severe penalties and intensive security campaigns have not only deterred violators, but also created a new reality that made these sites, once symbols of chaos, empty.

A security source confirmed to the newspaper that the General Traffic Department is continuing its intensive campaigns in all governorates round the clock. He said these campaigns aim not only to uncover violations, but also to establish a new traffic culture based on discipline and adherence to the law.

The source revealed that the presence of traffic patrols has been intensified since the new amendments took effect, leading to a decline in cases of recklessness on highways and open areas.

He stressed that the campaigns will continue as part of a comprehensive plan targeting all groups in order to control violators and protect lives and properties.

The message that the Ministry of Interior wants to convey is clear: “Discipline instead of chaos, and reform instead of prison cells.”

Alternative penalties do not mean leniency as much as they reflect a new awareness that links the law and society, transforming violations from a burden on prisons into an opportunity to correct behavior and serve the people.

While traffic and security campaigns continue, the biggest challenge remains in terms of the awareness of drivers themselves, as the law, no matter how strict, is only effective if everyone abides by it.

Following is a summary of the latest traffic statistics:

- Total number of cases: 11,054
- Hawally Governorate: 2,300 cases
- Capital Governorate: 1,751 cases
- Farwaniya Governorate: 1,733 cases
- Jahra Governorate: 2,103 cases
- Ahmadi Governorate: 1,623 cases
- Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate: 1,544 cases
- Total penal orders: 4,134
- Total fines: KD182,621
- Capital Governorate: KD41,357
- Hawally Governorate: KD36,430
- Farwaniya Governorate : KD33,588

Kuwait champions

changing experience and insights on best practices and policies that promote sustainable housing development in the region.

He stressed that the conference, with its interactive discussion panels and events, is a step towards unifying the Gulf vision, exchanging experience, and strengthening partnership with the private sector, thus, consolidating the role of the GCC countries in shaping a more efficient and sustainable housing based on the principles of innovation and responsibility.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the event, indicating he eagerly awaits the transformation of Gulf housing work into a vital platform for innovation and development, and a confident move to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Moreover, Al-Mishari expressed his happiness over the launch of the Second Gulf Housing Conference, which is being held under the patronage of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), with the participation of entities from other GCC countries.

He disclosed the workshops included in the conference focus on topics about housing sustainability and the role of real estate developers.

He announced that the first three real estate development projects in Kuwait will be launched on Sept 18, offering three investment opportunities to the private sector. He said the accompanying exhibition featured broad participation of Gulf entities showcasing their expertise in housing management, urging interested participants to visit in order to fully benefit from the event.

Regarding the much-discussed Sabriya project, Al-Mishari stated that the Sabriya, Nawaf Al-Ahmad and Khairan projects have been closed, and design bids for the three cities have been received and are currently under study. He expects the awarding of contracts to designers within two

months.

He added that the total number of housing units currently on offer is about 170,000, but this number could be subject to change based on the results of the preliminary studies on the projects.

On the timeline for these projects, he affirmed that the ministry laid down a 10-year plan to address the housing crisis, including the three projects, which are considered pioneering in the field of real estate development. “These projects include around 5,000 units, which will be implemented as per Law No. 118 and real estate financing, in preparation for their adoption in future projects,” he added.

On the expected cost of the three projects, he indicated that the cost will be determined based on the results of technical and financial studies.

About the urban code, he stressed there is a clear plan in this regard, explaining that the urban code in Kuwait is unified and applied in almost all areas.

He also pointed out that Law No. 118 grants the authority the right to establish specific building codes for new areas, which is currently being studied.

1st Deputy

He expressed his appreciation to GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi and his team, as well as the director general of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs, and the working teams in the GCC countries for the professional technical work that reflected concerted efforts and yielded achievements, which were welcomed and praised by the GCC ministries of Labor and Social Affairs.

He lauded the institutions and companies that supported the activities and events of the Executive Office, which are being celebrated for the first time in this session. He disclosed that their contributions are regarded as a model of community partnership and a qualitative step toward enhancing integration between sectors, supporting the development process, and serving Gulf citizens in the present and future.

He revealed that entities and institutions, which proved their commitment to support nationalization programs and contributed to providing quality job opportunities for the citizens of GCC countries, were honored at the ceremony.

He added “in the Distinguished Labor Personality Category, former Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh was honored. Her career has been a shining example in the history of social and labor work, especially since the qualitative steps and pioneering reforms she achieved enhanced the efficiency of institutional work and community service.”

He asserted that the ceremony celebrates leading institutions in the social and civil service fields, considering they contributed with love and dedication to support the community through various humanitarian and development initiatives, in addition to the honorees -- well-known social figures and charitable figures who remain role models in giving and generosity.

He praised the awarding of the GCC Medal for Civil and Administrative Service to distinguished competencies in GCC countries, indicating that it is “a unique Gulf initiative aimed at promoting the culture of excellence and institutional innovation. It is a medal of appreciation for remarkable achievements in planning, management, digital transformation and civil service.”

On the other hand, GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi stressed in his speech that honoring administrative competencies and leading institutions in GCC countries promotes sustainable development and embodies the spirit of Gulf cooperation.

He pointed out that the initiative affirms the Gulf countries’ commitment to honor creative and dedicated individuals in the service of their homelands.

He said the ceremony celebrates

an elite group of administrative competencies in the civil service sectors, along with companies, institutions and individuals who left a positive impact on society through their contributions to the public and private sectors and to social development.

He considers this a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and encourages generosity.

Former Minister of Social Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh stressed that honoring civil service and human resources competencies in GCC countries “embodies the values of hard work, creativity and social responsibility, promotes sustainable development, and inspires future generations.”

She said the initiative fosters a culture of honoring and recognizing achievements, and gives everyone motivation to continue giving.

She stated that she is honored to serve her country through the Ministry of Social Affairs during a period replete with qualitative achievements through concerted institutional efforts and the full support of the political leadership.

She confirmed that the most junior and senior employees are partners in these accomplishments, and that her award is for a collective journey to which many have contributed sincerely and faithfully.

Arab League

The ministers discussed files related to solidarity with Lebanon, Syria, Libya, and Yemen, as well as other national security, energy, and resource security issues.

The session also discussed Arab relations with China, India, Japan, and South American countries, in addition to the establishment of a partnership between the Arab League and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Earlier, Arab Foreign Ministers held a closed-door consultative meeting on Thursday ahead of the 164th regular session of the Arab League Council, focusing on key agenda items, foremost among them developments in the Palestinian cause.

The Kuwaiti delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-

Yahya and included Director of the Minister’s Office Ambassador Bader Al-Tunaib, Director of Arab World Affairs Ambassador Ahmad Al-Bakr and Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi.

According to an Arab League statement, the meeting -- attended by Secretary General Ahmad-Abul Gheit -- discussed ways to support the Palestinian people amid continued Israeli aggression in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

Ministers also reviewed recommendations submitted by permanent delegates earlier this week concerning recent developments in Palestine.

Separately, the Arab Summit Follow-up Committee held a meeting at the ministerial level, chaired by Iraq, to assess progress in implementing resolutions of the 34th Arab Summit hosted by Baghdad last year.

The committee, comprising Iraq (chair), Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, the UAE, and the Arab League Secretariat, discussed challenges facing implementation and means to strengthen joint Arab action.

Interns dive

Reflecting on his experience, Vinod described his internship as “a launch pad into journalism,” as the Arab Times team fostered a welcoming environment, opening doors to the craft of storytelling. “They made me see how a newsroom brings stories to life. I leave grateful and energized for the future.”

He added “the team provided full support and guidance, which made my learning experience both positive and productive. I gained valuable insights into journalism and media operations, while deepening my understanding of ethical standards in the field.”

Meanwhile, Al-Awadhi shared her internship experience, describing it as a deeper dive into the nuances of storytelling. She disclosed “I was initially drawn to the internship not just for the professional experience it would add to my CV, but also to develop my communication skills and

learn how to tell stories that readers truly engage with. Working closely with the editorial team helped me sharpen my writing skills, practice translation, and most importantly, understand the emotional weight behind impactful articles.”

Her internship included a behind-the-scenes look into the newspaper’s various departments -- from editing and page design to the printing process. Her discussions with the Arab Times staff, which explored fact-checking, digital engagement and the future of news publishing, left a lasting impression.

She added “the highlight of my internship was contributing to a full-page feature, which was both challenging and rewarding. I believe the soft skills this program cultivated -- particularly time management, adaptability and professionalism -- will have a lasting impact on my academic and professional journey.”

The internship program of the Arab Times continues to be an important platform for aspiring journalists and media professionals in Kuwait, offering not only technical training but also real-world experiences that prepare participants for the fast-paced demands of modern journalism.

Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah awarded certificates to the interns, reminding them that journalism is a craft, which demands heart and rigor in equal measure. “You are not just learning to report, you are learning to listen, to question, and to connect with readers. You will go a long way with the skills you gained here.”

This summer, the Arab Times did not just train interns. It sparked the beginning of new voices, ready to shape the stories of tomorrow.

Kuwait braces

He added that the weather on Saturday night will be hot, with northwesterly winds that are light to moderate in speed, ranging from 10 to 32 kilometers per hour, while the expected minimum temperatures will be between 28 and 30 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate with waves ranging from one and four feet.

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# Judge reverses Trump administration’s cuts of billions of dollars to Harvard University

BOSTON, Sept 4, (AP): A federal judge in Boston on Wednesday ordered the Trump administration to reverse its cuts of more than \$2.6 billion in research funding for Harvard University, delivering a significant victory to the Ivy League school in its battle with the White House.

US District Judge Allison Burroughs ruled the cuts amounted to illegal retaliation for Harvard’s rejection of the Trump administration’s demands for changes to Harvard’s governance and policies.

The government had tied the funding freezes to Harvard’s delays in dealing with antisemitism, but the judge said the university’s federally backed research had little connection to discrimination against Jews.

“A review of the administrative record makes it difficult to conclude anything other than that (the government) used antisemitism as a smokescreen for a targeted, ideologically-motivated assault on this country’s premier universities,” Burroughs wrote. The country must fight antisemitism, she wrote, but it also must protect the right to free speech.

The ruling reverses a series of funding freezes that later became outright cuts as the Trump administration escalated its fight with the nation’s wealthiest university. The administration also has sought to prevent the school from



This Nov 13, 2008 file photo shows the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. (AP)

hosting foreign students and threatened to revoke its tax-exempt status in a clash watched widely across higher education.

The restoration of federal money would revive Harvard’s sprawling research operation and hundreds of projects that sustained cuts. But whether Harvard actually receives the federal money remains to be seen. The government plans an immediate appeal, White House spokeswoman Liz Huston said in a statement, calling Burroughs an “activist Obama-appointed judge.”

“To any fair-minded observer, it is clear that Harvard University failed to protect their students from harassment and allowed discrimination to plague their campus for years,” Huston said. “Harvard does not have a constitutional right to taxpayer dollars.”

Harvard President Alan Garber foreshadowed potential battles to come even as he said the ruling validates Harvard’s fight for academic freedom.

# Chicago prepares for influx of National Guard troops and immigration agents

CHICAGO, Sept 4, (AP): Chicago community leaders forged ahead Wednesday with preparations for the influx of National Guard troops and immigration agents the city is expecting, advising residents about their rights and organizing protests with fresh urgency.

Details about the operation are scant, but President Donald Trump has amped up the rhetoric about crime in the nation’s third-largest city, saying an immigration crackdown and National Guard deployment are planned despite the objections of local leaders and a federal court ruling that a similar deployment in Los Angeles was illegal.

The preparations seem familiar in the Democratic stronghold that’s often found itself in Trump’s cross-hairs.

Still, leaders of schools, churches and community groups - particularly in the city’s immigrant enclaves and Black and Latino neighborhoods - say there’s increased gravity and coordination in preparing for the expected troop deployment and its accompanying deluge of attention.

Here’s how Chicago is preparing. Even without knowing what will unfold, Chicago’s energetic activ-



Armed National Guard soldiers from West Virginia patrol the Mall near the Capitol in Washington, as part of President Donald Trump’s order to impose federal law enforcement in the nation’s capital on Aug 26. (AP)

ist networks circulated “emergency protest” schedules, vowing to demonstrate within hours of federal intervention.

Organizers from immigrant rights groups, unions, clergy and anti-violence organizations said they’re working together more than ever.

“We have a stronger broader movement preparing to mobilize,” said Lawrence Benito, head of the

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. “People still have to go about their lives. We’re making sure folks are prepared and we’re ready to respond.”

Immigrant communities have been on high alert since Trump took office for the second time in January and kicked off a nationwide immigration enforcement operation in Chicago.

Democrats’ obstruction ‘historic and unprecedented’: Thune

# GOP prepares to change Senate rules to speed US President Trump’s nominees

WASHINGTON, Sept 4, (AP): US Republican senators say they are prepared to change the chamber’s rules to get around the Democratic blockade of President Donald Trump’s nominees and are discussing a proposal to make it easier to confirm multiple nominees at once.

The Democrats’ obstruction is “historic and unprecedented,” Senate Majority Leader John Thune said after meeting with his conference on Wednesday. “It is not something we can sustain.”

Republicans have been talking about options for changing the rules since early August, when the Senate left for a monthlong recess after a breakdown in bipartisan negotiations over the confirmation process. Democrats have blocked nearly every single one of Trump’s nominees, forcing majority Republicans to spend valuable floor time on procedural votes and leaving many positions in the executive branch unfilled.

GOP senators discussed one proposal in a private meeting on Wednesday that would enable them to confirm large tranches of nominees “en bloc,” or several at once, if a majority of senators agree, according to multiple senators who attended the meeting.

Currently, the objection of a single senator forces multiple votes on most nominations. The rules change would likely only apply to executive branch nominations, not lifetime judicial appointments, and would exclude many of the most high-profile positions, such as Cabinet nominees, that require a longer debate time.

The rules change would require several floor votes and the support of a simple majority, so at least 51 out of the chamber’s 53 Republicans. But most GOP senators appear to be on board.

“Expect us to move forward with a plan that would enable us to clear the backlog of nominees,” Thune said after the GOP conference meeting. “It just flat has to happen.”

Republicans said after the meeting that they discussed proposals that they



US Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-SD, joined at left by Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo, the GOP whip, speaks to reporters following closed-door strategy meetings, at the Capitol in Washington on July 22. (AP)

knew they would have to live with under Democratic presidents, as well.

“You always worry about what’s

Barrasso, the No. 2 Republican.

The latest standoff comes as Democrats and Republicans have gradually escalated their obstruction of the other party’s executive branch and judicial nominees over the last two decades, and as Senate leaders in both parties have changed the rules every few years to confirm more nominees without bipartisan support.

In 2013, Democrats changed Senate rules for lower court judicial nominees to remove the 60-vote threshold for confirmations as Republicans blocked President Barack Obama’s judicial picks. In 2017, Republicans did the same for Supreme Court nominees as Democrats tried to block Trump’s nomination of Justice Neil Gorsuch.

While Senate Republicans blocked many of President Joe Biden’s nominees, forcing similar delays in confirmations, Democrats have blocked almost all of Trump’s picks. It’s the first time in recent history that the minority party hasn’t allowed at least some quick confirmations.

The delays have infuriated Trump, who told Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer to “GO TO HELL!” in a social media post after negotiations broke down over the process in early August.

Schumer said then that a rules change would be a “huge mistake,” especially as Senate Republicans will need Democratic votes to pass spending bills and other legislation moving forward.

Schumer said in a Wednesday statement that Republicans’ proposed plan “guts the Senate’s constitutional role of advice and consent, weakens our checks and balances, and guarantees that historically bad nominees will only get worse with even less oversight.”

But Republicans say they are loosely basing their plan on legislation proposed by Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar in 2023, as Republicans blocked Biden nominees, to streamline Senate confirmations by allowing up to 10 nominees to be considered at the same time.

# Trump assures Nawrocki of continued robust US military presence in Poland

WASHINGTON, Sept 4, (AP): US President Donald Trump affirmed that the United States will keep a robust military presence in Poland as he had a warm meeting Wednesday with the country’s new president, Karol Nawrocki.

Trump had taken the unusual step of endorsing Nawrocki in the Polish elections earlier this year, and as the leaders sat side by side in the White House, Trump said the US-Polish relationship has always been strong but “now it’s better than ever.”

When asked by a reporter whether the US planned to continue placing troops in Poland, Trump said the U.S. would. “We’ll put more there if they want,” Trump added.

The visit to Washington is Nawrocki’s first overseas trip since taking office last month. The former amateur boxer and historian, who was backed by the conservative Law and Justice party, was hoping to deepen his relationship with Trump at a fraught moment for Warsaw as its neighbors Russia and Ukraine remain embroiled in a war sparked by Moscow’s invasion 3 1/2 years ago.

Nawrocki thanked Trump for his support and, in a nod to the bonds between their countries, gave a particular



US President Donald Trump greets Polish President Karol Nawrocki at the White House on Sept 3, in Washington. (AP)

hello to the millions of Polish Americans in the US.

“Those relations for me, for Poland, for Poles, are very important,” Nawrocki said.

He added that those bonds are based

on shared values of independence and democracy.

In a news conference after his meeting, Nawrocki said he and Trump discussed expanding the US military presence in Poland. He said he considered it “a major success” that Trump provided a guarantee of Poland’s security.

There has been heightened anxiety in Poland, and across Europe, about Trump’s long-term commitment to a strong US force posture on the continent - an essential deterrent to Russia. Russia and its ally Belarus are set to hold joint military exercises this month in Belarus, unnerving Poland as well as fellow NATO members Latvia and Lithuania.

Trump has grown 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.

Trump last month met with Putin in 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.



From left: Belgium’s Prime Minister Bart De Wever, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Poland’s Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Finland’s President Alexander Stubb, Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and French President Emmanuel Macron speak during a summit on Ukraine at the Elysee Palace, in Paris, France on Sept 4. (AP)

# Zelenskyy and European leaders push for US-backed security guarantees

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 4, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders met in Paris on Thursday with the US envoy appointed by President Donald Trump to mediate peace talks, discussing security guarantees for the war-torn nation as allies seek to ensure long-term military support and continued American backing once the conflict ends.

Zelenskyy held a closed-door meeting with Steve Witkoff, according to presidential press secretary Serhii Nikiforov.

Witkoff was invited to participate in the so-called “coalition of the willing” meeting to discuss aid for Ukraine, including sketching out plans for military support in the event of a ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine war to deter future Russian aggression.

French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who lead the group, have insisted that any European “reassurance” force in Ukraine needs the backing of the United States.

Starmer’s office said after the meeting that the British prime minister “emphasized that the group had an unbreakable pledge to Ukraine, with President Trump’s backing, and it was clear they now needed to go even further to apply pressure on (Russian president Vladimir) Putin to secure a cessation of hostilities.”

Starmer’s office also mentioned a decision from the coalition to supply

long-range missiles to Ukraine “to further bolster the country’s supplies.”

Macron said ahead of Thursday’s meeting that preparatory work on the security guarantees had been done and should now be approved at political level. He did not provide details.

“We Europeans are ready to provide security guarantees to Ukraine and the Ukrainians on the day peace is signed,” Macron said.

It is unclear what members of the coalition are willing to contribute, including troops on the ground.

Andriy Yermak, the Ukrainian president’s chief of staff, said Thursday after meeting Witkoff and other national security advisers that the security guarantees “must be strong and effective - in the air, at sea, on land and in cyberspace.”

In a policy shift earlier this month, the US sent positive signals over its readiness to support security guarantees for Ukraine that resemble NATO’s collective defense mandate, Zelenskyy said. It is unclear what that support would look like in practice. Ukraine is hoping for continued US intelligence sharing and air support.

Some leaders took part in person in the Paris talks while others joined virtually. They were set to speak with Trump over the phone after the meeting.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who attended the meeting virtually, said that a broad coalition of na-

tions is needed to support Ukraine’s defense against Russian aggression, but also to strengthen Europe to deter further military action by Moscow.

Citing European military and intelligence officials who have warned of Russian plans to strike within the decade other European countries, most of them in the military alliance Rutte helms, he said that “we have to make sure that our deterrence is such that they will never try, knowing that our reaction will be devastating.”

Rutte also called for the world to “not be naive about Russia.”

“We know what Putin tries to do and and the evidence is there in Ukraine as we speak,” he said.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine, Russia fired 112 strike and decoy drones across the country overnight Thursday, according to Ukraine’s Air Force morning report. Air defenses intercepted or jammed 84 drones, the statement said.

Russia on Thursday announced that it was expelling an Estonian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move after Estonia declared a Russian diplomat persona non grata last month.

In another development, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul urged India to press its close ally Russia to return to peace talks over the war in Ukraine, days after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin at a regional summit in China.

Portugal observes national day of mourning

# Famous Lisbon streetcar crash kills 17 people

LISBON, Portugal, Sept 4, (AP): The death toll in the crash of a famous Lisbon streetcar popular with tourists rose to 17 Thursday after two people died from their injuries while receiving hospital care, an emergency services official said.

The dead were all adults, Margarida Castro Martins, head of Lisbon’s Civil Protection Agency, told reporters. She didn’t provide their names or nationalities, saying that their families would be informed first.

Another 21 people were injured in Wednesday’s crash, she said, adding that they were men and women between the ages of 24 and 65 as well as a 3-year-old child.

The injured included Portuguese people as well as two Germans, two Spaniards and one person each from France, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Morocco, South Korea and Cape Verde, she said.

The range of nationalities reflected how big a draw the renowned 19th-century streetcar was for tourists who are packing the Portuguese capital during the summer season. Portugal observed a national day of mourning Thursday after the capital’s worst disaster in recent history.



Firefighters carrying the body of a person on a stretcher at the site of a derailed electric streetcar in Lisbon, Portugal on Sept 3. (AP)

Felicity Ferriter, a 70-year-old British tourist, had just arrived with her husband at a hotel near the crash site and was unpacking her suitcase when she heard “a horrendous crash.”

“We heard it, we heard the bang,” she told The Associated Press outside her hotel.

The couple had seen the streetcar

when they arrived and intended to ride on it the next day.

“It was to be one of the highlights of our holiday,” she said. “It could have been us.”

She said that the emergency response was “amazing.” Police and ambulances quickly “flooded in,” she said.



Rescuers find helicopter crash site in Borneo

# Indonesia, United States troops conclude joint military drills with live-fire exercise

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Sept 4, (AP): Thousands of soldiers from Indonesia and the United States concluded annual joint military drills with a live-fire exercise on Wednesday together with forces from a dozen other countries.

The Garuda Shield exercise began on Aug. 24 in the capital Jakarta, with activities also taking place in the towns of Baturaja and Dabo Singkep on Sumatra island.

Indonesia's Military Chief Gen. Agus Subiyanto and Minister of Defense Sjafrie Sjamsoeuddin oversaw Wednesday's exercise, which included long-range artillery and rocket firing, integrated airstrikes and ground troop maneuvers.

Subiyanto praised Indonesian troops "who have demonstrated interoperability with strategic partners in addressing various threats."

During the 11-day combat exercise, US soldiers assigned to the 11th Airborne Division for the first time fired two FIM-92 Stinger missiles in Indonesia, marking a milestone for Washington. The FIM-92 Stinger is a surface-to-air missile designed to de-

stroy low-flying aircraft.

"Not only is this a first for the whole eleventh (Airborne Division), but it is also the first time that we are utilizing this capability in Indonesia," Army Capt. Kaden Cox, the officer in charge of the live-fire exercise, said in a statement from the US Department of Defense.

The two missiles were fired in Baturaja last week, it added.

Hosted by the Indonesian National Armed Forces, this year's Super Garuda Shield focused on strengthening regional ties in an increasingly unstable global landscape, the military said in a statement.

The exercise has been held annually by Indonesian and US soldiers since 2006. The list of participants has expanded since 2022 to include Australia, Japan, Singapore, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Brazil and South Korea, bringing the total number of troops taking part in the drill to 6,500.

Several Asian countries also sent observers to the exercise.

China criticized the drills and ac-



In this photo released by Indonesian Armed Forces information Center (Puspren TNI), on Sept 3, a rocket is launched from a US Army's High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during the live-fire exercise at Super Garuda Shield 2025, an annual joint military drill between Indonesia and the US, in Batu Raja, South Sumatra. (AP)

cused the US of trying to build an "Asian NATO" to limit China's growing military and diplomatic influence

Hegseth said Washington has been strengthening military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to reassure allies alarmed by Beijing's increasing military and economic pressure and provocative actions in the disputed South China Sea.

**Also:**

**JAKARTA, Indonesia:** A rescue team on Wednesday reached the site of a helicopter crash on **Borneo**, recovering one body, authorities said. Seven people remain unaccounted for.

The discovery in the tropical island's forests came after three days of searching for the helicopter, which went down with eight people on board.

Rescuers recovered one body about 100 meters from the helicopter. Initial observations from the team indicate that more victims were still inside the aircraft.

But the exact number couldn't be confirmed because of worsening weather and the darkness, said Yudhi Bramantyo, operational director of the National Search and Rescue Agency.

"The condition of the helicopter is clearly burnt, so it will be necessary

to dismantle the aircraft to confirm the number of victims inside," Bramantyo said.

The Airbus BK117 D-3, owned by Eastindo Air, lost contact with air traffic control eight minutes after departing from the airport in Kotabaru district in Indonesia's South **Kaliman-**tan province on Monday. The aircraft was on its way to Palangkaraya City in Central Kalimantan Province.

Three foreign nationals - an American, a Brazilian and an Indian - are among the eight people who were on board the helicopter.

More than 200 personnel from a joint team, including police, military, local agencies, residents and volunteers, were sent by land and air to comb a 27-square-kilometer (10-square-mile) stretch of forest in **Mantewe, Tanahbumbu** district.

The operation was supported by five helicopters, which took turns sweeping the area. The search has been hampered by bad weather.

Following Wednesday afternoon's discovery, ground search teams have been redirected to the site to assist with recovery efforts.

## N.Korea leader brings daughter to Beijing

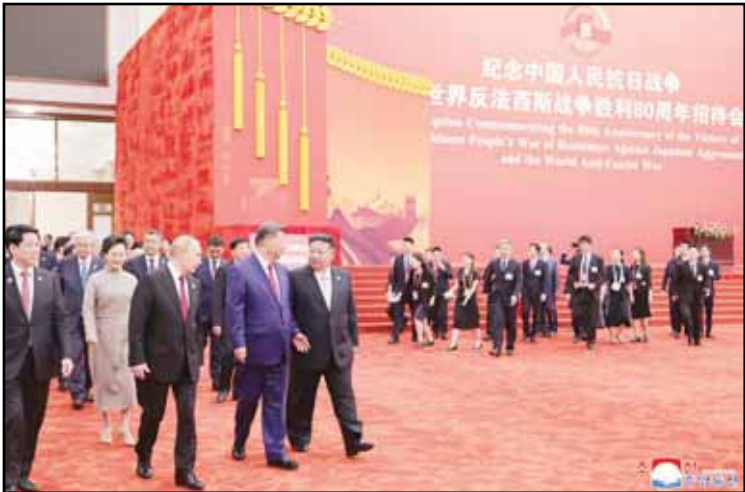
# Kim meets with Chinese President Xi

BEIJING, Sept 4, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the sidelines of festivities commemorating the end of World War II, state media reported Thursday.

Kim attended a Chinese military parade in Beijing a day earlier, alongside other foreign leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kim is making a rare trip outside North Korea.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said that the two leaders would conduct in-depth exchanges of views on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

He said that Kim's attendance at the parade and the talks with Xi "carry great significance."



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, from second left in front, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrive for a reception marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Sept 3. (AP)

the bilateral relationship.

In recent years, Kim's foreign policy has focused heavily on Russia. He has sent combat troops and ammunition to back Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in return for economic and military assistance. At a meeting with Kim in Beijing after the parade, Putin praised the bravery of North Korean soldiers in

the fighting.

But experts say that Kim would feel the need to prepare for the possible end of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Some observers say Kim's trip could also be meant to increase leverage in potential talks with US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly expressed his hopes to resume diplomacy between the two countries.

## Africa

**Nigeria boat accident kills 31:** A boat accident on a river in north-central Nigeria killed at least 31 people, authorities said Wednesday.

The overloaded boat hit a tree trunk in the Borgu area of Niger state while it carried 90 people, according to Hussaini Isah, an official with Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency.

Isah said 50 people have been rescued so far, but the number of those missing remains unknown as search and rescue operations continue.

Boat accidents are common in Nigeria's remote areas during the rainy season in Africa's most populous country. They are often caused by overloaded and poorly maintained vessels. Analysts say many of these boats operate without life jackets. (AP)

**Sudan denies US accusations:** Sudan's government has rejected US accusations that it used chemical weapons in the capital Khartoum, saying there is no evidence of chemical or radiological contamination.

In a report released earlier this week, the Federal Ministry of Health said field tests, medical reports, and surveillance data showed no signs of toxic substances. "There is no evidence of chemical or radiological contamination in Khartoum State," it said in a detailed report.

The ministry said no abnormal deaths, mass illnesses, or symptoms of poisoning had been recorded, and that forensic reports had not identified any unusual causes of death. It added that radiation levels were normal, no radioactive material had moved, and no suspicious munitions or residues had been found. (Xinhua)

## Lat/Am

**Bolivia ex-interior minister deported:** A former Bolivian interior minister was deported late Wednesday from Florida to Bolivia, where authorities say he faces charges ranging from breach of duty for illegally importing weapons to crimes against humanity for overseeing a crackdown on protests in 2019 that caused dozens of deaths.

Arturo Murillo was freed from US prison in June after serving four years in a money laundering case that accused him of taking \$532,000 in bribes to help a Florida company win a lucrative contract to sell tear gas to his country's government.

Just days after Murillo's release from a Florida prison, he was rearrested and transferred to ICE custody in Miami, where he fought his deportation order for weeks, said a Bolivian diplomat in Washington who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. (AP)

**House fire kills 7 in Uruguay's capital:** At least seven people died, including five minors and two elderly adults, after a fire destroyed a house Wednesday morning in Uruguay's capital, Montevideo, according to the national fire department.

The blaze broke out around 6 a.m. local time at a house in the Villa Espanola district, the department said. "We are working to determine the causes and origin of the fire. We cannot rule anything out, it would be too hasty," fire department spokeswoman Victoria Barboza told local press near the burned-down house, a five-bedroom property that was completely consumed by the blaze. (Xinhua)

## Asia

**Australia court denies decorated vet appeal:** Australia's highest court on Thursday removed the last chance for highly decorated veteran Ben Roberts-Smith to clear his name of findings that he unlawfully killed four unarmed Afghans under Australian soldiers' control more than a decade ago.

The High Court said it would not hear his appeal against a federal judge's civil court finding in 2023 that Roberts-Smith likely killed noncombatants unlawfully in 2009 and 2012.

Three federal court judges had unanimously rejected his appeal against that finding in May.

The High Court decision leaves Australia's most decorated living war veteran with no more legal options in a defamation case he started in 2018 when newspapers accused him of a range of war crimes.

Roberts-Smith, who was awarded both the Victoria Cross and Medal of Gallantry for his service in Afghanistan, has never faced criminal charges, which must be proven to a higher standard of guilt beyond reasonable doubt. (AP)

**'Widespread damage 5 months after quake':** Five months after a massive earthquake hit the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar, the country is still finding bodies in the rubble. The 7.7 magnitude quake that hit March 28 killed more than 3,800 people and caused widespread destruction.

When the earthquake hit, Myanmar was already mired in a civil war, in which armed militias and pro-democracy forces are fighting the military-led government that seized power from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

During a rare trip into the disaster zone, The Associated Press recently witnessed a country laboring to rebuild the roads, temples, hospitals, schools and government buildings needed for a society to function, while still grappling with the deadly divisions that have torn the nation apart.



A backhoe clears an area near the parliament building that was damaged in the March 28 earthquake in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on Aug 8. (AP)

The military allowed AP to report on the quake damage in the capital, Naypyitaw, and in the country's second-largest city, Mandalay, which was the earthquake's epicenter. Both areas are firmly under military control. Official representatives accompanied the team to all sites. (AP)

**Heavy rain expected along western Japan:** Typhoon Peipah is expected to approach western Japan, including Kyushu, and could make landfall later this week, the weather agency said Thursday, warning of heavy rain mainly along western Japan.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said a tropical depression over waters east of Amami-Oshima Island in southwestern Japan developed into the tropical storm as of 3 a.m. local time Thursday.

As of 6 a.m. local time, Peipah was moving northward at a speed of 30 km an hour, packing winds of up to 90 km per hour, the JMA added.

Extreme downpours were already pounding southern Kyushu as warm and damp air from the south flowed in. (Xinhua)

# Panama and US propose new force of 5,550 in Haiti with power to detain gang suspects

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 4, (AP): The United States and Panama are urging the UN Security Council to authorize a 5,550-member force with the power to detain gang members in Haiti to help stop the escalating violence.

The two countries outlined their proposal to transform the Kenya-led multinational force now deployed in the Caribbean nation into a much larger force in a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

The first Kenyans arrived in Haiti in June 2024 and the force was supposed to have 2,500 troops, but it has been plagued by a lack of funding and its current strength is below 1,000.

Gangs have grown in power since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021. They now control 90% of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and have expanded their activities, including looting, kidnapping, sexual assaults and rape, into the countryside. Haiti has not had a president since the assassination.

The six-page draft resolution expresses appreciation to Kenya for leading the multinational force but reaffirms Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' finding in February that it hasn't been able to keep pace with the



Residents watch a Kenyan police armored vehicle patrolling in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Sept 2. (AP)

dramatic expansion of the gangs and needed to be scaled up.

Acting US Ambassador Dorothy Shea had announced on Aug. 28 that the U.S. was seeking U.N. authorization for a new Gang Suppression Force.

The draft resolution would authorize UN member nations to transition the mission into such a force in cooperation with Haiti's government for an

initial period of 12 months. The force would be able to detain and arrest Haitians.

It states that the force would consist of 5,500 uniformed personnel and 50 civilians who would be paid from voluntary contributions. But it does not specify whether Kenya or any other country would contribute troops or police.

## Main opposition candidate concedes

# Jamaica premier elected to third term

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept 4, (AP): Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness secured a third term early Thursday following a tight race on an island shaken by corruption, inequity and economic concerns.

Preliminary results showed that Holness' Jamaica Labor Party won at least 34 seats, while Mark Golding's opposition People's National Party secured at least 29 seats.

Golding conceded the election in a brief speech, saying he was disappointed in the outcome as he acknowledged the success of his opponent.

"This is not an easy speech to make," he said.

Also participating in Wednesday's general elections were the Jamaica Progressive Party, the United Independents' Congress and nine independent candidates seeking a seat in various constituencies.

Official voter turnout was just 38.8%, only slightly higher than the turnout for the 2020 elections during the pandemic.

Just over 2 million registered voters are eligible to cast their ballots on the island of 2.8 million people.

A total of 63 seats are up for grabs in Jamaica's House of Representatives. The leader of the party that wins a majority becomes the island's next prime



Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness, leader of the Jamaica Labor Party, points to his polling station number before voting during general elections in Kingston, Jamaica on Sept 3. (AP)

minister.

The new leader will then appoint 13 of 21 senators to Jamaica's upper chamber of Parliament, and the opposition will choose eight others.

Under Holness, Jamaica has seen a 43% drop in killings so far this year, marking the most significant decline in decades. The improvement is largely

credited to the current administration's increase in firearm seizures and a stronger, coordinated security force presence across the Caribbean island.

The Jamaica Labor Party campaigned on this tangible success, positioning itself as the government that pulled the island back from the brink of widespread violence.

# Death toll from Afghan earthquake jumps to 2,205 as aid agencies plead for funds

JALALABAD, Afghanistan, Sept 4, (AP): Hundreds of bodies have been recovered from houses destroyed by a major earthquake in Afghanistan last week, pushing the death toll to over 2,200, a Taliban government spokesman said Thursday.

A 6.0 magnitude quake struck several provinces of the mountainous and remote east on Sunday night, leveling villages and trapping people under rubble. The majority of casualties have been in Kunar, where many live in steep river valleys separated by high mountains.

Taliban spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat, who provided the updated casualty figure of 2,205, said rescue and search efforts were continuing. "Tents have been set up for people, and the delivery of first aid and emergency supplies is ongoing."

The rough terrain is hindering relief efforts. Taliban authorities have deployed helicopters and airdropped army commandos to help survivors. Aid workers have reported walking for hours to reach villages cut off by landslides and rockfall.

Funding cuts are also having an impact on the response.

The Norwegian Refugee Council said it had fewer than 450 staff in Afghanistan whereas it had 1,100 in 2023, the date of the last major quake in the coun-



Afghans injured during a powerful earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan Sunday, are treated at Nangarhar Regional hospital in Jalalabad, Afghanistan on Sept 3. (AP)

try. The council only had one warehouse remaining and no emergency stock.

"We will need to purchase items once we get the funding but this will take potentially weeks and people are in need now," said Maisam Shafiey, the communications and advocacy advisor for the council in Afghanistan. "We have only \$100,000 available to support emergency response efforts.

This leaves an immediate funding gap of \$1.9 million."

Humanitarian organizations have called the latest disaster a crisis within a crisis.

Afghanistan was already struggling with the impact of climate change, particularly drought, a weak economy and the return of some 2 million Afghans from neighboring countries.



## Kuwait oil price plunges to \$73.65 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (KUNA): Kuwait oil price dropped 18 cents to USD 73.65 per barrel on Wednesday compared to Tuesday's USD 73.83 pb, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude went down USD 1.60 to USD 67.54 pb while West Texas Intermediate dropped USD 1.68 to USD 63.91 pb.

# Business

On the sidelines of the 11th meeting of the GCC Ministerial committee for Labor and Social Affairs

## 'Bankee' wins best program in the field of social work across the GCC



Manal Al-Mattar, Head of Group Corporate Communications at NBK, receives the award for 'Bankee' from Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.



The GCC Ministerial Committee for Labor and Social Affairs honored the National Bank of Kuwait for winning the Best Private Sector Project Award across the GCC for its pioneering financial literacy program 'Bankee'.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The GCC Ministerial committee for Labor and Social Affairs honored National Bank of Kuwait for winning best private sector project Award across the GCC for its nominated "Bankee" financial literacy program.

The ceremony, which took place on the sidelines of the GCC ministerial committee meeting at the St. Regis Hotel in Kuwait, celebrated pioneering projects that effectively contribute to the development of society.

Receiving the award for Bankee was Manal Al-Mattar, Head of Group Corporate Communications at National Bank of Kuwait, with the attendance of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, Mr. Jassim Mohammed Al-Bedawi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah

### "Bankee" an Innovative Experience

"Bankee" was nominated for the Pioneering Social Enterprise Award as an innovative educational experience and one of NBK's most prominent initiatives aimed at enhancing financial awareness and literacy among school students in Kuwait.

The program is first of its kind in Kuwait, offered by NBK in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Nazaha, Kuwait's Anti-Corruption Authority.

The aim of Bankee is to introduce students to basic economic concepts and practices such as earning, spending, saving, and financial obligations, in addition to instilling core values in students such as honesty, integrity, personal development, taking responsibility, co-operation, promoting teamwork, and raising a generation of national youth who understand the importance of financial stability and independence, and possess the financial skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to achieving sustainable development and economic well-being for individuals and society.

Bankee has achieved remarkable success since its launch. The third edition saw the participation of more than 60 schools, benefiting more than 32,000 students and 7,200 teachers.

This was achieved thanks to its unique classroom design and its

- This recognition reflects NBK's leadership as the biggest contributor to the field of social responsibility in Kuwait.
- The bank is working on expanding the program's reach to include more schools.

positive impact on student behavior, providing them with the skills they need to manage their financial affairs. This was in addition to the significant improvement in their financial literacy after the program was implemented in their schools.

### A firm commitment to empowering the next generation

This recognition reflects the NBK's unwavering commitment to empowering national youth and equipping them with the financial knowledge and skills necessary for their future. It also serves as an incentive to continue developing the program and expanding its reach to include as many schools as possible.

NBK always strives to maintain its leading position as the biggest contributor to the field of social responsibility in Kuwait by launching diverse, innovative, and sustainable initiatives that cover all segments of society and largely focus on supporting the education sector and youth development, as it strongly believes that investing in education is an investment in Kuwait's future.

The visits of NBK's executive management to schools and their monitoring of the program's implementation reinforced its significance.

These visits were attended by many parents, who expressed their pleasure with the positive changes they observed in their children's behavior and financial literacy.

"Bankee" uses a classroom economy model that renders the school a micro-economy simulating the real financial system, and the program's website has been launched in both Arabic and English, through which it offers a practical and engaging platform, allowing students and teachers to use it digitally to make different financial transactions using the virtual Bankoz currency.

This further reinforces the value of work, earnings, and well-studied decision-making abilities.

To better instill the value of giving, NBK launched a donation program for the students participating in "Bankee" to support underprivileged families in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

To this end, NBK provided donation boxes in the schools participating in "Bankee", so the students get the chance to donate from their cumulating balance to support the education of children from underprivileged families, using the virtual Bankoz currency they received as rewards and incentives for using the program.

This coincided with an awareness campaign launched by NBK within schools participating in Bankee, to encourage students to donate in cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, in addition to urging teachers to constantly remind students of the donation boxes and explain the positive influence of giving in themselves and society.

After the students made their donations, NBK then collected them and converted them into Kuwaiti dinars and then donated the funds in the students' name to the Child Education Project, supervised by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

The donations covered the tuition fees of a group of children from underprivileged families, ensuring their continued education and preventing them from dropping out of school.

Moreover, NBK is keen on leaving a distinctive social influence in the communities in which it operates by making community investments that align well with its Environmental, Social and Institutional Governance (ESG) standards. The total value of NBK's community investments reached KWD 30 million in 2024, demonstrating that NBK is a role model for sustainable development and an effective contributor to building a more prosperous and stable future for Kuwait and the region.

It should be noted that NBK received the Bronze Award for "Bankee" in recognition of its efforts to integrate Environmental, Social, and Institutional Governance (ESG) standards into its operations.

# CMA grants BlackRock Advisors UK license to operate in Kuwait

Kuwait strengthens position as global finance hub

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has announced the issuance of a license to BlackRock Advisors UK Limited, authorizing the firm to provide investment advisory services in the country.

This underscores the growing prominence of Kuwait on the global financial stage. The firm is a subsidiary of BlackRock Group, one of the largest asset management firms globally.

This development is considered an important milestone in the evolution of the financial market in the country and reinforces its

ability to attract major international institutions. It is a pivotal step in the broader national strategy to realize the vision of Kuwait to become a leading global financial and commercial hub. The move also reflects the ambition of the country to strengthen its position in regional and international markets by cultivating a business environment conducive to global investment.

It is a milestone that goes beyond the mere granting of a license, as it is an affirmation of the success of institutional collaboration between CMA, Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), and other relevant government entities. It highlights the efficiency of the regulatory framework of the country, the flexibility of its administrative procedures, and the speed of execution—all of which contribute to enhancing its appeal to international investors.

The entry of BlackRock into the Kuwaiti

market signals international confidence in Kuwait as a credible and well-regulated financial center, capable of supporting the operations of major global entities. This expansion enriches the local investment ecosystem and creates new opportunities for collaboration with domestic financial institutions. It also paves the way for knowledge transfer, technical expertise sharing, and the development of strategic partnerships at regional and global levels.

Through this strategic step, Kuwait reaffirms its status as a preferred destination for leading international firms and continues to solidify its position on the global financial landscape. This achievement serves as clear evidence of its ambitious vision and advanced institutional capacity, thereby, positioning itself as a central regional platform for global companies looking to expand their footprint in the Middle East.

## Global investors bid \$3.1 bln in auction

## IILM reissues \$1.29 bln Sukuk across 4 tenors

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 4: The International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM), an international organization that develops and issues short-term Shari'ah-compliant financial instruments, has successfully completed the reissuance of an aggregate USD 1.285 billion short-term Sukuk across four different tenors of one, three, six, and twelve-month respectively.

The four series were priced competitively at:

- i) 4.35% for USD 450 million for 1-month tenor;
- ii) 4.33% for USD 435 million for 3-month tenor;
- iii) 4.18% for USD 200 million for 6-month tenor; and,
- iv) 4.05% for USD 200 million for 12-month tenor

The successful completion of today's short-term Sukuk transaction marks the IILM's fourteenth auction year-to-date (YTD), bringing total issuances to USD 15.66 billion across 46 Sukuk series of varying tenors. It also represents the second time that the IILM has offered investors with four distinct tenors within a single auction.

The auction attracted robust participation from the IILM's network of Primary Dealers and global investors, generating total bids of USD 3.1 billion and achieving a strong average bid-to-cover (BTC) ratio of 2.4 times.

Mohamad Safri Shahul Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of the IILM, said: "The IILM's latest auction featured four distinct tenors, reaffirming our continued commitment to offering high-quality Shari'ah-compliant liquidity instruments that address the evolving needs of market participants globally."

The strong investor participation across maturities reflects not only sustained confidence in the IILM's programme, but also the trust placed in the strength and credibility of our issuance framework. This steadfast support reinforces the IILM's position as a reliable pillar of global Islamic liquidity management, contributing to the industry by enhancing cross-border connectivity, deepening secondary market activity, and promoting the overall stability of the Islamic financial system."

"Today's issuance also comes as global markets position ahead of the US Federal Reserve's anticipated rate cut as early as this month. This shift in monetary policy

expectations has created a constructive environment for short-term markets, with demand remaining strong across all tenors. Investor interest was particularly pronounced at the longer end of the curve, signaling a clear shift in the sentiment and growing confidence in the rate outlook."

"The robust demand also coincides with the recent pricing of a highly rated sovereign Sukuk issuance by a GCC issuer, further highlighting the growing appeal of Islamic finance instruments across the curve."

The issuance forms part of the IILM's "A-1" (S&P) and "F1" (Fitch Ratings) rated USD 6 billion short-term Sukuk issuance programme.

The IILM's short-term Sukuk is distributed by a diversified and growing network of primary dealers globally, namely Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Al Baraka Turk, Afriq Islamic Bank, AlRayan Bank, Boubyan Bank, CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad, Dukhan Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Golden Global Investment Bank, Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait International Bank, Maybank Islamic Berhad, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat, Qatar Islamic Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank.

The IILM is a regular issuer of short-term Sukuk across varying tenors and amounts to cater to the liquidity needs of institutions offering Islamic financial services. The IILM will continue to reissue its short-term liquidity instruments monthly as scheduled in its issuance calendar.

### About the IILM

The International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM) is an international organization established on 25 October 2010 by central banks, monetary authorities and multilateral organizations to develop and issue short-term Shari'ah-compliant financial instruments to facilitate effective cross-border liquidity management for institutions that offer Islamic financial services (IIFS).

The current members of the IILM Governing Board are the central banks and monetary agencies of Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Qatar, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, as well as the multilateral Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector.

Membership of the IILM is open to central banks, monetary authorities, financial regulatory authorities or government ministries or agencies that have regulatory oversight of finance or trade and commerce, and multilateral organizations.

## Türkiye's annual inflation eases to 32.95% in Aug

ANKARA, Sept 4, (Xinhua): Türkiye's annual inflation eased to 32.95 percent in August, marking the fifteenth consecutive month of decrease, official data showed Wednesday.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose 2.04 percent, while producer prices increased 2.48 percent, according to data released by the Turkish Statistical Institute.

Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz attributed the slightly higher-than-expected annual inflation to agricultural factors, noting on social media platform X that frost and drought "significantly affected food prices," which contributed about one-third of the monthly increase.

Inflation remains on track with the Central Bank's forecast of 25-29 percent by the end of this year, Yilmaz added.

Meanwhile, Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek noted on X that August's annual inflation was more than 42 points below its May 2022 peak.

He also highlighted improvements in core inflation in August, noting on X that "core goods inflation stood at 19.8 percent, while services inflation dropped to 45.8 percent, the lowest level since April 2022."

Calling "lasting price stability" a "prerequisite for sustainable growth and social welfare," Simsek said the government "will maintain fiscal discipline and structural reforms with the same determination."

Türkiye has faced persistent high inflation for years. Between June 2023 and March 2024, the central bank raised its benchmark rate sharply from 8.5 percent

to 50 percent. As inflation eased, it began cutting rates in December 2024, lowering them by 250 basis points to 42.5 percent in March this year.

However, following the brief detention of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu on March 19, market turmoil prompted the central bank to swiftly hike rates by 350 basis points to 46 percent, ending the easing cycle and coinciding with a significant drop in foreign exchange reserves.

Since then, Turkish authorities have stressed the return of financial stability with a series of tightening measures. On July 24, the central bank cut its key interest rate by 300 basis points, from 46 percent to 43 percent, starting a new easing cycle as Türkiye's economy is entering a tentative phase of recovery, buoyed by slowing inflation.



Reinforcing its commitment to community well-being and compassionate care for children

## InvestGB reaffirms corporate social responsibility with visit to KACCH & BACCH



CEO Hani AlAwadhi leads the company's team during the visit.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: As part of its corporate social responsibility program, Gulf Capital Investment Company “InvestGB”, the investment arm of Gulf Bank, organized a visit to the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals and Bayt Abdullah Children’s Hospice (KACCH & BACCH). The initiative reflects InvestGB’s ongoing commitment to community service.

During the visit, the InvestGB team toured the facilities, met with healthcare staff, caregivers, and patients, and distributed care packages and gifts to bring moments of comfort and joy to the children receiving treatment.

The initiative also helped the team gain valuable insights into the challenges faced by families and medical teams providing essential care.

This activity underscores InvestGB’s values of empathy, inclusion, and service to society, and forms part of its broader ESG strategy.

By engaging with leading nonprofit institutions such as KACCH & BACCH, InvestGB continues to foster awareness, encourage volunteerism, and strengthen its long-term commitment to the well-being of the community.

### Alphabet surges after court ruling curbs

## Google must share search data, default deals stay, declares court

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 4, (AP): A federal judge has ordered a shake-up of Google’s search engine in an attempt to curb the corrosive power of an illegal monopoly while rebuffing the U.S. government’s attempt to break up the company and impose other restraints.

The 226-page decision made by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington, D.C., will likely ripple across the technological landscape at a time when the industry is being reshaped by breakthroughs in artificial intelligence - including conversational “answer engines” as companies like ChatGPT and Perplexity try to upend Google’s long-held position as the internet’s main gateway.

The innovations and competition being unleashed by AI also reshaped the judge’s approach to the remedies in the nearly five-year-old antitrust case brought by the U.S. Justice Department during President Donald Trump’s first administration and carried onward by President Joe Biden’s administration.

“Unlike the typical case where the court’s job is to resolve a dispute based on historic facts, here the court is asked to gaze into a crystal ball and look to the future. Not exactly a judge’s forte,” Mehta wrote.

The judge is trying to rein in Google by prohibiting some of the tactics the company deployed to drive traffic to its search engine and other services. The ruling also will pry open some of the prized databases of closely guarded information about search that have provided Google with a seemingly insurmountable advantage.

The handcuffs being slapped on Google will preclude contracts that give its search engine, Gemini AI app, Play Store for Android and virtual assistant an exclusive position on smartphone, personal computers and other devices.

But Mehta stopped short of banning the multi-billion dollar deals that Google has been making for years to lock in its search engine as the default on smartphones, personal computers and other devices. Those deals, involving payments of more than \$26 billion annually, were one of the main issues that prompted the judge to conclude Google’s search engine was an illegal monopoly, but he decided banning them in the future would do more harm than good.

The judge also rejected the U.S. Justice Department’s effort to force Google to sell its popular Chrome browser, concluding it was an unwarranted step that “would be incredibly messy and highly risky.”

Partially because he is allowing the default deals to continue, Mehta is ordering Google to give its current and would-be rivals access to some of its search engine’s secret sauce - the data stockpiled from trillions of queries that it used to help improve the quality of its search results. That is a measure that Google had also fiercely opposed, contending it was unfair and would raise privacy and security risk for the billions of people who have posed



A sign is displayed on a Google building at their campus in Mountain View, Calif., Sept. 24, 2019. (AP)

questions to its search engine - sometimes delving into sensitive issues.

The Justice Department’s antitrust chief, Gail Slater, hailed the decision as a “major win for the American people,” even though the agency didn’t get everything it sought. “We are now weighing our options and thinking through whether the ordered relief goes far enough,” Slater wrote in a post.

In its own post, Google framed Mehta’s ruling as a vindication of its long-held position that the case never should have been brought. The decision “recognizes how much the industry has changed through the advent of AI, which is giving people so many more ways to find information,” wrote Lee-Anne Mulholland, Google’s vice president of regulatory affairs. “This underlines what we’ve been saying since this case was filed in 2020: Competition is intense and people can easily choose the services they want.”

The Mountain View, California, company has already vowed to appeal the judge’s monopoly findings issued 13 months ago that led to Tuesday’s ruling.

“You don’t find someone guilty of robbing a bank and then sentence him to writing a thank you note for the loot,” said Nidhi Hegde, executive director of the American Economic Liberties Project.

Investors seemed to interpret the ruling as a relatively light slap on the wrist for Google, as the stock price of its corporate parent, Alphabet Inc., surged more than 7% in extended trading. That would translate into a nearly \$200 billion increase in Alphabet’s market value, if the shares follow a similar trajectory in Wednesday’s regular trading session.

Allowing the default search deals to continue is more than just a victory for Google. It’s also a win for Apple, which receives more than \$20 billion annually from Google, and other recipients of the payments.

In hearings earlier this year, Apple warned the judge that banning the contracts would deprive the company

of money that it funnels into its own innovative research. The Cupertino, California, company also cautioned that the ban could have the unintended consequence of making Google even more powerful by pocketing the money it had been spending on deals while most consumers will still end up flocking to Google’s search engine anyway.

Others, such as the owners of the Firefox web browser, asserted that losing the Google contracts would threaten their future survival by depriving them of essential revenue.

Apple’s shares rose 3% in extended trading after the ruling came out.

Mehta refrained from ordering a sale of Chrome because he decided there wasn’t adequate proof the browser served as an essential ingredient in Google’s search monopoly, making a divestiture “a poor fit for this case.”

Chrome would have been a hot commodity had the judge forced Google to put it on the auction block. Perplexity submitted an unsolicited \$34.5 billion offer to buy Chrome last month. And during court testimony earlier this year, a ChatGPT executive left no doubt that service’s owner, OpenAI, would be interested in being interested in buying Chrome, too.

But the judge decided forcing Google to open up parts of its search data to rivals such as DuckDuckGo, Bing, and others will offer the best and fairest way to foster more compelling competition. In doing so, Mehta still narrowed the scope of the Justice Department’s request and will limit the access to Google’s search index and query histories.

While the wrangling over Mehta’s ruling continues, Google is facing another potentially debilitating threat in another antitrust case brought by the Justice Department targeting the digital ad empire that was built up around its search engine. After different federal judge in Virginia declared that some of the technology underlying the ad network to be an illegal monopoly earlier this year, the Justice Department plans to make its case for another proposed breakup in a trial scheduled to begin later this month.

## Head of EU trade committee has ‘doubts’ about deal with US

FRANKFURT, Sept 4, (AP): The head of the European Parliament’s trade committee said Wednesday he has “doubts” about aspects of the EU’s trade deal with the Trump administration and predicted the deal could be amended during the legislative approval process.

“A lot of questions are there, and I guess there will be some amendments,” said committee chairman Bernd Lange, adding that “myself and also some colleagues of mine have doubts about the deal.”

Lange stopped short of outright opposing the agreement struck July 27 between the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and U.S. President Donald Trump. The deal imposes a 15% tariff on European goods while lowering EU tariffs on

U.S. cars and industrial goods to zero; some EU goods including aircraft, cork and generic pharmaceuticals, were exempted from the 15% rates.

The deal has had a mixed reception in Europe, with business associations saying it imposes high costs that will impede exports to the U.S. Von der Leyen says that it will lower a painful 27.5% tariff on autos and bring stability and predictability for businesses.

Lange however said “there is no security or predictability,” citing a U.S. decision two weeks after the deal was struck to include some 400 different goods containing steel such as pumps and motorcycle under a 50% steel and aluminum tariff instead of the 15% tariff.

A top EU trade official urged the committee to approve the deal, saying

the rate was low enough to keep trade flowing and maintain EU companies access to the U.S. market while avoiding a worse trade conflict. “You need to look at the alternative,” said Sabine Weyand, director general for trade.

The agreement has been set down only in a 3 1/2 joint statement that left room for further talks on key issues.

Trump faces questions about whether he exceeded his legal authorities by declaring a national emergency under a 1977 law to impose the broad tariffs. A U.S. appeals court on Friday upheld a previous lower court ruling that the vver to exact tariffs of that magnitude without going through Congress or using other legal mechanisms, a decision that Trump said Tuesday will in turn be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## Trump advances tariff fight to Supreme Court

Case could shape future US trade negotiations

WASHINGTON, Sept 4, (AP): The Trump administration took the fight over tariffs to the Supreme Court on Wednesday, asking the justices to rule quickly that the president has the power to impose sweeping import taxes under federal law.

The government called on the court to reverse an appeals court ruling that found most of President Donald Trump’s tariffs are an illegal use of an emergency powers law.

It’s the latest in a series of Trump administration appeals to a Supreme Court he helped shape, and one that is expected to put a centerpiece of the president’s trade policy before the justices.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit left the tariffs in place for now, but the administration nevertheless called on the high court to intervene quickly in a petition filed electronically late Wednesday and provided to The Associated Press. It was expected to be formally docketed on Thursday.

Solicitor General D. John Sauer asked the justices to take up the case and hear arguments in early November.

“That decision casts a pall of uncertainty upon ongoing foreign negotiations that the President has been pursuing through tariffs over the past five months, jeopardizing both already negotiated framework deals and ongoing negotiations,” he wrote. “The stakes in this case could not be higher.”

But the stakes are also high for small businesses battered by tariffs and uncertainty, said Jeffrey Schwab, senior counsel and director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Center.

“These unlawful tariffs are inflicting serious harm on small businesses and jeopardizing their survival. We hope for a prompt resolution of this case for our clients,” he said.

The businesses have twice prevailed, once at a federal court focused on trade and again with the appeals court’s 7-4 ruling.

Their lawsuit is one of several challenging the tariffs and erratic rollout that have shaken global markets, alienated U.S. trading partners and allies and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

But Trump has also used the levies to pressure the European Union, Japan and other countries into ac-



The Supreme Court building is seen in Washington on March 28, 2017. (AP)

cepting new trade deals. Revenue from tariffs totaled \$159 billion by late August, more than double what it was at the same point the year before.

Most judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, did not let Trump usurp congressional power to set tariffs. The dissenters, though, said the law does allow the president to regulate importation during emergencies without explicit limitations.

The ruling involves two sets of import taxes, both of which Trump justified by declaring a national emergency: the tariffs first announced in April and the ones from February on imports from Canada, China and Mexico.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to impose taxes, including tariffs. But over the decades, lawmakers have ceded authority to the president, and Trump has made the most of the power vacuum.

Some Trump tariffs, including levies on foreign steel, aluminum and autos, weren’t covered by the appeals court ruling. It also does not include tariffs Trump imposed on China in his first term that were kept by Democratic President Joe Biden.

Trump can impose tariffs under other laws, but those have more limitations on the speed and severity with which he could act.

The government has argued that if the tariffs are struck down, it might have to refund some of the import taxes that it’s collected, delivering a financial blow to the U.S. Treasury.

## Left and right are joining forces to ban lawmakers from trading stock

WASHINGTON, Sept 4, (AP): An unusual alliance emerged in the House on Wednesday as lawmakers who agree on little else rallied support for a bill that would prohibit members of Congress and their families from owning and trading individual stocks.

The group included darlings of the far right, the left, moderates and many in between. They gathered to promote a ban that polls well with voters and appears to be finding new momentum after stalling out in previous sessions of Congress.

“It’s not every day you see this cast of characters up here,” said Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a moderate Republican who represents a perennial swing district in Pennsylvania. “You’re all smirking out there. That’s a good thing. It speaks to the power of this cause.”

Congress has discussed proposals for years to keep lawmakers from engaging in trading individual stocks, nodding to the idea that there’s a potential conflict of interest when they are often privy to information and decisions that can dramatically move markets.

A Senate committee has approved legislation from GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri that would also extend the prohibition on stock trading to future presidents and vice presidents - while notably exempting Republican President Donald Trump. The House bill unveiled this week is limited to Congress, but the sponsors said they were open to extending it to the executive branch if enough support emerged.

Under current law, federal lawmakers are required to disclose their stock sales and purchases. The bill requiring disclosure, The Stock Act, was signed into law in 2012. At the time, lawmakers and government watchdogs predicted that public disclosure would shame lawmakers out of actively buying and selling stock. That hasn’t happened.

The sponsors said they merged their own, individual bills on banning stocks and came together with a single bipartisan effort. Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, the bill’s lead sponsor, said the group had been meeting for the last several months, and some sponsors had actually been working on this for years. About a dozen lawmakers from both parties joined Roy on

stage. It was an unusually festive moment as the partisan lines in Congress have rarely been sharper.

“I don’t agree with some of these people on anything,” said Rep. Tim Burchett, a Tennessee Republican often aligned with the the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus.

Progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., followed Burchett to the podium and fist-bumped him when doing so. She said she felt like the coalition showed how Congress should actually work. “It feels foreign and it feels alien and it’s like, what’s going on here?” she said.

While the legislation would not allow lawmakers to own individual stocks and bonds, they would be allowed to own diversified mutual funds and ETFs and certain commodities. Lawmakers who currently own individual stocks and bonds would have 180 days to divest. New members would have 90 days to divest upon taking office.

The mood was celebratory at Wednesday’s unveiling, but even if the bill were to pass the House, it would face a more difficult climb in the Senate. At least 60 votes would be needed to advance the legislation in that chamber and some senators have expressed concerns about the concept.

Rep. Seth Magaziner, D-R.I., acknowledged that members opposed to banning stocks are “persistent.”

“Those of us who support banning stock trading in Congress are very vocal in our position, but that doesn’t mean that there aren’t opponents,” Magaziner said.

Some members expressed urgency in moving the bill through the House. Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, R-Fla., said they have “asked nicely for leadership to put this on the floor” and set a deadline for the end of the month before she would seek to force a vote.

A version of the trading ban that advanced out of one Senate panel was described by Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin as “legislative demagoguery.”

“We do have insider trading laws. We have financial disclosure. Trust me, we have financial disclosure,” Johnson said. “So I don’t see the necessity of this.”





SPECIAL REPORT

# The other half ... vital threads in Kuwait’s rich tapestry

By Chaitali B. Roy  
Special to the Arab Times

Kuwaiti men have been marrying foreign women for centuries; however, the patterns and motivations behind these marriages have undergone significant evolution. Historically, in the pre-oil era, especially within the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean trade network, marriage between Kuwaiti men and foreign women was not uncommon. Kuwaiti merchants who worked and lived abroad in Bombay, Basra, Calicut, Zanzibar and Bahrain sometimes married locally for business alliances, social conveniences or during extended stays abroad. These wives could be from other Gulf tribes, Iranian families, Indian communities or East African backgrounds.

The situation changed after the discovery of oil, when the social fabric underwent significant changes. The discovery of oil enabled free education and the sending of Kuwaiti students abroad for higher studies. Thousands of foreigners migrated to Kuwait for work. The 1950s to 1980s marked a fundamental shift, during which Kuwaiti men studying abroad (in Cairo, Beirut, Britain, or the US) often married their foreign classmates or colleagues. The arrival of many qualified ‘foreign’ women to Kuwait for work brought them into close interaction with the local population as well. Sometimes these interactions converted into marriages. By the 1970s and 1980s, marriages between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis had become more visible, although they still constituted a minority compared to intra-Kuwaiti marriages.

One non-Kuwaiti woman who not only made Kuwait her home but became part of Kuwaiti folklore and history is Dame Violet Dickson, also known as Umm Saud. Of course, Dame Violet Dickson did not marry a Kuwaiti; she was the wife of Col Harold Dickson, Kuwait’s first political agent. However, Violet Dickson was a foreigner, born British, who made significant contributions to Kuwait, particularly in the fields of botany, literature, and fostering cultural understanding between Kuwait and the West. Tales of Dame Violet, who is variously referred to as Umm Saud or ‘Hajjiyah’, the honorific title of a returned pilgrim to Mecca, an unusual tribute for a Christian woman, have assumed almost legendary proportions in Kuwait.

Like Dame Violet Dickson, many non-Kuwaiti women married into Kuwaiti families and made this country their own. While building their lives here, they contributed variously to Kuwait’s socio-cultural, health, and literary fabric, strengthening it and leaving indelible impressions. One of the first women I was introduced to when I first started writing for Arab Times was Margaret Al Sayer. Beam Thompson, the bubbly erstwhile President of the Kuwait Textile Arts Association, introduced us. Margaret, the British wife of Dr Hilal Al Sayer, President of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), and Former Minister of Health of Kuwait, was then busy harnessing support for the founding of Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) and Bayt Abdullah Children’s Hospice (BACCH). Without Margaret’s efforts, Kuwait may have taken longer to progress in the field of pediatric palliative care, and children with life-limiting conditions in Kuwait may have suffered for a longer time. Speaking of Margaret’s contribution, Dr Lubna Al Qadi, Kuwait’s leading social scientist and founder of Women’s Research Studies Centre, said, “Margaret AlSayer is well known in Kuwait for her pioneering work in childcare in hospitals for over 30 years. Together with her husband, Dr. Hilal AlSayer, she recognized the need to keep children happy while hospitalized, leading to the idea of opening play areas outside pediatric wards.” Recalling her own experience, Dr Al Qadi said, “I still remember my youngest son’s joy when I took him from his room to play there. Like many other mothers, I felt a sense of relief as I watched our children laugh and play, oblivious to the sterile hospital environment. Under Margaret’s leadership, the initiative grew into a nonprofit association known as KACCH. Later, she opened Bayt Abdullah. Through her work, Margaret has left a lasting impact on medical care in Kuwait, emphasizing that true healing involves not only easing pain but also addressing the psychological and spiritual well-being of children and their families.”

Yet another British woman whose contributions to strengthening Kuwait’s cultural heritage are exemplary is Jehan Rajab, who not only cofounded the Tareq Rajab Museum and the New English School, but she also authored several acclaimed books on Kuwaiti culture and her personal experiences during the Iraq invasion. Through her tireless work, the dimpled British woman, married to the legendary Tareq Rajab, helped build and curate a vast collection of Islamic art and artefacts, documenting and preserving aspects of culture lost to modernization. “There is so much to say about Jehan Rajab,” says Bader Al Baijan, Steering Committee Member of Dar al Athar al Islamiyyah. “Jehan was many lovely characters rolled into one. She played so many vital roles in her life, the most important of which was being a mother to three wonderful children. She was also an accomplished writer, documentarian, traveller, and a renowned cook. She was also the director of New English School. Her most outstanding work was cofounding the Tarek Rajab Museum. Her collection from Oman and Syria was a major part of the collection. I heard her describe her journey to Oman seeking the silver work of Oman. And the times she drove into Syrian villages in search of old dresses and needlework. So many wonderful tales! Her memorable stand against the Iraqis will never be forgotten. She wrote a book about that and how they saved their museum.”

Then there are Americans like Claudia Farkas Al Rashoud, Kuwait’s most prominent photojournalist, who has spent more than 40 years documenting Kuwait. She has portrayed Kuwait like few people have, travelling with her camera through the country, documenting decades of social evolution, and essential aspects of Kuwait’s socio-cultural history in her many books and articles. Claudia is a founding member of the Kuwait Society for Animal Welfare (KSAW) and co-founder of Touch of Hope Q8. Claudia joined the Arab Times in 1979 and has been contributing to the paper ever since. An author, photographer, and animal activist, her contributions to documenting and archiving Kuwait’s past and present are unrivalled. I believe, and so do many others, that Kuwait would have lost a lot of its information if it were not for Claudia. For more than four decades, Claudia has lived, loved and worked in Kuwait. She has assimilated into her husband’s homeland, her prolific work perhaps being the only documentation on some aspects of Kuwait’s history and culture that would have otherwise vanished without a trace. As such, Kuwait owes a massive debt of gratitude to Claudia.

Sheikha Hussa Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, co-owner of the al-Sabah Collection and Director-General of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, when requested to comment on Claudia’s extraordinary contribution, said, “On 3 November 2021, Claudia Farkas Al Rashoud held a Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah audience enthralled, as she delivered her lecture ‘Forty-two Years of Documenting Kuwait’. I didn’t say anything at the time, but I take exception to the limitations of ‘documenting’. Claudia’s contribution to Kuwait far exceeds documentation. Her photography and storytelling, based on her experiences in multiple aspects of Kuwait, are stories of a life lived in Kuwait. She has a remarkable ability, through images and words, to share both the facts and the feelings of a time, place and event. We have been lucky to have her share these gifts with us.”

Another stellar non-Kuwaiti woman who has left an indelible impression on Kuwait is the imitable Vera Al Mutawa MBE, whose legacy centres on building one of Kuwait’s premier international schools from humble beginnings, channelling investment into educational excellence, and earning high praise for her visionary leadership. Vera Al Mutawa founded the British School of Kuwait in 1993, offering a comprehensive British-style educa-



Jehan Rajab during the Iraqi invasion. Her book Invasion Kuwait: An English Woman’s Tale tells the story of the author’s experiences in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion.



Claudia Farkas Al Rashoud at Dar al Athar al Islamiyyah.

tion and world-class learning experiences. Her transformative vision for education earned her an MBE from HRH Prince William in 2014. Wendy Beddison, the first President of the British Ladies Society, who has lived in Kuwait for over fifty years, says, “We have all watched the progress of the British School of Kuwait with great admiration as it grew from a nursery school to the international stature it enjoys today. This success is the result of the vision and determination of one woman: Vera Al Mutawa. No one fails to be impressed by Vera’s achievement, which she carries with grace, dignity and generosity and a wicked sense of humour!” Dr Ziad Alsayed Rajab, Board Member of Tareq Rajab Museum and Director of New English School, “Vera Al Mutawa has been a part of Kuwaiti society since the 1960s, when she made it her country her home. Married to a Kuwaiti and devoted to her family, she went on to establish a respected private school, shaping the lives of countless young people. Over the decades, Vera has become a trusted friend, admired colleague and a true member of the community. She is a staunch defender of Kuwait and its citizens, deeply committed to the country’s future.”

The Mirror House, one of Kuwait’s top tourist destinations, is the brainchild of Lydia Qattan, an Italian married to a Kuwaiti who moved to Kuwait after her marriage to Kuwait’s pioneering artist, Khalifa Al Qattan. In 1966, Lydia, a prolific artist and creative individual, started transforming her living space into a work of art. She began with a modest cabinet and then moved through the rooms before taking up the gargantuan task of covering every bit of both the exterior and interior of her home with striking mirror mosaic based on themes. With the Mirror House, a one-of-a-kind immersive art experience, she not only established Kuwait’s most iconic private art museum, blending Italian creativity with Kuwaiti symbolism, but she also contributed as a creative innovator and legacy keeper who continues preserving and sharing a unique artistic heritage, integrating sustainability and therapeutic art into her work. “I met her many times while I was working at Boushari gallery,” recalls Amira Behbehani, Kuwait’s leading artist. She is a unique person with a unique personality. She is very cultured and insists on speaking in Arabic. Everything about her is handmade. Everything about her comes from her heart. You can tell she is a giver because she has contributed to society and the culture in which she lives. I feel truly honoured to have met her, and I hope to see her again soon. I admire people who are productive and inventive. People who invent their own techniques and mediums, and make you part of it as well. Lydia is all of that.”



Noelle Al Yaqout with her students.

From the arts to the world of sports and sports therapy, the contributions of non-Kuwaiti women have been exemplary in various fields of life. As mothers who have nurtured generations of Kuwaitis, as educators who have strengthened Kuwait’s education system, as philanthropists who have bolstered Kuwait’s culture of giving to people in need, as activists who have founded women’s rights organizations, and as professionals in various fields, their contributions cannot be negated. Take the example of Noelle Al Yaqout, an expert horsewoman, equine therapist, and scientific illustrator. Born in Switzerland, Noelle Al-Yaqout made Kuwait her home after marriage. Her earliest professional contribution came through her work as a scientific illustrator at Kuwait University, where she served for over two decades, supporting the growth of academic research and education. Beyond academia, her most remarkable impact lay in the field of equine therapy. A lifelong passion for horses led her to the Hunting & Equestrian Club on the Sixth Ring Road, where she became an accomplished horsewoman. Determined to harness this passion for serving the community, she pioneered a horse-riding program for children with autism and other special needs, a first of its kind in Kuwait. From 2003 to 2020, her program offered not just therapy but empowerment, building confidence, resilience, and joy among differently abled children. Under her guidance, many participants flourished, one even rising to become a champion rider. Through her dedication, innovation, and compassion, Noelle Al-Yaqout left an enduring mark on Kuwait, broadening the scope of special needs education, introducing equine therapy as a transformative tool, and touching countless families by giving their children new possibilities for growth and achievement. Dr. Abeer Yousef AlSafran, CEO- TEACCH Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities and ASD, the organization with which Noelle collaborated for many years, notes, “Madam Noelle has touched the lives of many children with autism in Kuwait through her dedication to horse-riding therapy. With patience and compassion, she created a safe space where children could connect with horses, discover new strengths, and express joy beyond words.” Speaking of Noelle’s sense of empathy and care, she said, “With her long experience in equine-assisted therapy, Madam Noelle became like a second mother to many children with autism in Kuwait. She not only taught them confidence through horse-riding but also protected them as her own. Once, when thunder shook the sky and the horse grew anxious, she quickly noticed the eyes of the horse and asked to bring the child down, showing her deep care, quick judgment, and unwavering devotion to their safety and happiness.”

The story of non-Kuwaiti women married to Kuwaitis is often overlooked in formal histories, yet their contributions have been profound across multiple spheres of Kuwaiti society. Their presence spans decades, from the pre-oil period through Kuwait’s modern state-building. Many non-Kuwaiti women, particularly from India, Lebanon, Palestine, and Europe, helped shape Kuwait’s education system. They often became cultural intermediaries, fusing their heritage with that of Kuwait. Some contributed as nurses, midwives, and doctors (especially women from India and Palestine) when Kuwait urgently needed medical professionals in the 1950s and 1970s. Many played key roles in philanthropic organizations such as the Kuwait Red Crescent, women’s associations, and cultural foundations. Some women co-founded businesses with their Kuwaiti husbands, especially in the hospitality, arts, and small-scale trade sectors. Non-Kuwaiti women married to Kuwaitis have enriched Kuwait through their contributions to education, culture, philanthropy, healthcare, and family diplomacy. They infused global influences into Kuwait’s local fabric while dedicating themselves to its growth, often working behind the scenes yet leaving enduring legacies.

editor’s choice







James Gunn arrives at the premiere of 'Superman' on Monday, July 7, 2025, at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

## 'Man of Tomorrow'

### 'Superman' sequel to arrive in summer 2027

NEW YORK, Sept 4, (AP): Up, up and away! A "Superman" sequel is in the works.

Writer-director James Gunn, who now presides over DC Studios with producer Peter Safran, shared on Instagram Wednesday that a new film, called "Man of Tomorrow," will arrive in theaters July 9, 2027.

His post included an image of Superman and Lex Luthor standing together, with Luthor in a purple-and-green power suit with his fists clenched. The 2015 artwork, drawn by Chief Creative Officer of DC Comics Jim Lee, shows Superman holding a screwdriver, smiling and leaning on Luthor.

"Superman" was released in July and took a unique approach to the mainstream superhero - though it differed from the idiosyncratic, misfit approach of Gunn's other superhero films like "Suicide Squad" and "Guardians of the Galaxy." While still irreverent, Gunn's "Superman" is an immigrant story. His Man of Steel, portrayed by the charming David Corenswet, avoided cliches.

Corenswet and his Luther, the English actor Nicholas Hoult, also shared the news on Instagram with similar images; Corenswet's drawn by DC Comics' artist Jorge Jimenez and Hoult's by Mitch Gerads.

## Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** A woman branded as the "Ketamine Queen" pleaded guilty Wednesday to selling **Matthew Perry** the drug that killed him, becoming the fifth and final defendant charged in Perry's overdose death to admit guilt.

Jasveen Sangha pleaded guilty to five federal charges, including providing the ketamine that led to Perry's death. Her trial had been planned to start later this month.



Perry

Perry's mother, Suzanne Perry, and his stepfather, "Dateline" reporter Keith Morrison, sat in the audience. It was their first time attending court proceedings since the announcement of the indictments one year ago.

Wearing tan jail garb, Sangha stood in court Wednesday next to her attorney Mark Geragos as she repeated "guilty" five times when US District Court Judge Sherilyn Peace

Garnett asked for her pleas. Before that, she answered "yes, your honor" to dozens of procedural questions, hedging slightly when the judge asked if she knew the drugs she was giving to co-defendant and middleman Erik Fleming were going to Perry.

"There was no way I could tell 100%," she said. She later added, to a similar question on vials of ketamine she gave to Fleming, that "I didn't know if all of them or some of them" were bound for Perry. The comments didn't affect her plea agreement.

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. (AP)

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**NEW YORK:** Corey Feldman, Hilaria Baldwin, Danielle Fishel and Jordan Chiles are among the celebrity steppers to compete on the new season of "Dancing with the Stars." They were announced Wednesday on "Good Morning America." The season premiere is set for Sept. 16 on ABC and Disney+.

Baldwin, a fitness enthusiast and wife of Alec Baldwin, will pair with pro Gleb Savchenko. She's been posting herself dancing for days on Instagram and starred with her family on their own reality show, "The Baldwins." Feldman, a musician and former teen star, will dance with Jenna Johnson. Chiles is an Olympic-winning gymnast.

Fishel is known for her role of Topanga Lawrence on "Boy Meets World." Her partner will be Pasha Pashkov. Elaine Hendrix is among other newcomers. The "Parent Trap" and "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" actor will dance with Alan Bersten.

Also joining: Retired NBA player Baron Davis, who played on several teams in his career, including the New York Knicks; Dylan Efron, brother of Zac Efron, was among the winners of Season 3 of the US version of "The Traitors"; Scott Hoying from the a cappella group Pentatonix; singer Lauren Jauregui; and comedian Andy Richter. (AP)

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**NEW YORK:** Something is in the water in England. After a summer defined by the Oasis reunion, yet another beloved British rock band is set to return to the live stage: Radiohead.

The band - made up of vocalist Thom Yorke, guitarist/keyboardist Jonny Greenwood, guitarist Ed O'Brien, bassist Colin Greenwood and drummer Phil Selway - have 20 shows on the books, taking place in five cities across Europe: Madrid, Bologna, London, Copenhagen and Berlin this November and December. They will perform four nights in each city.

Radiohead last performed in 2018, in support of their last album, 2016's "A Moon Shaped Pool." It is unclear if the band is preparing a new release of original material, but earlier this month, they did announce a new live album, "Hail to the Thief - Live Recordings 2003-2009," arriving Oct. 31.

"Last year, we got together to rehearse, just for the hell of it. After a seven-year pause, it felt really good to play the songs again and reconnect with a musical identity that has become lodged deep inside all five of us," Selway said in a statement.

"It also made us want to play some shows together, so we hope you can make it to one of the upcoming dates. For now, it will just be these ones but who knows where this will all lead."

Registration for tickets begins Friday at Radiohead.com and will be open for 60 hours. The regular ticket sale will begin a week later, on Sept. 15.

In the years since their last live performance, the members of Radiohead have been busy. (AP)

## Emergency dental work prompts an unlikely romance

### A refreshing and offbeat rom-com in 'The Baltimorons'

LOS ANGELES, Sept 4, (AP): There are all kinds of movies that are either endangered or practically extinct. The big-studio comedy. The original musical. But the sweet and shaggy regular-people movie - more a province of the 1970s, always one that required a little hunting down - is a particularly rare breed.

"Baltimorons" is one of those little movies you might stumble across and be surprised that it hooks you. It does so despite - or more likely because - of its complete lack of flashiness or any self-evident attempt to "hook you." Instead, it manages that simply with low-key charm and a warm, unpretentious humanity.

Director Jay Duplass' film is about a young Baltimore man in recovery for two things. Cliff (Michael Strassner) has quit both drinking and improv comedy. If "yes, and" had been his personal mantra, he's now, after a failed suicide attempt seen in the movie's first moments, pledged to give up both for his girlfriend, Brittany (Olivia Lucardi).

It doesn't take us long to grasp that this state of affairs is trying for Cliff, a gregarious and easygoing guy, but an aimless one. The alcohol isn't so much the problem, though. More difficult is going cold turkey on riffing his way through life.

On Christmas Eve, while Cliff is heading to Brittany's family home for a holiday celebration, he trips and chips his tooth. With most dentist offices closed, he ends up at



This image released by IFC Films shows Michael Strassner in a scene from 'The Baltimorons.' (AP)

the door of Didi (Liz Larsen). Their interactions are, at first, awkward. Cliff is informal and prying; Didi, many years his senior, is more official. As a partner for Cliff's eager conversation, Didi, a woman with a defeated, just-getting-through-the-day, middle-aged melancholy, would seem about the least genial match.

But each gets little windows into the other's life. Didi,

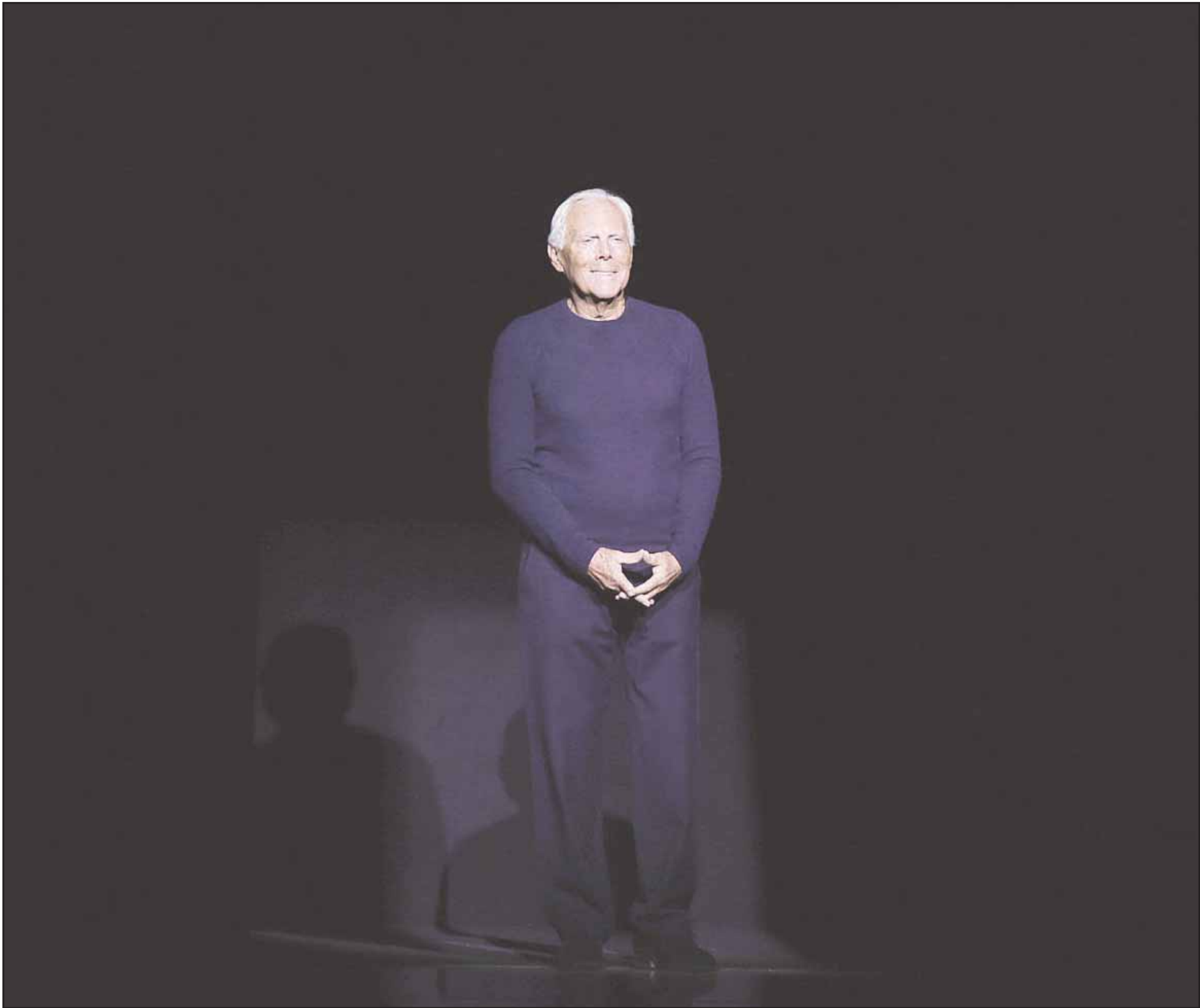
divorced, learns her daughter won't be with her that evening - a phone call overheard by Cliff. And when the dental work is done, Cliff realizes his car has been towed. Didi reluctantly offers a ride, and, from there, the two end up on an unlikely Christmas Eve odyssey together, without the supernatural qualities of Dickens but nevertheless with ghosts from the past along the way, such as Didi's ex-husband and Cliff's former improv troupe (named The Baltimorons).

"Rom-com" or "May-December romance" would be reasonable labels to put on Duplass' film, written by him and Strassner. But part of the freewheeling charm of the film is that it doesn't try to define the relationship that evolves during its lightly paced night. These are just a couple of people (both actors are wonderfully natural) a bit disappointed by life, who find each other at the right time.

Jay Duplass and his brother, Mark Duplass (a producer here), first made their mark in the early '00s with micro-budget comedies like "The Puffy Chair." "The Baltimorons," though, doesn't feel like it's trying to shake up the movie industry. Like its characters, it's just trying to get by, and maybe find a little companionship along the way.

"The Baltimorons," an Independent Film Company release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language. Running time: 100 minutes. Three stars out of four.

## Obituary



Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani acknowledges the applause after presenting the Emporio Armani men's Fall-Winter 2016-2017 collection, part of the Milan Fashion Week, unveiled in Milan, Italy, Jan. 18, 2016. (AP)

## Designer who defined modern elegance

### Fashion icon Giorgio Armani dead at 91

MILAN, Sept 4, (AP): Giorgio Armani, the Italian designer who turned the concept of understated elegance into a multibillion-dollar fashion empire, has died, his fashion house confirmed. He was 91.

Armani died at home, the fashion house said. Armani, one of the most recognizable names and faces in the global fashion industry, missed Milan Fashion Week in June 2025 for the first time during the previews of Spring-Summer 2026 menswear to recover from an undisclosed condition. He was planning a major event to celebrate 50 years of his signature Giorgio Armani fashion house during Milan Fashion Week this month.

Starting with an unlined jacket, a simple pair of pants and an urban palette, Armani put Italian ready-to-wear style on the international fashion map in the late 1970s, creating an instantly recognizable relaxed silhouette that has propelled the fashion house for half a century.

From the executive office to the Hollywood screen, Armani dressed the rich and famous in classic tailored styles, fashioned in super-soft fabrics and muted tones. His handsome black tie outfits and glittering evening gowns often stole the show on award season red carpets.

At the time of his death, Armani had put together an empire worth over \$10 billion, which along with clothing included accessories, home furnishings, perfumes, cosmetics, books, flowers and even chocolates, ranking him in the world's top 200 billionaires, according to Forbes.

The designer also owned several bars, clubs, restaurants and his own basketball team EA7 Emporio Armani Milan, better known as Olympia Milano. Armani opened more than 20 restaurants from Milan to Tokyo since 1998, and two hotels, one in Dubai in 2009 and another in Milan, in 2010.

Armani style began with Giorgio Armani himself, from the penetrating blue eyes framed in a permanent tan and early-age shock of silver hair, to the trademark jeans and t-shirt work clothes and the minimalist decoration of his private homes.

Armani's fashion vision was that of easygoing elegance where attention to detail made the difference.

"I design for real people. There is no virtue whatsoever in creating clothes and accessories that are not practical," he liked to say when asked to identify his clientele.

In conversation, the designer's disarming smile and exquisitely mild manners belied the tough businessman underneath, who was able to turn creative talent into a fashion empire worth over \$10 billion. Never a merger nor a sale, Re

Giorgio (King George) as the Italians call him, was always his own boss.

Born July 11, 1934, in Piacenza, a small town south of Milan, Armani dreamed of becoming a doctor before a part-time job as a window decorator in a Milan department store opened his eyes to the world of fashion.

In 1975, Armani and his partner Sergio Galeotti sold their Volkswagen for \$10,000 to start up their own menswear ready-to-wear label. Womenswear followed a year later.

The symbol of his new style was the liningless sports jacket, which was launched in the late 1970s and became an instant success from Hollywood to Wall Street. The designer paired the jacket with a simple t-shirt, an item of clothing he termed "the alpha and omega of the fashion alphabet."

The Armani suit soon became a must in the closet of the well-heeled man. And for women, the introduction of the pantsuit in the executive workroom was all but revolutionary. Dubbed the "power suit" with its shoulder-padded jacket and man-tailored trousers, it became the trademark of the rising class of businesswomen in the 1980s.

#### Detailing

Over the years Armani would soften the look with delicate detailing, luxurious fabrics and brighter shades for his basic beige and gray palette. His insistence on pants and jackets led some critics to label his fashion "androgynous."

The 1980 film classic "American Gigolo" launched both Armani and actor Richard Gere on their Hollywood careers. Dressed in Armani, Gere became America's new favorite heart throb, and "Georgeo" as they called him, the glam set's most popular designer.

The Hollywood connection earned him wardrobe film credits in over 200 films, and in 2003 a place on Rodeo Drive's "Walk of Fame."

Oscar night always sparked, with smart suiting for the men, and glittering gowns for the ladies. The 2009 best actor winner Sean Penn picked up his statue in a black-on-black Armani outfit, while best actress nominee Anne Hathaway walked the red carpet in a shimmering white strapless evening gown from Armani's latest Prive couture collection.

Other longtime devotees included Jodie Foster, George Clooney, Sofia Loren and Brad Pitt. David and Victoria Beckham were the "face" of his 2009 underwear ad campaign.

So significant was the impact of Armani style, not only

on how people dressed but how they approached fashion, that in 2000 New York's Guggenheim museum presented a retrospective of Armani's first 25 years in fashion.

"I love things that age well, things that don't date and become living examples of the absolute best," Armani said of his efforts.

Today, the Armani empire has an army of more than 9,000 employees, with women comprising half of the executive suite, along with seven industrial hubs and over 600 stores worldwide, according to figures released in 2023. Along with clothes and accessories, the company produces perfumes, cosmetics and home furnishings, as well as selling its own candy, flowers and even books. The designer opened his fifth multi-brand store on New York's fashionable Fifth Avenue in February 2009.

In the realm of fashion hobbies, Armani owned several bars, restaurants and clubs, as well as the basketball team. Recreation time was spent in getaways in Brioni in the countryside near Milan, the isle of Pantelleria off Sicily and St. Tropez on the French Riviera. Each home bore the trademark of Armani design: bare walls, important pieces, few knickknacks.

Like many of his colleagues, Armani tried to give back some of the fame and fortune he amassed during the heyday of the "moda Milanese" which put Italian ready-to-wear at the center of the world's fashion map at the turn of the millennium. Personally involved in several charity organizations devoted to children and a staunch supporter of the battle against AIDS, in 2002 Armani was named a U.N. goodwill ambassador for refugees.

Galeotti died in 1985. Armani had no children but was very close to his niece Roberta, daughter of his late brother Sergio. She abandoned a budding film career to become his director of public relations, and often represented her uncle, who wasn't much of a party-goer, at social events. In later years she was a key go-between with the celebrity world.

In 2006, she orchestrated the top-billed wedding of actors Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes in a medieval castle outside Rome, while Uncle Giorgio designed the attire for both bride and groom.

Armani had indicated that as he considered succession he was looking toward his longtime head of menswear Leo Dell'Orco and his niece Silvana Armani, who fills the same role for womenswear.





Kuwait hosts Eighth Arab Children’s Theater Festival

Children take the stage in Eighth Arab Theater Festival in Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Eighth Arab Children’s Theater Festival kicked off at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, under the patronage of Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

NCCAL Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar, Assistant Secretary General for the Arts Sector Musaed Al-Zamel, Festival Director Dr. Hussein Al-Musallam, Kuwaiti guests representing the participating theater groups, theater professionals, and theater enthusiasts attended the opening ceremony.

The event featured a theatrical performance titled, “Stop,” written by Festival Director Dr. Hussein Al-Musallam with Abdullah Al-Turkmani and Mohammad Hussein Al-Musallam as co-directors.

A group of talented performers took the audience to an exciting and fun-filled journey into the world of childhood and the beloved cartoon characters, such as Cinderella, Aladdin, the Little Mermaid, Snow White and others.

The event began with a group of children using iPads, entering a world filled with engaging stories and useful information. They expressed their feelings through dazzling performances, blended with magical technology.

The show, in which approximately 52 children participated, conveyed a message to the entire world – “Stop evil and spread goodness” -- through artistic and theatrical performances using hologram technology.

The stage appeared as if it were a magical galaxy in terms of the décor, lighting, costumes, music, visual and audio effects, and other scenographic elements that expressed the text in a simple and accessible style, which appealed to both young and old.

The idea ignited by Dr. Al-Musallam is not only entertaining, artistic or cultural, as it also puts the spotlight on the most important tourist attractions in the country, such as Kuwait Towers, Liberation Tower, Mubarakiya Market and others, aligning with the vision of Kuwait to revitalize its tourism sector.

NCCAL Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar delivered a speech, during which he warmly welcomed the audience and participants in the festival. He said the country firmly believes that culture is the true engine of development, and that investing in the development of children’s minds is the best investment in terms of ensuring a bright future for the nation.

He pointed out that experience throughout the ages has proven the



A group photo of performers and festival officials.

Children convey the universal message of ‘Stop evil, spread goodness’ through a creative mix of live theater and cutting-edge hologram technology.

theater is not merely an entertainment venue, as it is a vital educational tool, a window through which children view the world, a mirror that reflects noble values, and a platform through which they discover themselves and develop their skills.

He explained that based on this viewpoint, the NCCAL has been keen for decades to sponsor this festival to serve not only as an artistic event, but also as a platform for exchanging experience, raising awareness, honing talents, and planting the seeds of creativity in the children.

He said the eighth edition of the festival confirms the continuation of this cultural event in the year Kuwait is celebrating being accorded the title, ‘Capital of Arab Culture and Media’.

“The festival has become a destination for Arab theater profession-

als, offering a diverse array of theatrical performances that touch on children’s issues and aspirations, in addition to specialized workshops aimed at building a new generation of artists, writers and theater directors,” he revealed.

He pointed out that such activities develop the ability to think critically, be creative, and consolidate cultural identity in future generations. He stressed that every purposeful artistic work, every educational play, and every specialized workshop is a step toward building a generation capable of critical thinking, creativity and adherence to its cultural identity.

Assistant Secretary General for the Arts Sector and Chairman of the Festival Musaed Al-Zamel also delivered a speech, thanking the NC-

CAL Secretary General for his tremendous efforts in organizing

the festival. He thanked Dr. Hussein Al-Musallam who shouldered the responsibility of organizing the festival out of his belief in its value.

Al-Zamel urged the content creators of theatrical events to “focus on our stories, because the Arab world is full of inspiring stories, especially for our children, to build a bright new generation that serves the society.”

Festival Director Dr. Hussein Al-Musallam said the return of the festival with this momentum and distinctive format restored a special feeling for him. “Today, I feel my heart began to beat 100 percent with the return of this festival, the way the opening ceremony unfolded, and the importance of children’s presence,” he revealed.

He stressed that the most expressive word in this cultural event is the word of the children themselves. He said the most important message conveyed by the festival is reflected in the children’s question, “What is our role in the festival?” He explained that what is written on the stage expresses their visions and dreams, saying, “The children wrote and put things into perspective.”

At the end of his speech, Dr. Al-Musallam thanked the participating children and the discerning audience who interacted with the participants of the opening performance.

The performances competing in the festival include “A Lost Wish” by the Kuwaiti Theater Troupe, “Eat All of Mercury” by the Lebanese Puppet Theater, “The Treasure” by the Arabian Gulf Theatre Troupe, “Me and the Clown” (Iraq), “The Captain and the Mice” (Syria), “In Search of Happiness” (Tunisia), “Jungle Circus” (Khor Fakkan Theatre-UAE) and “Snow White” (Parallel Show-Kuwait).

The jury includes Dr. Mashhour Mustafa as Chairman, with Dr. Shabir Al-Ajmi, Youssef Bohloul, Dr. Mohammad Nour Al-Din and Khaled Al-Muzaffar as members.

The Viewing Committee consists of Dr. Ajaj Salim as Chairman, along with Ahmed Al-Balushi, Hussein Al-Mufidi, Dr. Adnan Salloum, Abdul Nasser Al-Zayer, Abdul Mohsen Al-Aswad, Fatima Al-Assad, Abdulaziz Al-Rahmani, Mohammad Dashti, Wahj Abyar and Shahd Al-Sharrah as members.

Directors: Abdullah Al-Turkmani and Mohammad Hussein Al-Musallan

Scenography and Decor: Hassan Al-Mulla

Lighting: Fadel Al-Nassar

Color: Iman Al-Saif

Graphics: Ali Reza

Choreography: Ramadan Ayad

Opening Ceremony Presenter: Habeeba Al-Abdullah



Some shots from the performances.

Photos by Samer Shiqr



Iranian actress Jeyran Barikani, (center), and others dance during a musical play ‘Mehrra.’ (AP)



Iranian actors dance during a musical play ‘Mehrra.’ (AP)

Variety

**NEW YORK:** The publisher of a posthumous memoir by Jeffrey Epstein accuser **Virginia Giuffre** says it has agreed on a final draft with family members after they publicly raised questions about the book’s release.

Surviving relatives of Giuffre had worried that “Nobody’s Girl” presented an outdated and unduly positive portrait of her marriage, which collapsed in the months leading to her death by suicide in April.



“We worked with Virginia’s brothers and their wives to contextualize the narrative Virginia’s memoir presents, and we appreciate their support of this publication,” Knopf’s publisher and editor-in-chief, Jordan Pavlin, said in a statement Wednesday to The Associated Press.

“We all believe that Virginia’s voice must be heard, and that her courage in telling her story has the power to offer strength and hope to victims of sexual abuse. ‘Nobody’s Girl’ is a testament to Virginia’s dignity and fortitude in the face of Jeffrey Epstein’s and Ghislaine Maxwell’s monstrous cruelty. Its impact will be profound.”

In an interview that aired Wednesday night, Giuffre’s sister-in-law, Amanda Roberts, confirmed to MSNBC’s Jen Psaki that the two sides had resolved their differences. (AP)

**LONDON:** The arrest of comedy writer Graham Linehan in Britain over social media posts about transgender people has sparked a debate about freedom of speech and its limits.

Supporters of Linehan say UK laws are stifling legitimate comment and creating what “Harry Potter” author J.K. Rowling -- like Linehan, a critic of trans activism -- called “totalitarianism.”

Others argue that online abuse and hate speech have real-world impact and police have a duty to take it seriously. London’s police chief said ambiguities in the law had left officers “in an impossible position.”

Linehan, the co-creator of beloved 1990s sitcom “Father Ted” and other shows including “The IT Crowd,” says he was detained by five armed police officers on Monday at Heathrow Airport as he returned from Arizona.

Linehan, who has been outspoken in his assertions that trans women are men, said on X in April that trans women were violent criminals if they used women-only facilities. He advocated people “punch” them if calling police and other measures failed to stop them. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** If Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear vaults into national prominence as a Democratic leader, he may one day look back at Thursday as a key step in that direction.

SiriusXM announced that it was giving Beshear’s new podcast a national platform starting this month, along with featuring him in a regular call-in show on its Progress network.

President Donald Trump’s appearances on podcasts were a pivotal media strategy in his successful 2024 Republican campaign. Moving forward, mastering a personal podcast could replace soft-focus biographies or wonky books as a way for politicians to increase their profiles.

Beshear said on NBC’s “Meet the Press” this summer that he will “take a look” at running for president in 2028, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, also in the circle of potential presidential nominees, started his own podcast earlier this year.

In an interview, Beshear said a motivating factor in his own podcast was people who have come up to him, especially during the Trump administration, to talk about their anxieties. (AP)

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina:** An Argentine federal court announced Wednesday that authorities had recovered the long-lost “Portrait of a Lady,” an 18th-century work by the Italian painter Giuseppe Ghislandi that was looted by the Nazis in World War II.

Before the presentation of the giant gold-framed portrait Wednesday in the Argentine coastal city of Mar del Plata, the painting had not been seen publicly in 80 years.

The first-ever color photo of the portrait surfaced last month in an online real estate listing unwittingly posted by one of the daughters of Friedrich Kadgien, the fugitive Nazi officer accused of stealing the painting from one of Europe’s most prominent prewar art dealers and collectors.

“We’re doing this simply so that the community to whom we partly owe the discovery of the work ... can see these images,” federal prosecutor Daniel Adler said in a press conference to display the full-length portrait of Countess Colleoni, her hair ink-black and dress embroidered with pastel flowers.

“It was people from the community, specifically journalists, who prompted the investigation,” Adler said.

Dutch journalists made the shocking discovery while investigating Kadgien’s past in Argentina, where the high-ranking official fled after the collapse of the Third Reich and later died in 1978. (AP)

Tehran theater stages a musical telling a love story in the Qajar dynasty

On stage in Tehran, Iranian actors bring to life “Mehrra,” a musical set during the Qa-

jar dynasty. The performance, directed by Daniyal Ghafari, combines dance, music and

storytelling in a richly staged production. The musical was staged at Neauphle-le-Chateau

theater hall, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025. (AP)



A simple solution to the growing mental health crisis

Adding green space to campus helps students beat stress

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

□ □ □

By Chanam Lee, Li Deng, and Yizhen Ding, Texas A&M University

Stress on college students can be palpable, and it hits them from every direction: academic challenges, social pressures and financial burdens, all intermingled with their first taste of independence. It’s part of the reason why anxiety and depression are common among the 19 million students now enrolled in US colleges and universities, and why incidents of suicide and suicidal ideation are rising.

In the 2024 National College Health Assessment Report, 30% of the 30,000 students surveyed said anxiety negatively affected their academic performance, with 20% at risk for symptoms that suggest severe psychological distress, such as feelings of sadness, nervousness and hopelessness. No wonder the demand for mental health services has been increasing for about a decade. Many schools have rightfully re-



The Conn Student Union at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn, is shown, May 20, 2022. (AP)

sponded to this demand by offering students more counseling. That is important, of course, but there’s another approach that could help alleviate the need for counseling: Creating a campus environment that promotes health. Simply put, add more green space. We are scholars who study the impact that the natural environment has on students, particularly in the place where they spend much of their time - the college campus. Decades of re-

search show that access to green spaces can lower stress and foster a stronger sense of belonging - benefits that are particularly critical for students navigating the pressures of higher education. In 2020, our research team at Texas A&M University launched a Green Campus Initiative to promote a healthier campus environment. Our goal was to find ways to design, plan and manage such an environment by develop-

ing evidence-based strategies. Our survey of more than 400 Texas A&M students showed that abundant greenery, nature views and quality walking paths can help with mental health issues. More than 80% of the students we surveyed said they already have their favorite outdoor places on campus. One of them is Aggie Park, 20 acres of green space with exercise trails, walking and bike paths and rocking chairs by a lake. Many students noted that such green spaces are a break from daily routines, a positive distraction from negative thoughts and a place to exercise. Our survey confirms other research that shows students who spend time outdoors - particularly in places with mature trees, open fields, parks, gardens and water - report better moods and lower stress. More students are physically active when on a campus with good walkability and plenty of sidewalks, trails and paths. Just the physical activity itself is linked to many mental health benefits, including reduced anxiety and depression. Outdoor seating, whether rocking chairs or park benches, also has numerous benefits. More time spent talk-

ing to others is one of them, but what might be surprising is that enhanced reading performance is another. More trees and plants mean more shaded areas, particularly during hot summers, and that too encourages students to spend more time outside and be active. In short, the surrounding environment matters, but not just for college students or those living or working on a campus. Across different groups and settings, research shows that being near green spaces reduces stress, anxiety and depression. Even a garden or tree-lined street helps. In Philadelphia, researchers transformed 110 vacant lot clusters into green spaces. That led to improvements in mental health for residents living nearby. Those using the green spaces reported lower levels of stress and anxiety, but just viewing nature from a window was helpful too. Our colleagues discovered similar findings when conducting a randomized trial with high school students who took a test before and after break periods in classrooms with different window views: no window, a window facing a building or parking lot, or a window overlooking green landscapes.

Students with views of greenery recovered faster from mental fatigue and performed significantly better on attention tasks. It’s still unclear exactly why green spaces are good places to go when experiencing stress and anxiety; nevertheless, it is clear that spending time in nature is beneficial for mental well-being. It’s critical to note that enhancing your surroundings isn’t just about green space. Other factors play a role. After analyzing data from 13 U.S. universities, our research shows that school size, locale, region and religious affiliation all make a difference and are significant predictors of mental health. Specifically, we found that students at schools with smaller populations, schools in smaller communities, schools in the southern U.S. or schools with religious affiliations generally had better mental health than students at other schools. Those students had less stress, anxiety and depression, and a lower risk of suicide when compared with peers at larger universities with more than 5,000 students, schools in urban areas, institutions in the Midwest and West or those without religious ties. (AP)

Experts say caution is key

Fitness trend: Do weighted vests really help you get in shape faster?

NEW YORK, Sept 4, (AP): In the fitness class Jessie Syfko created for a nationwide gym chain, exercisers wear weighted vests that add a challenge to their workouts. “People start to realize how good it feels to work just a little bit harder and a little bit smarter” without actually changing what they’re doing, said Syfko, senior vice president for Life Time gyms. Weighted vests are increasingly showing up in fitness classes and on jogging tracks, touted by social media influencers as a way to keep bones healthy, improve performance and even accelerate weight loss. They are exactly what they sound like - vests that add resistance to the torso through pockets with removable weights. But there’s a lack of robust research on their benefits, experts say, so it’s unclear how much of the hype is justified. And some people, such as seniors or those who are pregnant, should be cautious about using them. When you think about how exercise works, the idea that a weighted vest will help you meet fitness goals like weight loss, muscle growth or preventing bone loss might make sense on the surface. Adding weight to the vest adds resistance to your everyday activities without changing up your patterns. The vests may, in fact, offer benefits for healthy adults, experts say - although no one should expect transformative or instant results. Jeff Monaco, a certified strength coach who teaches medical fitness at the University of Texas at Austin, said while you may not lose a lot more calories during a weighted vest exercise, resistance from the vest may result in better sports performance over time. “There are a lot of studies looking at (the weighted vest) from a speed perspective in different athletics, like soccer, with changing direction, agility and speed and so forth,” he said. You’ll start to see those benefits by adding about 10% of your body weight to the vest, he said. If you weigh 150 pounds, for example, that would mean adding a total of 15 pounds to the vest. But the research outside of sports isn’t as clear. One 2020 study from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina found that adults between 60 and 85 years old who wore weighted vests at times during the day when they were most active lost about the same amount of weight as those who didn’t wear them. They also



lost the same amount of bone density, which happens as we age but can be slowed by building muscle. Experts urge people to use weighted vests safely. It’s best to start out by adding between five to 10 percent of your body weight. Wearing a vest that’s too heavy can put unnecessary strain on your joints, back and hips. That extra load can throw off your posture, lead to poor form or even result in stress fractures over time. Some people should consult with a doctor before they throw on a vest, said Dr. Elizabeth Gardner, a team physician for athletes at Yale University. They include people who are pregnant, suffer from heart and breathing conditions or have back or neck injuries. You’ll have to use the muscles in your abdomen to use a weighted vest effectively, Gardner said, and this can be tougher for those already managing back pain. Before starting to use a vest, Monaco said it’s always helpful to get guidance from someone who has experience with them, “just to make sure that your movements are good, your form is good, that you have enough muscular upper body, muscular strength and endurance to support that during your movements.” But as long as you use it correctly, he said, a weighted vest can be “a good tool to have in your toolbox.”

Governors challenge CDC, launch vaccine alliance

Florida plans to become first state to end childhood vaccine mandates

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Sept 4, (AP): Florida plans to become the first state to eliminate vaccine mandates, a longtime cornerstone of public health policy for keeping schoolchildren and adults safe from infectious diseases. State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo, who announced the decision Wednesday, cast current requirements in schools and elsewhere as “immoral” intrusions on people’s rights that hamper parents’ ability to make health decisions for their children. “People have a right to make their own decisions, informed decisions,” Ladapo, who has frequently clashed with the medical establishment, said at a news conference in Valrico. “They don’t have the right to tell you what to put in your body. Take it away from them.” Florida’s move, a significant departure from decades of public policy and research that has shown vaccines to be safe and the most effective way to stop the spread of communicable diseases, especially among schoolchildren, is a notable embrace of the Trump administration’s public health agenda led by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime anti-vaccine activist. Dr. Rana Alissa, chair of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said removing vaccines puts students and school staff at greater risk. “When everyone in a school is vaccinated, it is harder for diseases to spread and easier for everyone to continue learning and having fun,” Alissa said in an email. “When children are sick and miss school, caregivers also miss work, which not only impacts those families but also the local economy.” Democratic state Rep. Anna Eskamani, who is running for Orlando mayor, said in a social media post that scrapping vaccines “is reckless and dangerous” and could cause outbreaks



of preventable disease. “This is a public health disaster in the making for the Sunshine State,” Eskamani said on the social platform X. Amid turmoil at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fueled by Kennedy’s extensive restructuring and downsizing, the Democratic governors of Washington, Oregon and California announced Wednesday that they had created an alliance to safeguard health policies, contending that the administration is politicizing public health decisions. The partnership plans to coordinate health guidelines by aligning immunization plans based on recommendations from respected national medical organizations, according to a joint statement from Gov. Bob Ferguson of Washington, Gov. Tina Kotek of Oregon and Gov. Gavin Newsom of California. Vaccines have saved at least 154

million lives globally over the past 50 years, the World Health Organization reported in 2024. The majority of those were infants and children. “Vaccines are among the most powerful inventions in history, making once-feared diseases preventable,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general. In Florida, vaccine mandates for child day care facilities and public schools include shots for measles, chickenpox, hepatitis B, diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis, polio and other diseases, according to the state Health Department’s website. Ladapo didn’t give a timeline for the changes but said the department can scrap its own rules for some vaccine mandates, though others would require action by the Florida Legislature. He did not specify any particular vaccines but repeated several times that the effort would end “all of them. Every last one of them.”

Thousands displaced, crops destroyed

Climate change blamed as torrential rains, floods ravage northern India

NEW DELHI, Sept 4, (AP): Relentless monsoon rains have unleashed some of the worst flooding and landslides in decades across northern India, killing at least 90 people and displacing hundreds of thousands in recent weeks, government officials said. India’s Himalayan Mountain states and territories such as Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Punjab state, are among the worst affected. India’s capital city, New Delhi, and nearby regions have been hit by rising rivers and heavy rain. Thousands have been moved to safer ground as city officials said the Yamuna River in the city has breached danger levels. In Punjab state, which is home to more than 30 million people and one of India’s key agricultural regions, farmers said crops and livestock have been destroyed. State government officials said at least 30 people have died and 300,000 impacted by heavy rains and floods. Surinder Singh, a farmer in Punjab’s Kapurthala district, said his 10 acres (4 hectares) of farmland has been underwater since Aug. 11 in one of the areas that has been hardest hit by flooding. “We have lost paddy, maize, and wheat crops worth over 700,000 rupees (\$8,400). Children had to be moved to safer villages. The government visits, but we have received little help so far,” he said. Climate change is likely a key reason for the monsoon’s unpredictability, which has led to the heavy rains in August and these conditions are expected to persist for the next few weeks, according to experts. The South Asian region, which is among the world’s most densely populated and also among the most vulnerable to climate impacts, will need to better prepare for rain-related disasters as their frequency and intensity increase, experts said. In neighboring Pakistan, officials said more than 1 million people have



been evacuated from flood-prone regions and 2.45 million people have experienced monsoon flooding in recent months. Earlier this week, an eight-hour traffic jam paralyzed a highway between New Delhi and the neighboring city, Gurugram, after floodwaters submerged roads. Officials said annual average rainfall levels have already been crossed and residents have moved away from the Yamuna River, which runs through New Delhi. “We have moved to these tents for now as our homes have been submerged in water. This is just like the 2023 floods,” said Rekha Chaturvedi, 55, of the Nigambodh Ghat area. In India’s Himalayan Mountain regions, large-scale destruction has resulted from heavy rains, floods and cloudbursts, which are intense rains occurring over a small area. Four people were killed and hundreds were left missing after a village in Uttarakhand state was hit by landslides and floods in August. Overflowing glacial lakes in July damaged several hydropower dams and destroyed

a key bridge connecting neighboring Nepal to China. “This is the second time this month our fields have been flooded,” said Fayaz Ahmad, a 70-year-old farmer living on the outskirts of Srinagar in Indian-administered Kashmir. “We saw extreme heat this year, and now water keeps entering our homes and farms after just a few days of rain. Something has changed. It was never like this in my youth.” Experts say human-caused climate change is intensifying South Asia’s monsoons, which traditionally run from June to September and again from October to December. The rains, once predictable, now arrive in erratic bursts that dump extreme amounts of water in short periods, followed by dry spells. “We are living in a warmer world, nearly 1.5 degrees hotter than pre-industrial times,” said Anjal Prakash, author of several United Nations climate reports and professor at Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business. “The intensity and frequency of such extreme rainfall events will only increase. This is the new normal.”

Cat euthanized

Raw pet food tied to bird flu

NEW YORK, Sept 4, (AP): Federal health officials are warning that certain lots of raw cat food may be contaminated with H5N1 bird flu after a pet cat in San Francisco that ate the food became infected with the virus and had to be euthanized. The US Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that two lots of RAWR Raw Cat Food Chicken Eats tested positive for the virus. Analysis by San Francisco health department officials showed that the same strain of the H5N1 virus was present in the pet food and in the cat that died. The incident is the first reported case of an H5N1 infection from raw food in pet cats since March. Dozens of domestic cats, including nearly 70 this year, have been infected with H5N1, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. Many of the animals became infected after consuming raw milk or raw pet food contaminated with the virus. The affected lots of RAWR food include CCS 25 077, with a sell-by date of Sept. 18, 2026, and CCS 250 093, with a sell-by date of Oct. 3, 2026. RAWR raw pet food is sold frozen and must be thawed before use. No recall was posted for the products, but representatives for the Grass Valley, California, company said they had removed the lots in question from circulation weeks ago. RAWR Raw Cat Food Chicken Eats are sold in frozen 2.5-pound resealable bags containing 40 1-ounce sliders of food. The product is sold in stores nationwide and online.

AI identifies ‘harmful fat’

Study reveals hidden bone health risk in young women

SINGAPORE, Sept 4, (Xinhua): More than one in four healthy-weight Chinese Singaporean women in their 20s and 30s may have low muscle mass and weaker bones, health risks usually associated with older age, according to a new study. The findings suggest hidden risks for fractures and metabolic diseases that standard BMI (Body Mass Index) measurements can’t detect, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research said in a statement Thursday. The study, conducted by researchers from the agency and other institutions, followed 191 Singaporean women aged 18 to 45. It found that 26 percent of normal-weight Chinese women had low muscle mass combined with higher body fat, a condition sometimes called “thin outside, fat inside.” The research also revealed ethnic differences in bone health. Chinese women had the lowest bone density, despite appearing healthy by BMI standards, while women from other ethnic groups in Singapore generally had stronger bones. These findings are particularly concerning because Singapore is among the countries with the highest rates of hip fractures worldwide, the agency noted. “Most research targets bone health after mid-life, but our study focuses on young adulthood when prevention strategies can be most beneficial,” said lead author Mya Thway Tint. Senior author Johan Eriksson noted the clinical implications: “These findings highlight that ‘healthy BMI’

is insufficient to identify chronic disease risk among Asian women. Body composition screening could identify at-risk individuals who might otherwise be overlooked due to their seemingly healthy appearance.” The agency said that vigorous physical activity and adequate dairy intake are key strategies for preventing muscle and bone loss, with early intervention during peak bone-building years being most effective. □ □ □ **Visceral fat:** Researchers in Australia are developing an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm that estimates dangerous hidden fat, or visceral fat, from bone density scans used to detect spine fractures. Visceral fat, the harmful deep belly fat that surrounds organs, is a “troublemaker” strongly linked to serious health problems like heart disease, diabetes and cancer, according to a statement released Thursday by Australia’s Edith Cowan University (ECU). The ECU team is training its machine learning algorithm to analyze lateral spine Dual-energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DXA) scans, used to assess bone density, to accurately predict visceral fat levels from these images, offering valuable new health insights without requiring additional tests. Current methods to estimate visceral fat, like body mass index, waist circumference, and waist-to-hip ratio, have limitations as they cannot distinguish between different types of body fat, leading to inconsistent obesity assessments, researchers said.



Heart ... hustle ... homework

# Abdulaziz Adnan: The next big thing in Kuwaiti soccer

By Mohammed Yakub Jibreel  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

At just nine years old, Abdulaziz Adnan Bedi is already turning heads in Kuwait's sports scene. The young prodigy, a student and footballer for Al-Arabi Club, has amassed an impressive list of achievements that belie his age, proving that dedication and talent know no boundaries.

### Rising Star in Kuwait

In 2024, Abdulaziz earned three nominations for the Best Player award, claiming the trophy once and being named Player of the Month — a testament to his consistent performance on the pitch. His efforts played a key role in leading Al-Arabi Sports Club to three championship victories, drawing the attention of fans and pundits alike as one of the brightest prospects in Kuwaiti soccer. Beyond soccer, Abdulaziz's versatility shines through his first-place finish in kajukenbo martial arts in 2022, a reflection of his commitment to athletic excellence across multiple disciplines.

### International Experience and Academic Excellence

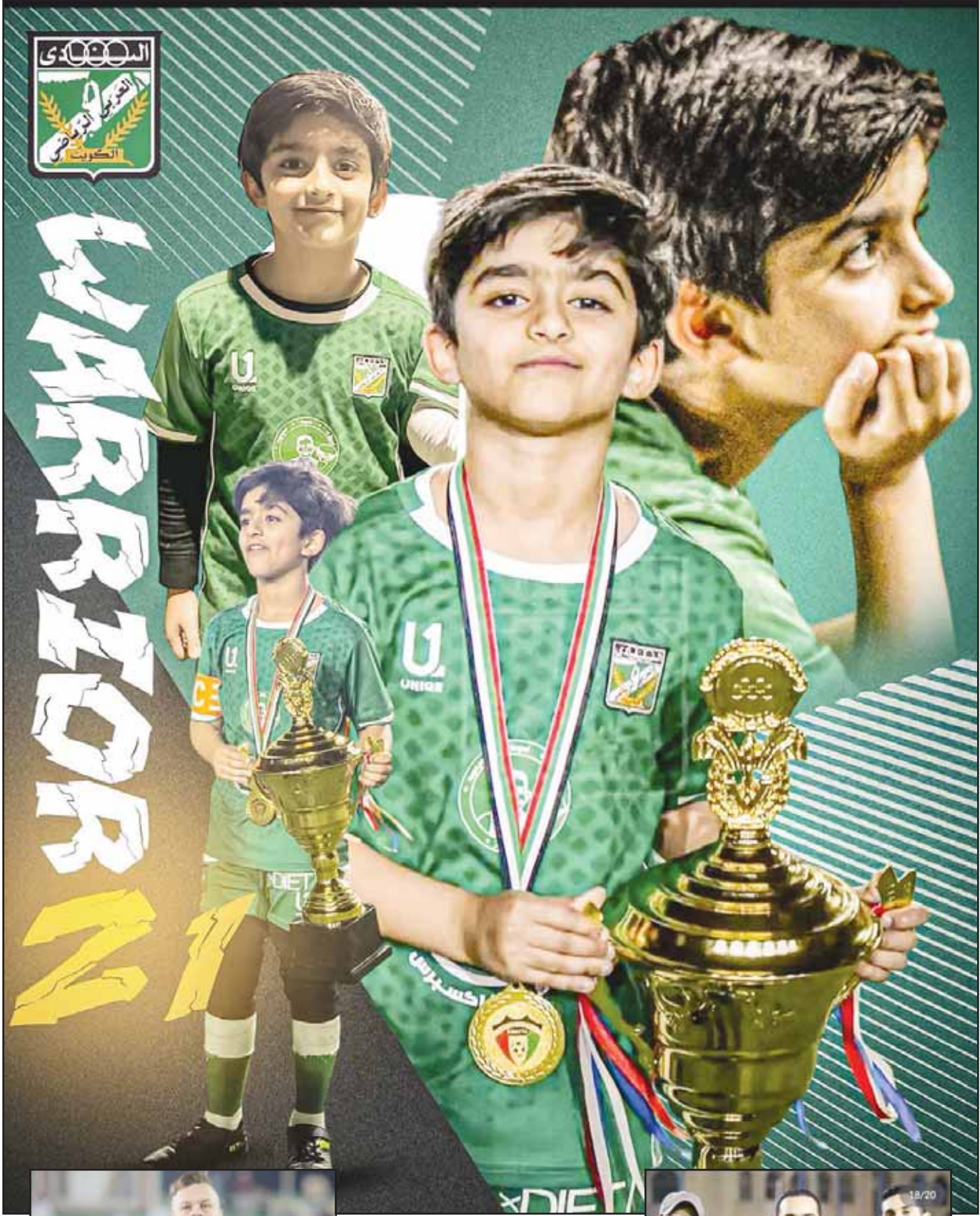
Abdulaziz has proudly represented Kuwait on the international stage, notably at the Arab Elite Championship in Abu Dhabi. He further enhanced his skillset by attending a soccer camp in Izmir, Turkey, where he was exposed to advanced training methods and diverse playing styles. Remarkably, Abdulaziz remains equally dedicated to his studies, earning the Excellence Award for the 2022–2023 academic year and being honored at the Outstanding Students' Awards Ceremony. His participation as a scout in national events, often alongside senior officials such as the Kuwaiti Minister of Information, underscores his well-rounded upbringing.

### The Family Behind the Talent

Abdulaziz's rapid progress is anchored by a family committed to nurturing talent while preserving normalcy. His parents recall his extraordinary focus and determination from an early age, describing how he balanced rigorous training with childhood joy. "He enjoys his holidays and rest times — we always ensure there's a balance between training and play," they shared. The family's lifestyle has adapted to support Abdulaziz, with travel plans and vacations now revolving around his sporting schedule. They remain vigilant, emphasizing motivation through encouragement rather than pressure and prioritizing his educational growth alongside his athletic development. Their greatest hope is for Abdulaziz to reach the professional level abroad while maintaining academic excellence, expressing concern only for potential injuries or excessive pressure that could diminish his love for the game.

### Expert Insight from the Coach

Abdulaziz's coach highlights both technical and tactical strengths: "Aziz stands out for his concentration and rapid response under pressure, displaying tactical maturity rare for his age." Training is carefully balanced, encompassing physical, mental, and technical aspects, to develop not just talent but also resilience and discipline. The coach notes the challenge of guiding gifted players who may feel they know best, stressing the importance of hard work and consistent discipline over raw talent. "If Aziz continues on this path, I see him achieving great things — perhaps even joining major clubs or the national team, provided he maintains his drive and



Top: Young prodigy Abdulaziz Adnan Bedi celebrates as he leads Al-Arabi to a championship victory.  
Left: Abdulaziz Adnan poses alongside a senior team player ahead of the game.  
Right: One of the many awards earned by the rising star.



discipline." The coach's advice for parents: foster encouragement, prioritize balance between sport and study, accept both victory and defeat, and provide steady psychological and nutritional support.

Interview with Abdulaziz Adnan  
**Question:** At what age did you start playing soccer?  
**Answer:** I started when I was 5 years

old, and I have loved it ever since.  
**Q:** There are many clubs in Kuwait. What made you choose Al-Arabi?  
**A:** Because of the club's strong fan base, rich history, and championships. Also, most of my family supports Al-Arabi.  
**Q:** Balancing school and training can be hard. How do you manage both?  
**A:** I try to finish my homework on time,

and sometimes I study after training as well.  
**Q:** What do your parents want you to focus on more — school or soccer?  
**A:** Both. With proper planning and time management, it's not difficult. They remind me that school is important, but they also support my soccer dream because they believe I can shine.



The gifted defender dazzles on the pitch.



Rising star Abdulaziz Adnan Bedi pauses during a training session with Al-Arabi.

**Q:** Do you prefer playing as a defender, winger, midfielder, or striker?  
**A:** Defender. I enjoy stopping attacks and protecting my team — I feel it suits my style best as a strong center-back.  
**Q:** Who is your favorite player — Messi, Ronaldo, or someone else? Why?  
**A:** Sergio Ramos, because he's a center-back like me, a strong leader, and the captain of Real Madrid. I admire his leadership and personality.  
**Q:** When you're not at school or training, how do you like to spend your free time?  
**A:** I like watching soccer matches and learning from how professional players play.

### A Pathway to Inspiration

Supported by dedicated mentorship, a nurturing family, and his own relentless work ethic, Abdulaziz Adnan Bedi is set not only to represent Kuwait but also to serve as a role model for the next generation of young athletes across the region. His journey is a testament to the synergy of talent, discipline, and support—hallmarks of a star in the making.



Abdulaziz Adnan Bedi at the stadium, enjoying a live match.



The talented defender bites into his medal in celebration.



Abdulaziz Adnan proudly represented Kuwait at the Arab Elite Championship in Abu Dhabi



4 tickets per game, 40 per person total

## 2026 WC tickets to cost between \$60 and \$6,730

MIAMI, Sept 4, (AP): Ticket prices for next year’s World Cup will range initially from \$60 for group-stage matches to \$6,730 for the final, but could change as soccer’s top event adopts dynamic pricing for the first time.

The prices are up from a range of \$25 to \$475 for the 1994 tournament in the United States and for the U.S. dollar equivalent \$69 to \$1,607 when ticket details were announced for the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

“I think the message is ‘Get your tickets early,’ especially if you know where you will be, because you live in that city, or you’re a fan of the three hosting nations, and then you know all-ready when and where they will play,” said Heimo Schirgi, the World Cup’s chief operating officer. “So that’s the message: ‘Get your tickets early,’ because anything could happen.”

Next year’s tournament runs from June 11 to July 19 and will be played at 11 sites in the U.S., three in Mexico and two in Canada. The tournament expanded from 32 nations to 48 and from 64 games to 104.

The initial draw period will be limited to Visa card holders and will run from 11 a.m. EDT on Sept. 10 through 11 a.m. EDT on Sept. 19. Those picked to buy tickets will be notified starting Sept. 29 and will be given a time slot to purchase starting Oct. 1. While tickets for all 104 matches are being put on sale, receiving a timeslot does not guarantee tickets will be available.

Sales will be capped at four tickets



Argentina’s Lionel Messi smiles during a training session ahead of a World Cup 2026 qualifying soccer match against Venezuela, at the Argentina Soccer Association in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

per person per match, with no person being able to purchase more than 40 for the totality of the tournament.

FIFA said it has no additional details on prices to announce.

A second phase, called an early ticket draw, likely will run from Oct. 27-31, with purchase timeslots from mid-November to early December.

A third phase, termed a random se-

lection draw, will start after the final draw of teams on Dec. 5 determines the World Cup schedule. FIFA said tickets will be available closer to the tournament “on a first-come, first-served basis.”

FIFA also said it will start an official resale platform.

Hospitality packages have been sold since May. For the eight matches at

MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, including the final on July 19, prices range from \$3,500 to \$73,200 per person.

Fans can purchase tickets to follow a certain team, or purchase for a certain site. Dynamic pricing was also utilized for this year’s Club World Cup, when tickets were cut from \$473.90 to \$13.40 for the Chelsea-Fluminense semifinal at MetLife Stadium.

“It’s key to highlight FIFA’s mission and FIFA’s objective of providing funding, providing opportunities, providing growth to our sport across all the 211 member associations,” Schirgi said. “And as part of that mission, which we take very seriously, we’re looking at optimizing the revenue, but also optimizing attendance in the stadium, right? So, it’s always a balance between different factors.”

American Airlines announced Wednesday its AAdvantage loyalty program members can redeem miles for World Cup tickets, starting with executive platinum and concierge key members on Oct. 13, with platinum pro, platinum and gold starting the following day and all members having access on Oct. 15.

Thirteen teams in the field have been determined. The U.S., Canada and Mexico all are assured World Cup spots as the host nations, while reigning champion Argentina with Lionel Messi and perennial power Brazil are among the teams that have already secured qualification.

## Kuwait men’s team starts strong at Arab beach volleyball championship

BEIRUT, Sept 4: Kuwait’s men’s beach volleyball team claimed a straight-sets victory over Palestine on the second day of the 30th Arab Men’s and 20th Women’s Beach Volleyball Championship, held in the coastal town of Batroun, northern Lebanon.

Team A, consisting of Nawaf Al-Rashidi and Ibrahim Diaa, secured the win, while Team B, made up of Abdulwahab Amir and Taha Sadiq, faced tough matches against Iraq and Morocco but could not record a victory.

The Kuwaiti men’s team also fell short in their encounter with Lebanon, and the women’s team, featuring Alaa Anas and Halima Abdullah, was defeated by Algeria.

The Kuwaiti delegation is led by head of mission Essa Al-Salim, along with administrator Reem Al-Zaabi and coach Ahmed Abdulrazzaq.

The championship runs until September 5, with participation from Kuwait, Lebanon, Algeria, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, and Morocco.



Kuwait men’s beach volleyball team celebrates victory over opponents.

# Kuwait fights to stay alive

Blues target win over Afghanistan

By Hasan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**YANGON, Sept 4: Kuwait’s Olympic football team is set to take on Afghanistan tomorrow at 3:30 PM at Thuwunna Stadium in the second round of Group A for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers. Earlier in the day, Japan will face Myanmar at 12:30 PM in the same group.**

After a goalless draw with Myanmar in the opening round and Japan’s 3-0 victory over Afghanistan, Kuwait has no choice but to win to stay in contention. A victory will revive its hopes of qualifying for next year’s finals in Saudi Arabia, where the group winners and four best second-placed teams advance.

Croatian coach Dario Besic emphasized that only a win will keep the team on track, correcting the setback from the opening match. Training sessions since the first



Kuwaiti player battles to control the ball against an opponent.

round have focused on improving player concentration, capitalizing on scoring opportunities, and boosting team cohesion. Besic warned that a draw or loss could end Kuwait’s chances, especially given strong performances from other teams in the qualifiers.

The squad includes standout

players such as Abdulrahman Ajaj, Hussein Kankoni, Dhari Al-Masri, Bandar Al-Brazi, Mohammed Al-Sharifi, Nasser Al-Anzi, Saleh Al-Muhtab, Abdullah Faris, Muneer Al-Subaie, Jassem Al-Anzi, Mohammed Al-Suraie, Jassem Al-Mutair, Montaser Abdul Salam, Omar Al-Saleem,

Omar Al-Mutair, Omar Al-Azmi, Abdullah Al-Ghanim, Jarah Al-Helali, Ahmed Bodi, Moath Al-Asima, Youssef Majid, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, and Saud Qasim.

Kuwait enters the match determined to secure all three points and bounce back on their path to the U-23 Asian Cup.

## Kuwait Club aims streak as Qadsia seeks redemption

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Handball fans are gearing up for an exciting evening as the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex hosts one of the biggest matches of the second round of the 58th Premier League season 2025-2026. At 6:30 PM today, reigning league champion Kuwait Club, fresh from a dominant win over Al-Nasr, will face First Division champions Qadsia, who are eager to recover after their opening defeat. Earlier, at 5:00 PM, Al-Arabi will clash with Al-Nasr in a battle for their first points of the season.

Tomorrow’s fixtures continue with Salmiya facing Burgan at 5:00 PM, followed by Kazma taking on Al-Sulaibikhat at 6:30 PM.

The Kuwait Club-Qadsia matchup is the day’s highlight, given the teams’ historic rivalry and competitive edge. Last season, the teams met twice: Qadsia narrowly won 25-24 in the Integration League, while Kuwait Club claimed victory in the Federation Cup final after a fierce contest. They have not faced each other in the Premier League since Qadsia’s promotion back to the top division.

Kuwait Club, coached by Algerian veteran Said Hijazi, features star foreign players Francis (Qatar), Vlatan (Montenegro), and Victor Ituriza (Portugal), alongside local talents including Abdullah Al-Khamis, Ali and Hassan Safar, Saleh Al-Mousawi, Mohammed Amer, Mishari Siwan, and Yaqoub Asiri. The team trained intensively over the summer in Bosnia.

Qadsia, led by Tunisian coach Amen Al-

Qafsi, fields foreign players Rayan Zrayat, Jihad Arrar, and Karati Nadim Hadzic, complemented by local stars Nasser Boukhadra, Nawaf Al-Shammari, Ahmed Al-Farhan, Abdulaziz Salmeen, and Mubarak Al-Khalidi. Their preparation focused on domestic training.

Expect a high-intensity clash as Kuwait Club looks to extend its winning streak and defend its title—won for 15 consecutive seasons—while Qadsia aims to bounce back and stay in contention for the top spots.



Kuwait Club player attempts to dribble past opponents.

### Best of the Rest

**Italy without Scamacca for qualifiers:** Under-pressure Italy will be without injured striker Gianluca Scamacca for upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Estonia and Israel. Scamacca was sent home from the Azzurri training camp on Thursday with a knee issue. Facing the prospect of failing to qualify for a third consecutive World Cup, Italy has no room for errors when it hosts Estonia in Bergamo on Friday and plays Israel in Hungary on Monday. Italy has three points from two matches. Norway, which has played four matches, leads Group I with 12 points, and Israel is next with six points from three matches. (AP)

**Palermo takes charge of Fortaleza:** Former Boca Juniors and Argentina striker Martin Palermo has been appointed head coach of Fortaleza, the Brazilian Serie A side said.

The 51-year-old replaces Renato Paiva, who was sacked on Tuesday after just 10 games in charge amid a poor run of results. Palermo’s agreement runs until December with an option to extend for another year.

“We were looking for a manager who would have an impact in the locker room, a respected professional who has been on an upward trajectory,” Fortaleza CEO Marcelo Paz said in a statement on the club’s website. (Xinhua)

## Dream moves into sole possession of second

COLLEGE PARK, Ga., Sept 4, (AP): Rhyne Howard scored 19 points, Brionna Jones had 16 points and 13 rebounds for her 12th double-double of the season, and the Atlanta Dream beat the Los Angeles Sparks 86-75 on Wednesday night to move into sole possession of second place in the WNBA standings.

Atlanta (27-14), which has won five of its last six games, moved a half-game ahead of Las Vegas (26-14) and Phoenix (26-14) with three games remaining. The Dream play Los Angeles again on Friday, followed by a two-game series with Connecticut to end the season.

Los Angeles (19-21) trails Indiana (21-20) by a game and a half for the eighth and final playoff spot.

Naz Hillmon added 15 points and Maya Caldwell scored 14 for Atlanta. Jordin Canada recorded her first double-double this season with

10 points and 10 assists.

Dearia Hamby had 21 points, nine rebounds and four assists for Los Angeles. Kelsey Plum had 18 points and seven assists, and Rickea Jackson scored 15.

Los Angeles scored the opening 10 points of the game as Atlanta missed its first seven field goals. But the Dream closed the frame on a 12-3 run to take a 26-24 lead. Atlanta started the second quarter on a 15-3 run to build a 41-27 lead.

Atlanta led 53-41 at the break behind Howard’s 12 points and three 3-pointers. The Dream led by at least eight points the entire second half.

Sky 88, Sun 64

In Chicago, Angel Reese had 18 points and 13 rebounds for her 23rd double-double this season, Kamilla Cardoso scored 16 points, and Chicago beat Connecticut to snap a four-game losing streak.

Chicago (10-30) improved to 6-15 at home, while Connecticut (10-31) dropped to 4-17 on the road this season. Both teams had already been eliminated from playoff contention.

Tina Charles was 8-for-13 shooting and led Connecticut with 19, passing Diana Taurasi (3,341) for the most made field goals in WNBA history with 3,347. Saniya Rivers added 16 points.

Kia Nurse added 12 points, and Rachel Banham and Elizabeth Williams each scored 10 for Chicago. Banham made two 3-pointers to move into second place in franchise history with 82 in a single season, trailing Marina Mabrey’s 89.

Chicago scored the opening eight points of the game and led throughout. It was 30-10 after the opening minute of the second quarter and 42-27 at halftime. The Sky shot 51.7% from the field in the first half and 11 of 13 at the free-throw line.

# NBA probing Clippers over Kawhi Leonard’s \$28m endorsement deal

LOS ANGELES, Sept 4, (AP): The NBA said Wednesday that it will investigate if a \$28 million endorsement contract between Kawhi Leonard and a California-based sustainability services company allowed the Los Angeles Clippers to circumvent league salary cap rules, following a report by journalist Pablo Torre.

The Clippers strongly denied that any rules were broken and said they welcomed the league’s investigation.

The probe will focus on ties between Leonard, the Clippers and a company called Aspiration Fund Adviser, LLC, which filed for bankruptcy this year. It listed several creditors at that time, among them the Clippers (who were owed about \$30 million) and a company called KL2 Aspire LLC that was owed \$7 million.

Leonard is listed as the manager

of that company in California filings. KL is his initials, and 2 is his jersey number. Emails sent to his listed representatives seeking comment Wednesday were not immediately returned.

“We are aware of this morning’s media report regarding the LA Clippers and are commencing an investigation,” NBA spokesman Mike Bass said Wednesday.

Clippers owner Steve Ballmer made a \$50 million investment in Aspiration, and the company and the team announced a \$300 million partnership in September 2021. That was about a month after Leonard signed a four-year, \$176 million extension with the Clippers.

The team ended its relationship with Aspiration after two years, saying the contract was in default.

“Neither the Clippers nor Steve Ballmer circumvented the salary cap,” the team said. “The notion

that Steve invested in Aspiration in order to funnel money to Kawhi Leonard is absurd. Steve invested because Aspiration’s co-founders presented themselves as committed to doing right by their customers while protecting the environment.

“After a long campaign of market manipulation, which defrauded not only Steve but numerous other investors and sports teams, Aspiration filed for bankruptcy. ... Neither Steve nor the Clippers had knowledge of any improper activity by Aspiration or its co-founder until after the government initiated its investigation.”

Aspiration’s co-founder, Joseph Sanberg, agreed to plead guilty last month after facing federal charges of wire fraud. Prosecutors said he defrauded investors and lenders out of \$248 million, adding that “Aspiration’s financial statements

were inaccurate and reflected much higher revenue than the company in fact received.”

Torre, in his reporting, obtained a copy of the endorsement agreement between Aspiration and KL2 Aspire, one that called for Leonard to be paid \$7 million annually for four years. Given that timetable, Leonard still would have been owed the final \$7 million at the time of Aspiration’s bankruptcy filing.

There is no evidence that Leonard did anything to publicly endorse Aspiration.

“There is nothing unusual or untoward about team sponsors doing endorsement deals with players on the same team,” the Clippers said. “Neither Steve nor the Clippers organization had any oversight of Kawhi’s independent endorsement agreement with Aspiration. To say otherwise is flat-out wrong.”

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In this file photo, Leicester City's Jamie Vardy celebrates after scoring his sides 1st goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham and Leicester City at the London stadium in London. (AP)

# Sports

## Kuwait adds 6 medals at West Asia Fencing Championship



KUNA photo

Sahar Al-Omair and Suhad Al-Naqeeb being honored at the awards ceremony.

MANAMA, Sept 4: Kuwait's national fencing team extended its impressive performance at the West Asia Championship in Bahrain, which featured 310 athletes from 10 countries.

On the fifth day of competition at Al-Najma Sports Club, the team claimed six more medals, bringing their total to 31.

In the Under-17 Girls' Sabre, Sahar Al-Omair won gold, Suhad Al-Naqeeb took silver, and in the Under-17 Girls' Foil, Farah Al-Rashidi earned bronze.

On the boys' side, Khaled Al-Houli secured gold in the Under-17 Epee, while Maryam Al-Ghais and Fatima Qasim took silver and bronze respectively in the Under-17 Girls' Epee.

## Three debutants ready for historic season in Zain First Division League

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The draw for the 2025-2026 Zain First Division League was held recently at the Kuwait Football Association headquarters. The opening round will see Al-Sulaibikhat face Al-Shamiya, Sporty take on Al-Yarmouk, Al-Sahel clash with Khaitan, and Burgan play against Al-Jazeera.

The league, set to kick off on September 14, will be organized into three groups this season.

Previously limited to just five clubs, the competition welcomes three new teams for the first time: Sporty, Al-Jazeera, and Al-Shamiya.

Al-Jazeera already made its mark last season by participating in both the Amir Cup and Crown Prince Cup, having been founded earlier this year.

All three new clubs have met the Football Association's criteria, and after receiving approval from the Department of Fatwa and Legislation to officially register as private clubs, it was confirmed that no financial support will be provided.



The Zain First Division League draw in progress.

## Kuwait futsal team draws with Burila ahead of AFC qualifiers

MADRID, Sept 4: Kuwait's national futsal team held Spain's CD Burila to a thrilling 4-4 draw during their training camp in Spain, marking an important step in its preparation for the upcoming AFC Futsal Championship qualifiers in Kuwait from September 20-24.

Mohammed Al-Ajmi shone with two goals, while Abdulaziz Al-Hajri and Abdul Latif Al-Abbasi each added a goal, keeping the team competitive throughout the match.

After returning from Madrid, the team will enter a domestic training camp from September 9-14, featuring two friendlies against Vietnam on September 11 and 13 to fine-tune their tactics and cohesion.

The final preparatory camp begins on September 18, as the team readies for its qualifier campaign. Placed in Group A alongside Australia, Mongolia, and India, Kuwait will kick off against India on September 20, face Mongolia on September 22, and close the group stage against Australia on September 24.

The tournament features eight groups, with group winners and the seven best runners-up advancing to join host nation Indonesia in the 18th edition of the AFC Futsal Championship, scheduled for January next year.



Players battling for the ball during the friendly.

## Veterans flood Serie A, but Vardy shines brightest with unbeaten Cremonese

ROME, Sept 4, (AP): David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo came to Serie A in the twilight years of their careers.

This year, the list of big-name veterans descending on Italy was even longer than usual. It included Luka Modric (who joined AC Milan at age 39); Kevin De Bruyne (Napoli, 34); Nemanja Matic (Sassuolo, 37); Raul Albiol (Pisa, 40); and Edin Dzeko (Fiorentina, 39).

And when 38-year-old Jamie Vardy signed with promoted Cremonese on deadline day this week, the stereotype of the Italian league being known for older players was reinforced as the former Leicester striker posed next to a Stradivari violin made centuries ago in the city of his new club.

"From dream to reality: Stradi-Vardy is here!" Cremonese said on Instagram, instantly coining Vardy's new nickname.

While Vardy does not have the star power of Beckham (who was 33 when he was first loaned to AC Milan in 2009) or Ronaldo (who was 33 when he joined Juventus in 2018), he's still the biggest thing that has happened to Cremonese in recent memory. Thousands of fans greeted the Englishman

upon arrival on Monday -- including one supporter who already had a tattoo of Vardy's image on his leg.

The enthusiasm in Cremona, which is little more than an hour's drive from Milan, coincided with a surprisingly strong start for Cremonese.

After winning the Serie B playoffs to return to the top flight after two years, Cremonese stunned Milan in its Serie A opener then remained perfect after a dramatic late win over Sassuolo in the second round.

Merely avoiding relegation would be an exploit for Cremonese. So the club is overachieving at this rate.

And Vardy is no stranger to overachieving, having led Leicester to an improbable Premier League title in 2016. He scored in a record 11 straight games in Leicester's historic campaign, which is remembered as one of the great underdog stories in soccer history. The title defied preseason odds of 5,000-1. For the record, current odds for Cremonese to win Serie A range from 1,000-1 to 2,500-1.

As the first two rounds have shown, there's plenty more to Cremonese than Vardy.

Newly hired coach Davide Nicola

is an expert at helping teams avoid relegation and has plenty of experience with provincial clubs in the top flight. Back in 2017, he cycled virtually the length of Italy to his home in Turin to maintain a promise after keeping Crotona in Serie A.

Forward Federico Bonazzoli, who started his career at Inter Milan, scored an early contender for goal of the season to decide the match against Milan - connecting with an acrobatic, overhead kick into the bottom corner that silenced the San Siro.

Romano Floriani Mussolini, a great grandson of Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, earned the foul that led to a decisive penalty kick against Sassuolo after also setting up a goal that was annulled by the VAR - in his Serie A debut.

The 22-year-old Floriani Mussolini, a full back who was loaned to Cremonese from Lazio, said upon arrival in July that he was "here to play football," adding "my last name bothers other people more than me."

The Mussolini name doesn't appear on his Cremonese shirt, though. Instead, his first name, "Romano" is printed above the No. 22.

## Sinner powers into semifinals, keeps title defense hopes alive



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, returns a shot to Lorenzo Musetti, of Italy, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

## Osaka to face Anisimova in US Open last 4

Wimbledon in 2024. But he got off to a horrible start against his Davis Cup teammate, falling behind 5-0 and winning just nine total points to Sinner's 25 in the first set.

"I never played, honestly, someone who put me on this kind of rush in the rally, and I didn't have many chances on the rally and he was always leading the rally," Musetti said. "So that was kind of a bad feeling." He started to get more chances against Sinner's serve as the match went on but could never get a break that maybe could have swung things.

"We have to take the friendship away for the match and obviously when we shake hands, it's everything's fine," Sinner said.

Felix Auger-Aliassime got past Alex de Minaur 4-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5, 7-6 (4) at the U.S. Open across 4 hours, 10 minutes to reach his second Grand Slam semifinal - and second at Flushing Meadows.

The No. 25-seeded Auger-Aliassime's only other trip to the final four at a major came in New York in 2021 at age 21.

"Four years ago. It feels like more," said Auger-Aliassime, who advanced back then when Carlos Alcaraz stopped playing in the quarterfinals with an injured leg muscle. "It was a tough couple of years." Auger-Aliassime, who is Canadian, will meet No. 1 Jannik Sinner on Friday for a berth in the championship match. No. 2 Alcaraz faces No. 7 Novak Djokovic in the other semifinal.

"It's not over. There's still some

tennis to play and the biggest challenges are yet to come," Auger-Aliassime said. "That's what I live for. That's what I train for." He hit 22 aces and finished with a total of 51 winners to the 29 for de Minaur, who dropped to 0-6 for his career in Grand Slam quarterfinals.

"Right now I'm looking at this like a wasted opportunity," said de Minaur. "It's tough." Auger-Aliassime was one point from trailing



Naomi Osaka, of Japan, returns a shot to Karolina Muchova, of the Czech Republic, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025, in New York. (AP)

two sets to none when de Minaur led 6-5 in the second-set tiebreaker. But Auger-Aliassime erased that set point with a 120 mph ace. That began a run in which he grabbed four of five points to even the contest at a set apiece.

"Just a lot of nerves today, during the whole match. It wasn't pretty at all times," Auger-Aliassime said during his on-court interview in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "I was willing to dig really deep and do everything I can to stand here, right now." This is the first time Auger-Aliassime has eliminated three seeded players during a single major, adding this victory over No. 8 de Minaur to wins against No. 3 Alexander Zverev in the third round and No. 15 Andrey Rublev in the fourth.

Sinner beat No. 10 Lorenzo Musetti 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in the first all-Italian matchup in a men's major quarterfinal. He is into his fifth straight Grand Slam semifinal. In the women's quarterfinals, Amanda Anisimova upset Iga Swiatek 6-4, 6-3 in a rematch of the Wimbledon final won by Swiatek 6-0, 6-0 less than two months ago. Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka beat Karolina Muchova 6-4, 7-6 (3) at night to remain unbeaten when she reaches the quarterfinal stage of a major tournament.

The women's semifinals are scheduled at night, including defending champion Aryna Sabalenka against Jessica Pegula. That's a repeat from the final at Flushing Meadows last year, when Sabalenka was a 7-5, 7-5 winner.