



MINISTER AL-TABTABAEI VOWS MODERNIZED CURRICULA, SMARTER GRADUATES

Education reform anchors Kuwait's future

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei is relieved to begin a new school year Sunday in accordance with an ingenious plan that saved a lot of public money and put things in the right perspective.

I learned this from my meeting with the minister, who was available to answer every question about education, which is the cornerstone of development.

He said a country cannot be built without distinguished and productive education. He clearly sees the path toward development within the capabilities of his ministry.

Al-Tabtabaei, who is well-versed in all the intricacies of education, thanks to his extensive experience in this field, stated frankly "the outputs of chaos that prevailed in the educational field over the past four decades do not keep pace with the labor market and increased disguised unemployment. Despite our short tenure at the ministry, we have been able to reform many aspects of this important sector."

He pointed out that previously, curricula were based on rote learning and memorization, which prevented students from using their minds to innovate, think and gain knowledge -- the foundation of educating young people. This is the reason why we worked hard on the curriculum overhaul."

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Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei

- 'Horizon' schools adopt advanced international curricula that focus on Science, Technology and Mathematics
- His Highness the Amir's orders to develop the curricula are clear
- Students must be productive in all fields
- A country cannot be built without a distinguished and productive education
- Over 40 years, outputs have not kept pace with the labor market
- Previously, curricula were based on indoctrination and rote learning
- Innovation, thinking and knowledge are the foundations of educating young people
- The history of Kuwait, its rulers and its people are absent from the curricula
- We have young talent, but they lack the right methodology
- We are working to create a professional generation, and that is why the shake-up occurred
- Well-known movements have greatly interfered in the educational process

Over 100K education staff resume

Interior completes security, traffic plans for school year

By Munif Naif and Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Various sectors in the Ministry of Interior, including the General Traffic, Emergency Patrols and Public Security, have completed the necessary preparations for the new school year.

Teachers and administrative employees resume work on Sunday, while classes are set to open next week.

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs at the ministry Major General Hamed Al-Da was visited the Traffic Operations Department building last week, during which he assessed security preparations for the start of the school year.

These preparations include ensuring the readiness of security and traffic patrols to secure schools, ease traffic flow, and protect the students and parents. A large number of security and traffic officers will be deployed to ensure smooth traffic flow and public safety throughout the country.

The ministry urged parents and drivers to fully cooperate with

the security personnel and strictly comply with traffic rules and regulations to guarantee the safety of students and consolidate the principle of community partnership in maintaining public security and safety.

In preparation for the start of the new academic year (2025/2026), the public and private schools in the country will open their doors on Sunday to welcome more than 100,000 teaching and administrative staff within a broad educational infrastructure comprising about 1,250 schools -- more than three-quarters of which are public schools.

The Ahmadi, Farwaniya and Capital educational districts lead the educational landscape in terms of the number of public schools, totaling 960.

Preparations are underway in various educational districts to ensure a smooth and organized start of the academic year for both the students and teachers.

This year will witness the completion of several new educational projects, such as the provision of training courses for new teachers,

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Kuwait cybersecurity experts warn travelers of Wi-Fi traps at airports

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: As a large number of citizens and expatriates prepare to return to the country for the start of the school year in mid-September, a number of cybersecurity and information technology specialists warn that returning travelers may face problems related to the possibility of their smart devices being hacked while at international airports, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an investigative report, the specialists confirmed to the newspaper that the most common risks that travelers could encounter at airports in any country before heading to Kuwait are linked to the use of free and anonymous Wi-Fi networks. These networks may be controlled by hackers specialized in stealing travelers' data and seizing personal information available on smart devices the moment they are compromised.

They pointed out that travelers are required to exercise caution and avoid entering networks of unknown origin, especially since technically advanced alternatives are available to any traveler, such as activating international mobile service.

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi

The arrivals section in Kuwait airport sees an influx of returning citizens and expatriates.

Real GDP projected to expand 1.7% in 2025

Fitch affirms Kuwait rating at 'AA-' with stable outlook

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait announced Friday that Fitch Ratings--one of the big three credit rating agencies, affirmed Kuwait's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'AA-' with a stable outlook.

A CBK statement, received by KUNA, carried the following highlights from Fitch report:

"Kuwait's 'AA-' rating is supported by its exceptionally strong fiscal and external balance sheets,

but is constrained by weaker governance than peers, heavy dependence on oil and its generous welfare system and large public sector, which could be a source of long-term fiscal pressure, despite spending rationalisation efforts,

"The prospects remain uncertain for meaningful structural reforms to reduce reliance on oil revenue, although legislation has been approved to allow debt issuance and improve fiscal financing flexibility."

According to the Fitch's report, Kuwait's external balance sheet remains the strongest of all Fitch-rated sovereigns.

"We forecast its sovereign net foreign assets will rise to 607 percent of GDP in 2025, from an estimated 576 percent in 2024, more than 10x the 'AA' median," reads the report.

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'Gaza crisis crosses red lines'

Kuwait rejects Israeli PM's plans to expel Palestinians

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait on Friday condemned remarks by the Israeli occupation's prime minister regarding Tel Aviv's plot to evict the Palestinians from their territories.

Such an approach is a flagrant defiance of the inalienable rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, blatant breach of the international law and the international humanitarian law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The State of Kuwait renews its rejection of any bids to evict the brotherly Palestinian people, urges the international community and the UN Security Council to stop the genocide, the mass punishment against the Palestinian people, immediately halt the policy of starvation, expansion of the settlements, carried out by the occupation forces in occupied Palestine.

The official statement stressed that the comprehensive and just peace in the region will not be attained without ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, establishing the independent and sovereign State of Palestine with the June 4 borders of 1967 and East Jerusalem as its capital.

In Riyadh, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Jassem Al-Budaiwi condemned as "serious and irresponsible" the statements recently made by prime minister of the Israeli occupation Benjamin Netanyahu on plans of his government to forcibly evict the Palestinian people from their homeland.

"Those remarks represent an explicit call for committing a crime of ethnic cleansing in stark violation of all international laws and norms," Al-Budaiwi said in a press release on Friday.

"The serious irresponsible remarks and malpractices of the Israeli occupation authorities drew outright rejection regionally and internationally.

"They provide yet another evidence of the aggressive approach of the Israeli occupation authorities to regional and international efforts to establish fair and durable peace in the Middle East," he underscored.

Netanyahu's government seeks to undermine the chances of establishing an independent Palestinian state within the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital city, Al-Budaiwi went on.

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Kuwait plans strict rules for influencer and celebrity ads

By Mohammad Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: In a move to end the chaos in the field of celebrity and social media influencer advertisements, the Ministry of Information will soon adopt regulations for advertising on social media platforms under the new Media Law.

Reliable sources told the newspaper that celebrities and social media influencers will be required to obtain licenses for individual advertising from the ministries of Information, Commerce and Industry to prevent fraudulent advertising on social media.

Sources revealed that the new Media Law has two chapters on the advertising mechanism and the conditions for

celebrities or social media influencers to obtain an advertising license. Sources confirmed that the draft of the new Media Law is in its final stages at the Legal Advice and Legislation Department, and it is expected to be submitted to the Council of Ministers soon.

Sources stated that the ministry has developed its vision for celebrity and corporate advertising, holding everyone accountable for their action, as per the regulatory, legal and commercial conditions without favoritism and without affecting consumer rights.

Sources said the most important proposals include mandating the Ministry of Information to verify the social media accounts of influencers, celebrities and

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Lebanese gov't greenlights plan to restrict arms to State

Arab Times Special

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: In an effort to show the strength of the State, maintain its prestige, and implement the strategy of Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to restore internal security and stability in Lebanon, and protect the country from any internal threat that might rekindle scenes of the civil wars which hindered the country's development journey, the Lebanese government, headed by Nawaf Salam, approved in its last meet-

ing the plan of the Lebanese Army to restrict weapons to the State only, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Hezbollah and Amal Movement ministers withdrew from the last Cabinet meeting, a recurring scenario in any discussion of disarming Hezbollah.

With indescribable determination and a strong hand, the Cabinet approved the disarmament of any party threatening the internal security.

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Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam during the Cabinet session on arms restriction.

Newswatch

GAZA: Latest Israeli occupation offensives on the war-battered Gaza Strip have left 68 martyrs among the Gazans in addition to 362 others suffering from various injuries, according to the local health authorities.

The authorities said in their daily report, released on Saturday that the total casualty of the aggression on the enclave since early October has climbed to 64,368 martyrs and 162,367 wounded. (KUNA)

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ADEN: Three Yemeni soldiers were killed and 11 others wounded when an explosive device detonated against a pro-government military patrol in the southern province of **Abyan** on Friday, military and medical sources said.

The attack occurred in **Mudiyah** district as the patrol was conducting routine operations, according to a military official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The roadside bomb struck one of the military vehicles, killing three soldiers. (Xinhua)



NBK leads Kuwaiti institutions featured in The Banker's 2025 list of Top 100 Arab Banks



Burgan Bank recognized by PAM for excellence in Kuwaitization and job localization

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:07	Asr	15:19
Sunrise ..	05:28	Maghrib ..	18:05
Zohr	11:46	Isha	19:23

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rising dust.
By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather			
with light to moderate northwest-erly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	46	35	
Kuwait Airport	46	29	
Abdaly	47	27	

Bubyan	39	25
Jahra	47	31
Salmiyah	38	34
Ahmadi	42	30
Nuwaisib	42	29
Wafra	45	28
Salmiy	44	26

KRCS, Zakat House and IICO reaffirm commitment

Kuwait marks Int’l Day of Charity with global humanitarian efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): The world marks the International Day of Charity every year as a humanitarian initiative that was approved by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as a global platform to deepen values of giving and solidarity.

The day was established with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 “for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace.”

This day is considered an occasion to renew the call for disseminating the culture of voluntary action, commending the role of charities in the alleviation of the impacts of crises, and building bridges of society-to-society cooperation as well as backing UN sustainable development goals.

In this regard, speaking to KUNA, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Chairman Khaled Al-Mughamis said the State of Kuwait has put an obvious mark on the map of philanthropic and relief action around the world and has become a model to follow for providing emergency and development assistance to people affected by wars and natural disasters.

He added that the State of Kuwait, under the direction of its wise leadership, has committed itself to launching qualitative initiatives aiming at easing the sufferings of disaster-hit people through its official and unofficial institutions, citing the recent humanitarian aid campaign worth over KD 11 million for the sake of the population of the Gaza Strip.

Al-Mughamis added that his charity has stepped up such efforts through humanitarian and relief aid to the peoples of Palestine, Sudan, Yemen and Syria, Rohingya, Syrian refugees and others.

He noted that amid growing humanitarian challenges involving natural disasters, crises and armed conflicts worldwide, the KRCS has

kept playing a pioneering role in the areas of relief, sustainable development and humanitarian action.

Director-General of Kuwait Zakat House Dr. Majid Al-Azmi said the International Day of Charity is an international occasion to reiterate the significance of humanitarian giving and consolidating the values of integration and solidarity among peoples.

Speaking to KUNA, he added that it highlights the role of charitable and volunteer initiatives in easing the anguish and woes of the needy and disaster-hit people.

It also contributes to bolstering sustainable development efforts by means of empowering weak segments of people and promoting the programs of education, health and societal development, thus offering an open invitation for all individuals and institutions to join humanitarian action.

Al-Azmi underlined that Kuwait Zakat House commits itself to carrying on pioneering charitable and humanitarian action with a view to serving the Kuwaiti society and backing the issues of the needy around the world, only to remain a model to follow for solidarity and giving.

He, further, affirmed his charity’s keenness on localizing charitable action and consolidating its social responsibility, thus reflecting the Kuwaiti society’s values of aiding the needy and spreading the culture of giving in educational, health and social domains.

For his part, Deputy Director-General of International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) for Institutional Communication Ibrahim Al-Bader considered the International Day of Charity an occasion to cement the concepts of giving and humanitarian solidarity and highlighting the significance of philanthropy.

This day, which highlights the importance of philanthropic and humanitarian action in building more coherent societies, was approved by the United Nations (UNs) to pay tribute to philanthropists, disseminate giving and togetherness and contribute to achieving sustainable development goals, mainly the fight against poverty and famine, he said.

He added that this global day sends a humanitarian message that charitable action is a shared respon-



International Day of Charity... global occasion to deepen philanthropy and solidarity.

sibility that requires individuals, intuitions and governments to work together to alleviate the sufferings of the have-nots and disaster-hit people and push forward educa-

tion, health and social development programs.

Al-Bader echoed his organization’s iron-clad commitment to giving and dedication with the help of

philanthropists and altruists, under the wise direction of the country’s leadership and in collaboration with state bodies.

He regarded this day as an open

invitation for everyone to contribute to humanitarian action, appreciating the efforts of all donors, volunteers and hope-makers all over the world.

KUNA photos

Sheikha Al-Duaij inaugurates Kuwait-China Friendship Club



Sheikha Dr. Al-Anoud Ibrahim Al-Duaij and the Chinese Chargé d’Affaires stand between members of the Kuwait-China Friendship Club.

Young Kuwaitis unite to celebrate Chinese culture

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Sheikha Dr. Al-Anoud Ibrahim Al-Duaij has launched the ‘Kuwait-China Friendship Club’ with the support of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait.

The club members include young Kuwaiti men and women from various fields, united by their passion for China, its language and its culture.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the launching ceremony held at the residence of the Chinese Ambassador with Chargé d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy Liu Xiang in attendance, Honorary President of the Club Sheikha Al-Anoud Al-Sabah disclosed “I am honored to be committed to the realization of Kuwait Vision 2035

and to raise the position of Kuwait in all fields. This club is one of the tools through which, we -- citizens interested in Chinese affairs -- in cooperation with the Embassy and the Chinese Cultural Center in Kuwait, can build bridges of communication between the peoples of the two countries. Through the club, we will expound on our interest in Chinese culture, while we introduce our culture to the Chinese residing in Kuwait, without the need for a translator. The club consists of young men and women working in the medical, cultural and civil society fields, as well as those who studied in China and others who visited the country for business or tourism. We will welcome new members in the future.”

On the idea of launching the club, she revealed “it was my idea and that of young people who speak Chinese. This is the right place to continue dialogue and cultural exchange. We are here to help those who want to learn Chinese or study at Chinese universities, with which we have excellent relations.”

She said former Chinese Ambas-

sador Zhang Jianwei declared her the ‘Ambassador of Chinese Culture in the State of Kuwait’, indicating “I really like that title.”

The opening of the club coincided with the launch of her new book, “A History of Relations between the People’s Republic of China and Kuwait (1960-1991),” which will be available to the public in the book fair at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in November. She hopes the book will be translated into Chinese by friends at Peking University.

Regarding the book’s content, she said it is “a summary of my doctoral dissertation, which addresses relations between Kuwait and China, starting from Kuwait’s independence in 1961 until 1990 -- the period before and after the invasion.” She added the book has three axes -- political, economic and social.

Meanwhile, Chargé d’Affaires at the Chinese Embassy Liu Xiang said “the establishment of the club under the patronage of Sheikha Al-Anoud Ibrahim Al-Duaij, whom I have known since

2018, will strengthen the friendly relations between our countries. Sheikha Al-Anoud has been actively participating in our embassy’s cultural, scientific and economic activities. She is very interested in Chinese culture and is fluent in the Chinese language, calligraphy and traditional painting. We can say that she has become a Chinese painter in every sense of the word.”

He continued “I have never seen anyone like Sheikha Al-Anoud in terms of loving Chinese culture. She initiated the idea of establishing this club to strengthen the long-standing friendship between our countries.”

He pointed out that the launch of the club coincided with China’s hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin, as well as the large military parade commemorating the war.

He concluded “the club is a bridge that will enable our friends in the club to introduce the Kuwaiti people to China at a deeper level. The members of the club are Kuwaiti ambassadors to China.”

OIC lauds charitable work’s role

Kuwait’s humanitarian model a beacon for nations, Al-Huwailah

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed Friday that Kuwait will remain a beacon of humanitarian giving and a symbol of compassion and solidarity, as reflected in its long-standing legacy in charitable work.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the International Day of Charity, marked annually on September 5, Al-Huwailah said Kuwait, recognized by the UN as a global humanitarian center, continues to support disaster-affected nations around the world.

She noted Kuwait’s recent efforts in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza, where the “Fazaa for Gaza” campaign, launched by the Ministry in cooperation with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and charitable organizations, raised KD 11.5 million (approximately USD 37.6 million) in just three days.

Al-Huwailah also highlighted Kuwait’s hosting of the international donor conference in May 2024, which secured over USD two billion in aid for Gaza, in coordination with the International Islamic Charitable Organization and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Kuwait’s efforts extend beyond emergency relief to include support for educational and healthcare infrastructure in developing countries, making its humanitarian model one to emulate, she added.

The minister called for stronger international partnerships with organizations such as the United Nations and the Red Cross to tackle global challenges including conflicts and climate change, and reaffirmed Kuwait’s commitment to supporting initiatives that aid the vulnerable, stressing that even small contributions can make a significant difference.

Al-Huwailah expressed pride in Kuwait’s humanitarian legacy and recalled the UN’s honoring of the late



Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs

Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a “Leader of Humanitarian Action.”

She prayed for continued peace and stability under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Also:

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Friday affirmed the pivotal role of charitable work in alleviating poverty, responding to humanitarian crises, and strengthening social cohesion within societies.

This came in a press statement issued by the OIC on the International Day of Charity, which calls for promoting the values of compassion, generosity, and solidarity worldwide.

The organization stated that its celebration of this occasion affirms its unwavering commitment to the principles and values of the true Islamic religion, its charter, and its ten-year work program, particularly the values of compassion, solidarity, and social justice.

Kuwait condoles with Portugal over Lisbon funicular tragedy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has sympathized with the friendly Republic of Portugal over the deadly funicular train’s accident that had killed and wounded scores of people earlier this week.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement released on Friday, expressed deep condolences and solace

to the Portuguese government, people and the victims’ families wishing the injured quick recovery.

At least 16 people died and five other suffered serious injuries in the accident. The funicular veered off a steep stretch of tracks Wednesday in a Lisbon’s district, frequented by tourists, crashing into a building.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Father's agony: Tragedy of son-in-law's web of deceit

"A GRIEVING father was shocked to discover that his daughter's husband, whom he had entrusted with his own child, was a fraudster, living under a name, title and nationality that did not belong to him," Kuwaiti lawyer **Dr. Abdullah Mohammad Al-Turaiji** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The husband deceived everyone until he fathered innocent sons and daughters, whose only sin was that they came into this world as a result of lies and impersonation. Today, the father is suffering unbearably, as the husband has yet to prove his real nationality, and the deadline is about to end.



Dr. Al-Turaiji

"The father finds himself caught between two fires, one of which is the fire of confusion. Is it permissible for his daughter to continue living with a man who built his existence on forgery and deception? Or does Islamic law forbid this? Second is the fire of regret over the fate of his grandchildren, who are unable to correct their names, remaining captive to false names that have distorted their innocence and cast a dark shadow over their future.

"How many families live through such a tragedy in silence? How many children pay the price for crimes they did not commit? It is a tragedy that brings tears to the eyes, breaks hearts, and calls for the issuance of a fatwa to enlighten the way.

"All of the above questions are for our religious scholars."

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"People around the world are suffering from crises and extreme hardships. Let us compare our country, Kuwait, and the Gulf, with what is happening in many other countries, so that we can thank Allah for the goodness and blessings we enjoy," **Ahmad Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"For example, in some parts of China, children climb a kilometer-long mountain to go to school. In India, some people commit suicide when the land fails to produce agricultural crops. The Indian rupee, which was worth a US dollar 70 years ago, has depreciated 65-fold in value over the past 66 years. When the war in Ukraine broke out, the elderly became impoverished. In Central America, famine occurred in Nicaragua, so its government asked the people to eat lizards. Life in North Korea is miserable due to its political system. The country's leader executes officials for the most trivial reasons.

"Poverty exists even in rich countries. Out of 80 million people in Germany, 12.5 million are poor. One in every six Americans is poor.

Many homeless English people sleep on the streets. Many English people were forced to emigrate and settle in Dubai to escape two main problems in Britain: high crime rates and high taxes. Poor Japanese hide their financial situation from others, because this is considered shameful according to Japanese tradition. They do not mention their poverty to the point that Japanese police discovered a Japanese family dead in their home, because they could not afford heating. There are millions of poor Russians.

"In West Africa, the conditions of countries have deteriorated, thus, many Africans have chosen to migrate to the North, paying smuggling groups to enter European countries illegally by boat. In the Caribbean, people on the island of Haiti, near Cuba, have been forced to make clay shapes spread on the ground like cakes. Once they dry, the poor eat them. Since most people are poor due to the high prices of food, they have accepted eating clay, as it quenches their hunger.

"In Central America, we find violence and criminal gangs. Colombia is famous for drug cultivation, with judges there being assassinated by drug gangs. One of the social tragedies in Latin America is that criminal gangs extort thousands of people, forcing them to pay money to protect themselves and their families. In order not to be biased against this region, we say it is true that most of the people there are kind and generous, but the region is dangerous despite being a tourist attraction.

"The Arab region is in turmoil. Iran has missed opportunities. It could have become an advanced country if it only focused on its internal affairs and stopped interfering in Arab affairs. It does not have a seasoned finance minister to advise its political leadership. It has many files on Europe and its internal affairs.

"It is not true that Finland is the happiest country in the world, as it

is rather the Gulf. We will discuss this in detail in an article with testimony from a European source. I visited Helsinki, the capital of Finland, in 2008. In the center of the capital, you feel that the country has links to the Russian communist regime. What bothered me was that I asked about a supermarket and was told to go to the airport, so I paid taxi fare equivalent to KD28 going there and KD28 going back, meaning that to find a supermarket, I had to pay KD56. This is an example. The European source criticizes life there, and there is a huge difference between it and the Gulf states. In fact, we are happier.

"Thousands of English people chose to immigrate and reside in the Emirates, escaping taxes and crimes, while the newspapers of Europe and America continue to disparage the conditions of Arabs and do not reveal the facts.

"Humans have destroyed the environment with the increase in factories and airplanes that emit gases into the atmosphere, as well as the smoke from car engines. This has led to an increase in temperatures, melting some of the ice at the poles and raising sea levels, while hurricanes and floods have ravaged countries around the world. Humans have been harmed by disasters of their own making."

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"The issuance of the Amiri decree appointing Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah as Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs was met with widespread acclaim, reflecting the extent of public satisfaction," **Bassam Al-Qassas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Observers consider the move a qualitative addition to national progress at this critical period, taking into consideration the political credentials and extensive administrative and diplomatic experience of Sheikh Hamad.



Al-Qassas

"He is no stranger to positions of responsibility. He held numerous senior positions throughout his illustrious career, starting with his tenure as Kuwaiti Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, followed by his appointment as Minister of Information, Minister of Defense and First Deputy Prime Minister.

"These diverse experiences shaped his own leadership style, characterized by calm, wisdom and belief in institutional work.

"Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali is known for his remarkable ability to shrewdly manage diplomatic matters, and his deep understanding of political developments and regional and international events, which bolstered his standing and made him gain trust at home and abroad.

"He has a rich legacy of extensive local, regional and international relationships, making him a unifying figure who is close to all segments of society. He enjoys a special status at the public level.

"He is known for his humility, gentleness, and hospitality as he frequently receives guests with a smile that reflects his simple and humane personality. His diwan has been a welcoming national meeting place that accommodated everyone without exception.

"Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali has had a distinguished national record since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He stood out for his role in the struggle known to everyone who dealt with him during such pivotal period.

"He witnessed some of the most important periods in the history of Kuwait and was close to the decision-making process, witnessing and participating in the process of construction and overcoming challenges.

"His diwan is not just an ordinary council. Over the years, it transformed into a comprehensive national forum platform that reflects its founder's approach to rapprochement with various segments of society. It is an open space that welcomes dignitaries, youths, intellectuals and opinion leaders, and includes all segments of Kuwaiti society without discrimination.

"The diwan is known for its rich dialogues that combine a social character with responsible national debate, serving as a living testament to Sheikh Hamad's humble personality, his closeness to the people, and his keenness to listen to their concerns and aspirations.

"His selection as head of the Ministry of Amiri Diwan Affairs carries significant implications at this stage, amid widespread optimism that he will contribute his accumulated experience and balanced vision to advancing progress and reform, while strengthening the national process in a manner befitting Kuwait's stature and its role in the regional and international arenas."

— Compiled by **Mohammad Wangengi**

Memories of Kuwait's darkest hour

Al-Baghli Family chronicles 1990 Iraqi invasion

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The head of the Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli Foundation for the Pious Sons has announced the publication of a book detailing the memories of the Al-Baghli Family during the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The book contains the most minute details of the period experienced by the people of Kuwait in general, and the Al-Baghli Family in particular, especially those who translated their adaptation and handling of such crisis in a way that achieved national security, and protected the health and safety of the people from the repercussions of the aggressive invasion.

This is part of the speech delivered on his behalf by his son, Raed Al-Baghli, in a ceremony organized by the Foundation recently in Rumaihiya to distribute the book and honor its characters



Al-Seyassah photo
Release of the book 'Memories of the Al-Baghli Family During the Invasion.'

ters and the preparation committee. The ceremony included the screening of a documentary film about the book's characters.

He said "I am pleased to meet you at the ceremony honoring the Al-Baghli Family members who, through their lives and deeds, have written the most wonderful national and humanitarian stances on the brutal Iraqi invasion of our beloved Kuwait. We are both honored and happy to sponsor the ceremony, because we contribute to supporting and completing the journey started by our fathers and grandfathers. The journey

strengthened family ties and bonds of friendship, understanding and family cohesion among family members, thus, benefiting society. We meet with you at this ceremony, which includes the distribution of the distinguished edition of the book, "Memories of the Al-Baghli Family during the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait in 1990", and the honoring of a group of Al-Baghli Family members, coinciding with the 35th anniversary of the invasion. I am pleased to confirm our appreciation for the work undertaken by the book's preparation committee, starting with collecting information, photos and data, preparing and classifying them, and ending with the publication of this book, which depicts the true and realistic concept of what Kuwaiti families experienced during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait."

He affirmed his support for this publication "to document the efforts of our brothers -- sons of the Al-Baghli Family during such a difficult period in the history of our beloved country, Kuwait, so that it remains immortal for generations to come."

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Chairman of the Al-Baghli Family Council Tariq Al-Baghli, Vice Chairman of the Council Ali Ibrahim Al-Baghli, and members of the Council.

Kuwait judiciary braces for high-profile week of trials

Ex-ministers, MPs face key cases

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah and Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The courts are preparing for an exceptional week that begins Sunday to deliberate on cases that have gripped the Kuwaiti public, as these cases involve former ministers and parliamentarians.

This reflects the weight of cases referred to the courts.

On Sunday, the Court of Appeals will deliberate on the appeal filed by the Public Prosecution against the acquittal of 18 citizens, including former parliamentarians, activists and social media users on charges of broadcasting false news and misusing their telephones, following the publica-

tion of posts linking former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri to the biometric fingerprint case.

Counselor Salah Al-Houti is expected to preside over the session scheduled for Sunday, followed by another session on Wednesday that will most likely be chaired by Counselor Dr. Omar Al-Masoud to complete deliberations on the appeals filed against the remaining defendants in the same case.

The Court of Cassation will resume hearing on the appeals of former Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled against the Ministers Court rulings on Sunday.

The Ministers Court had earlier sentenced him to 14 years in prison, ordered him to repay more than KD10 million, and fined him more than KD20 million.

In the previous session, the court decided to release him on bail, while banning him from travel.

The court will listen to the arguments of the defense in the crucial session scheduled for Sunday.

Directive aims to enhance public spaces and community services

Cooperatives urged to step up beautification

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Chairperson of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies Maryam Al-Awadh sent follow up letters to cooperative societies, as per the instruction of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, emphasizing the need to implement previous circulars on landscaping, beautification and maintenance of facilities within the scope of the work of cooperatives in line with the cooperative work regulations.

In official circulars addressed to cooperative

societies, Al-Awadh explained that these steps are in line with the commitment of the Union to follow up previous decisions and ensure their proper implementation. She pointed out this activates the societal role of cooperative societies and provides a civilized and attractive environment for their patrons, as per the vision of the Ministry of Social Affairs to develop public services.

Al-Awadh addressed another letter to cooperative societies regarding the need to remove abandoned vehicles from their yards and parking areas. She asserted that this phenomenon violates regulations and procedures, distorts the general

appearance, hinders the use of facilities designated to serve shareholders and shoppers, and contravenes security procedures that stipulate such vehicles should not be left for extended periods without monitoring. She indicated that if such vehicles are found, cooperative societies must contact the Kuwait Municipality and other concerned authorities to take the necessary measures.

She added these directives complement the previous oversight efforts and ensure effective implementation, calling on all cooperatives to strictly comply with the regulations and instructions, reflecting the civilized image of cooperatives and their role in serving the community.



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Kuwait concludes Second Gulf Housing Conference, pledges to advance sustainable urban development

GCC experts discuss smart cities, sustainable housing, and digital transformation in real estate

By Mohammad Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) on Thursday concluded the Second Gulf Housing Conference, which included five discussion sessions addressing topics of mutual interest like smart cities, real estate development, and sustainability in the construction of housing cities.

Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development at the Authority and Chairman of the Conference Supreme Committee Omar Al-Ruwaih stated that the discussion sessions were held with the participation of senior housing officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, along with 23 experts who presented the latest developments in digital technologies, modern and sustainable designs, financing methods, and future plans for housing care in the GCC countries.

Al-Ruwaih pointed out that such sessions enrich aspirations for housing care, both locally and in the Gulf. He said the sessions tackled challenges and developments in urban design, importance of enhancing sustainability in the construction of houses, infrastructure development aspirations of the Authority, promotion of digitalization and the use of modern technology in plot allocation and distribution processes, and taking advantage of Gulf expertise in this field.

On the sidelines of the conference, and within the framework of Gulf co-operation and enhancing the exchange of expertise in the field of housing and urban development, the Authority hosted the seventh session of the GCC Housing Award Committee, chaired



Photos during the Second Gulf Housing Conference.

by the Deputy Director General for Planning and Design at PAHW Architect Nasser Khuraibet. Head of the Projects Follow up Department at the Authority Abeer Al-Salmi represented

Kuwait in the session. In a press statement, Khuraibet explained this is in preparation for the meeting of the GCC Housing Ministers and the accompanying events that

will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain next year. He pointed out that during the meeting, the committee was keen on discussing various proposals submitted by ministries and entities con-

cerned with housing affairs in the GCC countries, contributing to the development of the award and raising the level of participation. He disclosed that the themes of the

award and the previous sessions were discussed, in addition to the establishment of mechanisms and criteria for evaluating participating projects, ensuring transparency and fairness, and highlighting the best housing experience in the region.

He revealed that this year's award will be titled "Integrated Housing Project," affirming this reflects the aspirations of GCC countries to implement modern housing projects that guarantee the good quality of life and meet the needs of residents in sustainable urban environments.

He explained the themes of the award are based on six main elements -- most suitable location, integrated facilities, interconnected communities, places to live, cultural participation and smart systems. He said these themes depict the comprehensive vision of the Gulf housing sector, and keep pace with global trends in urban planning and smart cities.

He emphasized that Kuwait's hosting of this meeting reflects its pioneering role in supporting joint Gulf action in the field of housing and its commitment to exchange experience and successful practices with other GCC countries, thereby, polishing the process of sustainable development and improving housing services provided to citizens.

The Authority also held a discussion session about digital technologies and their impact on real estate development in the region as part of the activities of the Second Gulf Housing Conference with the theme, "Sustainable Housing."

Speakers at the session agreed that digital transformation is now essential for the Gulf real estate sector, as it guarantees transparency, reduces costs, and eases procedures for citizens and investors.

They confirmed that the next phase requires data integration, unified legislation, and addressing cybersecurity issues to ensure the sustainability of this transformation.

Decarbonization, digitization tackled

Kuwait Ports Authority partakes in Sustainable Maritime Conference

JEDDAH, Sept 6, (KUNA): The Kuwait Ports Authority participated in the 2nd Sustainable Maritime Industry Conference 2025 which concluded in the Saudi city of Jeddah on Thursday.

Head of KPA's delegation, Assistant Director General for Marine Operations Affairs and Shuaiba Port Eng. Fahad Al-Boos, said in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Thursday that the conference discussed the importance of the current and future maritime industry and technologies for enhancing maritime safety and efficiency.

The KPS's participation came at the invitation of the General Authority for Transport in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he pointed out, adding that the delegation also included Hussein Al-Subaie from KPA's Handling, Security, and Safety Department.

The two-day conference brought together a distinguished group of decision-makers, including ministers, am-



KUNA photo
Eng. Fahad Al-Boos, Head of KPA's delegation Assistant Director General for Marine Operations Affairs and Shuaiba Port.

bassadors, and maritime industry leaders from around the world, to promote sustainability and innovation in the maritime sector.

Through expert panels, technical ses-

sions and workshops, the conference tackled sustainable marine environment practices, maritime industry digitalization and security and maritime decarbonization.

114 hurdles remain

Kuwait's dev't plan hits a snag

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: While the report of the Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development confirmed the success of executive bodies in overcoming 619 out of 733 challenges by the end of the third quarter of the annual plan (2024-2025), 114 challenges remain, awaiting radical solutions that will contribute to improving achievement rates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the report, technical challenges ranked first with a total of 50, including delays in project implementation due to amendments or contractors' delay in meeting technical requirements.

Administrative challenges followed with 35, such as the slow documentation cycle of contractual procedures and delays in obtaining licenses and approvals. Financial challenges totaled 13, including the lack of budgets for projects. Legislative challenges reached 12, mostly due to the failure to issue the legislation needed to implement projects. Regulatory challenges ranked last with four, most of

which are related to the procedures of regulatory bodies, such as the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) and State Audit Bureau (SAB).

The report confirmed that the Supreme Council for Planning and Development recommended the need to accelerate the completion of draft laws included in the plan.

It emphasized the importance of ending delays in spending on some projects caused by postponed budgets or approvals, in addition to exerting more efforts to advance incentive projects in partnership with the private sector.

It also highlighted the obligation of executive bodies to quickly complete their planning structures and address the causes of the significant delays in a number of projects included in the plan.

It indicated that the returns on private sector incentive projects do not meet expectations, especially public-private partnership projects, and that the matter requires increasing momentum to complete the preparatory works for them.



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LOCAL



Officials and donors attend the opening of Al-Salam Charity's back-to-school exhibition in Jahra, which distributes bags and uniforms to students from low-income families.



Photos by Samer Shiqer

Al-Salam Society aims to provide 15,000 school bags with donor support

Charity exhibition helps families cope with back-to-school costs

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Al-Salam Charity and Humanitarian Works Society recently opened the school bag and clothing exhibition for students from needy families at the International Islamic Charitable Organization Hall in Jahra.

Present at the inauguration of the three-day exhibition were a large number of dignitaries, donors, volunteers, and representatives of the Jahra Governor and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

During the opening ceremony, Director General of the Society Hamad

Al-Aoun pointed out that this exhibition is being held for the fourth time, with the aim of supporting education and helping needy families to cope with the burdens of life by providing school bags and uniforms for their children. He said this is a manifestation of the charitable, humanitarian and developmental roles of the Society. Al-Aoun revealed the Society is keen on providing about 8,000 school bags and uniforms, while it aspires to provide 15,000 bags with the support of generous donors to cover the huge number of families applying to benefit from the project.

He said the exhibition opened on

Friday and it will conclude on Sunday, indicating the bag collection is arranged by sending an electronic link to the families registered in the Society. "An appointment is given to each family to come with their children and choose the bags appropriate for their gender and age to avoid crowding. The exhibition receives visitors in the morning and evening. The school bag and uniform project is licensed by the relevant authorities. The Society obtained permits from the ministries of Social Affairs and Interior. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the International Islamic Charitable Organization," he explained.

He affirmed the enormous response and interest of merchants, donors and needy families, while expressing his gratitude to everyone who supported the Society in implementing the project, hoping that their good deeds will be rewarded.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society Dr. Khaled Al-Furaj said "this project aims to assuage the hardship of our brothers -- the heads of needy families, and bring joy to their children. It is a charitable work that we are proud of, especially since it contributes to spreading the spirit of

solidarity and integration within the Kuwaiti society."

Al-Furaj expressed his appreciation and gratitude for everyone who contributed to the success of the exhibition, as well as to all the generous donors who supported the project. He also thanked the Ministry of Social Affairs for its commitment to implement and license the project, and for the presence of a representative from the ministry at the opening ceremony.

Representative of the Governor of Jahra and Director of Projects Follow up and Environmental Safety Colonel Hamad Al-Makhial affirmed the gov-

ernorate's support for this humanitarian initiative implemented by the Society. He praised this initiative, which contributes to the efforts to solve the budgetary problems that families usually encounter at the beginning of the school year.

Youssef Al-Furaj, Head of the Media Department at the Society, asserted that the exhibition serves needy families by providing school supplies at the start of the school year, considering these supplies could drain a large portion of the salary of household heads. He added this is the contribution of the Society to the efforts to ease the financial burdens of needy families.

Continued from Page 1

Education reform

He said "there is a lot of rubbish in the books, while they lack the history of Kuwait, its rulers, its people and the bright pages of its history. This is the result of ideas injected by well-known movements with a long history of interference in the educational process. The directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah regarding the process of updating the curricula are clear to ensure the students are productive in all fields. The curriculum overhaul is necessary to correct the path. We are working hard to encourage students to pursue specializations needed by the local labor market."

He affirmed that "in the coming days, we will cooperate with training institutes in Egypt specialized in this field to guarantee that no graduating student knows only office work, as the case in the past. We want graduates to be productive in various fields."

He added "Kuwait has young talent, but it lacks the correct methodology like that of the developed countries. Thus, we are exerting tremendous efforts to modernize education in order to keep pace with modern needs and serve the future generations. All this necessitates working outside the box, so we are considering the establishment of 'horizon schools' in every governorate."

He explained the Horizon Schools Project entails the establishment of public schools managed by local or international educational experts, with advanced international curricula focusing on Science, Technology and Mathematics, without spending a lot of public money.

He revealed "these schools are supervised by experts from the Ministry of Education. They ensure that graduates are productive, particularly since there have been many complaints about the condition of some schools, which are not managed properly."

He stressed that "His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Prime Minister are closely monitoring the educational sector to create a professional generation through the carefully prepared advanced curricula."

He explained "what happened to education in Kuwait over the past decades produced outputs that quickly became a burden on the State. This ends today. We will enter the new school year with a lot of changes. Students are considered the foundation of sustainable development. Their talents must be honed. This is a major task, because the foundation is not just education, but national education that produces productive citizens."

He disclosed "the State has many ideas, all for the better. We emphasize that reforms in this field are carried out based on higher directives."

On the academic calendar, he indicated "we made amendments to the academic calendar including vacations and holidays, because we found a lot of absurd aspects in the previous calendars."

It is natural to have a long discussion about education, especially with a specialized minister who is prudent in answering questions, because he puts things in the right perspective regarding the mission entrusted to him.

Without a doubt, the stability of a ministerial position has many benefits, especially considering that over the past 40 years, this most important educational executive position has been volatile, and there had been a lot of interference by parliamentarians, some influential people or corrupt factions that contributed to the failure of the fundamental task of the State -- building the next generation.

Nevertheless, once you put the right man in the right position and provide him with stability in his work, there is progress in all areas. This has started to materialize with a leadership that understands Kuwait deserves a lot more. This leadership works hard to realize the aspirations of citizens, along with efficient and hard-working personnel like Al-Tabtabaei.

The seven months that the minister spent in his position were challenging, but he enjoyed them. His ministerial career is the most important in the eyes of the political leadership that monitors, listens and advises.

When you speak with this minister,

you sense his specialized mental abilities in the field of educating the youths.

Lebanese gov't

This is an affirmation that the country's supreme interest transcends partisan interests. President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam presided over the session, which was described as historic.

Political circles in and outside Lebanon welcomed the approval of the plan -- long awaited by the Lebanese people -- to put weapons only in the hands of the Lebanese Army, considering it the impregnable fortress protecting Lebanese territory from any internal or external threats that could destabilize the security situation, put Lebanon back to a dangerous situation, and herald the return of the specter of civil war, which hampered the country in every aspect, driven out foreign capital, and squandered the development process.

Local and international political circles praised the Cabinet for welcoming the plan of the Army and the stages of its implementation, which will put arms under the sole command of the Army -- the only legitimate authority in the country with the right to bear arms.

They emphasized that the government's approval to restrict the control of arms to the Army is in line with the strategy of President Joseph Aoun, who has taken it upon himself -- and emphasized in numerous speeches to the people and the world, most notably in his inaugural address -- the importance of the solidarity and cooperation of all State institutions and all segments of the population with him to achieve the reforms he promised.

The vast majority of the Lebanese people support all of President Joseph Aoun's reform plans and orientations, with the goal of restoring security and stability in Lebanon, and returning it to its previous status as a tourist destination for Gulf and Arab citizens, as well as tourists from around the world.

President Joseph Aoun has achieved some economic and financial reforms during his term, despite assuming office only at the beginning of this year.

Local and international political circles praised the Lebanese Armed Forces for their efforts to maintain internal security amid the critical circumstances Lebanon is experiencing. They have successfully implemented the 2024 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, and reinforced their presence until they were able to regain control and maintain internal security.

These circles underscored the importance of the government's position, headed by Nawaf Salam, and its solidarity with President Joseph Aoun's demands to place weapons in the hands of the Lebanese Army alone, thus, restoring the country's prestige.

They also confirmed the continuous solidarity of all State institutions with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, so he can implement his reform measures.

They said Lebanon will never regain its strength and prestige if weapons remain in the hands of forces and militias that do not understand the country's interests, especially since they do not represent the State.

Following the historic Cabinet session, Lebanese Information Minister Paul Morcos told the media "the Army Commander presented his plan to implement the arms restriction decision", confirming that the Cabinet welcomed various stages of the plan laid down by the Army Commander to put weapons only in the hands of the State.

He disclosed that the Army will begin implementing the plan to extend State sovereignty within available and limited resources, and will submit a monthly report to the Cabinet regarding the arms restriction plan.

Morcos stated that the Cabinet decided to keep the content of the Army's plan and its deliberations confidential, indicating the Prime Minister assured the Cabinet that no investments will be made and no economy will grow without security.

He pointed out that the government has not made any concessions regarding the sovereignty plan and it is proceeding without causing an "internal explosion".

In a related development, Lebanese Labor Minister Mohammed Haidar commented on the withdrawal of Hezbollah and Amal Movement ministers. He asserted "their withdrawal from the Cabinet session is consistent with their position -- reject the American paper."

Interior completes

supply of school furniture, and opening of seven new schools in Mutlaa City to relieve pressure on existing schools and accommodate a larger number of students. These schools are designed to include modern educational facilities, such as advanced science laboratories and fully equipped sports centers, to ensure a comprehensive and integrated learning environment.

The educational districts have organized comprehensive cleaning campaigns for all schools in coordination with the contracted companies. These campaigns include cleaning classrooms, laboratories, sanitary facilities and sports fields. A sufficient number of cleaners have been provided to ensure daily cleanliness of the schools throughout the academic year.

Also, to ensure the qualification of new teachers, several training courses were held, aiming to improve their pedagogical, administrative and technical skills. The courses covered a variety of topics like the latest teaching strategies, classroom management, dealing with special needs students, technical aspects, the teacher's charter, and student interaction. The goal is to continuously develop teaching competencies by providing advanced training programs for improving the leadership and technical skills of teachers, thus, contributing to the overall development of the educational process.

In the context of facilitating the movement of teachers between schools, the implementation of transfer and release decisions for teachers and administrators who have been transferred to new schools or assigned to new positions begins on Sunday. This is part of the plan of the ministry to redistribute the teaching staff as per the needs of different schools.

These decisions are implemented based on clear principles and standards aimed at improving the distribution of human resources in the educational sector, taking into account competence and experience. Various educational departments coordinated their efforts to guarantee the smooth implementation of transfer and release decisions, without impacting the educational process.

Engineering departments continue to monitor the condition of school infrastructure and verify the overall safety of buildings to ensure optimal educational outcomes and a smooth start of new school year.

Moreover, based on the latest Ministry of Education data about the distribution of public and private schools in the country, the number of public schools reached 960 or 76.43 of the total of 1,256, while the number of private schools reached 297 or 23.57 percent of the total.

Areas with the high population density, such as Ahmadi and Farwaniya, have a larger share of schools. Ahmadi leads in terms of the number of schools with 241, followed by Farwaniya with 194. Religious education and special education constitute a minority, with only 57 schools combined, reflecting their specialization in certain segments of students.

Following is a summary of the data:
 ■ Private Education: 297 schools
 ■ Ahmadi Educational District: 241 schools
 ■ Farwaniya Educational District : 194 schools
 ■ Capital Educational District: 174 schools
 ■ Jahra Educational District: 154 schools
 ■ Hawally Educational District: 120 schools
 ■ Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational District: 115 schools
 ■ Special Education: 39 schools
 ■ Religious Education: 18 schools

Kuwait cybersecurity

They warned that what increases the risks of using Wi-Fi networks at airports is the presence of a large number of users, which may reach up to 200 people on the same network at the same time.

Chairman of the Public Relations and Electronic Media Committee at the Kuwait Society for Information Technology Dr. Anwar Al-Harbi warned against using Wi-Fi networks in some airports abroad, particularly with regard to receiving photos, videos and links via social networking sites that are downloaded to travelers' mobile devices. He pointed out that accessing such anonymous networks at these airports may result in electronic fraud.

Al-Harbi added that joining Wi-Fi networks of unknown origin at some airports abroad can have dire consequences for any traveler, since they are considered a double-edged sword. "These are unsafe public networks involving multiple users, with the number of people connecting possibly exceeding 200 at the same time," he stated.

He explained that the presence of such a number of users on a single network may expose those connected to technical risks related to fraud and hacking through the transmission of links, photos or videos containing malicious material that can hack the smart devices of any traveler who opens them without realizing the risks they contain.

Regarding the methods employed by hackers, Al-Harbi explained that they use several techniques to ensure access to the data of people connected to these networks. "These include sending unknown links, personal photos or even bank-related links, in addition to public videos, hence, the importance of not opening or receiving any material or links from unknown sources," he asserted.

Associate Professor at Kuwait College of Science and Technology Dr. Basil Al-Othman pointed out that at some airports, a free network often appears with an attractive name such as 'Free WiFi' or 'Airport WiFi'. "Some travelers, without thinking, press the connection button, reassured by the prospect of a fast, free service," he revealed.

He explained that this network may have been created by a cyber attacker sitting just meters away, turning travelers' phones or computers into valuable sources of information.

He continued "once you connect to this network, the attacker can intercept unencrypted data or redirect you to fake pages asking you to enter your email and password. Within moments, your personal and sensitive data are transferred to the attacker's device, while you think you are simply using free internet."

He indicated that while teaching cybersecurity courses at the College, he ensures the students become familiar with network analysis tools, which can read such data like Wireshark, Aircrack-ng and Kismet. "This aims to help students understand hacking mechanisms and how attackers exploit weak encryption or use fake access points (Evil Twin)," he elaborated.

He believes that such cyber training enhances technical defense capabilities. He emphasized that connecting to public networks should only be done in cases of absolute necessity.

Regarding the dangers of open Wi-Fi networks in some airports, Al-Othman said they may facilitate the interception of user traffic and the detection of unencrypted data. "Fake networks could be created with names similar to official ones to deceive the public. Furthermore, devices with automatic connection settings may unintentionally link to other unsafe networks near the traveler's location," he added.

Information Technology and Cybersecurity Consultant Eng. Hussein Al-Nakas stressed the importance of travelers not compromising personal data and sensitive information stored on their smart devices, especially when transferring money or booking hotels using free and anonymous Wi-Fi networks abroad.

Al-Nakas said such networks may be operated by hackers, who can cause legal and financial problems for travelers by implicating them in money laundering

or other issues related to blackmail and defamation after stealing their personal data and taking control of their mobile devices.

Regarding the methods of hacking smart devices, Al-Nakas explained that hackers use several approaches, such as creating free 'fake' networks to lure travelers. "Once connected, travelers may unknowingly make calls or conduct financial transactions, in addition to receiving malicious links and videos sent by hackers," he disclosed.

He indicated that hacking travelers' smart devices may allow attackers to seize banking data, personal information, and even photos in civil identification cards and passports.

He said these networks are called 'phantom trap' networks, where travelers' data, passwords and bank account details fall under hackers' control, turning an enjoyable trip into a financial and legal nightmare.

He urged travelers arriving in the country to use private networks, activate international roaming services abroad, or verify with airport staff the official network for the airport they are in.

He stressed that protecting travelers' data is essential to avoid becoming easy prey for hackers.

On measures to mitigate risks, Al-Othman recommended disabling file sharing and automatic connections in public places, and using only the HTTPS protocol when browsing websites to ensure data encryption.

He advised avoiding the entry of sensitive data, such as passwords or banking details, while connected to public networks, and instead rely on private networks like mobile data or personal hotspots.

Al-Nakas pointed out that accessing fake Wi-Fi networks at airports may expose travelers to legal prosecution, as it happened with a Kuwaiti traveler who once conducted money transfer using a fake network at an airport abroad. "He was summoned by the relevant authorities upon entering the country after it was discovered that the transaction had been carried out via a complex fraudulent network," he revealed.

Al-Harbi shared his personal experience of being hacked through WhatsApp, when hackers gained access to a friend's device and obtained important files.

The hackers then defrauded Al-Harbi's contacts using artificial intelligence, sending audio recordings and text messages impersonating him.

He stressed that every smart device user must remain cautious and vigilant.

Kuwait plans

companies that provide advertising content. Sources affirmed the ministries of Information and Commerce and Industry are coordinating their efforts in this regard. "Those concerned will be given a certain period to regularize their status, and legal action will be taken against anyone who commits violations," sources added.

Sources stressed the need for influencers, celebrities and companies to fully abide by the advertising regulations, such as ensuring that the advertised product or service is licensed. Sources cited as an example the medicines, which advertisers must ensure are licensed by the Ministry of Health.

Similarly, the organizers of real estate exhibitions must obtain a license from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry before advertising, ensuring that the license is acquired through official channels.

Sources said the advertisements of some celebrities or social media influencers resulted in court cases due to false and misleading contents, which made many consumers fall victim to fraud.

Sources disclosed that the regulations cover visual, printed and written advertisements, indicating the Information Ministry has full authority to monitor advertisements, and in the event of violations, the case will be referred to the Public Prosecution.

Sources indicated that the methods for verifying celebrity and company accounts once the law is implemented are

as follows:

■ Submit an electronic account verification request to the Ministry of Information, including the account name and personal information.

■ Sign a declaration and pledge to submit all documents and information related to the advertisement in accordance with the regulations on commercial advertising on social media.

Asked how celebrity or social media influencer accounts are identified, sources pointed out the influential social media accounts that advertise are clearly defined by measuring their reach and audience impact, indicating they will be covered by the new law.

Kuwait rejects

He urged the international community to shoulder their legal, moral and humanitarian responsibilities for foiling the Israeli plans and preventing the deterioration of the security situation in the region.

The GCC reaffirmed support to the legitimate rights of the brotherly people of Palestine, foremost among which is the right to statehood based on the Arab peace initiative and the international legitimacy.

What is happening in the Gaza Strip has crossed 'all red lines', Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini said on Saturday.

Speaking in a joint news conference with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatti, Lazzarini said there is a kind of immunity and lack of accountability for the atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces, which have even targeted humanitarian aid workers, with 360 of them killed."

He noted he held a detail discussion with the Egyptian minister about the situation in Gaza, indicating that the UNRWA has warned, since months, against this famine, but nobody listened to "us".

Humanitarian aid workers feel hungry and faint, and this means that humanitarian response in Gaza collapses, he said.

Fitch affirms

"The bulk of assets are held in the Future Generations Fund managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which also manages the assets of the General Reserve Fund (GRF), the government's treasury account."

On the reforms, the agency said that the Kuwaiti government has begun implementing reforms that had stalled under previous administrations due to legislative gridlock.

The government has approved a financing and liquidity law, allowing debt issuance for the first time since the previous law expired in 2017.

The new law outlines plans to raise KD 30 billion (about USD 100 billion), equal to about 60 percent of GDP over the next 50 years.

This will help alleviate pressure on the General Reserve Fund (GRF), support the development of local capital markets, establish a benchmark yield curve and support development projects.

It projected a surplus of 10 percent of GDP in FY25, up from 8.9 percent in FY24. It also expected the budget deficit to widen to 5.6 percent of GDP in FY25 (from 2 percent in FY24), compared with the projected 'AA' median of 2.6 percent, despite spending rationalisation efforts.

"Nonetheless, we expect debt to remain well below the projected 2027 'AA' median of 52.4 percent of GDP," added the agency.

It projected that the real GDP to return to growth in 2025, expanding by 1.7 percent, after two consecutive years of contraction driven by OPEC+ oil production cuts.

"We forecast annual inflation will remain below 3 percent in 2025-2027, although the central bank may be cautious about additional rate cuts given rising geopolitical risks," it stated.

US president executive order aims to rename Department of Defense as Department of War

Trump signs order to designate nations that hold Americans as sponsors of wrongful detention

WASHINGTON, Sept 6, (AP): US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday that would let the US designate nations as state sponsors of wrongful detention, using the threat of associated sanctions to deter Americans from being detained abroad or taken hostage.

The designation, similar to the state sponsors of terrorism designation that the US already imposes on some nations, will allow the State Department to target countries falling under the label with penalties such as economic restrictions, restrictions on visas for those involved and travel restrictions for Americans to those countries.

“Like the State Sponsor of Terrorism determination, no nation should want to end up on this list,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement.

It’s aimed at making it easier to impose penalties on nations that block or restrain Americans, and impose a major penalty on countries that don’t release those US nationals.

“With this EO you are signing today, you are drawing a line in the

sand that US citizens will not be used as a bargaining chips,” Sebastian Gorka, senior director for counterterrorism on the National Security Council, told Trump as he signed the order at the White House on Friday afternoon.

The designation is designed for Rubio to be able to lift the penalties if a nation changes its practices.

It wasn’t immediately clear when the US might begin applying the new label and to which countries, but two senior administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the order being signed cited China, Afghanistan, Iran and Russia as nations that could potentially face penalties under the new designation.

The order allows the designation to also be applied to groups that control territory even if they are not recognized governments.

Global Reach, a nonprofit organization that had advocated for the return of wrongfully detained Americans, praised the executive order.

“This designation is something that will put real teeth behind the US government’s efforts to bring home de-



US President Donald Trump speaks as he hands a signed executive order to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, in the Oval Office of the White House on Sept 5 in Washington. (AP)

tained Americans and deter offending nations from engaging in ‘hostage diplomacy.’ The Trump Administration is taking action and that is showing re-

sults. The previous administration returned around 75 people in four years. The Trump Administration is only 228 days into their four-year term and has

already brought home 72,” said Global Reach CEO Mickey Bergman.

Trump has made bringing home Americans jailed abroad a focus in his second term.

“We’ve gotten a lot of people out and we’ll continue,” Trump said Friday.

In July, his government organized a three-nation swap, securing the release of 10 jailed U.S. citizens and permanent residents from Venezuela in exchange for getting home migrants deported by the United States to El Salvador.

Seven other Americans determined to be wrongfully detained in Venezuela were returned this year.

A Russian-American woman who was convicted on treason charges for making a \$52 donation to a charity aiding Ukraine was freed by Moscow in April as part of a prisoner swap. A similar swap in February freed an American teacher detained in Russia on drug charges.

Also:
WASHINGTON: After months of cam-

paigning for the Nobel Peace Prize, President Donald Trump sent a sharply different message on Friday when he signed an executive order aimed at rebranding the Department of Defense as the Department of War.

Trump said the switch was intended to signal to the world that the United States was a force to be reckoned with, and he complained that the Department of Defense’s name was “woke.”

“I think it sends a message of victory. I think it sends, really, a message of strength,” Trump said of the change as he authorized the Department of War as a secondary title for the Pentagon.

Congress has to formally authorize a new name, and several of Trump’s closest supporters on Capitol Hill proposed legislation earlier Friday to codify the new name into law.

But already there were cosmetic shifts. The Pentagon’s website went from “defense.gov” to “war.gov.” Signs were swapped around Hegseth’s office while more than a dozen employees watched. Trump said there would be new stationery, too.

He’s free to do what he wants: Trump New York City Mayor Adams won’t quit race, can beat Mamdani

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (AP): New York City Mayor Eric Adams said Friday that he won’t succumb to pressure to end his reelection campaign and insisted he is the only candidate strong enough to beat the Democratic nominee, Zohran Mamdani.

Adams declared his intention to stay in the race at the end of a fraught week that began with a trip to Florida, where Trump administration intermediaries sought to assess his willingness to quit the race to take a job with the federal government.

Earlier Friday, Adams appeared to leave the door open to a departure, releasing a statement saying he “will always listen if called to serve our country” but adding he had not yet received any “formal offers.”

Hours later, he summoned reporters to the mayor’s official residence, Gracie Mansion, to slam that door back shut. “I am in this race. And I am the only one who can beat Mamdani,” Adams said.

“How many times have I been told throughout this journey to step aside, to surrender, to give up, to give in,” he said. “That’s the same thing we tell everyday New Yorkers. Everyday New Yorkers are not giving up, are not giving in, are not surrendering, so their mayor is not going to do that.”

Adams dismissed Mamdani and former Gov Andrew Cuomo, both fellow Democrats, as “two spoiled brats” who are “not like us,” then walked off as a



New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani speaks at a rally with Hotel & Gaming Trades Council workers, in New York on Aug 20. (AP)

throng of reporters shouted questions.

Trump has told reporters he would prefer not to have Mamdani, a 33-year-old democratic socialist, as New York’s next mayor, but believed it was inevitable unless two of the three other major candidates in the race dropped out. Besides Cuomo and Adams, Republican Curtis Sliwa is also on the ballot.

Moments after Adams’ announcement, Trump was asked about it by reporters at the White House.

“He’s free to do what he wants,” Trump said of Adams, but he added that Adams staying in the contest

might help cement a Mamdani victory.

“Cuomo might have a chance of winning if it was one-on-one,” Trump said. “If you have more than one candidate running against (Mamdani), it can’t be won.”

During a trip to Florida this week, Adams met with Steve Witkoff, a former real estate developer in New York who is now one of Trump’s main diplomatic envoys in Washington, said Adams’ campaign spokesperson, Todd Shapiro. It was unclear what specifically was discussed.

Adams skipped the Democratic pri-

mary, saying he was sidelined from campaigning after he was indicted last year on bribery charges. Trump’s Justice Department then dropped the criminal case, saying it was distracting Adams from helping with the president’s immigration crackdown.

In an interview, former Democratic New York Gov. David Paterson said he spoke with the mayor Wednesday morning. Adams told him he wanted to remain in the race but had received offers, Paterson said.

“He said, ‘Listen, they say I have some offers. I have a lot of offers.’ Then he started laughing. And he was saying that, you know, he really doesn’t want to leave and he’s trying to work that out so he doesn’t have to,” said Paterson, who has endorsed Adams for reelection. “He didn’t get specific about it, but I got that in his heart of hearts, he really wants to stay. But I also got that, even though he didn’t say it, that the odds can’t be very good.”

Mamdani won the Democratic nomination after soundly defeating Cuomo in the primary. He could be a heavy favorite in the general election if Cuomo and Adams split the centrist vote and most Republicans vote for Sliwa.

“Through the collusion and corruption of the past few months, our relentless focus on the affordability crisis - created by Andrew Cuomo and inflamed by Eric Adams - has not wavered,” Mamdani said in a statement Friday.

ELLABELL, Ga., Sept 6, (AP): Immigration authorities said Friday they detained 475 people, most of them South Korean nationals, when hundreds of federal agents raided the sprawling manufacturing site in Georgia where Korean automaker Hyundai makes electric vehicles.

Steven Schrank, the lead Georgia agent of Homeland Security Investigations, said during a news conference Friday that the raid resulted from a monthslong investigation into allegations of illegal hiring at the site and was the “largest single site enforcement operation” in the agency’s two-decade history. The Thursday raid targeted one of Georgia’s largest and most high-profile manufacturing sites, where Hyundai Motor Group a year ago began manufacturing electric vehicles at a \$7.6 billion plant. The site employs about 1,200 people in an area about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Savannah where bedroom communities bleed into farms. Gov.



Schrank

Brian Kemp and other officials have touted it as the state’s largest economic development project.

Agents focused their operation on an adjacent plant that is still under construction at which Hyundai has partnered with LG Energy Solution to produce batteries that power EVs.

Court records filed this week indicated that prosecutors do not know who hired what it called “hundreds of illegal aliens.” The identity of the “actual company or contractor hiring the illegal aliens is currently unknown,” the U.S. Attorney’s Office wrote in a Thursday court filing. The South Korean government expressed “concern and regret” over the operation targeting its citizens.

Koreans are rarely caught up in immigration enforcement compared to other nationalities. Only 46 Koreans were deported during the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, 2024, out of more than 270,000 removals for all nationalities, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

“The business activities of our investors and the rights of our nationals must not be unjustly infringed in the process of U.S. law enforcement,” South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lee Jaewoong said in a televised statement from Seoul.

UK’s Starmer overhauls government after deputy PM quits over tax error

LONDON, Sept 6, (AP): UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer shook up his Cabinet Friday after his top deputy stepped down over a tax error on a home purchase, leaving a big hole in the center-left Labour government.

Starmer carried out a major reshuffle, a forced government reboot after a rocky 14 months in office that have seen his popularity plunge. Foreign Secretary David Lammy was moved to replace Angela Rayner as deputy prime minister, and also took the justice portfolio. Yvette Cooper moved from the Home Office to become foreign secretary while the justice secretary, Shabana Mahmood, became home secretary.

Treasury chief Rachel Reeves was kept in post, meaning that the three major offices of state below the prime minister will be occupied by women for the first time in history.

The changes came after Rayner handed in her resignation to Starmer because an independent inquiry concluded that she hadn’t met the ethical standards required of government ministers over her recent purchase of an apartment in Hove, on England’s south coast. The report concluded that she should have sought more specific advice, even though she acted in good faith.



Newly-appointed Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper arrives in Downing Street, London on Sept 5, where Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer is reshuffling his Cabinet following the resignation of Angela Rayner. (AP)

“I take full responsibility for this error,” Rayner said in her resignation letter to Starmer. “I would like to take this opportunity to repeat that it was never my intention to do anything other than pay the right amount.”

In response, Starmer expressed regret but said Rayner had made the right decision.

“I have nothing but admiration for you and huge respect for your achievements in politics,” Starmer wrote. The handwritten letter signed off “with very best wishes and with real sadness.”

Rayner is a hugely popular member of the Labour Party and was widely tipped to be a potential successor to Starmer. In addition to resigning as deputy prime minister and housing secretary, Rayner quit as deputy leader of the party, meaning that members will have to select someone new.

Steve Reed was moved from rural affairs to the housing role.

The changes also saw an enhanced role for Darren Jones, the recently appointed chief secretary to the prime minister - charged with getting a grip on government communications - and a return to government as Scotland Secretary for Douglas Alexander, a veteran of the Tony Blair government two decades ago.

Starmer will be hoping that the bold changes allow him to seize back the political agenda following days of speculation surrounding Rayner’s future, and months of turmoil for his administration.



Anti-government protesters clash with riot police during a protest against increasing police brutality in the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad on Sept 5. (AP)

Tear gas fired at protesters in Serbia demanding free elections, justice

Baton-wielding riot police in a northern Serbia town on Friday fired tear gas and charged at thousands of peaceful protesters who were demanding free elections and justice after months of demonstrations against the autocratic rule of President Aleksandar Vucic.

The protest led by university stu-

dents came more than 10 months after a concrete canopy collapsed at a train station in the town of Novi Sad, killing 16 people. The disaster ignited a wave of public outrage over alleged state corruption and negligence, which demonstrators cite as causes of the collapse.

There were no immediate re-

ports of injuries in Friday’s chaos triggered by the police action. Ambulances could be seen driving through Novi Sad’s streets. Police ordered that some of the protesters, including journalists, lay flat down on the street in handcuffs as police demanded they identify themselves. (AP)

European countries near Russia puzzled by United States plans to cut defense funding

WASHINGTON, Sept 6, (AP): Confusion emerged Friday over Trump administration plans to halt some security assistance funding to European countries along the border with Russia, with some Baltic defense leaders saying they have not received official notification.

Pentagon funding for programs that provide training and equipment to reinforce security would be cut, according to a person familiar with the discussions and a congressional aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter. It wasn’t clear exactly how much money would be affected, though it could be hundreds of millions of dollars.

It includes funding under Section 333 and the Baltic Security Initiative, which helps finance weapons purchases by countries on NATO’s eastern flank - including of U.S. systems - as well as ammunition, special forces training and intelligence support.

A White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity, said the action has been coordinated with European countries and is part of President Donald Trump’s plan to ensure



The Presidents of Latvia Edgars Rinkevics, (first left), Lithuania President Gitanas Nausda, (second left), Estonia President Alar Karis, and the Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen, (right), pose at a meeting with Polish President Karol Nawrocki (center), in Warsaw, Poland on Aug 28. (AP)

“Europe takes more responsibility for its own defense.”

The Trump administration has pushed NATO countries to step up their defense spending and slashed foreign assistance across the board. As Trump remakes the American approach to foreign policy, allies have

tried to decipher often murky proposals, from tariffs to troop numbers. It was not clear whether U.S. lawmakers would approve of some of the reductions, which were inconsistent with the Pentagon’s most recent allocations notified to Congress, the congressional aide said.

Putin says foreign troops deployed to Ukraine would be legitimate targets

MOSCOW, Sept 6, (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that any foreign troops deployed to Ukraine, particularly while its invasion was still ongoing, would be considered “legitimate targets” by Moscow’s forces.

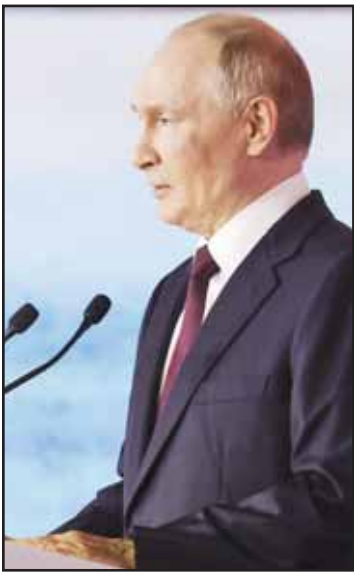
Putin’s comments came hours after European leaders repudged their commitment to a potential peacekeeping force, a prospect that Moscow has repeatedly described as “unacceptable.”

“If any troops appear there, especially now while fighting is ongoing, we assume that they will be legitimate targets,” he said during a panel at the Eastern Economic Forum in the far eastern Russian city of Vladivostok.

Putin also dismissed the idea of peacekeeping forces in Ukraine after a final peace deal, saying “no one should doubt” that Moscow would comply with a treaty to halt its 3½-year full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

He said that security guarantees would be needed for both Russia and Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov later said Moscow would need



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his speech at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia on Sept 5. (AP)

“legally binding documents” to outline such agreements. “Of course, you can’t just take anybody’s word for something,” he told Russian news outlet Argumenty i Fakty.

Putin’s comments follow remarks from French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday that 26 of Ukraine’s allies have pledged to deploy troops as a “reassurance force” for Ukraine once fighting ends.

Macron spoke after a meeting in Paris of the so-called coalition of the willing, a group of 35 countries that support Ukraine. He said that 26 of the countries had committed to deploying troops to Ukraine - or to maintaining a presence on land, at sea or in the air - to help guarantee the country’s security the day after any ceasefire or peace is achieved.

Addressing the participants of the international economic conference the Ambrosetti Forum on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it was important that security guarantees “start working now, during the war, and not only after it ends.”

Prince Hisahito first male royal to reach adulthood in 40 years

Japan, Australia reaffirm defense cooperation

TOKYO, Sept. 6, (Agencies): Japan and Australia agreed Friday to broaden security cooperation to strengthen collective deterrence and deepen joint exercises under their bilateral defense access pact, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

During their foreign and defense ministers' meeting ("2+2") in Tokyo that brought together Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and Defense Minister Gen Nakatani with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Defense Minister Richard Marles, they also confirmed enhanced coordination on cyber, information security and economic security, including critical minerals and supply chains, according to the ministry.

The four ministers hailed the start of dispatching liaison officers to each other's joint operations commands, pledging to strengthen operational co-ordination through their activities.

They also welcomed Australia's selection of an upgraded Mogami-class frigate as the preferred platform for its future general-purpose frigate program and agreed to advance cooperation toward the conclusion of the contract.

"We reiterated our strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East



Japanese Prince Hisahito, son of Crown Prince Akishino, wearing ancient ceremonial costume, leaves for a ceremony by a carriage at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Sept 6, as he celebrated his 19th birthday and attended the coming-of-age ceremony at the palace. (AP)

China Sea and the South China Sea. We expressed serious concern at the

increase in scale and frequency of provocative activities by China in Japan's maritime and air domains," the ministers said in a joint statement released after their talks.

Also:

TOKYO: Japan's Prince Hisahito is the first male royal to reach adulthood in 40 years. Many people in Japan worry he could be the last.

The elaborate palace rituals to formally recognize Hisahito as an adult on Saturday are a reminder of the bleak outlook for the world's oldest monarchy. Much of this comes down to its male-only succession policy and dwindling numbers.

Hisahito is second in line to the Chrysanthemum Throne and is likely to become emperor one day. After him, however, there is nobody left, leaving the Imperial family with a dilemma over whether they should reverse a 19th century ruling that abolished female succession.

A freshman at Tsukuba University near Tokyo, Hisahito studies biology and enjoys playing badminton. He is especially devoted to dragonflies and has co-authored an academic paper on a survey of the insects on the grounds of his Akasaka estate in Tokyo.



Japan's Defence Minister Gen Nakatani, (centre right), and Australia's Defence Minister Richard Marles hold a joint press announcement aboard the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Mogami-class stealth frigate JS Mikuma at the JMSDF naval base in Yokosuka, Japan on Sept 5. (AP)

Thaksin makes surprise departure ahead of risky court ruling

Veteran politician Anutin elected Thailand's prime minister in parliamentary vote

BANGKOK, Sept. 6, (AP): Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul was elected prime minister on Friday after winning a parliamentary vote, according to an official tally.

The leader of the Bhumjaithai party won a total of 311 votes, far exceeding the 247 required majority from the House of Representative's 492 active members. He and his government are expected to take office in a few days after obtaining a formal appointment from King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Anutin, 58, succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was dismissed by court order as prime minister last week after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with neighboring Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen.

A border dispute between the two nations erupted into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July.

Anutin, who's an elected member of the House, got up from his seat and walked around the chamber to take pictures with other lawmakers when he was a few votes short from the winning total.

Anutin told reporters as he exited Parliament to visit his father in a hospital that he would work hard to solve the country's problems.. "I intend to

work with my full capability," he said. "I must work everyday and make the most out of it, with no day off."

Videos published by Thai media showed Anutin laughing as he hugged his father who said he was "very happy to see this day."

Anutin had served in Paetongtarn's Cabinet, but he resigned his position and withdrew his party from her coalition government after news of the leaked phone call caused a public uproar.

Pheu Thai, currently leading a caretaker government, sought to dissolve Parliament on Tuesday, but its request was rejected by the king's Privy Council. The party's nominee for prime minister, Chaikasem Nitisiri, received 152 votes.

Anutin had served in the Pheu Thai-led coalition government that took power in 2023 and before that in the military-backed elected government under former Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Anutin is best known for successfully lobbying for the decriminalization of cannabis, a policy that is now being more strictly regulated for medical purposes. He was also a health minister during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he was accused of tardiness in



Leader of Bhumjai Thai Party Anutin Charnvirakul, center, reacts after Lawmakers voted to select him as new prime minister, at the Parliament in Bangkok, Thailand on Sept 5. (AP)

obtaining adequate vaccine supplies to fight the virus.

His party has promised to dissolve Parliament within four months in exchange for support from the progressive People's Party. That party's leader, Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, said it would remain in the opposition,

leaving the new government potentially a minority one.

The People's Party said an Anutin-led government would have to commit to organizing a referendum on the drafting of a new constitution by an elected constituent assembly. The party has long sought changes to the

constitution - which was imposed during a military government - to make it more democratic.

Anutin's victory was a win for Thailand's traditional establishment, said Kevin Hewison, a senior Thai studies scholar based in Australia. The People's Party is the antithesis of the conservative royalist Bhumjaithai and should be worried even with such promises made as a quid-pro-quo, he said.

"Anutin and his people are untrustworthy. Trust has deserted Thai politics, so the four months to an election is likely slippery," he said.

The People's Party, then named the Move Forward Party, won the most seats in the 2023 election but was kept from power when military-appointed senators, who were strong supporters of Thailand's royalist conservative establishment, voted against its candidate because they opposed its policy seeking reforms to the monarchy.

The Senate no longer holds the right to take part in the vote for prime minister.

Also:

BANGKOK: Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra made a sudden and surprising departure from

the country Thursday, just five days before a court ruling that could open him up to a new prison sentence.

His exit came a week after the Constitutional Court removed his daughter, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, from her position as prime minister. The court found her guilty of an ethics violation for a politically compromising phone call with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen.

Many see this as the end of the power that Thaksin's political machine has wielded for more than two decades. During that time, Thaksin faced prison time in various cases, though he spent no time behind bars.

Thaksin told Thai immigration authorities at Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport that his private jet was headed for Singapore. A police statement confirmed his plane was allowed to take off shortly after 7 pm. because he had no arrest warrant or court order preventing him from leaving the country.

However, flight-tracking data analyzed by The Associated Press showed the private jet, a Bombardier BD-700, initially flew south toward Singapore before suddenly turning west, doing two circles and continuing toward India.



Soldiers and rescue workers stand by the debris of a passenger bus after it plunged into a precipice in Wellawaya, Sri Lanka on Sept 5. (AP)

Bus accident in Sri Lanka kills 15 people

A passenger bus veered off a road and plunged into a precipice in a mountainous region in Sri Lanka, killing 15 people and injuring 16 others, a police spokesman said Friday.

The accident occurred near the town of Wellawaya, about 280 kilometers (174 miles) east of the capital Colombo, on Thursday night and the bus fell into a roughly

1,000-foot precipice, police spokesman Fredrick Wootler said.

The accident killed 15 people and wounded 16, including five children.

Wootler said an initial police investigation revealed that the driver was driving the bus at high speed and lost control of it, crashing with another vehicle and into guardrails

before toppling off the cliff.

At the time of the accident, nearly 30 people were traveling on the bus.

Local television showed footage of the severely damaged bus lying at the bottom of the precipice and rescues crews, including soldiers, police officers and volunteers, removing the injured throughout the night in harsh terrain. (AP)

India's Mumbai on alert as threat message warns of blasts across city

NEW DELHI, Sept. 6, (Agencies):The police in India's financial capital, Mumbai, are on high alert after receiving a WhatsApp message threatening dozens of blasts across the city, the police said Friday.

The threat message received on Thursday claimed that human bombs had been planted in 34 vehicles, and it would shake the entire city. The sender of the message further claimed that 14 terrorists had entered the city and planted 400 kg of RDX in vehicles for blasts.

Senior police official Anil Dashrathrao Kumbhare told the media the threat is being investigated.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: Authorities in Pakistan's southern Sindh province have evacuated more than 100,000 people from low-lying areas along the Indus river, a government spokesman said on Friday, after neighboring India warned of cross-border flooding from dam release.

The evacuations come as rescuers mounted a major rescue and relief operation in the country's eastern Punjab province, where flooding from weeks of monsoon rains and overflowing dams in India has displaced about 1.8 million people since August.

Since late June, monsoon flooding has killed more than 900 people across Pakistan, according to disaster officials. India notified Islamabad through diplomatic channels on Friday of the potential cross-border flooding, according to



A family wades through flood waters to a rescue boat after levels in the Sutlej river rose following release of water from overflowing dams in neighboring India, in Kasur district, Pakistan on Aug 26. (AP)

the National Disaster Management Authority or NDMA and local authorities.

Weeks of heavier-than-normal monsoon rains, compounded by water releases from dams in India, have swelled rivers in Punjab to dangerous levels.

Deluges are now moving downstream toward Sindh, where they could swell the Indus river, officials said.

US designates 2 more gangs in Latin America as foreign terrorist groups

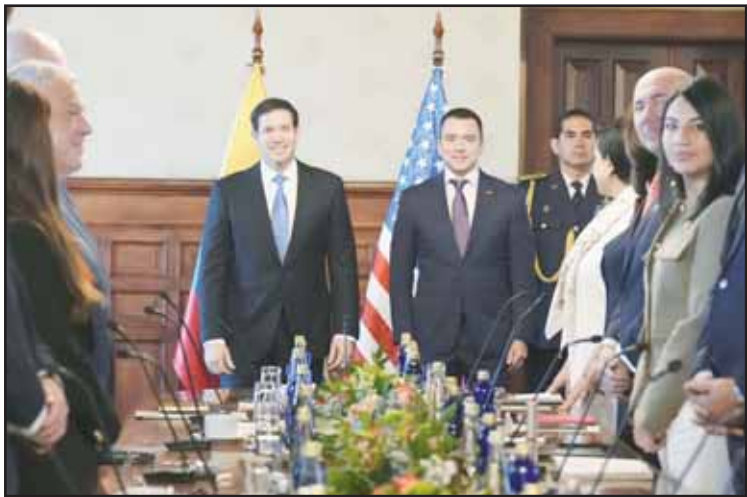
QUITO, Ecuador, Sept. 6, (AP): The United States is designating two Ecuadorian gangs as foreign terrorist organizations, marking the Trump administration's latest step to target criminal cartels in Latin America.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio made the announcement Thursday while in Ecuador as part of a trip to Latin America overshadowed by an American military strike against a similarly designated gang, Venezuela's Tren de Aragua. That attack has raised concerns in the region about what may follow as President Donald Trump's government pledges to step up military activity to combat drug trafficking and illegal migration.

"This time, we're not just going to hunt for drug dealers in the little fast boats and say, 'Let's try to arrest them,'" Rubio told reporters in Quito, Ecuador's capital. "No, the president has said he wants to wage war on these groups because they've been waging war on us for 30 years and no one has responded."

The Defense Department said late Thursday that two Venezuelan military aircraft flew near a US Navy vessel in international waters, calling it "a highly provocative move" and warning President Nicolás Maduro's government against further actions.

Los Lobos and Los Choneros are Ecuadorian gangs blamed for much of the violence that began during the COVID-19 pandemic. The terrorist



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa, (right), preside over an extended meeting at the presidential palace in Quito, Ecuador on Sept 4. (AP)

designation, Rubio said, brings "all sorts of options" for Washington to work in conjunction with the government of Ecuador to crack down on these groups.

That includes the ability to kill them as well as take action against the properties and banking accounts in the US of the group's members and those with ties to the criminal organizations, Rubio said. He said the label also would help with intelligence sharing.

Los Choneros, Los Lobos and

other similar groups are involved in contract killings, extortion operations and the movement and sale of drugs. Authorities have blamed them for the increased violence in the country as they fight over drug-trafficking routes to the Pacific and control of territory, including within prisons, where hundreds of inmates have been killed since 2021.

The strike has become the focus on Rubio's trip, which included a stop in Mexico on Wednesday.

UN decries crimes including slavery, murder and torture in Congo conflict over last year

GENEVA, Sept. 6, (AP): Congo's armed forces and Rwanda-backed M23 rebels have committed crimes including gang rape, slavery, torture, killings of civilians and other "horrific" atrocities in eastern Congo over the last year, the UN human rights office said Friday. It said the governments of both countries bear responsibility.

A new report by a fact-finding team of experts that visited the region between March and August warned of the prospect of war crimes and crimes against humanity that may have been committed since late 2024 and since the decades-long conflict in the central African nation escalated in January, when M23 fighters seized the strategic eastern city of Goma.

"The atrocities described in this report are horrific," Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the United Nations' office, told reporters in Geneva, quoting High Commissioner for Human



People who were displaced by the fighting between M23 rebels and government soldiers leave their camp following an instruction by M23 rebels in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo on Feb 11. (AP)

Rights Volker Türk. "It is heartbreaking and deeply frustrating to witness once again the dehumanization of the civilian population by those in power who are failing in their responsibilities."

The UN Human Rights Council is expected to consider the report during its upcoming monthlong session that opens Monday.

Kuwait oil price drops to \$71.34 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil dropped 26 cents to USD 71.34 per barrel (pb) on Friday, compared to USD 71.60 pb on Thursday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

(KPC) said on Saturday. In global markets, Brent crude went down by USD 1.49 to USD 65.50 pb, and West Texas Intermediate also dropped USD 1.61 to USD 61.87 pb.

Business

Retaining its strong ninth place ranking among regional banks

NBK leads Kuwaiti institutions featured in The Banker’s 2025 list of Top 100 Arab Banks

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: In a new milestone underscoring the strength of its brand and financial standing, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) ranked first among Kuwaiti banks in The Banker’s 2025 list of Top 100 Arab Banks, while retaining its ninth place at the regional level.

In its annual ranking, the magazine evaluated banks based on several key criteria, such as total core capital, assets, profitability, asset quality, return on capital, and return on assets.

NBK topped the Kuwaiti rankings in Tier 1 capital, which stood at USD 13.46 billion by the end of 2024, reflecting a growth of 5%.

Backed by its solid financial position and strong performance, NBK secured the top ranking among banks in Kuwait in terms of asset size, according to The Banker’s list. The Bank’s total assets grew by 7.1%, year-on-year to KWD 40.3 billion (USD 130.9 billion) by the end of 2024 and the return on average assets reached 1.55%.

Moreover, NBK reported net profits of KWD 600.1 million (USD 1.9 billion) in 2024, up 7.0% year-on-year. Net operating income also grew by 7.2% year-on-year to KWD 1.3 billion (USD 4.1 billion). By the end of 2024, total shareholders’ equity stood



The Banker logo.

at KWD 3.9 billion (USD 12.7 billion), making an annual increase of 5.9%, while the capital adequacy ratio remained strong at 17.3%.

The Banker’s rating reflects NBK’s strong financial performance and exceptional resilience in an evolving economic environment. It also underscores the Bank’s solid capital base, its ability to meet future challenges, and its role in supporting economic growth. The recognition also highlights the strength of NBK’s balance sheet and its regional leadership across key financial indicators.

The bank’s recognition among the region’s best also echoes the strength and quality of its earnings, firmly grounded across all core business sectors, while underscoring its unique geographic footprint spanning four continents and 13 countries worldwide. NBK upholds the highest credit rat-



NBK headquarters.

ings among major banks in the Middle East, unanimously affirmed by the three leading international credit rating agencies, Moody’s, Fitch, and Standard & Poor’s. These ratings are underpinned by the bank’s strong capitalization, prudent lending practices, and disciplined risk management framework, in addition to the depth and stability of its experienced leader-

ship team.

Beyond financial results, NBK’s achievements stand out as a leading brand in the banking sector. According to the Brand Finance’s 2025 report, NBK was recognized as Kuwait’s strongest and most valuable banking brand, reflecting the deep trust it commands among customers and partners alike.

- This achievement reflects NBK’s robust financial performance and exceptional resilience amid an evolving economic landscape.
- NBK’s strength and the quality of its earnings stand as further evidence of a solid foundation across all core business sectors.
- NBK boasts a distinguished record of prestigious ratings, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to excellence and sustainable growth.
- The bank’s success is rooted in a long-standing legacy of trust and accountability towards all stakeholders.

NBK’s success is rooted in a long-standing legacy of trust and responsibility towards all stakeholders. The Bank remains committed to driving innovation across its businesses to deliver sustainable value, with a clear focus on a more inclusive and sustainable financial future. This commitment is reflected in its pioneering initiatives in sustainable finance and environmental transparency, alongside its efforts to foster a thriving workforce and invest in the communities it serves.

Furthermore, NBK proudly upholds a distinguished record of prestigious international ratings, underscoring its

unwavering commitment to achieving excellence and sustainable growth, reinforced by its many accomplishments across different fronts. The Banker’s recognition further affirms the Bank’s pivotal role in shaping both the local and regional financial landscape.

The Banker, one of the world’s most prestigious financial publications and part of the renowned British newspaper Financial Times, founded in 1926, conducts annual surveys covering around 120 countries. These rankings spotlight the leading and most distinguished institutions in the global banking community.

Premier market index down 2.2%

Boursa Kuwait liquidity drops 20.1% in August to KD 1.9 bln

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Liquidity on the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange (KSE) fell by 20.1 percent in August, reaching KD 1.9 billion (USD 5.7 billion), compared to KD 2.4 billion (USD 7.3 billion) in July, according to a report released Saturday by Al-Shall Consulting. The report noted that August’s performance was slower than July’s, with declines in both total liquidity and the average daily trading value.

The Premier Market Index dropped 2.2 percent, while the General Market Index fell 1.4 percent. By contrast, the Main Market Index rose 2.8 percent, and the Main Market 50 Index climbed 4.9 percent.

Average daily trading value in August amounted to KD 94.1 million (USD 287 million), marking a 12.5 percent decrease from July’s KD 107.7 million (USD 328.4 million). Over the first eight months of 2025, total liquidity reached KD 17.077 billion (USD 52 billion), with an average daily trading value of around KD 106.7 million (USD 325.4 million) — almost double the av-

erage seen in the same period of 2024, which stood at KD 53.7 million (USD 163.7 million).

The report also highlighted imbalances in liquidity distribution. Half of the listed companies attracted only 6.5 percent of total liquidity, with 50 companies — representing 35.7 percent of those listed — receiving just 2.5 percent. One company saw no trading at all.

On the other hand, smaller but more liquid firms captured a significant share of activity. Twelve companies accounting for only 4.2 percent of the exchange’s total market value took in about 30 percent of overall liquidity. Among them, just two companies, with a combined market value of 0.4 percent of total market capitalization, absorbed 15 percent of trading by the end of August.

According to Al-Shall’s analysis, liquidity in the KSE continues to concentrate in a narrow segment of smaller-cap firms, leaving nearly half of the market with limited access to trading activity.

Other Voices

The emergence of a new economic alliance

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

THE SCO Summit in Tianjin, China last week signaled the emergence of a new economic power bloc, an alliance consisting of major economies rich in petroleum, gas and minerals, with the largest populated nations.

Certainly, this is leading towards the rise of powerful nations. It could threaten the position of the United States in the global market, potentially toppling its economic status.

The meeting of the leaders of China, Russia, North Korea, India and Iran, in addition to the South American countries Brazil and Argentina, signals the birth of a new global power bloc, while other countries are standing by to join the new alliance. With the wealth of minerals, oil and gold, it can become a balancing global force.

As we imagine such an alliance, it is calling for a one-day cut of oil supply to the world. These countries can surpass OPEC’s total crude oil production, as well as its oil and gas reserves.

Perhaps, they have yet to realize their power. However, it will emerge to tilt the balance away from the USA. Perhaps, this is neither the idea nor the purpose, but it could be used as a ‘standby’ one.

From the point of view of OPEC, the new alliance of China, India and Brazil represent the most important nations importing crude oil and petroleum products from the Arab Gulf countries and other members of OPEC. They also represent future growth and demand for oil. At the same time, they represent future economic growth and the place of current and future investments.

We, in Kuwait, are in the right place to invest. It is an emerging market. Kuwait can grow with it in terms of financial investments and lessons to be learned. Now is the right time and it is the right long-



Al-Harami

term investment. This is why Kuwait’s oil industry is encouraged to build and invest in refining, similar to what Saudi Aramco is doing.

It is the second-largest consumer of oil, with almost 16 million barrels, covering about 25 percent of total demand—second to the USA with about 20 million. While the third-largest consumer of oil is India with six million, short by more than 10 million barrels per day.

The USA is almost steady with 10 million barrels per day. It is trying its best to remain closed to imports, but so far, it is failing to do so. Nonetheless, it is open to imports from all the relevant countries, without exception.

Hence, it is the role of OPEC and its partners to push for more crude oil exploration and to dig for oil. The demand is there, and the alternative has yet to appear as a replacement.

Luckily for oil-producing countries, the alternative is not yet with us. Fortunately for us in Kuwait and our neighboring oil producers, this is expected to happen sometime in the near future.

In Kuwait, we are ready for that future? It may be saddening, but it is vital to know about it and to be prepared. The choices are not many, but perhaps, it is good to invest and collaborate with major international consultants to find and search for options. With the current number of investments globally, alternatives might be found. The search for an alternative to oil is a challenge and struggle, as others are doing the same.

The good news is that Kuwait is investing in the emerging markets and the new power of the future. As long as we invest in emerging markets, we are in safe hands and part of it.

Diversification and searching for ways and means to increase our returns on investments is the only way to plan for the era after oil.

We have to continue to find and discover the new emerging markets, as the current ones might have matured. With the possibility that oil is not lasting, we must be well prepared.

Email: nafitkuwaiti@yahoo.com

By Mohammad Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Acting General Manager of Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) Sultan Al-Dubos announced the launch of a new service for people of determination through the electronic portal of the bank.

In a press statement, Al-Dubos confirmed this service utilizes sign language and advanced accessibility tools, in line with international standards to enable and facilitate the use of electronic channels. He said this is part of the ongoing efforts of the bank to use electronic channels in addressing the needs of

people of determination. He added it contributes to enhancing the image of Kuwait in the field of providing services and easing procedures for customers with disabilities, thereby, ensuring inclusiveness and effective participation in society.

In another development, Al-Dubos revealed that the participation of the bank and presence of its sectors in the fifth edition of the Bayti Construction Exhibition, held under the patronage and with the attendance of Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari, is in line with its commitment to intensify its presence in events that serve Kuwaiti families in the construction and housing sector.

Service features sign language and advanced accessibility tools

Kuwait Credit Bank starts accessible e-service for people of determination

Expansion or third gas plant under study

KNPC takes over two LNG plants from KOTC

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: After the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) officially took over the two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cylinder filling plants in Shuaiba and Umm Al-Aish from Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) on Aug 1, KNPC is now considering the expansion of both plants or the establishment of a third.

Reliable sources told the newspaper that this move is in light of the population growth and the economic openness the country is currently experiencing, particularly with the decision to open tourist, commercial and family visas.

Sources said the transfer of the two gas plants from KOTC to KNPC was completed smoothly, while con-

firms that such will increase the profits of KNPC in the coming years. Sources indicated that the integration of the two gas plants under the umbrella of KNPC offers several advantages, including more efficient spending, unified marketing efforts, and reduced pollution risks. Sources added that the transition will allow KOTC to focus on its core role as the national carrier of oil and gas through its fleet.

Sources explained that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) proposed the idea of the merger several years ago, but it only took effect about a year ago, following the formation of specialized committees, culminating in the official transfer in early August.

Sources indicated that KNPC intends to increase the number of gas branches due to the rising number of new residential cities, especially since there are only 83 branches at present.

In a related development, sources affirmed that the merger of oil companies affiliated with KPC is progressing as planned. They said the next step will be the integration of Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) into the global oil giant, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

The newspaper obtained a copy of the 2025 annual report of KPC, stating that the production volume of the two liquefied gas cylinder filling plants in Shuaiba and Umm Al-Aish reached about 17.9 million cylinders in fiscal 2024/2025 -- an increase of 3.15 percent compared to the previous fiscal year, while the distribution rate of 12-kilogram gas cylinders used in homes reached around 6.654 million.

The report revealed that the quantity of liquefied gas consumed during the past year reached 204,010 metric tons, compared to 195,538 tons the year before.

Kuwaiti oil stored abroad in Japan, South Korea, and China

KPC aims for 4 million barrels daily by 2035

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has started working towards achieving a daily production capacity of four million barrels by 2035, including the development of strategies to market its oil globally by entering new markets and the extension of supply contracts with countries that regularly import Kuwaiti oil.

Reliable sources revealed that KPC introduced new mechanisms in the global marketing sector to achieve its goal of expanding the reach of Kuwaiti oil and its derivatives. They said KPC continues to store Kuwaiti oil abroad, having successfully stored seven million barrels in Asia, including three million barrels in Japan’s Kiri oil storage tanks, as well as signing a contract with a South Korean company to store four million barrels in Ulsan, and the renewal of two contracts with a Chinese company and another South Korean company for 10 years to further secure Kuwaiti oil supplies. Sources said KPC also amended these contracts to secure higher prices and signed a contract with a Thai oil company to market Kuwaiti oil.

Sources stated the trading company, established by KPC in Dubai last year, has become one of its main arms for trading Kuwaiti petroleum products and derivatives. They explained that KPC had been considering the idea of creating this company for more than 10 years. “With the launch of the Kuwaiti-Omani

Duqm Refinery in February 2024, the Corporation turned this vision into reality. The trading company was set up to support the smart and modern marketing of Kuwaiti petroleum products in parallel with traditional methods, particularly since buying and selling now take place through an electronic platform without intermediaries. The trading company plays a vital role in facilitating communication between new customers in global markets, KPC and its subsidiaries. The most important countries importing Kuwaiti oil are South Korea, China, Japan and Vietnam,” sources added.

Sources pointed out that the production of KPC’s local refineries -- Zour, Mina Abdullah and Ahmadi, and its international refineries -- Duqm in Oman, Nghi Son in Vietnam and Milazzo in Italy -- is known for its purity and high quality, specifically the production of diesel, gasoline, fuel oil, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas and many other products with premium quality but low in sulfur. “As a result, KPC is now one of the largest suppliers of high-quality jet fuel, particularly in Europe, while expanding its share of jet fuel sales in many other countries,” sources confirmed.

Sources continued saying that Kuwait Petroleum International, the most important arm of KPC for marketing refined petroleum products, is exerting tremendous efforts to enhance the position of Kuwait as a strong global competitor in jet fuel markets. “It operates a large network of fuel stations bearing its brand and represents Kuwait in the international re-

fineries of KPC,” sources elaborated.

The newspaper obtained a copy of an oil sector document, indicating that KPC succeeded in selling shipments of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) at a premium of nearly a quarter of a million dollars above annual contracts in 2024.

A profit of \$588,000 came from gasoline (motor fuel) sales and \$6.75 million from the sale of ‘reformate’, following a study on profit margins and product comparisons with naphtha.

Moreover, effective coordination with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) improved performance by rescheduling shipments and negotiating specifications, generating savings of \$1.39 million. Intermediate derivatives witnessed remarkable growth after the launch of the Clean Fuels and Zour Refinery projects.

These developments led to new contracts and reinforced the position of KPC as a leading global exporter, ranking first in jet fuel exports and sixth in gas oil exports. Shipments were also redirected to new markets in Africa and the Americas.

The Corporation set a precedent by exporting a diesel shipment aboard the SUEZMAX tanker, enabling the discharge of larger volumes and reducing shipping costs.

It also resumed shipments through the Bab al-Mandab Strait for the first time in more than a year, cutting travel times and boosting fleet operational efficiency.

The world will need oil for decades, says OPEC chief

BAGHDAD, Sept 6, (KUNA): OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais on Saturday said the world would continue to need oil for decades, amid forecast huge investments.

Calls to abandon the crude oil and replace it with other energy resources are unrealistic, Al-Ghais said, addressing International Baghdad Energy Forum.

All the calls to abandon oil rapidly and without calculations lack realism, he said, warning that such an approach would lead to confusion in the energy security and cause prices’ fluctuations that would in turn create hard economic challenges.

The history of energy has “taught us that progress does not mean cancellation but expansion and integration for the energy resources cannot be cast aside but allowed to coexist for service of the human race,” Al-Ghais said.

Despite growth of the renewable energy and production of electric cars, the world has continued to depend on the oil by-products and gas as well as coal, Al-Ghais said.

OPEC reports show that fossil fuel accounts to 80 percent of the whole energy

resources globally (2024), a proportion identical to that recorded in 1960, when OPEC was established in Baghdad, although the global consumption has grown five folds since then, the OPEC chief added.

As to consumption, Al-Ghais said the world demand for various energy types would increase by 23 percent from 308 million barrels per day to 387 million bpd by onset of 2050.

Oil will account to 30 percent of the energy resources until middle of the century, and oil and gas are expected to account to 50 percent together of the total energy resources, while oil demand will continue to rise to reach 123 million bpd by 2050.

He added that OPEC production will rise from 49 million bpd to 64 million bpd by 2050, and the exports from the Middle East will constitute half of the global trade in the crude oil.

The world will need oil for the coming decades and there is a pressing need to increase the investments in the oil industry, forecast to reach USD 18.2 trillion by onset of 2050, he concluded.

Cementing its leadership role in the development of Kuwait's national calibers

Burgan Bank recognized by PAM for excellence in Kuwaitization and job localization

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Underscoring its leadership in developing national talent and fostering sustainable career growth for Kuwaitis, Burgan Bank was recognized by the Public Authority of Manpower as one of the most distinguished companies in the State of Kuwait for its outstanding achievements in Kuwaitization – which has reached an exceptional 86% in 2024, marking one of the highest rates in Kuwait’s banking sector.

This prestigious recognition was celebrated during the Award Ceremony for Outstanding Companies in the GCC Labor Market, held at The St. Regis Kuwait, under the patronage of the GCC Ministers of Labour. The ceremony was attended by Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Mr. Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Dr. Amthal Hadi Haif Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, and Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Essam Al-Rubaian, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Mrs. Hind Subaih Barak Al-Subaih, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Labour and Former Minister of State for Economic Affairs.

Commenting on the accolade, Mr. Ali Hussain Akbar, Deputy General Manager – Human Resources and Development for the Group at Burgan Bank, said: “We are honored to be recognized on a national and regional level for our sustained efforts to empower Kuwait’s ambitious, aspiring, and exceptional talents. This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to contributing to the Kuwait Vision 2035 and ensuring that our workplace is a foundation for exceptional careers. At Burgan, we believe in holistic development, where each individual’s growth fuels broader progress for the State of Kuwait.”

He added that, as a certified Great Place to Work® – with an exceptionally high participation score in the employee engagement survey – Burgan Bank continues to foster a culture of continuous learning, enabled by a comprehensive talent development and career advancement program that runs all year and addresses the various needs of employees across departments and employment grades, noting that employees consumed an average of 33 hours of training per person per year.

Leveraging technologies and innovation to strengthen learning and talent development

As part of the Bank’s digital transformation journey, its learning and talent development program is being further strengthened through SAP’s cutting-edge, full-suite human resources management (HRM) system, SuccessFactors. The platform leverages advanced AI and data-driven technologies to ensure that every employee experiences a bespoke journey of personal and professional development tailored to their individual needs and aspirations.

Among the most notable learning and talent development programs that Burgan Bank offers its staff is its flagship program Ro’ya, designed to advance and qualify the best talents for leadership positions along the organizational structure. The program includes several streams: Future Leaders, Rising Leaders, Transformational Leaders, and Visionary Leaders – each tailored to talents’ length of experience, needs, and aspirations. The program has undergone several enhancements since launching in 2020, with the latest addition being the Ro’yaMentorship Module for Visionary Leaders, designed to prepare emerging senior leaders on the personal and professional fronts with the guidance of Burgan Bank’s senior executives.

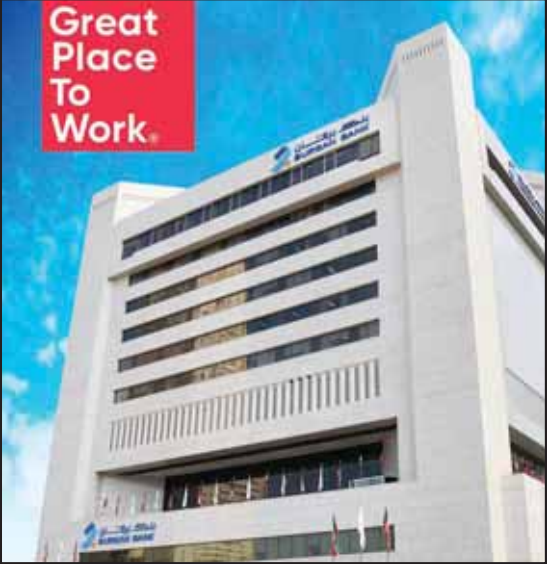


Mr. Ali Hussain Akbar, Deputy General Manager – Human Resources and Development for the Group at Burgan Bank receiving the award



Group photo of dignitaries and honorees.

- 86% Kuwaitization, one of the highest in Kuwait’s banking sector.
- A Certified Great Place to Work® committed to high engagement, wellness and inclusion.
- Digital-first learning ecosystem, powered by SAP SuccessFactors with an AI-driven HR platform delivering personalized career development



Burgan Bank: A Certified Great Place to Work®.

Beyond human capital development, Burgan Bank continues to advocate for and engrain sustainability across its operations in alignment with Kuwait’s national development goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Among the Bank’s most notable achievements along the environmental sustainability track in 2024 was receiving the LEED Gold certification (O&M v4.1) for its head office, in recognition of its commitment to sustainable building management practices and enhancing operational efficiency, as part of its broader strategy to contribute to a sustainable future.

Other advances that fortified Burgan Bank’s commitment to environmental sustainability include launching a waste management and recycling initiative at its head office in collaboration with Tadwire, one of the leading recycling facilities of its kind in Kuwait. That is in addition to its participation in the DHL ExpressGoGreen Plus initiative, through which Burgan Bank reaffirms its commitment to lowering shipment-related carbon emissions by investing in DHL’s adoption of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and opting for DHL Expressgreener courier services across its value chain.



Elon Musk listens as President Donald Trump meets with India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi (unseen) in the Oval Office of the White House, Feb. 13, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

Musk could become trillionaire

Tesla proposes mega pay package for Musk

WASHINGTON, Sept 6, (AP): The world’s richest man could become its first trillionaire if Elon Musk hits a series of extremely aggressive targets for his electric car company over the next decade, according to a proposed pay package released by the company.

Tesla said in a regulatory filing Friday that it will hand Musk shares worth as much as 12% of the company in a dozen separate packages if the company meets certain performance targets, including massive increases in car production, share price and operating profit. If approved by shareholders, the new pay package could make Musk the world’s first trillion dollar executive, and would mark a new level of outsized pay in a country already known for extreme compensation. But the payoff is in shares, not cash, and the goals are extreme as well.

Musk overcame doubters to turn Tesla into the world’s most valuable car company, but he could face even steeper odds in hitting the targets set by the company’s compensation committee - not least because of Tesla’s main business of making electric vehicles is currently in a slump, in part because of Musk’s foray into right-wing politics.

“It doesn’t matter how much money he gets. He can’t help himself,” said Telemetry analyst Sam Abuelsamid who follows Tesla stock, which has plummeted 27% from its December high. “And the more he talks, the more he turns off potential customers.”

To get his first package of shares equivalent to 1% of the company, Musk would have to convince investors in the stock market that Tesla is worth \$2 trillion in total, double what they value it today, and also hit several other milestones. To receive all the shares offered and make him the world’s first trillion-dollar man would require that market value to then rise to \$8.5 trillion, double that of the world’s most valuable company now, chipmaker Nvidia.

Among other goals, sales of all Tesla vehicles would eventually also have to reach 20 million, nearly triple its entire sales since it was founded more than two decades ago. Musk would also have to vastly expand Tesla’s robot and robotaxi businesses by selling a million of the bots and a million of the driverless cabs, the latter a business that has only begun to roll out its taxi service and is behind rivals, such as Waymo.

Musk would also need to remain with Tesla for at least seven and a half years to cash out on any stock, and 10 years to earn the full amount.

Musk has been one of the richest people in the world for several years. He is currently estimated to be worth more than \$400 billion by Forbes magazine.

A condition of the 11th and 12th tranches of the plan includes Musk coming up with a framework for someone to succeed him as CEO.

The plunge in Tesla sales this year was largely due to blowback over Musk’s affiliation with President Donald Trump. Tesla also faces intensifying competition from the big Detroit automakers and particularly from China.

Trump’s job market promises fall flat as hiring collapses & inflation ticks up

Tariffs, immigration policies weigh on hiring

WASHINGTON, Sept 6, (AP): The U.S. job market has gone from healthy to lethargic during President Donald Trump’s first seven months back in the White House, as hiring has collapsed and inflation has started to climb once again as his tariffs take hold.

Friday’s jobs report showed employers added a mere 22,000 jobs in August, as the unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3%. Factories and construction firms shed workers. Revisions showed the economy lost 13,000 jobs in June, the first monthly losses since December 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new data exposed the widening gap between the booming economy Trump promised and the more anemic reality of what he’s managed to deliver so far. The White House prides itself on operating at a breakneck speed, but it’s now asking the American people for patience, with Trump saying better job numbers might be a year away.

“We’re going to win like you’ve never seen,” Trump said Friday. “Wait until these factories start to open up that are being built all over the country, you’re going to see things happen in this country that nobody expects.” The plea for patience has done little to comfort Americans, as economic issues that had been a strength for Trump for a decade have evolved into a persistent weakness. Approval of Trump’s economic leadership hit 56% in early 2020 during his first term, but that figure was 38% in July of this year, according to polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The situation has left Trump searching for others to blame, while Democrats say the problem begins and ends with him.

Trump maintained Friday that the economy would be adding jobs if Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell had slashed benchmark interest rates, even though doing so to the degree that Trump wants could ignite higher inflation. Investors expect a rate cut by the Fed at its next meeting in September, although that’s partially because of weakening job numbers.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Trump’s tariffs and freewheeling policies were breaking the economy and the jobs report proved it.

“This is a blaring red light warning to the entire country that Donald Trump is squeezing the life out of our economy,” Schumer said.

By many measures, Trump has dug himself into a hole on the economy as its performance has yet to come anywhere close to his hype.

■ Trump in 2024 suggested that deporting immigrants in the country illegally would protect “Black jobs.” But the Black unemployment rate has climbed to 7.5%, the highest since October 2021, as the Trump administration has engaged in aggressive crackdowns on immigration.

■ At his April tariffs announcement, Trump said, “Jobs and factories will come roaring back into our country and you see it happening already.” Since April, manufacturers have cut 42,000 jobs and builders have downsized by 8,000.

■ Trump said in his inaugural address that the “liquid gold” of oil would make the nation wealthy as he pivoted the economy to fossil fuels. But the logging and mining sectors - which includes oil and natural gas - have shed 12,000 jobs since January. While gasoline prices are lower, the Energy Information Administration in August estimated that crude oil production, the



President Donald Trump speaks at a dinner in the Rose Garden of the White House, Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

source of the wealth promised by Trump, would fall next year by an average of 100,000 barrels a day.

■ At 2024 rallies, Trump promised to “end” inflation on “day one” and halve electricity prices within 12 months. Consumer prices have climbed from a 2.3% annual increase in April to 2.7% in July. Electricity costs are up 4.6% so far this year.

The Trump White House maintains that the economy is on the cusp of breakout growth, with its new import taxes poised to raise hundreds of billions of dollars annually if they can withstand court challenges.

At a Thursday night dinner with executives and founders from companies including Apple, Google, Microsoft, OpenAI and Meta, Trump said the facilities being built to develop artificial intelligence would deliver “jobs numbers like our country has never seen before” at some point “a year from now.” But Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, noted that Trump’s promise that strong job growth is ahead contradicts his unsubstantiated claims that recent jobs data was faked to embarrass him. That accusation prompted him to fire the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics last month after the massive downward revisions in the July jobs report.

Strain said it’s rational for the administration to say better times are coming, but doing so seems to undermine Trump’s allegations that the numbers are rigged.

“The president clearly stated that the data were not trustworthy and that the weakness in the data was the product of anti-Trump manipulation,” Strain said. “And if that’s true, what are we being patient about?” The White House maintained that Friday’s jobs report was an outlier in an otherwise good economy.

Kevin Hassett, director of the White House National Economic Council, said the Atlanta Federal Reserve is expecting annualized growth of 3% this quarter, which he said would be more consistent with monthly job gains of 100,000.

Hassett said inflation is low, income growth is “solid” and new investments in assets such as buildings and equipment will ultimately boost hiring.

But Daniel Hornung, who was deputy director of the National Economic Council in the Biden White House, said he didn’t see evidence of a coming rebound in the August jobs data.

“Pretty broad based weakening,” Hornung said. “The decline over three months in goods producing sectors like construction and manufacturing is particularly notable. There were already headwinds there and tariffs are likely exacerbating challenges.” Stephen Moore, an economics fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation and supporter of the president, said the labor market is “definitely softening,” even as he echoed Trump’s claims that the jobs numbers are not reliable.

He said the economy was adjusting to the Trumpian shift of higher tariffs and immigration reductions that could lower the pool of available workers.

“The problem going forward is a shortage or workers, not a shortage of jobs,” Moore said. “In some ways, that’s a good problem to have.” But political consultant and pollster Frank Luntz took the contrarian view that the jobs report won’t ultimately matter for the political fortunes of Trump and his movement because voters care more about inflation and affordability.

“That’s what the public is watching, that’s what the public cares about,” Luntz said. “Everyone who wants a job has a job, for the most part.” From the perspective of elections, Trump still has roughly a year to demonstrate progress on improving affordability, Luntz said. Voters will generally lock in their opinions about the economy by Labor Day before the midterm elections next year.

In other words, Trump still has time.

“It’s still up for grabs,” he said. “The deciding point will come Labor Day of 2026.”

What's On



Photos during the festival.

Lulu Onam Ivadeyanu 2025: A colorful celebration of tradition and togetherness

The vibrant spirit of Kerala came alive at Lulu Hypermarket, Al Rai Outlet, as the much-awaited Lulu Onam Ivadeyanu 2025 celebrations unfolded in grand style. The event was marked by full fun, entertainment, cultural performances, and festive shopping experiences, bringing together the Indian community and shoppers from across Kuwait.

The celebrations began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Lulu Kuwait's top management, symbolizing prosperity, unity, and joy.

The shoppers were treated to a wide range of exclusive Onam offers, covering everything from Indian vegetables, groceries, and household essentials to home appliances, electronics, and a vibrant collection of ethnic wear for men, women, and kids. A special highlight was the more than 10 varieties of payasam made available at attractive prices, alongside the grand 25-dish Onam Sadhya,

the traditional Kerala feast that delighted visitors.

The festive spirit was further enriched through a series of competitions - Pookalam Contest: More than 15 teams participated with stunning floral arrangements. The first-place winner received a KD 150 gift voucher, the second-place winner walked away with KD 125, and the third-place winner got KD 100, while all participants received consolation prizes. Payasamela Contest: Sweet creativity was rewarded with the winners receiving KD 100, KD 75, and KD 50 gift vouchers. Onam Group Song Competition: With over 15 teams taking part, the melodious performances lit up the atmosphere. Winners received KD 100, KD 75, and KD 50 gift vouchers respectively.

The celebrations featured Chendamelam, Pulikali, and Maveli's grand appearance, captivating the audience and spreading cheer as he roamed

around the store, greeting visitors. Traditional art forms including Thiruvathira, Kai Kottu Kali, and Kerala classical dances brought authentic flavors of Kerala's cultural richness to Kuwait.

Adding grandeur to the occasion, Lulu's top management personally handed over prizes to the winners, while the event sponsors, Eastern (Spices) and RKG (Ghee), lent their support to make the festivities even more special. The Lulu Onam Ivadeyanu 2025 celebration beautifully blended shopping, tradition, and community spirit, creating unforgettable memories for families and friends.

Once again, Lulu Hypermarket proved to be more than just a shopping destination – it became a cultural hub that brought Kerala's most cherished festival to life in Kuwait.

Event on September 12

IMA announces Annual Day & Felicitation Ceremony '25

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Indian Muslim Association (IMA), under the patronage of the Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs (Foreign Relations Department), has announced the Annual Day & Felicitation Ceremony 2025 of the IMA Weekend Islamic School (IMAWIS). The Event will be held on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 4:00 PM at Awqaf Auditorium, Reggaei.

This Grand Occasion will celebrate the remarkable Achievements, Talents, and Dedication of IMAWIS Students, showcasing their Academic and Extra-curricular Excellence. It promises to be an evening of Inspiration, Cultural Enrichment, and Recognition of Young Learners' Efforts.

The Annual Day & Felicitation Ceremony will feature:

- Inspiring speeches and reflections
- Cultural and educational performances
- Recognition of outstanding students
- A spirit of unity, learning, and encouragement

Indian Muslim Association extends a warm invitation to Parents, Well-Wishers, Community Leaders, and Members of the Public to grace the Event and encourage the next generation of Learners.

Date & Time: Friday, 12th September 2025 | 4:00 PM

Venue: Awqaf Auditorium, Reggaei, Kuwait

Refreshments will be served. For further information, please contact: 50908108 | 99547615 For more information, please visit: <https://www.imawis.org/>

IPC Kuwait Church to organize Annual Convention Meetings

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The IPC Kuwait Church has announced its Annual Convention Meetings, to be held on September 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2025, at the NECK Church & Parish Hall, Kuwait City.

"We are honored to welcome Pastor Shibu Thomas (USA) as the guest speaker for these blessed gatherings." Worship will be led by Evangelist Jisson Antony

together with the IPC Kuwait Church Choir.

Dates: September 9–12, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Venue: NECK Church & Parish Hall, Kuwait City

"We warmly invite everyone to join us and be part of this special time of worship, fellowship and spiritual enrichment."

For more information Phone: 97869964 , 97775648

Bashaar Sufiyan Shaikh to represent Kuwait at MOS World Championship

FAIPS students excel at Kuwait's First MOS Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Fahaheel Al-Watanieh Indian Private School (FAIPS-DPS) continues to set benchmarks in digital excellence. The school's students delivered a stellar performance at Kuwait's First National Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Championship, hosted by the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) in May 2025, with IGCSE student Bashaar Sufiyan Shaikh earning the honor of representing Kuwait at the MOS World Championship in the USA.



Photos during the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Championship.

The prestigious national competition saw the participation of 141 students from 40 schools and universities across Kuwait, making it a highly competitive platform for demonstrating digital proficiency.

FAIPS takes immense pride in announcing that Bashaar Sufiyan Shaikh of IGCSE (YEAR 11) emerged as the regional winner of the MOS Excel Examination in Kuwait. For this national achievement, he was awarded a cash prize of KD 500, along with a certificate and a memento.

As a result of this achievement, Bashaar earned the honor of representing Kuwait at the MOS World Championship held in Orlando, USA, in July 2025. His participation on behalf of Kuwait stands as a remarkable accomplishment and

a proud moment for both FAIPS and the nation.

FAIPS also celebrated several other notable achievements at the national championship:

- Mohammad Moeen (Cambridge AS Level) secured 3rd place in the MOS Excel examination, winning a KD 200 cash prize.
- Alvin Roy of CBSE Class 12 achieved 4th place in the MOS PowerPoint category.
- In the MOS Word category, Radhika Srinivasan and Husain Shikari of IGCSE Year 2 secured 5th and 7th positions respectively.

In a collective triumph, all five FAIPS students who participated in the competition ranked in the Top 10 nationally — a testament to the school's commitment to excellence in digital skills and its holistic approach to student development.

Each participant was also awarded a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of their exceptional performance.

FAIPS Principal, Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, congratulated the students on their outstanding achievements and lauded GUST's initiative for encouraging students to develop

essential, globally relevant ICT skills. He described the championship as an inspiring platform that motivates young minds to pursue excellence in digital literacy and innovation.

FAIPS celebrates this proud milestone, honoring its students for their hard work, determination, and ability to shine on both national and international platforms, while also commending the relentless dedication, passion, and guidance of its teachers, whose constant support continues to inspire students to aim higher and achieve excellence.

Grand inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Kuwait Evangelical Parish

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India, Kuwait Parish, which has completed sixty years in Kuwait, commenced with great solemnity.

The year-long programs were inaugurated on Friday, September 5, 2025, with a thanksgiving service held at the KTMCC Hall, NECK, under the leadership of the parish vicar, Rev. Sibi P. J.

Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Abraham, the Presiding Bishop of the Church, graced the occasion as the chief

guest. He officially inaugurated the Jubilee celebrations and offered guidance and blessings to the congregation.

As part of the event, the various Jubilee projects undertaken by the parish were presented by the General Convener, Mr. Kuruvilla Cherian.

The Jubilee theme, "God's Faithfulness Through Generations", along with the logo, was released during the inaugural session.

Parish members who have completed 25 years of association with the parish during their expatriate life

were honored.

The parish also honored the Presiding Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Abraham, for completing 40 years of priestly ministry. In addition, Rexy Cherian, Lins Varghese, and Linu P. Manikunj, who composed and presented the Jubilee logo and theme song, were felicitated.

The first contributions toward the Jubilee Project were handed over to the Presiding Bishop by Mr. George Varughese and Mr. Thomas John.

Rev. Binu Abraham (President, KEFC), Rev. K. C.

George, Mr. Roy K. Yohannan (Secretary, NECK), Mr. Varghese Mathew (President, KTMCC), Mr. Ajos Mathew (Secretary, KTMCC), Mr. Saju Vazhayil Thomas (Member, NECK Common Council), and Mr. George Varughese (Lay Trustee of the Church) conveyed their greetings.

The parish choir, led by Mr. Linu P. Manikunj, presented melodious songs.

Mr. Sijumon Abraham extended the words of welcome, and Mr. Biju Samuel delivered the vote of thanks.



Photos during the event.

Actor sparks Oscar buzz for powerful role in boxing biopic

Sweeney lands a knockout at TIFF with ‘Christy’

TORONTO, Sept 6, (AP): Sydney Sweeney came to the Toronto International Film Festival wanting to talk about her new film “Christy,” not her American Eagle ad campaign. After a rapturous response to the movie, she’s getting her wish.

The 27-year-old, Emmy-nominated actor landed immediate Oscar buzz for her performance in David Michôd’s biopic of the boxer Christy Salters Martin. For the role, Sweeney transforms into the female boxing trailblazer who emerged out of West Virginia as the “Coal Miner’s Daughter” to rise to the top of her then-nascent sport.

Following a rousing reception from the TIFF audience Friday, Sweeney stood beside Martin on the stage of the Princess of Wales Theatre, calling it the experience of her life.

“It was a dream come true, as an actor, as a person,” Sweeney said.

While Martin had a career decorated with belts and a Sports Illustrated cover, her story is defined by struggle. She was raised to deny her gay identity and instead married her trainer, Jim Martin. After years of psychological and physical abuse, he attempted to kill her in 2010, repeatedly stabbing her and shooting her. Jim Martin was sentenced to 25 years in prison. He died last November.

Sweeney’s performance alongside Ben Foster, who plays Jim Martin, was swiftly hailed as her best yet. TIFF has long been a launching pad for Oscar campaigns before, and the thunderous reception for “Christy,” and particularly Sweeney, seemed sure to add her to the awards conversation.



Sydney Sweeney poses for photographs as she walks the red carpet at the premiere of ‘Christy’ at the Toronto International Film Festival, in Toronto on Friday, Sept. 5. (AP)

persona - bombastic, egotistical - didn’t reflect her shyness or her desire to help others. Since her near-death experience, Martin has worked to help domestic violence survivors.

“I have those two parts of my personality. And I think that’s why Sydney Sweeney is doing such an awesome job,” said Martin. “She got to be this totally different person that none of you expected. She wasn’t the beautiful, sexy Sydney. She was the tough, rugged Christy.”

Going into the premiere, Sweeney deflected questions about her recent American Eagle ad campaign with the tagline “Sydney Sweeney has great jeans” - a pun on having “great genes.” Critics accused the ad for glorifying whiteness. The retailer has said the campaign “is and always was about the jeans.”

Ahead of the festival, Sweeney told Vanity Fair she was going to TIFF to support her movie. “I’m not there to talk about jeans,” she said. “The movie’s about Christy and that’s what I’ll be there to talk about.”

“Christy” will be released in theaters Nov. 7 by its co-producer Black Bear in the company’s first foray into distribution. Sweeney also serves as a producer on “Christy,” with Martin a consultant.

Sweeney said she trained three times a day for two to three months to prepare for the boxing scenes. She had a boxing coach, a nutritionist and weight trainers. “And a lot of Chick-fil-A,” she added. “A lot of milkshakes, a lot of protein shakes.”

“But it was incredible being able to completely embody such a powerful woman,” said Sweeney. “I felt even stronger.”

Film

Murray, Reynolds celebrate Canadian actor’s legacy

Candy film opens TIFF on a heartfelt note

TORONTO, Sept 6, (AP): “I wish I had more bad things to say about him,” Bill Murray says in the opening moments of the documentary “John Candy: I Like Me.”

It has always been hard to find a negative word about Candy. The great Canadian comedian and actor not only radiated a warm, down-to-earth friendliness in movies like “Planes, Trains and Automobiles,” “Uncle Buck” and “The Great Outdoors,” he was that way off screen, too. As Mel Brooks says in the film, “He was a total actor because he was a total person.”

“John Candy: I Like Me,” directed by Colin Hanks and produced by Ryan Reynolds, is a tribute not just to Candy the actor, but Candy, the man. On Thursday night, it premieres as the opening night film of the Toronto International Film Festival. For a beloved Canadian icon like Candy, whose nickname was “Johnny Toronto,” the setting could hardly be more fitting. To reference Candy’s cameo in “The Blues Brothers,” it’s an occasion that calls for orange whips, all around.

“I can’t tell you the amount of meetings we had about when the movie can be made, and maybe we can do this festival or that,” Hanks says. “And I just kept thinking in the back of my mind: Well, this is a gigantic waste of time. It should just be at Toronto. Period. The End.”

“John Candy: I Like Me,” which will debut on Prime Video on Oct. 10, is a kind of cinematic eulogy for Candy, who died of heart failure at the age of 43 in 1994. Long ago as that was, “I Like Me” is the first feature documentary to tackle Candy, who might be even more popular three decades after his death.

“Part of me hates the fact that John maybe never really saw how beloved he was,” Reynolds says. “He left something really lasting. He died of a heart failure and ironically the thing he left behind was his heart. That’s the thing that stays.”

Hanks, Reynolds and Candy’s children, Jennifer and Chris Candy, spoke in interviews before the TIFF opening about the making of “John Candy: I Like Me,” the title of which comes from one of Candy’s most memorable lines from “Trains, Planes and Automobiles.” But it also serves as a guiding ethos to the documentary.

Struggles

Candy, who grew up in working-class Ontario and whose father also died young, had his own long-range struggles with that loss. He also, through a people-pleasing smile, dealt with the sometimes insensitive way his size was discussed in the media. Says Reynolds: “He was self-effacing his work, but not self-loathing. He didn’t make a sport of punching down, not even on himself.”

“He left, but he did leave us some tools to get through this,” says Chris Candy, 40, speaking alongside his 45-year-old sister. “That would be through the way he raised us and also saying it’s OK to talk to someone if you have heavy feelings.”

For the Candys, “I Like Me” is an extremely emotional experience but one they’re grateful for. They have each navigated their own way through an upbringing marked by their father’s loss. It was years before Chris could visit his father’s grave site or rewatch his movies. Once he did, he was astonished at his father’s talent.

For Jennifer, her father’s movies helped carry her through grief.

“I jumped in and watched everything. All through college, I made sure I had the whole DVD collection,” she says. “For me that was a constant reminder to hear his voice. We had cassette tapes of his ‘Radio Kandy’ show that I would just listen to all the time in the car during high school.”

Hanks, whose directorial work includes the 2015 documentary “All Things Must Pass: The Rise and Fall of Tower Records,” wanted to find a thread for the film that went beyond tribute. To him, the movie is about drilling down on what gave Candy such an everyman quality. What made him, to millions, like their Uncle Buck. Hanks experienced Candy’s effect firsthand as a child visiting his father, Tom Hanks, on the set of “Splash.”

“I have vivid memories of visiting on set. He was just



Producer Ryan Reynolds and director Colin Hanks drive in a replica prop car from the movie ‘Planes, Trains and Automobiles’ prior to the premiere of ‘John Candy: I Like Me’ at the Toronto International Film Festival, in Toronto on Thursday, Sept. 4. (AP)



Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney delivers remarks at the premiere of ‘John Candy: I Like Me’ at the Toronto International Film Festival, in Toronto on Thursday, September 4. (AP)

one of my parents’ friends, someone they worked with,” says Hanks. “He had a way, even as a kid, of making you feel incredibly important.”

“I had been on the periphery of the most intense fame you can have, as well as a much smaller version myself,” adds Hanks. “It is an adjustment. It is hard to navigate. Not that it’s not amazing and great, but that idea of how much you can actually give of yourself to people.”

Reynolds, born and raised in Vancouver, has been a fan of Candy’s since growing up watching “SCTV” reruns. His fondness for Candy, in many ways, has been an influence throughout his career.

“I feel like in the bigger movies I’m always either Del Griffith or Neil Page, from ‘Planes, Trains,’” says Reynolds. “I tend to really fluctuate back and forth between those guys.”



Chris Candy, (left), and Jennifer Candy-Sullivan, the children of the late John Candy, pose in front of a photograph of The Second City comedy performers including their father, (far left), to promote the documentary film ‘John Candy: I Like Me’ during the Toronto International Film Festival on Thursday, Sept. 4, in Toronto. (AP)

As his own fame grew, alongside with his ability to take some authorship of his films, Reynolds has populated his movies with references to Candy. Easter eggs adorn the “Deadpool” films. In one moment, he utters the “I like me,” albeit in a much different context. Reynolds had the prop department make a mug with the same quote. A Chrysler LeBaron appears in the background of another scene. He even licensed the book “The Canadian Mounted: A Trivia Guide to Planes, Trains” so it could make a cameo in all the “Deadpool” movies.

“I like having him around,” says Reynolds. “I feel safer. I feel better. I also feel maybe just a skosh more honest.”

“John was a good person when nobody was watching, and I think that’s an increasingly scarce resource these days, in an age where everything is not only seen, it’s perfection,” Reynolds adds. “It’s like an epidemic. All we see is perfection and curation. Nobody wants to try anything new because nobody’s willing to suck at anything.”

For Jennifer and Chris, “John Candy: I Like Me,” awash in memories of their father,” is a kind of time capsule that, like their dad’s other movies and radio show recordings, will be long treasured.

“I’m fortunate that I will always have this,” says Chris. “And I love it for that.”

King is an icon way beyond the sport,” Duvernay told The Associated Press before the awards ceremony. “Anytime I have an opportunity to be around her or to be associated with her, it’s an honor.”

Duvernay is a filmmaker who has directed films like “Selma” and “A Wrinkle in Time.” She was the first Black woman to direct a film nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards and to win Best Director at Sundance Film Festival.

Allaster is the first woman to be the US Open’s tournament director, and will be leaving the position at the end of this tournament. She has previously served as the chairman and CEO of the Women’s Tennis Association, where she led a team that helped secure equal prize money at the French Open and Wimbledon.

The prior two recipients of the award are tennis legend Venus Williams and television producer Shonda Rhimes, who joined Duvernay in a panel discussion about their careers and equality at the ceremony.

“When you deny equity, you make your own world smaller,” Williams said. “The world is so big. There’s so many things to experience and to know and to understand. ... It’s an incredible world, if you allow it to be.” (AP)

‘Golden Lion’ honor

Kim Novak returns to the spotlight at Venice

VENICE, Italy, Sept 6, (AP): Kim Novak was worried she’d made a mistake. The 92-year-old star of Alfred Hitchcock’s “Vertigo” had made the long trek from Oregon to Venice, Italy, for the film festival. There she’d be receiving a lifetime achievement award and supporting the world premiere of a documentary about her life and career, “Kim Novak’s Vertigo.”

But on that first day, she wasn’t feeling strong or up to the task.

“I thought I could handle it, then I thought, no I can’t, I’m not physically strong enough,” Novak told The Associated Press this week. “Then I heard my mother’s voice from heaven and she said ‘just have fun and enjoy it.’”

Novak listened to that voice and was glad she did. Being bipolar, she said, she’s used to going through a lot of emotions. But the experience in Venice has been a dream.

“It’s one of the very first events that I’ve really had fun, really fun,” she said.

Earlier in the week, she was presented with a Golden Lion lifetime achievement award. Filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, who presented the honor, listed off many of her most famous credits, including “Vertigo,” Otto Preminger’s “The Man with the Golden Arm,” Joshua Logan’s “Picnic,” “Pal Joey” and “Bell, Book and Candle.” Novak was the top box-office star in the world from 1958 through 1960 and became the first woman to start her own production company before leaving Hollywood behind in 1966 to live a private life devoted to painting.

“Most impressive is the fact that she was capable of projecting frailty, power, mystery. To appear, endearing, dynamic, mythical and phenomenal,” del Toro said. “And with all those wonderful arresting performances, she always carried a little bit of warmth, a little bit of heartbreak and a little bit of mystery.”

Novak reflects on her extraordinary life in Alexandre O. Philippe’s documentary, which premiered out of competition in Venice. She said it was fate that Philippe came into her life and wanted to make the film.

“I was at the point where I wanted to talk about my life, because I’m at the end of my life,” Novak said. “It was meant to be. And I can’t think of anyone it was better to do it with.”

“I didn’t even know my phone had voice memos,” she laughed. “It’s not always easy for me to open up and discuss the intimate things, but it was wonderful because it was like I was talking to myself. Once you open the door, it all comes flooding out.”

Coming to the festival was brave of Novak, Philippe said. Just over a decade ago, Novak stepped back in the public eye to present at the 2014 Oscars, which led many online, including Donald Trump, to insult her appearance.

Experience

“The easy thing would have been to stay in Oregon and keep painting,” he said. “At this point in her life the hard thing is to come back into the spotlight and show herself again. But she did the hard thing. And she came on stage, not as an icon, not as a movie star, but she came on stage and said ‘I am you and you are me.’”

It’s Novak not as a golden age icon, but as a person that Philippe hopes audiences see and connect with in the film, which does not currently have a release date. For Novak, it’s been an illuminating experience, revisiting her extraordinary life.

“It’s time at the end of your life to put the puzzle pieces together and make them fit,” Novak said. “It’s an incredible experience to see them all falling in place and somehow coming to this festival is like putting some of the other pieces that you couldn’t put together that now come together and make a whole beautiful, beautiful, picture.”

Even the “Vertigo” suit she once hated so much as taken on a different light. In the film, she gets to see the costume for the first time since making the film. The fabric that she remembered having been so rough and hard had softened with time, which seemed like an apt metaphor.

“The opportunity to see it when you have all this life behind you, it makes you think that what you thought was right when you were young is not necessarily so. It could be wrong, and vice versa,” she said. “But all this you gain over time. And so becoming old is a beautiful thing, you know? And this festival, being able to experience it through Hollywood eyes, it’s just incredible. I loved it, I love it. I’m experiencing great joy.”

The Venice tribute, she added, was like “icing on the cake,” she said. “I like cake, but icing is the best.” “What is sweeter in the world than appreciation,” she said. “I feel appreciated and you can’t know how much that means.”

She’s also looking forward to getting home and painting again. Every night at the festival she’s found herself sketching and dreaming up ideas for more works.

Variety

SAO PAULO: Taylor Swift is very likely not aware of it, but she’s considered a good luck charm for the Brazilian soccer team that hosted Friday’s game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Los Angeles Chargers.

The unlikely connection between the pop superstar - whose fiancé is Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce - and one of the most popular clubs in soccer-mad Brazil lies in the release date of her albums dating to 2006. Corinthians has gone unbeaten in all but one game played right before each album release since then and all but one right after.

It all started as a joke about five years ago, but it has developed into a superstition for local fans.

Until last year, Corinthians won 13 matches and drew seven in such instances. Some were against bitter rival Palmeiras and Brazilian social media was flooded with memes and montages of Swift wearing black and white - Corinthians’ colors.

Many Corinthians fans could have tossed their expectations after their team lost both the match prior to the release of “The

Tortured Poets Department” and the one following. But the NFL game in Sao Paulo has kept the Swiftie vibe alive among many local supporters, even though she was nowhere to be seen in Brazil on Friday night.

“I laughed at first, but there’s more coincidences. Taylor’s first contract was signed on Sept. 1, that’s the same day Corinthians was founded in 1910,” said Rebecca Gois, 32, a marketing writer who lives near the stadium and is a Swift fan. “It has become a thing. Whenever there’s a new album, we have a double joy; new Taylor songs and Corinthians unbeaten before and after that.” (AP)

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LONDON: The Chinese historical film Dead to Rights, which depicts the Nanjing Massacre during the Second World War, was officially screened in Britain on Friday.

The film is based on documented events and follows a group of Chinese civilians who took refuge in a photography



Swift

Roy’s latest book celebrates shared cultural legacy of India and Kuwait

‘Sadaaqa’ weaves oral histories of India-Kuwait friendship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Har-Anand Publications (New Delhi, India) announced the release of Sadaaqa: Partnership & Cultural Kinship, by cultural journalist and broadcaster Chaitali Banerjee Roy. Drawing upon the first two seasons of her popular audiovisual series “Sadaaqa”, the book chronicles the enduring cultural, social, and economic bonds between India and Kuwait through personal narratives that span generations.

■ Sadaaqa: Partnership & Cultural Kinship documents the deep-rooted relationship between the two nations, a connection that stretches back centuries through trade, migration, and people-to-people ties. It explores how these bonds are reflected in everyday life through music, cuisine, textiles, language, and architecture and celebrates the resilience and enterprise of the Indian community in Kuwait.

The book presents inspiring accounts of pioneering Indian families,



Chaitali Banerjee Roy, cultural journalist and author of ‘Sadaaqa: Partnership & Cultural Kinship’

such as the Jashanmals, Oberois, Lambas, Kohlis, Bhasins, Wadhawans, and Mathews, and others who built businesses from the ground up and became integral contributors to Kuwait’s economic development. Alongside these stories of Indian entrepreneurs, it also honours distinguished Kuwaitis whose lives are closely intertwined with India. These include Dr. Lubna Al Qadi,



Book cover of ‘Sadaaqa: Partnership & Cultural Kinship.’

the Al Arfaj family of Kuwait, Sheikhha Souad Al Sabah, Padma Shri Sheikhha Shaikha Al Sabah, Sheikhha Halah Al Sabah, Mr Ahmed Al Sarraf, the Shuhaibers, Mubarak Al Rashed and others.

Their recollections underscore the unique and affectionate kinship that unites the two countries.

The foreword, written by Sheikhha Altaf Salem Al Ali Al Sabah, noted anthropologist and a custodian of Kuwait’s heritage craft, adds a profound contextual layer to the narratives.

Authored by Chaitali B Roy, veteran cultural journalist and broadcaster who has lived and worked in Kuwait for over two decades, Sadaaqa continues her exploration of the region’s cultural stories following her first book, “Women of Kuwait: Turning Tides” (2016). While “Turning Tides” challenged stereotypes about Arab women, “Sadaaqa” seeks to dispel simplistic narratives about Indians in Kuwait and highlights the shared cultural space that both peoples inhabit.

What sets Sadaaqa apart from any previous work is that it weaves together personal stories and family histories, spotlighting both individual

and communal experiences. Its contemporary perspective brings today’s lived experiences of cultural kinship to the forefront, an approach less common in existing academic or historical accounts. Unlike earlier studies that primarily cater to scholars, Sadaaqa is written for a wider audience of general readers and those with personal ties to India and Kuwait, making it both accessible and engaging. Importantly, the book also contributes to the oral history of Indo-Kuwaiti relations and helps strengthen the region’s cultural archive for future generations.

Published by Har-Anand Publications, Sadaaqa: Partnership & Cultural Kinship will be officially launched in Kuwait and India.

For more information on the book, please contact the author at chaitali-broy@hotmail.com or call 00965-97118134, or contact Har-Anand Publications (<http://www.haranandbooks.com>). Email: haranand@rediffmail.com.

Heritage



A hall in front of the main gate displays historic belongings and armory.



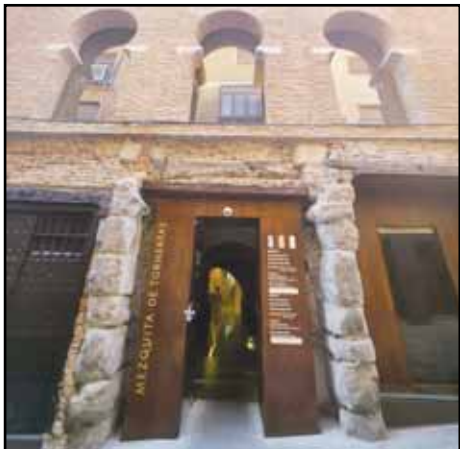
Arches divide the interior space into 9 sections.



The prayer niche in the Tornerias mosque.



Traces of a fire that blazed through the mosque in 1467.



Main gate of the mosque of Tornerias.

Whispers of Andalusia: Tornerias Mosque revives history in Toledo

The Mosque of Tornerias, located in Toledo, stands as the city’s oldest mosque and the last where the call to prayer was heard until the early 16th century, a living witness to the Andalusian civilization.

Constructed between the ninth and tenth centuries on Roman foundations, the mosque takes its name from the street where it stands,

Calle de Tornerias.

It’s also known for its unique design, where two levels are built on uneven ground, with the lower floor once used for commerce and the upper dedicated to worship.

Over time, the mosque’s sacred role gave way to varied civilian uses; it became a warehouse, a hat factory, a restaurant, a hotel, and

eventually housing, before being rediscovered in the late 19th century.

After years of closure and restoration, the mosque reopened earlier this year. Today, it stands not only as a historic landmark but also as the headquarters of Castile-La Mancha’s handicrafts council and a tourism office, a blend of heritage and modernity. (KUNA)

‘Rain is almost like a firework event’

Rare rains stir wonder and worry in the UAE

MASAFI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 6, (AP): Outside of a mountain village in the northern outskirts of the United Arab Emirates, clouds on a recent weekend suddenly crowded out the white-hot sun that bakes this desert nation in the summer months. Fierce winds blew over planters and pushed a dumpster down the street. And then came the most infrequent visitor of all: rain.

Rainfall long has fascinated the people of the Emirates. That includes both its white-thobed locals crowding into the deserts for any downpour and its vast population of foreign workers, many coming from homes in the Indian subcontinent who grew up with monsoon deluges.

But rain also carries with it promise and peril to the nation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula.

With some 4 million people now estimated to be living in Dubai alone compared to around 255,000 in 1980, pressure on water consumption continues. Meanwhile, as weather patterns change with global warming, the country saw the heaviest recorded rainfall ever last year that disrupted worldwide travel and now has its leaders reconsidering how to build as residents nervously look to the skies.

“Out here, rain is almost like a firework event,” said Howard Townsend, an unofficial weather forecaster in Dubai with a Facebook following. “It’s too hot to go outside. When you get a rain event, it’s like a blessing, a release.”

The UAE, home to an estimated 10 million people in total, sits along both the Arabian Gulf to its north and west and the Gulf of Oman to the east. The stone Hajar Mountains separate it from neighboring Oman. Along the southern borders of the peninsula, monsoon rains can hit seaside areas of Oman and Yemen. But the vast desert stretch of the peninsula, known as



People stand in the rain as they chase rain showers in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025. (AP)

the Empty Quarter, has a weather pattern that keeps the clouds out.

That means little to no rain, sometimes for years at a time in some areas. For the Emirates, that has meant relying heavily on some 70 water desalination plants to supply drinking water, as well as drip irrigation for plants that can rely on recycled wastewater. Dams have also been built in recent years to catch and store water runoff.

Even then, the UAE ranks seventh worldwide for being at risk for water scarcity, according to the World Resources Institute. Groundwater reservoirs have been known to be under pressure for years. The UAE also has been “cloud seeding” for years, flying aircraft to release chemicals into clouds to try to induce rains.

“Water is more important than oil,” Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the leader of the

UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi, reportedly said back in 2011.

That’s particularly true in Dubai, where its booming population strains its roadways. The government-owned utility, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, reported producing 683.7 billion liters (180.6 billion gallons) of water last year alone through desalination, with water demand continuing to grow alongside the city-state.

Yet Emirati government statistics suggest residents use around 550 liters (145 gallons) of water per day, which is among some of the highest usage around the world.

But for all the fascination with rain, there’s fear now as well for many after the April 2024 floods that swept across Dubai. In one day, more rain fell than ever recorded since 1949, when the officials in what became the UAE first began taking statistics.

More than 142 millimeters (5.59 inches) of rainfall had soaked Dubai over 24 hours. An average year sees 94.7 millimeters (3.73 inches) of rain at Dubai International Airport, the world’s busiest for international travel.

And while that might not seem like much to a major city elsewhere, Dubai’s deserts could only take so much water. Meanwhile, its urban core had nowhere for the water to go.

An analysis later conducted by scientists associated with World Weather Attribution, which studies weather and its relationship to climate change, found 85% of the population and 90% of the city-state’s infrastructure was “vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather events.”

“It’s not a question of has the rain increased; it’s where has the rain to go?” Townsend said, something he called an increasingly pressing concern as Dubai builds further out into its desert outskirts.

Variety

LONDON: The Duchess of Kent, who famously broke royal protocol to hug a Wimbledon runner-up and stepped away from family duties to teach music in a public school, has died, Buckingham Palace announced Friday. She was 92.

Born Katharine Lucy Mary Worsley, the duchess was married to Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, the cousin of the late Queen Elizabeth II. She died Thursday at her home in Kensington Palace.

The royal presented trophies at Wimbledon for many years and was known for consoling runners-up, most notably when she embraced a tearful Jana Novotna after the Czech tennis player’s defeat by Steffi Graf in 1993. (AP)

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MONTREAL: Ken Dryden, the Hall of Fame goaltender who helped the Montreal Canadiens win six Stanley Cup titles in the 1970s, has died after a fight with cancer. He was 78.

The Canadiens announced his death early Saturday, saying Dryden’s family asked for privacy. A team spokesperson said a close friend of Dryden’s appointed by the

family contacted the organization, adding he died peacefully Friday at his home.

“Ken Dryden was an exceptional athlete, but he was also an exceptional man,” Canadiens owner Geoff Molson said. “Behind the mask he was larger than life. We mourn today not only the loss of the cornerstone of one of hockey’s greatest dynasties but also a family man, a thoughtful citizen and a gentleman who deeply impacted our lives and communities across generations.” (AP)

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DALLAS: Ruth Paine, whose kindness to Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife as a young mother near Dallas would leave her inexorably linked to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, has died. She was 92.

Paine died on Sunday in a senior living facility in Santa Rosa, California, her daughter Tamarin Laurel-Paine said Thursday.

Oswald’s wife and children had been staying at Paine’s home in the Dallas of suburb of Irving in the fall of 1963. Oswald stayed at the house the night before the assassination, and before setting off to his job at the Texas School Book Depository, retrieved his rifle that he had stowed in the garage - unbeknownst to Paine. (AP)

Ordinary mourners, VIPs pay tribute to fashion icon Armani

MILAN, Sept 6, (AP): Hundreds of ordinary admirers and VIPs paid their last respects Saturday to Giorgio Armani, remembered by Milan’s mayor as a “man of extraordinary elegance” who left an indelible mark on the city and the global fashion world.

Armani died Thursday at 91 at his home in central Milan surrounded by loved ones. His fashion house said he worked up to the end. One of his final projects was a runway show marking 50 years of his signature Giorgio Armani brand, which is due to close Milan Fashion Week later this month.

Mourners filed into the Armani Theater, where Armani regularly showed his ready-to-wear runway collections. Rows of candles in paper bags cast a shimmering light and piano music by Italian composer Ludovico Einaudi played softly in the background.

The closed coffin was adorned with a bouquet of long-stem white roses, and flanked by carabinieri honor guards in ceremonial dress.

Among them was including Donatella Versace, who wore a dark skirt suit and carried a bouquet of white flowers, which she left in tribute. She left without making any remarks.

A sculpture featuring a crucifix on a raw block of marble stood nearby, brought from Armani’s bedside.

Armani, who was deeply private, was not known to be a practicing Catholic, but a priest who emerged from his central Milan home after his death told reporters that he attended Mass daily.

Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala was among the first to arrive, offering condolences to Leo Dell’Orco, Armani’s longtime collaborator and the head of menswear, who stood near the coffin.

“A man of extraordinary elegance,” Sala told reporters outside. “Milan is full of signs of Armani. It will be impossible to forget him.”

Sala remembered a phone call from Armani in early August, when news of a corruption scandal in the city broke.

“He said, ‘I understand this is a difficult moment. There is always something positive in difficult moments. True friends show themselves. I am your true friend.’ This I will always remember,” Sala said.

Annamaria Longo Dormi traveled more than two hours from Lago Maggiore, north of Milan, to pay her last respects wearing an Armani midnight blue jacket for the occasion.

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People pay their respects to fashion designer Giorgio Armani, lying in state at the Armani/Teatro in Milan, northern Italy, Saturday, Sept. 6. (AP)

Improve rights for patients: UN envoy

Kuwait champions rare disease care at UN

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (KUNA): Kuwait is working to draft a convention that would enshrine in international law the principles of dignity, protection, and equal access to diagnosis, care, and treatment for people with rare diseases, said the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai.

This came in a speech delivered by Ambassador Al-Bannai late Friday during the celebration of the second anniversary of World Awareness Day for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at the UN headquarters.

Al-Bannai stated that the agreement will enhance research cooperation, data exchange, and health system capacity in each region regarding this rare disease.

It will also ensure that the lived experiences, especially those of families affected by the disease, are the basis for policy design and implementation, he added.

This process is "comprehensive and long-term" to build regional consensus, engage health organizations as partners, and secure the broad political support necessary for its adoption and implementation, Al-Bannai added.

He also called on all delegations to join Kuwait in this endeavour through constructive engagement and ongoing dialogue.

The State of Kuwait submitted this resolution, which was



KUNA photo
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai.

adopted unanimously after receiving the support of 128 member states, the highest number of sponsors for a draft resolution during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Ladapo defies medical norms Florida's top doctor rejects long-standing vaccine rules

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Sept 6, (AP): Dr. Joseph Ladapo, whose credentials include two Harvard University degrees, says that requiring vaccinations for diseases like measles, polio and chickenpox amounts to government-imposed "slavery." It's far from the first time Florida's surgeon general has cut against the medical establishment grain.

Ladapo, an appointee of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, made worldwide headlines this week by announcing Florida would seek to eliminate all mandated vaccinations for schoolchildren and others. He cast the immunization requirements, which date back decades and are considered a major global medical achievement that has saved millions of lives, as improper government intrusion in personal health decisions.

"Every last one is wrong and drips with disdain and slavery," Ladapo said at a news conference with DeSantis this week. "Who am I, or anyone else, to tell you what you should put in your body? Who am I to tell you what your child should put in their body? I don't have that right."

So far, a concrete action plan for eliminating immunization mandates in Florida has not emerged, despite multiple requests by The Associated Press. Ladapo acknowledged some proposed changes would require the state Legislature to act. Educators and many health professionals are agnostic.

"Removing policies that keep our children healthy creates unnecessary confusion and fear," said Dr. Rana Alissa, president of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Schools are tight-knit networks of children, educators, and families, making it easy for contagious diseases to spread."

Ladapo, 46, emigrated from Nigeria to the U.S. at age five with his parents. He earned a degree in chemistry from Wake Forest University and then attended Harvard, where he got his medical degree and also a doctorate in health policy.



Florida Department of Health Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo speaks during a Patient Freedom news conference on March 5, 2025, in Tampa, Fla. (AP)

greater chance of autoimmune disease and cardiovascular problems.

Almost every major medical or public health organization disputed those assertions, including the Food and Drug Administration: "The challenge we continue to face is the ongoing proliferation of misinformation and disinformation about these vaccines which results in vaccine hesitancy that lowers vaccine uptake," said the FDA statement, adding that the agency "respectfully disagrees with the Florida Surgeon General's opinion."

Guidance

In his public comments, Ladapo makes clear he does not follow the guidance of government health experts who, in his view, don't look at the full picture of how to tackle disease and improve public health. His agency did not respond to an Associated Press request for an interview.

"It's just this sea of insanity," he said this week. "People are going to have to choose a side. People have a right to make their own decisions, informed decisions."

Ladapo's focus on what he and DeSantis call "medical freedom" also fuels his skepticism about other long-established health policies, such as the FDA's warning against consuming unpasteurized milk that can contain salmonella and other deadly bacteria, or the addition of fluoride in drinking water to promote healthy teeth.

"At what point are you free to make your own decisions?" DeSantis said this week. "We've done a lot over the years to really be on the right side of fighting against the hysteria."

Ladapo has many critics in the public health realm and, increasingly, among politicians seeking to tie his unorthodox policies to DeSantis and other Republicans. U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Democrat from South Florida, wants Ladapo ousted.

"Are we losing our minds? This is getting ridiculous and pathetic. Are we trying to kill millions of innocent children? Childhood vaccines save lives," Wilson posted on social media this week. "Governor DeSantis must either remove Joseph Ladapo as Surgeon General or have him resign."

Ebola alert

Africa mpox not a threat

GENEVA, Sept 6, (Agencies): The World Health Organization no longer considers the mpox outbreak in Africa to be an international health emergency, the UN agency's director said Friday.

The new form of mpox emerged in early 2024 in Congo and neighboring African countries, spread through close contact including sex. WHO declared it a global health emergency in August of last year.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters Friday that an emergency panel created after the outbreak has advised that the situation is no longer an international emergency, and "I have accepted that advice."

The international emergency declaration, the agency's highest level of warning about threatening health issues, triggers the release of resources and enhanced public awareness campaigns, among other measures.

"Of course, lifting the emergency declaration does not mean the threat is over, nor that our response will stop," the WHO chief said.

Mpox - formerly known as monkeypox - is a rare disease caused by infection with a virus that's in the same family as the one that causes smallpox.

Ebola: Uganda said on Friday that it is on high alert following an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which has so far claimed 15 lives.

Henry Kyobe Bosa, incident commander at the Ministry of Health, told Xinhua by telephone that authorities are closely monitoring the situation and will conduct a risk assessment before developing measures to prevent possible importation of the virus.

Health officials in the DRC's capital of Kinshasa on Thursday declared an outbreak of the Zaire strain of the Ebola virus in Bulape health zone, where 28 suspected cases, including 15 deaths, have been reported. Four health workers were among the victims.

"The free movement between the two countries, back and forth, remains, which poses a challenge of importation," Kyobe said. "As soon as the risk assessment is done, we shall put in place interventions."

The World Health Organization has warned that infections could rise further in the new outbreak in the DRC's south-central province of Kasai, the country's 16th Ebola outbreak since 1976.

Telescope spots comet's growing tail

NASA Webb captures dazzling newborn stars

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 6, (AP): Thousands of newborn stars sparkle and dazzle in the latest snapshot by NASA's Webb Space Telescope.

Released this week, the picture provides a breathtaking view of a nearby star-birthing center, 5,500 light-years away. A single light-year is 5.8 trillion miles.

Besides baby stars in a variety of sizes and colors, the photo reveals a dramatic cloud of star-forming dust and gas. This cloud - the so-called Lobster Nebula - is so massive that it spills beyond the camera lens. The cluster of infant stars, named Pismis 24, is located deep inside.

Launched in 2021, Webb is the largest and most powerful telescope ever sent into space. It views the universe in the infrared, spending more than five hours to capture this one shot.

Telescope observations reveal a growing tail on the comet that's vis-



This image provided by NASA on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, shows a scene of star birth in Pismis 24, a young star cluster about 5,500 light-years from Earth in the constellation Scorpius taken by NASA's Webb Space Telescope. (AP)

Pharmacy policies back AI use

Kuwait joins Copenhagen Declaration to combat 'antimicrobial resistance'

LONDON, Sept 6, (KUNA): Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association (KUPFA) signed the Copenhagen Declaration on the global threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which recommends international cooperation and financial support to combat AMR.

The signing took place on the sidelines of the 83rd International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which came to a close in Copenhagen." KUPFA Board member Dr. Bader Al-Khurainj told KUNA on Friday.

The FIP World Congress 2025, themed "Pharmacy Forward: Performance, Collaboration, and Health Transformation," aimed to explore the evolving role of the pharmacy profession in the context of modern healthcare challenges.

"It focused on the role of the pharmaceutical profession in addressing the global threat posed by the AMR to human, animal, and plant health, Dr. Al-Khurainj pointed out.

"The World Congress voted on professional policies and elected Dr. Nadia Al-Mazrouie, of the UAE, as vice president of the FIP Supreme Council, with significant support from Arab and Gulf associations," he went on.



KUNA photo
Dr. Bader Al-Khurainj, pharmacist Ali Abdullah, pharmacist Faisal Al-Enezi, and pharmacist Wala Marafi.

The newly-endorsed policies include, inter alia, utilizing AI in the practice of pharmacy and maximizing benefit from the role of pharmacy in the combat of non-communicable diseases and promotion of public health.

KUPFA delegation to the World

Congress, made up of the Association's treasurer Wala Marafi and leading pharmacists, visited a number of social pharmacies - a network of "pharmacy societies" or research groups in Copenhagen, with a view to learning about the Danish pharmacy practice, Dr. Al-Khereinj added.

2,500 children severely malnourished: UN

Starving kids arrive daily at Gaza hospital as Israel denies hunger

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Sept 6, (AP): The dead body of 2-1/2-year-old Ro'a Mashi lay on the table in Gaza's Nasser Hospital, her arms and rib cage skeletal, her eyes sunken in her skull. Doctors say she had no preexisting conditions and wasted away over months as her family struggled to find food and treatment.

Her family showed The Associated Press a photo of Ro'a's body at the hospital, and it was confirmed by the doctor who received her remains. Several days after she died, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday told local media, "There is no hunger. There was no hunger. There was a shortage, and there was certainly no policy of starvation."

In the face of international outcry, Netanyahu has pushed back, saying reports of starvation are "lies" promoted by Hamas.

However, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric this week warned that starvation and malnutrition in Gaza are at the highest levels since the war began.

The UN says nearly 12,000 children under 5 were found to have acute malnutrition in July - including more than 2,500 with severe malnutrition, the most dangerous level. The World Health Organization says the numbers are likely an undercount.

Syndrome

The past two weeks, Israel has allowed around triple the amount of food into Gaza than had been entering since late May. That followed 2 1/2 months when Israel barred all food, medicine and other supplies, saying it was to pressure Hamas to release hostages taken during its 2023 attack that launched the war. The new influx has brought more food within reach for some of the population and lowered some prices in marketplaces, though it remains far more expensive than prewar levels and unaffordable for many.

While better food access might help much of Gaza's population, "it won't help the children who are severely malnourished," said Alex DeWaal, executive director of the World Peace Foundation at Tufts University, who has worked on famine and humanitarian issues for more than 40 years.

When a person is severely malnourished, vital micronutrients are depleted and bodily functions deteriorate. Simply feeding the person



Islam Qudeih shows her severely malnourished daughter, Shamm, who is three weeks shy of her second birthday, to journalists at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Aug. 9, 2025. Doctors said Shamm may have a genetic disorder that affects muscle and bone development, but there is no way to test for it in Gaza. (AP)

can cause harm, known as "refeeding syndrome," potentially leading to seizures, coma or death. Instead, micronutrients must first be replenished with supplements and therapeutic milk in a hospital.

"We're talking about thousands of kids who need to be in hospital if they're going to have a chance of survival," DeWaal said. "If this approach of increasing the food supply had been undertaken two months ago, probably many of those kids would not have gotten into this situation."

Any improvement is also threatened by a planned new Israeli offensive that Netanyahu says will capture Gaza City and the tent camps where most of the territory's population is located. That will prompt a huge new wave of displacement and disrupt food delivery, UN and aid officials warn.

The Gaza Health Ministry says 42 children died of malnutrition-related causes since July 1, along with 129 adults. It says 106 children have died of malnutrition during the entire war. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, is staffed by medical professionals and its figures on casualties are seen by the UN and other experts as the most reliable.

Also:
NAPLES, Italy: Since arriving emaciated in Italy from Gaza, little Shamm

Qudeih has celebrated her second birthday and gained weight on a new diet that includes a special porridge - progress welcomed by doctors treating her for severe malnutrition worsened by a genetic metabolic disease.

Just weeks ago, the toddler was all skin and bones as she clung to her mother in a hospital in southern Gaza, after months of being unable to get the food and treatment she needed because of an Israeli blockade aimed at pressuring the Hamas militant group to release hostages. Then she was evacuated to Italy for medical treatment, along with six other Palestinian children.

A striking photo of Shamm wincing in her mother's arms, with her hair matted and ribs protruding from her chest, was taken by Associated Press freelance journalist **Mariam Dagga** just days before the child left Gaza on Aug. 13. It was one of Dagga's last images. She was among 22 people killed in an Aug. 25 Israeli strike on the same hospital in southern Gaza.

More than half a million people in Gaza, a quarter of the population, are experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger because of the blockade and ongoing military operations, the world's leading authority on hunger crises said last month. **Gaza City**, in the north, is experiencing famine, it said.

New hope for a thirsty world

Scientists tap 'secret' fresh water

ABOARD LIFTBOAT ROBERT, North Atlantic, Sept 6, (AP): Deep in Earth's past, an icy landscape became a seascape as the ice melted and the oceans rose off what is now the northeastern United States. Nearly 50 years ago, a US government ship searching for minerals and hydrocarbons in the area drilled into the seafloor to see what it could find.

It found, of all things, drops to drink under the briny deeps - fresh water.

This summer, a first-of-its-kind global research expedition followed up on that surprise. Drilling for fresh water under the salt water off Cape Cod, Expedition 501 extracted thousands of samples from what is now thought to be a massive, hidden aquifer stretching from New Jersey as far north as Maine.

It's just one of many depositories of "secret fresh water" known to exist in shallow salt waters around the world that might some day be tapped to slake the planet's intensifying thirst, said Brandon Dugan, the expedition's co-chief scientist.

"We need to look for every possibility we have to find more water for society," Dugan, a geophysicist and hydrologist at the Colorado School of Mines, told Associated Press journalists who recently spent 12 hours on the drilling platform. The research teams looked in "one of the last places you would probably look for fresh water on Earth."

They found it, and will be analyzing



Expedition 501 researcher Alizé Longueau collects water samples from cores aboard the Liftboat Robert platform, in the North Atlantic, in the early morning hours, Sunday, July 20, 2025. (AP)

ing nearly 50,000 liters (13,209 gallons) of it back in their labs around the world in the coming months. They're out to solve the mystery of its origins - whether the water is from glaciers, connected groundwater systems on land or some combination.

The potential is enormous. So are the hurdles of getting the water out and puzzling over who owns it, who uses it and how to extract it without undue harm to nature. It's bound to take years to bring that water ashore for public use in a big way, if it's even feasible.

Why try? In just five years, the UN says, the global demand for fresh water will exceed supplies by 40%. Rising sea levels from the warming climate

are souring coastal freshwater sources while data centers that power AI and cloud computing are consuming water at an insatiable rate.

The fabled Ancient Mariner's lament, "Water, water, every where, nor any drop to drink," looms as a warning to landlubbers as well as to sailors on salty seas.

In Virginia alone, a quarter of all power produced in the state goes to data centers, a share expected to nearly double in five years. By some estimates, each mid-size data center consumes as much water as 1,000 households. Each of the Great Lakes states has experienced groundwater shortages.

Cape Town, South Africa, came perilously close to running out of fresh water for its nearly 5 million people in 2018 during an epic, three-year drought. South Africa is thought to have a coastal undersea freshwater bonanza, too, and there is at least anecdotal evidence that every continent may have the same.

Canada's Prince Edward Island, Hawaii and Jakarta, Indonesia, are among places where stressed freshwater supplies coexist with prospective aquifers under the ocean.

Enter Expedition 501, a \$25 million scientific collaboration of more than a dozen countries backed by the US government's National Science Foundation and the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling.

New Zealand edges SAfrica to extend Eden Park streak



Cheslin Kolbe of South Africa kicks the ball as Billy Proctor of New Zealand dives to block during their rugby international at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

Australia scores late try to beat Argentina in Rugby Championship

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Sept 6, (AP): New Zealand stretched its unbeaten record at Eden Park to 51 matches with a 24-17 win over world champion South Africa on Saturday in a match played in passing rain and under a hail of Springboks' kicks.

South Africa kicked incessantly in the first half, from scrumhalf, flyhalf and center but without positive effect in a test billed as the biggest of the year.

The All Blacks attacked with ball in hand and clinically, scoring tries inside 17 minutes to winger Emoni Narawa and fullback Will Jordan, building a lead that the Springboks couldn't break down.

In contrast with the ball in hand, South Africa was often ineffective. The foundations of their attacking play were static and the All Blacks' defense was excellent in unpicking their strength at breakdowns and mauls.

The Springboks still were strong at set pieces from which they scored two tries in the second.

Hooker Malcolm Marx scored in the 62nd minute after a clean tighthead to a superior Springboks scrum. But the All Blacks scored their third try to center Quinn Tupaea when South Africa was a man short, with Kwagga Smith in the sin-bin.

Finally, Cobus Reinach scored from a five meter scrum and when the Springboks still were down to 14 men, cutting the All Blacks margin with six minutes remaining.



Joseph-Aukuso Suaalii of the Wallabies scores a try during the rugby international between Australia and Argentina in Townsville, Australia. (AP)

The All Blacks have been brittle in these tight finishes in the recent past but on Saturday they were steely. The Springboks had a late attacking chance from a line out with two minutes to play but Ardie Savea, in his 100th test, won a turnover.

One last possession for the Springboks and the All Blacks again won a turnover and ended the match.

The Wallabies trusted their instincts to keep pushing for a late try instead of a potential equaling penalty goal late in their Rugby Championship match Saturday against Argentina.

The gamble was worth it.

Prop Angus Bell scored the clinching try in the sixth minute of added time Saturday to give Australia a comeback 28-24 win.

The Wallabies were awarded three kickable penalties after the 80th min-

ute, but kept pushing in search of the match-winning try which was finally delivered by an unlikely hero in reserve prop Bell.

"It's just relieving," Bell said. "It's just awesome we could get the win in the end; not go for the (penalty goal), and back our system."

Australia captain Harry Wilson said his team could have "gone for the goal and taken the draw."

"But everyone believed we could finish the job. To find a way to get the win against such high-quality opposition is a real credit to them."

Center Joseph-Aukuso Sua'alii scored two second-half tries to help the Wallabies overcome a 21-7 deficit at halftime.

The last time the teams met in the Rugby Championship last year, the Wallabies endured a record 67-27 loss

in Santa Fe, Argentina.

On Saturday, Mateo Carreras kicked two early penalty goals for the visitors to put them ahead 6-0 after 12 minutes in Townsville in tropical north Queensland, where the game-time temperature was 27 Celsius (81 Fahrenheit). Officials stopped play midway through both halves for a drinks break for the players.

Halfback Nic White put the Wallabies ahead from close range to help give the Wallabies a 7-6 lead before the Pumas scored two quick tries.

Winger Bautista Delguy was the beneficiary of some slick handling from his backs and the visitors lead 11-7 after 30 minutes. Winger Carreras added a try and a penalty goal and Argentina, which has never won the Rugby Championship, led by 14 points at halftime.

The Wallabies picked up the first points of the second half when Sua'alii scored his second test try from an offload from Len Ikitau to pull the home side to within seven points at 21-14.

Carreras was sent off by referee Paul Williams in the 62nd minute after Argentina gave away five consecutive penalties, and Australia immediately took advantage of the 14-man Pumas.

Sua'alii skipped clear of Santiago Carreras and moved between two more would-be tacklers to score his second try of the afternoon and the score was level at 21-21 after 63 minutes before the teams traded penalty goals and Bell's late try.

Both teams were 1-1 going into Saturday's match. The Wallabies beat South Africa in Johannesburg 38-22 and lost 30-22 in Cape Town a week later. The All Blacks beat Argentina 41-24 at Cordoba before the Pumas defeated New Zealand 29-23 for their first home win over the All Blacks.

Howard and Dream tie WNBA 3-point records

Fever tightens grip on playoff spot

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 6, (AP): Kelsey Mitchell scored 20 points, Natasha Howard added 18 and the Indiana Fever moved closer to securing a playoff berth with a 97-77 win over the Chicago Sky in a matchup that was missing both teams' marquee players.

The Fever announced Thursday that Caitlin Clark would miss the rest of the season with a groin injury. She hasn't played since July 15. The Sky were without Angel Reese, the league's leading rebounder, after she picked up her eighth technical foul in her last game, meaning an automatic one-game suspension.

Then, Chicago announced Reese would miss a half game with a team suspension for comments detrimental to the club. Earlier in the week, Reese complained about losing and hinted she would be willing to move on if the team doesn't start winning.

Indiana won 5-0 against Chicago this season, winning by an average of 24 points. The Fever need one win or a Sparks loss to secure a playoff spot.

Odyssey Sims scored 13 points and Aliyah Boston 11 for the Fever (22-20), who moved 2 1/2 games ahead of Los Angeles in the race for the final playoff spot.

Kamilla Cardoso and Michaela Onyenwere score 18 points apiece for the Sky (10-31). Elizabeth Williams added 13 points with 11 rebounds, and Ariel Atkins scored 10.

Indiana made a statement in the first quarter by racing to a 31-15



Chicago Sky's Rachel Banham (24) goes to the basket against Indiana Fever's Shey Peddy (5) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

lead. The Fever were 10-for-14 shooting and had 10 assists.

Both teams finished at 52%, but Indiana was 38 of 73, while Chicago was 25 of 48. Chicago was plus-8 rebounding, but was slowed 24 turnovers that the Pacers turned into 24 points.

Indiana is at Washington on Sunday, and Chicago is at Las Vegas.

Dream 104, Sparks 85

In College Park, Rhyne Howard tied the WNBA record with nine 3-pointers and finished with 37 points, Atlanta tied the team record with 19 3s and the Dream beat the

Los Angeles Sparks.

Howard had three attempts at the record, which she already shared with Kelsey Mitchell (2019), Jewell Loyd (2023) and Arike Ogunbowale (2024). She is the first two accomplish the feat twice, both this season.

Atlanta (28-14), which clinched home-court advantage for the first round of the playoffs, tied the team record on Jordin Canada's shot with 1:44 to play. New York hit 19 3-pointers twice this season and Las Vegas had 23 3s in a playoff game.

Maya Caldwell hit five 3s and scored 19 points for Atlanta and

Brionna Jones added 12. The Dream were 19 for 39 from the arc. Howard was 9 for 17 and Caldwell 5 for 7.

Dearica Hamby scored 26 points on 11-for-15 shooting for the Sparks (19-22), who are 2 1/2 games behind Indiana and Seattle, who both have an easier remaining schedule. Kelsey Plum added 20 points and Ricketa Jackson 17.

Liberty 84, Storm 76

In Seattle, Breanna Stewart scored 13 of her 24 points in the fourth quarter, Leonie Fiebich matched her career-high with 21 and New York kept Seattle Storm from clinching a playoff berth with a win.

Kennedy Burke added 13 points for New York (25-17), which ended a two-game losing streak and a five-game skid on the road.

Nneka Ogwumike scored 20 points for Seattle (22-21), which still needs one win or a Sparks loss to clinch the final playoff spot. Skylar Diggins added 14 points.

New York outscored Seattle 45-29 in the second half when the Storm shot 10 of 31 but didn't take the lead until Burke opened the fourth quarter with a layup. Ogwumike put Seattle back on top but Natasha Cloud answered with a 3-pointer.

Seattle pulled to 74-72 with 3:22 to go but could get no closer as the Liberty successfully challenged two fouls in the last 1:42. The last one changed an offensive foul on Stewart into a shooting foul and her free throw made it 79-74 with 46.8 to play.

Charlotte on verge of tying record

Suárez suspended for six Cup matches after spitting incident

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Sept 6, (AP): Inter Miami forward Luis Suárez has been suspended yet again for on-field antics, this time getting a six-match ban from future Leagues Cup matches in response to his conduct - including spitting at someone - after his team lost Sunday's final to the Seattle Sounders.

Suárez will not be able to play in the tournament next season, and the ban could stretch into future seasons. Inter Miami played six Leagues Cup matches this year - three in the group phase, then three in the knockout stage - on its way to the final.

The ban would not apply to Major League Soccer matches, though it is possible that Suárez could still face sanctioning from that league. The Leagues Cup is a separate competition.

Also suspended for future Leagues Cup matches for their roles in the postgame melee following Seattle's 3-0 win were Sounders coaching staff member Steven Lenhart, who drew a five-match ban; Inter Miami's Tomás Avilés, who got a three-match ban; and Sergio Busquets, banned for two matches.

All four will also be fined.

Suárez had an infamous intentional handball in the 2010 World Cup quarterfinals to take a semifinal spot from Ghana and has served suspensions on three occasions for biting opponents - the most recent of those in 2014, after he chomped down on the shoulder of Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini following a tussle in the penalty area during a World Cup match.

Suárez - a longtime teammate of Inter Miami star Lionel Messi - appeared to spit toward a member of the Sounders' staff and grabbed at least one Seattle player by the neck during a postgame melee. MLS officials are also looking into the matter, and Suárez apologized on Thursday.

"Things happened right after the match that shouldn't have happened, but that doesn't justify my reaction. I was wrong and I sincerely regret it," he wrote. "It's not the image I want to portray, neither to my family, who are suffering because of my mistakes, nor to my club, which doesn't deserve to be affected by something like this."

Brandt Bronico is affectionately known to Charlotte FC fans as The Mayor because he grew up in North Carolina and he's been with the club since it joined MLS in 2022.

So he's got a good perspective on the club's current eight-game winning streak, and the upward trajectory of the team after a midseason slump.

It certainly feels like Charlotte's rise hasn't garnered a lot of attention, perhaps because expansion San Diego is in the midst of a historic season, or because Inter Miami's Lionel Messi is, well, Lionel Messi.

But Charlotte is one win shy of matching Major League Soccer's longest winning streak since the Seattle Sounders in 2018 - a record in the post-shootout era after 1999.

"I definitely feel like we don't get as much credit as we deserve or as maybe some other teams do, but I think with our identity and our style, and the players that we have, we're a very dangerous team that knows how to defend and also win games," Bronico said.

Charlotte has jumped to third place in the Eastern Conference, good for home-field advantage in the opening round of the playoffs if the team can maintain a top-four position in the final five games of the regular season.

But it will still be a challenge. Following the international break, Charlotte's next match is at home against Messi and Inter Miami on Sept. 13.

The Philadelphia Union have a hold on first in the Eastern Conference and are edging expansion San Diego in the Supporters' Shield race for best regular-season record.

Charlotte started the season off well, then slumped in May and June before the surge up the standings.

"I think we really wanted to bounce back from that, and then heading into July, we had a decent amount of home games, which presented a big opportunity for gaining more wins," Bronico said. "It was like we really needed to get back to form of how we started the season, and then we kind of just built that momentum over the last eight games and strung wins together."

They've done it without necessarily playing the prettiest soccer. It's more of a grind-it-out mentality.

"The idea is to go and win football games and you have to be pragmatic at times to do that. We have a style that suits us," coach Dean Smith said. "But I watch a lot of games week in, week out, and a lot of them are not aesthetically pleasing. And that's just the game of football."

Charlotte did not make the playoffs its first season, then the next year the club made it to a wild card match but was eliminated by the New York Red Bulls. Last season, Orlando City advanced over Charlotte in a best-of-three first round.

Charlotte has found cohesion under Smith, the club's third coach, who took



Inter Miami forward Luis Suarez, right, dribbles against Seattle Sounders defender Yeimar Gomez, left, during the first half of the Leagues Cup final soccer match in Seattle. (AP)

Taylor to come out of retirement

Afghan fast bowler Ahmad denies UAE consolation win in tri-series

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Sept 6, (AP): Afghanistan defeated the United Arab Emirates by a nail-biting fourth runs in the Twenty20 tri-series on Friday.

UAE needed 17 runs from the final over for a consolation first win in four games and power-hitter Asif Khan brought down the target to five runs off the final three balls. But left-arm fast bowler Fareed Ahmad kept calm and didn't concede a run off the next two fuller balls. On the last ball, Khan holed out at long-off on 40 and the home team finished short at 166-5.

Afghanistan rested six frontline players, including captain Rashid Khan, ahead of Sunday's final against Pakistan. It made 170-4 with Ibrahim Zadran missing out on his third successive half-century on 48 and Rahmanullah Gurbaz striking 40.

Pakistan and Afghanistan won three games each by successfully defending the targets, while UAE lost all of its four games while chasing down the totals.

Gurbaz and Zadran combined in a 98-run opening stand off 72 balls. Both perished off consecutive deliveries.

Afghanistan scored 56-1 off the final five overs with cameos from Karim Jannat, 28, and Gulbadin Naib, 20 not out.

Left-arm spinner Haider Ali took 2-23.

UAE skipper Muhammad Waseem began the chase with a lot of intent against pace in the powerplay. He smashed three sixes and two fours in his 44 off 29 balls.

Waseem was caught behind when he tried to ramp debutant fast bowler Abdollah Ahmadzai's short ball in the 11th over.

Spinners Sharafuddin Ashraf (1-20) and Noor Ahmad (1-23) then squeezed the runs in the middle overs.

Ahmad came through again in the final three balls.

□ □ □

New Zealand cricket great Ross Taylor will come out of retirement to play for Samoa at the Twenty20 World Cup qualifying tournament in Oman next month.

Taylor retired from international cricket in 2022 after playing more matches for New Zealand than any other player: 112 tests, 236 one-day internationals and 102 T20 internationals.

He remains second behind Kane Williamson on New Zealand's all-time test scoring list with 7,683 runs and second, also behind Williamson, with 19 test centuries.

Taylor's mother, Lote, was born in Samoa. Taylor will play under his given names and chiefly title as Leapeupe Luteru Ross Poutoa Lote Taylor.

Now 41, Taylor answered the call of his friend, former Black Cap Tarun Nethula, to join Samoa at the qualifying tournament. Samoa will play Papua New Guinea for a place at next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

"It's quite a powerful thing when players are asking you to come out of retirement and help them," Taylor told the Stuff news website. "I'm no spring chicken but I'm sure I'm still fit enough to run around the boundary."

Handball course kicks off in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Category (C) Handball Coaches Course kicked off at the Leaders Preparation Center in Khaldiya, attended by Asian Handball Association President Bader Al-Dhiab and Kuwait Handball Federation Assistant Secretary Abdullah Al-Dhiab. The program is led by international The Category (C) Handball Coaches Course kicked off at the Leaders Preparation Center in Khaldiya, attended by Asian Handball Association President Bader Al-Dhiab and Kuwait Handball Federation Assistant Secretary Abdullah Al-Dhiab. The program is led by international lecturers Dr. Khaled Al-Sharji and Dr. Mohammed Al-Sammak.

In his remarks, the Asian Federation President welcomed participants and highlighted that the course is part of the joint efforts of the International and Asian Federations to raise the standards of coaching across the continent, ultimately enhancing team performance.

He also praised the Kuwait Handball Federation for its commitment to hosting such initiatives, noting that this marks the fifth course organized in Kuwait.

Al-Dhiab expressed his delight at the participation of former international players, stressing that their dedication to developing their technical expertise is vital for the future growth of the sport. Dr. Khaled Al-Sharji and Dr. Mohammed Al-Sammak.

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Al-Dhiab honors lecturers of the coaching course.

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Kuwait Club cruises past Qadsia

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Kuwait Club came out on top in the marquee matchup of the second round of the 58th Handball Premier League, defeating Qadsia 28-22 at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. The round also featured Al-Arabi securing its first victory of the season with a 31-28 win over Al-Nasr.

Kuwait Club now leads the table with 4 points from back-to-back wins, while Qadsia remains winless after suffering its second straight loss. Al-Arabi climbed to 3 points following a draw in the opener and a win in the second round. Meanwhile, Al-Nasr, has yet to collect a point after two defeats.

The third round of the Premier League will take place next Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the First Division, Yarmouk edged Fahaheel 28-27, while Khaitan cruised past Sahel with a commanding 51-30 triumph. Both Yarmouk and Khaitan opened their



Under Qadsia's defensive pressure, Kuwait Club player takes a shot.

campaigns with 2 points, leaving Fahaheel and Sahel still searching for their first win.

The First Division champion will earn automatic promotion to the Premier League next season, while the runner-up will face the seventh-placed Premier League team in a playoff to decide the final promotion spot.

Spain eyes crucial win in Türkiye

Germany coach Nagelsmann faces pressure head of WCup qualifier

BERLIN, Sept. 6, (Xinhua): Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann is facing mounting criticism after a run of poor results, with pundits and media questioning his constant tactical changes ahead of Sunday's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland.

The 38-year-old former Bayern Munich coach oversaw a 2-0 defeat to Slovakia last week, the four-time World Cup winner's first-ever loss to that opponent. Germany has won only once in the last six games, while Nagelsmann's record stands at 12 victories from 24 matches - nearly identical to predecessor Hansi Flick, who was fired in 2023 after three straight defeats.

Former Germany greats Lothar Matthaus and Stefan Effenberg have led the criticism. Matthaus, capped 150 times, said Nagelsmann was "overchallenging the players" with too many tactical tweaks. "He needs to go for one system and keep it," Matthaus said.

Effenberg, who captained Bayern in the 1990s, argued that Nagelsmann's micromanagement of "running and passing paths" was paralyzing the squad. He singled out midfielder Leon Goretzka, who was deployed as a No. 10 against Slovakia. "We all know he is a box-to-box performer, not a ten," said 35-cap Effenberg.

German outlets echoed concerns over the coach's tinkering, pointing to uncertainty and a lack of consistency with just nine months until the World Cup. Nagelsmann, who has a contract through 2028, has often demanded club-level playing time from his internationals and has not hesitated to play them out of position.

The pressure has intensified after three consecutive defeats, including Germany's disappointing Nations

League campaign earlier this summer.

While Matthaus warned that talk of firing Nagelsmann so close to the tournament is unhelpful, he and Effenberg admitted another setback against Northern Ireland could trigger a debate over his future.

Former Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger added his voice to the concerns, warning that fans' support could wane if the team continues to struggle.

Nagelsmann, for his part, has called for a passionate display in Cologne. "To deliver a passionate performance should be a matter of course," he said.

Spain can take a big step on the way to qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a win away to Türkiye on Sunday night.

La Roja opened its qualifying campaign with a comfortable 3-0 win away to Bulgaria on Thursday, with Mikel Oyarzabal, Marc Cucurella and Mikel Merino all on the scoresheet before halftime, but Türkiye promises to be a tougher test.

Instead of in Istanbul, the game will be played at the Konya Metropolitan Municipality Stadium, where the fans are known for the hostile atmosphere they give to visiting teams.

"They don't know the incredible atmosphere in Konya," Real Madrid's Turkish international Arda Guler was quoted as saying by Spanish sports paper Marca.

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente is unlikely to make many changes to the team that cruised to victory in Bulgaria. Although he will be delighted to see Rodri return to international football after a serious knee injury, it seems unlikely that he will drop either Pedri or Martin Zubimendi from his starting 11.

Alcaraz renews epic rivalry with Sinner in New York showdown

Historic: 3 Slam finals in a row, same two men

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz was about to start a series of TV interviews to discuss the way he used his youth, athleticism and creativity to beat the much more accomplished, but also much older, Novak Djokovic 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-2 in the U.S. Open semifinals Friday.

First, though, Alcaraz asked everyone to hold on for a moment. He pulled his cell phone out of a pocket so he could check the score of Jannik Sinner's semifinal against Felix Auger-Aliassime. It was still only the first set of that match, but you've got to keep tabs on your biggest rival, right?

A few hours later, Sinner would finish off his 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Auger-Aliassime, establishing the Flushing Meadows final that somehow seemed inevitable, even if unprecedented: No. 1 Sinner and No. 2 Alcaraz will meet Sunday to decide the U.S. Open champion, marking the first time the same two men have played each other in three consecutive Grand Slam finals within one season.

"These two players," said Djokovic, a 24-time major champion, "are the best in the world right now."

No doubt about that. They have established themselves as far and away the elite men in the game.

No matter Sunday's result, the duo will have split the past eight major trophies and taken 10 of the past 13. Their career totals: Alcaraz owns five Slam titles, Sinner four.

And the No. 1 ranking will be on the line Sunday, when President Donald Trump plans to attend.

Alcaraz defeated Sinner at the French Open in June; Sinner defeated Alcaraz at Wimbledon in July.

Sinner is trying to become the first repeat men's champion in New York since Roger Federer won the hard-court tournament five years in a row from 2004 through 2008. Sinner also has made it to five straight Grand Slam finals, a stretch that started at the



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, returns a shot against Felix Auger-Aliassime, of Canada, during the men's singles semifinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

U.S. Open 12 months ago.

Alcaraz hasn't dropped a set as he pursues his sixth major title and second at Flushing Meadows.

Go back to April, and Alcaraz is 44-2, making it to the finals at each of his last eight four-level events.

"It's something that I'm working on, just the consistency on the matches, on the tournaments, on the year, in general. Just not having up-and-downs in (a) match," Alcaraz said. "Probably, I'm just getting mature, just getting to know myself much better, what I need on, off the court."

Since the start of 2024, Sinner is 1-6 against Alcaraz - and 109-4 against anyone else.

"We have played quite a lot this year," Sinner said. "So we know each other very well."

Alcaraz had lost his two most recent matches against Djokovic - in the gold-medal final at the Paris Olympics last year, and in the Australian Open quarterfinals this January.

"It's not easy playing against him, to be honest," Alcaraz said. "I'm thinking about the legend; what he has achieved in his career. It's difficult not to think about it."

But by the end, Djokovic was "gassed out," as he described it afterward, and seemed resigned to the result. The 38-year-old from Serbia reached the semifinals at all four Slams this season but exited in that round each time, three via losses to No. 2 Alcaraz, 22, or Sinner, 24.

"It's frustrating on the court when you are not able to keep up with that level physically, but at the same time, it's something also expected, I guess," Djokovic said. "It comes with time and with age."

His bid to become the first player in the sport's history to get Slam No. 25 was blocked again, and he thinks part of the issue is trying to overcome much younger men in best-of-five set matches.

"I still want to play ... (a) full Grand

Slam season next year," Djokovic said. "Let's see whether that's going to happen or not, but ... Slams are Slams. They are just different from any other tournament. They are the pillars of our sport, the most important tournaments we have. But I do fancy my chances a bit more in best-of-three."

He led Alcaraz 3-0 in the second set, but couldn't sustain that level.

"Today, I'd say, it wasn't the best level of the tournament for me," said Alcaraz, whose 30 unforced errors were the same as Djokovic's total, "but I just kept a cool level (from) the beginning until the last point."

He was wearing a pink, sleeveless shirt and sporting nearly a full head of hair less than two weeks after showing up with a buzz cut he said was necessary when his brother tried to play barber but messed up.

Asked whether he'll stick with the new look if he wins on Sunday, Alcaraz smiled and replied: "Even better. You will see. ... Surprise, surprise."

Perfect Canada moves into quarterfinals

LONDON, Sept 6, (AP): Canada moved into the quarterfinals of the Women's rugby World Cup unbeaten by overpowering Scotland 40-19 in Exeter.

Underdog Scotland made Canada miss 27 tackles, but Canada always found another gear to slip into, especially through its pack.

Of Canada's six tries, five were scored by front-rows and a penalty try came from a pushover attempt that was illegally collapsed by Scotland. Canada hooker Emily Tuttosì was the player of the match for scoring twice.

Both teams had already qualified for the quarterfinals after beating Fiji and Wales. As the winner of Pool B, Canada's last-eight opponent will be England, Australia or the United States, who were all playing later. Scotland will play the winner of Pool A, expected to be England.



Scotland's Helen Nelson scores a try, which was then disallowed, during the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 Pool B match between Scotland and Canada, at Sandy Park, in Exeter, England. (AP)

Prop McKinley Hunt opened Canada's scoring, and Scotland re-

plied through wing Rhona Lloyd in their only visit to the 22 in the first half.

Hunt would have had a second try but the ball was cynically jolted from her grasp by Scotland No. 8 Evie Gallagher, who was yellow-carded. Scotland's seven-woman scrum was then monstrosity by Canada's for the penalty try.

Canada then swept from halfway for Tuttosì to reach out and score for 19-5 at halftime.

Gallagher returned from the sin-b in the second half to score from a great attacking line and trail 19-12, but Canada's forwards took charge again with tries by Tuttosì and replacement props Brittany Kassil and Olivia DeMerchant.

In between, Scotland wing Francesca McGhie scored her sixth try of the tournament, tying Canada's Julia Schell for the tournament lead.

Best of the Rest

FIFA sets up panel to tackle racism: FIFA revealed the 16-member list of its Players' Voice Panel on Friday, comprised of football legends around the world, to raise the fight against racism in soccer.

FIFA adopted the Global Stand Against Racism at the 74th FIFA Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 17, 2024, and the Players' Voice Panel was established under the pillar 5 of the announcement.

"The panel monitors and advises on anti-racism initiatives based on the Global Stand Against Racism, drives education at all levels of the game and

serves as a think tank for new ideas," FIFA announced in a statement. "It advocates for cultural change and the consistent implementation of anti-racism measures under the global stand initiative across the football ecosystem, with a view to ensuring a lasting and accountable impact both on and off the pitch."

The panel's members include George Weah of Liberia, Emmanuel Adebayor of Togo, Nigeria's Mercy Akide, Ivan Cordoba of Colombia, Didier Drogba of Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal's Khalilou Fadiga, Formiga of Brazil, Jessica Houara of France, Maia Jackman of New Zealand, China's Sun Ji-hai, Blaise Matuidi of France, Aya Miyama of Japan, Lotta Schelin of Sweden, Briana Scurry of

the United States, Mikael Silvestre of France and Argentina's Juan Pablo Sorin. (Xinhua)

Haise signs new deal: Nice coach Franck Haise has signed a new deal with the Ligue 1 club until 2029 despite a lackluster start to the season.

Nice was knocked out of the Champions League after losing to Benfica in the third qualifying round and has won just one of its first three games in the French league.

The 54-year-old Haise took over Nice during the 2024 summer and led the Riviera team to a fourth-place Ligue 1 finish last season. He extended his deal by two seasons, Nice said on Friday. (AP)

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NEWS



Denmark's Rasmus Nissen Kristensen, right, and Scotland's Andy Robertson battle for a header during a World Cup qualifying soccer match between Denmark and Scotland at Parken Stadium in Copenhagen, Denmark. (AP)

Sports

Italy, Greece, Switzerland in strong starts

Mbappé equals Henry's record as France begins road to 2026 World Cup with win

GENEVA, Sept 6, (AP): Kylian Mbappé was back in World Cup action on Friday, scored again, and this time France won. France beat Ukraine 2-0 in neutral Poland to open their qualifying group for the 2026 World Cup. It was Les Bleus' and Mbappé's first game in the competition since his hat trick in that epic loss to Lionel Messi and Argentina in the 2022 final, when they were defending champions.

Mbappé used pace and skill to elude Ukraine defender Illia Zabarnyi in the 82nd minute to extend a lead earned in the 10th by Michael Olise, and navigate what looks like the toughest of France's six qualifying group games.

"We had a lot to lose, so it's very good to begin the qualifying campaign with this victory," France coach Didier Deschamps told broadcaster TF1. Also in the group, Iceland won at home to Azerbaijan 5-0, and next goes to Paris to play France on Tuesday. Mbappé has never played at a World Cup that Italy qualified for, and the four-time champion got an essential 5-0 home win over Estonia, seeking to end its absence from the biggest stage since 2014.

Italy avoided losing more ground to group leader Norway, which did not play Friday, though it took until a 20th goal attempt and 58 minutes to break the deadlock through a Moise Kean header. In the same group, Israel won against Moldova 4-0. Switzerland and Greece got off to fast starts to their qualifying campaigns, racing to four-goal leads at halftime.

Switzerland ended as a 4-0 winner over Kosovo, and Greece beat Belarus 5-1 after highly touted 17-year-old Kostas Karetzas took less than three minutes to score in his World Cup qualifying debut. Sweden was twice pegged back in a 2-2 draw against Slovenia, which leveled for the second time in the 90th minute, while leaving Liverpool's record new signing, Alexander Isak, on the bench after his delayed start to the season. Croatia, a beaten finalist and semifinalist at the past two World Cups, won at the Faeroe Islands by just 1-0 for a third straight win. The group-leading Czech Republic won at Montenegro 2-0.

Denmark was held to 0-0 at home by Scotland in the group that Greece now leads. Only first-place teams in the 12 European qualifying groups in November advance directly to the finals tournament in the United States, Canada, and



France's Kylian Mbappe, centre, challenges for the ball with Ukraine's Yehor Yarmoliuk, left, during the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying soccer match between Ukraine and France at Tarczyński Arena in Wrocław, Poland. (AP)

Mexico. Runners-up go to the playoff brackets in March. His 51st career goal for France tied Thierry Henry's career total in 32 fewer games. Only Olivier Giroud, with 57, has more. "Big up, Titi.

But I want to overtake you now," Mbappé quipped. "No, it's an honor." This goal was made at Real Madrid. Mbappé took a long pass from deep in the France

half by his club teammate Aurélien Tchouaméni before outclassing Illia Zabarnyi, the new Paris Saint-Germain signing. Two minutes earlier, Zabarnyi's club teammate Ousmane Dembélé limped off with what seemed to be a right hamstring injury just 12 days before PSG begins the defense of its Champions League title. Dembélé lasted less than 35 minutes on the France wing after coming on for the second half.

France survived a wild two minutes midway through the second half. Ibrahima Konaté's header from under the crossbar stopped Artem Dovbyk's looping header, leveling the score, and then Ukraine struck the post of France's goal. A shot across the goalmouth was deflected by the head of Zabarnyi standing in front of the goal, and the ball rebounded hard and fast to safety.

Ukraine staged the game in neutral Poland, at Wrocław, because of security concerns at home during the full military invasion by Russia. In new coach Gennaro Gattuso's first game in charge, since the firing of Luciano Spalletti, the 2006 World Cup-winning midfielder looked to be facing another embarrassment in World Cup qualifying for the Azzurri.

Italy finally broke the resistance of Estonia goalkeeper Karl Jakob Hein when Moise Kean rose to score with a header just before the hour. Mateo Retegui, the Argentina-born forward, made it 2-0 on his return to the Atalanta stadium that was his home last season and got a second in the closing minutes. Italy plays Israel in neutral Hungary on Monday, one day before Norway hosts Moldova, aiming for a fifth straight win.

The one guaranteed ticket to North America next year could yet be decided in the last group game - Italy-Norway on Nov. 16 in Milan. The start of a finely balanced qualifying group went perfectly for Switzerland - a first-half rout of a tricky Kosovo opponent. At the same time, Slovenia and Sweden took points off each other in Ljubljana. Manuel Akanji soared at a corner to head the opening goal in the 22nd, and the best of Breel Embolo's two goals in Basel was a deft, backheel flick just before halftime. The impressive 2024 European Championship quarter-finalist is looking good again.

Morocco qualifies for World Cup



Morocco's starting 11 poses for a photo ahead of their World Cup Group E qualifying soccer match against Niger at Stade Prince Moulay Abdallah in Rabat, Morocco. (AP)

Uganda crushes Mozambique

RABAT, Sept 6, (Agencies): Morocco officially booked its place in the 2026 World Cup finals on Friday after a commanding 5-0 victory over Niger at the Prince Moulay Abdallah Sports Complex in Rabat.

Ismail El Saibari opened the scoring with a brace in the 29th and 38th minutes, followed by goals from Ayyoub Aboulaziz (51'), Hamza El Mouchtari (57'), and Azzedine Ounahi (69').

The win propelled the Atlas Lions to 18 points, comfortably ahead of nearest rivals Tanzania, who sit on 10 points, securing Morocco's ticket to the World Cup co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Uganda thrashed Mozambique 4-0 in a 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier in Kampala.

After a goalless first half, Allan Okello broke the deadlock with a powerful strike from outside the box in the 48th minute. Rogers Mato struck twice in

the 70th and 84th minutes, before defender Elio Capradossi sealed the win in stoppage time.

"I am very proud of the players who have worked so hard to get this sweet win," said Uganda head coach Paul Put.

Earlier in the day, Guinea defeated Somalia 3-0. Borussia Dortmund striker Serhou Guirassy opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, before Faisal Bin Abu Bin Othman Omar's 64th-minute own goal doubled the lead. Ousmane Camara added a third in added time.

The win lifts Uganda to second place in Group G with 12 points, behind leader Algeria on 18. Mozambique and Guinea are third and fourth respectively, while Botswana sits fifth and Somalia remains bottom.

Ghana will host sub-regional counterparts Mali on Monday in Group I of the African qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The two teams previously played on June 6 last year in Mali's capital Bamako, with Ghana winning 2-1.

Mali, now under the guidance of new coach Tom

Saintfiet, continues to push for a revival in form after the Belgian replaced Eric Chelle, who has since taken charge of Nigeria.

After a 3-0 win over Comoros in Morocco, Mali moved up to third in Group I on 12 points, trailing second-placed Madagascar by a single point and sitting four points adrift of leaders Ghana.

Meanwhile, Ghana, currently on 16 points, was held to a 1-1 draw by bottom-ranked Chad on Thursday, a result that left many home fans disappointed with the players and the manager.

In a post-match press conference, Otto Addo made an honest admission for the team's poor showing.

"I can't say we played excellently or we played well because it was a draw. The result is everything. We had a lot of corners, we did nothing out of that. This, in the end, surely is not good enough, and we have to improve, especially on our execution," said Addo.

Ghana has appeared at the FIFA World Cup four times and remains on course to win Group I, which would secure direct qualification for the 2026 tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Underperforming foreign players could exit Al-Arabi before opener

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Al-Arabi may part ways with Frenchman Hassimi Fadiga and Belgian Julien Ngyo after underwhelming performances since their arrivals last month. Coach Marco Alves has suggested seeking replacements ahead of the new season.

If the duo leaves, they will join Ugandan Kenneth Simakola as foreign players to exit before the campaign begins. Al-Arabi has already signed Moroccan defender Nabil Marmouk and retains Nigerians Anayo Iwuala and Christopher John.

Potential replacements include Bahraini Kamil Al-Aswad, a key player last season, and Nigerian Kingsley Edu, who previously played for Al-Arabi two, seasons ago.

The situation is further complicated by midfielder Hussein Ashkanani's injury, which could be an ACL tear, sidelining him long-term.



Injured Hussein Ashkanani

This may influence decisions on keeping Simakola if Al-Aswad does not return.

Al-Arabi will play its final pre-season friendly this evening against Tadhamon, ahead of its Zain Premier League opener against Shabab on September 13.

Qadsia eyes alternatives

Al-Houni deal hangs in the balance

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Qadsia coach Nabil Maâloul confirmed that the club is exploring alternatives in case the deal for Libyan international Hamdou Al-Houni falls through.

Although Al-Houni signed a preliminary contract with Qadsia, his current club Ahli Tripoli is pushing to keep him. Maâloul stressed that any replacement must be of similar quality to strengthen the squad, adding that he hopes the club finalizes its transfer business quickly ahead of the new season.

Qadsia has already prepared a backup plan, opening talks with several foreign players should the Al-Houni move collapse. The team currently features Egypt's Mahmoud Abdel-Moneim "Kahra-ba," Libya's Mohamed Soula, and Algerians Victor Lekhal and Soufiane Bouchar.

"Our ambition is to win the Zain Premier League after 10 years away," said Maâloul, praising the club's board for swiftly meeting his requests. He also emphasized the importance of closing the file on foreign signings soon to raise focus and readiness for the upcoming campaign, where Qad-



Qadsia coach Nabil Maâloul

sia will also target the Gulf Champions League.

Maâloul wished Soula a speedy recovery from a recent injury with the Libyan national team and underlined that "whoever performs best will earn a starting place."

He called on Qadsia fans to back the team throughout the season, expressing hope that the squad will deliver strong performances and return to the podium.

Qadsia begins its league campaign against Al-Nasr on September 13.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands steers his car during the qualifying session ahead of the Italian Grand Prix at the Monza race-track in Monza, Italy. (AP)

Verstappen takes pole for Italian Grand Prix

MONZA, Italy, Sept 6, (AP): Max Verstappen stunned title contenders Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri on Saturday by snatching pole position for the Italian Grand Prix - only the second time the four-time Formula 1 champion has done so at Monza.

Verstappen set a new lap record in the final part of qualifying for Sunday's race and Norris couldn't quite match it, ending up .077 of a second behind the Red Bull driver, with Piastri 0.190 off the pace.

"Yes guys, yes. That is unbelievable," Verstappen yelled over the team radio. "Relax here, it is all good!"

Charles Leclerc qualified in fourth for Ferrari at the Italian Scuderia's home race, just ahead of teammate Lewis Hamilton, who will start Sunday's race in 10th as he serves a five-place grid penalty.

Leclerc had briefly topped the standings early in Q3 to loud cheers from the Ferrari fans - matched by groans from the passionate red-clad tifosi when Verstappen went faster, moments later.

Verstappen has been on pole position 44 times but just once at the Temple of Speed, where he has triumphed twice.

"It was tight, we were still lacking a tiny amount and we made some final changes which I think allowed me to push a bit more and that's exactly what you need in qualifying," Verstappen said. "For us, it's a great moment.

"Historically this season the race has always been a little bit more complicated for us, but we are going to give it everything we have. That's the only thing we can do and then we will see what happens tomorrow."

It is a 45th pole position for Verstappen and a fifth this season, although only one of his two wins this year has come from the front of the grid.

He will be joined on the front row on Sunday by Norris, who trails Piastri by 34 points in the championship with nine races left of the season.

"Max has been quick all weekend and it's never a surprise with Max," Norris said. "It was quite a session from me, up and down and too many mistakes here and there. But to put it together on the last lap, I was pretty happy with P2."

Norris almost didn't make it out of Q2 as an early mistake meant he had to change tires and he needed a tow from Piastri to get out of danger and go through in fifth place.