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Kuwait traffic plan targets gridlock



Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

It's good to have flexible relationship with banks

THE role of banks around the world is to finance projects and companies in exchange for collateral, or based on the reputation of the company or institution. There are rules in this regard, such that if the collateral is two or three times the loan, it indicates the ability of the borrower to pay, no matter how long it takes. The borrower's transactions cannot be halted due to a temporary default.

Conversely, the market governs the nature of dealing with mortgagors. When government projects are halted for some reason and there is stagnation in economic activity, banks ease their conditions and understand the reality of the situation.

If there is any default somewhere, the bank resorts to rescheduling payment dates to avoid losing its customers, giving the customer what is called 'payment re-start date'.

This concept exists in all countries around the world, so we witness loans being extended over long periods. In fact, the financier, like the bank, finds loopholes to help the mortgagors continue paying according to their ability, because the primary goal is to generate capital, encourage lending, and stimulate the economy, especially if the mortgage is many times larger than the loan, and if the economy is weak.

Countries support loans because they realized that this opens opportunities for

people to help reinvigorate commercial activity and push for development.

However, it appears that some banks are strict in dealing with customers, disregarding the financial rules in place. They attribute this strictness to the Central Bank, even though they are fully aware that the latter is working hard to facilitate financial activity, because stagnation increases inflation rates, something no central bank in the world desires.

When public spending on development projects declines or stops due to risks in the region or certain countries, companies face a dilemma in balancing their requirements with their debt service to the bank.

Therefore, the bank eases restrictions, maintains financing for the company, and does not request collateral to avoid a non-financing crisis.

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Photo by Samer Shiqer

Vehicles inch forward in bumper-to-bumper traffic amid ongoing roadworks and patrol deployment.

Fourth Ring closure sparks diversions

By Munif Naif and Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Head of the Central Control Division at the General Traffic Department Lieutenant Colonel Ali Al-Qattan confirmed that the department has laid down a comprehensive plan for the deployment of patrols on the roads, coinciding with the return of teachers.

Continued on Page 5

Arab League's step boosts human rights protection: Justice Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Justice and Chairman of the National Permanent Committee on International Humanitarian Law in Kuwait Nasser Al-Sumait said Sunday that the Arab League Council of Ministers' unanimous adoption of establishing the Permanent Arab Committee marks a key achievement for joint Arab action.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Sumait praised Qatar's initiative and the Arab League Secretariat's efforts, congratulating Qatar for its pioneering step that significantly contributed to achieving this accomplishment and advancing joint Arab humanitarian law cooperation.

He also affirmed Kuwait's support for all efforts that strengthen the protection of human rights and consolidate the principles of international humanitarian law.



Kuwait Minister of Justice and Chairman of the National Permanent Committee on International Humanitarian Law in Kuwait Nasser Al-Sumait

Education minister commends teachers as schools reopen

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei congratulated the teachers and administrative staff on the start of the new academic year 2025/2026, expressing his pride

and appreciation for the vital role they play in building generations and developing the educational process.

In a press statement, Al-Tabtabaei affirmed that his ministry spares no effort in supporting the educational sector and providing all necessary facilities to guarantee the success of the 2025/2026 academic year. He appreciated the tireless efforts of teachers,

administrative staff, school administrations and the relevant sectors to better serve the students.

He disclosed the ministry was keen to complete preparations early, as the concerned sectors and departments exerted tremendous efforts in organizing priorities and creating the appropriate atmosphere for the return of the teaching and administrative

Continued on Page 5

Cable cuts spark fears of Red Sea sabotage amid Houthi-Israel tensions

Kuwait spared from regional internet outage: CITRA

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (Agencies): Internet services across parts of the Middle East and Asia were disrupted Saturday after a cut in the FALCON GCX undersea cable in the Red Sea, the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) announced Sunday.

In a statement, CITRA said technical crews, working with a local team, restored the connection by rerouting traffic through an alternative cable by 8 pm the same day, noting that no disruptions were recorded within Kuwait.

Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access in parts of Asia and the Middle East, experts said Sunday, though it wasn't immediately clear what caused the incident.

There has been concern about the

cables being targeted in a Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels, which the rebels describe as an effort to pressure Israel to end its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But the Houthis have denied attacking the lines in the past.

Undersea cables are one of the backbones of the internet, along with satellite connections and land-based cables. Typically, internet service providers have multiple access points and reroute traffic if one fails, though it can slow down access for users.

Microsoft announced via a status website that the Mideast "may experience increased latency due to undersea fiber cuts in the Red Sea." The Redmond, Washington-based firm did not immediately elaborate, though it said

that internet traffic not moving through the Middle East "is not impacted."

NetBlocks, which monitors internet access, said "a series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries," which it said included India and Pakistan. It blamed "failures affecting the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia."

The South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 cable is run by Tata Communications, part of the Indian conglomerate. The India-Middle East-Western Europe cable is run by another consortium overseen by Alcatel Submarine Networks. Neither firm responded to requests for comment.

Pakistan Telecommunications Co.

Ltd., a telecommunication giant in that country, noted that the cuts had taken place in a statement on Saturday.

Saudi Arabia did not acknowledge the disruption and authorities there did not respond to a request for comment.

In the United Arab Emirates, home to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, internet users on the country's state-owned Du and Etisalat networks complained of slower internet speeds. The government did not acknowledge the disruption.

Subsea cables can be cut by anchors dropped from ships, but can also be targeted in attacks. It can take weeks for repairs to be made as a ship and crew must locate themselves over the damaged cable.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait gold prices hit KD 35.17/gram

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): The price of a gram of 24-karat gold in the country has reached KD 35.17 (about \$107), while the 22-karat gold cost KD 32.24 (about \$98), and one kilogram of silver reached KD477 (about \$1,563), according to a special report that Dar Al-Sabayek – a Kuwaiti company – released recently.

The company explained that 'ounce' is one of the units of mass measurement and it is used in a number of different systems of measurement. It is equal to 28.349 grams, while as a unit of measurement for precious metals, it is equal to 31.103 grams.

According to the company, gold prices jumped sharply reaching \$3,600 per ounce before closing at \$3,587 by the end of trading last week. This is a manifestation of the mounting economic pressure on the US market amid a weak labor market, growing concerns over the future of US monetary policy, and global tensions.

It stated that the factors behind the significant price hike are mainly expectations of an imminent interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, following weak US jobs data that surprised markets and reshaped the monetary policy landscape for the rest of the year.

The report added that December future prices increased at the end of the week to record \$3,653 per ounce, with weekly gains of four percent -- the strongest performance in more than three months.

Continued on Page 5

Al-Barjas appointed Undersecretary of National Guard



National Guard photo
Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard, congratulates Lt. Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas on his new post as Undersecretary.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): The Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, decorated Major General Hamad Salem Al-Barjas with his new rank on Sunday, following the issuance of an Amiri decree promoting him to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointing him as Undersecretary of the National Guard.

The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

In a press statement, the National Guard said that Sheikh Mubarak congratulated Lieutenant General Al-Barjas on his appointment as Undersecretary of the National Guard, praising his distinguished efforts throughout his military career.

Continued on Page 5

Sheikha Jawaher outlines women's sector gains

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah discussed Kuwait's tireless efforts to support and empower women across various sectors with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, including its causes and consequences, Reem Al-Salem.

In remarks to KUNA, Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah said she had briefed Al-Salem during the meeting on the achievements of Kuwaiti women in various sectors, on par with their male counterparts, most notably the diplomatic corps, the security and police sectors, the judiciary, the public prosecution, the sports sector, and youth support.

She also stressed that Kuwait, based on its development vision (New Kuwait 2035) and its membership in the Human Rights Council for the period 2024-2026, is continuing to build bridges of cooperation with the UN and its various bodies, including the Human Rights Council, as part of its commitment

965 residents risk KD100 fine for failing to update address

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced through the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Yaum', that the residential addresses of 965 individuals have been deleted as per the approval of the homeowners or due to the demolition of the

building.

PACI urged these individuals to register their new address by visiting the Authority or through the 'Sahel' application and provide supporting documents within 30 days to avoid the penalty stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which is a fine not exceeding KD100 "multiplied by the number of individuals."

Newswatch

GENEVA: Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen stressed the urgent need for international action in response to grave humanitarian crises and rights violations in Gaza and Sudan.

Speaking to KUNA ahead of the 60th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), which kicks off Monday, Al-Hayen underlined the importance of the session amid escalating global crises.

He said Kuwait, in coordination with GCC countries and other regional and political parties, is actively pushing for a stronger international response, especially regarding the ongoing atrocities in Gaza.

He described the situation in Gaza as one of the worst humanitarian disasters globally, marked by starvation and destruction, and called for intensified efforts to halt violations, end the occupation's crimes, prevent the annexation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and ensure the immediate entry of humanitarian aid. (KUNA)

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JERUSALEM: Houthi forces in Yemen launched six drones toward Israel on Sunday, with one striking Ramon Airport in southern Israel and injuring two people, Israeli authorities said.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said a 63-year-old man sustained shrapnel wounds to his limbs and a 52-year-old woman was injured in a fall during the incident. Both were taken to Yoseftal Hospital in the city of Eilat.

A spokesperson for the Israel Airports Authority said the drone struck the arrivals hall at Ramon Airport, a relatively small facility about 18 km north of Eilat. (Xinhua)



Kuwait Finance
8 House showcases
financing solutions
at Baiti Expo



Markaz backs GCC
8 Housing & Real
Estate Conference
as gold sponsor



ABK enhances
positive work
9 environment for
the 3rd consecutive
year with ABK
Junior event

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:07	Asr	15:18
Sunrise ..	05:28	Maghrib ..	18:04
Zohr	11:46	Isha	19:22

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.

By Night: Rather hot with light

Weather

to moderate northwesterly wind to variable wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	35
Kuwait Airport	46	33
Abdaly	46	27

Bubyan	46	21
Jahra	47	32
Salmiyah	44	34
Ahmadi	42	31
Nuwaisib	42	29
Wafra	46	29
Salmiya	43	25

Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, First Deputy PM

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Bayan Palace, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received separately at Bayan Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud

Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Bayan Palace, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received at Bayan Palace First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait HH Amir congratulates Brazil's President on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a cable to President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the President of Brazil good health and well-being, and for Brazil and its people progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a cable to Presi-

dent of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the President of Brazil good health and well-being, and for Brazil and its people progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a cable to President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

Co-op's employment rules see major overhaul in new decree

Cooperatives get tighter financial controls

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The decision of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah (No. 203/2025) to amend the cooperative work regulations was published in the official gazette, Kuwait Al-Youm, on Sunday less than a month after the announcement of the decision.

The decision stipulates replacing articles 49 to 54 of the Cooperative Work Regulations pursuant to Resolution No. 46T/2021 and amended by Resolution No. 68/2013 as follows:

Chapter Four (Employment)

Article 49: Without prejudice to the national employment percentages in cooperative societies, specified through Cabinet decisions, the cooperative must follow a rational appointment policy, such that the appointment is based on actual manpower needs, and that the ratio of salaries, excluding supervisory positions, to sales does not exceed six percent and it is calculated based on the latest financial report, excluding the exceptional sales periods.

The number of appointed staff may exceed the percentage if such step aims to comply with the nationalization policy, or in the event of opening of new branches and sales outlets for the cooperative, or if it needs to appoint an

internal auditor.

Article 50: To fill supervisory positions, the following conditions must be met:

- The candidate must be a Kuwaiti,
- With good reputation and good conduct,
- Not previously convicted of felony or crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty, unless his reputation has been restored,
- Not a former member of the board of directors of a cooperative society that was dissolved or dismissed for committing serious financial or administrative violations, unless the legal period stipulated in Article 35 of the law has passed since the dissolution or dismissal decision.
- Not retired for any reason,
- Must pass the recruitment tests and personal interview in accordance with the appointment mechanism specified by the ministry,
- Must submit his resignation to his current employer once accepted,
- Must hold the relevant academic degree obtained from a public or private university inside or outside Kuwait or institutes accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education,
- Must submit an application for the supervisory position through the 'Fakhrina' platform of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

Article 51: The cooperative must fill vacant supervisory positions. It must



Dr. Al-Huwailah

contact the ministry within a maximum period of two months from the date of the vacancy. The cooperative must follow the procedures established by the ministry in this regard.

Article 52: The Ministerial Advisory Committee shall form a committee that will be tasked to fill up vacant supervisory positions in cooperative societies and unions. This committee shall be headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, while the members are from PAM and the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies, and the representative of the relevant sector at the ministry shall serve as rapporteur.

The committee shall be responsible for the following:

1. Determine the appropriate specializations needed to fill each supervisory position.
2. Refer applications for supervisory positions in cooperative societies and unions to the committee formed by PAM.
3. Refer these applications to the entity designated by the ministry to conduct the tests.
4. Receive test results from the competent authority, including the names of those qualified to fill the supervisory position, who obtained a score of 80 percent or higher in the tests prescribed for the position.
5. Conduct personal interviews with the candidates.
6. Identify qualified candidates to fill the supervisory position in cooperative societies and unions.

Article 53: The committee referred to in the previous article shall submit the results of its work to the relevant sector in the ministry, which shall notify the Board of Di-

rectors of the relevant cooperative society to issue its decision to appoint the candidate.

An employment contract shall be prepared in three copies in accordance with the regulations and procedures, and shall be presented to the General Administration of the ministry for approval.

Article 54: A cooperative society with an annual sales value of KD15 million or more shall adhere to the table below, specifying the basic salary and annual bonus for each position:

- General Manager (KD2,000 basic salary, KD20 annual bonus)
- Deputy General Manager (KD1,500 basic salary, KD20 annual bonus)
- Head of Department (KD1,000 basic salary, KD20 annual bonus)

The committee stipulated in Article 52 shall determine the amount of salary for each supervisory position in cooperative societies with an annual sales value lower than KD15 million. The committee may exempt these cooperative societies from filling certain supervisory positions, including financial supervision.

Appointment to the supervisory position shall be made according to the highest cadre, provided the total periodic allowances during the years of service do not exceed 50 percent of the basic salary.

Article Two of the decision states that any text contradicting its provisions shall be repealed.

Article Three of the decision stipulates that it shall take effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette, and the competent authorities are mandated to implement its provisions.

Other Voices

The day Brazil chose its future

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

On September 7th, 1822, Brazil entered a new chapter in its history. On that day, Prince Regent Dom Pedro de Bragança and Bourbon declared independence from Portugal and was later crowned Emperor of Brazil. This marked the beginning of Brazil's journey as a sovereign nation.



Al-Hajeri

The declaration did not come without challenges. Tensions between Portuguese troops and Brazilian regiments were growing, and the decision to separate was as much about preserving stability as it was about affirming identity. By moving decisively, Brazil was able to maintain its unity and vast territory under a single crown at a time when much of Latin America was facing fragmentation.

Independence Day is therefore remembered not only as a political moment but also as the point when Brazil began to define its role in the world. The establishment of the empire gave shape to institutions that would later evolve into a republic, but the

spirit of 1822 continues to be honored each year as a symbol of self-determination.

Today, Brazil stands as the largest country in Latin America, home to more than 200 million people. Its economy is one of the strongest in the region, with significant contributions in agriculture, energy, and industry. From exporting coffee and soybeans to leading in renewable energy and aviation, Brazil has used its vast resources to become an important player in the global economy. This growth, combined with its cultural influence, makes Independence Day not only a commemoration of the past but also a reflection on Brazil's role in the present world.

September 7th is a day of national pride, marked by celebrations across the country and in Brazilian communities abroad. It is a time for reflection on the values of unity, resilience, and progress that continue to guide the nation. The story of independence reminds Brazilians, and their friends around the globe, of the importance of preserving freedom while looking forward to the future.

As Brazil celebrates its Independence Day, the world shares in recognizing the significance of this historic milestone and the achievements of a country that continues to shape its destiny with strength and optimism.



KUNA photo
Deputy Editor-in-Chief for International Affairs at KUNA, Aqab Al-Qubaa, during his presentation of the training program.

Specialized lecturers deliver sessions on reporting

KUNA Media Dev't Center holds 20th training program for new journalists

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): The KUNA Center for Media Development launched on Sunday the 20th edition of its training program for new journalists, which runs until September 25, delivered by a group of specialized lecturers across various journalistic disciplines.

The agenda includes a range of essential topics in journalism, such as news writing and editing, language skills, modern technology, and media

photography.

Participants will study the fundamentals of news writing and editing, including the types, characteristics, components, and sources of news, as well as its various formats and writing styles.

Key sessions also cover topics such as "Linguistic Skills for Media Professionals," "Artificial Intelligence in Media," and "Principles of Photography and Videography."

Established in December 1995, the KUNA Center for Media Development is considered one of the country's leading media training institutions.

It has organized hundreds of training programs across various media fields, aiming to enhance both the personal and professional competencies of media professionals and contribute to the advancement of journalism in Kuwait.

Charitable initiative ensures long-term returns

Awqaf opens Marafi Residential Complex

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Acting Secretary General of the Secretariat General of Awqaf Amal Al-Dallal inaugurated the Mohammad Rafi Marafi Residential Complex in Bneid Al-Qar.

This complex is considered one of the pioneering endowment projects that combine investment vision and charitable mission.

In a press statement, Al-Dallal expressed her happiness over the inauguration of the complex, during which she viewed samples of the residential apartments.

She explained that the Secretariat General of Awqaf, represented by the Jaafari Endowment Administration, is a joint supervisor and member of the Board of Trustees for one-third of the estate of the late Mohammad Rafi Marafi.

She affirmed that the complex is among the vital investment projects in Bneid Al-Qar, indicating these projects were financed through endowment and charitable resources with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of the financial returns of the administration and its associated services.

She revealed the cost of the investment project reached about KD5 million, covering an area of 2,988 square meters, with 21 floors consisting of 72 apartments, a children's playroom, a health club, a basement, a commercial store and 144 parking spaces -- two spaces for each apartment



Al-Dallal

under 24-hour security.

She added the project was funded by using one third of the late Ma'arif's estate.

She said the project is a successful model for utilizing endowment funds to achieve sustainable development, better serve the community, maximize endowment returns, and activate the role of endowments in comprehensive development.

She added this is an important project that reflects the strategic direction towards developing endowment resources, diversifying and modernizing sources of investments, real estate and financial revenues in accordance with the latest methods and practices, and optimal utilization of real estate endowments to increase revenues.

On the other hand, Abdullah Marafi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Charitable Third of the Late Rafi' Marafi Estate and Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Management of Jaafari Endowment at the Secretariat General of Awqaf said this is one of the best projects covered by a third of the estate of his late father and it is considered among the first initiatives of the Ja'fari Endowment Administration at the Secretariat General of Awqaf.

He pointed out that this construction model is a smart building consisting of various facilities available to all groups, stressing it is a charitable project on the scale of Kuwait.

Director of Jaafari Endowment Administration Tariq Al-Habib praised the tremendous efforts exerted by the Board of Trustees, commending their role in completing this pioneering project, which enhances the development and sustainability of the returns from the late Rafi' Marafi's estate.

Minister Al-Huwailah meets UN Special Rapporteur to discuss social services and rights



KUNA photos
Minister of Social Affairs with the UN Special Rapporteur.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah held talks on Sunday with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls Reem Al-Salem, regarding issues of mutual interest.

In a press statement, Al-Huwailah said the meeting reviewed Kuwait's national efforts to protect women and enhance services provided to them.

The meeting also highlighted national initiatives aimed at developing social services for women, in line with Kuwait's commitments to supporting women's rights.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various sectors of the Ministry and the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.



Minister of Social Affairs during her meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur.

diwaniya

كيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

New Education Ministry plan gets high marks for putting youth first

“I REALLY liked the recent decisions of the Minister of Education, even though I am not an expert in education and its methods, but there are many elements that are comfortable for the youths and serve education and upbringing mechanisms,” Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“I am writing my opinion here as a citizen. When I see something beneficial, I raise my head, and when I see something shameful, I criticize.

“Therefore, I repeat that I liked the program set by the Ministry of Education for the next five years.

“Currently, parents and students know when their children’s vacations are, when the summer vacation begins, and so on, and how to behave. This is good for everyone.

“I noticed an improvement in the program compared before, especially the vacation in the last week of Ramadan, and other holidays that were a concern for many people.

“It is true that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gives vacation during the last 10 days of every Ramadan, but this is the first time that this system is adopted in Kuwait.

“The positive aspect of our Ministry of Education program now is that it is a good start. It helps a lot in organizing many things. It also reminds me of the old days in Kuwait — when the weather was bad, the students would not go to school.

“I remember a song that the children sang about ‘Al-Kaus’. I think it started with ‘O Al-Kaus’, we do not need you tonight. We went to school and the ones who left home brought us back.’

“It talks about the hot and humid weather, and sometimes it rained.

“Today, our children finish school in the middle of the day, when it is extremely hot and the weather is harsh and difficult.

“That is why I think the new program that the Minister of Education — thank him — has put in place, is trying to make things easier for the youths.

“This is a good initiative, and so frankly, it is a decision that deserves praise. I am hoping for more developments.

“I also felt that studying is no longer a burden on the students after the introduction of the educational computer, and the development in some aspects.

“I felt that the Ministry of Education’s program is a very nice step, so we say ‘bravo’ to the Ministry of Education, and ‘bravo’ to the Minister.

“I wish this program continues to develop, so that it is easy for the students. We are confident that the Ministry has highly qualified personnel to manage this important institution. Perhaps, in the near future, we will witness a lot of progress in the educational process, which needs a shake-up to be at a high level of development, provided there is co-operation between the Ministry and civil society.

“Thus, we could finally say ‘bravo’ to the Ministry of Education staff and Minister Jalal Al-Tabtabaei.”

* * *

Disclaimer and Apology: There was an error in the previous article, “Kuwait is a permanent homeland... and full stop” that “since that date, that is, from the year 1913, there was no one who said it was fleeting, or that it was a temporary State.”

The correct reading is “since the year 1613, there was no one who said that it was fleeting, or that it was a temporary State,” so the disclaimer and apology are required.

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“Agricultural investment outside the borders of Kuwait has long been subjected to political blackmail, while underscoring the importance of this investment within the borders,” Faisal Abdullah Al-Laffi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“We have extensive experience. Many Kuwaiti investors -- individuals and companies -- have gone to countries with suitable natural agricultural conditions. After renting agricultural land there, reclaiming it, planting and producing crops, they were subjected to control and blackmail due to greed and avarice, or changes in political systems and laws. They were forced to sell or relinquish their agricultural projects in the countries where they invested large sums of money, and returned home with losses. In one Arab country, for example, the authorities required Kuwaiti investors to pay them



Al-Kharafi

in dollars if they wished to export their produce to their home country, Kuwait.

“This unfortunate incident, which was not agreed upon at the start of Kuwaiti agricultural projects in many Arab and non-Arab countries, confirms the lack of security and sustainable production that encourages Kuwaitis.

“Therefore, the optimal solution, as I and other Kuwaitis see it, is to invest in agriculture within our borders and within our capabilities, even if the cost of agricultural production is high -- higher than in other countries with natural agricultural conditions.

“It is important that we, as investors, do not put ourselves at the mercy of others or the instability that plagues Arab and non-Arab countries, both near and far from Kuwait.

“The government must encourage Kuwaiti investors to invest in agricultural areas and provide them with all the elements of viable agricultural investment like labor, electricity, water and special roads. This should be done as farmers have acquired extensive agricultural experience, particularly in growing strategic crops such as wheat, barley and corn, and semi-strategic crops such as potatoes, onions, garlic and corn.

“This is in addition to the Kuwaiti farmers’ inherited experience in the fields of palm tree cultivation, raising sheep, goats, cows and camels, and in the poultry industry and egg production. It heralds the achievement of a significant portion of the hoped-for local food security, which is no less important than any other desired security for the country and its people.”

□ □ □

“The Kuwaiti judiciary is witnessing a blessed trend towards Kuwaitization,” Jarrah Hamed Al-Shureikah wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“This is a pioneering national trend that deserves appreciation and gratitude from the judicial leadership, as it has direct impact on consolidating national identity and enhancing confidence in institutions.

“We have been accustomed to seeking the assistance of judges from sisterly countries, who greatly enriched our judicial experience and transferred expertise to us. The positive role played by our brothers from various Arab countries in this sensitive field cannot be denied.

“However, the current phase requires complementing this national trend with a new mechanism that ensures continuity and development, away from reliance on external borrowing.

“Here, the importance of benefiting from the expertise of lawyers and legal advisors, whether in government agencies and ministries or in the private sector, is highlighted.

“Based on the nature of their work, lawyers are an integral partner in the judicial process. They are present in the field, know the intricacies of the legal and practical reality, and possess cumulative experience spanning decades, which qualify them to be a key element of the judiciary.

“This is not an outlandish matter, as many developed countries have adopted it. In the UK, USA, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada and Australia, lawyers are allowed to join the judiciary after a certain period of gaining practical experience. This enriches the judicial system and adds invaluable quality.

“Giving lawyers and legal advisors the opportunity to join the judiciary through a well-thought-out mechanism must be based on the following:

- Set clear admission requirements,
- Enroll them in the Judicial Institute for a specific training period provided by the Ministry of Justice,
- Prepare them practically and theoretically before they assume judicial duties.

“All of these will support the judiciary with national competencies that have practical experience, instead of requiring judges to start their careers from scratch.

“This will save the State many years of qualification and training, contribute to filling the gap in the judicial system, reduce costs, and achieve a qualitative shift in performance.

“If implemented, this step will not only strengthen the judiciary, but will also positively impact the work of prosecutors in the future, by leveraging the expertise of lawyers in these positions, thus, enhancing justice and achieving balance within the legal system as a whole.

“In conclusion, the Kuwaitization of the judiciary remains an honorable national step, but its completion requires opening the door to members of the legal profession, including lawyers and consultants, as they are considered the cornerstone and safety valve for the success of any advanced judicial project.”



Al-Shureikah

– Compiled by Mohammad Wangengi

Family Courts mark strong progress with 81% resolution rate in H1 2025

Lawyers urge focus on pre-trial mediation

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Statistics from the Statistics and Research Department at the Ministry of Justice revealed that family courts under the Court of First Instance witnessed a significant increase in completion rates in the first half of 2025.

According to the statistics, the total number of pending cases reached 23,190 and 18,904 of which were resolved -- a completion rate of 81.5 percent.

The number of incoming cases reached 17,283 with family court cases accounting for the largest share, more than 69 percent of the total.

The number of pending cases totaled 11,931 and 8,908 of which were resolved.

This was followed by Jaafari family cases

with 1,689 and 1,352 of which were resolved, and then general civil family disputes with 1,833. Awqaf lawsuits are the lowest with only three cases.

In terms of geographical distribution, Hawally Court topped the list with 4,875 pending cases and 4,098 of which were completed or 84.1 percent of the total, followed by the Capital Court with 4,573 cases and 3,678 of which were resolved. The Jahra Court is last with 3,507 cases and 2,814 of which were resolved or 80.2 percent of the total.

The report highlighted the remarkable achievement of the Electronic Notice Department, which received 25,875 electronic notices and 25,404 of which were completed -- a completion rate exceeding 98 percent. This reflects the role of digital systems in accelerating the pace of work.

Attorney Jassim Al-Muhaisen told the newspaper that these figures “show an improvement in judicial performance, but they also entail the need to develop mechanisms for amicable settlements before disputes reach the courts, especially the divorce and alimony cases, which

constitute the largest percentage.”

Attorney Jassim Bandar stated “the digital transformation and the activation of digital advertising helped reduce procedural timeframes, but the volume of incoming cases necessitates increasing the number of judges and expanding the powers of family reconciliation offices.”

Attorney Ali Shaikhan emphasized that “focusing on family reconciliation and premarital awareness is a necessary approach to reduce the volume of cases, especially since the figures reveal a continuous rise in personal status lawsuits.”

Below is a summary of the family courts figures in the first half of 2025:

- Total cases handle: 23,190
- Decided: 18,904 (81.5 percent)
- Largest percentage: family court cases (69 percent)
- Highest achievement court: Hawally (84.1 percent)
- Lowest achievement: Jahra (80.2 percent)
- Endowment cases: only three cases
- Electronic advertisements: 25,875 and 98 percent of which were completed

Ruling set on Sept 14

Appeals Court defers decision in Al-Muwaizri ban rumor case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Court of Appeals on Sunday adjourned the case of publishing false news related to the ban on former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri’s entry into the country due to his stance on biometric fingerprints.

The court set Sept 14 for the an-

nouncement of its ruling on the case, which involve several former MPs and tweeters.

The Criminal Court previously acquitted all defendants of the charges, including publishing false news, harming national interests, and misusing the telephone, due to the circulation of allegations about the entry ban imposed on Al-Muwaizri.

Plan linked to South Saad Al-Abdullah project under review

Amghara scrapyard eyed for residential expansion

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The concerned government agencies are studying the possibility of transforming the Amghara scrapyard from an industrial zone to a residential area by including it in the South Saad Al-Abdullah Residential City project, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources stated that “the relevant government agencies have re-started talks on the proposal

to allocate the Amghara scrapyard to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW). One of the important drivers for renewing this proposal is that it became more realistic after overcoming the main obstacle to implementing this step, that is, finding an alternative site for investors in the scrapyard.

This was achieved after it was decided to relocate the investors to the new Na’ayem Indus-

trial City.”

Sources confirmed that the concerned government entities’ coordination is underway to take the necessary measures to incorporate the scrapyard into the South Saad Al-Abdullah Residential City project.

They added that all aspects of the proposal will be studied — housing, economic and development.

Major overhaul of Kuwaiti family law on the horizon

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The draft amendment of Personal Status Law No. 51/1984, which was completed by the Family Affairs and Personal Status Laws Review Committee and referred to 13 government agencies to obtain their opinion, addresses a number of issues concerning the Kuwaiti family and society, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Among the most important issues covered by the draft amendment are alimony and its conditions, marrying a woman without her permission, dowry, divorce (‘khu’), mother’s custody of her child, visitation rights and child custody.

The draft stipulates that marrying a woman without her permission is invalid and contingent upon her approval. If she approves, she may stipulate conditions in the contract.

It outlines the provisions for alimony and the conditions for assessment as follows: need, cost of living, circumstances of the beneficiary, time, place, customs, services provided by the State, allocations and assistance, as per the executive regulations of the law.

According to the draft, ‘khu’ (one type of divorce) has become annulment (‘fasl’) replacing another type of divorce (‘talaq’) and it does not reduce the number of allowed divorces. It allows a wife to request annulment of the marriage before consummation or seclusion, if she deposits the dowry she received and the amount that the husband spent on the marriage, and reconciliation is impossible. A wife who has not consummated marriage with her husband may request annulment of the marriage if the husband does not pay her the dowry.

Regarding maintenance during the waiting period, maintenance is only due to a woman in waiting following a revocable divorce, or a pregnant woman in waiting following an irrevocable divorce, annulment or consummation of a marriage that is invalid or based on suspicion. A woman in waiting following death of the spouse has the right to reside in the marital home for the duration of the waiting period.

Custody is granted for male and female children under 18 solar years of age, as well as to insane and mentally ill persons. Custody is the right of both parents as long as the marriage continues. If they separate, custody is assigned to the mother, then the father, then the father’s mother, then the mother’s mother, then to whomever the court determines is most suitable for custody. The court, upon the father’s request, may order custody transferred to him when the child reaches 12 solar years of age.

In all cases, the mother is obligated to have custody of her child if the latter is below two years of age. She does not lose custody if she marries someone other than a ‘mahram’ or if her religion is different.

Only the parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren have the right to visit and spend the night with the child. If one of the parents is deceased or absent, or if the child is in the care of someone other than his parents, the court may appoint a relative entitled to visitation.

Custody during marriage is assigned to both parents, and after separation, according to the order stipulated in the draft — “to the mother, then to the father, then to the father’s mother, then to the mother’s mother.”

Custody may be transferred to the father if the child reaches 12 years of age. In all cases, the mother is obligated to have custody of her child if he is below two years old.

20 vehicles impounded in Mahboula

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ahmadi Security Directorate, in cooperation with Kuwait Municipality, impounded 20 abandoned vehicles and put warning stickers on 46 other vehicles in Mahboula, indicating impoundment if the owners do not take action within the specified period, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source said the campaign was carried out by security officers and Municipality employees.

The operation was under the supervision

of Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Municipality Ahmad Al-Hazeem, Head of Fahheel Center Saad Salem Al-Khurainj, Head of Mahboula Center Mohammad Qunais Al-Hajri, Head of Fintas Center Abdulaziz Mubarak Al-Hajri, inspectors Abdulaziz Salem, Mohammad Ghanim Al-Mutairi and Dalal Al-Hamr, Head of Shift A Hamad Al-Marri, and inspectors Khaled Misfer Al-Mutairi and Saad Salem Al-Khurainj.

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PAHW calls on women to update housing requests

Renewal process open Sept 14–25

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): The Women’s Housing Affairs Committee on Sunday called on female citizens who have historical priority rental housing applications registered with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) from 2010 and earlier to update their data with the required documents.

PAHW said in a press statement that the committee set dates for receiving renewal applications for female citizens submitted in 2005 and earlier from September 14 to 18, while applications from 2010 and earlier will be received from September 21 to 25. The statement noted that among the aforementioned categories are disabled

Kuwaiti women who have a rental housing application registered with the authority.

PAHW stressed that the update process will be conducted at the Citizen Service Department in the housing building during both morning and evening shifts, while external centers will be limited to the morning shift only at Liberation Tower, Jahra, Al-Qurain, and the Avenues Mall.

The required documents include a copy of the applicant’s civil ID, a copy of the nationality certificate, a copy of the marriage contract for married women, a divorce certificate for divorced women, a death certificate of the husband for widows, educational certificates for the children for the last two academic years, and a certificate from the General Administration of Ports for the last three years (2023–2025).

Additional required documents include a certificate from the Real Estate Registry regarding the real estate ownership of the applicant and her husband, a certificate from the Commercial Registry Department for the applicant and her family members, a certificate from the Public Authority for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities if a family member has a severe or moderate disability, a salary certificate, a certificate from Social Insurance, or a certificate from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The Foundation stressed that female citizens with rental housing requests registered with historical priority for the years 1980, 1990, and 2000, who were previously invited, should expedite the update of their data with the Foundation as soon as possible to ensure the completion of procedures related to their requests.

KUNA launches press interview program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency’s (KUNA) training center launched Sunday program on conducting press interviews, with participants from the agency, Qatari News Agency (QNA), Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the Ports Authority and Petrochemical Industries Company.

The program, presented by KUNA’s Nasser Al-Khamri, sets out to explore different types of interviews, framing questions and premises, as well as sharpening interviewer skill-sets, using both theoretical and practical methodologies.



KUNA photo
Senior Editor at Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Nasser Al-Khamri during the presentation of the training program.

Crown Prince, PM send condolences

Amir condolences Portugal over train tragedy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to Portugal’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa over the victims of the Gloria train derailment in Lisbon which killed several passengers and injured others.

His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah

Almighty to grant the families of the victims patience and solace.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to Portugal’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa over the victims of the Gloria train derailment in Lisbon which killed several passengers and injured others.

His Highness wished the victims’ families patience and solace.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of condolences to Portugal’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa over the victims of the Gloria train derailment in Lisbon.

Other Voices

Kuwait’s new wave of fundamentalism

By Ahmad alsarraf

Fundamentalism, regardless of its religion or sect, will not die. This is not because it is correct, but because it is linked to the interests of thousands, whose financial, social and political power depends on it, in addition to the enormous wealth generated from it.

This will remain the case as long as individuals in society choose to remain rigid and backward.

Many countries have succeeded in escaping it, such as Japan, South Korea and the Scandinavian countries in particular.

The wave of fundamentalism in Kuwait declined in recent years, but it returned in recent weeks, gaining unexpected momentum, as manifested in a number of confusing and dangerous indicators.

In an unprecedented initiative, the ‘Pentagon’ of ‘Awqaf’ (Endowments) Department decided to perform the eclipse prayer in 90 mosques.

The decision includes determining the day and time scientifically, based on data that was not even available during the time of the Prophet.

Of course, I do not object to the decision, but the ‘creepiness’ often begins with such circulars.

They start out simple and innocent, but within a few years, they turn into a ritual and an obligation, then an official holiday, and so on.

We also saw this with the Minister of Education’s decision to declare the last week of Ramadan an official holiday under the pretext of easing the burdens of “our children.”

Next year, the circular will include private schools, and after that, consideration will be given to easing the burdens of university and higher institute students.

Then, the matter will evolve to include the last 10 days of the holiday, instead of the last week of Ramadan.

Then it will develop further to include a school clo-



alsarraf

sure for the entire month of Ramadan, something Muslims have never experienced in their history.

So, how did we reach this situation, such that Ramadan has become difficult for 220,000 students in public schools, in an era of prosperity and air conditioning, when it was never difficult throughout Islamic history, and it is not difficult for students in private schools and various university and institute students?

Therefore, the issue is not a matter of applying Sunnah or doctrine, but rather the slow and continuous creepiness towards the civil State, which we once believed we were living in.

How can we accept the official direction of various media outlets to film a company kitchen that used spoiled eggs in its desserts, while not a single semi-official camera took the initiative to expose a professor who corrupted the minds of his students by giving them full marks without conducting any tests, just because the professor rejoiced at the rise of fundamentalist forces to power in Syria?

In the company kitchen, an individual ruined the stomachs of some students and was exposed through audio and video clips.

At the university, the minds of an entire generation were corrupted, and no one seemed to care!

We also saw how the Minister of Education recently made extensive appointments to various critical positions. He appointed officials, majority of whom are known for their religious and political affiliations within the ministry and in various university faculties.

This is a dangerous return to the politicization of educational positions.

* * *

Your Excellency, First Deputy Prime Minister, you promised to restore the original Kuwait to its people.

How did you allow extremist forces to hijack the country and seize control of its most vital institutions?

Kuwait is not just a nationality card, it is a free, civilized, open and beautiful homeland ... for everyone.

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Kuwait University opens 127 classes for nine subjects in various colleges

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Deanship of Registration and Admission at Kuwait University approved the opening of 127 classes for nine subjects in certain colleges.

This is in response to the rising demand for some basic and major subjects. It aims to increase student capacity and provide broader opportunities for students.

According to statistics obtained by the newspaper, eight English language classes were opened, three in the College of Law, 24 in the College of Arts, nine in the College of Life Sciences, 10 in the College of Science, 31 in the College of Social Sciences, 12 in the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, 14 in the College of Life Sciences (second batch), and 16 in the College of Education.

Academic sector sources confirmed that this step is part of the plan of the university to address the registration congestion issue and ensure that the largest possible number of students secure seats, especially in high-volume subjects that are essential for graduation.

Sources explained that opening such a large number of classes contributes to alleviating pressure on class schedules, distributing students in a balanced manner, and accelerating the completion of study plans, thereby, limiting graduation delays and providing more alternatives for lecture times and days, in a manner that suits the students’ circumstances.

Sources said this measure complements the policy of the university to develop academic services and ensure support for the educational process in a way that serves the interests of the students first and foremost, and improves the quality of education.

Cabinet reviews proposal

MoE set to raise school facility fees

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: As part of the government’s commitment to rationalize public spending and maximize the use of educational facilities and services, the recommendation of the Ministry of Education to increase operating fees for school buildings and educational facilities is gearing towards approval, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources said the Cabinet reviewed the presentation of Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei on the need to review the fees for services offered by the ministry. He was tasked to submit the regulation on increasing operating fees to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah for approval.

According to sources, the move of the ministry is in compliance with Cabinet Resolution No. 517 issued during its meeting no. 16/2025 held at the end of April. The resolution mandates government agencies, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, to review their service fees in line with their actual expenses. Each agency must submit the results of its review within two months of the issuance of the resolution.

The proposed regulations include

amending fees for operating school buildings, educational facilities, indoor playgrounds, and sites reserved for the Ministry of Education. Fees are set according to the nature of the beneficiary, such as public benefit associations, government agencies and private schools.

Sources disclosed that an increase in the usufruct allowance for private schools is included based on the type of educational system adopted, in addition to imposing fines in the event of unauthorized use of buildings and facilities.

The regulations stipulate that licensees are permitted to rent out parts of school buildings for certain activities, such as printing, photocopying, cafeterias and canteens. The ministry is entitled to 25 percent of the total value of contracts concluded by private schools with specialized companies.

Sources indicated that playground rental fee is set at KD150 per square meter annually, increasing by 25 percent every five years. A new service will be introduced to utilize vacant spaces in school buildings, calculated based on the number of days of use, with each timeframe having a specific price per square meter.

News in Brief

Poet Salem Al-Wahida passes away

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Poet Salem Al-Wahida passed away at the age of 83, after a long career in lyrical poetry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Deeply saddened by this tragedy, the daily offers its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased, imploring Allah to have mercy on him and grant him a place in His spacious gardens, and to grant patience and solace to his family.

□ □ □

Fourth Ring Road closed for 45 days: The General Traffic Department announced that Hussein Bin Ali Al-Rumi Road (Fourth Ring Road) towards Shuwaikh Industrial Area is closed for 45 days starting at dawn on Friday.

In a statement on its X account, the department revealed the closure begins at the overpass in the intersection of the Fourth Ring Road with Airport Road (55) until Ghazali Road (60).

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Continued from Page 1

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Yet, when banks resort to the judiciary or legal means, they stall projects. This means losses for them and their clients, especially if the debt is small or the mortgage is much larger.

What do some banks think if the State delays paying the companies' dues?

If, Allah forbid, the company falls into some kind of deficit, some banks resort to such measures despite knowing that the mortgaged assets are more than sufficient, because the deficit is temporary, for a specific reason, and perhaps, beyond the control of the institution, which has a long history of dealing with the bank and has been paying its obligations without delay.

A single mortgage would have repaid the loan and more. In such cases, it is well known that central banks around the world eases measures and monitors the unjustified tightening of some banks' policies toward their clients, as they are fully aware that no one benefits from the suspension of financing.

They do not impose stricter policies on banks to prevent companies from taking risks that do not serve the economic activity of the country, as this ultimately disrupts financial activity, which is the foundation of the country's recovery.

Some financial institutions manage their financing wisely, because they know that their existence depends on their clients -- companies and individuals. They are keen on diversifying their portfolios by increasing mortgages and they know that legal procedures could be lengthy.

Thus, they help themselves by assisting borrowers and accepting their arguments, especially if there is development stagnation in the country, that is, in any country.

With great wisdom, the Central Bank operates to protect financial and credit stability and provide liquidity to maintain economic activity.

We put the matter in front of the Central Bank. We are in a country keen on moving toward a significant development path and we do not want to tamper with it.

We are talking about those who are solvent, have comfortable jobs, and have strong mortgages, so why shouldn't our relationship with them be good and interactive?

Kuwait traffic

In an interview on Al-Akhhbar Channel, Al-Qattan revealed that the control room monitors traffic through 300 cameras installed in intersections and highways to detect traffic accidents or obstructions.

He said the maintenance work is underway on the Fourth Ring Road -- from Road 55 to Ghazali Bridge. He urged drivers to take the alternative routes as follows: Ghazali Road, Jamal Abdel Nasser Road and Jahra Expressway.

He added that traffic density in Sabah Al-Salem has started to decrease due to the opening of entrances and exits, unlike in previous years.

Previously, the General Traffic Department announced the closure of Hussein Bin Ali Al-Rumi Road (Fourth Ring Road) towards Shuwaikh Industrial Area, starting from the overpass along Airport Road (55) to Ghazali Road (60), for a period of 45 days, starting last Friday.

In a related development, the Ministry of Public Works announced the continuation of major road maintenance works under the new road contracts in 47 areas from Sept 7-11.

In a statement through the account of the Government Communication Center on the X platform, the ministry announced that the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) is carrying out maintenance works in 11 areas, including Abdally, Subiya and Salmi roads towards Kuwait City, Salmi from Kilometer 80 to Kilometer 85 towards the port, Fahaheel Al-Sahel Club intersection, Seventh Ring Road from Kilometer 21 to Kilometer 24 towards the South, King Faisal Road from the Sixth Ring Road intersection to the Fifth Ring Road intersection towards Kuwait City, Damascus Street from the Fifth Ring Road intersection to the Fourth Ring Road intersection, Fourth Ring Road from the Airport Road intersection to Ghazali Road intersection towards Jahra, Fahaheel Road opposite Al-Masail and Al-Funaitees, and Airport Road 55 opposite Farwaniya towards the airport.

The ministry added that it is implementing road maintenance works in the six governorates covering 36 areas -- three in Jahra, 10 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, nine in the Capital, four in Ahmadi, three in Hawally and seven in Farwaniya.

On the other hand, the ministry revealed that Emergency Switchboard 150 handled 2,171 reports in August -- 1,878 reports from maintenance engineering, 121 reports from highway maintenance and 172 reports from sanitary engineering.

Education minister

staff to work in an organized and safe atmosphere.

He thanked the technical staff who continued working throughout the summer period to develop the new curricula from kindergarten to Grade Nine in preparation for implementation this academic year.

He affirmed that the relevant sectors in the ministry are closely following up the printing of the new textbooks, which entered the final stages, with the assistance of field experts, including technical directors, teachers, school principals and their assistants, stressing that he trusts their experience and competence.

He stated that the ministry is open to any comments from the educational

field, urging everyone to submit their comments to the concerned technical directorates in order to be taken into consideration in making the necessary amendments to achieve continuous development and enhance the quality of education.

He said the ministry focused on preparing schools through its technical and administrative sectors in a bid to establish an attractive educational environment that supports creativity and innovation, indicating these efforts are part of the ministerial vision aimed at raising the level of educational performance.

He added the preparedness plans include the provision of educational and administrative staff and equipping schools with the latest educational tools, as well as Science and Computer laboratories that keep pace with modern developments and support the educational process, thus, contributing to making the school environment conducive for learning, and helping the students acquire knowledge and skills in a comfortable and inspiring atmosphere.

He stressed that this system cannot be completed without investing in preparing and qualifying the teaching staff in a comprehensive and professional manner through intensive training courses to be sure that competencies are in line with the requirements of the new curricula, which the ministry has started implementing.

He confirmed the ministry is fully committed to provide new teachers with the necessary skills and methods of using modern teaching strategies that put the students in the center of the educational process.

He pointed out that these integrated measures aim to improve educational outputs by combining a modern school environment, qualified teaching staff, and advanced curricula, which will consolidate the position of Kuwaiti schools as an incubator of knowledge and creativity.

He praised the integrated role of the relevant sectors and school administrations in harnessing capabilities and providing schools' requirements in terms of facilities, equipment and support services, asserting that coordinating efforts and raising the morale are considered a national duty in which everyone participates in order to advance the educational process and better serve the nation.

He implored Allah Almighty to make the new academic year a year of goodness and success, in which the students realize their ambitions, while the teachers and administrative staff continue the journey of giving and dedication at work.

He asserted that the nation expects a lot from its children inside the classrooms, and that sincerity and diligence are ways to instill love of the homeland in the students and embody belongingness in their practical reality.

Earlier, the Ministry of Education affirmed its progress towards implementing the new curricula from kindergarten to Grade Nine, as well as laying down educational plans to enhance national identity and keep pace with the latest scientific and technical developments in order to achieve quality education that meets the needs of the next phase.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that the technical guide for subjects has started implementing an expanded training plan to prepare the educational field for the implementation of the developed curricula at the beginning of academic year 2025/2026.

A series of training courses will be organized starting Monday, according to the schedule that ensures the training programs reach various educational groups.

The ministry said these courses cover practical and interactive topics in various fields, including the explanation of the philosophy of the new curriculum, general framework, foundations of its construction, mechanisms for achieving the established standards, development of teaching skills, modern teaching methods, educational application methods, and an explanation of the teachers' guide for the target groups.

It added that the training courses will be conducted using a dual system combining in-person training at specialized centers and remote training through electronic platforms. This provides flexibility for participation and ensures that educational bodies in kindergarten, primary and intermediate levels fully benefit from the training, not to mention the increased level of readiness of the educational staff to efficiently handle the developed curricula, positively impacting the quality of educational outputs.

Periodic reports will be submitted to the first supervisor and then the general supervisor to monitor the progress of the training and guarantee its quality and continuity.

The goal of these training courses is to enable supervisors, department heads, teachers, current and new staff to acquire student-centered educational tools and develop their capabilities for effective interaction and evaluation.

This will result in the full preparation of teachers capable of maintaining sustainability, keeping pace with technological developments, and addressing classroom needs in a flexible manner.

The training plan is dedicated to preparing the educational field for the implementation of the new curricula in parallel with the process of printing textbooks, which has entered the final stages. The printing and delivery of these books are being completed. About 40 percent of the total printed textbooks have been delivered so far, and 85 percent are expected to be delivered before the new school year starts.

Meanwhile, electronic copies of the books will be made available to all students and teachers through the digital platforms approved by the ministry to ensure easy access and provide modern

educational alternatives that support the digital transformation of the educational sector

The development of the new curricula is the result of continuous scientific and educational efforts, in accordance with the latest educational standards, while focusing on consolidating national identity and promoting the values of belongingness, alongside openness to modern sciences and knowledge to raise the level of education and result in a creative generation capable of competing and contributing effectively to building the future of the nation.

Also, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) invited 16,224 students to the orientation forum for new students, which will be held on Monday and Tuesday for all those accepted into its colleges, institutes and special training courses for the first and second semesters of the current academic and training year, while affirming the presence of the concerned officials to respond to the queries of the students.

Dean of Admissions and Registration Dr. Fawzi Al-Dokhi stated that for the first time in the history of PAAET, the general orientation forum for new students will be held at the Exhibition Grounds-Hall Five from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. He disclosed that the first day is for female students and the second day is for male students.

Al-Dokhi said this forum will include introductory booths for all the colleges and institutes, Deanship of Admissions and Registration, Deanship of Student Affairs, Deanship of Libraries, and external entities that provide services to the students, such as student aid.

He affirmed that this forum is a milestone for the students who are starting their academic journey at PAAET, considering the program includes activation of electronic accounts, issuance of university cards, specification of college buildings, and completion of various pre-study procedures.

He clarified that the forum will not be limited to official procedures, as there will be awareness workshops, other events and introductory activities aimed at preparing students for a successful start of the school year.

He said motivational events like competitions, raffles for valuable prizes, and discounts on school supplies and uniforms will be held as well -- all within the framework of supporting the students.

He reiterated that the accepted students should attend this forum, especially since some final admission procedures will be completed at the forum.

He emphasized that the forum will enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the academic environment and communicate with various departments and entities that provide student services.

Kuwait gold

It explained that the decline in real bond yields boosted demand for non-yielding assets, such as gold, which benefited from the state of anticipation and tension in global markets, indicating that signs of exposure to risks in the markets have increased, as inflation is no longer the only challenge that the US Federal Reserve is currently facing.

It pointed out that signs of recession and declining labor market stability are now pressuring monetary policymakers to take decisive steps. It added some Federal Reserve members have already hinted at the need for urgent action, while observers did not rule out the possibility that the cut could exceed a quarter of a percentage point if the weak data trend continues.

The report indicated that these developments coincided with geopolitical tensions in more than one sensitive region around the world, which raised levels of anxiety in international financial markets and supported investors' appetite for safe assets.

It revealed the current data show that the Federal Reserve is now forced to strike a complex balance between inflation targets and maintaining labor market stability, which makes it likely to ease in the coming period and remain supportive of gold's upward movement.

It added that markets are awaiting US inflation data this week, along with confidence indicators and job reviews, which may push gold's movement towards greater volatility in the short term, "but this seems poised to remain within a high range, if the new monetary policy directions are confirmed."

Sheikha Jawaher

to strengthening the human rights situation.

The Special Rapporteur is conducting her official visit to Kuwait from September 2 to 9. This visit marks her second trip, following her scientific visit in 2023, which reaffirms the State of Kuwait's continued close cooperation with the mandate holders and United Nations Special Rapporteurs.

Kuwait spared

Dalal Al-Mulla Legal Group signs cooperation agreement with Emirates Classification Society

ABU DHABI, Sept 7: Dalal Al-Mulla Legal Group has signed a cooperation agreement with the Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) to boost legal and maritime collaboration in the region. The agreement was announced during the official visit of Lawyer Dalal Al-Mulla, Founder and CEO of the Group, to TASNEEF's headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

The partnership, signed in the presence of Eng. Waleed Al-Tamimi, CEO of TASNEEF, will focus on a range of maritime legal services. These include handling disputes and arbitration, vessel arrest, oil pollution cases, ship financing and registration, charter party and shipping contracts, marine insurance, and incidents such as collisions and oil spills.

Lawyer Dalal Al-Mulla said the agreement marks "a significant step in strengthening regional cooperation," adding that it underlines the Group's commitment to supporting the



Lawyer Dalal Al-Mulla, Founder and CEO of the Group with Eng. Waleed Al-Tamimi, CEO of TASNEEF.

Gulf's maritime and shipping sectors with specialized legal expertise.

Eng. Waleed Al-Tamimi welcomed the deal, praising Dalal Al-Mulla Legal Group for its role in representing clients in maritime cases and enhancing

the region's legal framework in the shipping industry.

Both sides said the agreement supports their shared goal of developing safer and more sustainable practices in the maritime transport and logistics sector.

Kuwait to tender 3,000MW Nuwaiseeb plant via KAPP

BOT system saves public funds in power deal

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy intends to float a tender for the first phase of the 3,000-megawatt power plant project in Nuwaiseeb through the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), which was previously scheduled to be tendered through the ministry.

Sources from the ministry clarified this step is a manifestation of the success of the private sector's involvement in the implementation of energy projects.

Sources revealed that such a decision was taken after the successful tendering and awarding of major projects in the same manner, such as the North Zour Power Plant (Phases One, Two and Three), Khairan Power Plant-Phase One, and Shagaya Power Plant (Phases One, Two and Three). Sources pointed out that these successes encouraged the ministry officials to transfer the Nuwaiseeb project to public-private partnership, considering this approach reduces pressure on the general budget of the State.

Sources indicated that implementing projects under the BOT system ensures that no direct financial obligations are incurred on the public budget, which contributed to the preference for offering the Nuwaiseeb plant through the partnership system.

Sources said the ministry is in the process of contacting the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to request the cancellation of the global


consultant's tender previously issued for the project, with KAPP overseeing the preparation of the tender documents.

Sources added the Subiya Power Plant (Phase Four) is expected to be the last project to be implemented directly by the ministry, given the urgent need to operate it quickly to boost production capacity before completing new projects under the partnership system. They indicated that the inclusion of the Nuwaiseeb power plant will bring the number of electricity and water production projects implemented by KAPP to five major projects, with a total capacity of 9,100 megawatts.

It is worth noting that the Kuwait Municipality previously handed over the Nuwaiseeb power plant site to the ministry, which decided to use combined cycle technology due to its high efficiency compared to traditional turbines. This technology is capable of producing more energy using less fuel, while reducing harmful emissions. It also offers flexibility in operating with multiple fuels and future expansion.


Following are the figures related to the Nuwaiseeb project:

- 7,200 megawatts - total capacity of the plant in two phases.
- 3,000 megawatts - planned production capacity of the first phase that is expected to be tendered through KAPP.
- 9,100 megawatts - total capacity of the electricity and water production projects tendered through KAPP till date.
- Combined cycle - the technology used in the plant reduces fuel consumption and emissions and enables future expansion.



JOINT OPERATIONS

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under- mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **8 SEP 2025** up to **30 SEP 2025** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender.

Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Thursday, 7 OCT 2025 @ 09:00 A.M.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (KD)
1	041599	S/F NUOVO PIGNONE	15
2	041600	CONTROL SYSTEM ICSS	50
3	041678	ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM, (LENEL, HONEYWELL, HID CORPORATION, ECO SCHULTE AND PAIGE-USA)	25
4	041679	CONTROL VALVES	25

Note :

Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and CBMS@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact:

Tel No.: 23983639 - Ext : 2502 - 3477

INTERNATIONAL

Pritzker calls president 'wannabe dictator'

Trump threatens Chicago with apocalyptic force

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): US President Donald Trump on Saturday amplified his promises to send National Guard troops and immigration agents to Chicago by posting a parody image from "Apocalypse Now" featuring a ball of flames as helicopters zoom over the nation's third-largest city.

"I love the smell of deportations in the morning," Trump wrote on his social media site. "Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR."

The president offered no details beyond the label "Chipocalypse Now," a play on the title of Francis Ford Coppola's dystopian 1979 film set in the Vietnam war, in which a character says: "I love the smell of napalm in the morning."

In response to the post, Illinois Gov JB Pritzker, a Democrat, called Trump a "wannabe dictator."

Trump on Friday signed an executive order seeking to rename the Defense Department the Department of War, after months of campaigning to be considered for the Nobel Peace Prize. The renaming requires congressional approval.

The illustration in Trump's post shows him against a backdrop of the Chicago skyline, wearing a hat match-



Police walk along as people march during Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights' Chicago Says No Trump No Troops' protest on Sept 6, in Chicago. (AP)

ing that of the movie's war-loving and amoral Lt. Col. Kilgore, played by Robert Duvall.

Trump's weekend post follows his repeated threats to add Chicago to the list of other Democratic-led cities he's targeted for expanded federal enforcement. His administration is set

to step up immigration enforcement in Chicago, as it did in Los Angeles, and deploy National Guard troops.

In addition to sending troops to Los Angeles in June, Trump has deployed them since last month in Washington, as part of his unprecedented law enforcement takeover of the nation's capital.

US Sen Sanders, Mamdani energize supporters at town hall in Brooklyn

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): US Sen Bernie Sanders and Zohran Mamdani rallied supporters at a town hall in Brooklyn on Saturday, slamming President Donald Trump and boosting their shared progressive message as Mamdani works to energize his base in the final weeks of the New York City mayor's race.

The crowd was friendly, and the reception was almost entirely warm.

The idea of health care as a human right? Cheers. The mere mention of Trump? Heavy boos. The notion of an oligarchy? Even more boos. At one point, the crowd chanted the campaign slogans that helped Mamdani win the Democratic nomination in the race.

"We will freeze the?" Mamdani asked. The booming response: "Rent!"

"Make buses fast and?," he continued.

"Free!," the audience yelled.

The town hall - part of Sanders' "Fighting Oligarchy" tour, which has drawn massive crowds in red and blue states alike - packed an auditorium in Brooklyn as Mamdani's campaign barrels toward the



US Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., waves to attendees with New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani during a town hall on Sept 6 in New York. (AP)

November election.

He is facing off against former Gov Andrew Cuomo and incumbent Mayor Eric Adams, who are both running as independents, along with Republican Curtis Sliwa, the founder of the Guardian Angels

crime patrol group.

Sanders, an independent who represents Vermont, dubbed Mamdani "the future of the Democratic Party," while criticizing the state's top Democratic leaders for not endorsing him.

Ciattarelli wins US president's endorsement

Dems and GOP test playbooks as Trump looms over elections in Virginia, New Jersey

GARFIELD, N. J., Sept 7, (AP): Democrats and Republicans are testing dueling playbooks in fall elections that will decide the leadership of Virginia and New Jersey - and perhaps a new direction for the parties heading into next year's midterms.

In both states, Democratic candidates for governor are distancing themselves from their party's far-left wing - and its most divisive people and priorities - in campaigns focused on rising costs and the economy under President Donald Trump's leadership. The move reflects what some operatives see as a critical lesson from the 2024 national elections, when Democrats faced a backlash for supporting so-called "woke" social policies.

As Democrats race to the center, their GOP opponents in both Democratic-leaning states are largely unwilling to separate themselves from Trump, his controversial policies or his "Make America Great Again" supporters. Trump's GOP continues to rally around him, shrugging off low approval ratings and opposition to his federal workforce cuts that have especially affected Virginia. That's even as the Republican candidates hope to attract independents and even moderate Democrats to win

in November.

It is a delicate balance, and one that could inform both parties' strategies a year before midterm elections that will decide control of Congress.

The majority of voters in New Jersey, as in the nation, are not happy with Trump.

An AP-NORC poll conducted in August found that 45% of US adults approve of Trump's performance as president. And just 37% of likely New Jersey voters approved of Trump's job performance in a late July Fairleigh Dickinson University poll.

That's not to say Trump doesn't have supporters in New Jersey, a working-class state he lost by 6 percentage points last fall compared with 16 points four years earlier.

New Jersey Republican candidate for governor, former state Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli, was once a Trump critic. But Ciattarelli, who faces Democratic Rep. Mikie Sherrill, has embraced the president in the 2025 election. Ciattarelli won Trump's endorsement, backed his budget bill and declined to name any issues where they disagree. It's unclear, however, if he wants to campaign alongside Trump in New Jersey before Election Day.

Ciattarelli told reporters Thursday



Republican candidate for governor Jack Ciattarelli campaigns in Garfield, NJ on Sept 4. (AP)

that his campaign is actively working with the White House to get Trump involved. But, reflecting the delicate politics, he declined to say whether Trump might visit the state in person or participate in a tele-town hall or robocalls.

"I've been in touch with the White House even today. And what I really appreciate is, what the team has said there on behalf of the president, is we'll do anything that you think can help the campaign. And I really appreciate it," Ciattarelli said.

There's a similar dance playing out in Virginia.

In an interview, Republican gubernatorial candidate Winsome Earle-Sears didn't hide her support for Trump or his agenda, although she focused on the president's position on public safety when asked. Her campaign declined to answer directly when asked whether she wanted Trump to campaign in Virginia.

"When you ask me about the president's agenda, I am going to support his agenda when it comes to crime every single day," Earle-Sears told the AP.

An Earle-Sears spokesperson sent a follow-up statement after the interview: "Everyone knows Winsome Earle-Sears is fiercely independent, but she also knows when strong leadership delivers results. Winsome isn't afraid to say it - when Trump puts America first, Virginians win." A spokesperson later told the AP that Earle-Sears would welcome Trump on the campaign trail in Virginia.

Still, Earle-Sears expressed frustration that her opponents paint her as overly aligned with the White House or too far-right for Virginia. She argued that her opponent, former Rep. Abigail Spanberger, hasn't been teth-

ered to former Democratic President Joe Biden the same way.

"Nobody talks about her connections with Biden," she said.

The White House declined to answer questions about Trump's plans in Virginia or New Jersey.

Spanberger and Sherrill are working to stay focused on voters' economic concerns as costs surge and job growth stalls nationwide.

At the same time, Republicans are fighting to highlight the Democrats' support for progressive cultural priorities - including LGBTQ rights - and the rise of far-left leaders such as New York City's Democratic candidate for mayor Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist.

Earle-Sears released an attack ad this week charging that Spanberger "is for they/them, not us," while suggesting she supports policies that endanger children - an echo of Trump's closing message last fall.

In a new ad of her own pushing back, Spanberger noted that she is a mother of three school-age children and a former law enforcement officer. When asked in an interview whether supporting transgender children is a priority, however, Spanberger offered a cautious answer.

Pope Leo XIV declares teen computer whiz Carlo Acutis first millennial saint

VATICAN CITY, Sept 7, (AP): Pope Leo XIV declared a 15-year-old computer whiz the Catholic Church's first millennial saint Sunday, giving the next generation of Catholics a relatable role model who used technology to spread the faith.

Leo canonized Carlo Acutis, who died in 2006, during an open-air Mass in St. Peter's Square before an estimated 80,000 people, many of them millennials and couples with young children. During the first saint-making Mass of his pontificate, Leo also canonized another popular Italian figure who died young, Pier Giorgio Frassati.

The new saints "are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces."

Acutis was born on May 3, 1991, in London to a wealthy but not particularly observant Catholic family. They moved back to Milan soon after he was born and he enjoyed a typical, happy childhood, albeit marked by increasingly intense religious devotion.

Acutis was particularly interested in computer science and devoured college-level books on programming even as a youngster.

He was known to spend hours in prayer before the Eucharist each day.



Pope Leo XIV celebrates the canonization Mass of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sept 7. (AP)

But Acutis limited himself to an hour of video games a week, apparently deciding long before TikTok that human relationships were far more important than virtual ones. That discipline and restraint has proved appealing to the

Catholic hierarchy, which has sounded the alarm about the dangers of today's tech-driven society.

In October 2006, at age 15, Acutis fell ill with what was quickly diagnosed as acute leukemia. Within days, he was dead. He was entombed in Assisi, which known for its association with another popular saint, St. Francis.

In the years since his death, young Catholics have flocked by the millions to Assisi, where they can see the young Acutis through a glass-sided tomb, dressed in jeans, Nike sneakers and a sweatshirt. He seems as if he's sleeping, and questions have swirled about how his body was so well preserved, especially since parts of his heart have even toured the world as relics.

Both saint-making ceremonies had been scheduled for earlier this year, but were postponed following Pope Francis' death in April. Francis had fervently pushed the Acutis sainthood case forward, convinced that the church needed someone like him to attract young Catholics to the faith while addressing the promises and perils of the digital age.

"It's like I can maybe not be as great as Carlo may be, but I can be looking after him and be like, 'What would Carlo do?'" said Leo Kowalsky, an 8th grader at a Chicago school attached to the Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish.



Smoke rises from the Cabinet of Ministers building after a Russian strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sept 7. (AP)

'Largest Russian attack since war began'

Ukraine govt building damaged in Kyiv

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 7, (AP): Russia hit Ukraine's capital with drone and missiles Sunday in the largest aerial attack on the country since the war began, killing at least two people and leaving smoke rising from the roof of a key government building.

Russia attacked Ukraine with 810 drones and decoys, Ukraine's Air Force said.

Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Air Force, confirmed to The Associated Press that Sunday's attack was the largest Russian drone strike since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began. Russia also launched 13 missiles of various types.

Ukraine shot down and neutralized 747 drones and 4 missiles, according to a statement from the Air Force.

Hits from nine missiles and 54 drones were recorded at 33 locations across Ukraine, and the debris of shot down targets fell at eight locations, the Air Force said.

Associated Press reporters saw a plume of smoke rising from the roof of Kyiv's cabinet of ministers building, but it was not immediately clear if the smoke was the result of a direct hit or debris, which would mark an escalation in Russia's air campaign, which has so far spared government buildings in the city center.

The building is the home of Ukraine's Cabinet, housing the offices of its ministers. Police blocked access to the building as fire trucks and ambulances arrived.



A woman reacts in front of a residential building heavily damaged by a Russian strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sept 7. (AP)

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko said two people were killed and 20 were injured in the attack.

"For the first time, the government building was damaged by an enemy attack, including the roof and upper floors," said Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko. "We will restore the buildings, but lost lives cannot be returned."

"The world must respond to this destruction not only with words, but with actions. There is a need to strengthen sanctions pressure - primarily against

Russian oil and gas," she said.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy echoed her sentiment in an online statement. "Such killings now, when real diplomacy could have started long ago, are a deliberate crime and a prolongation of the war," he said. He called for sanctions on Russia and for strengthening Ukraine's air defenses.

"Every additional (air defense) system saves civilians from these vile strikes. The world can force the Kremlin criminals to stop killing; only political will is needed," Zelenskyy said.

The two people killed were a mother and her 3-month-old child, whose bodies were dug out of the rubble by rescuers, said Tymur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv's city administration. Initially Tkachenko said the child was 1 year old. At least 10 locations in Kyiv were damaged in the attack, he added.

Russian drones struck a nine-story residential building in Kyiv's Sviatoshynskiy district and a four-story residential building in Darnytskyi district, according to Klitschko. Tkachenko said these were direct hits.

The Russian military said Sunday that it used aviation, drones, missiles and artillery to strike military-industrial targets in Ukraine, including drone assembly and storage sites, military airfields, two air defense radar stations and troop positions.

Sunday's attack is the second mass Russian drone and missile attack to target Kyiv in the span of two weeks, as hopes for peace talks wane.

Greece prime minister unveils broad tax-cuts package in keynote policy speech

ATHENS, Greece, Sept 7, (AP): Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis unveiled a 1.6 billion-euro (\$1.87 billion) tax cuts package Saturday that includes a number of reductions affecting some 4 million citizens. He announced the package in a keynote speech at the Thessaloniki International Fair.

The head of Greece's government traditionally outlines the following year's economic policies at the fair every September, while touting their achievements.

At last year's speech, Mitsotakis had declared "I have not come with a bag full of gifts."

This year's speech was mostly about gifts designed to boost as many incomes as possible. Mitsotakis himself put the beneficiaries - the middle class, the young, large families, pensioners and others - at around 4 million.

This was not a pork barrel fest, yet it was clear that Mitsotakis was speaking with the next national election in mind. The election must take place by July 2027.

The tax-cut package was limited by spending constraints imposed by the EU, but financed by better-than-expected tax revenue and a primary budget surplus, which excludes debt servicing.

The tax cuts will be incorporated in the 2026 national budget, which will be voted on by Parliament in December.

Other than the lowest tax bracket, 9%, and the top rate of 44%, all other tax rates will be cut by 2 percentage points - more for families, especially those with three or more children. A new 39% rate will be imposed on incomes from 40-60,000 euros (\$46,800 - \$70,200) that now pay the top rate.



Protesters gather during a rally outside Thessaloniki's international trade fair where Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis delivered a keynote speech, at the northern city of Thessaloniki, Greece on Sept 6. (AP)

Young people under 25 making under 20,000 euros (\$23,400) per year will pay no tax and those between 25 and 30 will pay a much reduced tax. Income earners from rents will also pay significantly less, although Mitsotakis noted the incomes they declare from that source are almost absurdly low. Residents of small islands - under 20,000 population - will pay 30% less in value added tax, while village residents will see property taxes much reduced over the next two years.

Opposition parties too splintered to form big coalition to topple govt

Japan’s PM Ishiba resigns after party suffered historic defeat in summer election

TOKYO, Sept 7, (AP): Japan’s Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced Sunday he will step down following growing calls from his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in July’s parliamentary election.

Ishiba, who took office in October, had resisted demands from mostly right-wing opponents within his own party for more than a month, saying such a step would cause a political vacuum when Japan faces key challenges in and outside the country.

The resignation came one day before his Liberal Democratic Party was to decide whether to hold an early leadership election, a virtual no-confidence motion against him if approved.

Ishiba said during a televised press conference he would start a process to hold a party leadership vote to choose his replacement and that there was no need for Monday’s decision.

If the prime minister had stayed on, he would have inevitably struggled to manage his divided party and minority government.

In July, Ishiba’s ruling coalition failed to secure a majority in the 248-seat upper house in a crucial parliamentary election, further shaking the stability of his government. The loss added to an earlier election defeat in the lower house, where the party-led coalition also had lost a majority.

His decision came after his meeting Saturday with Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and his perceived mentor, former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who apparently suggested Ishiba’s resignation ahead of Monday’s vote.

He had previously insisted on staying, stressing the need to avoid a political vacuum at a time Japan faces big challenges, including U.S. tariffs and their impact on the economy, rising prices, rice policy reforms and growing tension in the region.

Since the LDP’s last week adoption of its review of the election loss, which



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba arrives at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, Japan on Sept 7. (AP)

called for “a complete overhaul” of the party, requests for an early leadership vote or for Ishiba’s resignation before Monday’s results have gained traction.

A conservative heavyweight Taro Aso, known for his anti-Ishiba stance, and a

minister and several deputy ministers in the Ishiba Cabinet have requested an early vote, prompting others to follow suit.

Former Health Minister Norihisa Tamura told an NHK talk show earlier Sunday that the best way to stop the party divide and move forward is for Ishiba “to settle” the dispute before Monday’s vote, urging his resignation. The party has already been distracted from necessary work on economic measures and on figuring out ways to gain opposition support in the next parliamentary session, Tamura said.

With Ishiba stepping down as party leader, the LDP is expected to set a date for its party presidential election, likely to be held in early October.

Possible candidates include Koizumi, as well as ultra-conservative former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi, a moderate and the protégé of former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Lacking a majority in both houses, the next LDP leader will have to work with the main opposition parties to get bills passed, experts say, or else face constant risks of no-confidence motions.

The opposition parties, however, are too splintered to form a big coalition to topple the government.

In recent weeks, Ishiba successfully got US President Donald Trump to lower the tariff rates the US administration imposed on Japan from 25% to 15%. Ishiba also said he has had his chief trade negotiator, Ryosei Akazawa, deliver his letter to Trump, stating his wish to work with him to create “the golden era” of the Japan-U.S. alliance, inviting the American leader to visit Japan.

Ishiba’s top aide, LDP Secretary General Hiroshi Moriyama, a key figure who negotiated with main opposition leaders to help achieve legislation since the prime minister took office, has also expressed his intention to step down on Sept. 2 over the election loss, though Ishiba hasn’t granted him resignation. Moriyama’s departure would have dealt a blow to the prime minister.

South Korea to bring home more than 300 workers detained in US plant raid

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 7, (AP): More than 300 South Korean workers detained following a massive immigration raid at a Hyundai plant in Georgia will be released and brought home, the South Korean government announced Sunday.

Kang Hoon-sik, chief of staff for President Lee Jae Myung, said that South Korea and the U.S. had finalized negotiations on the workers’ release. He said South Korea plans to send a charter plane to bring the workers home as soon as remaining administrative steps are completed.

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun is to leave for the US on Monday for talks related to the workers’ releases, South Korean media reported.

US immigration authorities said Friday they detained 475 people, most of them South Korean nationals, when hundreds of federal agents raided Hyundai’s sprawling manufacturing site in Georgia where the Korean automaker makes electric vehicles. Agents focused on a plant that is still under construction at which Hyundai has partnered with LG Energy Solution to produce batteries that power EVs.

Cho said that more than 300 South Koreans were among the detained.



This image from video provided by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement via DVIDS shows manufacturing plant employees waiting to have their legs shackled at the Hyundai Motor Group’s electric vehicle plant on Sept 4, in Ellabell, Ga. (AP)

The operation was the latest in a long line of workplace raids conducted as part of the Trump administration’s mass deportation agenda. But the one on Thursday is especially distinct because of its large size and the fact that state officials have long called the targeted site Georgia’s largest economic development project.

The raid stunned many in South Korea because the country is a key US ally. It agreed in July to purchase \$100 billion in US energy and make a \$350 billion investment in the U.S. in return for the U.S. lowering tariff rates. About two weeks ago, US President Donald Trump and Lee held their first meeting in Washington.

Anutin Charnvirakul becomes Thailand’s new premier after royal endorsement

BANGKOK, Sept 7, (AP): Anutin Charnvirakul, a veteran politician best known for successfully lobbying to decriminalize cannabis in Thailand, became the country’s prime minister after receiving a royal endorsement Sunday, two days after he was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed his predecessor.

Anutin, 58, succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra of the Pheu Thai Party, dismissed last week after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with neighboring Cambodia’s Senate President Hun Sen before a border dispute between the two nations turned into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July that raised fears of a full-blown war in the region.

Thailand’s new prime minister had served in Paetongtarn’s Cabinet as a deputy prime minister and an interior minister, but resigned his positions and withdrew his party from her coalition government after news of the leaked phone call caused public uproar.

Anutin received the letter of appointment in a ceremony at his party Bhumjaithai’s headquarters in Bangkok, attended by senior members of parties expected to join his coalition government. They wore white civil servants’ uniforms used for royal and



Thailand’s new Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul greets officials after receiving the royal endorsement for the post in Bangkok, Thailand on Sept 7. (Xinhua)

state ceremonies.

“I’d like to take an oath that I determine to perform my duties to my fullest capabilities, with honesty and virtue,” he read out a statement after receiving the endorsement.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Anutin said his government will seek to address the country’s urgent problems, including the economy, the

border conflict with Cambodia, natural disasters and crimes.

He also reiterated he will commit to a promise to rewrite the constitution and call an early election “to return power to the people to decide on the future of the country.”

He won the vote in Parliament on Friday with support from the main opposition People’s Party.

Nighttime assault on village

Boko Haram militants kill 60 in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria, Sept 7, (AP): Boko Haram militants killed dozens of people in a nighttime assault on a village in northeastern Nigeria that is home to residents who had recently returned from a camp for internally displaced persons, authorities said.

The attack on Darul Jamal in the Bama local government area took place late Friday and killed at least 60 people, a resident of the village, Mohammed Babagana, told The Associated Press.

Borno state Gov Babagana Zulum, who visited the attacked community late Saturday evening, confirmed to reporters that over 60 died in the attack.

“We sympathize with the people and have pleaded with them not to abandon their homes as we have made arrangements to improve the security and provide food and other lifesaving items that they have lost,” Zulum said.

The chairman of Bama’s local government, Modu Gujja, said over a dozen houses were burnt and more than 100 people were forced to flee.

Taiwo Adebayo, a researcher specializing in Boko Haram at the Institute for Security Studies, spoke to residents of Darul Jamal and said the killings on Friday night were carried out by a faction of Boko Haram known as Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati wal-Jihad.

Boko Haram, Nigeria’s homegrown jihadis, took up arms in 2009 to fight Western education and impose their radical version of Islamic law. The conflict has spilled into Nigeria’s northern neighbors, including Niger, and resulted in the death of around 35,000 civilians and the displacement



People affected by a Boko Haram attack wait for the arrival of Borno state Governor Babagana Zulum in Darul Jamal, Nigeria on Sept 6. (AP)

of more than 2 million others, according to the United Nations.

Boko Haram split into two factions after the death of the group’s longtime leader, Abubakar Shekau, in 2021.

One faction is backed by the Islamic State group and is known as the Islamic State West Africa Province, or ISWAP. It has become notorious for targeting military positions.

The other faction, Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati wal-Jihad, or JAS, has increasingly resorted to attacking civilians and perceived collaborators and thrives on robberies and abductions for ransom.

“When JAS attacks and kills a lot of people like they did last night in Bama, it’s usually that they suspect the vic-

tims of spying for the rival ISWAP or the military,” Adebayo told the AP.

The Bama local government area was the target of several Boko Haram attacks a decade ago, forcing many residents to flee. Following military operations in the area in recent years, authorities had resettled displaced people in several communities, most recently the village of Darul Jamal in July.

Kaana Ali, a Darul Jamal resident, said he decided to leave the community for good after he confirmed the deaths of close family friends in the attack on Friday. “But the governor is still begging us to stay back as more protection would be provided to secure our community,” he said.



Argentina’s President Javier Milei leads a campaign rally ahead of legislative provincial elections, in Moreno, Buenos Aires province, Argentina on Sept 3. (AP)

Secret audios, dramatic leaks and spying claims: Bribery scandal engulfs Argentina prez

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Sept 7, (AP): Argentines are so used to the corruption in their political system that even Peronists - supporters of the populist movement that dominated Argentina’s politics for decades - employ a fatalistic maxim to describe their politicians: “Roban, pero hacen,” or, “They steal, but they get it done.”

But for the past two weeks, Argentines have been riveted by a ballooning graft scandal drawing in close associates of libertarian President Javier Milei, the wild-haired economist who won Argentina’s 2023 election in part by campaigning as an outsider against the corrupt, Peronist-dominated elite - “the caste,” he calls it - whose unbridled spending helped precipitate Argentina’s economic crisis.

At a time of extreme fiscal austerity, the allegations that his powerful sister and secretary general of the presidency, Karina Milei, profited from a bribery scheme in Argentina’s disability agency have exploded onto the headlines here, threatening to sully the government’s

reputation ahead of national midterms at the end of October. Milei denies the claims.

“It appears to be very similar to many other corruption scandals in Argentina, and taints his image as being completely different, of not being part of ‘the caste,’” said Eugenia Mitchellstein, the chair of the social sciences department at Buenos Aires’ San Andrés University.

The scandal broke out last month when local streaming channel Carnaval published secretly recorded audio clips purporting to show Diego Spagnuolo, then-director of the National Disability Agency, describe a scheme of kickbacks from drug distributor Suizo Argentina.

The alleged voice of Spagnuolo claims that top officials - including Milei’s sister Karina and her senior aide, Eduardo “Lule” Menem - accepted bribes of \$500,000 and \$800,000 in exchange for government pharmaceutical contracts. The voice says Karina Milei takes kickbacks of 3-4% of the contract price.

“I told him, ‘Javier, you know they’re stealing, that your sister is stealing,’” the alleged Spagnuolo can be heard saying.

It’s not clear who captured the audio or when. Based on references to political events in the recordings, local media have reported that the conversations occurred over several months starting in August 2024.

The leak appeared timed to have maximum impact, rocking Milei’s government before Sunday’s provincial elections in Buenos Aires, the country’s most populous province and a historic Peronist opposition stronghold.

The audio also surfaced soon after Milei vetoed an increase in benefits for people with disabilities, arguing it would jeopardize his much-vaunted fiscal surplus.

“Corruption scandals at times of economic scarcity tend to have a bigger impact,” said Ana Iparraguirre, an Argentine political analyst and partner at Washington-based strategy firm GBAO. “It’s hitting hard at Milei’s potential to grow beyond his base.”

Subcontinent

India ropeway trolley collapse kills 6: At least six people died when a cargo ropeway trolley used for carrying construction material up the hill collapsed and fell from a height after its cables snapped in India’s western state of Gujarat on Saturday, confirmed a local official over phone.

The incident occurred at the Shaktipeeth site on Pavadghat Hill in the state’s Panchmahal district.

Senior district official Ajay Dahiya reportedly told media that five people were inside the ropeway trolley when it collapsed. One more person on the ground also died at the scene, he added.

All the deceased were construction workers. An investigation was ordered to know the reason of the mishap,

and fix accountability on those responsible. (Xinhua)



‘Tiger attack kills 4 in Nepal’: A tiger killed an elderly man in Nepal’s Bara district on Sunday morning, taking the death toll from tiger attacks in the area to four in the past two months, local police said.

The 60-year-old man was collecting mushrooms at a forest when he was attacked, and his body was found later by locals, said Bijay Raj Pandit, information officer for district police.

“It is unclear whether a single tiger or multiple tigers caused the deaths,” Pandit told Xinhua. “We’re trying to locate and capture the cannibal tiger.” (Xinhua)

Conflicts between humans and wildlife are common in Nepal, which is home to 355 tigers, according to a 2022 census. (Xinhua)



Members of the Bolivarian Militias listen to a recorded speech by President Nicolás Maduro at a military garrison in Caracas, Venezuela on Sept 5. (AP)

He accused the US of fabricating drug-trafficking allegations to justify regime change, pointing to Washington’s decision last month to double its reward for Maduro’s arrest to \$50 million.

The vague threat of American intervention has long been a card Maduro has played to rally support in the South American nation amid waning political support.

Dollar steady, euro rises

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): The US dollar maintained stability against the Kuwaiti dinar at KD 0.305 on Sunday, according to the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The euro, meanwhile, advanced 0.61 percent to KD 0.357 compared with Wednesday’s rate.

The British pound climbed 0.91 percent to KD 0.412, the Swiss franc gained 0.77 percent to KD 0.382, while the Japanese yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002.

Business

Exclusive offers and innovative financing solutions

Kuwait Finance House showcases financing solutions at Baiti Expo

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) recently took part in the fifth Baiti Expo for construction. The event was sponsored by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare and held under the patronage of Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdul Latif Hamed Al-Mishari. KFH’s participation highlights its dedication to offering a wide variety of excellent financing options for customers’ construction and design needs.

The Baiti Expo, held over four days at the Arena Kuwait in 360 Mall, is recognized as Kuwait’s largest construction industry event. Serving as a hub for construction, furnishings, and home decor, it offered a complete showcase of home-building essentials. The event brought together over 80 local and regional companies in one venue.

Distinctive offers

KFH Deputy General Manager of Products, **Nehal Al-Musallam** revealed that the bank provides a range of distinctive and varied financing options. These include a housing finance product for purchasing, building, or renovating properties, offering up to KD 70,000 with a repayment period of



Nehal Al-Musallam

up to 15 years. Additionally, KFH grants customers a grace period of up to 12 months for the initial installment to help reduce financial strain.

She stated that KFH, working with a curated group of local suppliers, provides exclusive offers, including promotions and discounts on top-tier, modern construction equipment. These deals aim to attract investors and other stakeholders, aligning with the ongoing expansion of the nation’s real estate and construction industries.

Innovative financing solutions

Al-Musallam highlighted that KFH provides diverse financ-



Minister Abdul Latif Hamed Al-Mishari visits the Kuwait Finance House pavilion.

ing options, such as Financing against Cash Collaterals, a commercial financing product for retail customers. This option is backed by a lien on the customer’s deposit, which remains intact, enabling the customer to keep earning profits from it. Customers can apply for this financing via KFHonline.

KFH also introduces Kuwait’s pioneering “Financing Against Gold Account Collateral” product, enabling customers to secure financing using their gold bullion as collateral. This innovative solution allows customers to leverage the value of their gold without sell-

ing it, offering a unique financing option that enhances customer experience and meets their financial needs.

Al-Musallam explained that KFH provides a deferral option, enabling customers to skip one installment annually. This service allows them to choose a different

month to defer each year during the financing term, depending on their individual requirements.

Strategic partner

KFH’s role as a strategic partner in the exhibition highlights its key position in financing construction projects and advancing urban development. This involvement supports economic growth and emphasizes KFH’s significant contribution to the success of events and exhibitions focused on Kuwait’s economic landscape, particularly in critical sectors such as industry and construction.

Dedicated team

A dedicated team of direct sales and financing services staff was stationed at KFH booth to address customer and visitor inquiries. They were on hand to clarify the bank’s financing options, which cater to all construction needs at different stages.

It serves to note that Baiti Expo offers KFH a platform to engage directly with customers and participating companies to highlight its financing services. Additionally, KFH can build cooperative partnerships and collaborate with suppliers and merchants to fulfill customer requirements.

Strategic partners enhance success of Wave Banking debut

Warba celebrates resounding success of youth account launch at Khiran Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Warba Bank witnessed an overwhelming response from youth and community members during the launch of its innovative “Wave Banking” youth account, held last Friday at Khiran Mall under the slogan “Your Wave, Your Style.”

The event featured diverse activities and entertainment programs, alongside numerous surprises and prizes, complemented by the participation of strategic partners who presented exclusive discounts and offers to give young attendees a preview of the benefits they will receive upon opening a Wave Banking account.

On this occasion, Dr. Mohammed Barakat, Chief Marketing and Corporate Communications Officer at Warba Bank, stated: “We are proud of the remarkable success achieved by the Wave Banking launch, which reflects how the new account’s features align perfectly with the ideas and needs of Kuwaiti youth for technological advancement in the banking sector. This represents a significant milestone in our journey toward realizing our vision embodied in our slogan ‘Let’s Own Tomorrow,’ as we strive to build a sustainable financial future for coming generations through innovation and advanced technology.”

The launch witnessed significant engagement from attendees at Warba Bank’s dedicated pavilion showcasing Wave Banking features, where visitors were able to learn about account opening procedures and benefit from the platform’s advanced services. A specialized team from the bank provided complimentary financial consultations and detailed explanations of all account benefits, including sophisticated smart financial planning tools and interactive financial dashboards.

The event included the distribution of valuable gifts and prizes to attendees, including shopping vouchers from participating partners, commemorative gifts from Warba Bank, and special surprises for new Wave Banking registrants. The celebration also featured interactive competitions and entertainment activities specifically designed for youth engagement.

Barakat added: “During the event, we witnessed tremendous interest from young

people in Wave Banking’s unique features, particularly the cashback program offering up to 3% with the Prepaid Visa card, and the ‘Imtiyaz’ program for outstanding students providing rewards of up to 50 Kuwaiti dinars per semester. The weekly ‘Wave Wednesday’ feature also received widespread acclaim, offering valuable prizes and shopping vouchers from our distinguished partners.”

Wave Banking exclusively offers a prepaid Visa card with a cashback program of up to 3% on all personal transactions, capped at 150 Kuwaiti dinars monthly. Additionally, it features the “Imtiyaz” program for outstanding students, providing financial rewards of up to 50 Kuwaiti dinars per semester for students achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. The platform includes the weekly “Wave Wednesday” feature offering valuable prizes and shopping vouchers from distinguished partners, alongside an exclusive digital marketplace featuring discounts and offers dedicated exclusively to youth through the account’s digital platform.

The roster of partners present at the event included leading brands such as Talabat, Oula Fuel, Puff, The Daily Loaf, Say Suco, Golbha, and Wainkom, brands that aim to add genuine value to young customers’ experiences, transforming Wave Banking from merely a bank account into a comprehensive platform for digital living.

Barakat noted that the event’s success reflects the significant trust the Kuwaiti community places in Warba Bank and its innovative services, affirming that the bank will continue investing in advanced financial technology and developing banking solutions that meet the needs of new generations.

The Wave Banking platform emerges as part of Warba Bank’s comprehensive strategy to enhance financial inclusion and deliver sophisticated digital banking services that keep pace with global technological developments. The platform features an intuitive user interface and intelligent financial management tools, complemented by high-security standards that protect customer data and financial transactions.

Warba plans to continue organizing di-

verse marketing campaigns across social media platforms and digital channels to enhance awareness of the new platform.

In concluding his remarks, Barakat emphasized that Warba Bank takes pride in being a pioneer in banking innovation in Kuwait, noting that Wave Banking’s launch represents a new achievement in the bank’s journey toward realizing its strategic vision “Let’s Own Tomorrow.” He indicated that the bank will continue developing the platform and adding new features based on customer needs and future aspirations.

About Wave Banking

Wave Banking is an innovative digital banking platform dedicated to youth, offering a comprehensive range of exclusive services and benefits, including:

- Prepaid Visa card with cashback program up to 3%, capped at 150 Kuwaiti dinars monthly
- “Imtiyaz” program for outstanding students offering rewards up to 50 Kuwaiti dinars per semester for those achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Weekly “Wave Wednesday” feature providing valuable prizes and shopping vouchers
- Exclusive digital marketplace featuring discounts and offers from distinguished partners
- Advanced smart financial planning tools and interactive financial dashboard
- User-friendly interface with high security standards

Warba Bank remains committed to continuously developing its products and services to meet diverse customer needs, maintaining the highest standards of quality and transparency in all its dealings. The bank is recognized as one of the institutions that has achieved significant success in a short period, occupying a pioneering position in Islamic digital banking services. It stands among the local banks with the highest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement reaffirms the bank’s position as a trusted banking partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering the finest financial services and products.



Abdullatif Al-Nusif at the GCC Housing Conference.

Highlighting role in sustainable development

Markaz backs GCC Housing & Real Estate Conference as gold sponsor

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” concluded its Gold sponsorship of the 2nd GCC Real Estate Development and Housing Welfare Conference, held on September 3-4 under the patronage and presence of H.E. Mr. Abdul Latif Hamed Al-Mashari, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs. The event brings together senior officials, experts, and specialists in the housing sector to explore key challenges and opportunities across the region. Markaz’s sponsorship reflects its strategic commitment to its corporate social and economic responsibility strategy, aimed at contributing to sustainable development and fostering a resilient business environment in Kuwait and the region.

The conference served as a regional platform for dialogue on housing and real estate development, with a focus on strengthening public-private partnerships and supporting national development priorities. Discussions were structured around four key pillars: national strategies for housing welfare and real estate development, collaboration between public and private sector entities, financing and investment in Kuwait and the GCC, and the role of smart cities and digital transformation in enhancing sustainability and housing systems. The conference was held alongside the “Baiti” construction exhibition, which attracted prominent industry leaders and top-tier companies specializing in construction and building sector.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Abdullatif Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz said: “Markaz’s participation in the 2nd GCC Real Estate Development and Housing Welfare Conference reflects our strategic focus on supporting socioeconomic development and our continued engagement

with the housing and real estate sectors in Kuwait and the region. We remain committed to supporting national housing initiatives, enhancing quality of life, and aligning with the country’s long-term development priorities. This sponsorship underscores Markaz’s role as a proactive partner in delivering practical, sustainable solutions that contribute to national development and create lasting value for future generations.”

Through its active involvement, Markaz engages in public policy development and provides research-based recommendations to address key challenges in Kuwait’s housing and economic sectors, drawing on in-depth studies conducted in collaboration with global institutions across areas such as energy, labor markets, and economic restructuring.

About Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz”

Established in 1974, Kuwait Financial Centre K.P.S.C “Markaz” is one of the leading asset management and investment banking institutions in the MENA region with total assets under management of over KD 1.56 billion (USD 5.11 billion) as of 30 June 2025. Markaz was listed on the Bursa Kuwait in 1997. Over the years, Markaz has pioneered innovation through the creation of new investment channels. These channels enjoy unique characteristics and help Markaz widen investors’ horizons. Examples include Mumtaz (the first domestic mutual fund), MREF (the first real estate investment fund in Kuwait), Forsa Financial Fund (the first options market maker in the GCC since 2005), and the GCC Momentum Fund (the first passive fund of its kind in Kuwait and across GCC that follows the momentum methodology), all conceptualized, established, and managed by Markaz.

Main Market gains 0.45%

Boursa Kuwait ends flat

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Sunday’s session with a slight dip, as the All Share Index slipped 0.37 points to close at 8,504.45. Trading volume reached 400.7 million shares across 19,845 transactions, with a total value of KD 84.9 million (USD 258.9 million).

The Main Market outperformed, gaining 34.85 points, or 0.45 percent, to close at 7,851.64 points. Activity on this market involved 190.2 million shares through 9,393 transactions, worth KD 33.12 million (USD

101 million).

In contrast, the Premier Market Index edged down 9.19 points, or 0.10 percent, settling at 9,087.49 points. It recorded a turnover of 210.4 million shares in 10,452 deals, valued at KD 51.8 million (USD 157.9 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index declined 42.94 points, or 0.53 percent, to close at 8,010.94 points. Trading volume on this index reached 151.3 million shares across 6,024 transactions, worth KD 26.9 million (USD 82 million).



Part of the event held at Khiran Mall.

Financial literacy, fun, and learning highlight ABK Junior 2025

ABK enhances positive work environment for the 3rd consecutive year with ABK Junior event

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: As part of its strategy to create a positive and supportive work environment, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) organized the third edition of ABK Junior, an annual initiative designed to engage employees and their children in an enriching experience that combines education, interactive workshops, competitions, and financial literacy. The initiative reflects ABK's commitment to investing in human capital and promoting a culture of inclusiveness and shared experiences.

This year's edition witnessed higher participation and growing interest compared to previous years, underscoring the success of the initiative in strengthening meaningful connections between employees and their families, and embedding ABK Junior as a core element of the Bank's culture.

Through ABK Junior, the Bank seeks to reinforce family bonds by allowing employees to share a unique experience with their children at their workplace. This fosters pride and belonging among both parents and children, while giving kids a valuable opportunity to see where their parents work, meet colleagues, and better understand the professional environment.

The initiative also serves as an educational platform that builds early financial awareness among children, instilling the value of work and encouraging them to think more consciously about their future.

Activities included distributing special ID cards to the young participants to help them feel part of the ABK family, interactive financial literacy workshops explaining the role of the Central Bank of Kuwait and the handling



Group CEO Giel-Jan M. van der Tol with children participating in the activities.



Children participating in activities.

of currency, as well as guided tours of various ABK divisions to learn about their parents' roles. These activities aimed to highlight the importance of the banking sector in supporting Kuwait's economy and promote a culture of responsible financial planning, savings, and early awareness.

Commenting on the initiative, Afrah Alarbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, said, "ABK Junior is part of our annual program and strategic plan to enhance employee engagement, reflecting our commitment to building a work environment based on appreciation, support, and inclusion. By encouraging employees to share experiences and memories with their families and colleagues, we strengthen their sense of belonging, institutional loyalty, and overall job satisfaction."

Alarbash added, "We focused on strengthening family connections through educational and



Al Arbash, Deputy CEO of the Group, Abdullah Al-Sumait, and Assistant General Manager of Human Resources, Omar Alabduljader.

interactive activities that balance work and personal life, contributing to higher employee satisfaction and loyalty. Alongside this, ABK continues to offer regular training programs, awareness workshops, and exclusive part-

nerships with various organizations to provide discounts and offers. This makes ABK one of the most attractive employers in the local market."

She concluded by noting that ABK Junior has now become a



Reception of event participants.

signature annual tradition, extending beyond the workplace to embrace employees' families. The event was met with highly positive feedback from employees who expressed pride in sharing their professional world with their children, giving them a clearer understanding of their parents' roles and the banking industry overall. This initiative reaffirms ABK's position as a leading institution committed to creating a healthy, attractive work environment that enhances employee performance and well-being.

Eurozone CPI rises to 2.1% y/y, above previous of 2.0%

Mixed CPI data, rebound in services & manufacturing, and a cooling labour market add to global uncertainty

By National Bank of Kuwait

Markets traded through cross-currents last week as tariff noise met softer U.S. labor signals and mixed inflation. In the U.S., manufacturing stayed in contraction (48.7) while services re-accelerated (52.0). JOLTS fell to 7.18m and payrolls disappointed at +22k, steepening curves as yields eased post NFP data. The week's big rates shock came earlier: a global duration sell-off led by Gilts pushed the UK 30y to ~5.75% and knocked GBPUSD briefly sub-1.3350 before retracing. Eurozone headline CPI ticked up to 2.1% y/y with core stuck at 2.3%, keeping the ECB's job tricky, while UK retail sales beat at 0.6% m/m. In Asia, China's PMIs firmed (services 50.0, manufacturing back above 50), Australia's Q2 GDP came at 0.6% q/q, and Japan wages accelerated while BoJ rhetoric stayed cautious.

United States

US ISM Manufacturing PMI Rises to 48.7

The US ISM Manufacturing PMI edged up to 48.7 in August from 48.0 but stayed below the 49.0 forecast, signalling a sixth straight month of contraction. A sharp decline in production (47.8 vs 51.4) was partly offset by a rebound in new orders (51.4 vs 47.1), while employment continued to fall, albeit at a slower pace. Inventories and backlogs shrank further, demand conditions remained weak, and although input price inflation eased to 63.7 from 64.8, it stayed elevated, with survey respondents stressing that tariffs are weighing heavily through higher costs, supply chain disruptions, and reduced competitiveness.

US ISM Services PMI Rises in August

The ISM Services PMI rose to 52.0 in August 2025 from 50.1 in July, beating the 51.0 consensus and marking the strongest services expansion in six months. Momentum was driven by faster growth in business activity (55.0 vs 52.6), new orders (56.0 vs 50.3), and inventories (53.2 vs 51.8). Offsetting the strength, employment remained in contraction at 46.5 (vs 46.4) and backlogs fell to 40.4, a 16-year low (vs 44.3). The prices paid index stayed very elevated at 69.2 (vs 69.9), signalling persistent cost pressure. Respondents increasingly cited tariff impacts, with signs that firms are pulling forward activity and imports to get ahead of further price increases and to prep for peak holiday demand.

US JOLTS Job Openings Falls 176K

U.S. JOLTS job openings fell by 176k to 7.18 million in July 2025, the lowest since September 2024 and below the 7.4 million market expectation. The decline was led by health care & social assistance (-181k), arts, entertainment & recreation (-62k), and mining & logging (-13k). Regionally, openings dropped the most in the South (-161k), followed by the Northeast (-101k) and the Midwest (-27k).

The West was the only major region to increase openings (+113k). Taken together, the report signals cooling labour demand with weakness concentrated in health care and leisure-related industries.

US Non-Farm Payrolls Rises Modestly by 22K

U.S. nonfarm payrolls rose by just 22k in August 2025, far below the 75k consensus and an upwardly revised 79k in July, signalling

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1684	1.1606	1.1759	1.1717	1.1680	1.1800	1.1752
GBP	1.3503	1.3330	1.3554	1.3506	1.3450	1.3600	1.3514
JPY	147.06	146.76	149.13	147.38	146.00	148.20	146.02
CHF	0.7985	0.7954	0.8072	0.7981	0.7900	0.8035	0.7897

ling a cooling labour market. Gains in health care were partly offset by losses in federal government and in mining, quarrying, and oil & gas extraction. Wage growth stayed steady: average hourly earnings increased 0.3% m/m (unchanged from July) to \$36.53, while production & nonsupervisory pay rose 0.4% m/m to \$31.46. On a year-over-year basis, Average hourly earnings slowed to 3.7% from 3.9% in July, matching expectations and extending the gradual downtrend. The mix of softer hiring and cooling pay gains points to easing labour-cost pressures.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 97.768.

Europe

Eurozone CPI Flash Estimates Rises Slightly

Euro area headline CPI rose to 2.1% y/y in August 2025, slightly above July's pace and the 2.0% market expectation. Unprocessed food prices climbed 5.5% (from 5.4%), while energy costs fell 1.9%, a smaller decline than July's -2.4%. Services inflation eased to 3.1% from 3.2%, and processed food, alcohol and tobacco slowed to 2.6% from 2.7%. Non-energy industrial goods held steady at 0.8%. Core inflation was unchanged at 2.3%, its lowest since January 2022, signaling ongoing disinflation under the surface. Overall, headline ticked up on food while core stayed contained, leaving inflation just above the ECB's 2% goal.

Swiss Headline Inflation In line with Expectations

Swiss headline CPI rose 0.2% y/y in August 2025, unchanged from July and in line with expectations, marking a third straight month of inflation. On a monthly basis, prices fell 0.1% m/m after a flat July, missing forecasts for no change. Upside pressure came from a sharp rebound in clothing and footwear (+4.5% y/y vs -0.2% in July) and a modest uptick in housing and energy (0.4% vs 0.2%). Services also firmed, with education at 2.6% (vs 0.7%) and restaurants & hotels at 1.8% (vs 1.6%).

Offsetting this were ongoing declines in food & non-alcoholic beverages (-0.5%), transport (-2.4%), household goods & services (-1.1%), and health (-0.7%), while alcohol & tobacco (1.2%) and communications (0.2%) eased, and recreation & culture held steady (0.8%). Core inflation eased to 0.7% from 0.8%, underscoring a still subdued price environment.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.1717.

United Kingdom

UK Retail Sales Accelerates in July

UK retail sales rose 0.6% m/m in July 2025, accelerating from 0.3% in June and beating

the 0.2% consensus. June's print was revised sharply lower from an initial 0.9% to 0.3%, reflecting seasonal and reporting adjustments. July's gain was led by non-store retailers and clothing, both up 2.5%. On a yearly basis, sales were up 1.1% y/y, below expectations of 1.3%. Over the three months to July, volumes fell 0.6%, ending four consecutive periods of quarterly growth.

The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.3506.

Asia-Pacific

China PMI Figures Show Upward tick in Business Activity

China's August PMIs firmed across the board: the General Services PMI rose to 53.0 from 52.6, beating the 52.5 consensus and marking the fastest services expansion since May 2024, with new orders and new export business growing at their strongest paces in six months. Services firms reported faster backlogs and capacity pressure but trimmed headcount after July hiring, citing cost control and non-replacement. Input costs ticked higher on wages and raw materials while selling prices fell as companies discounted amid intense competition; sentiment stayed positive. On the goods side, the General Manufacturing PMI increased to 50.5, above July's level and the 49.5 consensus, the highest since March. Output returned to growth as new orders and purchasing improved and the decline in foreign demand eased, leading to renewed accumulation of backlogs. Manufacturers nonetheless cut jobs for a fifth straight month.

The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.1325.

Australia's Economy Grows In the Second Quarter of 2025

Australia's economy grew 0.6% q/q in Q2 2025, up from 0.3% in Q1 and above expectations, marking the 15th straight quarter of expansion.

Growth was driven by stronger domestic demand, with household consumption rising 0.9% on holiday-related spending and government expenditure up 1.0% on social benefits and defence, while net trade added modestly as exports outpaced imports. Offsetting this, public investment fell sharply (-3.9%) for a third quarter, the steepest drop since 2017, and inventories subtracted 0.1 ppts. On an annual basis, GDP rose 1.8%, the fastest since Q3 2023, though the household savings ratio dropped to 4.2% from 5.2%.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6554.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30550.

India's tax revolution: The next-gen GST story

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: In a significant move aimed at providing widespread relief to consumers, farmers, and small businesses, the government has announced a major overhaul of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as promised on 15th August from Red Fort to ease the tax burden on the middle class & poor. The new rates, dubbed the "Next-Gen GST," represent a substantial reduction on a wide range of essential and everyday products, from groceries and medical supplies to household appliances and construction materials.

The 56th GST Council meeting, led by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, unveiled the seven key pillars of Next-Gen GST reforms set to redefine India's economic landscape. The decisions underscore the ongoing evolution of GST into a more citizen- and business-friendly system, aimed at fostering growth and strengthening the stability of Bharat's economy.

The sweeping changes are designed to lower the cost of living and boost key sectors of the Indian economy. The reforms are being communicated through a series of public announcements, each highlighting the benefits for different segments of society.

Key Reductions Include:

Food and Groceries: The tax on everyday groceries has been significantly reduced, lightening the monthly financial load for families across the country.

Housing: In a move that promises to make homeownership more accessible, the tax on cement has been slashed from a hefty 29% to 18%. This reduction is expected to ease costs for both homeowners and builders, making the dream of building a home more affordable.

Household Goods: A major relief has been provided for common household items. Taxes on products like hair oil, toothpaste, and soap bars have been reduced from 27% to 5%. Furthermore, the tax on LPG stoves has been cut from 21% to 5%, directly reducing expenses for millions of families.

Farmers and Small Busi-



Modi

nesses: To boost agricultural productivity and support small enterprises, the tax on small diesel engines has been cut from 16% to 5%. Additionally, the tax on tyres and other farming equipment has been reduced from 20% to 5%, lowering operational costs for India's farmers.

Healthcare: In a critical decision aimed at making healthcare more affordable, the tax on medical diagnostic kits and reagents has been reduced from 25% to 5%. This reduction is expected to significantly lower treatment costs for patients.

Consumer Durables: Aspirational products like air conditioners and televisions have seen their tax burden reduced from over 31% to 18. This cut is poised to transform these items from luxury goods into household staples for a larger section of the population.

Indulgences: Even items of common indulgence like chocolates have been made sweeter with a tax reduction from 31% to 5%, making them more affordable for all.

A Widespread Impact

This comprehensive revision of the GST framework is being hailed as a progressive step towards simplifying the tax regime and putting more money back into the pockets of consumers. By reducing the tax burden on essentials and high-impact goods, the government aims to stimulate demand, encourage investment, and provide tangible economic relief to citizens at every level.

The slogan "When Business Stopped Being Weighed Down" encapsulates the initiative's core objective: to unburden individuals and businesses from high costs, fostering an environment of growth and prosperity.

Clean energy brings jobs, tax revenue to rural counties

Wind and solar provide lifeline for farmers amid market pressures



A worker carries a solar panel on the roof of the Alta Sea building, an urban, ocean-based research and blue technology innovation campus, at Berth 58 in the Port of Los Angeles on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025. (AP)

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

By Paul Mwebaze

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Drive through the plains of Iowa or Kansas and you'll see more than rows of corn, wheat and soybeans. You'll also see towering wind turbines spinning above fields and solar panels shining in the sun on barns and machine sheds.

For many farmers, these are lifelines. Renewable energy provides steady income and affordable power, helping farms stay viable when crop prices fall or drought strikes.

But some of that opportunity is now at risk as the Trump administration cuts federal support for renewable energy.

Wind energy is a significant economic driver in rural America. In Iowa, for example, over 60% of the state's elec-

tricity came from wind energy in 2024, and the state is a hub for wind turbine manufacturing and maintenance jobs.

For landowners, wind turbines often mean stable lease payments. Those historically were around US\$3,000 to \$5,000 per turbine per year, with some modern agreements \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually, secured through 20- to 30-year contracts.

Nationwide, wind and solar projects contribute about \$3.5 billion annually in combined lease payments and state and local taxes, more than a third of it going directly to rural landowners.

These figures are backed by long-term contracts and multibillion-dollar annual contributions, reinforcing the economic value that turbines bring to rural landowners and communities.

Wind farms also contribute to local tax revenues that help fund rural schools, roads and emergency services. In counties across Texas, wind energy has become one of the most significant contributors to local property tax bases, stabilizing community budgets and helping pay for public services as agricultural commodity revenues fluctuate.

In Oldham County in northwest Texas, for example, clean energy projects provided 22% of total county revenues in 2021. In several other rural counties, wind farms rank among the top 10 property taxpayers, contributing between 38% and 69% of tax revenue.

The construction and operation of these projects also bring local jobs in trucking, concrete work and electrical services, boosting small-town businesses.

The U.S. wind industry supports over 300,000 U.S. jobs across construction, manufacturing, operations and other roles connected to the industry, according to the American Clean Power Association.

Renewable energy has been widely expected to continue to grow along with rising energy demand. In 2024, 93% of all new electricity generating capacity was wind, solar or energy storage, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration expected a similar percentage in 2025 as of June.

Solar energy is also boosting farm finances. Farmers use rooftop panels on barns and ground-mounted systems

to power irrigation pumps, grain dryers and cold storage facilities, cutting their power costs.

Some farmers have adopted agrivoltaics - dual-use systems that grow crops beneath solar panels. The panels provide shade, helping conserve water, while creating a second income path. These projects often cultivate pollinator-friendly plants, vegetables such as lettuce and spinach, or even grasses for grazing sheep, making the land productive for both food and energy.

Federal grants and tax credits that were significantly expanded under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act helped make the upfront costs of solar installations affordable.

However, the federal spending bill signed by President Donald Trump on July 4, 2025, rolled back many clean energy incentives. It phases down tax credits for distributed solar projects, particularly those under 1 megawatt, which include many farm-scale installations, and sunsets them entirely by 2028. It also eliminates bonus credits that previously supported rural and low-income areas.

Without these credits, the upfront

cost of solar power could be out of reach for some farmers, leaving them paying higher energy costs. At a 2024 conference organized by the Institute of Sustainability, Energy and Environment at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where I work as a research economist, farmers emphasized the importance of tax credits and other economic incentives to offset the upfront cost of solar power systems.

The cuts to federal incentives include terminating the Production Tax Credit for new projects placed in service after Dec. 31, 2027, unless construction begins by July 4, 2026, and is completed within a tight time frame. The tax credit pays eligible wind and solar facilities approximately 2.75 cents per kilowatt-hour over 10 years, effectively lowering the cost of renewable energy generation. Ending that tax credit will likely increase the cost of production, potentially leading to higher electricity prices for consumers and fewer new projects coming online.

The changes also accelerate the phase-out of wind power tax credits. Projects must now begin construction by July 4, 2026, or be in service before the end of 2027 to qualify for any credit.

Meanwhile, the Investment Tax Credit, which covers 30% of installed cost for solar and other renewables, faces similar limits: Projects must begin by July 4, 2026, and be completed by the end of 2027 to claim the credits. The bill also cuts bonuses for domestic components and installations in rural or low-income locations. These adjustments could slow new renewable energy development, particularly smaller projects that directly benefit rural communities.

While many existing clean energy agreements will remain in place for now, the rollback of federal incentives threatens future projects and could limit new income streams. It also affects manufacturing and jobs in those industries, which some rural communities rely on.

Renewable energy benefits entire communities, not just individual farmers.

Wind and solar projects contribute millions of dollars in tax revenue. For example, in Howard County, Iowa, wind turbines generated \$2.7 million in property tax revenue in 2024, accounting for 14.5% of the county's total budget and helping fund rural schools, public safety and road improvements.

In some rural counties, clean energy is the largest new source of economic activity, helping stabilize local economies otherwise reliant on agriculture's unpredictable income streams. These projects also support rural manufacturing - such as Iowa turbine blade factories like TPI Composites, which just reopened its plant in Newton, and Siemens Gamesa in Fort Madison, which supply blades for GE and Siemens turbines. The tax benefits in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act helped boost those industries - and the jobs and local tax revenue they bring in.

On the solar side, rural companies like APA Solar Racking, based in Ohio, manufacture steel racking systems for utility-scale solar farms across the Midwest.

As rural America faces economic uncertainty and climate pressures, I believe homegrown renewable energy offers a practical path forward. Wind and solar aren't just fueling the grid; they're helping keep farms and rural towns alive. (AP)

US market made cup noodles ordinary, not exotic

From luxury treat to dorm room staple: The evolution of cup noodles

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

By Alisa Freedman

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See a container of Cup Noodles at a convenience store and you might think of dorm rooms and cheap calories.

But there was a time when eating from the product's iconic packaging exuded cosmopolitanism, when the on-the-go meal symbolized possibility - a Japanese industrial food with an American flair.

Cup Noodles - first marketed in Japan in 1971, with an English name, the "s" left off because of a translation mistake - are portable instant ramen eaten with a fork straight from their white, red and gold cups.

I research how products move between America and Japan, creating new practices in the process. To me, Cup Noodles tell a story of crossing cultures, and their transpacific journey reveals how Japan has viewed America since World War II.

It is a story widely told in Japan: Cup Noodles were created by the same person who invented instant ramen, Ando Momofuku, who, in 1948, founded Nissin Foods.

Ando was born in Japan-occupied Taiwan and moved to Osaka in 1933. In war-torn Japan, Ando watched people line up to purchase cheap bowls of noodles from stands in black markets. The noodles were made from wheat flour donated by the United States to make bread, a food more filling but less common in the Japanese diet.

Ando wanted to make noodles people

could easily eat at home, so he built a laboratory shed in his backyard.

After several failed attempts, inspiration struck in 1958. While observing his wife, Masako, frying tempura, he noticed that oil removed the moisture.

He then realized that fried and dried noodles could be rehydrated when boiled. Seasoning powder and dehydrated toppings could be added, making countless flavor combinations possible. Ando chose chicken for the first flavor because chicken soup seemed rich, nutritious and American.

Because Ando's "Chikin Ramen" cost six times the price of a bowl of fresh noodles, he had trouble attracting investors. His solution was to take his product directly to the public through tasting events. Chikin Ramen caught on and later became one of the most prevalent foods in postwar Japan.

In the mid-1960s, Japanese sales of his Chikin Ramen - and spinoff products like "Spaghenny," an instant spaghetti created in 1964 - declined, in part, because of market saturation. Ando then sought a new market for instant ramen: the United States.

In the U.S. at that time, Japanese foods like sukiyaki - beef and vegetables cooked in a hotpot - were in vogue because they seemed exotic yet fit the general American palate. Ando believed instant ramen could do the same.

So in 1966 he traveled to the United States to promote Chikin Ramen. He was surprised to see Americans break packs of dried noodles into pieces, put them into cups and pour boiling water over them, rather than prepare Chikin Ramen in a pot and then serve it in a bowl.

When Ando returned to Japan, he set out to craft a new product inspired by this American preparation technique to

sell in Japan.

After much trial and error, the Nissin team devised a way to wrap a plastic foam cup around dried noodles placed in the center for easy expansion. Different flavors were placed atop the noodles to help them cook better and make them look like a fuller meal. The cup had a pull-back lid inspired by a container of macadamia nuts Ando had eaten on his transpacific flight.

Otaka Takeshi, who created the logo for the Osaka 1970 world's fair, designed the cup to look cosmopolitan and cutting edge, with large English words in a red psychedelic font above small Japanese words and with gold bands inspired by expensive dinner plates. Cup Noodle included around the same amount of ramen as the dried packs but cost four times as much because it was more expensive to make. The price made Cup Noodle seem luxurious.

But in Japan, eating while walking is considered rude. It's also difficult to do with chopsticks. So Nissin decided to change how people eat. Each Cup Noodle came with a small plastic fork.

Nissin held tasting events in Japan to promote Cup Noodle and teach people how to eat it. The most successful was held on Nov. 21, 1971, in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district. It targeted young adults strolling the "Pedestrian Paradise," Japan's most fashionable street.

More than 20,000 Cup Noodle units sold in four hours.

Nissin also pitched the product to workers on the move, like the Japan Self-Defense Forces. Cup Noodle received an unintended media boost when coverage of a hostage crisis called the Asama-Sanso Incident showed police officers eating Cup Noodle to

stay warm.

Cup Noodle epitomized the dominant belief in postwar Japan that a better life could be achieved through convenience and comfort, whether it was through appliances like refrigerators and televisions or takeout food.

Japan's first convenience stores opened in 1969 and became primary marketers of Cup Noodle. Notably, Nissin held its Ginza Cup Noodle event in front of Japan's first McDonald's, which had opened on the Pedestrian Paradise four months earlier, on July 20, 1971. Cup Noodle was one of the first foods sold in vending machines in Japan, with the first Cup Noodle vending machine installed near the Tokyo offices of the Nihon Keizai financial newspaper in November 1971.

Over time, the manufacturing process improved and prices dropped, and instant ramen became a go-to food for economically precarious populations.

Cup Noodle has deployed several successful Japanese marketing strategies. They include releasing a steady stream of new flavors - from Japanese comfort foods like chicken teriyaki to exotic fare like curries - along with attention-grabbing limited-edition flavors like "Cheechili Curmato" (chili, tomato and European cheese curry, anyone?).

Marketers tapped into nostalgia and fan collaborations to help sell the product. Nissin also adopted the popular Japanese advertising practice of hiring American celebrities to pitch their products, with James Brown singing about miso-flavored Cup Noodle to the tune of "Get On Up" in a memorable 1992 television ad.

None of these strategies was used to sell Cup Noodle in the United States,

however.

The product took a different path in the U.S. by downplaying foreignness and fashion and by becoming an ordinary American food.

Cup Noodle was first sold in the United States in November 1973 at a time when Japanese products like Toyota cars were designed to be different from those made in America yet easy for Americans to understand, pronounce and accept.

Americanized as "Cup O'Noodles" - and later renamed "Cup Noodles," with an "s," in 1993 - it had shorter noodles that could be eaten with a spoon and fewer flavors than those offered in Japan.

Nissin's first overseas factory opened in 1973 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Now, in 2021, Cup Noodles is made in 80 countries and territories, each with its own local variants. For example, you can eat masala Cup Noodles in India and mushroom Cup Noodles in Germany. By May 2021, 50 billion units of Nissin's Cup Noodles had sold worldwide.

In Japan, Cup Noodles now represents a mix of trendiness and nostalgia. Visitors to Japan's Cup Noodles Museums can make their own personalized Cup Noodles. Popular characters like Yoda and Hello Kitty have hawked Cup Noodles in Japan.

In the U.S., a neon 60-foot Cup Noodles ad hung in New York's Times Square from 1996 to 2006 - a symbol of Nissin's global reach. It represented the idea - common in Japan - that making it big in America is the key to business success.

In America, however, Cup Noodles has succeeded by hiding its Japanese roots. (AP)

editor's choice



Daniel Craig returns as Benoit Blanc in star-studded sequel

Another ‘Knives Out’ makes another raucous premiere at the TIFF

TORONTO, Sept 7, (AP): For the third time, the knives were out at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Rian Johnson on Saturday night premiered the third movie in his whodunit series, “Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery.” Like the previous two movies, “Knives Out” and “Glass Onion,” Johnson brought a cavalcade of stars to Toronto’s Princess of Wales Theatre for what was easily the hottest ticket of the festival.

“This is my favorite place to be in the world,” said Johnson, recalling the similar TIFF first weekend premieres of his first two mysteries.

“Wake Up, Dead Man” is arguably Johnson’s darkest, most intricate and most star-studded “Knives Out” mystery yet. It includes plenty of the quips that have characterized the first two movies (there are “Star Wars” and “Scooby Doo” references), but the film is also more ambitiously existential.

Daniel Craig’s Benoit Blanc returns for a murder case involving a local church, with themes of truth, lies and grace threaded throughout. Josh O’Connor stars a young priest named Jud Duplency, with Josh Brolin as the Monsignor and Glenn Close as a de-



Mila Kunis (left) and Cailee Spaeny attend the premiere of ‘Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery’ at the Princess of Wales Theatre during the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Toronto. (AP)



Spaeny.
“The first one was kind of a cozy, Agatha Christie family mystery. The second one was a big blow-out

vacation mystery. And with this third one, we’re going back to the roots of the genre,” Johnson said. “And the roots of genre actually lie in Edgar Allan Poe. A little gothic. We’re going to go by way of Poe into some John Dickson Carr. We’re going to veer into some G.K. Chesterton with the Father Brown mysteries. And we’re going to go back to church.”

After the screening, the cast spoke about their joy at being inducted into Johnson’s “Knives Out” ensembles. Renner said it was “like winning the lottery.” Washington compared it to an all-star team.

“Putting this many stars into one film is literally like herding cats,” said a beaming Craig.

After the first “Knives Out” was released in 2019 by Lionsgate, grossing \$312 million worldwide, Netflix scooped up the sequels in a \$400 million package.

Though Netflix has prioritized its streaming platform over theatrical, it gave “Glass Onion: Knives Out 2” a run in 696 theaters in 2022, including the biggest chains AMC, Regal and Cinemark. Though much smaller than a traditional theatrical opening (big productions typically launch in 3,000 to 4,000 theaters), the movie was estimated to gross \$15 million in its first week.

Film

‘Father Mother Sister Brother’ wins top prize at Venice

‘Voice of Hind Rajab’ wins Silver Lion

VENICE, Italy, Sept 7, (Agencies): The docudrama ‘The Voice of Hind Rajab’ won on Saturday the Silver Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival.

The Film which was directed by Kaouter Ben Hania and depicts the last hours of a Palestinian child’s life from the Tal Al-Hawa neighborhood in Gaza City, as she was killed by Israeli forces in January 2024.

The Palestinian child, Hind, who was 6-years old, was shot by Israeli forces who were targeting a car that was carrying a number of her relatives in Gaza, and during the incident the Red Crescent received a rescue call that was recorded and it shows Hind’s voice as she was describing to them what was happening as they were being shot.

“Father Mother Sister Brother,” Jim Jarmusch’s quietly humorous relationship triptych, won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival Saturday. The film about the relationships between adult children, and with their parents, stars Adam Driver, Vicky Krieps and Cate Blanchett.

It was an upset win over some of the festival’s bigger hits, including “The Voice of Hind Rajab,” which won the runner-up award, and Park Chan-wook’s “No Other Choice,” which left empty-handed.

“All of us here who make films are not motivated by competition,” Jarmusch said. “But I truly appreciate this unexpected honor.”

He thanked the festival for “appreciating our quiet film.” He said he related to Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa who once said, while accepting an honor from the Academy Awards at an advanced age, that he was worried he still didn’t know what he was doing.

“I’m learning each time,” Jarmusch said.
Kaouter Ben Hania’s devastating Gaza docudrama “The Voice of Hind Rajab” won the Silver Lion, the runner-up prize. The film is about attempt to rescue a 6-year-old girl from a bullet ridden call in Gaza City in January 2024 and uses the real audio from her call to the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The film premiered later in the festival, but its impact was not dulled. It received a 22-minute standing ovation after its premiere. She dedicated her award to the Red Crescent and “to all those who have risked everything to save lives in Gaza. They are the real heroes.”

Ben Hania in her remarks also called for an end to “this unbearable situation” in Gaza.
“Enough is enough,” she said.

Accountability

She added: “The voice of Hind is the voice of Gaza itself. Her voice will continue to echo until accountability is real, until justice is served.”

The Alexander Payne-led jury named Chinese actor Xin Zhilei best actress for leading Cai Shangjun’s “The Sun Rises on Us All,” a story about a love triangle set in the world of sweatshops in Guangzhou. Italian actor Toni Servillo won best actor for playing a president at the end of his term in Paolo Sorrentino’s “La Grazia.”

Benny Safdie took the best director prize for his Mark Kerr MMA biopic “The Smashing Machine,” which has kicked off Oscar buzz for its star, Dwayne Johnson.

“I never thought I’d be up here,” Safdie said. “To be here amongst the giants of the past and the giants here this year, it just blows my mind.”

He also thanked his subject, Kerr, and his stars Emily Blunt and Dwayne Johnson.
“You truly performed with no net, and we jumped off a cliff together,” Safdie said of Johnson.

Valérie Donzelli and Gilles Marchand were recognized with best screenplay for their gig economy drama “At Work,” a French film about a successful photographer who gives up everything to focus on writing, and ends up in poverty.

The special jury prize went to Italian filmmaker Gianfranco Rosi for his lyrical Naples documentary “Below the Clouds.”

They also singled out Swiss actor Luna Wedler with the Marcello Mastroianni Award, which goes to a young actor, for her turn in the film “Silent Friend,” a poetic three-part story about a ginkgo tree in a medieval university town in Germany.

“Nebraska” filmmaker Payne presided over the main competition jury, which included Brazilian actor Fernanda Torres, Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof, French director Stéphane Brizé, Italian director Maura Delpero, Chinese actor Zhao Tao and Romanian director Cristian Mungiu. The international group selected a particularly diverse batch of winners.

Winners for the horizons sidebar, a discovery section led by French filmmaker Julia Ducournau, were announced first. “En El Camino,” about the world of long-haul trucking in Mexico from filmmaker David Pablos, won best film. Anupama Roy was emotional accepting the best director prize for her debut feature, “Songs of Forgotten Trees,” about two migrant women in Mumbai.

Roy, who is Indian, devoted part of her remarks to the conflict in Gaza.

“Every child deserves peace, freedom, liberation, and Palestine is no exception,” Roy said. “I stand beside Palestine. I might upset my country but it doesn’t matter to me anymore.”

Armani Beauty’s audience award winning filmmaker Maryam Touzani (“Calle Málaga”) also used her remarks to spotlight Gaza.

“How many mothers have been made childless,” she said. “How many more until this horror is brought to an end? We refuse to lose our humanity.”

“Aftersun” filmmaker Charlotte Wells handed out the debut film prize to Nastia Korkia for “Short Summer,” who spoke about the ongoing war in Ukraine. Her film is a loosely autobiographical account of a child living with her grandparents during the Chechen war.

“I very much hope that we will keep our eyes wide-open and



Toni Servillo, winner of the Coppa Volpi award for best actor for ‘La Grazia.’ (AP)



Benny Safdie, winner of the Silver Lion for best director for ‘The Smashing Machine.’ (AP)



Benedetta Porcaroli, winner of the Orizzonti best actress award for ‘Il rapimento di Arabella.’ (AP)



Director Maryam Touzani, winner of the Armani beauty audience award for ‘Calle Málaga.’ (AP)



Director David Pablos, winner of the Orizzonti best film award for ‘En el camino.’ (AP)



Lovisa Siren, winner of the Orizzonti best short film award for ‘Utan Kelly.’ (AP)



Director Akio Fujimoto, winner of the Orizzonti special jury prize for ‘Lost Land.’ (AP)



Director Kaouter Ben Hania, winner of the grand jury prize for ‘The Voice of Hind Rajab’, poses for photographers at the awards photo call during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Saturday, Sept. 6. (AP)



Director Jim Jarmusch, winner of the Golden Lion for best film for ‘Father Mother Sister Brother.’ (AP)

that we will find the strength to stop the war,” Korkia said.

The ceremony also included a tribute to the late Giorgio Armani, who died Thursday, with a standing ovation from the audience. Armani Beauty is a longtime sponsor of the festival.

“Thank you, Giorgio Armani, for teaching us that creativity lives in the spaces where disciplines meet - fashion, cinema, art, new materials, architecture - just as happens every day here at the Venice Biennale,” Italian architect Carlo Ratti said.

This year’s main competition lineup included many possible Oscar heavyweights, though most of Hollywood’s flashiest offerings came up short at the awards. Kathryn Bigelow set off a warning shot about nuclear weapons and the apparatus of decision-making with her urgent, and distressingly realistic, thriller “A House of Dynamite.”

Guillermo del Toro unveiled his “Frankenstein,” a sumptuously gothic interpretation of the Mary Shelley classic, with Os-



Xin Zhilei, winner of the Coppa Volpi award for best actress for ‘The Sun Rises on Us All.’ (AP)



Luna Wedler, winner of the best young actress award for ‘Silent Friend.’ (AP)

car Isaac portraying Victor Frankenstein as a romantic madman and Jacob Elodri, naive and raw, as the monster. Emma Stone and Jesse Plemons were strange and fierce as kidnapped and kidnapper in Yorgos Lanthimos’s provocative “Bugonia.” While they didn’t prevail at the festival’s awards, the films could still go on to be in the broader awards conversation.

Since 2014, the Venice Film Festival has hosted four best picture winners, including “The Shape of Water,” “Birdman,” “Spotlight” and “Nomadland.” Last year, they had several eventual Oscar-winning films in the lineup, including Brady Corbet’s “The Brutalist,” which won three including best actor for Adrien Brody, Walter Salles’ best international feature winner “I’m Still Here,” and the animated short “In the Shadow of the Cypress.”

The previous Golden Lion winner, Pedro Almodóvar’s English-language debut “The Room Next Door,” a smash at Venice with an 18-minute standing ovation, received no Oscar nominations.



Ana Cristina Barragan, winner of the Orizzonti best screenplay award for ‘The Ivy.’ (AP)



Negar Motevalymeidanshah, winner of the Venice immersive special jury prize for ‘Less Than 5gr of Saffron.’ (AP)

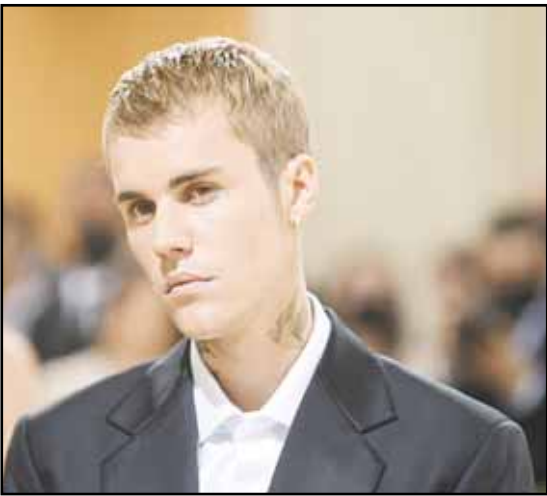
Singer explores love and vulnerability on introspective album

Justin Bieber has a lot more to say about love on ‘Swag II’

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): If it wasn't clocking to you before, it should be now. Justin Bieber is doing whatever he wants.

The 31-year-old has surprised listeners with a second new album in 2025 - "Swag II" follows July's "Swag." Both arrived shortly after mysterious billboards teasing the records cropped up in major cities. The new album, his eighth, is an obvious companion piece, not only in name, but also in sound, theme and zeal. Liken it to Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" double album drop - this 23-track album is for his diehard loyalists. (Or 44 tracks, if listened to with "Swag," a combined run time of two hours and 11 minutes.)

The first installment was, in some ways, a return to form. Before he became the internet's first true popstar, and long before he'd find additional fame for his EDM-pop megahits "Where Are Ü Now" and "What Do You Mean?," Bieber was a 12-year-old Canadian kid uploading R&B covers to a YouTube account created by his mom to share with his friends. His performances were ambitious - Ne-Yo's "So Sick" and Aretha Franklin's "Respect" among them - and charismatic, eventually catching the eye of Usher,



Justin Bieber attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala on Sept. 13, 2021, in New York. (AP)

Scooter Braun, and then the world. On "Swag," Bieber pulled from those soulful influences, experimenting in the process. Slow-burn, alternative R&B-pop has always been a sweet spot; and on the introspective album, he reunited with those sounds, progressed by some future-seeking collaborators like the guitarist Mk.gee on "Daisies" and the rising R&B singer Dijon on the Prince-esque "Devotion."

Both reappear on "Swag II," as do rappers Lil B and Australian singer Eddie Benjamin. There are three new voices as well: Afrobeats star Tems, rapper Hurricane Chris and the English singer Bakar. Notably absent are the self-referential skits of the first release with the comedian Druski.

And like the first, there are religious ruminations and odes to his wife ("Better Man," "Mother in You"). In one, the hooky "Love Song," he sings to Hailey Bieber with an accidental Sara Bareilles-recollection: "I wanna write you a love song/I wanna write you a good one you can't stop singing to me." In that regard, there's a kind of lightness to "Swag II" - likely because Bieber spends less time considering how he is depicted in the media (think "Therapy Session" and the paparazzi recording that introduces "But-

terflies" on "Swag"), and, instead, goes deeper into his relationships. There's a reason the "Swag II" album cover is baby pink and "Swag" was jet black after all.

Bieber continues with the dreamy production of the first "Swag." Sometimes it works, sometimes it feels repetitive. Some songs are so lo-fi as to feel unfinished, like demos released to function as interludes or raw evocations of vulnerability ("Dotted Line," in particular). Others have obvious delights, from the joyful trap hi-hats of "Poppin' My S---" to "Petting Zoo," which recalls his beloved 2013 album "Journals." Bieber ornaments "Eye Candy" with Michael Jackson-informed inflections, which succeeds - particularly in advance of the next song, "Don't Wanna" featuring Bakar, with its MJ-like production. "Love Song" is a contender for the album's best; "Speed Demon" brings back rap-singing Bieber.

Across 23 - or 44 - songs, those who sift will find gold. They'll also hear a lot of love.

Three stars out of five.

On repeat: "Love Song"

Skip it: "Dotted Line"

For fans of: "Swag," the Rhode skincare brand, the 2011 film "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never"

Emmys

Julie Andrews earns first Emmy since 2005

‘Studio,’ ‘Penguin’ win big at Creative Arts Emmys

LOS ANGELES, Sept 7, (AP): Julie Andrews won her third Emmy Award at age 89 Saturday at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards, while "The Studio" will take nine trophies and "The Penguin" will take eight into next weekend's main Emmys ceremony.

Andrews won for best character voice-over performance for her work on Netflix's "Bridgerton," her first Emmy since 2005.

"The Studio," the Hollywood satire from Apple TV+ that is this year's top-nominated comedy series, won for its cinematography, production design, casting and other craft categories.

"Thank you, Sal Saperstein," nearly all the "Studio" winners said from the stage, a running gag that is a reference to Ike Barinholtz's character who gets unexpectedly thanked on the show.

The show's winners got to use their real filmmaking chops to recreate a fake one, including Adam Newport-Berra, whose cinematography evoked the beauty the show's comic characters were trying to capture.

He won for a very meta episode called "The Oner," in which an on-screen crew is trying to capture a long single shot in an episode that is itself done in a single shot.

"The Oner" was sort of the pinnacle of what we were trying to achieve," Newport-Berra said backstage.

In a similar visual vein, "Adolescence," the acclaimed Netflix show where every episode is a single shot, won best cinematography in a limited series.

But it was one of only two Emmys won by "Adolescence" on a night when HBO's "The Penguin" dominated the limited series categories. The abundance of craft categories given out allowed it to win eight, including prosthetic makeup and visual effects.

"Andor," the Disney+ "Star Wars" series, won four in the drama categories.

The Creative Arts Emmys, where nearly 100 awards are handed out across two nights, are a precursor to the main Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony, which will air live on CBS on Sept. 14.

"This is the real Emmys," presenter Maya Rudolph said at the beginning of the show at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. "This is that Emmys they couldn't have the other Emmys without, cause nothing would get made."

Julianne Nicholson and Bryan Cranston were winners in the guest acting categories that add some star power to the proceedings.

Nicholson trumped Oscar winners Jamie Lee Curtis and Olivia Colman to win her first Emmy for best guest actress in a comedy, for playing a character known as Dance Mom on HBO Max's "Hacks."

Nicholson, who is also nominated for best supporting actress in a drama for "Paradise" at next weekend's main ceremony, usually plays starkly serious roles, and loved going in a new direction on "Hacks."

"It was so fun to just go balls to the wall in a way that I don't usually get the opportunity to do," she said backstage while holding her Emmy. "This was a huge surprise and something I've been searching for."

Shawn Hatosy won best guest actor in a drama for playing the supervising doctor on "The Pitt" who is



The Penguin' team pose with the award for outstanding special visual effects. (AP)



The team from 'The Penguin' pose with the award for outstanding contemporary costumes. (AP)



The team from 'The Studio' pose in the press room with the award for outstanding sound editing. (AP)



Julie Berghoff, (from left) Brian Grego, and Claire Kaufman with Emmy for outstanding production design for 'The Studio.' (AP)



'The Last of Us' team pose room with the award for outstanding sound editing. (AP)



Julianne Nicholson with their Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for 'Hacks.' (AP)



Marguerite Derricks with the award for outstanding choreography for 'Etoile.' (AP)



Minkyung Chung, (from left), Michaela Olsen, Hayley Morris, Julie Gratz, Anthony Galante, and Sabrina Chaney with the award for outstanding individual achievement in animation: motion design for 'Octopus!' (AP)



Jessica Lee Gagné poses with the award for outstanding cinematography for a series for 'Severance.' (AP)



The team from 'Andor' with the award for outstanding special visual effects. (AP)

relieved by star Noah Wyle at the beginning of the all-in-a-day show then relieves him at the end of the intense medical series.

He used much of his speech to praise Wyle, who was in the audience and may be the favorite to win best actor in a drama next weekend.

"Your leadership, your performance on 'The Pitt' is extraordinary," Hatosy said from the stage. "It is unbelievable being on the other side of what you're bringing."

The guest actors on "The Studio" made for an extra star-studded category, and gave luminaries Ron Howard and Martin Scorsese a chance to win their first acting Emmys. But it went instead to their Emmy veteran "Studio" castmate Cranston, who won his seventh after taking six in his years on "Breaking Bad."

Merritt Wever won best guest actress in a drama for "Sever-

ance." It was one of six Emmys won on the night for the Apple TV+ series, a fine showing but a relatively light load of trophies for the year's most nominated show that is among the favorites for best drama next weekend. It was a far cry from last year's Creative Arts Emmys, when "Shogun" broke a record for Emmys in a season with 14 before it went on to dominate the main ceremony.

The count suggested that next weekend's major drama categories could be wide open.

Another big nominee, "The White Lotus," won just once Saturday, for its opening title music, and Hatosy was the lone winner for "The Pitt."

Neither Andrews, nor Cranston nor Wever were at the ceremony, as can be common at the Creative Arts

Awards. Nominees who were present as presenters, including Rudolph, Curtis and Howard, did not come away winners.

Andrews won her first Emmy for the special "The Julie Andrews Hour" in 1973 and another for "Broadway: The American Musical" in 2005. She has both an Oscar and a Grammy for playing Mary Poppins. She strangely lacks only a Tony to complete her EGOT status, despite being a giant of the Broadway stage in shows including "My Fair Lady."

Sunday will be devoted to reality and variety TV. Kendrick Lamar and Beyoncé are both nominated for football halftime shows, while Barack Obama's competition for his second Emmy in the narration category includes Tom Hanks and Idris Elba.

Wplace explodes

Millions join to paint the world

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): In one new corner of the internet, users are invited to "paint the world." And paint they have. Welcome to wplace - an ever-evolving, gamified global map overflowing with drawings made on a more than 4-trillion-pixel canvas.

Images of Icelandic singer Laufey float over Reykjavik, while tributes for the late Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla surround Corpus Christi, Texas. The crest of San Lorenzo and other soccer clubs fill Buenos Aires. "Squid Game" fanart can be found on the outskirts of Seoul. And Walter White's opening monologue from "Breaking Bad" sits near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Wplace launched July 21, but the artwork is already overwhelming - ranging from simple stick figures and thin-lettered words, to colorful fanart and highly detailed images users build under online pseudonyms.

"It's wild, and chaotic and crude," said Yotam Ophir, a University at Buffalo professor of communication whose research includes analyzing digital spaces. That's part of wplace's appeal, he added, describing the site as a somewhat of a "rebellion" against what the internet has become.

"It's not going to break Facebook," he said. "But it's kind of a reminder that things can be done differently."

Wplace has garnered more than 10.6 million users worldwide as of Thursday, co-founder Enzo Watanabe told The Associated Press. With that explosion in just over a month, moderation challenges have arisen. Watanabe said via email that the project's growth "exceeded all expectations" - but acknowledged that "adjusting to the high demand has been challenging."

The game was developed in Brazil over three months by a single person, he said, and is now run by a team of 46, in addition to volunteers.

New users begin with a small, fixed number of pixels, and more become available every 30 seconds. The more you contribute, the more pixels are available to you - sort of "like a leveling system" seen in video games, said Moira Hembns, a 19-year-old user from Edmonton, Alberta.

Even with bigger pools of pixels, it can take a lot of time to bring map paintings to life. "Every art piece takes me hours to design in advance," said Hembns. One drawing she recently finished, of a Pokémon named Lafeon in her hometown, took her two days to design outside of wplace - and then another day to build in it, she said.

But Hembns notes that she loves art, and checks the map and places pixels almost every morning now. Muhammad Aliy Fattah bin Yusrizal, a 21-year-old from Malaysia, similarly says wplace has become an outlet for his creativity.

The site "is one of the places that I can express myself," Fattah said, noting he's mostly contributed art dedicated to his favorite video games and placed atop his home country.

Users from around the world also team up to bring larger projects to life - like "The Neighborhood," which sits in a corner of Yuma County, Arizona. Real-life resident Krista Rider, 25, started by drawing two homes. It now has over 50, connected by paths, patches of grass and rivers.

"I wanted to do something nice that could lift people up, give them something that they feel like they're contributing to, whether it's big or small," Rider said.



Wplace lets users create on a massive digital canvas. (AP)

Talking about suicide can save lives: study

Mental health awareness could reduce suicide risk: expert

By Emmy Betz

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, at 20.9 per 100,000 in 2023. Of the state's 940 gun deaths that year, nearly 72% were by suicide.

Nationally, firearms are the leading cause of death for American youth ages 1 to 17. More than 1 in 4 youth firearm deaths nationwide are due to suicide, with a parent's firearm most often the weapon used.

Firearm-related injuries and suicide both are highly sensitive and stigmatized topics that many people are reluctant to talk about, yet both are major public health concerns with solutions for prevention.

As an emergency room physician in Denver, I've learned how to talk to my patients about firearms and suicides. On every single shift, I care for adults with suicide risk. I always talk with them and their families about reducing access to firearms at home, such as giving control of the locking device to a family member or temporarily storing guns away from homes.

Research shows that these conversations may reduce suicide

risk and that patients are open to them.

Working in the emergency room has shown me that everyone goes through tough times. Unfortunately, even though there's no shame in asking for help, people may be reluctant to share what they're going through or to seek mental health or medical care.

A recent article about adults who died by suicide found that those who used a firearm were less likely to have used mental health care services in the year before death. Based on research like this, and my two decades in the ER, I firmly believe that we can't leave firearm suicide prevention to clinicians alone. Rather, firearm suicide prevention efforts need to happen in nonclinical spaces with "trusted messengers" from the firearms or local community. This might be particularly useful for men, who traditionally have been less likely to seek mental health help.

In addition to seeing patients, I'm also a suicide prevention researcher and the founding director of the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado, where we use research, education and collaboration to bring evidence-based solutions to communities.

Firearm suicide deaths are preventable, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention emphasize that anyone can learn to "have a brave conversation" about firearms and suicide. To be clear: This approach isn't advocating for firearm confiscation. And it's not about implying that firearms cause suicide,

or that people with suicide risk don't need access to effective help for mental illness, substance use or social stressors. But there's no harm caused by asking a person if they're struggling, and it might help.

Simple actions can help someone get through a time of high risk of suicide and get the support they need. No one - young, old, urban, rural, gun owner or not, with any political affiliation - wants to lose a loved one to suicide. That's something agreed on by the firearm industry, health care and public health organizations and academia.

Suicide, particularly by firearm, is often preventable for a few reasons.

First, while many suicide attempts occur within the context of mental illness, short-term crises usually precipitate the attempt - things such as the breakup of a romantic relationship, job loss, financial stressors or bullying.

Second, studies show that the time from deciding to attempt suicide to actually taking action can be as little as minutes to hours - and also that, among people who survive an attempt, the majority do not go on to die by suicide.

This mix of impulsivity and ambivalence highlights why a safe environment - without access to firearms or other lethal methods - can be the difference between life and death for someone in crisis. Firearms are a particular concern because they are so deadly - up to 90% of suicide attempts involving firearms end in death.

If a firearm isn't available, even if a person substitutes a different method - and most don't - they're more likely to survive than if they'd used the firearm. And while a prior suicide attempt is a risk factor for future suicide, only about 10% of those who survive an attempt later die by suicide.

What does this mean for clinicians, families, friends or community leaders?

It's simple: Reduce firearm access for people with suicide risk. This can mean secure, locked firearm storage, which limits unauthorized or unsupervised firearm access. When the firearm owner is the one with suicide risk, they can hand over the key or PIN to the locking device to a family member or friend.

Many types of firearm locking devices are available, so there's something for every home situation. Firearms can also be temporarily and voluntarily stored away from home at local gun shops during a time of risk, or for other reasons, such as home renovation, military deployment or travel.

In Colorado, there are multiple suicide awareness walks taking place in the fall of 2025. At the CU medical campus, our team provides workshops to train leaders from varied fields and from across the state how to build firearm suicide prevention programs that work for their communities.

I often say, "We all have a role in preventing firearm injury." Mine is working in clinical, research and community settings on evidence-based firearm suicide prevention programs.

What's yours? (AP)

Psychedelic therapies draw renewed attention

LSD shows promise for reducing anxiety symptoms in new study

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): LSD reduced symptoms of anxiety in a mid-stage study published Thursday, paving the way for additional testing and possible medical approval of a psychedelic drug that has been banned in the US for more than a half century.

The results from drugmaker Mindmed tested several doses of LSD in patients with moderate-to-severe generalized anxiety disorder, with the benefits lasting as long as three months. The company plans to conduct follow-up studies to confirm the results and then apply for Food and Drug Administration approval.



This photo provided by Catalent shows Catalent's MindMed's formulation of LSD. (AP)

Beginning in the 1950s, researchers published a flurry of papers exploring LSD's therapeutic uses, though most of them don't meet modern standards.

"I see this paper as a clear step in the direction of reviving that old research, applying our modern standards and determining what are the real costs and benefits of these compounds," said Frederick Barrett, who directs Johns Hopkins University's psychedelic center and was not involved in the research.

Psychedelics are in the midst of a popular and scientific comeback, with conferences, documentaries, books and medical journals exploring their potential for conditions like depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The FDA has designated psilocybin, MDMA and now LSD as potential "breakthrough" therapies based on early results.

Still, the drugs have not had a glide path to the market.

Last year, the FDA rejected MDMA - also known as ecstasy - as a treatment for PTSD, citing flawed study methods, potential research bias and other issues.

The new LSD study, published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, addresses some of those problems.

MDMA, like many other psychedelics, was tested in combination with hours of talk therapy by trained health professionals. That approach proved problematic for FDA reviewers, who

said it was difficult to separate the benefits of the drug from those of therapy.

The LSD study took a simpler approach: Patients got a single dose of LSD - under professional supervision, but without therapy - and then were followed for about three months.

The paper does not detail how patients were prepared for the experience or what sort of follow-up they received, which is crucial to understanding the research, Barrett noted.

"In many cases people can have such powerful, subjective experiences that they may need to talk to a therapist to help them make sense of it," he said.

For the study, researchers measured anxiety symptoms in nearly 200 patients who randomly received one of four doses of LSD or a placebo. The main aim was to find the optimal dose of the drug, which can cause intense visual hallucinations and occasionally feelings of panic or paranoia.

At four weeks, patients receiving the two highest doses had significantly lower anxiety scores than those who received placebo or lower doses. After 12 weeks, 65% of patients taking

the most effective LSD dose - 100 micrograms - continued to show benefits and nearly 50% were deemed to be in remission. The most common side effects included hallucinations, nausea and headaches.

Patients who got dummy pills also improved - a common phenomenon in psychedelic and psychiatric studies - but their changes were less than half the size those getting the real drug.

The research was not immune to problems seen in similar studies.

Most patients were able to correctly guess whether they'd received LSD or a dummy pill, undercutting the "blinded" approach that's considered critical to objectively establishing the benefits of a new medicine. In addition, a significant portion of patients in both the placebo and treatment groups dropped out early, narrowing the final data set.

It also wasn't clear how long patients might continue to benefit.

Mindmed is conducting two large, late-stage trials that will track patients over a longer period of time and, if successful, be submitted for FDA approval.

WHO warns Ebola cases likely to rise

Congo has announced new Ebola outbreak ... here's what to know

GOMA, Congo, Sept 7, (AP): Congo's authorities announced earlier this week a new Ebola outbreak, which has killed more than a dozen people in a southern province.

Samples analyzed at the National Institute for Biomedical Research in Kinshasa, the Congolese capital, confirmed the presence of the most virulent strain of the virus, known as "Zaire," the earlier name of the country.



Health workers dressed in protective gear begin their shift at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo DRC, Tuesday, July 16, 2019. (AP)

The announcement comes as the authorities are facing renewed, intensified fighting in the east and an already fragile health care system has been further impaired by US aid cuts.

The Ebola virus is highly contagious and can be transmitted to people from wild animals. It then spreads in the human population through contact with bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen, and with surfaces and materials such as bedding and clothing, contaminated with these fluids.

The disease it causes is a rare but severe - and often fatal - illness in people. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain and at times internal and external bleeding.

The virus was first discovered in 1976, near the lake of Ebola in what is now Congo. The first outbreaks occurred in remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests.

Congo's Health Ministry announced on Thursday a new Ebola outbreak after the first confirmed case of a 34-year-old pregnant woman in the locality of Boulapé, in Mwaka territory, in southern Kasai province.

She was admitted to the hospital last month with symptoms of hemorrhagic fever, and died a few hours later from multiple organ failure.

The new outbreak is suspected of causing 15 deaths among 28 people with symptoms, including four health workers, the ministry said. It's the 16th outbreak of Ebola in Congo, and Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba said the fatality rate, estimated at 53.6%, showed the gravity of the situation.

The World Health Organization said

that the number of cases is likely to rise.

"Case numbers are likely to increase as the transmission is ongoing," it said in a statement. "Response teams and local teams will work to find the people who may be infected and need to receive care, to ensure everyone is protected as quickly as possible."

Dr. Jean Paul Mikobi, the chief medical officer of the Boulapé health zone, also warned of a possible surge in infections, as many residents have fled their villages in fear of contamination, making it difficult to trace and monitor those who fall ill.

Dr. Amitié Bukidi, the head of the Mwaka health zone, said Saturday that all the territory's four health zones had received suspected cases.

The last Ebola outbreak, in Congo's northeastern Equateur province in 2022, killed six people.

An earlier outbreak in eastern Congo between 2018 and 2020 killed more than 1,000 people, the most deaths after the 2014-2016 outbreak in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Le-

one and Liberia that killed more than 11,000 people.

A volatile security situation and deep community mistrust have hampered efforts to control the epidemic in eastern Congo. Ebola treatment centers have come under repeated attack, leaving government health officials to staff clinics in the hot spots of Butembo and Katwa.

Health officials have urged the population to strictly follow preventive measures, including social distancing and handwashing.

The WHO said it dispatched experts to Kasai province to strengthen disease surveillance, treatment and infection prevention in health facilities. It is also delivering supplies including personal protective equipment, mobile laboratory gear and medicines. Congo has a stockpile of treatments and of the Ervebo Ebola vaccine, WHO said.

A team of experts from the National Institute of Biomedical Research was also sent from Kinshasa to the Mwaka health zone, and set up a mobile laboratory to test samples taken from patients on site, according to Bukidi.

Asteroid threat sparks call for int'l collaboration

China unveils blueprint for asteroid defense

HEFEI, Sept. 7, (Xinhua): Chinese scientists revealed their first comprehensive plan for the near-Earth asteroid defense system at a space exploration conference held on Friday, calling for global partners to work together to protect the safety of our planet.

The third International Deep Space Exploration Conference was held in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, from Thursday to Friday. Focusing on asteroid exploration, defense and resource utilization, the conference attracted more than 400 guests from over 40 countries and regions.

Chief designer of China's lunar exploration program Wu Weiren said during the conference that under the framework of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), Chinese scientists have proposed a strategic concept for asteroid defense development.

The concept covers aspects such as monitoring and early warning, in-orbit handling, and systematic response, with the goal of building a comprehensive near-Earth asteroid detection and defense system. It includes an integrated, space-ground collaborative



Driss El Hadani, deputy director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), speaks at the opening ceremony of the third International Deep Space Exploration Conference in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, Sept. 5. (Xinhua)

monitoring and early warning system capable of precise alerts and routine operation, added Wu, also director and

chief scientist of Hefei-based Deep Space Exploration Lab, the conference's organizer.

Near-Earth asteroids are among the most potentially hazardous objects in the solar system. It is widely understood in the scientific community that around 66 million years ago, an asteroid approximately 10 km in diameter struck Earth, leading to the extinction of about 75 percent of global species, including dinosaurs.

On June 30, 1908, the Tunguska explosion in Russia devastated over 2,000 square km of forest. In 2013, a meteor airburst occurred over Chelyabinsk of Russia, injuring 1,500 people and damaging 3,000 buildings.

China has done a series of preparation works for asteroid defense. In 2006, the China National Space Administration launched the near-Earth object survey program. A white paper released in 2022 detailing China's space programs outlined plans to demonstrate and develop a near-Earth asteroid defense system.

On May 29, 2025, the Tianwen-2 probe was successfully launched, with the mission of sampling and returning from the near-Earth asteroid

2016HO3, followed by the exploration of the main-belt comet 311P.

China has also established routine sky-survey capacity. It has deployed telescopes including the 1-meter telescope at the Purple Mountain Observatory in east China, the 2.5-meter wide-field survey telescope in Lenghu in northwest China, as well as the 2.16-meter telescope in Xinglong in north China, and the 2.4-meter and 1.8-meter telescopes in Lijiang in southwest China.

In 2014, the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) were established under the UN framework, becoming the two major global organizations for asteroid defense. China has been an active participant in the activities of both organizations.

At this conference, global scientists highly commended China's plan. "The theme of this conference is both timely and highly relevant," said Driss El Hadani, deputy director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). He noted that asteroids are not only of scientific interest, but also present potential risks and opportunities for humanity.

Cholera death toll rises

Rare brain infection claims fourth life in India's Kerala

NEW DELHI, Sept. 7, (Xinhua): A 45-year-old man died Saturday due to Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), commonly known as brain fever, in the southern Indian state of Kerala, officials said.

The man succumbed while undergoing treatment at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode district.

According to a health official, the man was admitted to the hospital with fever and other symptoms 20 days ago, and the diagnosis was confirmed following tests.

This is the fourth death in less than a month in the state due to the rare but deadly infection affecting the brain.

In August, three patients died at the hospital after contracting the infection.

Reports said at present 11 people are undergoing treatment for the disease at Kozhikode Medical College Hospital, and the condition of a few is reported to be critical.

A total of 42 cases have been reported across Kerala this year.

PAM is a rare but highly fatal brain infection caused by free-living amoebae found in contaminated water. Meanwhile, the local government has launched a campaign to clean and chlorinate public wells and water sources.

Abderahim to discuss strategies to prevent the disease from spreading.

Chad has received 1,120,295 doses of cholera vaccine, the statement said, adding that the vaccines are being deployed to the eastern area for a vaccination campaign.

The government has urged Chadians to strictly follow hygiene measures to help curb the spread of infections.

The first cholera case was detected in the Dougui refugee camp in the eastern Ouaddai region on July 13. The camp hosts approximately 20,000 Sudanese refugees.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned in early September that cholera remains the major public health concern in Africa in terms of the number of cases and fatalities.

Some 23 cholera-affected African countries have reported a total of 239,754 cases and over 5,274 related deaths since the beginning of this year, data showed.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned that cholera remains the leading public health concern in Africa in terms of the number of cases and fatalities.

Some 23 cholera-affected African countries have reported a total of 239,754 cases and over 5,274 associated deaths since the beginning of this year, with a case fatality rate of 2.2 percent. Yap Boum II, deputy incident manager for mpxo at the Africa CDC, told an online media briefing on Thursday evening. Data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency showed the death toll from Africa's multi-country cholera outbreak so far in 2025 has surpassed last year's total of 4,725.

Blood vessel squeezing makes melanoma cells more deadly

SYDNEY, Sept 7, (Xinhua): Scientists in Australia have found that detached cancer cells forced through the tiniest blood vessels can become more likely to form new tumors far from their origin.

Cancer cells squeezed by the tiniest veins transform into a different type of cell capable of forming new tumors, a potential trigger for metastasis, the fatal spread of cancer to other body parts, according to a statement released Friday by the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

Scientists built a biomedical device simulating blood flow through the narrowest veins. According to the blood flow simulation experiment, when hu-

man melanoma cells were forced through channels narrower than 10 micrometers, about a fifth the width of a hair, they began to behave more like stem cells, gaining traits that help them survive, spread, and form new tumors.

The finding supports a theory long held by medical researchers that the mechanical pressure of narrow blood vessels might make cancer cells more aggressive.

While the recent results were observed in bioengineered devices in the lab and in mice, they offer a new perspective that could inform further research and future strategies to prevent cancer from spread-

ing, according to the research published in Nature Communications.

The findings raise new ideas about potential treatment options aimed at preventing cancer spreading from tumors, by targeting the mechanical forces that lead to metastasis, said Professor Kris Kilian with UNSW School of Materials Science and Engineering and School of Chemistry, the study's co-author.

"We're already seeing compelling evidence when we repeat these experiments with breast cancer, and I'm looking forward to testing a range of cancer cell types in the lab," Kilian said.

Finland stuns Serbia and Jokic to reach quarterfinals



Finland's Mikael Jantunen, left, and Serbia's Nikola Jokic in action during the EuroBasket, European Basketball Championship round of 16 match between Serbia and Finland at the Riga Arena in Riga, Latvia. (AP)

Home fans again overwhelmingly support South Korea

Less than year before World Cup, US winless in last seven games against top 25 opponents

HARRISON, N.J. Sept 7, (AP): The United States is consistent as it prepares to host next year's World Cup: The Americans keep losing to top 25 teams and home games feel like road matches as fans cheer opponents.

"Going up to the World Cup we need to build confidence within ourselves and give the fans confidence, so it's disappointing to lose the game, for sure," forward Folarin Balogun said after Saturday's 2-0 defeat to South Korea in a friendly.

With a crowd of 26,500 cheering on the Taegeuk Warriors, Son Heung-min scored in the 18th minute and set up Lee Dong-gyeong's goal in the 43rd. The 15th-ranked Americans are winless in their last seven games against top 25 teams and have been outscored 17-3, including 11-1 in five straight losses.

Coach Mauricio Pochettino's ever-positive outlook was essentially: What, me worry?

"We need to start to win when the World Cup starts," he said. "Too many examples that teams - they win during five years and then arrive to the World Cup and then they don't arrive in the best condition. I was involved in 2002 with Argentina, we were beating (teams) during five years and then we arrived to the the World Cup and we were out in the group stage."

Pochettino pointed out that the U.S. outplayed South Korea for much of the game and had a 2.23 expected goals from 17 shots while the visitors had 0.74 from five.

No. 23 South Korea, which has qualified for its 11th straight World Cup, went ahead when Lee Jae-sung fed a through ball as Son broke past defender Tristan Blackmon and beat goalkeeper Matt Freese to the far post.



United States' Christian Pulisic, right, battles for the ball against South Korea's Lee Jae-sung, left, during a friendly soccer match at Sport Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, N.J. (AP)

South Korea doubled the lead when Son ran onto Lee Jae-sung's flick and tumbled over Freese. The ball rolled to Lee Dong-gyeong, who put the ball into the empty net with a backheel.

"We were so passive and providing the space to score," Pochettino said. "We showed a little bit lack of communication, but that is normal."

Just half the current roster was at the Gold Cup and several regulars weren't asked in for the match against South Korea or Tuesday's game against

17th-ranked Japan in Columbus, Ohio. Blackmon started in his international debut at age 29.

Pochettino said the Americans can't be judged "like we are a very consolidated or stable team with a roster that they are playing for four years together."

"I don't think we feel pressure to win. Obviously we want to win, but they're friendlies, so this is the time that we can learn," said right back Sergio Dest, who made his first appear-

ance since March 2024 after recovering from a torn right ACL. "We need to be sharp at all times, because even though you play a pretty decent game, if you're not sharp for one second, you can get the goal against."

After losing the CONCACAF Gold Cup final to Mexico in July, the U.S. planned eight friendlies before players report for training ahead of the World Cup. The Americans' World Cup opener on June 12 will be their first competitive match in 11 months.

Turkey, Germany and Lithuania advance

RIGA, Latvia, Sept 7, (AP): Elias Valtonen scored eight points in the final two minutes to help Finland stun Serbia and Nikola Jokic 92-86 Saturday in the round of 16 at the EuroBasket tournament.

Jokic finished with a game-high 33 points but it was Finland that came up with the big shots late to spring the biggest upset of the tournament so far.

Serbia scored six unanswered points to take a 77-75 lead in the fourth quarter, but Valtonen's 3-pointer with two minutes left put the Finns up 82-78. He then added a tip-in and another trey to help Finland pull away.

Jokic's 3-pointer from way out with 16 seconds left pulled Serbia within five, but Finland easily saw out the win.

It was Finland's first win over Serbia since 2009. The Serbs came into the tournament as one of the favorites, but exits in the round of 16 for the second straight time.

Finland finished with 20 offensive rebounds, which Jokic called "just unacceptable."

Lauri Markkanen led Finland with 29 points and Valtonen finished with 13.

Earlier , Turkey, Germany and Lithuania also advanced.

NBA All-Star Alperen Sengun

scored 24 points as Turkey held off Sweden to win 85-79. World Cup winner Germany struggled early against Portugal before pulling away for an 85-58 victory while Lithuania withstood a late comeback attempt to beat tournament co-host Latvia 88-79 in Riga. Arnas Velicka led three-time champion Lithuania with 21 points and 12 assists.

Sengun, a forward with the Houston Rockets, added 16 rebounds and six assists in a stellar performance against Sweden, which drew level at 76-76 thanks to Ludvig Hakanson's 3-pointer with just under three minutes left.

Hakanson led the Swedes with 16 points, while Panathinaikos forward Cedi Osman chipped in with 17 points for Turkey.

Portugal led 32-31 at halftime and only trailed by one point after three quarters before Germany limited them to just seven points the rest of the way.

The Germans struggled to deal with Boston Celtics center Neemias Queta, who had 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Germany captain Dennis Schröder, who faced racial abuse during a game against Lithuania a week ago, and Franz Wagner both scored 16 points despite shooting a combined 0 for 11 from 3-point range. In the first half, Germany made only 1 of 18 attempts from beyond the arc.

A moment's silence was held before tipoff in memory of the victims of the Lisbon streetcar accident in Portugal.

Pakistan to host first T20 tri-series

South Africa to face Pakistan in Lahore's first test in over 3 years

ISLAMABAD, Sept 7, (AP): Defending champion South Africa and Pakistan start their new World Test Championship cycle next month, with Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore set to host its first test in over three years.

South Africa ended its ICC title drought in June when it defeated Australia in the final at Lord's. Pakistan finished at the bottom of the WTC table after losing nine of its 14 test matches, including a 2-0 home loss against Bangladesh.

"We are looking forward to welcome South Africa for the opening series of our ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 campaign," Sumair Ahmed, the Pakistan Cricket Board's chief operating officer, said in a statement on Saturday. "Starting the new cycle against the current test champions will provide quality cricket for our players and fans."

Pakistan's all-format series against South Africa begins with the first test at Gaddafi Stadium on Oct. 12. It will be first test in Lahore since Australia played a test match in March 2022.

Rawalpindi will not only host the second test from Oct. 20 but also the first of the three T20s on Oct. 28. The remaining two T20s will be played at Lahore on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

The three ODIs will be played at Faisalabad Nov. 4-8 as Iqbal Stadium will be organizing international games for the first time in 17 years. Faisalabad was due to host Pakistan's two T20s against Bangladesh in May, but the games were scrapped due to the tensions between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan will host its first-ever T20 tri-series in November with Afghanistan and Sri Lanka participating in the 13-day event.

"We look forward to hosting

Sri Lanka and Afghanistan for Pakistan's maiden T20 tri-series," PCB chief operating officer Sumair Ahmed Syed said in a statement on Sunday.

"This event will not only offer excellent preparation for next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, but also present fans with exciting cricket across venues."

All three teams will play each other twice before the top two will advance to the final at Lahore on Nov. 29.

The tri-series begins at Rawalpindi on Nov. 17 when Pakistan takes on Afghanistan. Rawalpindi will also host the second game between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka on Nov. 19 before Lahore takes over to host the remaining five games.

Afghanistan will be playing T20s in Pakistan for the first time. It has played five ODIs in Pakistan, including a game against Australia during the Champions Trophy in February.

The tri-series will begin on Nov. 17 with Pakistan taking on Afghanistan at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. This will be Afghanistan's first-ever T20 in Pakistan, having earlier played five ODIs in the country, the last of which was against Australia during the ICC Champions Trophy in February.

Schedule:

Nov. 17: Pakistan vs Afghanistan at Rawalpindi

Nov. 18: Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan at Rawalpindi

Nov. 22: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka at Lahore

Nov. 23: Pakistan vs Afghanistan at Lahore

Nov. 25: Sri Lanka v Afghanistan at Lahore

Nov. 27: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka at Lahore

Nov. 29: Final at Lahore

Melo says 'I know what I gave to the game' in night of tears, memories for 2025 Hall of Fame class

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Sept 7, (AP): Carmelo Anthony learned tough lessons coming of age playing basketball on playgrounds in Brooklyn and Baltimore.

It culminated with him becoming one of the sports' purest scorers and most decorated players ever.

Walking onto the stage for his induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday to chants of "Melo! Melo," Anthony took his place alongside basketball's immortals.

"Pardon my language, but damn," Anthony said, tearing up. "Tonight I just don't step into the Hall of Fame, I carry the echoes of every voice that ever told me I couldn't. ... I had to build a new road. I had to write a new ending."

Anthony was part of a quintet of players that were inducted into the Hall on Saturday as individuals, joining Dwight Howard, Sue Bird, Maya Moore and Sylvia Fowles. Together they were part of 11 WNBA or NBA championship teams, captured 15 Olympic gold medals, made 37 All-NBA or All-WNBA appearances and were named as All-Stars 45 times in

their careers.

"I never got an NBA ring. ... But I know what I gave to the game," Anthony said.

Anthony and Howard were dual-enshrinees as members of the 2008 Olympic men's basketball team that became known as the "Redeem Team," after winning gold at the Beijing Games that summer after only capturing a bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics and 2006 FIBA world championships. Howard and Anthony joined 2008 team members Jason Kidd, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and the late Kobe Bryant who were already enshrined as individuals.

This year's class was rounded out by Chicago Bulls coach and two-time NCAA champion Billy Donovan, Miami Heat managing general partner Micky Arison and longtime NBA referee Danny Crawford.

The inclusion of Bird, Moore and Fowles' enshrinement marked the first time three WNBA players will enter the Hall of Fame in the same year.

Bird said being on the stage Saturday made her appreciate the journey she'd made from Syoset, New York, predicting in her high school yearbook



Carmelo Anthony speaks during his enshrinement in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. (AP)

that she'd one day become a professional soccer or basketball player.

"There was no logical place for a kid like me," she said.

Saturday also was a showcase of how interconnected that trio of women were. Bird and Moore with two NCAA titles each at Connecticut. Fowles was

also instrumental in the final two of Moore's four WNBA championships with the Minnesota Lynx. All three played together and won gold medals for the U.S. on the Olympic team.

All the members of Redeem Team were in attendance, with the exception of Kobe Bryant, who passed in 2020.

LeBron James, who was 23 years old in 2008, said the tone for that team was set by the Lakers great.

"We just wanted to get to his level and make him proud," James said.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski said the mission of that team was clear from the moment the star-laden team was assembled.

"Our goal was to win the gold medal, but also to win the respect of our country again," said Krzyzewski said.

Moore believes her basketball career, replete a run of college and WNBA championships and MVP trophies, was simply a prelude to her post-basketball calling: building what she called "championship communities."

"Now that I'm in the Hall, I believe I have become Auntie Maya," she said.

Moore retired before the 2019 WNBA season to focus on social jus-

tice issues and helping overturn the wrongful conviction of her now-husband, Jonathan Irons.

She devoted her speech to imploring today's generation to use their platforms to promote change in their own communities.

"Figure out what motivates you every day you get out of bed," Moore said. "I want to challenge you up and comers, every day to seek out joy and connection."

Howard, one of four players with three Defensive Player of the Year awards, became known for the playful way he expressed himself on the court. He showed all those attributes during a speech that honored the sacrifices of his parents, notably how his mother endured seven miscarriages before delivering him on her eighth attempt.

"My mother lost seven children and he allowed me to bring sunshine into her life," he said. "I'm just honored to stand in front of you as one of the greatest basketball players ever."

Howard was inducted by Dominique Wilkins, Shaquille O'Neal, Patrick Ewing and Robert Parish. He also acknowledged other great centers as

well, including Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Dikembe Mutombo. Saturday marked the 50th anniversary of Russell's enshrinement.

His speech took playful jabs at his "Superman feud" with Shaquille O'Neal and included an imitation of Stan Van Gundy, his former Orlando Magic coach.

But he concluded his remarks with a message to his children, imploring them to chase their dreams.

"You only die once but you live every day," Howard said.

Arison thanked former Heat players in attendance, including James, Chris Bosh, Udonis Haslem and Alonzo Mourning for their contributions to what has become known as "Heat Culture" during his stewardship of the team.

Arison also had jokes, looking toward James when he reminisced about the championship teams led by James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh by referencing James' now infamous prediction for the trio's success.

"In 2010, with Dwyane, LeBron and Chris Bosh we knew we could win. Not one, not two...I guess it was just two," Arison said.

Thomas regains single-season assist record a year after losing it to Clark

UNCASVILLE, Conn., Sept 7, (AP): Alyssa Thomas had no idea that she was closing in on taking back the WNBA's single-season assist record.

She was just focused on trying to help her team win and improve their playoff positioning.

She topped Caitlin Clark's mark of 337 assists set last season, but Thomas' Mercury came up short against the Connecticut Sun on Saturday, falling 87-84.

"Honestly I didn't know that I was even close," Thomas said. "I didn't focus on that, but definitely credit to my teammates I can't do it without them. It's been a great

change for me this year with a new offense that just allows me to go out there and make the reads that I need to make."

Thomas needed six assists coming into Saturday's game against Connecticut, where she starred for so many years before leaving for Phoenix this season as a free agent.

"It was my home for 11 years and it was awesome to be able to do it in front of them," Thomas said. "It all started here so yeah it's cool, a full-circle moment."

She got the record-breaking one on a 3-pointer by Kathryn Westbeld in the corner with 4:45 left in the second quarter.

She finished the game with 10 to give her 342 this season.

"I've been fortunate to be surrounded by so many great 3-point shooters so they make my job easy," Thomas said. "I hit the open person and the rest is on them to hit the shot. Credit to them they have my back like that."

Thomas held the record in 2023 with 316 assists when she played for Connecticut. Clark broke it a year later as a rookie. Now the 33-year-old Thomas, who also holds the WNBA record for triple-doubles in a season and career, has it back again. She only needed 37 games to reclaim that mark.

What's most impressive about Thomas' accomplishment is that she's done it from the forward position. Ever since her time with the Sun, Thomas has been a point-forward, facilitating the Mercury's offense. Many of her assists this year have come on 3-pointers with nearly half of them coming on shots from behind the arc.

She's seventh on the league's career assist list with more than 1,800 assists - the only forward in the top 10.

Thomas has averaged a career-best 9.2 assists this season, which is short of Courtney Vandersloot's record of 9.95 set in 2020.

Chicago downs Revolution

CHICAGO, Sept 7, (AP): Jonathan Bamba, Philip Zinckernagel and Hugo Cuypers each scored a goal on Saturday night to help the Chicago Fire beat the New England Revolution 3-1.

André Franco made his second MLS appearance and had two assists - his first career goal contributions - for the Fire. Franco, a 27-year-old midfielder, was acquired Aug. 13 on loan from Portuguese powerhouse FC Porto and made his debut for Chicago on Aug. 23.

Chicago (12-10-6) had it's five-game unbeaten streak snapped last time out by a 4-0 loss to Philadelphia.

Lucas Sanabria scored in the ninth minute of second-half stoppage time to rally the Los Angeles Galaxy to a 1-1 draw with the Houston Dynamo.

Sanabria subbed into the match in the 61st minute before scoring his second goal in his first season in the league.

Defender John Nelson notched his career-high third assist on the equalizer and Gabriel Pec collected his sixth.

Ezequiel Ponce gave the Dynamo (8-12-9) the lead when he took a pass from Ondrej Lingr in the 35th minute and scored his career-high eighth goal in his second season in the league. Ponce had five goals in 10 appearances as a rookie. Lingr picked up his fourth

assist in his first season.

Jonathan Bond totaled three saves for the Dynamo.

JT Marcinkowski saved one shot in his first start for the Galaxy (4-16-8). It was his first appearance since making 13 for the San Jose Earthquakes in 2023.

Petar Musa scored the equalizer for FC Dallas in a 1-1 draw with St. Louis City and Jacob Jackson totaled 13 saves after goalkeeper Michael Collo-di left the club shorthanded in the 16th minute on Saturday night.

Collo-di was hit with a red card in his fifth career start for a foul on João Klauss. Dallas midfielder Kaick Ferreira was removed and Jackson replaced Collo-di in his first appearance with Dallas (7-11-10).

Jackson was up to the task after allowing nine goals in three starts for the San Jose Earthquakes last season.

Célio Pompeu used an assist from Eduard Löwen to score in the 32nd minute and give St. Louis City (5-17-7) a 1-0 lead. It was the second goal for Pompeu and the third assist for Löwen.

Musa tied it three minutes later. It was the 14th goal of the campaign for Musa after scoring 16 times as a rookie last season. Chris Cappis notched his first assist in his fifth career appearance.

Club also renews key contracts

Al-Otaibi rejoins Al-Arabi on two-year deal

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Volleyball veteran Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi has returned to his boyhood club, Al-Arabi, signing a two-year deal on a free transfer after spending the past five seasons with Kuwait Club. Al-Arabi, also boosted its squad by adding spiker Ahmad Al-Mulla, who arrived on a free move as well.

Al-Otaibi, who began his career with Tadamon's juniors before joining Al-Arabi in 2003, represented the club until 2020. He then spent five seasons with Kuwait Club before making his return this summer. Over the years, he also gained international experience with Kazma, Al-Ain of the UAE, and Bahrain's Al-Ahli. Known for his versatility across multiple positions, Al-Otaibi brings valuable tactical options and leadership as Al-Arabi gears up for the new season.

Al-Mulla, meanwhile, spent the last two years with Shabab, having also worn Al-Arabi's colors earlier in his career. Playing as an outside hitter



In this file photo, Al-Otaibi celebrates alongside Al-Arabi teammates

(position 4), he is regarded as one of Kuwait's top local spikers.

Al-Arabi has been active in the transfer market, signing former player Mubarak Al-Aidan, along with Youssef Mandil, Abdulrahman Al-

Mulla, Fahad Al-Kout, and Mishaal Al-Khawalid. The club also renewed contracts with Abdulrazzaq Al-Lughani, Hussein Ashkanani, Abdulwahab Taleb, Talal Abdulrazzaq, and Nawaf Mubarak.

Expressing gratitude, Al-Otaibi thanked Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanim, team manager Nizar Al-Nisf, as well as the administrators, coaches, and fans who supported him during his time with Kuwait Club. He said he looks forward to contributing to Al-Arabi's ambitions in the new campaign.

Elsewhere, Kazma continued strengthening its roster by signing Brazilian professional Ademar, the second foreign player alongside his compatriot Costa. The squad, coached by Brazilian Kakareto with local assistant Saad Yaqoub, has also added Fahad Al-Saad.

Meanwhile, Shabab's volleyball team has departed for a training camp in Cairo under Tunisian coach Farid Ben Ayashi. The squad includes foreign reinforcements: Mali's Moussa Kone and Brazil's Marcos Costa. Volleyball director Ahmed Al-Failakawi praised the club's board for organizing the camp, which features several friendly matches ahead of the new season beginning on September 26.

Verstappen roars back in Monza



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates on the podium after winning the Italian Grand Prix race at the Monza racetrack in Monza, Italy. (AP)

Norris and Piastri complete podium

MONZA, Italy, Sept 7, (AP): Max Verstappen claimed a dominant victory at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday ahead of McLaren's title contenders Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

It was a first win since May for Verstappen - and only his third of the season - and capped a memorable weekend at Monza for Red Bull's four-time world champion, who had posted the fastest lap in Formula 1 history at the track on Saturday to claim pole position.

"That was unbelievable guys! Well done everyone," Verstappen said on team radio. "We executed that really well. What an unbelievable weekend. We can be really proud of that."

Norris was second, nearly 20 seconds behind Verstappen, to trim the gap to Piastri in the title race to 31 points. He had started the day 34 points behind the Australian driver, who was not happy after he was ordered to let his team-

mate past towards the end of the race.

The switch came after Norris had a slow pit stop, which appeared to put his title chances further in jeopardy when he came out behind his teammate but McLaren ordered Piastri to let the British driver past, which he did despite grumbling about the decision on team radio.

"I felt like I was there for quite a long time," Norris said. "Every now and then we make mistakes as a team and this was one of them."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton had solid performances at the team's home race. Cheered on by the passionate, red-clad tifosi, Leclerc finished fourth while Hamilton surged through the field at the start to cross the line in sixth - after starting from 10th following a five-place grid penalty.

Norris was desperate to rebound from a disastrous Dutch GP where he retired with a rare engine problem. Starting from second at Monza, he tussled with Verstappen from the start and was forced off into the grass at the first corner.

"I always know it is going to be a good fight

with Max and it was," Norris said. "One of those weekends where we are a bit slower but a good fight and I enjoyed it."

Verstappen was told to give the place back and duly did so but the Red Bull driver reclaimed the lead at the start of lap four, diving past Norris into turn one.

From there, it was almost a procession to victory for Verstappen. He briefly found himself behind the McLarens after pitting on lap 38 but retook the lead when Piastri was brought in on lap 46, followed by Norris a lap later.

"We went so long so the soft tyres seemed like a good tyre to put on," Piastri said. "We were staying out for safety cars if we got any. A little incident at the end but it's okay."

Hamilton was just behind his former Mercedes teammate George Russell, with Alex Albon, Gabriel Bortoleto, Kimi Antonelli and Isack Hadjar rounding out the top 10.

Antonelli had crossed the line in eighth but the Italian teenager dropped a place because of a five-second penalty for contact with Albon.

Kazma earns first victory, Salmiya and Burgan draw

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kazma Club team secured its first win in the Handball Premier League, defeating Sulaibikhat 35-30 in the second-round clash held at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. The same venue also hosted the 31-31 draw between Salmiya and Burgan.

Earlier Arabi edged past Nasr 31-28, while Kuwait Club overcame Qadisiya 28-22. After two rounds, the league standings are: Kuwait Club - 4 points, Kazma - 3, Arabi - 3, Burgan - 3, Salmiya - 2, Sulaibikhat - 1, while Qadisia and Nasr remain pointless after back-to-back defeats.

The third-round fixtures, scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, will feature Kazma against Qadisiya, Salmiya versus Kuwait Club, Sulaibikhat meeting Arabi, and Burgan facing Nasr.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club is racing against time to prepare for hosting the 40th Arab Championship for League and Cup Winners' Clubs, set to take place at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Complex from September 12 to 22.

The tournament draw placed the host Kuwait Club in Group A alongside Qatar's Al-Ahli, Iraq's Naft Al-Basra, and



Player attempts a shot as the opposite defender blocks.

Kazma. Group B features Egypt's Al-Ahli Bank, Iraq's Al-Hashd, Qatar SC, Sulaibikhat, Shabab, and Syria's Nawair.

In a separate development, Algeria recently kicked off the African Women's Handball Championships for U-17 and U-19 categories, with 22 national teams taking part.

Azevedo hails World Championship reforms

BANGKOK, Sept 7, (Xinhua): After witnessing the debut of the expanded 32-team format at the 2025 Volleyball Women's World Championship, International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) president Fabio Azevedo has declared the overhaul a landmark success.

The World Championship, now held every two years instead of every four, and featuring 32 teams up from 24, has given more teams the opportunity to compete on the global stage, according to Azevedo.

"The feedback has been extremely positive. We did the right thing for our sport," Azevedo told Xinhua. "We are giving more teams a chance to play. Organizing the World Championship every two years, increasing the number of teams to 32, and implementing a universal qualification system ensures strong representation from every continent, while still featuring the best teams in the World Championship." "We saw so many young talents performing here. We didn't see them before, but now they are at the highest stage in the world," he added.

Azevedo also noted the event's success from a marketing perspective.

"In terms of operations, we have amazing entertainment, ticket sales, and theatrical

lighting," he said. "Asia has 52 percent of the world's volleyball fan base. This year, seven out of the eight world championships are held in Asia. It's a bold statement, but I believe that the Americas are for basketball, Europe is for football, and Asia is for volleyball. This event is remarkable, and we look forward to the next [Volleyball Men's World Championship] in the Philippines." The 2025 World Championship has featured many historic moments: Greece secured its first victory in 23 years; France defeated China to reach the top eight; and Slovenia surprisingly advanced to the round of 16. Azevedo credited the "Volleyball Empowerment Program", which supports over 200 countries and regions in coaching, equipment and knowledge transfer, for the improved level of competitiveness.

"The technical level of the teams has increased radically. That was fantastic," he said. "We are seeing the results of four years of investment in 'Volleyball Empowerment'. 60 percent of the teams in this World Championship are supported by the program." European teams dominated the tournament, securing nine of the 16 top spots, while Azevedo pointed to Africa as volleyball's next frontier.

'Make players' health and medical support a top priority'

PSG demands action after Dembélé, Doué sidelined on international duty

PARIS, Sept 7, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain has written to the French soccer federation demanding a better working relationship between club and country, after its star players Désiré Doué and Ousmane Dembélé were injured on international duty.

Both were injured during Friday's World Cup qualifying match against Ukraine on Friday.

Dembélé, who is a strong candidate to win the men's Ballon d'Or after inspiring PSG to a first Champion League title, will be sidelined for up to six weeks with a hamstring injury. Doué is out for around four weeks with a calf strain.

"Paris Saint-Germain has sent a letter to the French Football Federation urgently calling for a new, more transparent and collaborative medical coordination protocol between clubs and the national team," PSG wrote in a statement. "To make players' health and medical support a top priority."

PSG added that the French national team was provided with medical information concerning workloads and the injury risk to its players, and that France coach Didier Deschamps and his staff seemingly overlooked the advice.



France's Desire Doue, left, challenges for the ball with Ukraine's Oleksandr Zinchenko during the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying soccer match between Ukraine and France at Tarczyński Arena in Wrocław, Poland. (AP)

"The club deplores the fact that these medical recommendations were not taken into account by the French national team's medical staff, as well as the total lack of consultation with its medical teams," PSG wrote. "The recent events, serious and preventable, must give rise to swift and immediate corrective measures."

PSG begins its Champions League defense against Atalanta on Sept. 17 and goes to Barcelona on Oct. 1, with both key players set to

miss those matches.

Deschamps said he sympathised and understood PSG's frustration but insists that he took no undue risks.

"We have always done things seriously and professionally," Deschamps said Sunday on television show "Téléfoot." "If you leave players on the bench, you're not taking any risks. As long as there are players on the pitch, there's no such thing as zero risk."

Deschamps insists that both players were fully consulted before being allowed to take part in Friday's game.

"The protocol stipulates that they must come and register their injury on Monday morning. We observe and we see how things progress," Deschamps said. "In the week leading up to this, we took this seriously by asking how the player felt before each (training) session."

However, it could be that the responsibility lies elsewhere.

At the end of June, France's union of professional soccer players launched a scathing attack on the Club World Cup, saying it is "urgent to stop this massacre" amid ongoing concerns about extreme player workloads.

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NEWS



Amanda Anisimova, of the United States, returns a shot to Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, during the women's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Sports

Sabalenka wins back-to-back US Open titles

Belarusian holds off Anisimova

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): Aryna Sabalenka was two points away from what eventually would be a second consecutive U.S. Open title when she had what should have been a routine - easy, even - overhead smash. Instead, while backpedaling, she dumped the ball into the net, giving her opponent, Amanda Anisimova, a break chance.

After that excruciating miss Saturday, Sabalenka dropped her racket on the blue court and smiled ruefully. She began to feel the sort of emotions that got the better of her during losses in the finals at the Australian Open in January and the French Open in June bubble up. She tried to compose herself.

"I just let the doubt get into my head," Sabalenka explained. "But then I turned around and I took a deep breath in, and I was like, 'OK. It happens. It's in the past. Let's focus on the next one.'"

So everything was fine from there? Well, no. "She broke me," Sabalenka said with a loud laugh. "I was like, 'OK. ... Reset.'"

It took another 15 minutes to complete the job. Still, the No. 1-seeded Sabalenka did reset, unlike at those earlier title matches in 2025, and was able to kneel on Arthur Ashe Stadium's court while covering her face with her hands after beating Anisimova 6-3, 7-6 (3). That made Sabalenka the first woman to earn the trophy at Flushing Meadows in consecutive years since Serena Williams in 2012-14.

"I truly, really admire her," said No. 8 seed Anisimova, a 24-year-old American who heard raucous support from the 24,000 or so spectators. "She puts in a lot of work, and that's why she's where she is."

Sabalenka, a 27-year-old from Belarus, earned her fourth Grand Slam trophy - all on hard courts - and avoided becoming the first woman to lose three major finals in a season since Justine Henin in 2006.

Sabalenka was the runner-up to Madison Keys at Melbourne Park and to Coco Gauff at Roland-Garros.

Those defeats helped on Saturday.

"After the Australian Open, I thought that the right way would be just to forget it and move on. But then the same thing happened at the French Open," said Sabalenka, who showed up at her post-match news conference with a bottle of Champagne and a pair of dark goggles atop her head. "So after the French Open, I figured that, OK, maybe it's time for me to sit back and to look at those finals and to maybe learn something, because I didn't want it to happen again and again and again."

As Anisimova kept making things close again, and the crowd kept getting louder, Sabalenka reminded herself to focus on herself.

It worked.

When Anisimova trailed Sabalenka 2-0, 30-love as Saturday's match began, some fans might have wondered: There's no way there's going to be a repeat of Wimbledon, right? That's because Anisimova's first major final, in July at the All England Club, ended with a 6-0, 6-0 shutout against Iga Swiatek.

But Anisimova grabbed the next four points to break back, capping the game with a backhand winner and a forehand winner. That got folks on their feet, shouting, and Anisimova exhaled as she walked to the sideline. Soon, she led 3-2.

That was another moment that could have thrown Sabalenka. Nope. She took the next four games, and that set the tone.

It began pouring before the match, so Ashe's roof was shut and its artificial lights were on. That was a problem for Anisimova, who said she had a hard time



Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, holds her trophy after defeating Amanda Anisimova, of the United States, after the women's finals of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

seeing the ball during serve tosses.

The setup also created windless conditions, ideal for two ball-strikers who really can bring the power with good contact. And that's what they both did.

Some exchanges were breathtaking - to them, certainly, and to those in the stands who gasped at the power during longer points. The rewards can be huge, as can the risks, and Anisimova was seeking the lines with full cuts off both sides.

"I think I didn't fight hard enough for my dreams today," said Anisimova, who

buried her face in a towel after the match.

Of Sabalenka's first 13 points, just one came via her own winner. The others? Six unforced errors and six forced errors by Anisimova.

By the end, Anisimova had nearly twice as many winners as Sabalenka, 22-13, and nearly twice as many unforced errors, too, 29-15.

"There were two moments where I was really close to losing control," Sabalenka said later, "but ... I told myself, 'No, it's not going to happen. It's absolutely OK.'"

England labors past Andorra to keep perfect record

Ronaldo rolls back years, Portugal off to flying start in World Cup qualifiers

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 7, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo's quest to play in a record sixth World Cup began in typical fashion with two goals as Portugal made a winning start to its qualifying campaign by routing Armenia 5-0. Ronaldo's goals extended his record as the highest scorer in men's international football to 140 and underlined his enduring motivation to keep setting more benchmarks before his storied career comes to an end.

The 40-year-old soccer great has recently signed a new contract with Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr and led Portugal to victory at the UEFA Nations League last summer. The World Cup is the one major trophy that eludes him - leaving him behind his great rival Lionel Messi, who lifted soccer's biggest prize with Argentina in 2022.

Next year would likely be Ronaldo's last chance to win it when the tournament is staged in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Like him, Messi would also be playing at a sixth World Cup - setting the pair apart from any other player, with a host of names having appeared in five. Ronaldo - a five-time Champions League winner, who also lifted the European Championship trophy with his country - struck in each half at the Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium as Portugal made a flying start in Group F on Saturday. His second saw him roll back the years with a thunderous shot from around 25 meters (yards).

He wheeled away in celebration with his arms outstretched, seo choices Joao Felix also scored twice and hit the opening goal after just 10 minutes. Joao Cancelo was also on target.

"It was a near-perfect performance," said Portugal midfielder Vitorinha.

England maintained its 100% record in qualifying with a 2-0 win against Andorra at Villa Park. Thomas Tuchel's team is top of Group K with four straight wins after an own goal from Christian Garcia and a Declan Rice header. While Ronaldo further gilded his record, Harry Kane was left frustrated as England failed to convince again under Tuchel. A 1-0 win against Andorra in June was described by one British newspaper as England's "worst ever." It was followed by a 3-1 home loss against Senegal in a friendly before the end of the season. Tuchel made 10 changes to his squad, and while there was an improvement, England still had to toil against the 174-ranked Andorrans.

It took Garcia to open the scoring when he inadvertently glanced Noni



England's Anthony Gordon heads the ball during the World Cup Group K qualifying match between England and Andorra at Villa Park stadium in Birmingham. (AP)

Madueke's inswinging cross into his own net in the 25th minute. England created more chances after the break, with Andorra goalkeeper Iker Alvarez making two fine saves from close range to deny Eberechi Eze and Elliott Anderson. Rice headed in at the far post in the 67th from Reece James' cross.

"The energy was right, the quality was there. We should have scored more," Tuchel said. England's all-time leading scorer Kane could not extend his record, with his best chance coming when failing to connect with James's first-half cross with an open net to aim at. Also in Group K, Serbia beat Latvia 1-0 to move up to second in the table. England plays Serbia on Tuesday in what is likely to be its biggest test in the group. "We know what's coming."

It's a difficult away game, but it's a crucial game for us because we can make a huge step into the qualification, and we are well aware of it," Tuchel said. Portugal played its first match since the death of former player Diogo Jota and his brother Andre Silva in a car accident in July.

Ronaldo pointed up to the sky after his first goal, while Cancelo recreated Jota's trademark celebration by sitting



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during a World Cup 2026 Group F qualifying soccer match between Armenia and Portugal at the Vazgen Sargsyan stadium in Yerevan, Armenia. (AP)

with his legs crossed and mimicking playing a video game. "Diogo will always be with us. Celebrating Joao Cancelo was a beautiful moment," midfielder Joao Neves said.

Dembele will be out for up to six

weeks with a "serious injury" to his right hamstring after limping off against Ukraine on Friday. Doue strained his right calf - ruling him out for around four weeks, PSG said.

Ireland fought back from two goals down to secure a 2-2 draw against Hungary. Adam Idah leveled the game in the third minute of stoppage time at the Aviva Stadium after the visitors had raced to a 2-0 lead inside 15 minutes.

Barnabas Varga put Hungary ahead in the second minute, and the lead was doubled by Roland Sallai. Evan Ferguson pulled a goal back for Ireland shortly after halftime, and Hungary was soon down to 10 men when Sallai was shown red in the 52nd for a foul on Dara O'Shea.

Hungary looked like holding on in the face of increased pressure until Idah's late header. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria maintained their perfect records in Group H. Veteran striker Edin Dzeko scored twice as Bosnia routed 10-man San Marino 6-0 to top the group on 12 points after four games. Austria has played a game less and is second after Marcel Sabitzer's penalty sealed a 1-0 win against Cyprus.

Kuwait faces Syria in Sousa's first test

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Sept 7: Kuwait will play its first friendly under new Portuguese head coach Hélio Sousa tonight when it meets Syria at 7:00 p.m. at Hamad bin Khalifa Stadium in Doha.

Sousa, appointed in August on a two-year contract to replace Argentine Juan Antonio Pizzi, has called up 26 players for the camp, including Saud Al-Hoshan, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Fahad Al-Hajri, Bader Tareq, Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, and Shabib Al-Khaldi.

The Blues have been training in Doha since late August, after shifting their camp from Indonesia. Sessions at Aspire Academy have combined fitness work with tactical drills to build cohesion ahead of a

busy period. The team will also face Lebanon during the camp.

Kuwait's focus is on the November 25 playoff against Mauritania at Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, which will decide qualification for the Arab Cup starting in December. Preparations include another camp in the UAE in October and a final training period before the decisive clash.

Syria, meanwhile, continues its Asian Cup build-up. The Qasioun Eagles lost 3-1 to the UAE in a recent friendly and head into tonight's match missing several key players. Striker Omar Khrabin is absent due to club commitments with Al-Wahda, while Mardik Mardikian and Simon Amin are out injured. Pablo Sabbagh, Elmar Abraham, and Malek Jannir are also unavailable.



Kuwaiti players hold training session ahead of friendly.

Japan secures first pool match victory in 31 years

YORK, Sept 7, (AP): Japan earned a first pool match win in 31 years at the Women's Rugby World Cup after seeing off Spain 29-21 in York on Sunday.

Spain finished its seventh World Cup without a win for the first time.

The Sakura Fifteen responded to a 14-5 halftime deficit by scoring four consecutive tries.

Japan, already dominating territory and possession, simply became more patient in the second half and frustrated Las Leonas into conceding 16 penalties. Spain went on a yellow-card warning twice from Sara Cox, who became the first female referee to control 50 tests.

Japan captain and flanker Iroha Nagata, who went to the 2017 World

Cup as a center, busted three tackles to open the second-half scoring. Prop Wako Kitano, Japan's strongest player, barged over next, followed by wing Komachi Imakugi.

Spain scrumhalf Anne Fernandez de Corres received a yellow card for head contact on Japan midfielder Haruka Hirotsu, who went off for a head injury check. Her brief replacement, No. 8 Jennifer Nduka, finished a 20-phase attack for Japan's fifth try.

Japan has won World Cup games since 1994 but they were for minor playoff positions.

Spain went to Japan in July for the first time and lost both tests 32-19 and 30-19 but used the lessons to lead 14-5.