



Kuwait Amir receives Saudi State Minister



HH Amir receives Saudi State Minister and member of the Council of Ministers Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday at Bayan Palace Saudi Arabia's State Minister and member of the Council of Ministers Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud on occasion of his visit to the country.

The Minister conveyed the greetings of Saudi's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, and their well wishes of good health to His Highness the Amir and for the Kuwaiti people progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Amir relayed his greetings to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, wishing them wellbeing and Saudi Arabia further development and advancement under their wise leadership.

Attending the meeting were Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of the Amir's office retired lieutenant general Jamal Al-Theyab, undersecretary of Amiri Diwan

Continued on Page 5

Robotic surgery milestone earns Amir's praise

— Details Page 2 —



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, and the specialized medical team.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Our roads can't accommodate our cars ... Build bridges

AT the beginning of each school year, complaints about traffic congestion and voices arise, calling for an effective solution to this crisis.

Meanwhile, research is underway to determine whether the world's roads can accommodate approximately 800,000 cars, while more than three million vehicles are arriving.

It is internationally recognized that the census is conducted over a period of 30 or 50 years, taking into account the population growth, as well as the growth of regions in general within these decades.

Therefore, route planning is generally based on this.

In Kuwait, the road and transportation network has remained in a state of disrepair for decades.

Despite some bridge construction, there has been no research into improving roads in the areas, the capital and the cities, which suffer from congestion over time.

Thus, a modern vision is needed.

On the other hand, it is well-known that road paving projects are carried out at night and are not closed during the day. This happens in all countries, especially those with hot weather -- whether in summer or winter.

Yet, there is no crisis like the one we are experiencing. There is also a culture of using public transportation, which saves effort, time and money, but it does not exist in our country. This is why you see vehicles parked outside schools every morning, blocking the roads and causing traffic. You find only one student in each car.

In the past, when consumer education boomed, students traveled on the school bus and there were no crises.

Today, waste is the basis of everything. This is why we hear about the commercialization of time and being late for appointments.

All these cost the State and the people dearly.

In all other countries in the region, solutions have been found to this crisis. In Dubai, for example, the establishment of a

modern transportation network -- the most important of which is the metro -- solved many problems, alleviated congestion, and saved time for everyone.

In the meantime, in Kuwait, the train project remains a slogan. It is true that in the past, subscriptions to tenders hindered projects.

From now on, there is a complete, radical solution based on expanding the scope of work to improve the transportation network, roads and public transport. However, these solutions are not improvised. They are based on a flawed vision or hindrances to the people's work.

It is true that the Minister of Public Works is fulfilling her role in this area. She is thanked, but that does not mean remaining without sound planning that takes into account the future.

At the same time, people's time must be taken care of.

Legal schools will master this. It means everything must be taken into consideration, so that the effort exerted does not become a mere civilization.

Starting with raising awareness, we must encourage people -- all people -- to use public transportation and launch a metro project, which can be built by local or foreign private sector companies, as long as transportation systems cannot accommodate a large number of vehicles.

What is coming today is a double waste of time, money and effort.

In this regard, we must put the spotlight on the police or security officers who shoulder a heavy burden. They carry out

Continued on Page 5

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Kuwait issues timings for teachers and school staff

Education ministry taps 186 principals, 501 assistants

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Mohammad Al-Khalidi issued a decision on the official and flexible working hours for school staff, including teachers and administrative employees at all educational levels in public schools, private Arab schools, religious education and special education.

The decision specifies the start and end timings for the official working hours of the members of the teaching and administrative staff:

■ Kindergarten: from 6:45 am to 12:05 pm

■ Primary stage: from 6:45 am to 1:15 pm

■ Intermediate stage: from 7:00 am to 1:40 pm

■ Secondary stage: from 7:15 am to 1:55 pm

The start and end timings for flexible working hours are as follows:

■ Kindergarten stage: from 6:45 am to 7:30 am, and from 11:35 am

to 12:20 pm

■ Elementary stage: from 6:45 am to 7:30 am, and from 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

■ Intermediate stage: from 6:55 am to 7:40 am, and from 1:05 pm to 1:50 pm

■ Secondary stage: from 7:10 am to 7:55 am, and from 1:20 pm to 2:05 pm

The Ministry of Education's preparations for the 2025/2026 academic year include the issuance of decisions on the secondment of some officials in schools in order to ensure a smooth start of the academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the ministry, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Hamad Al-Hamad approved decisions to second 186 school principals and 501 assistant principals, who passed the tests and interviews for leadership positions, which were conducted as per Ministerial Resolution No. 116, stipulating the new standards and regulations in line with the latest developments in the educational field.

On filling vacant leadership positions, the ministry confirmed that 42.5 percent of vacant school principal positions have been filled so far and 43.2 percent for assistant principal positions. It stressed that the selection process was conducted as per the criteria, including professional competence and educational experience.

Continued on Page 5



Heads of national cybersecurity bodies from member states pose for a group photo.

Cybersecurity in focus as committee convenes in Kuwait

GCC charts path toward regional digital safety

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): The ministerial committee for cybersecurity authorities and centers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held its meeting in Kuwait on Monday, with the participation of heads of national cybersecurity bodies from member states.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance cybersecurity cooperation across the GCC,

including joint action plans, mechanisms for information sharing, and initiatives to strengthen digital protection and ensure continuity of vital services.

Participants reviewed current efforts to address growing cyber threats, discussed infrastructure development, and explored methods to build national expertise in cybersecurity fields.

The committee also followed up on the implementation of previous decisions and outlined future strategies to support unified regional responses to cyber risks.

This meeting represents a key step toward greater Gulf cooperation in cybersecurity, aiming to protect shared interests and maintain the safety and stability of the region's digital space.

Kuwait, Saudi fortify security ties with new intelligence pact

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Decree Law No. 136/2025, published in the official gazette -- 'Kuwait Al-Yaum' -- stipulates approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation and Intelligence Exchange between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The explanatory memorandum states: With the aim of strengthening military cooperation between

the two countries, safeguarding international peace and security, and enhancing bilateral collaboration in the fields of security and military intelligence related to both nations, a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Intelligence Exchange between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was signed on Jan 15, 2025.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

A FOREIGN economist said: "Corrupt people from the Arab world and the Middle East hide their money in our banks, at the cheapest interest rates, and we trade that money with their countries at the highest interest rates and difficult conditions."

"It is easy money, and we control the difficulty when lending it."

"It is a fortune controlled by fate. If its owners die, it becomes the right of the banks within 16 years and it is included in their profits and financial assets."

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

KNG Chief, Indian ambassador hold talks



KNG Chief receives Ambassador of India to Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): Chief of Kuwait National Guard (KNG), Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah, explored issues of common interest along with Ambassador of India to the country, Dr. Adarsh Swaika, on Monday.

According to KNG statement, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah affirmed intent on furthering coordination and cooperation between the two sides.

News watch

KUWAIT CITY: The Amiri Diwan on Monday mourned the demise of Sheikhana Jana Emad Abdulaziz Salem Al-Malek Al-Sabah, at the age of 25. The funeral service is to take place on Monday evening. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday a letter from the President of the Republic of Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso. (KUNA)

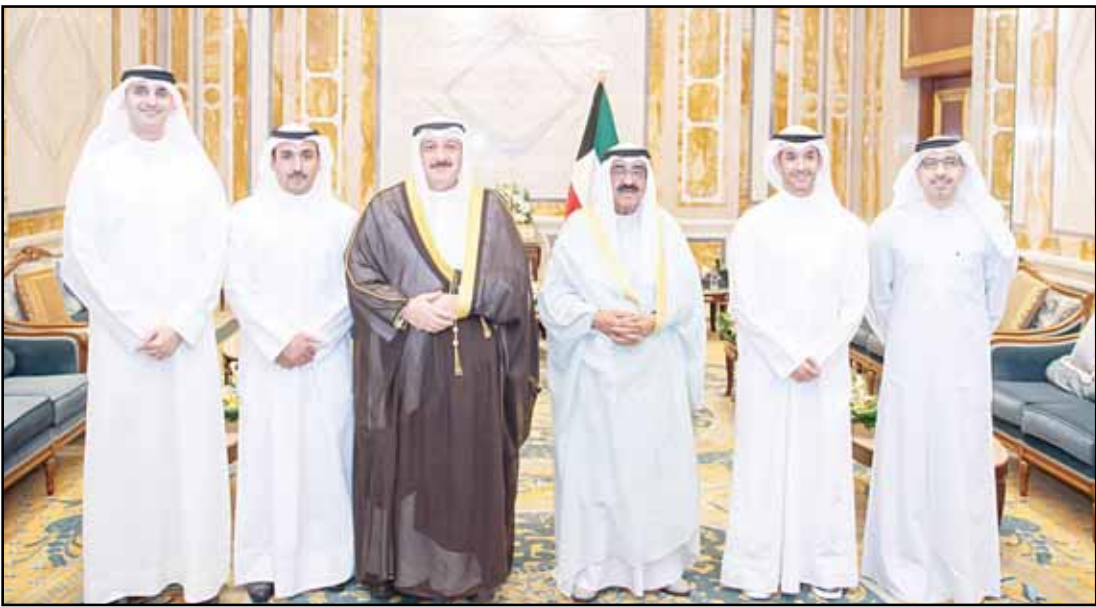


Gulf Bank distributes 500 school bags to children of underprivileged families

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:08	Asr	15:17
Sunrise ..	05:29	Maghrib ..	18:02
Zohr	11:46	Isha	19:21

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-30 km/h.			
By Night: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-32 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	47	36	
Kuwait Airport	47	27	
Abdaly	48	28	
Bubyan	36	24	
Jahra	48	32	
Salmiyah	44	37	
Ahmadi	38	30	
Nuwaib	44	28	
Wafra	47	27	
Salmiyah	47	25	



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and medical team.

Kuwait advances in robotic surgery

HH Amir praises medical team for international surgical achievement

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and medical team specialized in remote robotic surgeries. They briefed His Highness the Amir on the international medical achievement of conducting ten highly intricate remote surgeries efficiently. An achievement that embodies Kuwait's progress in the field of robotic surgeries. His Highness the Amir praised their achievements, scientific excellence, ability to keep up with modern developments, and keenness on adopting latest technologies. His Highness the Amir wished all success in the service of Kuwait and represent it in all regional and international medical platforms.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also received at Bayan Palace on Monday Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and a special-

ized medical team responsible for the new global medical achievement of performing ten remote robotic surgeries. They briefed His Highness the Crown Prince on the highly accurate operations using the surgical robot with remote surgery technology, which were performed with skill, precision and high efficiency, embodying the progress made by the State of Kuwait in the field of robotic surgery.

His Highness the Crown Prince praised these medical achievements, which affirm the leadership of national medical competencies and their ability to excel and innovate. His Highness the Crown Prince stressed the importance of adopting the latest advanced medical technologies to provide the best treatment methods according to the highest international standards, wishing them continued success in serving our beloved country under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

CSC enforces benefits for revoked-citizenship staff

Bonuses and contracts updated automatically

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: In implementation of Cabinet Resolution No. 67 on the amendment of the status of women whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked after acquiring it as per Article Eight of the Nationality Law, and Resolution No. 913, which preserves certain rights and benefits for individuals whose citizenship was revoked as per Article Five of the law (Noble Deeds Category), the Civil Service Commission (CSC) instructed ministries, departments and government agencies to adhere to the rules approved by the Civil Service Council for each category when signing contracts with those affected by the decision.

This includes disbursing a monthly bonus equivalent to the last salary received prior to the revocation of nationality, based on their job title and work location, in accordance with the contracts concluded with them. This applies to those naturalized under articles Eight (foreign wives of Kuwaitis) and Five (Noble Deeds Category), as well as those who obtained nationality through dependency.

In a letter addressed to ministries and agencies, CSC Chairman Dr. Essam Al-Rubaian stated "if the second party obtains a new educational qualification,

changes the job title, relocates or alters the nature of work, a new contract must be signed with the employer reflecting the change in the legal status."

He emphasized the importance of taking all the necessary administrative and automated measures within the integrated systems to enforce the provisions of the two aforementioned resolutions, in line with the general rules governing employment relationships for all other categories and groups.

Regarding the mechanism for implementing changes to the legal status of the concerned employee and the amendment of the comprehensive monthly bonus clauses within the integrated systems, Al-Rubaian clarified that the monthly bonus includes the basic salary, social allowance, children's allowance (if any), cost of living allowance, financial support up to a maximum of KD50, monthly increase up to a maximum of KD50, special bonus for those appointed to the general cadre, job-related bonus considered part of the salary, and a screen allowance if applicable.

He explained that variable allowances — such as shift, food, night shift, distance, remote area, location, infection, danger, pollution and noise allowances — are excluded from the comprehensive monthly bonus. He confirmed that amending the comprehensive monthly bonus in the integrated systems does not require the signing of new contracts, but only an update within the system itself.

On the subject of periodic bonuses and job-level promotions, Al-Rubaian announced the completion of the legislation system, financial decision and special increase decision screens within the integrated system.

He stressed the necessity of ensuring that all requests for job-level promotions or financial benefits that result in an increase to the comprehensive monthly

bonus for those whose nationality was revoked as per articles Five and Eight must be processed automatically in the integrated systems through the Legislation System screen. Each request must be accompanied by the necessary supporting documents and information. In cases involving job-level promotions, the request must first be reviewed by the team formed within the relevant government entity, which must confirm eligibility for the promotion. Requests for financial benefits must specify the category to which the increase applies, in addition to the monthly bonus, and must finally be approved through a decision of the Personnel Affairs Committee of the entity's employment affairs supervisors.

Al-Rubaian also cited the preamble to the circular issued on July 3, which stipulates that contracts with those whose nationality was revoked under Article Eight shall be valid for two years, starting from the day following the revocation, instead of one year. He also mentioned the decision issued on July 31, stating that contracts with those whose nationality was revoked as per Article Five shall be valid for one year from the day following the revocation, and renewed directly by the government entity without referring to the CSC.

Following is a summary of the procedures:

- Submit the application automatically through the integrated systems.
- Attach supporting documents and information.
- The team formed by the government entity must confirm that the promotion is justified.
- The financial benefit request must specify the category for which the increase is sought.
- Approval must be granted by the Personnel Affairs Committee of the entity's employment affairs supervisors.

Discussions reinforce strong relations

Crown Prince, PM host Saudi State Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Monday at Bayan Palace Saudi Arabia's State Minister and member of the Council of Ministers Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud on occasion of visit to the country.

The Minister conveyed the greetings of Saudi's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, and their well wishes of good health to His Highness the Crown Prince and for the Kuwaiti people progress and prosperity under the astute leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince relayed his greetings to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, wishing them wellbeing and Saudi Arabia further development and advancement under their wise leadership.

Attending the meeting were Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Sabah, and Chief of the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Monday at Bayan Palace Saudi Arabia's State Minister and member of the Council of Ministers Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud on occasion of visit to the country.

The Minister conveyed the greetings of Saudi's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, and their well wishes of good health to His Highness the Prime Minister and for the Kuwaiti people progress and prosperity under the astute leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister relayed his greetings to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, wishing them wellbeing and Saudi Arabia further



Crown Prince Diwan photo
Kuwait Crown Prince receives Saudi State Minister Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud.



PM Diwan photo
Kuwaiti PM receives Saudi State Minister and member of Cabinet.

development and advancement under their wise leadership.

Attending the meeting were First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan

Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Sabah, Head of the Prime Minister's Office, Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, and Saudi Ambassador to the country Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khalid Al-Saud.

Service upgrade

MoC approves new structure

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The Ministry of Communications approved its new organizational structure, after being endorsed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The new structure includes the establishment of two sectors and 22 departments, in addition to the creation of director general positions.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the decision, stating that employees at all job levels, committees and teams will continue to perform their duties or tasks according to their current job positions until the positions are filled within organizational units through the integrated civil service systems.

The decision includes the creation of the Administrative and Financial Affairs Sector, which will consist of six departments, and the Services Affairs Sector, which will be supervised by two directors general — Director General for Communications Affairs and Director General for Postal Affairs and Subscriber Services. These two positions will be responsible for 10 departments specializing in postal and telephone services.

The decision also stipulates that the Minister will be responsible for the Minister's Office and the Inspection and Audit Office, while the Undersecretary will be responsible for the Technical Office, Citizen Service Office, Legal Affairs Department and Public Relations Department.

Sources confirmed to the newspaper that this step is in line with the commitment of the ministry to work toward rationalization, good governance and administrative flexibility.

Sources said this will improve the quality of services provided to citizens without compromising technical and administrative work mechanisms, and will keep pace with the requirements of digital transformation and institutional development, especially since the ministry is one of the largest service providers in the country and it serves diverse segments of society.

Other Voices

The dream that Fahad Al-Yousef achieved ... a quarter of a century later

By Ahmed alsarraf

The practice of magic and sorcery is deeply rooted in underdeveloped societies, finding fertile ground from which swindlers and sorcerers reap a lot of easy money.

A famous masseur received his fair share of punishment after he began exorcising demons from the bodies of obsessive-compulsive individuals.

Another pretender used beating to exorcise demons from the body of a sick citizen, leading to his death.

He was sentenced to prison, but his 'mullas' succeeded in securing his release before the end of his sentence.

He obtained citizenship and began collecting donations through his association and those of others.

He earned millions, and even dared to insult the country's symbols during the 'Arab Spring'.

His citizenship was revoked, but the 'mullas' intervened for the 10th time and restored it.

He left the country after rumors spread about an intention to revoke his citizenship.

He now lives between Bosnia and Turkiye, enjoying the money of the naive and ignorant who donated to him.

The Interior Ministry arrested another person practicing sorcery and witchcraft, claiming to predict the future.

However, he was unable to predict the arrival of the police at his hideout.

After examining his security record, it was revealed that he had a criminal record and was arrested on the same charge 20 years ago. The question is: How did he reenter the country?

The Interior Ministry also announced a few days ago the arrest of a gang of 12 men and women of various nationalities practicing sorcery and witchcraft.



alsarraf

They found various tools used in fraud and swindling people in his apartment in Mahboula.

What is funny, or sad, about this charlatan citizen's story is what I discovered after the Ministry of Interior published his full name in the media.

I wrote about his fraudulent activities 26 years ago, in a famous article titled "Why, Ahmed Behbehani?"

The article was written after the late Ahmed Rajai refused to stop publishing the charlatan's nonsense in Al-Yaqza magazine, which he owned.

The reason for this was that its publication was contributing to the backwardness of society, even further.

The late Ahmed argued that what this person published in Al-Yaqza was contributing to increased sales (!)—which is unfortunately the same excuse we heard from Al-Qabas when we asked them why they

continue to host certain figures in the Black Box!

The charlatan was harmed by my article at the time, so he filed a lawsuit against us, but he lost on all counts.

The vendetta persisted between us, up to this day, until Fahad Al-Yousef vindicated us. Thank you!

The pressing question: How did a citizen practice sorcery and witchcraft, often publicly, for more than 30 years, amass enormous wealth, and destroy the lives, minds and souls of thousands of citizens, without the competent authorities detecting him or other charlatans?

Where were their eyes, for decades, on all these charlatans?

Which agency or agencies sought to issue them residency and visit permits?

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Hands-on workshops and digital activities promote eco-friendly practices

KEPS launches 16th season of 'Green Schools' program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) launched the 16th season of its annual 'Green Schools' educational program for the 2025/2026 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The program targets students and teachers in public and private schools at all educational levels, as part of the ongoing efforts to instill environmental values and promote a sustainable culture in educational institutions.

Secretary General and Director of Programs and Activities at the Society Jenan Behzad revealed that this year's program has an integrated format, which combines field activities and online workshops through interactive platforms. "It includes a series of lectures and activities in the fields of biodiversity, renewable energy, water conservation and climate change. It also

covers the Environmental Protection Law, sustainable resource management, future of environmental jobs and environmental friends' clubs, along with new themes that keep pace with national and global developments related to environmental issues," she elaborated.

She explained that "the program is an integrated educational and awareness platform, which aims to support teachers as active agents in spreading environmental culture and empowering students to practice good environmental behaviors within schools and the community."

She stated that the new season is enhanced with interactive content and a practical guide to help schools adopt the best environmental practices.

She affirmed that the program, over the past seasons, has reached

thousands of students and teachers, and has had an impact on spreading a sustainable environmental culture within the school community in Kuwait.

She said schools are considered a microcosm that reflects sound environmental practices, instills the values of environmental initiative and volunteering, and integrates sustainability concepts into education and daily practice.

She disclosed that this year, the Society is focusing on the role of women in climate change, which includes workshops for female teachers and students, with the aim of raising their environmental awareness and developing their skills in designing sustainable school initiatives in order to reflect the leadership role of women in addressing environmental challenges and encouraging sustainable behavior in the community.

New Family Law amendments: Do they really achieve justice?

“THE amendments to the Kuwaiti Family Law came at a time societies are witnessing radical changes in the structure and pattern of family life,” **Emad Khamis Eqaab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“While the law aims to achieve justice and fairness between conflicting parties, some of the amendments raise questions about their suitability and effectiveness in achieving the desired goal of regulating family relations.



Eqaab

“Theoretically, the amendments aim to improve the legal status of families and guarantee the rights of individuals.

“The amendments cover various aspects, such as more equitable designation of custody and ensuring the children’s right to receive appropriate care from both parents. This aspect is largely positive, as it seeks to provide a stable environment for children even in the event of parental separation.

“However, some of the amendments appear unreasonable or ineffective in terms of achieving justice.

“A prime example is the imposition of full responsibility on the custodian without any voluntary option, hence, it becomes mandatory.

“This could put immense pressure on individuals, especially mothers, who may find themselves unable to assume full responsibility for financial or psychological reasons.

“In this case, it is essential for the custodian to be able to relinquish custody to the other party if they are unable to fulfill the responsibility.

“It is clear that the amendments may increase the incidence of divorce rather than decrease it.

“When individuals feel that divorce will impose unfair additional burdens on them, they might decide to divorce more quickly.

“This contradicts the primary objective of the law, which is to protect the family unit and provide a stable environment for children.

“Another controversial aspect is the marital expenses borne by men.

“In some cases, the law appears to reward and encourage women to divorce, leading to a high rate of divorce in society.

“This situation requires a reconsideration of the amendments to ensure fairness between the parties, and to prevent any party from making decisions that may be harmful to the family as a whole.

“In conclusion, it appears that the new law requires a comprehensive review to ensure fairness between all concerned parties.

“The amendments should focus on distributing custody fairly, without putting undue financial or psychological burdens on any party.

“Laws should be flexible enough to effectively deal with difficult cases.

“Achieving this balance requires cooperation between legal and social actors to ensure the protection of the family as a fundamental unit of society.”

□ □ □

“As citizens, we take pride in Kuwait being known as a humanitarian country. We are equally proud of the impartial Kuwaiti judiciary, of which His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah once said: We are proud that the Kuwaiti judiciary consists of figures who bring pride to the nation and its people, and who raise their heads,” Kuwaiti lawyer and writer **Khaled Mufrej Thanyan Al-Dalmani** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“To preserve the flawless reputation of Kuwaiti justice, I address the issue of the recent increase in court fees introduced under Law No. 78/2025. This brings fundamental amendments to the Court Fees Law with the aim of deterring malicious lawsuits and ensuring serious litigation.

“However, as a lawyer, I fear the consequences these amendments may have on individuals unable to afford the fees. This concern is especially pressing in family cases, which directly affect the lives of children, mothers and the elderly, and which often require urgent resolution—now made even more difficult by the increased costs.

“Through my work, I witness firsthand the suffering of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Therefore, I will present three illustrative cases that call for urgent solutions. First, consider children over the age of 15 whose fathers deliberately refuse to support them. Difficult living conditions have forced these children to request temporary alimony to maintain a decent life. Is it reasonable to impose higher court fees on them when they are already in desperate need of money?

“Before moving to the second case, I would like to highlight that the number of non-Kuwaiti mothers in Kuwait exceeds 30,000, according to statistics from the Public Authority for Civil Information. From this perspective, a non-Kuwaiti mother caring for her children after divorcing her Kuwaiti husband will undoubtedly be burdened by the increase in court fees, particularly since her only refuge in this country is the justice of the courts. This is why she turns



Al-Dalmani

to the judiciary to seek custody and alimony in cases where the father neglects his obligations without justification.

“The third case: imagine an elderly woman from the stateless category, without income, abandoned by disobedient children who refuse to support or house her. She is compelled to seek justice through the courts. What will this poor woman do when confronted with increased fees she cannot possibly pay?

“There are countless other examples, too numerous to cover in this article. While we fully agree on the need to curb malicious litigation, fees should not become a barrier that prevents the needy from accessing justice.

“Although there is a judicial committee tasked to determine who qualifies for exemption from the new fees, the real problem lies in the lengthy process of proving inability to pay. Time is of the essence in the lives of vulnerable individuals, and justice delayed could mean justice denied.

“The solution lies in explicitly exempting those who cannot afford to pay court fees—or at the very least, deferring the fees until after a ruling is issued, with those who shirk their financial duties, such as alimony, required to bear the cost. This approach ensures that the doors of justice remain open to those who have no refuge but the law.”

□ □ □

“With the increasing importance of the role played by university institutions in Gulf society, university media emerged as an effective tool for improving communication on and off campus, conveying the reality of academic and student activities, and contributing to building the university’s corporate identity and its positive public image,” **Fatma Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“With the digital transformation and the expanding use of artificial intelligence, which has become confusing and sometimes distorts facts, it is imperative to develop university media to keep pace with rapid changes and meet aspirations in an era where digital media dominates the media field.

“The task of developing university media begins with continuous review and a clear institutional vision to develop the infrastructure and contribute to improving the skills of human resources in this field, enabling them to master the use of the latest tools and technologies in media content production.

“This cannot be achieved without the supportive media channels, including print newspapers, radio, television, and of course, digital platforms, which have become the most important, most attractive and most followed.

“The success of any media system depends on the qualification of existing staff, who are naturally required to contribute to raising the standards of newly graduated media professionals and student trainees.

“In light of the influx of artificial intelligence, reality confirms that traditional media content is no longer sufficient in an era where digital media dominates the media landscape.

“Universities, which are a significant part of the higher education system, are now required to produce visual and interactive content that suits the nature of the new generation.

“This content is broadcasted regularly and professionally on social media channels, engaging and concise, keeping pace with the rapid developments around us.

“The balance between professionalism and the requirements of quality production that reflects the diversity within universities and enhances their institutional identity can sometimes be lost in the hectic daily grind.

“This balance, combined with the demands of quality production that reflects the diversity within universities and reinforces their corporate identity, contributes to achieving the media vision derived from the corporate identity and overall strategy.

“Here, many experts agree that university media is no longer a marginal luxury, especially given the universities’ dire need to open up to the world, build partnerships with both traditional and modern media outlets, and highlight achievements, success stories, and student excellence in scientific research and community service.

“This allows the media to succeed as an influential face of the university institution.

“The successes achieved by some Gulf universities that have adopted a more professional media approach, thanks to the diligence of those in charge of university media, cannot be overlooked.

“However, these successes still face challenges related to content, technology and institutional structure, even at universities that have made progress in providing relevant and more dynamic content.

“What about universities that still cling to traditional content and complain of weak digital interaction, which limits access to a wide segment of the target community?

“University media is not merely a means of communication, it is a living space for expressing the spirit of the university campus, a mirror of awareness and participation, and an image that reflects the students’ pulse in the academic space, utilizing artificial intelligence to serve them in a conscious and responsible manner.

— Compiled by **Mohammad Wangengi**

to the judiciary to seek custody and alimony in cases where the father neglects his obligations without justification.

“The third case: imagine an elderly woman from the stateless category, without income, abandoned by disobedient children who refuse to support or house her. She is compelled to seek justice through the courts. What will this poor woman do when confronted with increased fees she cannot possibly pay?

“There are countless other examples, too numerous to cover in this article. While we fully agree on the need to curb malicious litigation, fees should not become a barrier that prevents the needy from accessing justice.

“Although there is a judicial committee tasked to determine who qualifies for exemption from the new fees, the real problem lies in the lengthy process of proving inability to pay. Time is of the essence in the lives of vulnerable individuals, and justice delayed could mean justice denied.

“The solution lies in explicitly exempting those who cannot afford to pay court fees—or at the very least, deferring the fees until after a ruling is issued, with those who shirk their financial duties, such as alimony, required to bear the cost. This approach ensures that the doors of justice remain open to those who have no refuge but the law.”

□ □ □

“With the increasing importance of the role played by university institutions in Gulf society, university media emerged as an effective tool for improving communication on and off campus, conveying the reality of academic and student activities, and contributing to building the university’s corporate identity and its positive public image,” **Fatma Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“With the digital transformation and the expanding use of artificial intelligence, which has become confusing and sometimes distorts facts, it is imperative to develop university media to keep pace with rapid changes and meet aspirations in an era where digital media dominates the media field.

“The task of developing university media begins with continuous review and a clear institutional vision to develop the infrastructure and contribute to improving the skills of human resources in this field, enabling them to master the use of the latest tools and technologies in media content production.

“This cannot be achieved without the supportive media channels, including print newspapers, radio, television, and of course, digital platforms, which have become the most important, most attractive and most followed.

“The success of any media system depends on the qualification of existing staff, who are naturally required to contribute to raising the standards of newly graduated media professionals and student trainees.

“In light of the influx of artificial intelligence, reality confirms that traditional media content is no longer sufficient in an era where digital media dominates the media landscape.

“Universities, which are a significant part of the higher education system, are now required to produce visual and interactive content that suits the nature of the new generation.

“This content is broadcasted regularly and professionally on social media channels, engaging and concise, keeping pace with the rapid developments around us.

“The balance between professionalism and the requirements of quality production that reflects the diversity within universities and enhances their institutional identity can sometimes be lost in the hectic daily grind.

“This balance, combined with the demands of quality production that reflects the diversity within universities and reinforces their corporate identity, contributes to achieving the media vision derived from the corporate identity and overall strategy.

“Here, many experts agree that university media is no longer a marginal luxury, especially given the universities’ dire need to open up to the world, build partnerships with both traditional and modern media outlets, and highlight achievements, success stories, and student excellence in scientific research and community service.

“This allows the media to succeed as an influential face of the university institution.

“The successes achieved by some Gulf universities that have adopted a more professional media approach, thanks to the diligence of those in charge of university media, cannot be overlooked.

“However, these successes still face challenges related to content, technology and institutional structure, even at universities that have made progress in providing relevant and more dynamic content.

“What about universities that still cling to traditional content and complain of weak digital interaction, which limits access to a wide segment of the target community?

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— Compiled by **Mohammad Wangengi**



Al-Hajri

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— Compiled by **Mohammad Wangengi**

Kuwaiti figures recognized for charitable and volunteer work

‘Ammar Ya Kuwait’ showcases spirit of national loyalty

By Inass Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: In a festive atmosphere marked by the spirit of giving and loyalty, the Leaders Center in Khaldiya hosted a ceremony organized by the ‘Ammar Ya Kuwait’ campaign recently.

The event honored 40 distinguished Kuwaiti figures in the fields of humanitarian and charitable work, government work, media and volunteer teams.

The event was part of the ‘Creative Excellence Festival’, which brought together a select group of pioneers of giving, including the Expo 965 Heritage and Crafts Exhibition Team, and several governmental and civil society organizations.

In his speech, campaign leader Nasser Al-Muhallhel asserted that Kuwait will remain a beacon of humanitarian giving and solidarity. He disclosed that since its inception, ‘Ammar Ya Kuwait’ has embraced volunteer work and service for all segments of society under the slogan, “Instilling the Concept of National Loyalty” and community partnership, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Al-Muhallhel pointed out that the campaign has laid down plans under the supervision of specialists to align with national trends toward achieving sustainable development.

He praised the role of the political leadership in giving importance to charitable and volunteer works that support the development efforts of the State.

He revealed that the selection committee for the festival consists of Dr. Ali Al-Balushi, researcher Mohammad Ali Kamal, founder and general coordinator of the Expo 965 team for heritage, crafts, Kuwaiti creatives and certified trainer Odette Yassin.

He added the selection committee was overseen by Sheikha Amal Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and the ‘Ammar Ya Kuwait’ campaign.

He thanked them for their efforts in highlighting the festival in the desired manner.

On the other hand, committee member Dr. Ali Al-Balushi explained that the selection process was based on clear criteria, such as uniqueness, widespread popularity and impact.



Photos by Samer Shaqir

Honorees of the ‘Ammar Ya Kuwait’ campaign recognized for their humanitarian and volunteer contributions.

Next trial set for Dec 1

Cassation Court postpones Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The Court of Cassation, headed by Justice Abdullah Al-Jassem, postponed the hearing on the case of Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, accused of embezzling funds from the ministries of Defense and Interior, until Dec 1 for pleading and settlement.

In the recently concluded session, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled and his defense team appeared in court, during which his lawyers requested an extension to review and prepare their pleadings.

The court granted the request, decided to adjourn the session and set a new date to resume hearing the case.



PM Diwan photo

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the letter during his meeting with the Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the State of Kuwait, Counselor Noura Abdul-Hadi.

PM receives letter from Egyptian peer

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Sunday a letter from his Egyptian counterpart Mustafa Madbouli dealing with efforts to enhance the deep-rooted bilateral ties.

The letter was relayed to him by Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah who first received it from Charge D’Affaires of Egypt Embassy Noura Abdul-Hadi, according to a statement from the Foreign Ministry. (KUNA)

Citizenship of 8 rescinded over unlawful acquisition

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The Council of Ministers issued a decision, published in the official gazette, ‘Kuwait Al-Youm’, to revoke the Kuwaiti citizenship certificate of eight individuals, including those who acquired it through dependency, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This decision is based on Article 21bis(a) of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 — the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amendments.

Article 21bis(a) states that “the Kuwaiti citizenship certificate shall be revoked if it is proven to have been obtained unlawfully, based on fraud, false statements or inaccurate testimonies.”



KGAC photo

Director General of Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) Yousef Al-Nuwaif during his visit at the Abdally border.


KGAC Director General lauds Abdally border customs team

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Director General of Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) Yousef Al-Nuwaif expressed his pride in the efforts of customs personnel at the Abdally border, commending their vigilance and dedication to fulfill their national duty, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Nuwaif made the statement during an inspection visit to the border, accompanied by Deputy Director General for Customs Investigation and Research Saleh Al-Omar.

In a press statement, KGAC disclosed that the visit was carried out under the directive of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

The visit is in line with the commitment of the administration to monitor operations at customs ports, identify the needs of customs personnel and address challenges in order to fully support efforts to protect society from smuggling attempts and facilitate the flow of trade in line with laws and regulations.




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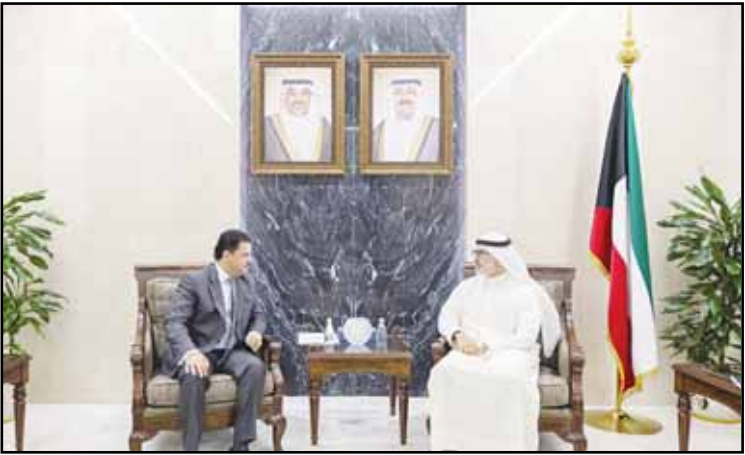
Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait HH Amir congratulates North Macedonia on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber AlSabah on Monday sent a cable to President of North Macedonia Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, congratulating her on her country's National Day.

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

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



KUNA photo

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister welcomes Jordanian Ambassador to the country.

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister receives Ambassador of Jordan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Sunday the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kuwait, Sinan Al-Majali.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the meeting addressed ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, in addition to issues of common interest.

North Korea seeks closer Kuwait ties

Embassy marks DPRK's 77th founding anniversary

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to Kuwait Ju Myong Chol affirmed that his country is keen on strengthening its bilateral relations with Kuwait in various fields.

Ju made the statement at a ceremony organized by the embassy to mark the 77th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Minister Plenipotentiary Saleh Al-Sarawi and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Sabah attended the event.

In his speech, Ju praised the pioneering humanitarian role that Kuwait plays at the regional and international levels, and its well-deserved status as the International Humanitarian Center.

He stressed that relations between the two countries have witnessed numerous milestones over the past years, which contributed to ongoing efforts to strengthen ties.

He highlighted the support and assistance that Kuwait provided to his country through the development loans granted by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development or through humanitarian aid during natural disasters.

He added that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea continuously works toward strengthening cooperation with Kuwait in the interest of the friendly peoples of the two countries.

He commended Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to diversify the economy, raise the standard of living, and push for human and social developments.

He also praised the role of Kuwait in supporting joint Arab action and maintaining international peace and security under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Regarding the occasion, Ju revealed that his country is celebrating the founding anniversary of the Republic on Sept 9, 1948 -- the day that witnessed the birth of the first independent State in the history of the Korean people. He said this occasion is a historic milestone in building a strong and independent State.

He pointed out that the Democratic People’s



Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Saleh Al-Sarawi with DPRK Chargé d’Affaires to Kuwait Ju Myong Chol during the cake-cutting ceremony.



KUNA photos

A section of the attendees at the 77th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in Kuwait.

Republic of Korea has continued to toe the path of construction and development over the past decades, leading to its development achievements today in the areas of housing, industry, regional development, infrastructure and tourism.

He stressed that his country continues to ad-

vance toward prosperity and development, while strengthening cooperation with Kuwait to serve the interests of both nations.

He then thanked all those present for their participation in the celebration, as well as the Crowne Plaza Hotel for sponsoring the event.

Decades of reforms cut illiteracy to near zero

Kuwait marks International Literacy Day with outstanding achievements

By Sara Al-Mukhaizeem

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait joins nations and international organizations in marking International Literacy Day, observed annually on September 8, highlighting its longstanding commitment to combating illiteracy and advancing education for all segments of society.

Since the early days of its modern development, Kuwait recognized the fundamental role of education in nation-building and human development, placing it at the center of its public policy and allocating substantial resources to promote literacy across all age groups.

The Ministry of Education began formal literacy efforts in 1957, opening adult education and literacy centers nationwide to serve older generations who had missed the opportunity for formal schooling during their youth.

Following its independence, Kuwait enacted Law No. 11 of 1965 on compulsory education, which guaranteed free and mandatory schooling for all Kuwaiti children, male and female, from primary through intermediate levels, supported by proper infrastructure and qualified teaching staff.

Kuwait also prioritized public investment in education, resulting in one of the highest spending rates globally on the sector; in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, approximately 12.6 percent of the national budget was dedicated to education.

These continuous efforts yielded significant results, with the adult male illiteracy rate falling to 0.14 percent and the female rate to around two percent in 2024, reflecting a nationwide decline in illiteracy and the success of inclusive policies.

Kuwait’s literacy campaign evolved in three phases: the first 1950-1957 focused on workers in schools, hospitals,

and the armed forces; the second 1957-1981 introduced formal literacy centers for men and women across the country.

The third stage began with the issuance of the Literacy Law in 1981, which included 23 articles aimed at eradicating illiteracy entirely, leading to the establishment of more than 100 literacy centers in all governorates of Kuwait.

A ministerial decision in 1982 officially defined an “illiterate” as any individual over the age of 14 who had not completed education equivalent to fourth grade and was not enrolled in formal schooling at the time.

The literacy programs did not only serve Kuwaitis and GCC nationals; expatriates from selected communities and individuals with disabilities also benefited from educational opportunities as part of Kuwait’s inclusive approach to human development.

Kuwait has successfully met the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education, ensuring access to textbooks, modern curricula, digital learning tools, nutritious school meals, and health-care support within the education system.

As part of its long-term national vision, “New Kuwait 2035,” the country continues to advance its education system, with a focus on building human capital and ensuring quality, equitable, and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

International Literacy Day, established by UNESCO in 1966, serves to remind the global community that literacy is not only a basic human right but also a pillar of dignity, inclusion, and sustainable social and economic development.

Kuwait remains steadfast in its commitment to literacy, striving to build a knowledgeable, empowered society capable of contributing to regional and global progress in line with international development agendas.

PAHW denies rent allowance rumors

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) denied rumors circulating on social media about the payment of rent allowance according to certain condi-

tions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a post on its X account, the Authority urged citizens to obtain information only from official sources and disregard rumors.

508 tons sold as shrimp ban limits supply

Local fish sales hit nearly KD1m in Q1

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The fisheries statistics, prepared by the Central Statistical Bureau for the first quarter of this year, revealed that the value of locally sold fish reached KD970,511, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The statistics showed that the quantity of local fish sold in January, February and March totaled 508 tons.

The report pointed out the absence of four species of fish that are usually caught in Kuwaiti waters during this period—shrimp, maid, halawaya and kasour—out of a total of 25 species. This is attributed to fishing seasons, particularly the shrimp ban that remains in effect during the first quarter and is only lifted from August through the end of November. The most abundant catch was nuwaibi, with a total of 117

tons valued at KD240,000 in the first three months of the year.

In January, the total catch reached 192 tons, valued at KD340,000. Kingfish was the most common catch, with 37 tons worth KD56,000.

In February, the fish catch totaled 167 tons, with a market value of KD325,000. Tilapia topped the list, with 51 tons valued at KD101,000.

In March, the catch amounted to 148 tons, worth KD304,000. Tilapia once again led in volume, with 46 tons valued at KD88,000 in all fish markets.

The statistics also highlighted the species most sought after in Kuwait’s territorial and international waters, given their economic importance. These include shrimp, sea bream and grouper, among others.

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KUNA photos

Worshippers in Kuwait unite in eclipse prayer.

Hundreds of worshippers attend eclipse prayer across Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: A total of 106 mosques in the six governorates organized the eclipse prayer on Sunday night, drawing hundreds of worshippers who gathered

at the mosques designated by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs for this purpose.

The prayer was held in an atmosphere filled with devotion. At the Kuwait University Mosque in Al-Shaddadiya, the prayer took place in its outer courtyard.

The prayer began at 8:00 pm and was

accompanied by supplications, asking Almighty Allah to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm, and to preserve the blessings of security, safety and stability.

Worshippers also prayed for mercy and forgiveness for Muslims everywhere, reflecting on this cosmic phenomenon as

a sign from Allah to remind and prepare mankind for the Day of Judgment, when the sky will split and the mountains will crumble.

The ministry had earlier called for the eclipse prayer to be observed in the designated mosques, in accordance with the

noble Sunnah and in line with the hadith of the Messenger of Allah, Peace and Blessings be Upon Him: “The sun and the moon are two of the signs of Allah. They do not eclipse for the death or life of anyone. So when you see that, pray and supplicate until it is over.”

Kuwait seeks balanced approach to regulating religious activities

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Monday chaired the second meeting of a government team tasked with regulating places of worship and religious centers.

According to a press release by the ministry, the meeting followed guidance

of Kuwait’s wise leadership directives aimed at aligning religious activities with legal frameworks, consolidating values, and reinforcing Kuwait’s regional and international standing.

Officials reviewed outcomes from the first meeting and discussed mechanisms for licensing religious institutions, ensuring they serve society while comply-

ing with regulations.

The session was attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammed Al-Wasmi, Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullahif Al-Me-shari, Justice Minister Nasser Al-Sumait, Fatwa and Legislation Department Head Salah Al-Majed, and representatives from several government agencies.

Kuwait expands elderly physiotherapy care

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): Physiotherapy is vital in helping older adults maintain mobility, independence and quality of life, according to the Ministry of Health on Monday, marking World Physical Therapy Day.

Abdullah Zaman, director of the ministry’s Department of Physiotherapy Services, said in a press release that

Kuwait has expanded physiotherapy services this year through new specialized clinics, departments and infrastructure upgrades.

He noted that the ministry has prioritized elderly care by equipping facilities with advanced technology and training staff to meet the health and functional needs of aging patients.

Zaman stressed that aging is a natu-

ral part of life that can be a stage of strength and vitality when prepared for early, adding that physiotherapy supports fall prevention and helps reduce health complications.

He said the occasion serves as an opportunity to highlight physiotherapy’s preventive, educational and therapeutic role, describing it as a key pillar in promoting health and active aging.

Continued from Page 1

Our roads

the difficult task of regulating traffic within limited infrastructure. They should be thanked and their efforts recognized.

We address this to First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, so that he could give them due consideration and encouragement for their efforts in regulating traffic, even in the most densely populated areas.

Even with its population, China has solved the traffic problem through large bridges and a metro. Transportation is organized and worthy of emulation.

Kuwait issues

The ministry said all secondment decisions were uploaded on the ‘Qarari’ electronic service page of its official website, allowing candidates to view these decisions immediately and transparently. It indicated that the employers will be identified and the procedures for taking preferences to determine work centers will be completed through the Coordination Department in the first round.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced the issuance of decisions to transfer teachers and administrative staff to new schools in Al-Mutlaa City and Ishbiliya, after opening the transfer door for those who wish to do so with-

in a week.

It disclosed that work will commence within three days of the issuance of the decisions, thereby, ensuring the immediate appointment of teaching and administrative staff in the new schools.

It indicated that nominations for leadership positions will open electronically on Nov 2, in accordance with the new academic calendar. This will give the qualified educational staff a chance to apply with transparency and fairness, while completing the educational leadership development process as planned, it added.

It revealed that these steps are in line with an integrated approach aimed at raising the efficiency of the educational field by empowering qualified school officials who can lead the educational process efficiently.

Kuwait, Saudi

The memorandum consists of the following provisions:

Article One defines the main purpose of the memorandum.

Article Two specifies the permissible areas of cooperation.

Article Three stipulates the responsibilities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait.

Article Four establishes the means of information exchange between the two parties.

Article Five mandates both parties

to maintain the confidentiality of exchanged information.

Article Six is about the information-exchange meetings between specialists from both sides.

Article Seven states that any dispute concerning the interpretation or implementation of the memorandum shall be resolved through bilateral consultations.

Article Eight regulates the implementation, amendment, renewal and termination of the memorandum.

The MoU affirmed that these provisions serve the interests of the State of Kuwait and do not conflict with its Arab and international obligations. Since the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the competent authority, requested the preparation of the necessary legal instrument for ratification, the memorandum also stipulates that none of its provisions may be interpreted as infringing upon the State of Kuwait’s sovereign right to take any measures it deems appropriate.

Kuwait Amir

Sheikh Abdulaziz Meshal Al-Sabah, and undersecretary and Amiri Diwan for Foreign Affairs Mazen Al-Essa.

Saudi Arabia’s State Minister and member of the Council of Ministers Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud arrived in Kuwait Monday on occasion of visit to the country.

Receiving him was Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwait hosts GCC talks on financial crime prevention

Money laundering seen as threat to Gulf prosperity

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The workshop for preparing the Gulf Anti-Money Laundering Strategy was launched Monday under the patronage of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

The workshop, organized by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat General and hosted by the Ministry of Interior, will take place from Sept 8 to 11.

Present at the launching ceremony were GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi, Counselor Saad Al-Saf-ran, and acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Ali Al-Adwani.

In a speech delivered on behalf of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Al-Adwani affirmed that the GCC countries are committed to combating money laundering and terrorist financing crimes, considering them serious crimes that threaten the security and stability of societies and negatively impact national and regional economies.

He said “we have made significant progress in developing legislative and regulatory systems and enhancing regional and international cooperation in this field. The State of Kuwait is focusing on this issue.”

He asserted “we work hard to develop relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks, strengthen the capabilities of our national institutions, and cooperate closely with international organizations to ensure we remain committed to international standards and keep pace with the recommendations of global initiatives.”

He pointed out that “holding this workshop in the State of Kuwait reflects our commitment to make our country a platform for promoting dialogue and coordination between the Gulf countries and our international partners, leading to a comprehensive and unified Gulf strategy focused on prevention, detection, investigation, confiscation, training and capacity building.

It is our collective responsibility. Governments and institutions must work as one team to strengthen the justice system and protect the integrity of the financial system. Our economies and societies are protected from cross-border crimes.”

Meanwhile, Al-Budaiwi stated that the whole world is facing unprecedented challenges in combating money laundering, the effects of which are not limited to economic stability, but also extend to fuel terrorism and organized crime, threatening international peace and security.

He affirmed that the GCC countries are not immune to these risks, taking into consideration their geographical lo-



Ali Al-Adwani



Hatem Ali



Jassim Al-Budaiwi



Hamed Al Zoabi


are facing as an economic and commercial center, a tourist hub, and a destination for global economic and commercial transactions seeking to generate profit or benefit from the economic advantages of the Gulf region, owing to its strong economy.

He pointed out “with these multiple elements of distinction, there are risks associated with being targeted by organized criminal gangs seeking to exploit this thriving and distinguished economy, significant trade, and the active economic banking institutions of the region to launder money derived from illicit trade -- whether drugs, weapons or human trafficking.”

He said the Gulf states are facing a grave risk in dealing with organized crimes related to money laundering and terrorist financing.

Hamed Al Zoabi, Secretary General of the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Illegal Organizations, stressed that the crime of money laundering is not merely a traditional criminal activity, as it is an organized crime with cross-border reach, which intertwines with organized crime and terrorist networks, directly impacting the integrity of financial systems and the reputation of countries and their economies.

He emphasized that the national experience of the United Arab Emirates has proven that success in combating money laundering requires an integrated environment, committed political leadership, flexible legislation, specialized oversight bodies, qualified human resources, and extensive cooperation between the public and private sectors.



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Kuwait SME fund to join Expo Osaka 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): Director General of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development (NFSME) Basma Al-Jassim confirmed on Sunday the fund’s commitment to supporting Kuwaiti initiatives, especially the tourism and technology sectors.

This came in a statement by Al-Jassim during the preparatory meeting for the fund’s delegation participating in the Expo Osaka 2025 in Japan, in the presence of entrepreneurs participating in the event.

She added that the fund is keen on supporting entrepreneurs in international forums and highlighting the care Kuwait provides to them, especially at the Expo.

Al-Jassim stated that two technological projects were chosen to participate in the exhibition in coordination with the Ministry of Information, which aligns with the “New

Kuwait 2035” vision

The National Fund was established under law No. 98 of the year 2013 to support small and medium

enterprises, aiming to create new jobs in non-oil sectors, and enabling entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into real and sustainable projects.



KUNA photo

Participating initiatives at Expo Osaka 2025.

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‘We need all the help we can get, I’m delighted to bring in the Nat’l Guard’

Republicans eager for President Trump to expand his use of military on US soil

WASHINGTON, Sept 8, (AP): National Guard troops patrolling the streets of US cities. Weapons of war deployed against international gangs suspected of drug trafficking. Military bases and resources redirected to mass immigration enforcement operations.

President Donald Trump is swiftly implementing his vision of the military as an all-powerful tool for his policy goals. It’s ground that presidents have hardly ever crossed outside of times of war, and experts say it’s remaking the role of the most powerful military in the world and its relationship with the American public.

Yet as Trump has dramatically stepped up his use of military force, fellow Republicans in Congress - where authorization for such actions is supposed to originate - have done little but cheer him on. That’s giving the president significant leeway as he raises plans to send troops next to Chicago, Baltimore and New Orleans.

“If I were one of those mayors, I’d be glad to have the help,” said Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, speaking from a Capitol building where Na-

tional Guard troops were patrolling the surrounding city. “I think the big city Democrats are really making a mistake. I think they’re being tone deaf.”

Lawmakers from Louisiana - a red state that surrounds politically blue New Orleans - said it was a great idea for National Guard troops to go there next.

“New Orleans, like most Democratic-run cities, has a high crime rate, so it would be helpful,” House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, told The Associated Press.

Sen. John Kennedy, R-La, agreed: “We need all the help we can get. I’m delighted to bring in the National Guard.”

Republicans have in recent years found political success focusing on the issue of crime. The vast majority of Americans, 81%, see crime as a “major problem” in large cities, according to recent polling from the The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That includes nearly all Republicans, roughly three-quarters of independents and nearly 7 in 10 Democrats.

However, statistics show overall crime is down across the nation, with some cities reporting 30-year lows.



With the White House in the distance, National Guard troops patrol the Mall as part of US President Donald Trump’s order to impose federal law enforcement in the nation’s capital, in Washington on Aug 28. (AP)

In the past, the use of National Guard troops on American soil was reserved for extraordinary circumstances such as natural disasters or when local officials became overwhelmed by civil unrest or disorder. Rarely have presidents used

the troops for law enforcement purposes.

Notable examples include the 1894 Pullman strike in Chicago, during the Civil Rights era to enforce desegregation in the South, and in 1992 during

deadly rioting after police officers brutally beat motorist Rodney King and were acquitted on state charges.

Experts say that Trump’s crime mission stands out because he’s not responding to a particular crisis. Instead, Trump is using the military to implement his domestic policies, whether that means using military aircraft for deportation flights, beefing up military at the US-Mexico border or ordering National Guard troops to be ready for law enforcement duties.

“All of these things indicate an administration that is making a broad, concerted effort to insert the military into civilian law enforcement in a way and on a scale that has no precedent in American history,” said Joseph Nunn, an attorney at the Brennan Center’s Liberty and National Security Program.

Trump says he has the “right” to send National Guard troops to the cities, even over the objections of state governors.

“I’m the president of the United States. If I think our country is in danger - and it is in danger in these cities - I can do it,” he said this past week.

Congress under its constitutional duties has laid out laws that govern when

and how the National Guard can be deployed domestically. But as Trump has pushed the limits of those laws, the Republican-controlled Congress has stood by. Instead, it’s been left to the courts to put any guardrails on Trump’s maximalist approach to the presidency.

A federal judge ruled last week that the Trump administration “willfully” broke the Posse Comitatus Act, a nearly 150-year-old federal law that limits the US military’s role in domestic law enforcement, when he sent National Guard troops to the Los Angeles area in early June after days of protests over immigration raids. US District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco noted Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have stated they intend to deploy National Guard troops to other cities across the country, raising concerns they’re “creating a national police force with the President as its chief.”

That sort of use of the National Guard was just what the writers of the Constitution were trying to guard against, said Andrew Wiest, co-founder of the Center for the Study of the National Guard at the University of Southern Mississippi.

America

Ex-US congressman Burton dies: Former US Rep John Burton, a salty-tongued and unabashedly liberal San Francisco Democrat who stood up for the working class and nurtured countless political careers, including that of former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, died Sunday. He was 92.

Burton died in San Francisco of natural causes, his family said in a statement.

Tributes poured in from California’s top politicians, who recalled Burton as a fierce and tireless advocate for laborers, foster children and the environment. Over the years, Burton mentored Pelosi, former US Sen Barbara Boxer, current US Sen Alex Padilla and countless other California officials.

“There was no greater champion for the poor, the bullied, the disabled, and forgotten Californians than John Burton. He was a towering figure - a legendary force whose decades of service shaped our state and our politics for the better,” said Gov. Gavin Newsom, a former mayor of San Francisco, in a statement.

Another former San Francisco mayor, Willie Brown, said Sunday that death had managed to separate him from a dear friend who was by his side for decades - as college students where they first met, as fellow newbies in the state Assembly and as influential members of California’s Democratic political machine. (AP)



Burton

Hurricane Kiko weakening: A weakening Hurricane Kiko is expected to track north of Hawaii in coming days, reducing the threat of strong winds and heavy rain

on the islands but still bringing potentially dangerous surf conditions, forecasters said Sunday.

Kiko was about 635 miles (1,025 kilometers) east of Hilo on the Big Island on Sunday and was forecast to pass north of the islands Tuesday and Wednesday, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. The hurricane was moving west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

Maximum sustained winds stood at 110 mph (175 kph) Sunday, down from 120 mph (195 kph) on Saturday, with more weakening forecast in coming days as the storm moves over cooler waters.

No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for Hawaii. The hurricane center said the risks of direct impacts on the islands appeared to be decreasing but it urged people in the islands to continue monitoring the storm’s progress.

Forecasters have warned of potentially life-threatening rip currents and surf along the islands’ east-facing shores with waves expected to reach 10 to 15 feet (3 to 4.5 meters) in some places. (AP)

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Police search for suspect in shooting: Police in Texas are searching for a man who opened fire at a bar early Sunday, killing a person and wounding five others in a county northeast of Houston.

The Liberty County Sheriff’s Office said the shooter arrived at the Alas Locas restaurant and bar near Cleveland, Texas, around midnight, reports KTRK television. The suspect ordered a drink and stayed about an hour. He then went out to his van, came back to the patio area and opened fire, the sheriff’s office added.

Six people were shot, with one man being pronounced dead at the scene, and two were taken to the hospital by a medical helicopter.

Officials said they believe the suspect acted alone. They said he fled in a vehicle described as a white van with no windows and a long scratch on the side. (AP)



Ap leader Jonas Gahr Store, presenter Yvonne Fondenenes, Conservative leader Erna Solberg and Frp leader Sylvi Listhaug take part in the televised debate between Norway’s three prime ministerial candidates, at Chateau Neuf in Oslo on Sept 7. (AP)

Norway votes in closely fought election with future of wealth tax in focus

OSLO, Norway, Sept 8, (AP): Norwegians headed to the polls Monday in the main day of voting for a new parliament, after a campaign in which the future of a wealth tax that dates to the late 19th century has been a central issue.

About 4.3 million people in the Scandinavian nation are eligible to vote for the new 169-member parliament, or Storting. A close outcome is expected between a center-left bloc led by the Labor Party of Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and a right-wing bloc.

Official results are expected Tuesday, and they are likely to be followed by weeks of negotiations to build a coalition and agree on Cabinet positions before King Harald can swear in a new government.

The result isn’t likely to have major implications for Norway’s foreign

policy. The country is a stalwart member of NATO and a strong supporter of Ukraine’s defense against Russia, with which it has a border in the Arctic north. It isn’t a member of the European Union but has close economic ties with the 27-nation bloc.

Norway is one of the richest countries in the world. It has a generous welfare state, sits on billions of barrels of oil and gas, and has one of the world’s largest sovereign wealth funds, worth around 20 trillion kroner (\$2 trillion). Gross domestic product per person is the sixth-highest in the world, one place above the U.S., according to the International Monetary Fund.

It is also one of the world’s most egalitarian countries, sharing its wealth much more evenly than many others.

Labor wants to keep the wealth tax that has been a mainstay of Nor-

wegian policy since 1892 - a levy of up to 1.1% on assets and shares worth more than 1.76 million kroner (around \$176,000), though there are various reductions and discounts. Labor says that scrapping it would cost 34 billion kroner (\$3.3 billion) per year.

Of its rivals on the right, the Conservatives want it reduced and the Progress Party of Sylvi Listhaug, which calls for lower taxes and more immigration controls, wants it scrapped.

Polls have shown Listhaug’s party ahead of the Conservatives, led by former Prime Minister Erna Solberg, who were the senior partner in the last center-right government from 2013 to 2021. It has been bolstered by an energetic social media campaign, driven by youthful influencers who have inspired younger voters against the wealth tax.

County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations said in a statement.

Rescuers found all three occupants of the two vehicles trapped and unconscious. They were pronounced dead at the scene after being extricated from the wreckage, the statement added. (Xinhua)

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‘Broken cable caused fatal derailment’: Portugal’s transport accident authority confirmed Saturday that a snapped steel cable caused the Gloria Funicular derailment in downtown Lisbon, killing 16 and injuring 22.

The Office for the Prevention and Investigation of Aircraft and Railway Accidents (GPIAAF) said the cable broke at a hidden fixation point inside Cabin No. 1. Routine visual checks earlier that day could not have detected the flaw. (Xinhua)

Europe

30 injured in Czech bus accident: About 30 people were injured after a bus carrying students overturned in the Moravian-Silesian region of northeastern Czech Republic on Monday, according to police and rescuers. (Xinhua)

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Romania traffic accident kills 3: Three men were killed early Monday when a car and a van collided in western Romania, the local emergency services agency said.

The crash occurred around 5:00 a.m. local time (0200 GMT) on the national road DN 19E in Bihor county, between the villages of Sanlazar and Chiraleu, the Bihor

Decades-long peace vigil outside WH dismantled after Trump’s order

WASHINGTON, Sept 8, (AP): Law enforcement officials on Sunday removed a peace vigil that had stood outside the White House for more than four decades after President Donald Trump ordered it to be taken down as part of the clearing of homeless encampments in the nation’s capital.

Philipos Melaku-Bello, a volunteer who has manned the vigil for years, told The Associated Press that the Park Police removed it early Sunday morning. He said officials justified the removal by mislabeling the memorial as a shelter.

“The difference between an encampment and a vigil is that an encampment is where homeless people live,” Melaku-Bello said. “As you can see, I don’t have a bed. I have signs and it is covered by the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of expression.”

The White House confirmed the removal, telling AP in a statement that the vigil was a “hazard to those visiting the White House and the surrounding areas.”

Taking down the vigil is the latest in a series of actions the Trump administration has ordered as part of its



Philipos Melaku-Bello, (center left), and Will Rosin, (center right), flash the V sign during ‘Peace Vigil’ in Lafayette Park across from the White House in Washington on Sept. 7. (AP)

federal takeover of policing in the city, which began last month. The White House has defended the intervention as needed to fulfill Trump’s executive order on the “beautification” of D.C. Melaku-Bello said he’s in touch

with attorneys about what he sees as a civil rights violation. “They’re choosing to call a place that is not an encampment an encampment just to fit what is in Trump’s agenda of removing the encampments,” he said.

Kristi Noem joins ‘Five Eyes’ ministers at border security meeting in London

LONDON, Sept 8, (AP): Interior and security ministers from the “Five Eyes” intelligence-sharing partnership of the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand met Monday in London for talks focused on border security and tackling migrant-smuggling criminal gangs.

Newly appointed UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood welcomed US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and the other leaders to the 18th-century headquarters of the Honorable Artillery Company.

The discussions also will take in work against child sexual abuse and the spread of opioids.

Mahmood, who was placed in the interior minister job in a shakeup of Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s Cabinet on Friday, said the ministers would “agree new measures to protect our borders with our five eyes partners, hitting people-smugglers hard.”

Also attending were Canadian Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree, Australia’s Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke and Judith Collins, the attorney general and defense minister of New Zealand.

The far-flung countries are close allies with some common problems but also widely differ in their approaches to migration. The Trump administration’s program of street raids, mass detentions and large-scale deportations



From left: New Zealand’s Minister Judith Collins, Canada Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree, Britain’s Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood, United States Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and Australia Minister for Home Affairs Tony Burke take part in a family photo during the Five Country Ministerial meeting at the Honourable Artillery Company in London on Sept 8, as interior ministers of the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will discuss some of the major security threats facing these nations. (AP)

of unauthorized migrants has drawn domestic and international criticism and a host of legal challenges.

Britain’s center-left Labour government is struggling to bring down the number of migrants crossing

the English Channel in small boats, some 30,000 so far this year. It faces calls from opposition parties to leave the European Convention on Human Rights in order to take tougher action.

France faces more political upheaval as premier’s fate hangs in balance

PARIS, Sept 8, (AP): France risks losing its third prime minister in 12 months on Monday, with incumbent François Bayrou facing a parliamentary confidence vote that he called but is widely expected to lose, heralding more instability for the European Union’s second-largest economy.

The 74-year-old centrist prime minister, appointed by President Emmanuel Macron just under nine months ago, is gambling that the vote will unite lawmakers in the sharply divided National Assembly behind proposed public spending cuts that Bayrou argues are needed to rein in France’s spiraling state deficit and debts.

But opposition lawmakers are vowing to instead use the opportunity to topple Bayrou and his minority government of centrist and right-wing ministers, an upheaval that would force Macron to begin what could be another arduous hunt for a replacement.

The National Assembly of 577 lawmakers is interrupting its summer recess for the extraordinary session that Bayrou requested, starting at 3 p.m. (1300 GMT; 0900 EDT) Monday.

After Bayrou delivers a speech that is expected to argue that belt-tightening is in the national interest, lawmakers will have their say before they vote either for or against his government - likely in the late afternoon or early evening. Lawmakers can also abstain.

Bayrou needs a majority of “for” votes to survive. If a majority votes against, France’s constitution decrees that Bayrou would have to submit his government’s resignation to Macron, plunging France into renewed crisis.

The 47-year-old president is paying a steep price for his stunning decision to dissolve the National Assembly in June



French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou unveils plans for next year’s budget on July 15 in Paris. (AP)

2024, triggering legislative elections that the French leader hoped would strengthen the hand of his pro-European centrist alliance in parliament’s lower house. But the gamble backfired, producing a splintered legislature with no dominant political bloc in power for the first time in France’s modern republic.

The political uncertainty has largely hobbled Macron’s domestic ambitions in his second and last presidential term that ends in 2027. Shorn of a workable majority in parliament for his centrist alliance, Macron has since rotated through three prime ministers, attempting to build consensus and stave off government collapse.

INTERNATIONAL

Tropical storm makes landfall in S.China, forcing evacuations and school closures

HONG KONG, Sept 8, (AP): Schools closed, flights were disrupted and tens of thousands of people were evacuated in southern China as Tropical Storm Tapah made landfall Monday.

The economic hub of Guangdong province near Hong Kong halted some train and ferry services ahead of the storm, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Dozens of scenic areas were closed and some 60,000 people were evacuated across the region by Sunday afternoon, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

CCTV said the storm made landfall around the coastal area of Taishan city in Guangdong at around 8:50 a.m. local time, with maximum sustained winds near its center reaching 30 meters (98 feet) per second.

Hong Kong’s observatory raised its No. 8 storm signal on Sunday night, the third-highest in the city’s weather system. It said Tapah was packing maximum sustained winds near the center of about 68 miles (110 kilometers) per hour at 9 a.m.

Before the observatory lowered its storm signal Monday afternoon, the



In this image taken from video footage, a car navigates past fallen tree branches as tropical storm Tapah hits Hong Kong on Sept 8. (AP)

financial hub saw about 100 flights canceled, with some travelers sleeping on chairs as they waited for travel information at the airport.

A runway at the airport was closed after an HK Express plane from Bei-

jing hit the grass during landing. Smoke reportedly was seen coming from its landing gear at one point. No injuries were reported and it was unclear whether the incident was related to weather, police said.

Asia

Indonesia’s president reshuffles Cabinet: Indonesia’s president announced a Cabinet reshuffle Monday, replacing key economic and security ministers after deadly protests erupted across the country over lawmakers’ perks.

The Cabinet shake-up comes as public dissatisfaction rose with President **Prabowo Subianto**’s administration and parliament’s perceived insensitivity over economic hardships.

Five ministers lost their jobs, including Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, a widely respected technocrat who had served as the executive director of the International Monetary Fund and managing director of the World Bank, and Budi Gunawan, the coordinating minister for politics and security.

Subianto chose economist Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa, chairman of the Deposit Insurance Corporation, to replace Indrawati, 63, one of Indonesia’s longest-serving finance ministers. (AP)



Subianto

Former PM Thaksin returns to Thailand: Thailand’s former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrived in Bangkok on Monday after his surprise departure to Dubai, a day before a court ruling that could open him up to imprisonment.

Thaksin could be seen walking out of the private jet terminal of the Don Mueang International Airport from

a livestream video Monday afternoon.

Last week, Thaksin said he intended to travel to Singapore for a medical checkup, but had to change the destination to Dubai instead because he was delayed by Thai immigration. He said his plane wouldn’t be able to land at Singapore’s Seletar Airport, which serves small aircraft, before its 10 p.m. closing time.

Thaksin lived in Dubai during his self-imposed exile starting in 2008. He said that he had regular physicians there.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday is set to rule whether officials mishandled his return to Thailand in 2023, to begin an eight-year sentence for three cases involving graft and abuse of power. (AP)

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Japan’s LDP leadership race heats up: With Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba stepping down, Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is bracing for a heated leadership contest as major contenders signal their intention to run.

Former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Monday announced his intention to run, pledging to devote his full political experience to the party and government.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi has also decided to run, Kyodo News cited party insiders.

The LDP is expected to finalize voting procedures for the election as early as Tuesday, according to the report. Both Motegi and Hayashi ran in last year’s leadership contest. Motegi, a veteran politician, also served as LDP policy chief.

Other potential contenders include former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi and Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi.

Ishiba on Sunday announced his decision to resign amid growing calls for him to take responsibility for the party’s election defeat. (Xinhua)

ICC postpones hearings for ex-president Duterte over health concerns

Explosive testimony IDs legislators, officials in Philippine flood-control corruption inquiry

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 8, (AP): A wealthy business couple Monday identified several Philippine congressmen and public works officials, alleging they forced them to pay huge kickbacks so they could secure lucrative flood-control projects from the government in explosive testimony during a nationally televised Senate investigation.

Construction company owners Pacifico and Sarah Discaya testified under oath in a Senate Blue Ribbon committee inquiry that at least 17 members of the House of Representatives demanded kickbacks from them of about 25% of the total cost of each approved flood-control project to help them win government contracts.

The couple did not provide details - including the amount of the alleged bribes or the government projects involved - and offered no evidence, but said they kept records of the dates and places where the bribes were paid.

The corruption scandal, which is separately being investigated by both chambers of Congress and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s administration, has sparked outrage, mostly online, and led to the recent resignation of the public works secretary. Roman Catholic bishops over the weekend called for wide-ranging criminal prosecutions, the return of stolen wealth and asked young Filipinos to use social media to “expose injustice.”

In their testimony, the Discayas identified legislators who allegedly received the huge cash payouts through representatives, and said they were prepared to testify against them but were concerned for their safety.

“We fear for our safety because we don’t have protection yet,” Pacifico Discaya said at one point when pressed to provide more details before agreeing to talk in a future closed-door hearing.

The Discaya couple drew earlier public attention after granting media interviews during which they showed their fleet of dozens of European and American luxury cars and SUVs.

The Philippines has spent an estimated 545 billion Philippine pesos (\$9.6 billion) for thousands of flood mitigation projects in the last three years, according to the government.

Most of the 14 other construction companies invited to testify at Monday’s Senate inquiry said through representatives that they did not pay bribes to legislators or the Department of Public Works and Highways to win government contracts.

House Speaker Martin Romualdez, who the Discayas said allegedly benefited



Private contractors Pacifico Discaya, (left), and wife Sarah show documents during investigations on flood-control projects at the Senate Blue Ribbon committee in Pasay city, Philippines on Sept 8. (AP)

from largescale bribes purportedly received by his representatives, strongly denied the allegations, calling them “lies and malicious name-dropping meant to smear his integrity and undermine Congress.”

“If anyone invoked my name, they did so without my knowledge and without my consent,” Romualdez said in a statement. “I will not allow falsehoods to tarnish my integrity or the institution I lead.”

After inspecting provincial flood control projects in recent weeks and discovering substandard quality and other anomalies, including a reportedly complete project that turned out to be non-existent, Marcos said last week that he would

form an independent commission to investigate the corruption that has hounded such projects and file criminal charges against those responsible.

He described the scale and impunity of the corruption as “horrible.” A website he launched to encourage the public to report anomalies has been swamped by thousands of complaints.

He became teary eyed in a recent interview while describing how the plunder has affected Filipinos, who struggle to make a decent living but were most vulnerable to floodings.

The Philippines is lashed by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. In July, back-to-back typhoons and seasonal monsoon downpours set off massive floods that affected millions of people, displaced more than 300,000 others and left extensive infrastructure and agricultural losses.

At least 26 people died in the weather onslaught, mostly poor villagers, including in floodwaters.

Also:

THE HAGUE, Netherlands: The International Criminal Court announced on Monday it was postponing a pretrial hearing for former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte over concerns about his health.

Lawyers for the 80-year-old filed a motion in August for the proceedings to be delayed indefinitely, saying their client is “not fit to stand trial.”

Prosecutors at the ICC accuse Duterte of crimes against humanity for deadly anti-drugs crackdowns he oversaw while in office.

The exact concerns over the former president’s health are not specified and the filings in the case are heavily redacted.

A pretrial panel of judges have allowed for a “limited postponement” to give the court time to determine “whether Mr Duterte is fit to follow and participate” in the proceedings. Rights groups and families of victims hailed Duterte’s arrest in March, and the court’s chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, called it “a crucial step in our continuous work to ensure accountability for the victims of the most serious crimes under ICC jurisdiction.”

Supporters of Duterte criticized the administration of current Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Duterte’s political rival, for arresting and surrendering the former leader to a court whose jurisdiction his supporters dispute.

Argentina President Milei suffers crushing defeat in provincial poll

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Sept 8, (AP): Argentine President Javier Milei suffered a sweeping setback on Sunday in a Buenos Aires provincial election widely viewed as a political test for his libertarian party and a barometer for how it will perform in crucial congressional midterms next month.

Milei’s recently formed La Libertad Avanza party captured just 34% of the vote in Argentina’s biggest province, losing by a landslide to the left-leaning Peronist opposition, which secured 47% with the majority of ballots counted late Sunday.

Milei conceded that his right-wing party’s crushing 13-point loss to his populist rivals represented “a clear defeat.”

“We suffered a setback, and we must accept it responsibly,” Milei told grim-faced supporters at the party headquarters, his tone reflective, even chastened.

“If we’ve made political mistakes, we’re going to internalize them, we’re going to process them, we’re going to modify our actions,” he said.

Still, he vowed to stick with his sweeping economic overhaul, saying: “There will be no retreat in government policy.”

With Milei struggling to stabilize a sputtering economy and his close associates embroiled by a graft scandal ahead of congressional midterm elections in late October, the results were being closely scrutinized for their potential to rattle investors and roil jittery global markets.

Analysts expected La Libertad Avanza to lose by a few points to the Peronists, but his allies feared that a worse-than-expected outcome in Buenos Aires province - which makes up nearly 40% of the country’s population - would galvanize his rivals at a delicate time.

Peronist leader and former President Cristina Fernández



Argentina President Javier Milei, (left), and his sister, General Secretary of the Presidency Karina Milei, (front right), appear after legislative provincial election polls closed in La Plata, Argentina on Sept 7. (AP)

de Kirchner appeared to feel on that she was getting some payoff after a corruption conviction and criticism of her economic management, which led to a crisis that Milei inherited.

“Did you see that, Milei?” the two-term former president (2007-2015) wrote on social media platform X. “Get out of your bubble, brother. ... Things are getting heavy.”

Milei needs to expand his party’s tiny minority in the opposition-dominated Congress in midterms next month to fulfill his radical libertarian reforms and make good on his promise to turn the nine-time defaulter into a country capable of servicing its debts.

Nepal police shoot and kill 17 people protesting social media ban: officials

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 8, (AP): Police in Kathmandu opened fire Monday on protesters demonstrating against a government ban on social media, killing at least 17 people and wounding 145, officials said.

The death toll was announced by police official Shekhar Khanal. He said that 28 police officers were among the wounded, as smaller protests continued into late Monday evening.

Rallies swept the streets of Kathmandu around the Parliament building, which was surrounded by tens of thousands of people angry over the decision by authorities to block most social media platforms including Facebook, X and YouTube. Officials said the companies had failed to register and submit to government oversight.

Protesters pushed through barbed wire and forced riot police to retreat inside the Parliament complex. Police eventually opened fire at the protesters.

The situation remained tense and the government announced a curfew for Monday around Parliament, the government secretariat, presidential house and key parts of the city.

Seven of those killed and scores of



Riot police use water cannon on protesters during clashes outside parliament building in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sept 8. (AP)

wounded were received at the National Trauma Center, the country’s main hospital located in the heart of Kathmandu.

“Many of them are in serious condition and appear to have been shot in the head and chest,” said Dr. Badri Risal, a physician. Families waited anxiously outside for news of their relatives while people lined up to donate blood.

“Stop the ban on social media, stop corruption not social media,” the

crowds outside parliament chanted, waving the red and blue national flags. Monday’s rally was called the protest of Gen Z, generally referring to people born between 1995 and 2010.

About two dozen social network platforms that are widely used in Nepal were repeatedly given notices to register their companies officially in the country, the government said. Those which failed to register have been blocked since last week.

Hundreds kidnap 45 soldiers in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 8, (AP): Hundreds of people surrounded and kidnapped 45 soldiers working to implement programs to replace illicit crops in the southwest of Colombia, in an area of influence of a rebel group, the Colombian army said Sunday.

The army said in a press release that the incident happened Sunday in the Mi-cay Canyon, in the Cauca department, an area known for coca leaf crops and a current bastion of a rebel faction that broke away from the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. That group has been attacking military positions.

The army said the 45 soldiers were “kidnapped,” after being surrounded by around 600 people who prevented them to be deployed in the area.

This is the second time soldiers have been taken in less than a month.

In August, 33 soldiers were also taken, allegedly by villagers acting under the orders of a rebel group in the southern department of Guaviare following a gunfight that killed 10 members of a FARC holdout group.

sanctions imposed on his country by his American counterpart Donald Trump.

In recent years, Bolsonaro’s allies have turned Sept 7 into an annual show of political force. Lula sought to turn the focus of this year’s Independence Day to sovereignty.

Crowds dressed in yellow and green once again gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and the

capital Brasilia to back Bolsonaro, who is under house arrest ahead of his verdict. Their favorite target was Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the rapporteur of the case.

Bolsonaro is standing trial for allegedly leading a coup to stay in power despite his 2022 election defeat to Lula. He denies the charges and says he is being politically persecuted. (AP)

Pakistan evacuates 25,000 from eastern city: officials

JALALPUR PIRWALA, Pakistan, Sept 8, (AP): Rescuers backed by troops evacuated more than 25,000 people from a city in Pakistan’s eastern Punjab province overnight as rising rivers threatened to flood the region, officials said Monday.

Irfan Ali Kathia, director general of the Punjab Disaster Management Authority, said the rescue operation in Jalalpur Pirwala began on an emergency basis late Sunday and continued through the night. By Monday morning, about 25,000 residents from high-risk neighborhoods had been moved to safer areas.



Kathia

The latest evacuations from Jalalpur Pirwala came two days after a rescue boat capsized in floodwaters on the city’s outskirts, killing five people. Fifteen others were rescued after the boat overturned Saturday, local officials said.

Ghulam Shabir, a 50-year-old construction worker, said he moved to higher ground near the city after floodwater entered his village, inundating homes and farmland. He appealed to the government to expedite rescue work as many people were still stranded in flooded villages.

Floods have so far affected more than 4.1 million people across 4,100 villages in 25 districts of Punjab province. Since Aug. 26, at least 56 people have died in flood-related incidents, while more than 2 million residents have been moved to safety, Kathia said.

Dollar stable, euro at 0.357 dinars

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): The US dollar exchange rate held steady at KD 0.305 on Monday, while the euro was recorded at KD 0.357, unchanged from the previous day. According to the Central Bank of Kuwait's

daily bulletin, the British pound slipped by 0.10 percent to KD 0.411. Meanwhile, the Swiss franc and Japanese yen maintained stability at KD 0.382 and KD 0.002, respectively.

Business

Attracting strong visitor interest

ABK showcases its financing solutions as platinum sponsor of Baiti Expo

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) participated as the platinum sponsor of the Baiti Expo, held at The Arena Kuwait over three days. Through this sponsorship, ABK showcased its wide range of financing solutions designed to meet the needs of customers aspiring to build their dream homes, further reinforcing its role as a leading banking institution in the Kuwaiti market.

Abdullatif Hamed Hamad Al-Meshari, Minister of State for Housing Affairs, visited ABK's booth and was briefed on the Bank's innovative banking products, financing solutions, and services that cater to customers' diverse financial needs.

ABK's booth witnessed heavy footfall from visitors eager to learn about the requirements for housing loans, the necessary documents, as well as the Bank's integrated suite of banking services available to all customer segments in the local market.

Bank representatives also conducted media interviews highlighting the importance of participating in Kuwait's largest real estate exhibition, underscoring ABK's commitment to supporting this vital sector, particularly amid ongoing developments such as the establishment of new housing cities and the allocation of residential plots to citizens.

On this occasion, Mohammad AlQattan, Chief Consumer Officer at ABK, said, "We are delighted to have been the platinum sponsor of the Baiti Expo, which provided us with an excellent platform to present our financing solutions and engage directly



Mohammad AlQattan, Chief Consumer Officer

■ **Mohammed AlQattan:** The exhibition served as an important platform to understand customer needs and address them by innovating new products and campaigns.

with visitors. This enabled us to better understand their needs and respond with innovative products, offers, and campaigns that encourage them to choose ABK as their trusted financial partner."

AlQattan further emphasized that ABK is constantly enhancing its real estate financing solutions to capitalize on the growing opportunities in the sector, aiming to increase its market share and attract new customers.

He added that the coming period will witness several new partnerships with specialized



Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdullatif Hamed Hamad Al-Meshari with the ABK team.



Minister Abdullatif Hamed Hamad Al-Meshari briefed on the solutions offered by the National Bank of Kuwait.

real estate companies and institutions. These collaborations will provide customers with expert consultation on housing designs, in addition to exclusive discounts

on home furnishing and finishing solutions, all in line with the highest standards in the local market.

AlQattan concluded by noting



The bank's pavilion at the exhibition.



A section of the bank's representatives during the opening.

that ABK will continue to participate in more industry-related exhibitions and events in the near future. This reflects the Bank's strategy to stay closely aligned

with market developments, while strengthening its presence among all customer segments in Kuwait and enhancing its competitive edge in the local banking sector.

Main Market Index slips 0.13%

Boursa Kuwait closes higher as All Share Index rises 1.59%

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Monday's session on a positive note, with the All Share Index advancing 135.31 points, or 1.59 percent, to close at 8,639.76.

Market activity saw 503.8 million shares exchanged in 27,474 transactions, with a total value of KD 130.6 million (USD 398.3 million).

The Main Market Index slipped 10.39 points (0.13 percent) to 7,841.25, with 197.7 million shares traded across 12,517 transactions, worth KD 31.6 million (USD 96.3

million).

In contrast, the Premier Market Index posted strong gains, climbing 178.37 points, or 1.96 percent, to settle at 9,265.86. Trading volume reached 306 million shares across 14,957 transactions, valued at KD 98.9 million (USD 301.6 million).

The Main 50 Index also recorded a slight decline, shedding 5.23 points (0.07 percent) to close at 8,005.71, with 124.3 million shares traded through 6,746 cash transactions, totaling KD 21.6 million (USD 65.8 million).

Ali Al-Qadhi named Country Head

KDIPA: BlackRock move shows confidence in Kuwait's economy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) confirmed on Monday that BlackRock's receipt of regulatory approvals and commercial licenses to operate in Kuwait is an initiative that reflects its confidence in the country's economic development.

In a statement to KUNA, KADIPA Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshal Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed that Kuwait is committed to attracting value-added direct investments, with a strong focus on developing national competencies, which contribute to strengthening long-term partnerships and ensuring future sustainability based on knowledge.

In turn, BlackRock Chairman and CEO, Larry Fink, said, "Our decades-long partnership with Kuwait represents one of our most valued global relationships. We look forward to expanding this partnership

with a physical presence, helping to further build the country's financial ecosystem and develop local talent." BlackRock's Kuwait Office will focus on deepening collaboration with clients, supporting Kuwait's Vision 2035 objectives, and building upon the firm's work in advancing the development of the Middle East's capital markets, said the statement.

The statement also noted that BlackRock has appointed Ali Al-Qadhi, a Kuwaiti national who joined BlackRock in 2023, as Country Head for Kuwait, in addition to his continued responsibilities as the Head of Kuwait and Qatar Client Business.

BlackRock announced it received the regulatory and commercial licenses for its office in Kuwait City, reflecting its confidence in the country's economic transformation and making the firm the first global asset manager to set up a physical presence in Kuwait.

Algeria to boost oil output by 4,000 bpd starting Oct 1

ALGIERS, Sept 8, (KUNA): The Algerian Ministry of Energy and Mining said Sunday it would increase the oil production by 4,000 bpd as of October 1, pursuant to the voluntary cuts, decided by the recent OPEC+ ministerial meeting.

The decision reflected the commitment of the OPEC+ allies to stabilizing the global oil market despite the uncertainty of the outlook, according to a statement from the Ministry.

On July 28, the 61st Ministerial Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) decided to implement an upward production adjustment of 547,000 barrels per day in September 2025.

The meeting, held via a videoconference, gathered Algerian Minister of Energy and Mining Mohammad Arkab and Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi as well as representatives of six other member of the OPEC+ alliance.

Focus on ESG integration, effective disclosures, and strategic stakeholder engagement

GCC Financial Markets Committee posts Unified Investor Relations Guide for 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The GCC Financial Markets Committee published the Unified Investor Relations Guide for 2025, which was developed collaboratively by committee members Boursa Kuwait, Saudi Tadawul, the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange Group, Dubai Financial Market, Bahrain Bourse, Muscat Stock Exchange, and Qatar Stock Exchange.

The optional guide aims to unify investor relations practices across the region, enhancing the quality and transparency of investor-focused communication in alignment with international standards. It provides listed companies with a structured framework for implementing transparent communication, effective disclosures, ESG integration and strategic stakeholder engagement, and is designed to support the establishment of credible investor relations functions and strengthen engagement with both regional and international capital markets.

"This guide is a strategic step toward unifying investor relations standards and practices across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)'s capital markets, contributing to the enhancement of transparency, credibility, and strengthening investor confidence. It reflects the GCC Financial Markets Committee's commitment to providing practical tools that enhance the communication channels between listed companies and their investors, as well as supporting the sustainable growth and development of capital markets," said Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi, the Chief Executive Officer of Boursa Kuwait.



Mohammad Al-Osaimi, CEO

utive Officer of Boursa Kuwait.

"By keeping pace with rapid developments and adopting the highest regulatory standards and international best practices, the Committee remains dedicated to reinforcing the appeal of the region's capital markets to in-

■ **The optional unified guide** aims to elevate regional investor engagement and supports the committee's efforts to enhance the GCC's attractiveness to local and global investors

vestors worldwide. These efforts underscore its ongoing commitment to cementing the GCC's standing on the global stage and further increasing the competitiveness of its markets," he added.

The introduction of an optional unified IR guide contributes to the development of investor relations within the region's capital markets and among its listed companies, reinforcing transparency in GCC financial markets as well as strengthening investor trust and empowering issuers with actionable guidance on disclosure planning, investor targeting, and enhancing corporate communication.

By aligning IR practices with international expectations, the guide aims to enhance the GCC's attractiveness to global investors and is part of the committee's efforts to support the growth of regional capital markets, create an advanced capital market ecosystem in the GCC, and elevate its position on the global stage.

Next OPEC+ meeting scheduled for October 5, 2025

Kuwait's commitment reflects its responsibility in supporting global economic stability, says Oil Min

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi has reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to the collective OPEC+ approach to enhance supply security and stabilize the global market.

The minister made his remarks after participating in an online video-conference meeting of the eight countries involved in the voluntary reduction agreement, with the participation of an official delegation that included the Governor of the State of Kuwait to OPEC, Mr. Muhammad Khuder Al-Shatti, and the national representative of the State of Kuwait to OPEC, Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

In a press statement issued by the Ministry of Oil, the Minister confirmed that this meeting, which he

commended, comes as a continuation of the efforts made by the eight participating countries, aiming to enhance the stability of oil markets and support the balance of global supply and demand.

Al-Roumi praised the decision of the eight participating countries to implement an upward adjustment to increase production by 137,000 barrels per day for October 2025, from a total of 1.65 million barrels per day of the additional voluntary adjustments announced earlier in April 2023.

Kuwaiti oil production for October will be 2.559 million barrels per day.

This decision was based on the robustness of market fundamentals, the stability of global economic performance, and oil inventory levels.

He added that the State of Kuwait believes that harmony, synchronization, and consensus are the fundamental pillars for maintaining the flexibility of production policies and ensuring global energy security, emphasizing that Kuwait's commitment reflects its responsibility in supporting global economic stability and market balance.

The minister emphasized that the next phase is characterized by a continuation of a successful strategy based on enhancing consultations and ongoing assessment of market indicators to ensure flexibility in making any future decisions that would enhance supply security and market stability.

The next meeting of the eight countries will be held on the fifth of October 2025.

Production rise slower than previous monthly boosts

OPEC+ agrees to raise oil production by 137,000 bpd starting Oct

VIENNA, Sept 8, (KUNA): OPEC Plus members agreed on Sunday in an online meeting to raise production from October by 137,000 barrels per day.

A statement by the organization said, "in view of a steady global economic outlook and current healthy market fundamentals, as reflected in the low oil inventories, the eight participating countries decided to implement a production adjustment of 137 thousand barrels per day from the 1.65 million barrels per day additional voluntary adjustments announced in April 2023."

The statement added, "this adjustment will be implemented in October 2025 as detailed in the table below.

The 1.65 million barrels per day may be returned in part or in full subject to evolving market conditions and in a gradual manner," the statement said.

"The countries will continue to closely monitor and assess market conditions, and in their continuous efforts to support market stability, they reaffirmed the importance of adopting a cautious approach and retaining full flexibility to pause or reverse the additional voluntary production adjustments, including the previously implemented voluntary adjustments of

the 2.2 million barrels per day announced in November 2023," the statement added.

"The eight OPEC+ countries also noted that this measure will provide an opportunity for the participating countries to accelerate their compensation.

The eight countries reiterated their collective commitment to achieve full conformity with the Declaration of Cooperation, including the additional voluntary production adjustments that will be monitored by the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC)," the statement said.

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote community sustainability

Gulf Bank distributes 500 school bags to children of underprivileged families



A group photo of the Gulf Bank team.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote community sustainability, and on the occasion of the new school year, Gulf Bank distributed 500 school bags containing all essential supplies to support children of underprivileged families in Kuwait. This initiative was carried out in collaboration with “Basta” company for the second year in a row, with active participation from the “Sawaad AlKhaleej” team, a group of Gulf Bank employee volunteers.

On this occasion, Mrs. Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, said: “We are pleased to partner with the Basta team in this humanitarian initiative that aims to bring joy and happiness to students and their families, while leaving a positive impact that encourages them to continue their educational journey.”

Aleisa added that this initiative comes within Gulf Bank’s strong commitment to reinforcing community sustainability principles. The Bank is keen to engage in



Bank employees participate in preparing bags.



work. We believe the private sector plays a key role in driving community sustainability through meaningful charitable initiatives.”

Every year, Gulf Bank is keen to stand by students and parents at the start of the school season by offering exclusive discounts on a wide range of school supplies, in collaboration with leading retail stores across Kuwait. These special offers are available to holders of the Bank’s credit and prepaid cards, helping families better manage back-to-school expenses while enjoying greater value. Beyond seasonal promotions, Gulf Bank also provides a comprehensive suite of tailored banking services designed to meet the needs of students and their families. These include a variety of savings accounts that promote the culture of financial planning and responsible saving from an early agesuch as the ‘neo’ account, which is dedicated to children and encourages them to start building healthy financial habits for the future.

Abu Dhabi led regional losses

GCC markets dip despite growth in global markets

By KAMCO Invest

After two consecutive months of gains, GCC equity markets declined during August-2025 led by a fall in most markets in the region. The MSCI GCC index receded 2.3% during the month, wiping all the gains made over the previous two months. Abu Dhabi witnessed the biggest decline in the region during August-2025 by 2.7% followed by Saudi and Dubai benchmarks with declines of 2.0% and 1.6%, respectively. Kuwait also declined by 1.4% whereas Qatar and Bahrain registered marginal declines. Oman was the only market which saw healthy gains during the month at 5.2%. In terms of YTD-2025 performance, the MSCI index now shows a much smaller gain of 1.4% as the YTD declines in Saudi Arabia (-11.2%) and Bahrain (-2.9%) were more than offset by healthy gains seen in most other markets in the region.

At the sector level, the GCC Materials sector witnessed healthy gains during the month at 4.3% led by gains in basic materials companies listed in Kuwait further supported by gain in large-cap companies in Saudi Arabia, including SABIC (+6.0%), Advanced Petrochemicals (+4.0%) and YANSAB (+2.0%). The Pharma & Biotech and Diversified Financials sectors were next with gains of 3.9% and 2.7%, respectively. On the decliner’s side, the Insurance index witnessed the biggest decline of 7.2% during August-2025 followed by Healthcare and Real Estate with declines of 3.9% and 2.7%, respectively. Banks also reported a decline of 2.4% while the Energy index was flat.

The decline in GCC equity markets came despite gains across key global equity markets during the month. The fall reflected concerns surrounding oil prices that was down by 6.1% on oversupply and demand recovery concerns. On the other hand, the MSCI ACWI witnessed a gain of 2.4% during the month led by gain in the US equity market in addition to gains in Emerging Market and in Europe.

Boursa Kuwait

The Boursa Kuwait All Share index closed August-2025 with a monthly decline of 1.4% at 8,499.2 points. The decline was mainly led by large-cap stocks, including Banks, with the corresponding Premier Market Index witnessing a fall of 2.2% during August-2025 as the performance of most of the constituent stocks in the index declined. The Main 50 Index and the Main Market Index reported monthly gains of 4.9% and 2.8%, respectively. In

terms of YTD-2025 performance, all the market segments continue to remain in the green with the Main 50 Index up by 17.1% followed by a 15.9% gain for the Premier Market Index. The All-Share Market Index and the Main Market Index advanced by 15.4% and 13.3%, respectively.

The monthly sector performance chart remained mixed during the month. On the gainer’s side, the Utilities index topped during August-2025 with a gain of 7.7% followed by Basic Materials and Real Estate indices with returns of 5.6% and 4.3%, respectively. On the other hand, Technology witnessed the steepest decline of 4.8% followed by the Consumer Discretionary and Banks sector with declines of 3.1% and 3.0%, respectively.

The gain in the Utilities sector was led by an equivalent gain in the shares of its sole constituent Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula. Gains in the Basic Materials were mainly led by 25.1% surge in shares of Al Kout for Industrial Projects Co. During the month, a unit of the company signed a USD 5.6 Mn contract with MEW to supply chemicals. The performance of the Real Estate index was supported by gains of 87.8% in shares of Al-Arabiya Real Estate and a 38.3% gain in shares of Injazat Real Estate. On the decliner’s side, the decline in the Technology index was led by fall in shares of its sole constituent Automated Systems Co. Within the Consumer Discretionary sector, shares of Palms Agro Production Co. reported a double-digit decline of 18.0% followed by Oula Fuel Marketing Co. at 14.7%, whereas Future Kid Entertainment reported a gain of 2.5%. Large cap sectors like Banks was down during the month after six Kuwaiti banks declined. 1H-2025 profits for the nine banks that reported earnings reached KWD 882.2 Mn as compared to KWD 845.8 Mn in 1H-2025, up by 4.3%. Two out of four constituents of the Telecom sector declined during the month with Zain and STC leading the declines that came in at 4.5% and 0.5%, respectively.

Prominent gainers during August-2025 included Al-Arabiya Real Estate, Injazat Real Estate Development and Al Kout for Industrial Projects Co. with gains of 87.8%, 38.3% and 25.1%, respectively. On the decliner’s side, shares of Umm Al-Qaiwain General Investments Co. were leading with a fall of 36.6% during the month followed by dalqan Real Estate Co. and Dar Al Thuraya Real Estate Co. with declines of 34.7% and 22.7%, respectively.

KUREVA aims to standardize real estate valuation in Kuwait

Al-Faraj: Lack of standards, data, training hinders valuation accuracy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Emad Ali Al-Faraj, International Valuer and Co-Founder and Vice President of Kuwait Real Estate Valuers Association (KUREVA), shed light on the tasks of the Association and the real estate valuation field in the country in general, including the challenges in this field, reports Arab Times.

In an interview with the daily, Al-Faraj expounded on the activities of the Association and real estate valuation issues in the country.

Following are details of the interview:

Question: What is the purpose of establishing Kuwait Real Estate Valuers Association (KUREVA)?

Answer: Many issues in real estate valuation could be attributed to the lack of real estate standards, guidelines, reliable real estate data, professional training and qualification, as well as differences in valuation methods, approaches, experience and knowledge. All of these challenges lead to significant discrepancies in property valuations.

Based on this, we realized the importance of having an organized entity, such as KUREVA. It became essential to establish a structured body that supports international standards, given its importance in organizing and advancing the valuation profession.

Furthermore, the continuous development of global valuation standards, along with the growing needs of governments and regulatory bodies, and the expectations of valuation users, can be summarized in three closely interconnected standards as follows:

1. Professional Standards – focusing on professional conduct and ethics, supported by knowledge and competence.
2. Technical Standards – emphasizing shared definitions and terminology, supported by consistent application of recognized methodologies.
3. Performance (Procedural) Standards – focusing on accuracy in analysis and objectivity in judgment, supported by proper documentation, relevant evidence and clear reporting.

Accordingly, these principles are applied to the objectives of the Association in the following manner:

- Cooperate with the relevant authorities to establish international rules, fundamentals and conditions, provided they do not conflict with national laws regulating the profession.
- Strive to advance the profession of real estate valuers, and defend the rights and legitimate demands of Association members.
- Exchange expertise locally and internationally with organizations and associations concerned with real estate valuation.
- Establish cooperation protocols with international and local bodies and organizations for the exchange of infor-



Emad Ali Al-Faraj, International Valuer and Co-Founder and Vice President of Kuwait Real Estate Valuers Association (KUREVA)

mation, recommendations and professional proposals, subject to the approval of the relevant authorities.

- Study existing laws and regulations in the field and submitting proposals to develop the practice of real estate valuation.

Q: We heard about some achievements shortly after the establishment of the Association.

A: Yes, that is correct. Despite the initial challenges we faced due to circumstances beyond our control, some of our main objectives have already been achieved as follows:

1. The Association became a member of the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC), based in London, in December 2023. The IVSC is one of the most renowned international organizations in real estate valuation. As members, we are required to adhere to the global ethical and professional standards of the valuation profession.
2. The Association obtained approval from IVSC to publish the ‘Real Estate Valuation Standards-State of Kuwait 2022’.
3. One of our members joined the Committee for the Accreditation of Valuation Curricula and Training Providers at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in December 2024.

Q: What does valuation mean?

A: Valuation is the art and science of estimating the value of property rights for a specific purpose at a certain point in time, taking into account all the characteristics of the asset being valued and the fundamental economic factors in the market.

A valuer is consulted to provide an opinion on the value of a property for various purposes, such as purchase, sale, mortgage, investment feasibility or as part of an acquisition process, among others.

Given the variety of valuation purposes and the nature of real estate, one method may not be suitable for all cases. Over the years, several main approaches have developed, each with multiple tech-

niques.

Q: What are the valuation methods and approaches?

A: According to IVSC, there are three main valuation approaches: Market Approach, Income Approach and the Cost Approach. The Income Approach includes investment, discounted cash flow (DCF), profits and residual methods.

Q: Could you briefly explain these approaches and methods?

A: First: The Market Approach (Comparative Method) relies on comparisons from current market evidence to directly establish capital or rental value. Comparable sales should be on properties similar to the one under valuation. Additional data include analysis of differences between comparable properties and the subject property. Unfortunately, due to the scarcity of reliable data in Kuwait, it is difficult to rely on this method, even though it is considered the most important approach. Adjustments are always made to the comparable properties rather than the subject property.

Second: The Income Approach estimates the capitalized value of income and includes several methods as follows:

1. Investment Method – The valuer estimates the gross income from a property based on prevailing rental values of similar properties and must present the supporting evidence in the report.
2. Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Method – An adaptation of the investment method, where cash inflows and outflows are discounted to present the value. This method is often applied to investment properties, with discount rates derived from the market.
3. Profits Method – Primarily used for properties linked to business operations. It involves analyzing accounts of expenses and receipts to estimate rental value.
4. Residual Method – Applied in development or redevelopment projects to determine whether proposals are financially viable or not, and to calculate the price payable for land or existing structures.

Third: The Cost Approach (Contractor’s Method) is typically used when neither the market nor the income approach is applicable, or as a support check for other valuations. It is based on the principle that a buyer will not pay more for a property than the cost of acquiring a substitute property offering the same utility, whether by purchase or construction.

Q: In your view, what are the main problems that real estate valuation in Kuwait is currently facing?

A: These problems include the following:

1. Lack of standards and guidelines: The market lacks internationally recognized valuation standards to unify practices and provide a common framework.
2. Lack of reliable real estate data: Accurate valuation requires comprehensive and precise data, which are often unavailable, thereby, affecting valuation accuracy.
3. Insufficient professional training: Many valuers lack technical training and

qualifications, which affects the quality and reliability of valuations.

Q: Why do large discrepancies occur among different valuers’ reports?

A: Several reasons contribute to these discrepancies, including:

- Differences in approaches and methods: Valuers may use different techniques, leading to varied results.
- Different interpretations of information: Valuers may interpret available data and influencing factors differently, hence, affecting the valuation outcome.
- External influences: Market fluctuations, economic conditions and local regulations may be assessed differently by valuers.
- Variations in expertise and knowledge: Valuation requires specialized skills and experience, which vary among practitioners.

To minimize such discrepancies, valuers must engage in professional dialogue, exchange knowledge, and ensure transparency in sharing information.

Q: What are the risks when a valuer lacks knowledge of internationally recognized standards and principles?

A: Lack of familiarity with global standards can result in several negative consequences, such as:

- Inaccurate valuations – leading to discrepancies from actual market values and poor investment decisions.
- Loss of credibility – clients and stakeholders may lose trust in the valuer’s work.
- Legal issues – non-compliance with recognized principles may lead to disputes and litigation.
- Wider market instability – inconsistent valuations create uncertainty and negatively affect transactions and investment decisions.

It is then vital for valuers to have strong knowledge of international standards and to continuously develop their skills.

Q: Why is there no unified valuation standard in Kuwait?

A: This is due to the following:

1. Lack of awareness – Many stakeholders are not fully aware of the importance of adopting internationally recognized standards.
2. Fragmented oversight – Multiple bodies are responsible for real estate matters in Kuwait, preventing the creation of a unified framework.
3. Diverse stakeholders – Banks, financial institutions, regulators and developers all have different needs, making it difficult to agree on a single standard.

Adopting a unified standard based on global practices will improve the accuracy and reliability of valuations in Kuwait, and provide a professional framework for valuers in the sector.

Q: Any last words?

A: Our mission is to advance and professionalize real estate valuation in Kuwait, and to ensure that the profession speaks a ‘common language.’ We welcome all individuals and companies specializing in valuation to join the Association and contribute to the growth and advancement of this vital profession.

Raising awareness is the first line of defense against fraud

KFH warns of cyber fraud posing as official entities

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: In line with its efforts to support Diraya campaign, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has advised the public to be vigilant against cyber fraud. The bank noted that fraudulent emails, which impersonate official entities, are tricking people into visiting fake websites to make payments. This scheme makes them vulnerable to phishing and scams.

KFH highlighted that fraudsters use these fake messages to deceive victims who believe they are legitimate. Once the victim falls for the trap, their personal data is stolen, allowing the scammers to hack their bank accounts and steal their money.

KFH urged everyone to be cautious of fraudulent messages. These messages impersonate official entities and ask recipients to

click on suspicious links or share one-time password (OTP) codes. KFH explained that avoiding interaction with these anonymous emails will help customers prevent fraud and protect their money and data.

KFH advises its customers to never share any confidential information, such as ID card details, OTPs (One-Time Passwords), or bank card PIN. “Customers should avoid sharing this information over the phone, via email, or through any other means. KFH will never ask its customers to update or share their financial details through a phone call, email, or SMS.”

“With the increasing use of the internet, it has become easier to fall victim to scams.” KFH pointed out that raising awareness is

the first line of defense against fraud, no matter how skillful the fraudsters are.

KFH has been committed to its leading role in supporting Diraya campaign since its launch by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), in collaboration with local banks and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA).

To this end, KFH continues to raise awareness among various segments of society. It does so by sharing financial literacy materials across all its social media and electronic channels, while also warning against different fraudulent methods and offering advice on how to protect against banking fraud.



Campaign poster

Will digital gold open new chapter for a millennia-old asset?

WGC plans to pilot Pooled Gold Interests in London from early 2026

LONDON, Sept 8, (Xinhua): The World Gold Council (WGC) has recently announced plans to pilot Pooled Gold Interests (PGI) in London from early 2026, a scheme that would allow fractionalized ownership and real-time settlement of gold, pushing one of the world’s oldest safe-haven assets further into the digital age.

This is the latest step in the WGC’s multi-year effort to digitize the gold market.

Backed by financial technologies and physical vaulting, the initiative aims to modernize London’s 900 billion-U.S.-dollar bullion trade. Yet its success will depend on overcoming entrenched resistance from market incumbents and navigating a patchwork of regulatory approaches.

What is digital gold?
London’s gold market today operates under two main structures: “allocated” gold, which involves ownership of specific bars but is costly and complex, and “unallocated” gold, which offers greater liquidity but carries counterparty risk. The WGC’s proposal would create a third category for over-the-counter (OTC) gold trading, according to a white paper published on Wednesday jointly with law firm Linklaters.

Under the PGI model, banks and investors would be able to buy and sell fractionalized ownership of physical gold held in segregated accounts, co-owned by core participants through a trust structure. The pilot will be launched with commercial institutions in London in early 2026, the Financial Times (FT) reported.

Unlike cryptocurrencies, digital gold is firmly tied to the physical market. Each PGI unit represents a specific weight of gold stored in vaults, and transactions are recorded on the blockchain to ensure traceability. “We are trying to standardize that digital layer of gold, such that the various financial products used in other markets can be used in the gold market going forward,” said

David Tait, chief executive of the WGC, in an interview with the FT.

This makes PGIs a kind of “digital passport” for gold. The structure draws inspiration from earlier models such as gold-backed exchange-traded funds and stablecoins like Paxos Gold, which require 100 percent physical backing to prevent “empty circulation” and broaden gold’s role in global finance.

Benefits and barriers
For institutional investors, the potential appeal is significant. Digitization could transform gold from a static store of value into an active financial instrument. “For the banks, from a collateral perspective, they will make a lot of money, as they get an opportunity to use the gold on their balance sheet as collateral,” Tait told the FT.

According to the WGC, PGIs combine the best features of the two existing OTC structures: the security of physical ownership associated with allocated gold, but with added benefits such as easier collateralization, fractionalized investment, as well as easy and secure transfer of gold interests between parties.

Still, resistance runs deep. “Gold is already the best-performing asset class. This feels like a solution in search of a problem,” said Adrian Ash, director of research at BullionVault, a Britain-based company facilitating the trading of physical gold globally.

Regulatory uncertainty adds further complexity. Whether gold tokens should be classified as securities or as commodity derivatives remains under discussion, with different jurisdictions taking varying approaches, resulting in a fragmented regulatory landscape for cross-border adoption.

While fiat-backed stablecoins have gained traction due to their liquidity and broad acceptance in financial markets, gold-backed tokens have struggled to achieve similar utility.

“Gold, by contrast, remains a store of value, but not a medium of exchange or a common unit of account,” noted one industry analysis published on Me-

dium. As a result, most gold tokens are used mainly for passive holding rather than active settlement.

A tool, not a replacement
Despite the hurdles, digital gold is gaining momentum among investors, particularly younger generations.

According to HSBC’s Affluent Investor Snapshot 2025, 41 percent of affluent investors plan to own gold within the next 12 months, while 28 percent plan to hold digital gold. The report highlights growing demand for tokenized gold, multi-asset solutions, and alternative investments among younger clients.

Analysts, however, stressed that digital gold is unlikely to displace physical bullion, which remains indispensable for central bank reserves and cultural consumption. Global central banks collectively hold around 36,000 tons of gold, according to the European Central Bank, and have added more than 1,000 tons annually in each of the past three years, a record pace.

For households, too, the physical appeal of gold remains strong. In Asia and the Middle East, jewelry still accounts for a significant portion of national gold demand.

In Britain, beyond investment value, bullion coins are sought after for their craftsmanship and cultural significance. The Royal Mint, Britain’s official maker of British coins, noted on its website that series such as the “Myths and Legends” collection are prized not only for their purity but also for their artistry, making them popular both as assets and collectibles.

For many investors, the future may lie in a blended approach. Physical gold will continue to serve as a hedge against inflation and extreme financial shocks, while digital gold could provide liquidity, lower entry costs, and faster settlement, the Royal Mint added.

EchoStar shares jump 19% after deal

SpaceX buys EchoStar spectrum for \$17 bln

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 8, (AP): Elon Musk’s SpaceX has reached a deal worth about \$17 billion with EchoStar for spectrum licenses that it will use to beef up its Starlink satellite network.

The deal for EchoStar’s AWS-4 and H-block spectrum licenses includes up to \$8.5 billion in cash and up to \$8.5 billion in SpaceX stock. SpaceX will make approximately \$2 billion in cash interest payments on EchoStar debt through November 2027.

SpaceX and EchoStar will enter into a long-term commercial agreement which will allow EchoStar’s Boost Mobile subscribers to access SpaceX’s next generation Starlink Direct to Cell service.

Shares of EchoStar surged 19% before the market opened Monday.

Last month AT&T said that it will spend \$23 billion to acquire wireless spectrum licenses from EchoStar, a significant expansion of its low- and mid-band coverage networks.

EchoStar said that it anticipates that the AT&T deal and the SpaceX transaction will resolve recent inquiries from the Federal Communications Commission about the rollout of 5G technology in the U.S. The FCC had been calling for hearings on whether Echostar was properly using the spectrum that it is now selling, and its efforts to make 5G more available to communities.

EchoStar said Monday that it will use the proceeds from the sale partly to pay down debt. Current operations of Dish TV, Sling and Hughes will not be impacted, the company said.

Noem says tough immigration raids won’t deter investment

LONDON, Sept 8, (AP): U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Monday she doesn’t think the detention of hundreds of South Koreans in an immigration raid at a Hyundai plant in Georgia will deter investment in the United States because such tough actions mean there is no uncertainty about the Trump administration’s policies.

The detention of 475 workers, more than 300 of them South Korean, in the Sept. 4 raid has caused confusion, shock and a sense of betrayal among many in the U.S.-allied nation.

“This is a great opportunity for us to make sure that all companies are reassured that when you come to the United States, you’ll know what the rules of the game are,” Noem said at a meeting in London of ministers from the “Five Eyes” intelligence-sharing partnership focused on border security.

“We’re encouraging all companies who want to come to the United States and help our economy and employ people, that we encourage them to employ U.S. citizens and to bring people to our country that want to follow our laws and work here the right way,” she told reporters.

The detained Koreans would be deported after most were detained for ignoring removal orders, while “a few” had engaged in other criminal activity and will “face the consequences,” Noem said.

Newly appointed U.K. Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood welcomed Noem and ministers from Canada, Australia and New Zealand to the 18th-century headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company for talks on countering unauthorized migration, child sexual abuse and the spread of opioids.

Mahmood, who was given the interior minister job in a shakeup of Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s Cabinet on Friday, said the ministers would “agree new measures to protect our borders with our Five Eyes partners, hitting people-smugglers hard.”

The far-flung countries are close allies with some common problems but also widely differ in their approaches to migration. The Trump administration’s program of street raids, mass detentions and large-scale deportations of unauthorized migrants has drawn domestic and international

criticism and a host of legal challenges.

Noem said there had not been disagreements among the ministers in talks focused on sharing information on criminal gangs, using technology to disrupt their networks and speeding extradition arrangements.

“I don’t think that the discussion today has covered politics at all,” she said. “It is what resources do we have that we can share so we can each protect our countries better?”

Noem said that “when we put tough measures in place, the more that we can talk about that and share that is an inspiration to other countries to do the same.”

She denied a plan to expand immigration raids and deploy the National Guard in Chicago, which has met with opposition from local and state authorities, was on hold.

“Nothing’s on hold. Everything is full speed ahead,” Noem told reporters, saying “we can run as many operations every single day as we need to, to keep America safe.”

Also attending Monday’s talks were Canadian Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree, Australia’s Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke and Judith Collins, the attorney general and defense minister of New Zealand.

Britain’s center-left Labour government is struggling to bring down the number of migrants crossing the English Channel in small boats, some 30,000 so far this year. It faces calls from opposition parties to leave the European Convention on Human Rights in order to take tougher action.

The government says it won’t do that, but may tweak the interpretation of the rights convention in British law. It has struck a deal with France to return some migrants who cross the channel and is working on similar agreements with other countries.

Mahmood said Monday that the U.K. could suspend issuing visas to people from countries that do not agree to take back their citizens with no right to remain in Britain, though she did not name any potential countries.

“We do expect countries to play ball, play by the rules, and if one of your citizens has no right to be in our country, you do need to take them back,” she said.

China’s export growth slows in Aug as US tariffs and trade tensions bite

Imports increased 1.8% in Aug

BEIJING, Sept 8, (AP): China’s exports grew last month but at a slower pace than in recent months, the country’s customs agency said Monday.

Exports reached \$321.8 billion in August, a 4.4% increase compared to the same month last year. That was down from a 7.2% jump in July. Meanwhile, imports totaled \$219.5 billion, a 1.8% rise.

China’s large trade surplus has become a contentious issue with major trading partners including the U.S. and the European Union. Low-priced Chinese imports are a boon for consumers but can lead to job cuts in manufacturing.

In the first eight months of the year, China’s exported \$785.3 billion more in goods than it imported from other countries, the monthly customs data showed.

President Donald Trump has imposed 30% in additional tariffs on imports from China since taking office early this year. He backed down from even higher tariffs after China retaliated with import taxes of its own. The two countries are in talks to try to reach a trade agreement.

The tariffs from both sides and the possibility they could be raised again are having an impact on two-way trade. Chinese exports to the U.S. plunged 33% in August to \$47.3 billion, while its imports from the U.S. dropped 16% to \$13.4 billion.

Exports to the EU rose 10.4% to \$46.8 billion, while imports from the 27-member bloc edged down slightly to \$22.8 billion.

Overall, China’s exports grew at the slowest pace since the January-February period, when they rose just2.3%. The first two months of the year are reported together to smooth out distortions from

the long Lunar New Year break.

China’s exports of rare earths rose on a monthly basis to \$55 million in August, up from \$41 million in July, but down 25.6% compared to the same month last year.

Rare earth magnets, which can withstand high heat, are vital to many products including washing machines, cars and fighter jets.

China dominates the global market for processing rare earths, and a clampdown on their export in April temporarily halted production at some factories in Europe and the U.S. and raised fears of shutdowns at others.

The issue became a focal point of a round of U.S.-China trade talks in London in June. China agreed to approve more export permits for rare earths in return for the U.S. lifting curbs on the sale of chip design software and jet engines to China.

Lawmakers criticize raid as ‘unacceptable’

Raid at Hyundai battery factory shocks South Korea, conflicts US-Korea business relations

SEOUL, Sept 8, (AP): South Korea’s foreign minister departed for the U.S. on Monday to finalize steps for the return of several hundred South Korean workers detained last week in a massive immigration raid in Georgia, as the incident caused confusion, shock and a sense of betrayal among many in the U.S.-allied nation.

The Sept. 4 raid on a battery factory under construction at a sprawling Hyundai auto plant in Georgia led to the detainment of 475 workers, more than 300 them South Koreans. Some of them were shown being shackled around their wrists, ankles and waists in video released by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

South Korea announced Sunday the U.S. agreed to release the detained workers, saying it would send a charter plane to bring them home once final administrative steps are completed.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who earlier backed the raid, said Sunday night that the U.S. could work out an arrangement with South Korean workers to train U.S. citizens to do work such as battery and computer manufacturing.

Appearing at a legislative hearing before his departure, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun called the raid “a very serious matter” that he hadn’t anticipated at all, as many lawmakers lamented the American operation.

“If U.S. authorities detain hundreds of Koreans in this manner, almost like a military operation, how can South Korean companies investing in the U.S. continue to invest properly in the future?” said Cho Jeongsik, a lawmaker from the liberal governing Democratic Party.

Another lawmaker, Kim Gi-hyeon from the conservative opposition People Power Party, said the “unacceptable” raid dealt South Korea a “severe blow that will be difficult to heal.”

Some lawmakers even called for the government to retaliate by investigating Americans who are alleged to work illegally in South Korea.

Seoul has expressed regret over the raid, but experts say it won’t likely take any major tit-for-tat measures given the country’s security dependence on the U.S. in deterring potential North Korean aggressions and other spheres of cooperation between the two countries, including business ties.

The Georgia operation was the latest in a series of workplace raids performed as part of the Trump administration’s mass deportation agenda, but it was Homeland Security Investigation’s largest enforcement opera-



This image from video provided by U.S. 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, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, in Ellabell, Ga. (AP)

tion on a single site. Many observers note that the state of Georgia is a symbol of the economic cooperation between the two countries since many large South Korean businesses operate factories and plan future investments there.

In South Korea, many remain stunned at the raid that came after the country in late July promised to pour hundreds of billions of dollars into U.S. investments as part of a tariff deal. Trump and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung also held their first summit meeting in Washington on Aug. 25.

“The way that Trump is pressuring the Korean government and inflicting damages on its people is very rough and unilateral,” said Kim Taewoo, former head of Seoul’s Korea Institute for National Unification. “Can this be forgotten easily in South Korea? In a long-term perspective, it won’t be good for U.S. national interests as well.”

In an editorial Monday, South Korea’s biggest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, wrote that “Fundamental doubts emerge: What does the U.S. mean by ‘alliance,’ and are investment benefits guaranteed across administrations?”

Paik Wooyeal, a professor at Seoul’s Yonsei University, viewed the raid as a collision between a U.S. goal of restoring manufacturing with

foreign investments, and a lack of visa and immigration systems that could support such an attempt.

Paik said that South Korean companies operating in the U.S. will likely suffer “a great confusion” as they would be forced to bring their workers back home to resolve visa issues. Such developments would also undermine U.S. interests, but Trump won’t likely make any concessions anytime soon, Paik said.

Steven Schrank, the lead Georgia agent of Homeland Security Investigations, said Friday that some of the detained workers had illegally crossed the U.S. border, while others had entered the country legally but had expired visas or had entered on a visa waiver that prohibited them from working.

But South Korean officials and experts have expressed frustration over what they called the United States’ strict limits on H-1B or H-2B visas for high-skilled foreign workers to protect its domestic workforce, and its inaction on Seoul’s calls to expand work visas for skilled South Korean nationals. As a result, South Korean companies have been relying on short-term visitor visas or the Electronic System for Travel Authorization to send workers needed to launch manufacturing facilities or handle other setup tasks.

“The incident will inevitably ex-

acerbate shortages of skilled workers with legal work authorization and create pressure for increases in labor costs, potentially disrupting operations and rising costs across major business projects in the United States,” South Korea’s Eugene Investment and Securities said in a report Monday.

Daishin Securities in a report said the Georgia raid could delay operations at the targeted battery plant, which was slated to begin production early next year, potentially affecting Hyundai’s EV business in America.

During Monday’s legislative hearing, Cho, the foreign minister, told lawmakers that the U.S. had “not responded adequately” to South Korea’s requests to expand visas for its workers, and that Seoul plans to use the Georgia raid as an opportunity to move related negotiations forward.

Cho said that some of the people detained in Georgia may need to return to the site to complete work at the factory, and that South Korean officials are negotiating with American authorities to ensure that those detained can reenter the United States.

“I will clearly point out to them that a delay in (the factory’s) completion would also cause significant losses for the United States,” Cho said.

'Last Rites' spooks competition with strong box office debut**'Conjuring' creeps its way to another box office win**

LOS ANGELES, Sept 8, (AP): It's the year for horror and "The Conjuring: Last Rites" was no exception. Its opening weekend tipped the genre over \$1 billion in earnings for this year's domestic box office.

The horror sequel raked in \$83 million domestically in 3,802 theaters, making it the third-highest domestic opening for a horror movie, behind "It" and "It: Chapter Two." It's now the largest horror opening internationally, with \$104 million in earnings outside of North American theaters.

The film also broke records for the "Conjuring" universe, securing the biggest opening weekend in the franchise. The movie's performance is a testament to the franchise's success in producing classic horror movies since the first film released in 2013, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for the data firm Comscore.

"Audiences know when they go in to see 'The Conjuring,' the minute this scary, ominous music comes up with the Warner's logo, you know you're in for a wild ride," Dergarabedian said.

The film has received mixed reviews from critics,

carrying a 55% on Rotten Tomatoes and a "B" CinemaScore.

Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga return to the big screen in the ninth installment of "The Conjuring" as the paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren who attempt to vanquish a demon from a family's home.

"Last Rites" also handed Warner Bros. Pictures yet another opening weekend box office win, becoming the distributor's eighth No. 1 debut win this year and the studio's seventh film in a row to debut with over \$40 million domestically.

Successful

The movie's opening weekend numbers are nearly double that of other successful horror movies this year, including Zach Cregger's August sleeper hit "Weapons."

"Final Destination: Bloodlines" and "Sinners" - all of which are Warner Bros. releases.

"It just shows how arguably more than any other genre, horror has stood the test of time," Dergarabedian said. "That's because there's nothing quite like seeing

a horror movie in a darkened room full of strangers."

The horror genre last crossed the \$1 billion mark in 2023. Meeting that threshold this early in the year is unprecedented, Dergarabedian said, "because usually you need a full year of horror movie box office to bank that much cash."

Upcoming horror films like "Black Phone 2" and "Five Nights at Freddy's 2" are likely to boost that number, Dergarabedian said.

"Last Rites" blew past other titles at the box office this weekend. Disney's filmed version of "Hamilton" landed in second place with \$10 million domestically. The film was "perfect counterprogramming" to "Last Rights," Dergarabedian said.

The rest of the top spots were taken by several holdover titles. "Weapons" secured third place during its fifth weekend, bringing in \$5.4 million in earnings in North American theaters. The movie's debut partner, "Freakier Friday" took fourth place with \$3.8 million.

The crime caper "Caught Stealing," which debuted last weekend, rounded out the top five with \$3.2 million in domestic earnings.



The image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Vera Farmiga in a scene from 'The Conjuring: Last Rites.' (AP)

Music

Mariah Carey honored with Video Vanguard Award

Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga shine at MTV VMAs

NEW YORK, Sept 8, (AP): Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga set the tone at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday night with career-defining moments of their own.

Grande scored two honors - video of the year and best pop video - and had the audience buzzing when she thanked her "therapists and gay people" during her acceptance speech.

Gaga, the night's top nominee, kicked things off by winning artist of the year before later delivering on her promise to perform. She hit the stage at Madison Square Garden after her acceptance speech, which sent the audience into a frenzy at the UBS Arena where the VMAs were being held.

In her earlier remarks, Gaga stressed the deeper meaning of artistry.

"Being an artist is an attempt to connect the souls of people all over the world," said Gaga, who performed "Abracadabra" and "The Dead Dance," a single from the Netflix series "Wednesday." "Being an artist is a discipline and craft into reaching someone's heart where it grows its roots, reminding them to dream. Being an artist is a responsibility to smile, dance, cry."

She dedicated the award to her fans and paid homage to her fiancé, Michael Polansky, who co-executive produced her latest album, "Mayhem."

"Creating with you has been a beautiful thing," she said.

Mariah Carey basked in the love of her fans and reflected on her storied career as she accepted the Video Vanguard Award. Grande presented the honor with a heartfelt tribute, calling Carey "the soundtrack of our lives."

Grande then added "As a vocalist, there's only one queen. And that's Mariah."

While taking the stage in a satin gold robe that gave way to a glittering bodysuit and matching heels, Carey delivered a career-spanning medley of hits from "Fantasy" to "We Belong Together" to "Obsessed." The performance also spotlighted tracks from her landmark 10th album, "The Emancipation of Mimi," which recently turned 20.

Fashion

"I can't believe I'm getting my first VMA tonight," Carey said before she jokingly asked. "I have one question: What in the Sam Hill were you waiting for? I'm just kidding. Thank you. I love you."

The late Ozzy Osbourne was celebrated in fitting fashion when some of rock's biggest names took the stage in his honor. Aerosmith's Steven Tyler and Joe Perry, British firebrand YUNGBLUD and Nuno Bettencourt united to deliver a medley of Osbourne's greatest hits including "Crazy Train," "Changes" and "Mama, I'm Coming Home."

Osbourne's son, Jack and several of his children, shared a video message to viewers about the beloved musician.

"I know for sure it would make him incredibly happy to see these great musicians carry on his legacy and help inspire the next generation of rockers," Jack Osbourne said.

"In the words of our papa, 'Let's go crazy.'" Ozzy Osbourne's grandkids added, referring to his popular song "Crazy Train."

Osbourne became a household name on MTV - also the home of the VMAs - with his family's hit reality series "The Osbournes," which ran from 2002 to 2005. That same year, the Prince of Darkness cemented his legacy with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

As the tribute ended, the performers yelled "Ozzy forever, man!"

Busta Rhymes was honored with the first ever MTV VMA Rock the Bells Visionary Award during the show and performed several of his hits including "Gimme Some More," "Scenario," "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Could See" and "Pass the Courvoisier, Part II." He was also joined by Joyner Lucas, Papoose and GloRilla as they helped perform the songs with him.

During his speech, Rhymes paid tribute to the late Ananda



Rosé accepts the award for song of the year for 'APT.' (AP)



Megan Moroney performs during the MTV Video Music Awards.



GloRilla introduces a performance by J Balvin.



Host LL Cool J presents the award for video of the year during the MTV Video Music Awards. (AP)



Mariah Carey performs a medley during the MTV Video Music Awards. (AP)



Lady Gaga accepts the award for artist of the year during the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Sept. 7, at UBS Arena in Elmont, NY. (AP)



Christian Breslauer, (left), and Ariana Grande accept the award for video of the year for 'Brighter Days Ahead.' (AP)



Yungblud, (from left), Steven Tyler, and Joe Perry perform a tribute to Ozzy Osbourne. (AP)



Sabrina Carpenter accepts the award for best album for 'Short n' Sweet.' (AP)



Ricky Martin performs during the MTV Video Music Awards.



Busta Rhymes, winner of the rock the bells visionary award. (AP)



Tyla, winner of the award for best Afrobeats for 'Push 2 Start.' (AP)

Lewis, the former MTV and BET host who became a beloved television personality in the 1990s with her warmth and authenticity.

"An incredible woman that loved me and she loved us," he said of Lewis, who died in June after being diagnosed with breast cancer. "She loved the culture very much. I miss her very much. The late, great, incredible Royal Empress, Ananda Lewis."

Ricky Martin received the first-ever Latin Icon Award following an electric performance on the main stage. He spoke about his 40-year career in music, dedicating the award to his four kids.

Tribute

Martin's set served as an anniversary tribute coming 25 years after his breakout VMAs debut in 1999, when he made history as the first male Latin artist to win best pop video.

"I started when I was a baby working and we're still here," he marveled, adding: "We just want to unite countries, we just want to break boundaries, and we just want to keep music alive."

The VMAs, hosted by LL Cool J, kicked off with a freewheeling spirit. During Cool J's opening monologue, a video of Doja Cat mimicking '80s MTV personality Max Headroom interrupted him. Her message transitioned seamlessly into a performance that kicked off with a solo by Kenny G.

Doja Cat, who was seen casually chewing on her lipstick on the red carpet, pranced across the stage performing "Jealous Type" to raucous applause.

Going into the show, history was on the line with Taylor Swift and Beyoncé vying to become the most awarded artist in VMAs history. Each have 30 and were only nominated in the artist of the year category, so Gaga's win will leave them tied for another year.

Other performers included Conan Gray, Tate McRae, Jelly Roll, Post Malone, Alex Warren, J Balvin, Sabrina Carpenter and Sombri.

The 2025 MTV VMAs was broadcast by CBS for the first time.

Could this be the start of royal reconciliation?

Harry visits UK, raising hopes of reunion with King Charles

LONDON, Sept 8, (AP): Prince Harry will make a flying visit to his UK-based charities this week, leading to a flurry of speculation about whether he will meet with his father, King Charles III, for the first time in 19 months.

Amid signs of a thaw in the frigid relationship between Harry and the rest of the royal family, British media suggest that the prince's trip to London on Monday's third anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II provides an opening for a long-overdue rapprochement between Charles, 76, and his estranged son.

Harry has had little contact with his father and elder brother, Prince William, since he and his wife, the former Meghan Markle, gave up royal duties and moved to California in 2020. The relationship became even frostier after the couple bared their grievances with Buckingham Palace in a tell-all interview with Oprah Winfrey, a Netflix series and Harry's memoir, "Spare."

The last time Harry and Charles met was in February 2024, when the prince flew to London after receiving news that his father had been diagnosed with cancer. Harry spent about 45 minutes with Charles before the king flew to his Sandringham country estate to recuperate from his treatment.



Britain's Prince Harry smiles towards the media as he leaves the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Tuesday, April 8, 2025. (AP)

Harry was last in London in April, when the Court of Appeal rejected his bid to restore a police protection detail that was canceled after he stopped being a working royal. Charles was on a state visit to Italy at the time, so a meet-

ing was impossible.

That case was itself an impediment to improved relations because it involved Harry criticizing the king's government in the courts. But once it was over, change became possible.

Immediately after the case ended, Harry said he would "love reconciliation with my family."

"There's no point in continuing to fight anymore," he told the BBC on the day the court case was resolved. "Life is precious. I don't know how much longer my father has."

Despite that olive branch, Harry struck a combative tone that might torpedo hopes of repairing the family breach. The prince repeatedly said that the decision to withdraw his security was made at the direction of the royal household in an effort to control him and his wife while putting their safety at risk.

"What I'm struggling to forgive, and what I will probably always struggle to forgive, is the decision that was made in 2020 that affects my every single day and that is knowingly putting me and my family in harm's way," Harry said.

But with the lawsuit out of the way, the mood music coming from Charles and Harry's supporters seemed to change.

In July, the new team handling Harry and Meghan's

communications, headed by Los Angeles-based Meredith Maines, was seen on the balcony of a private members' club in London speaking with Tobyn Andrae, the king's press representative. The Mail on Sunday was on hand to snap a photo of what the paper called: "The secret Harry peace summit."

Regardless of who tipped off the paper, it showed a change of tone since the meeting wouldn't have happened if the so-called principals hadn't given their tacit consent.

And now comes Harry's appearance at the WellChild Awards on Monday night in London.

The event, which celebrates the bravery of seriously ill children and those who care for them, is sponsored by a charity Harry has long supported. It is a reminder that not so long ago, Harry was one of the star attractions of the royal family's effort to reach out to younger, more diverse Britons.

"For 20 years these Awards have highlighted the courage of young people living with complex health needs and shone a light on the devoted caregivers - family and professionals - who support them every step of the way," the prince said in a statement put out by the charity. "Their stories remind us of the power of compassion, connection and community."

Emmys



The team from 'SNL50: The Anniversary Special' pose in the press room with the award for outstanding writing for a variety special during night two of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)

Obama, Kimmel and Lamar take trophies

'SNL 50' wins big at the Creative Arts Emmys

LOS ANGELES, Sept 8, (AP): Barack Obama won his third career Emmy and Kendrick Lamar won his second, while the 50th season of "Saturday Night Live" was the biggest winner with 11 on the second night of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards.

Lamar and Tony Russell won for the music direction of his Super Bowl halftime show. He won his first Emmy in 2022 as a performer at the Super Bowl halftime headlined by Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg.

Obama won a star-studded documentary narrator category that also included Tom Hanks, Idris Elba and David Attenborough. He won the same award in 2022 and 2023.

Neither Lamar nor Obama was at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles to accept his Emmy. Neither were expected to be, at a show that despite several high-profile winners including Jimmy Kimmel, Conan O'Brien and Alan Cumming is primarily devoted to behind-the-scenes crew members a week before TV's stars take the same stage for the bigger Emmys ceremony.

Presenter Jordan Klepper laughed along with the crowd as he said, "Apparently, Barack Obama couldn't be here tonight" after announcing the winner.

"SNL 50: The Anniversary Special," the pinnacle of a season-long celebration for the NBC sketch institution, won seven Emmys, including awards for its directing, writing, hairstyling and editing. A pop-up immersive experience tied to the special won an Emmy for emerging media and regular episodes of the show won three more.

HBO's "Pee-wee as Himself" won four awards including best documentary, posthumously giving its star and subject Paul Reubens, who died in 2023, his first primetime Emmy.

O'Brien an Emmy for his travel series, "Conan O'Brien Must Go," taking his career total to six. And while he didn't get one personally for the show, Netflix's "Conan O'Brien: The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize For American Humor" beat out football halftime shows from Lamar and Beyoncé to win best variety special.

Beyoncé did win a previously announced special Emmy for the costumes on her Christmas Day "Beyoncé Bowl" on Netflix.

Kimmel, who has hosted both the Oscars and the Emmys multiple times, was here to accept his fourth primetime Emmy, for best host of a game show for his work on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

He thanked the show's late original host Regis Philbin for making "Millionaire" a cultural phenomenon.

"Regis was the best at this," Kimmel said backstage. "It is exciting to have this and to know that he has this same Emmy in his family's collection somewhere."

"Jeopardy!" won best game show, while Cumming won best host of a reality show for "The Traitors."

The two-night Creative Arts Emmys hands out nearly 100 awards in hyper-specific categories that can bring oddities. Like the Grammys and Oscars winning Emmys, as each did Sunday.

The CBS Grammys telecast won for its choreography, while ABC's Oscars telecast - also hosted by O'Brien - won for its production design.



The team from 'Conan O'Brien Must Go' pose with the award for outstanding hosted nonfiction series or special. (AP)



The 'Jeopardy!' team pose with the award for outstanding game show. (AP)



The team from 'Welcome to Wrexham' with the award for picture editing for an unstructured reality program. (AP)

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting was honored with the Television Academy's Governors Award even as it winds down its nearly 60-year work after the U.S. government withdrew funding from the institution that has helped pay for PBS, NPR, 1,500 local radio and TV stations.

The award goes to a person or entity "made a profound, transformational and long-lasting contribution to the arts and/or science of television."

"Even an act of Congress can not erase an indelible legacy," Henry Louis Gates Jr., host of "Finding Your Roots" on PBS, said during the presentation.

"Queer Eye" won best structured reality show, while "Love on the Spectrum" won best unstructured reality show.

The Creative Arts show runs quickly and efficiently - 47 awards are handed out on Sunday alone in about 2 1/2 hours - but the atmosphere is loose. Swearing is allowed because of the lack of TV, as Kimmel showed when he told nominee Will Ferrell to shut up during his speech.

"This is the Emmys for the people that the people who run the Emmys



Liz Patrick poses with the award for outstanding directing for 'SNL50: The Anniversary Special.' (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Actor Emily Osment is divorced and single.

A judge's order dissolving the marriage of **Osment** and musician Jack Anthony Farina took effect on Monday after a mandatory six-month waiting period.

The two had been married for less than five months when Osment filed a divorce petition in Los Angeles Superior Court in March. They separated less than two months after their October wedding, citing irreconcilable differences. They have no children.

It was the first marriage for Osment, the 33-year-old younger sister of "The Sixth Sense" actor Haley Joel Osment.

She came to fame for playing the title character's best friend on the Disney Channel's "Hannah Montana" from 2006 to 2011. She subsequently starred in the sitcoms "Young & Hungry" and "Young Sheldon" and currently appears on the "Young Sheldon" spinoff, "Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage."

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Osment

PUNTA ARENAS, Chile: An American social media influencer who has been stuck in a Chilean airbase in Antarctica for two months after landing a plane there without permission was released on Saturday back to the mainland, where he was to pay \$30,000 in penalties.

Ethan Guo, who was 19 when he began his fundraising mission for cancer research, was attempting to become the youngest person to fly solo to all seven continents.

But he was detained after Chilean authorities said he lied to officials by providing authorities with "false flight plan data." Prosecutors said he had been authorized to only fly over Punta Arenas in southern Chile, but that he kept going south, heading for Antarctica in his Cessna 182Q - a single-engine light aircraft known for its versatility.

After he landed in Chile's Antarctic territory on June 28, he was detained in a military base amid legal negotiations between his lawyers and the government. Guo, who is originally from Tennessee and turned 20 in July, spent two months living in the base with limited communications and freezing Antarctic winter temperatures plunging below zero.

He was released by a Chilean judge on the condition that he donate the tens of thousands of dollars raised to a childhood cancer foundation within 30 days and leave the country as soon as possible. He is also banned from entering Chilean territory for three years.

The influencer's lawyer Jaime Barrientos told The Associated Press that Guo landed because he had to divert his aircraft due to poor weather conditions, and that he did receive authorization from Chilean authorities. (AP)

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DES MOINES, Iowa: Powerball players in Missouri and Texas won the nearly \$1.8 billion jackpot on Saturday, overcoming astronomical odds to end the lottery game's three-month drought without a big winner.

The winning numbers were 11, 23, 44, 61, and 62, with the Powerball number being 17.

The winning ticket in Texas was sold at a gas station-convenience store in Fredericksburg, according to the Texas Lottery.

The \$1.787 billion prize, which was the second-largest U.S. lottery jackpot in history, followed 41 consecutive drawings in which no one matched all six numbers. The last drawing with a jackpot winner happened May 31.

Powerball's terrible odds of 1 in 292.2 million are designed to generate big jackpots, with prizes growing as they roll over when no one wins. Lottery officials note that the odds are far better for the game's many smaller prizes. There are three drawings each week.

Each ticket holder will have the choice between an annuitized prize of \$893.5 million or a lump sum payment of \$410.3 million. Both prize options are before taxes. If a winner selects the annuity option, they will receive one immediate payment followed by 29 annual payments that increase by 5% each year. Powerball tickets cost \$2, and the game is offered in 45 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (AP)



Damian Rodriguez with the award for outstanding picture editing for 'Pee-wee As Himself.' (AP)



Patricia de Stacy Harrison, (left), and Camille Morgan Appelman pose with the 2025 Governors Award for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. (AP)



Ben Archard poses with the award for directing reality program for 'The Traitors.' (AP)

don't think should be seen on network TV," presenter Sarah Silverman said when she opened the show as a presenter.

The two nights are edited down into one show that will air on TV on FXX on Saturday. The following day, the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, hosted by Nate Bargatze, will air live on CBS.

While Sunday honored variety, documentary and reality TV, scripted series had the stage on Saturday.

"The Studio" won nine early Emmys including best guest actor in a comedy for Bryan Cranston, making it the front-runner to end up with the biggest total after next Sunday's main show.

PFAS exposure comes from food, water, and swimming

New maps show how risk from ‘forever chemicals’ varies

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

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By Ruohao Zhang, Penn State; Jiameng Zheng, Louisiana State University; Wendong Zhang, Cornell University, and Xibo Wan, University of Connecticut

Since the 1940s, companies have been using PFAS - perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances - to make products easier to use, from Teflon nonstick pots to waterproof rain gear, stain-resistant carpet and firefighting foam.

The chemicals’ resistance to heat, oils, stains, grease and water makes them useful. However, that same chemical stability also makes them linger in the environment - and in the human body. Studies have suggested that some types of PFAS can contribute to health harms, including thyroid disease, liver damage and kidney and testicular cancer.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that there is no safe level of human exposure for two of the most common PFAS compounds: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). It set drinking water standards limiting their acceptable levels in water systems in 2024.

However, drinking water isn’t the only way people are exposed to PFAS today.

To better understand the ways people are being exposed to PFAS, we and a team of colleagues examined four exposure pathways - drinking water contamination, food contamination, recreational exposure and industrial emissions, such as from Superfund sites, airports, military bases and manufacturing plants - across three Great Lakes states: Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania.

The interactive map and online dashboard we created lets residents look up their communities’ known PFAS exposure



Vials containing samples of forever chemicals, known as PFAS, sit in a tray, April 10, 2024 at a US Environmental Protection Agency lab in Cincinnati. (AP)

risks and calculate their own risks. The results also offer insights for people across the US who share similar environments, dietary choices and lifestyles.

The extensive use and improper disposal of products containing these “forever chemicals” have led to their widespread presence in the environment. They have made their way into farm fields, drinking water and water bodies, where fish and shellfish can ingest the chemicals and humans can swim in PFAS-contaminated water.

In an analysis of the three states, we found that the average person consumes about three times more PFAS through food than through drinking water.

We looked at 19 food items in which PFAS have been detected, including seafood, such as clams, crab and shrimp, which have the highest levels of PFAS. Other foods beyond these 19 may also expose people to PFAS, so the totals may underestimate the actual intake.

For water contamination, we found that PFAS had been

detected in 1,272 out of 2,593 tested public water facilities in Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania, collectively serving a population of about 23 million people.

We also found distinct patterns of PFAS exposure.

Among the three states, Pennsylvania has the highest risk of PFAS exposure from food and water, while Michigan has the lowest. Michigan’s lower risk likely reflects its significantly lower PFAS contamination in drinking water, which may be due to its PFAS water-testing and regulation.

Notably, our analysis found that most dietary PFAS risk comes from butter, olive oil and shrimp. Seafood typically contains much higher PFAS concentrations than butter or olive oil - polluted rivers bring these chemicals into marine environments, and fish and shellfish gradually accumulate and magnify it through the food chain. However, substantially greater consumption of butter and olive oil makes those products potentially large dietary sources of PFAS.

It’s important to note that not all sources of the foods we examined have the same PFAS risk, and the analysis did not assess the health effects from the PFAS exposure levels detected.

We found that intake of foods that can contain PFAS is higher in Pennsylvania and New York than in Michigan, driven largely by greater seafood and olive oil consumption, likely reflecting the influence of Mediterranean cuisines. Higher seafood consumption there is consistent with proximity to the coast.

Zooming in on individual cities offers more insight:

Detroit has an above-average risk of PFAS exposure through food compared with other locations in Michigan, and the highest amount among the three major urban centers we looked at. Ground beef and baked tilapia, two products in which PFAS has been detected in the North Central regional market, contribute to Detroit’s relatively higher food-related PFAS exposure risk compared with cities in other states, in addition to high consumption of bacon, sausage and crab.

Detroit’s public drinking water hasn’t been tested for PFAS, so residents’ risk level from water is unknown.

New York City has minimal PFAS exposure risk from its public drinking water and much lower PFAS levels than surrounding suburban areas. Its risk of dietary intake of PFAS comes primarily from consumption of butter and olive oil.

Philadelphia’s public drinking water has also been found to be at minimal risk, with significantly lower PFAS contamination than in surrounding suburban areas. However, it has relatively high consumption of shrimp, bacon and sausage. We found that the city and its region also have a high risk of exposure to PFAS from recreation on water bodies compared with other regions. Studies are only beginning to understand the risks from PFAS exposure through skin.

Among smaller cities, Rochester, New York, and its surrounding area, particularly along Lake Ontario, also stands out for its higher risks from recreational exposure to PFAS compared with other regions. A 2024 study of PFAS in the Great Lakes found that airborne pollution was contributing to contamination in the five lakes, particularly Lake Ontario, along with PFAS from industry-lined rivers.

In general, we recommend several actions to help mitigate PFAS exposure risk.

Households served by public water systems with high levels of PFAS may want to use drinking water filtration systems.

People can also reduce their exposure by adjusting their dietary choices by eating less of those foods with the potential to have PFAS contamination.

Our dashboard also includes a map of recreational sites near PFAS-contaminated water bodies.

The dashboard reflects the goal of our study - not only to inform, but also to empower individuals and communities to make healthier choices. Local governments and advocacy groups can also use the data to prioritize policies to reduce exposure.

Several official and unofficial resources are also available to help the public understand PFAS contamination across the US. (AP)

New hope for precision in brain surgery

Experts develop ‘brain-computer’ interface tech to map brain tumors

BEIJING, Sept. 8, (Xinhua): Chinese researchers have recently completed a clinical trial of implantable microelectrode arrays for the precise localization of deep-seated brain tumor boundaries, marking a breakthrough in the country’s development of implantable clinical brain-computer interface technology.

Brain tumors such as gliomas and brain metastases are characterized by high incidence, high mortality and high recurrence rates. Their invasive growth patterns often result in blurred boundaries between tumor tissue and normal brain tissue, making the precise localization of lesion boundaries critical in surgical resection, radiotherapy planning, and prognosis evaluation.

Although commonly used preoperative examinations can roughly locate tumors and help identify lesions while avoiding functional areas, they cannot reflect dynamic changes during surgery, said Shi Huaizhang, director of the neurosurgery department at the First Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University. Shi emphasized that the medical community urgently needs a technology that is capable of real-time intraoperative interpretation and accurate identification.

To address this need, the Aerospace Information Research Institute (AIR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with the hospital, utilized a clinical brain-computer interface microelectrode and a multi-level regulation and high-throughput neural signal synchronization detector, both of which were developed by AIR. This partnership successfully completed a clinical trial of the technologies to determine the precise localization of deep-seated brain tumor boundaries.

The clinical microelectrode used in the trial is primarily based on micro-electromechanical systems technology and nano-functional material technology. Functioning as a novel

brain-computer interface neural probe with a high spatiotemporal resolution, it combines high flexibility and biosafety levels, allowing it to identify tumor boundaries through real-time signal detection.

The accompanying neural signal detector acts as a signal decoder, synchronously collecting and analyzing massive neural signals. It converts raw signals captured by the electrode into precise “lesion navigation,” thereby providing real-time data for intraoperative tumor boundary assessment.

Wang Mixia, an associate researcher at AIR, highlighted that the clinical microelectrode’s advantages include a wider detection range, higher positioning accuracy and more comprehensive information dimensions.

“It breaks through the limitations of traditional neural electrodes, which can only detect cortical brain tumors,” Wang said. “Our electrodes can detect neural signals across the cortex, shallow brain, and even deep brain regions -- enabling not only the detection of neuroelectrophysiological signals but also the simultaneous detection of neurotransmitter chemical signals, which provide more accurate information.”

Shi said that the clinical trial was conducted on a glioma patient. By integrating imaging data with real-time, single-cell-level neural signal feedback from the clinical microelectrode, the team successfully and accurately identified the tumor boundary. Their approach allowed for maximal tumor resection while preserving functional areas.

“After the surgery, the patient experienced no epileptic seizures, demonstrated clear and fluent language expression, and showed an improved quality of life,” Shi said. “Additionally, the surgery avoided new neurological impairments, laying a solid foundation for subsequent rehabilitation and follow-up treatment.”

Sami herders’ livelihood at risk

Sweden plans to mine rare-earth minerals

KIRUNA, Sweden, Sept 8, (AP): High atop the Luossavaara Mountain in northern Sweden, Sami reindeer herder Lars-Marcus Kuhmunen mapped out a bleak future for himself and other Indigenous people whose reindeer have roamed this land for thousands of years.

An expanding iron-ore mine and a deposit of rare-earth minerals are fragmenting the land and altering ancient reindeer migration routes. But with the Arctic warming four times faster than the rest of the planet, herders say they need more geographic flexibility, not less, to ensure the animals’ survival.

If a mine is established at the deposit of rare-earth minerals called Per Geijer, which Sweden heralds as Europe’s largest, Kuhmunen said it could completely cut off the migration routes used by the Sami village of Gabna.

That would be the end of the Indigenous way of life for Kuhmunen, his children and their fellow Sami reindeer herders, he said, in this far-north corner of Sweden some 200 kilometers (124 miles) above the Arctic Circle.

“The reindeer is the fundamental base of the Sami culture in Sweden,” Kuhmunen said. “Everything is founded around the reindeers: The food, the language, the knowledge of mountains. Everything is founded around the reindeer herding. If that ceases to exist, the Sami culture will also cease to exist.”

Sami herders are descended from a once-nomadic people scattered across a region spanning the far north of Sweden, Norway, Finland and the northwestern corner of Russia. Until



Reindeer stand at a farm in Lulea, Sweden, Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025. (AP)

the 1960s, members of this Indigenous minority were discouraged from reindeer herding, and the church and state suppressed their language and culture.

In Sweden alone there are at least 20,000 people with Sami heritage, though an official count does not exist because an ethnicity-based census is against the law. Today, a Sami village called a sameby is a business entity dictated by the state, which determines how many semi-domesticated reindeer each village can have and where they can roam.

“It’s getting more and more a problem to have a sort of sustainable reindeer husbandry and to be able to have the reindeers to survive the Arctic winter and into the next year,” said Stefan Mikaelsson, a member of the Sami

Parliament.

In the Gabna village, Kuhmunen oversees about 2,500 to 3,000 reindeer and 15 to 20 herders. Their families, some 150 people in total, depend on the bottom line of the business.

Even before the discovery of the Per Geijer deposit, they had to contend with the expanding footprint of Kirunavaara. The world’s largest underground, iron-ore mine has forced the village’s herders to lead their reindeer through a longer and harder migration route.

Swedish officials and LKAB, the state-owned mining company, say the proposed Per Geijer mine could reduce Europe’s reliance on China for rare-earth minerals. LKAB hopes to begin mining there in the 2030s.



Onlookers watch the total lunar eclipse, also known as the blood moon, from a park bench, in Leipzig, Germany, Sunday, Sept. 7. The year’s second total lunar eclipse saw Earth’s shadow obscure this weekend’s full moon as the home planet lines up perfectly between the moon and the sun. Asia had the best seats in the house this time, while countries across Europe also enjoyed nice views. (AP)

AI and robotics restore ‘abilities’

Smart tech empowers the disabled

CHONGQING, Sept 8, (Xinhua): Jiang Songning, 22, thought he would never play the piano again after he had his right forearm amputated five years ago. However, thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) technology, his ten fingers can dance across the keys again.

At the 2025 World Smart Industry Expo that was recently held in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality, Jiang played the piano in front of an audience, wearing a bionic hand developed by the technology firm BrainCo. He noted that the bionic hand is almost as flexible as his left hand -- with each finger able to move freely.

“The bionic hand integrates brain-computer interface technology and AI algorithms,” said Jiang, adding that the hand can recognize the wearer’s movement intention by detecting the wearer’s neural and muscular electrical signals, and convert such intention into action.

“While conventional prosthetics can only perform certain specific motions, and some even merely serve as decoration -- this bionic hand can move as the user wants. It can perform 80 percent of the functions of a normal hand,” said Pan Siyu, public relations manager of BrainCo, adding that it takes only about a week for a new user to get used to the bionic hand.

Notably, Pan said BrainCo aims to make its products accessible to more people with disabilities. The price of the bionic hand is only one-fifth that of similar products from abroad.

The 2025 World Smart Industry Expo focused on how AI empowers industries and daily lives. The warmth of such technology is palpable. Many enterprises are exploring the use of advanced technologies to improve the well-being of people with disabilities

A man from central China’s Henan Province, who asked not to be named, suffers from muscle atrophy and was not able to walk. He went to the expo in Chongqing as he had

heard there were some types of smart equipment there that could possibly help him to walk again. He found an exoskeleton product developed by Guangzhou Shipeng Technology Co., Ltd -- and after just about half an hour of training, he was able to walk slowly.

“Whenever I want to walk, a force kicks in to help me with the motion,” the man revealed.

“The exoskeleton is powered by intelligent algorithms. It has multiple built-in sensors that accurately read users’ movement intentions and provide appropriate leg-lifting assistance,” said Xu Guo, a sales consultant with Shipeng.

He explained that the product, equipped with the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System and IoT system, allows for trajectory tracking and emergency calls -- thereby keeping family members of users informed about their whereabouts and conditions.

This exoskeleton not only helps people with disabilities, but is also suitable for scenarios such as long-distance walking and mountain climbing. It is currently widely used in fields including emergency rescue, forest firefighting, industrial logistics and so forth. It can significantly enhance the wearer’s load-bearing capacity and endurance, effectively reducing muscle fatigue during long-distance walking.

Chongqing Wujie-Qihang Technology Co., Ltd, meanwhile, introduced a Braille dot display at the expo. It is able to use an AI algorithm to translate text, images and complex graphics into touchable Braille.

“During our survey, we found that visually impaired people had very limited reading resources. Traditional Braille displays rely on users downloading fixed-format internet resources themselves. But with our algorithm, users can upload content they want to read to the server, which is then converted into Braille -- expanding reading resources for visually impaired people,” said Li Cheng, founder of the company.

Man dies of bubonic plague in Mongolia

India reports 5th death from brain fever

NEW DELHI, Sept 8, (Xinhua): A 56-year-old woman died Monday due to Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), commonly known as brain fever, at a hospital in the southern Indian state of Kerala, officials said.

The woman, a native of Malapuram district, was admitted to Kozhikode Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode district last week and has been in a critical condition since then, a health official said.

Since August 14, five people in the state have died from the rare but deadly infection affecting the brain.

Reports said at present 11 people are undergoing treatment for the disease at the hospital, with a few in critical condition. 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 stagnant freshwater such as ponds and lakes. The infection occurs when contaminated water enters the nose, allowing the amoeba to reach the brain.

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Bubonic plague: Mongolia’s Ministry of Health on Monday confirmed a case of bubonic plague resulting in the death of a 24-year-old man in Tsagaan-Uul soum, Khuvsgul Province.

According to the ministry, the man died after consuming marmot meat, with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test confirming bubonic plague as the cause. Authorities have warned citizens against eating marmot meat.

Although hunting marmots is illegal in Mongolia, the rodent is considered a delicacy by some, and the ban is often ignored.

The bubonic plague is a bacterial disease spread by fleas living on wild rodents such as marmots, which can kill an adult in less than 24 hours if not treated in time, according to the World Health Organization.

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Malaria: An Australia-led study has found that “silent” malaria can disrupt immune function, challenging long-standing beliefs about asymptomatic malaria infections.

The study focused on Plasmodium vivax, the most widespread malaria parasite and a major obstacle to global elimination efforts, according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s Monash University.

While people in malaria-endemic regions often carry the parasite without showing symptoms, these “silent” infections were traditionally seen as beneficial, thought to help maintain immunity and prevent future illness, the statement said.

However, the new findings, detailed in the journal Molecular Systems Biology published by the European Molecular Biology Organization, suggest that these sub-clinical infections may actually impair the immune system.

Researchers used a systems immunology approach to examine blood samples from individuals with both symptomatic and asymptomatic P. vivax infections, and found that both groups showed signs of immune dysfunction, particularly in monocytes, cells that play a key role in fighting infections.

Sparks avoid elimination from playoff contention

Howard stars as Fever secures postseason berth after beating Mystics

WASHINGTON, Sept 8, (AP): Natasha Howard scored 17 points and the Indiana Fever beat the Washington Mystics 94-65 on Sunday to clinch a spot in the 2025 WNBA playoffs.

The Fever (23-20) advance to the postseason for the second consecutive year, despite losing five players - including the 2024 WNBA rookie of the year Caitlin Clark (groin) - to season-ending injuries.

Aliyah Boston had 12 points, 11 rebounds and five assists. Aerial Powers finished with 15 points and Shey Peddy had 13.

Sonia Citron led Washington (16-27) with 17 points. Shakira Austin and Kiki Iriafen scored 11 apiece.

Citron set Washington's single-season scoring record with 644 points. Brittney Sykes set the previous mark of 636 points in 2023.

Sparks 91, Wings 77

In Los Angeles, Julie Allemand had a career-high 21 points, Rae Burrell scored 11 of her 13 in

a 16-0 run to open the fourth quarter and Los Angeles beat Dallas to avoid elimination from playoff contention.

Los Angeles (20-22) has to win its last two regular-season games and have Seattle lose to Golden State on Tuesday night to make the postseason.

The Sparks visits Phoenix on Tuesday before wrapping up the regular season at home Thursday against Las Vegas. The Wings conclude the regular season at home against Phoenix on Thursday.

Allemand made all eight of her shots from the field, hit three 3-pointers and had a career-high five steals. Dearica Hamby scored 15 points, Azura Stevens had 13 points and 11 rebounds, Kelsey Plum scored 12 and Rickea Jackson added 11 points for Los Angeles.

Aces 80, Sky 66

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson had 31 points and 11 rebounds to help Las Vegas beat Chicago to extend the longest win streak in franchise history.

The Aces have won 14 games in a row, tied for

with the 2021 Connecticut Sun for the fourth-longest regular season win streak in league history. The Los Angeles Sparks won a record 18 straight in the regular season on their way to the 2001 WNBA title.

Las Vegas (28-14) is tied with Atlanta for second in the WNBA standings, a game ahead of Phoenix. The regular season ends Thursday and the 2025 WNBA playoffs begin next Sunday.

Angel Reese didn't play for Chicago. The team announced Friday that Reese was suspended for the first half of the Sunday's game for making comments "detrimental to the team" and then at halftime announced that the two-time WNBA All-Star would not play in the second half due to a back injury.

Reese also missed Friday's 97-77 loss to Indiana due to a mandatory one-game suspension by the WNBA for picking up her eighth technical foul of the season. Chicago was also missing Ariel Atkins (back).



Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson (22) and Chicago Sky center Elizabeth Williams (1) fight for a rebound during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)



South Africa's Temba Bavuma, center, lifts the trophy with his team mates after winning Metro Bank One Day International series after the third ODI series cricket match between England and South Africa, at Utilita Bowl, Southampton, England. (AP)

England tops South Africa by record 342-run margin

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Sept 8, (AP): England won by the biggest margin of victory in one-day international cricket history, beating South Africa by 342 runs.

Pace bowler Jofra Archer took four wickets and England restored some pride to deny South Africa a sweep in the series-concluding third ODI.

Batting first after losing the toss, England posted 414-5 in 50 overs at Southampton's Rose Bowl with centuries from Joe Root (100) and 21-year-old Jacob Bethell (110). Jos Buttler smashed a 32-ball, unbeaten 62. Opener Jamie Smith also hit 62 in 48 deliveries.

In reply, South Africa was dismissed for 72 in 20.5 overs after being reduced to 7-4 at one point as the edges kept coming from South Africa and the catches kept sticking for England.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was injured while fielding and did not bat.

Bethell hit the first hundred of his professional career, taking just 76 balls to do so and becoming the second-youngest England batter to score an ODI century after David Gower in 1978. Bethell, who reached the landmark with a drive through extra-cover, was finally stumped on the charge against Keshav Maharaj (2-61), ending his part-

nership of 182 with Root.

"It was a great feeling, an addictive feeling and hopefully more to come," Bethell said.

Archer produced a sensational new-ball spell and took four wickets for only five runs in his first five overs. He finished with figures of 4-18 in nine overs.

Serving up a relentlessly threatening burst of pace that saw him hit 93 mph (150 kph), Archer appeared like he could have wiped out the entire team but had to settle for Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Matthew Breetzke and Tristan Stubbs. Brydon Carse added two wickets and Adil Rashid took the last three to complete the rout.

India held the previous winning margin record of 317 runs against Sri Lanka in 2023. Dozens of teams have won by the maximum number of wickets (10) but this is the highest winning margin by runs in ODIs.

South Africa won the series 2-1, clinching it with a game to spare after a five-run win last Thursday.

South Africa head coach Shukri Conrad was disappointed but took some solace from the two wins that came before.

"We were definitely off it today," he said. "Against a top side like England, when you're not on top of game, you do get exposed."

India and Pakistan rivalry poised for three showdowns at Asia Cup

Oman and UAE aim to shock giants

ABU DHABI, Sept 8, (AP): Five of the world's top 10 Twenty20 teams will compete in the 17th Asia Cup, starting in the United Arab Emirates from Tuesday, with defending champion India grouped together with archrival Pakistan.

India is No. 1, and Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh hold Nos. 7-10 in the International Cricket Council's T20 rankings. Joining them in the tournament, which starts with two groups of four, are Hong Kong, the UAE, and first-timer Oman. All three of the Associate teams qualified via the ACC Premier Cup, where Nepal only narrowly missed out.

India and Pakistan being bracketed together should catch a billion-plus TV audience and raise substantial revenue for the Asian Cricket Council. Oman and the UAE are the other teams in that group.

The other group contains Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong.

The top two teams in each group will advance to the Super 4 stage.

The groups have been formed in a way that traditional on-field and off-the-field rivals - Pakistan and India - could meet three times during the tournament, if both teams go all the way to the final on Sept. 28.

Dubai will host 11 games, including the final, and Abu Dhabi will host eight games.

The continental tournament, which began in 1984 with only Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka, has expanded and is now staged every two years, alternating between the ODI and T20 formats depending on which ICC World Cup is next in line.

With India and Sri Lanka set to co-host the T20 World Cup next February, this Asia Cup is also in the sport's shortest international format.

India has won the title eight



Sri Lanka's bowler Maheesh Theekshana, left, blows during the T20 International cricket match between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, at the Harare Sports Club, in Harare, Zimbabwe. (AP)

times, followed by Sri Lanka with six. Pakistan won the last of its two titles in 2012.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India had been due to host the Asia Cup, but preferred to organize the tournament in the UAE to avoid the logistical issues that come with the strained political relationship between India and Pakistan.

The neighboring countries don't engage in bilateral tours with each other, which limits their head-to-head encounters to multinational tournaments at neutral venues.

When Pakistan hosted the Champions Trophy earlier this year, it organized for all of India's games to be staged in Dubai.

India is a firm favorite with stars including captain Suryakumar Yadav, Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya, and Jasprit Bumrah in its ranks. With the slow wickets likely to suit spinners, India has plenty of options with Axar Patel, Varun Chakravarthy, and

Kuldeep Yadav keen to exploit the conditions.

Pakistan has been relying on a fleet of all-rounders after ignoring its two stalwarts, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, since December 2024 in the shortest format. Under new coach Mike Hesson, Pakistan has played a majority of its T20 games with only three specialist bowlers, using four all-rounders to bowl out the remaining overs.

Whether Hesson's template works against the likes of India remains to be seen. But Hesson's blueprint at least worked in a build-up to the Asia Cup when Afghanistan crashed to its second-lowest-ever T20 score of 66 against Mohammad Nawaz's hat-trick in the final of the tri-series at Sharjah on Sunday.

Afghanistan has plenty of spin options and could edge either Bangladesh or Sri Lanka for a place in the Super 4. Led by Rashid Khan, the leading wicket-taker in T20 cricket, Afghanistan also has experienced

off-spinner Mohammad Nabi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad, and rookie AM Ghazanfar to challenge batters of any opposition on spin-friendly wickets.

Despite losing to Bangladesh in the recent bilateral T20 series, Sri Lanka could have the potential to make the Super 4 with opening batter Pathum Nissanka in good form at the top of the order.

Wanindu Hasaranga, who injured a hamstring against Bangladesh, has regained fitness and will team up with Maheesh Theekshana and Dunith Wellalage to boost the spin options.

It follows conventional cricket rules, where taking wickets and scoring runs are the main objectives for the bowling and batting teams, but does so in a shorter, sharper timeframe.

Each team is allocated one 20-over innings to bat in each game. The main aim remains to score more runs than the opposition. Matches last around three hours.

Briscoe finishes second

Hamlin wins at Gateway to advance in NASCAR playoffs

MADISON, Ill., Sept 8, (AP): Nothing seems to distract Denny Hamlin, and the NASCAR star proved it again with a laser-focused victory at World Wide Technology Raceway on Sunday to advance in the Cup Series playoffs.

After a week in which his father was ailing and his 23XI Racing team lost a decision in its court battle with NASCAR, Hamlin compartmentalized his concerns. He stayed on task for a virtually flawless weekend - starting from the pole position and leading a race-high 75 of 240 laps.

"I just step up," Hamlin said after his series-high fifth victory this season. "All I can do is just keep being a student of the game, keep trying to get better, and every week is a chance to get a little better."

With his 59th career win, Hamlin advanced to the second round of the playoffs. He joined Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Chase Briscoe, who finished second after winning last week's opener at Darlington Raceway. Chase Elliott finished third, followed by Ryan Blaney and Joey Logano as playoff drivers swept the top five spots at the 1.25-mile oval.

The No. 11 Toyota team called Hamlin to the pits for his final stop with 44 laps remaining, and he cycled to the front on a caution 15 laps later. The Virginia native seized the lead from Brad Keselowski on the restart, delivering the 200th win in NASCAR's premier series for Toyota.

The Joe Gibbs Racing star celebrated with a long burnout down the front stretch of the track outside St. Louis that is commonly referred to as Gateway, bringing boos raining down from a sellout crowd to Hamlin's delight.

"You all can boo me, but you can either get on the bandwagon or get run over by it," he said. "I want all the noise and all the heat."

Relishing life as a NASCAR villain is one of many roles being filled by the multitasking Hamlin, who also co-hosts a podcast while running 23XI Racing, the three-car team that he co-owns with NBA legend Michael Jordan.

It's had little impact on the on-track performance for Hamlin, who is in his 20th Cup season driving for team owner Joe Gibbs. At Gateway, he became the seventh driver in

NASCAR history with multiple victories after his 700th start.

Team owner Joe Gibbs marvels at how Hamlin, who turns 45 in November and welcomed his third child in June, can juggle so much.

"He's in one meeting after another," Gibbs said with a laugh. "The more stuff he does, the better off he is. He's got a real drive to succeed."

The ultimate prize would be a first Cup championship, and Hamlin took another step toward that goal by locking into the next round ahead of the Sept. 13 race at Bristol Motor Speedway. The first-round cutoff race will trim the playoff field from 16 to 12 drivers.

After Gateway, Shane van Gisbergen, Austin Dillon, Alex Bowman, and Josh Berry are outside the top 12.

After a 12th-place finish at Gateway, Kyle Larson can clinch a spot in the next round by simply starting at Bristol. Bubba Wallace, who finished eighth after leading 73 of 240 laps and winning the second stage, is also in a strong position to advance.

Berry will need a win at Bristol to advance to the next round after opening his Cup playoff debut with consecutive last-place finishes. The Wood Brothers Racing driver was tapped in the left rear by Elliott, sending Berry's No. 21 Ford spinning into the Turn 2 wall on the 36th lap.

"Chase and that team have done a lot for me, and I really doubt that was on purpose," said Berry, who crashed on the first lap of the playoff opener at Darlington Raceway. "Just the wrong place, wrong time for us again. Obviously, it's unfortunate. We'll just go to Bristol and try to do the best we can and put ourselves in position to race for a win, and that's really all we can do at this point."

Elliott apologized for the incident after the race.

"I had no intention of getting into him," Elliott said. "I've known those guys my whole life, so I just hope that they know it wasn't anything intentional. I felt terrible about it right when it happened, and I wish I could take it back."



Denny Hamlin, second from left, celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison, Ill. (AP)

US runs Walker Cup winning streak to five

Mcllroy wins Irish Open playoff

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif., Sept 8, (AP): The Americans seized control in the sunshine and kept right on rolling through the fog at Cypress Point, eliminating any drama in beating Great Britain & Ireland for their fifth consecutive victory in the Walker Cup.

Staked to a one-point lead, the Americans delivered a record performance in singles by winning eight of the 10 matches and halving another for a 17-9 victory.

U.S. Amateur champion Mason Howell capped off his amazing summer by scratching out a halve with Connor Graham in a tight match of 18-year-olds, going 2-0-1 for the week.

Rory Mcllroy couldn't have asked for a better homecoming. He holed a 28-foot eagle putt on the 72nd hole Sunday for a 6-under 66, and it got him into a playoff that he won against Joakim Lagergren in the Irish Open.

Mcllroy won for the fourth time this year, following victories at Pebble Beach, The Players Championship and the Masters to complete the career Grand Slam.

Thomas Bjorn made a 35-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff with Cameron Percy to win the Stifel Charity Classic for his first individual victory on the PGA Tour Champions.

Bjorn closed with a 4-under 67 to match Percy - who birdied three of the last four holes in regulation for a 64 - at 12-under 201 at Norwood Hills Country Club.

The 54-year-old Bjorn won for the second time this year on the 50-and-over tour after teaming with Darren Clarke to take the American Family Insurance Championship in June in Madison, Wisconsin. The Dane won 15 times on the European Tour and captained Europe's winning Ryder Cup team in the 2018 matches in France.

Percy, from Australia, missed a chance for his first senior victory.

Nuria Iturriz of Spain closed with a 4-under 68 for a two-shot victory over Charley Hull (69) and Carlota Ciganda (64) in the Aramco Houston Championship. It was her fourth career title on the Ladies European Tour.

Taiga Nagano birdied three of his last six holes for a 2-under 68 to win the Fujisankei Classic by one shot, his first victory on the Japan Golf Tour. The tournament was shortened to 54 holes because of rain that washed out the second round.

Hugo Townsend closed with a 1-un-



Members of the USA team pose for photos with the winner's trophy after defeating the Great Britain and Ireland team in the Walker Cup golf tournament at Cypress Point Club in Pebble Beach, Calif. (AP)

der 69 for a two-shot victory in the GAC Rose Challenge Tour in Poland. It was the Swede's first Challenge Tour victory.

Austin Bautista rallied with an 8-un-

der 62 to win the SunBet Challenge by one shot on the Sunshine Tour in South Africa.

Scott Hend closed with a 5-under 67 for a two-shot victory in the European

Legends Cup on the Legends Tour

Yuna Araki closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory in the Golf5 Ladies on the Japan LPGA, a tournament shortened to 36 holes.

Hyunjo Yoo successfully defended her title in the KB Financial Group Star Championship with a 1-under 71 for a four-shot victory. Those are her only two titles on the Korea LPGA.

Ashkanani likely to miss season

Kuwait Club confirms Amouri extension

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Kuwait Club has confirmed the extension of star midfielder Amro Abdel Fattah "Amouri" until 2031. Amouri joined the club in August 2022 after starting his career at Khaitan and later playing for Egypt's Al-Masry Club.

The club is meticulously preparing its squad ahead of the Zain Premier League season, which kicks off Saturday against Al-Tadamoon. Kuwait Club has bolstered its roster by signing English professional Sam Morsi and recalling Moroccan midfielder Mahdi Barhouma to replace Congolese Hinoque Baka, who continues to recover from a long-term injury. Additionally, the contracts of Bahraini Mohammed Marhoon, Congolese Arsene "Malik" Zola, and Tunisian Yassine Khenissi have been renewed.

In a friendly, Al-Arabi defeated Al-Tadamoon 2-1, with goals from Julian Ngui and Christopher John. Portuguese coach Marco Alves utilized the match to give young players significant playing time, evaluating their



Amouri controls the ball against Kazma.

readiness ahead of the league opener against Al-Shabab on Friday.

Al-Arabi midfielder Husain Ashkanani suffered a torn ACL and is scheduled for surgery this Thursday. He is expected to miss the remainder of the year if his recovery goes as planned.

Kazma is set to welcome back Beninese professional Samson Akinola,

who missed the team's training camp in Turkey due to residency issues. He is expected to join training within the next day or two as Kazma prepares to face Al-Salmiya in Sunday's league opener. The squad also includes Algerian Idriss Chaoubi and three Jordanians: Ali Ezaiza, Youssef Abu Jazar, and Anas Al-Awadhat.

Kuwait U-19 handball team drawn into Group B at Asian Youth Games

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: The draw for the 3rd Asian Youth Games has placed Kuwait's U-19 handball team, in Group B alongside China and India. Group A features Bahrain, Jordan, and Thailand; Group C includes Iran, the UAE, Kazakhstan, and Hong Kong; while Group D comprises Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Uzbekistan, and the Maldives. The tournament will be held in Bahrain from October 22 to 31.

Meanwhile, the third round of the Kuwait Handball Premier League kicks off today at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Kazma will face Qadsia at 5:00 PM, followed by Al-Salmiya against Kuwait Club at 6:30 PM. Tomorrow, Al-Sulaibikhat takes on Al-Arabi, and Burgan plays Al-Nasr.

Kuwait Club currently leads the league with four points after two rounds, while Kazma, Al-Arabi, and Burgan have three points each. Al-Salmiya has two points, Al-Sulaibikhat has one, and both Qadsia and Al-Nasr are yet to score.

In today's opening match, Kazma aims to extend its winning streak after defeating Al-Sulaibikhat in the previous round. Qadsia, on the other hand, is seeking its first win of the season after consecutive losses, setting up a fiery clash between the "Oranges" and the "Yellows."

In other news, Asian Handball Federation President Badr Al-Dhiab confirmed his support for Bahrain Handball Feder-



Players fighting for the ball during a league match in Kuwait.

ation President Ali Ishaqi, who has submitted his candidacy for IHF Vice President for the 2025-2029 term.

The elections will take place during the 40th IHF Congress on December 21 in Cairo, Egypt, covering positions for IHF President, First Vice President, Secretary-General, three Executive Committee members, and heads of the main committees.

Kuwait Club, Qadsia and Kazma ready for Arab Club Champ'ship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, UAE, Sept 8: The 37th Arab Club Basketball Championship, set to take place in Dubai, UAE, from September 25 to October 6, has delivered a balanced draw for the Kuwaiti teams.

Kuwait Club was drawn into Group B alongside Bahrain's Al-Manama, Libya's Al-Ahly Tripoli, and Lebanon's Al-Antouni. Qadsia joins Group A with host UAE's Al-Nasr, Syria's Al-Fidaa Homs, and Yemen's Shaab Hadramout. Kazma is in Group C with Qatar's Al-Arabi, Oman's Al-Seeb, and Yemen's Al-Mina'a, while Group D features Lebanon's Al-Hikma, Syria's Al-Wehda, Oman's Al-Bashaer, and Qatar's Al-Rayyan.

The tournament will begin with a round-robin group stage, after which all teams advance to the round of 16. Matchups are set so that the first-place team of each group faces the fourth-place team of the paired group, while second-place teams meet third-place teams, ensuring competitive clashes leading to the quarterfinals.

Kuwait Club is preparing with an overseas training camp in Belgrade, Serbia, under Serbian coach Dušan Stojković. Qadsia will train in Cairo, Egypt, starting September 14, guided by Turkish coach Andak Baysir. Meanwhile, Kazma has reinstated Slovenian coach Bojan Lazic, who led the squad two seasons ago, and will hold a training camp in Dubai one week before the championship.



A file photo of Qadsia and Kazma competing in the last Arab tournament.

Best of the Rest

Álvarez gets 10-month ban: Athletic Bilbao player Yeray Álvarez was handed a 10-month ban by UEFA on Monday for failing a banned substance test due to taking a medicine to prevent hair loss caused by cancer treatment.

The Spanish defender failed a drug test after Athletic lost to Manchester United in the Europa League semifinals in May and accepted a voluntary provisional suspension in early June, UEFA said.

Following an investigation by two inspectors from UEFA's ethics and disciplinary department, the governing body has suspended Álvarez for a period of 10 months. The ban will end on April 2 next year and applies to all competitions. (AP)

□ □ □

Leverkusen hires Hjulmand: Former Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand was hired Monday to lead Bayer Leverkusen as a replacement for Erik ten Hag following the Dutchman's abrupt firing last week.

Hjulmand has been out of work since leaving the Danish national team following its last-16 exit at the European Championship in 2024, after four years in charge.

It will be Hjulmand's second stint in the Bundesliga, after less than a year with Mainz in the 2014-15 season.

"I have always seen Bayer 04 as a very well-managed, well-structured and highly ambitious club," the 53-year-old Hjulmand said. "This impression has been confirmed in recent days. It's an honor to be entrusted with a team like this." (AP)

Tunisia qualifies for World Cup with late win

TUNIS, Sept 8, (AP): Mohamed Ali Ben Romdhane sent Tunisia to the World Cup with a goal in the fourth minute of injury time that secured a 1-0 win over Equatorial Guinea on Monday in qualifying.

Romdhane was teed up by fellow substitute

Firas Chaouat to slot home the late winner and spark wild celebrations for the visitors on the track behind the goal.

Tunisia needed a win to secure a spot at next year's tournament in North America with two games to spare. It tops Group H with 22 points

from eight games, 10 points ahead of second-place Namibia, which has a game in hand. Tunisia has yet to concede a goal in qualifying.

It is the seventh time that Tunisia has qualified for the World Cup, and third in a row. It went out in the group stage in 2018 and 2022.

'The long throw-in is back'

Tuchel revives retro style for World Cup push

LONDON, Sept 8, (AP): Long throw-ins. Long balls from the goal-keeper. Crosses into the box.

All of these old-school options are on the table for Thomas Tuchel, with the England coach ready to go back to basics to improve his team's attacking threat ahead of next year's World Cup.

England has won its first four matches in World Cup qualifying and Tuchel is already planning ahead to the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

If England does qualify, Tuchel seems to want his players to use tactics that were once mainstays of the English game but appeared to have gone out of fashion.

"I told you - the long throw-in is back," Tuchel said, speaking ahead of England's World Cup qualifier against Serbia on Tuesday.

"But we do not have a lot of time. But once we arrive at the World Cup, all these things matter, so we will also talk about long throw-ins,

we will talk about long kicks from the goalkeeper and not only playing short. ... I need to reflect now with

my assistant coaches. All these patterns are back and crosses are back as well."



England's head coach Thomas Tuchel gestures as he speaks to England's Tino Livramento during the World Cup Group K qualifying match between England and Andorra at Villa Park stadium in Birmingham. (AP)

One of England's goals in the underwhelming 2-0 win over Andorra on Saturday was from a cross, with Declan Rice heading in from Reece James' delivery.

There has been a trend in recent years of goalkeepers starting attacks by playing shorts passes to defenders - an approach favored by pioneers like Pep Guardiola and then copied by many of his peers - rather than booting the ball long to a big striker, as was tradition in English soccer in the 1970s and '80s as well as in places like Sweden.

However, the rise in teams pressing high up the field has given goalkeepers the option of beating the press by sending the ball long.

As for long throw-ins, a study by The Athletic at the end of last season showed they were back in fashion among some teams in the Premier League, increasing year-on-year since the 2020-21 season.

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NEWS



In this file photo, Athletic Bilbao's Yeray Alvarez, front, kicks the ball during the Europa League opening phase soccer match between Fenerbahce and Athletic Bilbao at Sukru Saracoglu stadium, in Istanbul, Turkey. Alvarez got 10-month ban after taking banned substance in hair-loss treatment. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait U-23 faces Japan in decisive Group B clash

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

NAYPYIDAW, Sept 8: Victory is the only option for Kuwait's U-23 Olympic soccer team if it hopes to qualify for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup finals. The team faces Japan today at 3:30 PM at Thuwunna Stadium in the third and final round of Group B qualifiers. In the same group, Afghanistan will meet Myanmar in a secondary match.

Kuwait currently sits second in Group B with 4 points, trailing Japan, which tops the group with 6 points. Only the group winners and the four best runners-up across 11 groups will advance to the finals in Saudi Arabia next year, making today's match decisive.

Kuwait opened the qualifiers with a 0-0 draw against Myanmar, followed by a 1-0 victory over Afghanistan in the second round. Croatian coach Dario Bessic knows the challenge against a perfect Japan side will be tough. Success will require full concentration from all players from the first minute and careful disruption of Japan's key attacking threats.

Bessic has selected a fully fit squad of 23 players, with the exception of Youssef Majid, who is suspended after receiving two yellow cards in the second-round match against Afghanistan.

The lineup is expected to remain consistent with the previous matches, featuring Abdulrahman Ajaj, Bandar Al-Barazi, Mohammed Al-Sharifi, Saleh Al-Muhtab, Jassem Al-Anzi, Jassem Al-Mutar, Montaser Abdul-salam, Omar Al-Mutar, Omar Al-Azmi, Abdullah Al-Ghaniman, Jarah Al-Halili, Ahmed Boudi, Muadh Al-Asima, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, and Saud Qasem.

Kuwait enters the match determined to secure the three points needed to keep their Asian Cup hopes alive.



Kuwait's U-23 squad huddles for a crucial team talk ahead of its match.

Al-Ajmi leads the way as Kuwait clinches 5 medals



The Kuwait karate team poses with officials during the closing ceremony.

SHAOGUAN, China, Sept 8, (KUNA: The Kuwait karate team wrapped up its participation in the 23rd Asian Junior Karate Championship in Shaoguan, China, securing an impressive five medals: one gold, one silver, and three bronze.

Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi led the way with a gold medal in the under-55 kg category. Jassim Bafqair added silver in the over-84 kg division, while Ali Al-Ajmi earned bronze in the under-60 kg category. Turki Al-Ibrahim and Abdullah Al-Qattami also contributed with bronze

medals in the over-76 kg and under-57 kg divisions, respectively.

The Kuwaiti delegation featured 25 players and showcased strong performances across multiple weight categories during the championship, held from September 5 to 7.

Alcaraz reasserts superiority over Sinner

Spaniard secures 6th Grand Slam title at US Open

NEW YORK, Sept 8, (AP): So maybe the first U.S. Open final between young, elite rivals Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner wasn't as long, riveting, and dramatic as their matchup to decide the championship at the French Open. Perhaps it wasn't as seemingly meaningful and plot-driven as their showdown for the Wimbledon trophy. With this victory, the 22-year-old Spaniard secured his second Grand Slam title of the season and became the second-youngest player in the Open Era to win six Grand Slam titles after Bjorn Borg.

Still, what the No. 2-seeded Alcaraz's 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over No. 1 Sinner on Sunday did was significant. Alcaraz reasserted his superiority over the defending champion, wrested away the top spot in the ATP rankings, and left tennis fans eager for their next clash will come.

They are the first two men in the



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, returns a shot to Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, during the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York.(AP)

sport's history to face each other in three consecutive Grand Slam finals within a single season.

"I'm seeing you more than my family," Alcaraz joked during the trophy ceremony, eliciting a grin from Sinner. "It's great to share the court, to share the locker rooms, everything."

This 2-hour, 42-minute win gave Alcaraz, a 22-year-old from Spain, leads over Sinner, a 24-year-old from Italy, of 10 -5 in their head-to-head series, 6-4 in total Grand Slam trophies, and 2-1 in U.S. Open championships.

"I give lots of credit to him, because he handled the situation better than I

did," said Sinner, who lamented that his own play was too predictable. "He raised his level when he had to."

The match's start was delayed for about a half-hour while thousands of fans were stuck outside Arthur Ashe Stadium going through extra security because President Donald Trump sat in a sponsor's suite.

Perhaps the extra wait got to Sinner, although he insisted afterward that it did not. Right from the beginning, under a closed roof because of rain earlier in the day, he was outplayed by Alcaraz.

"You were better than me," Sinner said. "I tried my best today. I couldn't do more."

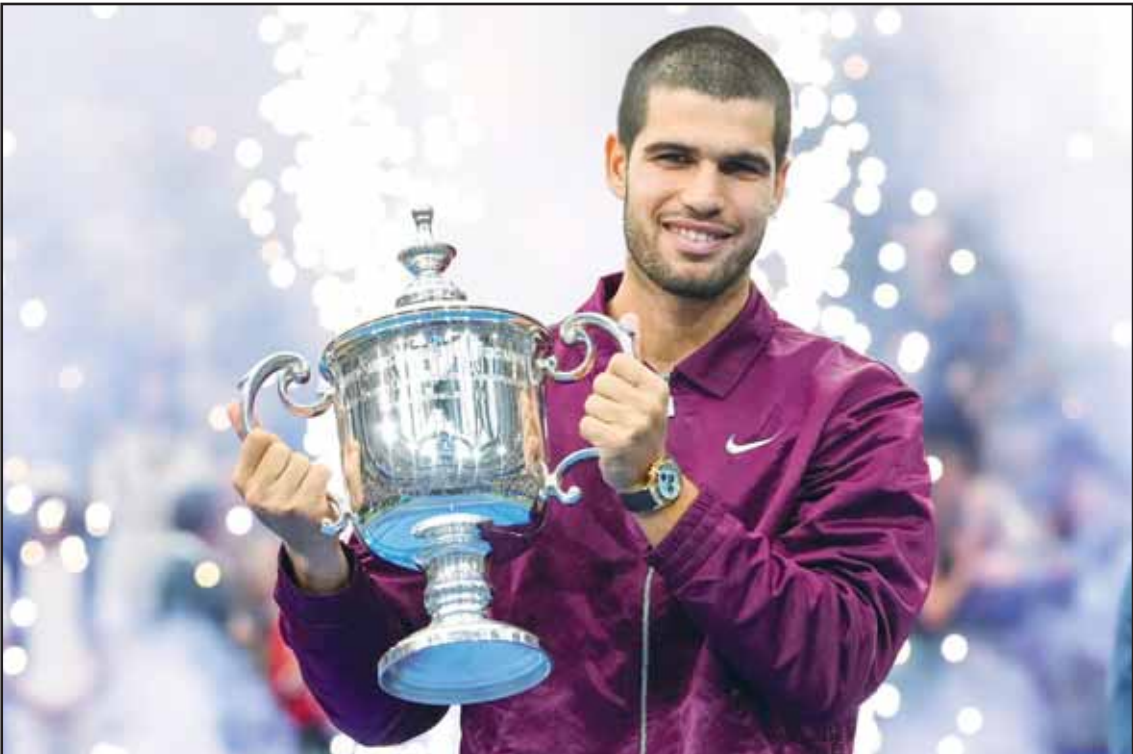
This hard-court matchup followed Alcaraz's victory over Sinner across 5 1/2 hours after erasing a trio of match points on the red clay at Roland-Garros in June, and Sinner's victory over two-time reigning champ Alcaraz on the grass at the All England Club in July.

"The things ... I did well in London," Sinner said, "he did better today."

These guys are so, so much better than the rest of men's tennis at the moment. Their traits are unique, their strengths multiple, their games untouchable.

They have combined to collect the past eight Slam trophies - four each - and 10 of 13. Novak Djokovic, the 24-time major champ eliminated by Alcaraz on Friday, took the other three.

Both Sinner, who had won his past 27 hard-court matches at majors, and



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Jannik Sinner, of Italy, in the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Alcaraz offered glimpses Sunday of why they are so good, although it was rare that both were at a peak simultaneously.

Alcaraz, who ended up with twice as many winners, 42-21, was superb in the first, third, and fourth sets; Sinner's top efforts arrived in the second. During his defeat at Wimbledon, Al-

caraz was caught by a camera telling his team in Spanish, "From the back of the court, he's much better than me."

Perhaps that's why Alcaraz was aggressive on Sunday with his sledgehammer of a forehand. Whenever the smallest opening presented itself, Alcaraz barged through with that shot, going big early in points, which often

worked.

Sinner had dropped a total of one service game in his preceding three matches, but Alcaraz broke right away Sunday and five times in all.

Sinner made a tactical switch in the second set, going after Alcaraz's backhand when possible.

Paid off. Briefly.

Depay becomes Netherlands' all-time top scorer; Spain routs Türkiye

Germany gets first victory in World Cup qualifying

MADRID, Sept 8, (AP): Memphis Depay became the Netherlands' outright all-time top scorer with two goals in a 3-2 win at Lithuania in World Cup qualifying. Depay scored his 51st and 52nd goals for the Netherlands, surpassing the 50 scored by Robin van Persie, according to FIFA.

The 31-year-old Depay got the opening goal of the match in Kaunas in the 11th and the winner in the 63rd.

The Netherlands tops Group G with 10 points from four matches.

Poland defeated Finland 3-1 at home with Robert Lewandowski among the scorers for the hosts. Poland, which has played five games, also has 10 points. Third-placed Finland has seven points.

Mikel Merino scored a hat trick and Pedri added a brace as Spain routed Türkiye 6-0 to lead Group E with six points from two matches.



Germany's Florian Wirtz, left, takes control of the ball during the FIFA World Cup Group A qualifying soccer match between Germany and Northern Ireland at RheinEnergieStadion stadium in Cologne, Germany. (AP)

"I'm proud of these players, of this national team, of how we are representing the country," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said. "This team keeps growing and growing, and I'm the first one to be surprised." Ferran Torres also scored for

the defending European champions in the away victory.

Second-placed Georgia beat Bulgaria 3-0 and trails Spain by three points.

Spain will host Georgia next month. Germany picked up its first win in

Group A, thanks to second-half goals by Nadiem Amiri and Florian Wirtz in a 3-1 home win over Northern Ireland.

Germany, which had opened with a 2-0 loss at Slovakia, next hosts Luxembourg in Sinsheim on Oct. 10.

Also Sunday, Slovakia beat Luxembourg 1-0 to top the group with six points. Kevin De Bruyne and Jeremy Doku scored a pair of goals each as Belgium cruised to a 6-0 win over Kazakhstan in Brussels to move to second place in Group I.

Belgium has 10 points from four matches, one point less than North Macedonia, which routed Liechtenstein 5-0 in Skopje and remains undefeated in the group after five games - three wins and two draws. North Macedonia's opener came after Eljif Elmas brilliantly overcame five different challenges ahead of an own-goal by Liechtenstein goalkeeper Benjamin Buchel.

Tottenham says club is 'not for sale'

LONDON, Sept 8, (AP): Tottenham has insisted the club is not for sale after rejecting two preliminary expressions of interest for a possible takeover.

In a statement released, Tottenham said one of the expressions of interest came from PCP International Finance Limited, the investment vehicle led by Amanda Staveley - who brokered the 2021 buyout of Newcastle that was largely funded by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

Tottenham's future is under scrutiny following the sudden departure of long-time chairman Daniel Levy last week.

ENIC Sports & Developments Holdings Ltd is the club's majority shareholder with a reported 87% stake and has been run since 2022 by the family trust of British billionaire Joe Lewis, who pleaded guilty last year to insider trading and conspiracy charges. Levy and his family reportedly hold about a 30% stake in ENIC.

Tottenham's board said it had "received, and unequivocally rejected, separate preliminary expressions of interest in relation to proposals to acquire" ENIC. The second expression of interest, the board said, came from a consortium of investors led by Roger Kennedy and Wing-Fai Ng through Firehawk Holdings Limited.

"The board of the club and ENIC confirm that Tottenham Hotspur is not for sale," the statement said, "and ENIC has no intention to accept any such offer to acquire its interest in the club."

Tottenham said last week there would be "no changes to the ownership or shareholder structure of the club" in light of the departure of Levy, a divisive figure whose nearly 25-year tenure made him the longest-serving chairman in the Premier League.

Tottenham is playing in the Champions League this season after winning the Europa League in May for its first trophy in 17 years.