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## Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

# Saudi Arabia and the UAE: Their power is vital

THE relationship between the two largest Gulf states – Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – is often highlighted, as the close ties between these two nations are significant, making them the economic and political center of gravity of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) system.

Meanwhile, their geographical location makes them the most influential soft power in the Arab world and their influence is felt internationally.

This reality makes them, along with the rest of the countries in this system, a subject of scrutiny, as they are positively perceived by the people in the region or by countries worldwide seeking to strengthen economic and political relations with the region.

Conversely, if there is a negative view from outsiders seeking to undermine stable countries, they will seize the opportunity to drive a wedge between the two largest Arab soft powers, which will then weaken the region as a whole.

Hence, the world views the economic power of the two countries (Saudi Arabia and the UAE) as a globally influential and competitive force. This is why attempts to undermine them are frequent.

In recent years, we witnessed a great deal of insinuation in Western and some Arab media outlets aimed at destabilizing the two nations, but all of these attempts have failed.

Therefore, the visit of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman could be considered a fatal blow to those seeking to undermine the two countries.

At the same time, it is a strong indication that fraternal understanding regarding regional and international issues is the basis of Gulf action.

These factors push for greater inter-

national power in handling major issues.

Once the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the two countries reaches \$1.9 trillion or more, along with the support of rest of the Gulf states, these countries can impose their conditions without any obstacles.

Hence, integration among the countries of the GCC system as a whole, particularly economically, leads to stronger soft power that attracts many elements, especially in defusing tensions. The Gulf circles are working on this through what can be called a deliberate distribution of roles based on a unified vision regarding global and regional developments and their repercussions on the Gulf.

Without a doubt, economic unity among members of the organization and the unique advantages of each country could help achieve this integration, which will undoubtedly lead to better participation that serves the entire Arab world.

At the conclusion of his visit to Riyadh, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed clearly stated that discussions focused on “the importance of working toward the consolidation of the pillars of regional stability, security and peace by establishing a clear path for lasting, comprehensive and just peace.”

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# Amiri decrees name new Army chief and undersecretary of Social Affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): An Amiri decree issued on Tuesday promoted Major General Khaled Daraj Saad Al-Shuriaan to Lieutenant General and appointed him as Chief of General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army.

Article 2, the Minister of Defence has to implement the decree, and it shall be effective from the date of its issuance.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also signed a decree Tuesday appointing Dr. Khaled Amer Hamad Al-Ajmi as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs is to implement the decree, which shall be effective from the date of its issuance, and be published in the official gazette.

# Kuwait slams Israel strike on Qatar as ‘grave threat’



Smoke rises from an explosion, allegedly caused by an Israeli strike, in Doha, Qatar on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. (AP)

## Doha blast targets Hamas leaders amid ceasefire talks

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (Agencies): Kuwait vehemently denounced on Tuesday the Israeli occupation’s attack on Qatar, calling it a dangerous threat to the region’s security and stability.

The Foreign Ministry stressed in a statement that this is a blatant violation to all international laws, directly undermining international safety and peace.

Kuwait reiterated the necessity for the Security Council to take responsibility in safeguarding international peace and security and take serious steps to put an end to the systematized Israeli occupation’s aggression against the region.

Kuwait expressed its total support to Qatar in all the measures it would take to preserve its stability and sovereignty, and guarantee the safety of its nationals and residents.

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## Other Voices

# India’s Goods and Services Tax Reforms 2.0: A paradigm shift

By Dr. Adarsh Swaika

Indian Ambassador to Kuwait

India is set to implement a significant overhaul of its Goods and Services Tax (GST) system, effective September 22, 2025, coinciding with the start of the auspicious festival season. This comes soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day Speech on 15 August 2025 about his intention to unveil the next Generation Reforms in GST soon. These GST reforms are anchored on three core pillars: structural reforms, rate rationalization, and procedural simplification.

Under the new system, the GST structure will be streamlined into two primary slabs: 5%, and 18%, with addition of a new slab of 40% rate solely for luxury and sin goods such as high-end vehicles, tobacco products, and aerated drinks. The previous 4-tier GST system, which included higher 12% and 28% slabs, will be abolished.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was, initially, introduced in India on 1 July 2017- hailed as India’s most signifi-



HE Dr Adarsh Swaika, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait

signals to global markets that India is serious about creating a predictable investor-friendly tax environment.

cant indirect tax reform since Independence. It subsumed various central and state taxes providing a unified taxation system in India.

The current reform, labeled as GST 2.0, reaffirms India’s commitment to building further simpler, fairer and growth-oriented GST framework, which will ensure ease of living for the common man, improve ease of doing business and stimulate economic growth.

Strategic Leadership

India’s GST 2.0 rationalization under Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi is being seen as a bold step in tax reforms, reinforcing the country’s intent to attract investments and sustain growth. This simplification was intended to eliminate complexities that had plagued the system since its inception, such as inverted duty structures and classification disputes. More than a domestic adjustment, GST 2.0

Continued on Page 5

# Lebanon fills Kuwait envoy post after 9 years



Lebanon’s newly appointed Ambassador, Ghadi Khoury, receives a warm welcome on his arrival in Kuwait.

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: After nine years of vacancy, the newly appointed Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait, Ghadi Khoury, arrived Monday, becoming the first ambassador appointed since 2016.

Lebanese Chargé d’Affaires Mia Al-Adham and a group of Arab ambassadors and diplomats warmly welcomed Khoury at the airport VIP lounge.

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam met with Khoury before he departed for Kuwait to assume his new duties. He provided the latter with the necessary guidance, wishing him success in strengthening bilateral relations between Lebanon and the State of Kuwait.

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## Day by Day

WE appreciate and value what His Excellency the Minister of Municipality has done, but this important facility needs more than that, by repealing the laws related to the Municipality and developing them.

Today, we started to feel that there is someone who manages the Municipality efficiently, unlike in the past when people with special needs and beneficiaries were the ones who imposed what they wanted on the municipal path and decisions.

We hope that this past will not return, and that we see a purer future.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Gulf Bank concludes its participation in the orientation

8 forum for students at the Public Authority for Applied Education & Training



ZAHl joins talabat as the platform expands its offering beyond food

8 Belt & Road Summit opens Sept 10 in Hong Kong



Photo by Samer Shiger  
Group photo during the 15th meeting of the Committee of Heads and Directors of Tax Administrations in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries.

## Excise rules expansion weighed

# Unified tax system key to GCC ‘competitiveness’, says Kuwait

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Al-Munifi has stressed the need to develop the tax system and achieve financial sustainability in order to reach economic integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

In her speech at the 15th meeting of the Committee of Heads and Directors of Tax Administrations in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries held Tuesday in Kuwait, Al-Munifi revealed this

is part of a series of meetings aimed to coordinate the efforts of tax authorities in the GCC countries to establish mechanisms that contribute to the development and unification of tax policies to serve the interests of the GCC countries and their peoples.

She looks forward to signing the annex to amend the unified excise tax agreement at the financial and economic cooperation meeting that will be held in October in Kuwait by the finance ministers of the GCC countries.

Continued on Page 5

# Kuwait legislative reforms aim to strengthen integrity, growth

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has been undergoing a comprehensive reform of legislations aimed at strengthening foundations of civilizational, economic and social development through an integrated strategic vision that boosts comprehensive growth.

The upcoming government amendments are based on a set of fundamental principles, like enhancing governance and transparency, ensuring integration and consistency of legislation, keeping pace with digital transformation, promoting values of integrity and

anti-corruption, and drawing inspiration from the best Gulf, Arab and international practices.

These new legislations aim to create an integrated framework for sustainable developmental progress.

In an open meeting held last month with lawyers at the Kuwait Bar Association, Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait emphasized that there is a direct directive from the political leadership and a green light to implement a comprehensive review of the legislative system.

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:09	Asr .....	15:16
Sunrise ..	05:29	Maghrib ..	18:01
Zohr .....	11:45	Isha .....	19:19

# Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h causing rising dust.			
By Night: Rather hot to mild with light to moderate northwest-			
erly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	47	35	
Kuwait Airport	47	26	
Abdaly	48	28	
Bubyan	47	20	
Jahra	48	31	
Salmiyah	45	36	
Ahmadi	46	31	
Nuwaisib	47	30	
Wafra	47	27	
Salmiy	45	24	



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

## Al-Budaiwi praises Gulf sustainability initiatives

# ‘GCC a model for climate action’

MANAMA, Sept 9, (KUNA): Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi affirmed Tuesday that GCC states have become an inspiring model in balancing economic growth, sustainability, and climate challenges.

This came in his address at the Second Global Conference on Water, Energy, and Climate, which kicked off today and was attended by Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, along with ministers, specialists, and experts from around the world.

Al-Budaiwi noted that the world faces unprecedented challenges from climate change and mounting pressures on water and energy, stressing that GCC states, under their leaders' guidance, are turning these challenges into opportunities by advancing regional integration and reinforcing water, energy, and food security.

He highlighted the ambitious national strategies of member states toward carbon neutrality, the UAE targets 44 pct clean energy by 2050, Bahrain seeks 20 pct renewable energy by 2035 and net zero by 2060, Saudi Arabia aims for 50 pct renewable energy by 2030 and carbon neutrality in 2060. Kuwait targets 15 pct renewable power generation by 2035 and carbon neutrality in 2050, Oman pursues 30 pct renewables by 2030, 39 pct by 2040, and net zero in 2050, while Qatar plans to meet 20 pct of its energy needs from renewables by 2030.

He stressed that these strategies reflect the GCC's commitment to climate responsibility, innovation, technology, and human capital investment, strengthening supply security and multiplying the economic and social impact of sustainable energy projects.



KUNA photo  
The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council during his participation in the Second International Conference on Water, Energy and Climate Change in Manama.

and human capital investment, strengthening supply security and multiplying the economic and social impact of sustainable energy projects.

Al-Budaiwi expressed confidence in the region's determination, capabilities, and institutions to play a leading role in global sustainability, thanking the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting the conference and voicing hope that it yields substantive recommendations to advance Gulf and international efforts toward a more sustainable future.

## Other Voices

## Dr. Al-Dosari's operations

By Ahmed alsarraf

I write this article to praise not only the efforts and creativity of Dr. Saad Al-Dosari, Director of Sabah Al-Ahmad Kidney and Urology Center, but also all doctors who are similar to him in character, experience and understanding.

My testimony regarding him is biased, as he is the doctor who takes care of my health at the center. However, what is due must be mentioned. Dr. Al-Dosari and his medical team achieved the first-of-its-kind accomplishment in Kuwait and the region.

They successfully performed 10 telesurgeries using the latest surgical robotic technology and advanced medical communication, establishing Kuwait as a prominent figure on the map of global medical development.

This project began in December 2024, when the first remote surgery in the Middle East was performed.

Dr. Al-Dosari performed the operation in Shanghai, China – 7,000 kilometers away from Kuwait. The patient was lying in the operating room at Sabah Al-Ahmad Center, where he used direct link technologies and an advanced surgical robot to perform the operation.

The successful operation marked a turning point in the future of surgical procedures in the country and the region.

Achievements followed, as the same medical team performed seven more remote surgeries in April and June 2025 from Shanghai, averaging one major surgical case per day. All were successful.

This step not only demonstrated the country's high medical competence, but also the advanced digital infrastructure and healthcare workforce.

The medical team published the results of these eight surgeries in peer-reviewed medical journals. This qualified the performers to at-

tend the annual conference of the International Society of Robotic Surgeons, held in Strasbourg, France.

They attended the conference, accompanied by Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi and his delegation.

From there, Dr. Al-Dosari performed two remote surgeries on patients in Kuwait. The surgeries were broadcasted live at the conference halls, with more than 2,500 attendees, including senior physicians.

This brought the total number of robotic surgeries performed by the Kuwaiti team to 10. It is a record in the history of the Kuwaiti and global healthcare sector, especially since it included operations performed in two different countries and continents (China and France).

In recognition of this great achievement, he received well-deserved congratulations from higher authorities that commended his efforts, his medical team and all Kuwaiti healthcare professionals.

They considered this achievement evidence of what Kuwaiti competencies can do when the will and technology are present.

For your information, remote surgery is a medical revolution in modern surgery. It enables surgical expertise to reach remote areas or facilities lacking highly specialized expertise, while reducing surgical response time in emergency cases.

It enables collaboration with international centers to perform complex robotic surgeries, eliminating the need to send the patient abroad or invite doctors to the country.

Furthermore, it plays a vital role in enhancing the efficiency of medical training and education through the ability to monitor operations remotely.

This national achievement is a model worthy of emulation in the use of modern technology to better serve humanity and put Kuwait among the leading countries in remote robotic surgery, paving the way for further developments in the health sector.

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# Kuwait ‘strengthens’ support for women athletes with UN backing

PAS focuses on training and empowerment programs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) discussed on Tuesday with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, Reem Al-Salem, issues related to supporting and empowering women in the fields of awareness and sports, as well as combating violence against female athletes.

PAS said in a press statement that its Acting Director General, Deputy Director General for Financial and Administrative Affairs Fatima Sayed Hashem, and Deputy Director General for the Sports for All Sector Haya Al-Daham received Al-Salem as part of her visit to Kuwait.

The visit “comes within the framework of increasing efforts to provide a safe and inclusive sports environment,” she explained. Al-Salem met with a number of PAS officials to discuss mechanisms to support female athletes and develop their skills,



The General Sports Authority presents a commemorative shield to Reem Al-Salem on the occasion of her visit to the country.

in addition to formulating effective strategies to address violence in all its forms.

The meeting focused on “the importance of developing awareness and training programs for coaches and sports officials on how to deal with cases of violence and report them, if any, as well as providing psychological support to affected female athletes and safe communication channels for

them to report any violations without fear,” she added.

During the meeting, officials from PAS reviewed plans to empower women in leadership positions, in addition to increasing support for female players by approving professional sports opportunities, sports leave, and vacations to enhance their efficiency.

The Authority highlighted its ef-

forts to expand the establishment of new clubs in accordance with the state's plan, maintain and utilize facilities, halls, and stadiums of existing clubs, and encourage the appointment of women to administrative and leadership positions in sports federations and clubs, ensuring decisions related to women's sports are informed by a deep understanding of the challenges and needs of female players.

According to the statement, Al-Salem expressed her satisfaction with the achievements of women's sports in Kuwait and praised the significant role played by PAS in supporting, nurturing, and empowering women, as well as the contributions of its various sectors at technical and administrative levels in implementing the directives of the political leadership.

The meeting was attended by officials of women's sports clubs, including the President of Salwa Al-Sabah Club, Sheikhha Naima Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; the Vice President of Al-Fatah Club, Samia Al-Makimi; member of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee and head of the Women's Committee, Fatima Hayat; rowing player and Vice President of the Athletes Committee of the Olympic Committee, Dr. Suad Al-Faqan; and several female players.



Group photo of the participants in the meeting.

KUNA photos

## GCC unites against money laundering

## Kuwait hosts 20th Security Media Committee meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states attach great importance to combating organized crime and money laundering, given their grave impact on national, regional, and international security and economies.

Against this backdrop, the 20th meeting of the GCC Security Media Committee convened Tuesday in Kuwait, chaired by Director General of the Interior Ministry's Public Relations and Security Media Department Brigadier Nasser Abu Sulaib.

The Interior Ministry said in a press statement that the meeting was held on the sidelines of a workshop on preparing the GCC strategy to combat money laundering crimes, hosted by Kuwait in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office, continuing until Thursday.

Abu Sulaib conveyed greetings of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah to participants, wishing them success in the meeting and the accompanying workshop.

He underlined the keenness of GCC interior ministries to strength-

en security cooperation, exchange expertise, and build specialized national capacities in line with international standards and best global practices.

Abu Sulaib added that holding this meeting reflects the GCC's commitment to enhancing security media cooperation, unifying visions and joint strategies to support security efforts, and keeping pace with evolving challenges, particularly in combating money laundering and organized crime.

He expressed hope that the meeting and workshop would produce practical recommendations contributing to national and Gulf security and achieving common objectives.

The agenda includes discussions on bolstering GCC media partnership, unifying awareness campaigns, developing communication channels with the public, and reviewing cooperation frameworks to support the GCC's comprehensive anti-money laundering strategy.

Participants will also address media matters related to the joint field exercise to be hosted by Qatar in early 2026.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Namaa Charity, which is affiliated with the Social Reform Society, on Tuesday launched the Humanitarian Action Platform in order to develop modern tools that guarantee the efficiency of charitable organizations, and enable them to transition from immediate response to long-term sustainable impact.

Saad Al-Otaibi, CEO of the Society, disclosed “the platform is the result of accumulated experience and established institutional practice. It serves as a bridge between thought and action, providing charitable organizations with advanced cognitive and practical tools that contribute to enhancing transparency, developing governance, supporting innovation, and achieving financial and organizational sustainability for the non-profit sector.”

He pointed out that “because Kuwait has been and continues to be a pioneer in building institutional initiatives in the field of humanitarian work, Namaa Charity realized that the current situation calls for the introduction of a project, which keeps pace with technological and organizational transformations, and provides institutions with practical tools for overcoming real-life challenges and creating impact.”

He explained that the platform is based on the central idea of transform-

ing knowledge into practice, and practice into sound institutional decisions, ultimately leading to a sustainable social and humanitarian impact.

He said the platform consists of a group of projects and resources that form an integrated system, including the Humanitarian Work Magazine, a periodic publication dedicated to tracking modern trends in the charitable sector, highlighting innovative experiences, and promoting a culture of knowledge exchange between researchers and practitioners.

He added the applied resources include a package of practical guides, such as the guide to using artificial in-



Saad Al-Otaibi, CEO of Namaa Charity

telligence in charitable work, guide to preparing position papers for humanitar-



Participants of the platform launch ceremony.

Photos by Samer Shaqir

# Namaa Charity launches humanitarian action platform



## Regulating the industry, a step in the right direction

“REGULATING and developing industries are essential tasks contributing to the development of the country as a whole,” **Sheikh Eng. Fahad Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“It helps boost the gross domestic product (GDP), which we need to support with significant revenues so it is comparable to that of neighboring countries.

“Therefore, I focused on the recent Cabinet decisions related to this important sector.

“Kuwait has long needed this type of sound regulation, as it is well known that industry is the foundation of societal development.

“Many countries, whose incomes are based on industry despite their lack of raw materials, have been able to build a massive industrial system, benefiting from numerous national expertise and strategic relationships with other countries that have a surplus of raw materials.

“The importance of industry in developing other economic sectors lies in its role as a key driver of sustainable growth.

“For example, it provides numerous job opportunities, increases human capacity, promotes social stability, increases the GDP, and, as previously mentioned, fosters innovation and technology.

“It contributes to providing the goods and services needed for consumption, improves infrastructure, and develops exports to increase government revenues and reduce reliance on imported finished products, leading to sustainable and balanced economic development.

“Kuwait has a unique nature, so it needs to strengthen many productive sectors. With vast untapped land areas, the potential exists to break the impasse of dependence on imports.

“The importance of industry lies in its status as a primary source of national income and a vital element in diversifying the economy, away from dependence on oil.

“Industry also provides opportunities for value-added development and employment, particularly in the manufacturing and petrochemical sectors, which boost exports of high-value products.

“This is in addition to enabling industries support other vital sectors, such as food security and health, making industry a pillar of sustainable economic growth, and providing flexibility in the midst of oil price fluctuations.

“Any development in this sector that is based on sound regulatory processes is considered the first step on the right path toward sustainable development, founded on a sound vision that is appropriate for many developments taking place globally in various development fields.

“Given its geographical location, Kuwait is capable of becoming a major regional hub, strengthening its partnerships with the world, and developing its economy.”



Eng. Fahad

be achieved only through an effective development planning system that includes medium-term plans, annual plans, projects and programs. This is in terms of mechanisms.

“In terms of substance, development must be directed toward achieving sustainable and operational economic growth, which must exceed the population growth rate.

“This, in turn, can only be achieved in a healthy economy, free of financial distortions and economic imbalances. If this is not the case, development, through its policies, projects and programs, must be directed toward correcting this—that is, toward economic and financial reforms.

“Financial distortions are the result of economic imbalances, and vice versa, because addressing distortions and imbalances is a long-term issue. The vision and plans must be oriented toward this goal, while other goals are aligned with this context.

“Thus, development begins its path toward sustainability, but it can only be completed within other related contexts. First among these contexts is Decree-Law No. 60/2025 on Financing and Liquidity, which provides government spending with a borrowing ceiling of KD 30 billion.

“Despite the importance of its six development goals (see the law), in practice, it may have both positive and negative aspects.

“It can oscillate between being a constructive tool that enhances the role of government spending in growth through good and governed debt management and the risk of falling into a ‘debt trap’ in the absence of such management.

“This must be understood so that the price is not too high when it is repaid.

“The most important issue here is having a clear vision for the use of debt that answers vital questions, specifically: Why do we borrow, and how will we pay?

“Furthermore, having the ability to transform borrowing into a means for turning our economy from a rentier to a productive one will help us escape the debt trap, which is essentially borrowing and then borrowing again to repay the debt.

“Despite the importance of this legal mandate for borrowing, particularly for credit rating agencies, donor institutions, and investors, the concern is that borrowing could turn into financing current spending.

“This is particularly true when the budget is threatened by a deficit and in light of the ambiguity of an integrated development project.

“Fitch Ratings indicated that 70 percent of the budget deficit will be financed through borrowing.

“The six objectives justifying the aforementioned decree-law should be part of a comprehensive national project, the achievement of which requires structural economic and financial reforms.

“This is difficult to achieve in light of public finances and an economy suffering from structural imbalances. Public debt should be one of the tools for this reform.

“Parts two and three of this article will cover other contexts.”

□ □ □

“In the rapidly evolving Kuwaiti economy, where small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are growing and brands are competing for market share, commercial success no longer depends on the quality of the product or service, but rather on the ability of the entrepreneur to build a genuine emotional relationship with the customers.”

Kuwaiti writer **Eng. Talal Al-Obaid** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Recent studies indicate that the success of any commercial venture is based on social and emotional intelligence, while the role of the technical or operational side remains confined to its own scope. This equation may seem surprising to some, but it reflects the reality of the business world: the customer does not just buy the product, he buys the experience and the feeling that the merchant gives him.

“The relationship with the customer is an inexhaustible investment. In the Kuwaiti market, which is witnessing significant economic activity and growth in youth-led projects, the importance of human connection is highlighted as a crucial element in outperforming competitors. A merchant who succeeds in transforming a customer from a mere buyer into a friend of the brand not only gains a single sale, but also secures a free marketer who shares his positive experience with his social circle.

“This ‘emotional relationship’ turns a customer into a true partner in the growth of the enterprise. You will see customers recommending the product to others, defending the brand when criticized, and even feeling a sense of belonging and ownership in its success story.

“Today, business management is no longer just about numbers and financial spreadsheets, it is the art of reading and responding to customer emotions.”

— **Compiled by Mohammad Wangengi**



Dr. Maalallah

“The mere preparation of development plans does not entail that development is progressing,” **Dr. Bader Othman Maalallah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Achievement is not measured by spending. It is inappropriate to measure achievement using international indicators. Development has its own national characteristics and its indicators must reflect those characteristics.

“No matter how diverse their definitions and descriptions are — balanced, comprehensive, real, multidimensional, in reality development is development, and any addition to it is just augmentation.

“Development must include all of these descriptions, but it must be sustainable in all dimensions of such characteristics. Its indicators must reflect the dimensions and aspects of sustainability. If the components of sustainability are absent, there is no development.

“Sustainability is limited to the environment, optimal exploitation of natural resources, combating pollution and other related matters.

“However, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the United Nations expanded to 17 goals and 169 targets, to encompass most, if not all, of the challenges that developing countries are facing, such as combating poverty, health, education, gender equality and others, sustainable development has thus become a matrix covering all aspects of life. Ensuring a secure future requires meeting the terms of this matrix.

“From this framework, and in response to the realities of life and the requirements of sustainability, a fundamental question emerges and it constitutes an important entry point for sustainable development, from which other related issues arise: Can development goals be achieved while shouldering an economic mountain teeming with imbalances, accumulations and challenges that roll like a snowball and grow over time?

“Definitely, development goals can

# MoJ, human rights group seek to reform laws on expression

Kuwait moves to protect privacy and free speech

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait held discussions with the president and board members of Moqawemat Human Rights Association on reviewing legislation concerning opinion and expression, introducing alternative community-based penalties, and regulating the publication of photos of accused persons in order to ensure objectivity, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

Present at the meeting were President of the Association Dr. Yousef Al-Saqr, Board Member and General Manager Ahmad Abbas Al-Rashidi, and Board Member and Media Advisor Osama Rashid.

In a statement issued by the Association, it revealed that a joint session was convened with the participation of a team of advisors from the Ministry of Justice, during which issues concerning the human rights movement in Kuwait — including achievements, challenges and obstacles — were discussed.

They emphasized that the publication of the photos of the accused should fall under judicial authority to guarantee objectivity and prevent misuse.

The talks affirmed that civil society must fulfill its national mission, support government reforms, and always ready to cooperate with authorities in all fields.

They also explored mechanisms for estab-



Ministry of Justice photo  
Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait with the president and board members of Moqawemat Human Rights Association.

lishing a system that ensures the sustainable application of human rights principles derived from Islamic law at all levels, regardless of changes in government leadership.

They tackled ways to protect the civil rights

of children, irrespective of their background or their social and legal status in official records, and to broaden access to litigation through legislative amendments to cover certain cases currently under review.

### Navigating danger

## Fishermen trapped by pirates and rules

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9:** Concerns in the fishing sector are no longer limited to fish abundance or harsh weather, as they now extend to facing armed pirates who threaten lives and confiscate equipment, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

At the same time, government regulations are worsening the hardship, leaving the fishing profession caught between the jaws of danger and restrictions.

The fishing sector is currently facing a worsening crisis that threatens the survival of the profession and poses risks to national food security, amid attacks by armed pirates in economic waters, coupled with regulatory restrictions that limit fishing activities within territorial waters.

Hamoud Al-Hamdi, Shift Supervisor A at Sharq Fish Market, told the newspaper that five Kuwaiti fishing boats were subjected to armed pirate attacks on Sept 5, indicating the boats were stolen, including navigational equipment and supplies. “This incident happened just days after a shooting that claimed the life of an Egyptian fisherman,” he added.

He pointed out that such attacks are not new, as similar incidents previously occurred in economic waters, particularly the killing of a fisherman two years ago while performing his work.

He stated that “fishermen today are caught between the jaws of pirate attacks on one hand, and government restrictions on fishing methods on the other hand, which threaten marine food security. The crisis has exacerbated as Asian workers are now reluctant to take up fishing jobs, while Egyptian fishermen have migrated to Greece, leading to dozens of fishing boats ceasing operations recently.”

He said the current government regulations only allow the ‘trailing’ method within a 12-nautical-mile range, while prohibiting the use of effective tools such as net and trap. “This has forced fishermen to venture into distant and dangerous waters,” he disclosed.

He called for permitting the use of these tools under strict environmental regulations, stressing that protecting fishermen is now a national duty to ensure stability of fish and shrimp prices.

He also underscored the importance of strengthening the Coast Guard’s role and coordinating with neighboring countries to combat piracy.

Following are the catch statistics from Sept 1 to 6, 2025:

- Local fish: 45 tons
- Local shrimp: 44,112 tons
- Imported fish: 91,800 tons
- Imported shrimp: 22,100 tons



Part of the traffic campaign.

## 79 juveniles nabbed for driving without license

**By Munif Naif**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9:** Traffic officers arrested 79 juveniles for driving without a license over the past seven days. They were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution and the necessary legal action was taken against them.

The weekly statistics of traffic patrols indicated that 31,395 traffic violations were recorded, 29 vehicles impounded and 65 individuals referred to traffic detention.

The statistics also revealed the seizure of 66 wanted vehicles and arrest of 66 individuals wanted by law for absconding.

Moreover, 126 Residency Law violators were arrested and three individuals were referred to the Drug Control General Department.

The statistics indicated that the department dealt with 1,179 traffic accidents, resulting in 180 injuries.

A security source reiterated the call for parents to closely monitor their children and prevent them from driving without a license to avoid legal accountability.

### Crime and corruption unfold

## Kuwait’s Justice Palace delivers on heavy docket of high-profile trials

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9:** The Justice Palace halls are currently witnessing an exceptional volume of cases being heard.

Cases related to State security, corruption and premeditated murder are on the agenda, along with the trial of a minister at the Ministers’ Court, making the palace the focus of attention of litigants and judicial observers.

The Ministers’ Court continued deliberations on the case of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad -- the accused in an embezzlement case related to the Ministry of Defense. His defense team was present to monitor the trial proceedings.

This is one of the most prominent financial cases that preoccupy public opinion.

The Criminal Court deliberated on two horrific premeditated mur-

der cases. The first occurred in Abu Halifa where an expatriate was killed. Evidence and security investigations confirmed the defendant’s involvement in the crime.

The second happened in Mutlaa on the first day of Eid al-Fitr, when a husband stabbed his wife to death. This crime shocked the Kuwaiti public and its details continue to pique the interest of the people.

The court also continued the trial of a citizen accused of joining a banned group — one of the State security cases.

This is in addition to a major corruption case related to the Union of Cooperative Societies. Investigations revealed that bribes were received in exchange for passing products and giving them display priority in cooperatives.

A total of 19 suspects were arrested including cooperative members, brokers and employees of six commercial companies.

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# MEW to strengthen Amghara power grid with new stations

Tender for project currently with CAPT for review

**By Mohammad Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy intends to install two main 132/11 kV transformer stations in Amghara Industrial areas A and B to strengthen the electrical grid.**

Sources from the ministry explained that the project is part of the strategy to reinforce existing electrical networks and meet the growing demand for energy in industrial zones. They said the project aims to enhance efficiency, ensure the stability of electrical supply, and guarantee uninterrupted service for consumers in various sectors.

Sources affirmed that the two stations will

also support future urban and industrial expansion in the area by providing essential infrastructure for development and investment projects, in line with the sustainable growth vision of the State.

They indicated that the ministry had earlier requested the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to issue the tender, but CAPT postponed its decision pending receipt of an official letter from the ministry regarding certain amendments related to the project.

They stated that the project will be carried out in accordance with the latest international specifications and the most advanced technologies for transformer stations, while fully adhering to the highest safety and quality standards.

They added this step complements the ongoing efforts to upgrade the electrical infrastructure in order to keep pace with the accelerating economic and industrial developments in the country.

CAPT approved the request of the ministry to issue a tender for comprehensive electrical maintenance of equipment, systems and devices at the main workshops.

The scope of this tender includes periodic inspections, essential repairs, and replacement of equipment and systems to ensure efficiency and operational readiness, while improving safety measures to protect individuals and facilities.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef issued a ministerial decision appointing Director of the Information Technology Department at the Public Authority for Manpower Eng. Rabab Al-Osaimi as acting Director General of the Authority, succeeding former Director Marzouq Al-Otaibi.

Deputy Director General of the Authority for Labor Affairs Musaed Al-Mutairi has submitted his retirement request.



KUNA photo  
The Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a written message from his Emirati counterpart during his reception of the UAE Ambassador to the country.

## Kuwait FM receives letter from UAE Foreign Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received a letter from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, touching on the bilateral ties between the two countries.

## PAAET to oversee one-month training

### CSC sets new rules for gov’t job seekers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced on Monday that only the holders of secondary and intermediate certificates, registered in the central recruitment system, are eligible to work in government agencies in positions that require training before joining the workplace and positions for which training is provided after joining the workplace, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement on its official X account, the CSC disclosed that the training for those occupying positions before joining the workplace will last for one month in coordination with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). It added such candidates will be appointed upon completion of the training, indicating the jobs include secretarial and typing jobs, and hotel services jobs allocated to the Ministry of Health.

The CSC stated that positions for which training is provided after joining the workplace depend on the manpower needs of government agencies, and these jobs include student escort, security assistant, food preparer, transaction processing, housing supervisor and service implementer.

According to the CSC, those wishing to apply for positions requiring training before joining the workplace must register for the qualifying courses through the official website of the CSC from Monday until Sept 14.

## Kuwait’s HH Amir congratulates Tajikistan on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to President Rahmon on Tajikistan’s President Emomali Rahmon on the occasion of his country’s Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Rahmon good health and further development and prosperity for Tajikistan and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Rahmon on Tajikistan’s Independence Day, wishing him continued good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah likewise sent a congratulatory cable to President Rahmon on the occasion of Tajikistan’s Independence Day.

## New mechanism introduced

# MoSA dissolves four non-profit organizations for irregularities

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (Agencies): Kuwait’s Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah decreed that four non-profit organizations be dissolved for violating their respective executive statutes.

Ad hoc committees will be set up to account for the finances and assets of those orgs and report to the ministry pursuant to the established legal procedures, the minister said in a press release on Monday.

Today’s action falls in the framework of the Ministry’s commitment to transparency, accountability, institutional work and protection of the public interest, she stressed.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Affairs, represented by the Charitable Societies and Endowments Department, has introduced a new mechanism to regulate the process of opening donation collection links for licensed charitable projects by registered charitable societies and endowments in the country, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The new mechanism allows charitable entities (associations/endowments) to create a sub-link (donor link) if they have already obtained a license for the project for which donations are being collected, without the need to obtain approval from the ministry, provided the value of the link donation does not exceed KD15,000. However, if the value surpasses this amount, the charitable entity must obtain approval from the ministry before creating the donation link.

The new mechanism prohibits charitable associations and organizations from creating links for special cases – such as for the sick, debtors, blood money payments or any other type of fundraising for individual cases.

It also prohibits charitable organizations from creating links through payment companies, with the sole exception of the official website of the association or charity itself.

The mechanism clarifies that “the general link designated for collecting donations for alms, zakat or endowments does not require approval from the ministry, as well as the general link designated for projects already licensed by the ministry.”

The ministry stressed that this mechanism applies exclusively to charitable societies and organizations licensed to carry out domestic and international projects, which are subject to approval issued by the ministry.

It asserted that this step is in line with its commitment to regulate charitable work in the country, especially since it has already licensed several charitable societies and organizations to implement charitable projects inside and outside Kuwait, necessitating the establishment of donation links for such initiatives.



Dr. Al-Huwailah



KUNA photo  
Official bodies participating in the seventh relief flight of the second Kuwaiti airlift to Gaza.

## Kuwait’s 7th relief flight to Gaza arrives in Jordan’s Marka airport

AMMAN, Sept 9, (KUNA): The seventh aircraft of Kuwait’s humanitarian air bridge for Gaza, on Tuesday, arrived at Marka Military Airport in Jordan with 10 tons of food and aid onboard.

Organized by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in cooperation with the Ministries of Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Defense, the aid is part of the “Kuwait Is by Your Side” humanitarian campaign in urgent solidarity.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan, Hamad Al-Marri, told KUNA that Kuwait has sped to the aid of the Palestinian people, extending air bridges and sending urgent humanitarian aid since October 7 of 2023, to alleviate their suffering.

He reassured Kuwait’s unwavering stance towards the just Palestinian cause and their right to self-determination.

The Ambassador hailed the coordination between Kuwait and Jordan in guaranteeing the prompt delivery of aid.

To date, Kuwait’s second air bridge has delivered 100 tons of essential food supplies under the “Fazza for Gaza” campaign.

## UNESCO warns of global literacy gap

### Namaa renews fight against illiteracy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Abdulaziz Al-Kandari, Deputy CEO of Namaa Charity at the Social Reform Society, disclosed that literacy remains one of the most pressing humanitarian and developmental issues in the world today, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Kandari made the statement on the occasion of International Literacy Day, observed on Sept 8 every year.

Al-Kandari highlighted UNESCO’s estimates indicating that more than 771 million people worldwide—primarily women and youths—still lack even the most basic reading and writing skills, a major obstacle to societal advancement and progress.

He pointed out that literacy goes beyond the ability to read and write, because it serves as a vital gateway to human dignity, sustainable development and social harmony.

He affirmed that Namaa Charity, as an extension of the Social Reform Society, prioritizes education and the fight against illiteracy as a strategic cornerstone of its mission. He said this commitment is reflected in impactful initiatives such as “Teach Me, I Will Reward You,” university student sponsorship programs, and the Education for All Center, which have supported thousands of students in Kuwait and abroad.

He added that these initiatives play a crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal Four, which seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. He stressed that literacy is not a privilege, but an inherent human right.



Al-Kandari

## Al-Mailem appoints new dean, acting SG

# KU president reshuffles top posts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait University President Dr. Dina Al-Mailam issued a decision to terminate the appointment of Dr. Bader Al-Rajhi as Secretary General of the University, as per his request, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The decision includes assigning Dr. Noura Al-Suwaih, Vice President for Medical Sciences, to carry out the duties of the Secretary General, in addition to her current tasks, until further notice.

Kuwait University President Dr. Dina Al-Mailam issued a decision appointing Dr. Adel Malallah as Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum effective Sept 7, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the decision, which includes the termination of Dr. Khaled Al-Hazaa’s assignment as Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum.

In a separate decision, Dr. Al-Mailam appointed Dr. Adel Malallah as Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum effective Sept 7,



Dr. Al-Mailam

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Group photo during the 5th Digital Cooperation Diplomacy event.

### Call for tech-driven support to vulnerable communities

## Kuwait highlights tech solutions for global crises

RIYADH, Sept 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the Permanent Representative to the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah emphasized cooperation to face challenges using digital means, Monday.

This came in a speech by Sheikh Sabah during the 5th Digital Cooperation Diplomacy event, dubbed Diplomatic Connect, organized jointly by the Kuwaiti Embassy and the DCO.

Sheikh Sabah stressed during the event on the need of supporting humanitarian efforts to alleviate the suffering of people by utilizing digital means, emphasizing that the DCO has sought since its establishment to accelerate growth for an inclusive economy and enhance digital development.

He pointed out that this dialogue comes at a time when Kuwait places greater importance on digital transformation to serve its new Kuwait 2035 vision.

For her part, Secretary-General



KUNA photos

Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the Permanent Representative to the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah delivers a speech.

of the DCO Deemah Al-Yahya said in her speech that the event comes at a critical time as the world witnesses more than 122 million refugees due to wars and crises.

The discussion brought together ambassadors from multiple states alongside international partners in a dialogue to promote ways to harness technology for community empowerment.

# Silver level success for Kuwait's integrity drive

## Nazaha certifies 18 trainers under 'Aadaa' project

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Civil Society Cooperation Monitor at Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Yasmine Al-Sharhan said the Authority organized a training course to prepare certified trainers within the 'Aadaa' project, in cooperation with seven government agencies that reached the 'silver level'.

In a press statement, Al-Sharhan explained that for agencies to reach the 'silver level', they must train and qualify trainers to launch training programs, specifically to implement the codes of conduct for public employees in their agencies.

She revealed "we are training these trainers through three training packages that include an overview of the Code of Conduct, how to conduct corporate communications to raise awareness, and how to increase engagement be-



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Nazaha trains public sector staff under the 'Aadaa' project.

tween employees and their employers."

She stated that the number of trainers has reached 18. "After being qualified by Nazaha, they will launch these programs in their agencies for teams specialized in implementing the 'Aadaa' project, which aims to optimally implement the Code of Conduct," she added.

She said the Code of Conduct was

launched by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in 2021, and that Nazaha supports the CSC in its efforts to monitor institutions against the risks of corruption.

She indicated that the training course lasted a full day, during which government agencies were enabled to qualify their own staff, without the need to turn to the private sector.

## PAHW committee uncovers housing violations

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Women's Housing Affairs Committee at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), chaired by Sheikhha Bibi Al-Yousef, uncovered violations in Taima and Sulabiya, such as unlicensed activities in rental housing units, during its recent inspection tour in these areas.

In cooperation with the concerned authorities, the committee is keen on removing encroachments on State properties like the commercial activities outside the residential area (commercial establishments, bachelor housing and repair shops), or any other

illegal activities.

The committee affirmed that the designated teams continue to conduct field visits, headed and supervised by Sheikhha Bibi Al-Yousef, to eliminate encroachments and violations in rental housing units.

It emphasized that the expansion of a house in the future will result in a new violation being recorded against the beneficiary, and this will lead to immediate withdrawal of the housing grant.

It reiterated its commitment to provide a decent standard of living for families benefiting from rental housing units, indicating it will relocate the Taima and Sulabiya residents who

meet the conditions for the right to benefit from the areas that will be allocated for rental housing for women as soon as they are ready and completed, provided the current housing unit is handed over in good condition.

It called on the beneficiaries of rental housing units to update their data as soon as possible and follow the official accounts to be updated on developments regarding the condition of housing units.

It added that it is working with the relevant sectors in PAHW to prepare the documents related to the infrastructure in Taima and Sulabiya, and expedite the implementation of housing projects in these areas.

## Continued from Page 1

### Saudi Arabia

Thus, the visit is considered important at this sensitive stage in the history of the region as a whole, because the world is passing through a turning point that may lead to a reshaping of power centers.

Coordination and cooperation among members of an integrated system that has proven its resilience over the past four decades and emerged from fateful challenges stronger than in the past, are the foundations upon which they should build.

Constant communication between the GCC is a necessity for the world to recognize the strength of this system. It is also a positive sign assuring the peoples that there are no obstacles to the path of integration and cooperation among our brothers.

The Gulf Cooperation Council was supposed to become a union. We are waiting for that day.

### Lebanon fills

It is worth noting that Khoury is the first Lebanese ambassador to Kuwait to be appointed since 2016, as the embassy had been managed by chargés d'affaires for nine years, the last of whom was Ahmed Arafa.

Khoury served Lebanon in several countries, most recently the Vatican, where he served as ambassador to the Holy See.

### India's Goods

#### The Hat-trick of India's Economic triumph

GST 2.0 comes in at the heels of major income tax and monetary policy measures, implemented as part of broader vision to provide a strong boost to India's economic growth. To begin with, rationalized tax slabs announced in the 2025 Union Budget allowed for more disposable household income. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced repo rate to 5.5% from 6%, thus making loans cheaper with lower EMIs on homes and vehicles, while expanding credit availability for businesses. Now, GST 2.0 completes this three-pronged strategy of the Indian Government, which analysts are referring to as India's economic "hat-trick."

#### Consumer Relief and Demand Stimulation

At its core, GST 2.0 seeks to ensure that the benefits of reduced GST rates are passed on to consumers promptly and boost consumption by making everyday essentials more affordable. The recent GST reforms have made healthcare and social security more accessible by exempting GST on life and health insurance, including family and senior citizen policies, and on reinsurance, while reducing taxes on medicines and medical equipment—33 lifesaving drugs now attract zero GST, and most other healthcare essentials just 5%. Food items such as cottage cheese, packaged snacks, and essential items such as soaps, hygiene products, and smaller vehicles now fall under lower rates, directly easing household budgets. The reforms also addressed agricultural needs by slashing GST on tractors, farming machinery, and fertilizer inputs like sulphuric acid and ammonia from 18% to 5%. Further, GST on education services and learning supplies has been eliminated, reinforcing the government's focus on accessible education.

#### Sectoral Impact and Market Response

The reform is already generating optimism across markets. In the Automobiles sector, effective price drops across popular models such as SUVs and sedans are expected to spur demand. For MSMEs, simplified compliance, faster refunds, and reduced tax anomalies will free up resources for growth. The manufacturing sector is expected to see improved export competitiveness with rate adjustments and simplified processes that will benefit the textile, renewable energy, and auto parts sectors by resolving inverted duty structures (IDS). Reduced costs in the Real Estate and Construction sectors are expected to encourage both investment and consumer spending. Meanwhile, the Banking and Financial Services sector could benefit from increased lending and insurance activity, driven by lower EMIs and stronger credit demand. Stock markets have already responded favorably, signaling investor confidence in the reform's sustained economic impact.

#### Trusted Global Supplier

India's recent GST reforms are not just transforming its domestic economy – they are unlocking new opportuni-

ties for global trade partners, including Kuwait. Streamlining of taxes leads to lower transaction costs and minimize delays in supply chains, making Indian goods and services more competitive in global markets. For Kuwait, which has substantial imports from India ranging from food products, textiles, Made in India vehicles, gems and jewellery, and engineering goods etc, the reforms strengthen India's role as a reliable trade partner, and enable Kuwait to access Indian products more efficiently and at competitive rates.

#### Growth Impact and Global Competitiveness

India continues to hold its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, with Q1 of FY 2025-26 recording an estimated growth rate of 7.8%. The introduction of GST 2.0 arrives at a crucial moment, as rising global tensions and unilateral trade measures threaten to undermine international trade competitiveness. With India's growth largely driven by domestic consumption, these next-generation GST reforms are going to provide a significant stimulus to economy. By simplifying slabs and aligning with global tax practices, India enhances its competitiveness in global value chains, while also boosting its ease of doing business rankings.

#### Long-Term Significance: Viksit Bharat 2047

GST 2.0 is not just a tax reform; it is a growth engine that positions India as an attractive destination for global capital. By rationalizing taxes, simplifying compliance, and stimulating demand, it demonstrates a governance model focused on immediate impact and sustained prosperity. With GDP forecasts of 6.4 to 6.5% for FY 2025/26 from the IMF and RBI, GST 2.0 could push growth higher, supporting India's ambition of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047. India is already the 4th largest economy in the world and on track to become 3rd largest economy in the next couple of years. Overall, GST 2.0 is a transformative reset of India's tax landscape, set to create a future-ready business environment in India, one that strengthens consumer confidence, revives business sentiment, and tells the world that India means business.

### Unified tax

She commended the efforts of the heads and directors of the tax authorities and the Unified Tax System Working Group for their contributions to the discussions, preparation of studies and working papers, and submission of recommendations.

Moreover, Khalid Al-Sunaidi, Assistant Secretary General for Economic and Development Affairs at the GCC Secretariat General, affirmed this meeting complements the joint cooperation between the GCC states in the field of tax policies, which aims to unify tax frameworks, enhance economic integration among member states, and support their competitiveness at the regional and international levels.

Al-Sunaidi added that the meeting tackled several topics of common interest, especially the outcomes of the Unified Tax System Working Group for the GCC states regarding redefining energy drinks to achieve the desired goal of reducing the consumption of unhealthy products.

The meeting also touched on the development of a comprehensive electronic system that serves all types of indirect taxes, in addition to other related topics.

During the meeting, the heads and directors of the tax authorities in the GCC states discussed the recommendations and decisions reached during the 14th meeting and previous meetings, and submitted them to the undersecretaries of the ministries of finance in the GCC states.

This is in addition to the formation of a technical working group to build a comprehensive electronic system that serves all types of indirect taxes, as well as redefining energy drinks stipulated in the Unified Excise Tax Agreement in order to include all such types of drinks in line with international definitions and classifications.

### Kuwait legislative

He announced the launch of the largest legislative development plan in Kuwait's history.

The package of laws approved by the Kuwaiti government over the past year marked the beginning of a methodical reformation of the state's legal framework to achieve Kuwait Vision 2035, and to align with international laws and agreements.

Currently, legislative reviews are nearing the completion of 25 percent of the laws.

These new laws, alongside full-scale development, have

produced positive economic outcomes, reflected in improved national economic indicators and optimistic growth forecasts. Notably, foreign direct investment inflows increased by 20 percent last year.

In this regard, rating agency Fitch expected Kuwait's new key legislations will enhance the growth and diversification of the banking sector, support economic expansion and reinforce government spending on major projects.

Fitch stated in a recent report that progress in reforms - particularly in diversifying financial revenues, rationalizing expenditures and reducing reliance on oil - would further support the government's budget and financial flexibility. It noted the implementation of a minimum top-up tax on multinational companies as of January, in accordance with Law 157 of 2024.

One of the most notable practical applications of legislative reform is the new traffic law, which came into effect in April.

Official statistics from the General Traffic Department show a significant decrease in traffic-related deaths and violations, underscoring the positive societal impact of these reforms.

The reforms included bills amending parts of Penal Code, parts of Code of Criminal Procedure and parts of the Civil and Commercial Procedure Law, and amending Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) and financial disclosure regulations, amending the law establishing the Administrative Disputes Circuit in the Court of First Instance and new laws regarding real estate developers and amendments to the Companies Law.

Currently, around nine committees are reviewing a set of laws, including those related to economic courts, rental systems, real estate owners' associations, criminal laws and procedures, labor law, and civil and commercial law. This is happening in parallel with ongoing coordination among various ministries and relevant entities to amend other legislations.

Within this framework, Kuwait is preparing to make a qualitative leap in family and social legislation by amending laws concerning personal status, domestic violence, juvenile justice and child protection. These changes aim to address issues identified in the practical application of existing laws and to form a legislative shield that protects families, protects women from violence and ensures justice.

The initial draft of the expected amendments to the 1984 Personal Status Law targets more than 120 articles, proposes the addition of 20 new articles, and the cancellation of 15 articles, all aiming to produce a comprehensive law that serves all parties and preserves family.

A merging of the Juvenile Law and Child Law is also planned into a unified, carefully drafted law. This includes resolving the confusion between the concepts of a "child at risk" under the Child Law and a "juvenile at risk of delinquency" under the Juvenile Law and organizing proper procedures for dealing with children in both cases.

In addition, the new Judicial Law, which has been referred to the Fatwa and Legislation Department, represents the gateway to the largest judicial system reform in Kuwait. This is part of an integrated legislative path aimed at balancing the protection of rights and freedoms with the requirements of deterrence and justice.

### Kuwait slams

Israel launched a strike targeting Hamas' leadership in Qatar on Tuesday as they considered a U.S. proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. The strike on the territory of a U.S. ally marked a stunning escalation and risked upending talks aimed at winding down the war and freeing hostages.

Qatar, an energy-rich U.S. ally hosting thousands of American troops, had served as a key mediator between Israel and Hamas even before the war. It condemned what it referred to as a "flagrant violation of all international laws and norms" as smoke rose over its capital, Doha.

It was not immediately clear if anyone was hurt in the strike. Hamas has survived numerous assassinations of top leaders and is still intact in Gaza, despite having suffered major blows since the outbreak of the war triggered by its Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

The future of the long-stalled ceasefire talks was more uncertain, as Israel gears up for a major offensive aimed at taking over Gaza City. That escalation has been met with heavy international condemnation and opposition within Israel from those who fear it will doom the remaining hostages.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the

attack, saying "all parties must work towards achieving a permanent ceasefire, not destroying it."

Israel has long threatened to strike Hamas leaders wherever they are. While it has often welcomed Qatar's role as a mediator, alongside Egypt, it has also accused the Gulf nation of not putting enough pressure on the group.

In contrast to previous Israeli operations against senior militants abroad, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was quick to publicly claim the strike, saying: "Israel initiated it, Israel conducted it and Israel takes full responsibility."

He said the decision was taken Monday after a shooting attack in Jerusalem that killed six people and an attack on Israeli forces in Gaza that killed four soldiers.

Israel alerted the U.S. ahead of time, according to an Israeli official and another person familiar with the matter, who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. There was no official comment from the White House or Pentagon.

The Israeli military said it used "precise munitions and additional intelligence" in the strike, without elaborating. It was not immediately clear what caused the explosions.

Qatar condemned what it referred to as a "cowardly Israeli attack" on Hamas' political headquarters in Doha. Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al-Ansari called it a "flagrant violation of all international laws and norms" and said Qatar "will not tolerate this reckless Israeli behavior."

The U.S. Embassy in Qatar said it had instituted a shelter-in-place order for its facilities.

Egypt, which has also served as a key mediator with Hamas, condemned the attack, saying it targeted Palestinian leaders who had met "to discuss ways to reach a ceasefire agreement." It said the strike was a "direct assault" on Qatar's sovereignty.

The main group representing families of the hostages expressed "deep concern and great fear" after the strike. "The prospect of their return now faces greater uncertainty than ever, with one thing absolutely certain - their time is running out," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said in a statement.



### INVITATION TO TENDER

**United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)  
UNAMI Headquarters – Kheitan, Kuwait**

**1.0** The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) Mandatary invites local companies/individuals to tender an offer (Invitation to Bid) for the sales of Surplus Assets (i.e. 1x 4x4 Toyota, 1x SUV Kia, 1x Toyota Mini Bus, 1x Renault 4x4 truck, 1x Nissan Med Bus, 1x Manitou Forklift and 5x Automotive Workshop Equipment). All items will be sold on "as is where is" basis. Prospective buyers shall be responsible for all clearances and costs associated with the sale and removal of the items from UNAMI premises in Kuwait which should be organized in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of the State of Kuwait and completed within 5 days from receipt of UNAMI Bills of Sale fully paid by the successful bidder.

**2.0 REQUIREMENTS:**

a) Items will be grouped in 11 LOTS and UNAMI reserves the right to sell the items to the highest bidders by lot or by line item;

b) Prospective Bidders will be required to attend a mandatary site visit in UNAMI Headquarters – Kheitan, Kuwait in order to inspect the equipment prior to bidding.

c) Prospective bidders will be required to mandatary include in their bid a 10% bid deposit in the form of a certified bank cheque, bank guarantee or equivalent instrument acceptable to the UN with their bid;

**3.0** Interested Vendors can send their Expression of Interest (Subject: "Sale Tender- Kuwait-CWS/KWT/2025/01") to UNAMI Procurement via Email: [unami-eoi@un.org](mailto:unami-eoi@un.org) or on or before **24 September 2025**

**Note: This EOI does not constitute a solicitation. The UN reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the EOI and/or solicitation process. Thus, submitting a reply to an EOI does not automatically guarantee that your firm will be considered for receipt of the solicitation when issued. Only prospective vendors/buyers that respond, and are deemed qualified, upon completion of an objective evaluation of their application, will receive the final solicitation document.**



## US Homeland Security Dept to launch ‘Operation Midway Blitz’ in Chicago

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (Xinhua): The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced Monday that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is launching an operation that “will target the criminal illegal aliens who flocked to Chicago and Illinois.”

The so-called “Operation Midway Blitz” is in honor of Katie Abraham, who was killed in a drunk driving hit-and-run car wreck caused by “criminal illegal alien” Julio Cucul-Bol in Illinois, the department said in a statement.

Democrats have expressed opposition to this latest action. “Once again, this isn’t about fighting crime. That requires support and coordination -- yet we’ve experienced nothing like that over the past several weeks,” Democratic Illinois Governor JB Pritzker said on X.

“Instead of taking steps to work with us on public safety, the Trump administration’s focused on scaring Illinoisians,” the gov-



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson speaks during a news conference in front of Nash Elementary School on Sept 5, in Chicago. (AP)

ernor said.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, meanwhile, said that the City of Chicago received no notice of any enhanced immigration action by the Trump administration.

## Supreme Court lifts restrictions on LA immigration stops set after agents swept up US citizens

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): The Supreme Court on Monday cleared the way for federal agents to conduct sweeping immigration operations for now in Los Angeles, the latest victory for US President Donald Trump’s administration at the high court.

The conservative majority lifted a restraining order from a judge who found that roving patrols were conducting indiscriminate stops in and around L.A. The order had barred immigration agents from stopping people solely based on their race, language, job or location.

The court’s 6-3 decision followed a pattern of at least temporarily allowing some of the Republican administration’s harshest policies, while leaving room for the possibility of a different outcome after the legal case plays out fully. The net effect, meanwhile, has Trump pushing ahead in many of the areas he considers most critical.

The majority did not explain its reasoning, as is typical on the court’s emergency docket. But Justice Brett Kavanaugh said the lower-court judge had gone too far in restricting how



Mayor Karen Bass speaks during a press conference in reaction to the Supreme Court’s decision that clears the way for sweeping immigration operations in Los Angeles to continue on Sept 8 in Los Angeles. (AP)

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents can carry out brief stops for questioning. “The prospect of such after-the-fact judicial second-guessing and contempt proceedings will inevitably

chill lawful immigration enforcement efforts,” he wrote in a concurrence.

In a stinging dissent joined by her two liberal colleagues, Justice Sonia

Sotomayor said the decision erodes constitutional freedoms.

“Countless people in the Los Angeles area have been grabbed, thrown to the ground, and handcuffed simply because of their looks, their accents, and the fact they make a living by doing manual labor,” she wrote. “Today, the Court needlessly subjects countless more to these exact same indignities.”

Kavanaugh, for his part, suggested stops in which agents use force could yet face legal challenges.

The Supreme Court’s decision comes as ICE agents also step up enforcement in Washington as part of Trump’s unprecedented federal takeover of the capital city’s law enforcement and deployment of the National Guard.

The lawsuit will now continue to unfold in California, with a hearing set for Sept. 24. It was filed by immigrant advocacy groups that accused the Trump administration of systematically targeting brown-skinned people during his administration’s crackdown on illegal immigration in the Los Angeles area.

### Texas Democrat Talarico joins widening race

## US Senate to change rules to push through Trump’s blocked nominees, says Thune

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): US Senate Majority Leader John Thune says Republicans are ready to change the chamber’s rules to allow quick confirmations of dozens of President Donald Trump’s executive branch nominees and will move to speed up votes after months of Democratic delays.

Opening the Senate on Monday, Thune said Democrats’ obstruction is “unsustainable.” He said Republicans will begin action this week to allow votes on groups of lower-level executive branch nominees if a majority of the Senate agrees. Currently, one senator’s objection can force days of votes on a single nominee.

If the Democratic delays continue, Thune said, “there is no practical way that we could come close to filling all the vacancies in the four years of this administration no matter how many hours the Senate works.”

Changing the rules would take time, with procedural votes potentially Thursday and early next week to push through a first tranche of 48 nominees, according to a person familiar with the GOP plan who requested anonymity because it hasn’t been released publicly. The nominations include undersecretaries and staff positions for various agencies across the government as well as several ambassadors.

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

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

The changes come after both parties have escalated their obstruction of the other party’s nominees for years, and as leaders in both parties have incrementally changed the rules to make the process less bipartisan. Democrats have blocked more nominees than ever before as they have struggled to find ways to oppose Trump and the GOP Congress, and as their voters have pushed them to fight Republicans at every turn.

Schumer has said Democrats are delaying the nominations because Trump’s nominees are “historically bad.”

“If you don’t debate nominees, if



Texas Rep James Talarico speaks with supporters at a rally on Aug 16, at Wrigley Square in Millennium Park in Chicago. (AP)

you don’t vote on individual nominees, if there’s not some degree of sunlight, what will stop Donald Trump from nominating even worse individuals than we’ve seen to date, knowing this chamber will rubber stamp anything he wishes?” Schumer said Monday evening.

Still, the proposal to group nominations is loosely based on legislation introduced by Democrats two years ago as Republicans blocked many of then-

President Joe Biden’s picks.

But while Senate Republicans forced similar delays during Biden’s administration, Democrats have blocked almost all of Trump’s picks. It’s the first time in recent history that the minority party hasn’t allowed at least some quick confirmations.

The GOP proposal would only apply to executive branch nominations, not lifetime judicial appointments, and

would exclude the most high-profile positions, such as Cabinet nominees, that require a longer debate time. The process to change the rules will likely require several floor votes and the support of a simple majority, so at least 51 out of the chamber’s 53 Republicans. But most GOP senators appear to be on board.

If Republicans act quickly, they could confirm more than 100 of Trump’s pending nominations this month.

The Republican move is the latest salvo in years of intensifying Senate standoffs over presidential nominations. In 2013, Democrats changed Senate rules for executive branch and lower court judicial nominees to remove the 60-vote threshold for confirmations as Republicans blocked President Barack Obama’s picks. In 2017, Republicans did the same for Supreme Court nominees as Democrats tried to block Trump’s nomination of Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Schumer on Monday echoed former GOP Leader Mitch McConnell, who warned then-Democratic Leader Harry Reid in 2013 that his party would regret changing the rules, “and regret it a lot sooner than you think.”

“I say to my Republican colleagues, think carefully before taking this step,” Schumer said, adding that “it’s going

to be a decision you will come to regret.”

**Also:**

**HOUSTON, Texas:** Texas state Rep James Talarico, a Democrat and former schoolteacher with a rising national profile, joined a widening race for US Senate on Tuesday that already has two prominent challengers trying to unseat Republican Sen. John Cornyn.

Talarico, 36, has gained popularity in the Texas House through viral social media posts challenging Republican-led policies such as private school vouchers and requiring the Ten Commandments in classrooms. It is the first statewide race for Talarico, who flipped a seat in Austin’s booming suburbs in 2018.

He will seek the Democratic nomination in a field that includes former US Rep Colin Allred, who is running again after unsuccessfully challenging Republican Sen. Ted Cruz last year.

“I get the sense that there is a deep hunger across the political spectrum for a fundamentally different kind of politics,” Talarico said in an interview ahead of his announcement. “It’s been 10 years now of Trumpian politics, politics as a blood sport ... and there is a hunger 10 years later for a return to more timeless values of sincerity and honesty and compassion and respect.”

### Europe

**WWII bomb discovery prompts evacuations:** The discovery of a World War II bomb in Slovakia’s capital during construction work prompted evacuations on Tuesday, officials said.

The emergency measure covered several blocks in downtown Bratislava, including a major bridge across the Danube River. Public transportation and all traffic were halted during the morning rush hour.

Experts were planning to defuse the 500-pound (225-kilogram) bomb, which was discovered on Monday evening, by midday.

An oil refinery located in the area was a target of the Allied bombardment in 1944 during the war. (AP)

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**Terminal at Heathrow Airport reopens:** Part of a terminal temporarily closed at London’s Heathrow Airport was reopened later Monday when police reported finding no sign of a hazardous substance blamed for harming about 20 people, authorities said.

The Metropolitan police said the patients treated at Terminal 4 were not seriously injured and that officers found no trace of any dangerous material.

The departures area of the terminal at the U.’s busiest airport was evacuated and closed as a precaution for about three hours as police, firefighters and ambulance crews responded.

Crowds of passengers with luggage crowded outside the terminal in the late afternoon. As the sun went down, some wrapped themselves in space blankets to keep warm.

The arrivals area of the terminal remained open throughout and all other terminals were operating.

The airport apologized for the disruption and said it was working to make sure all departures took off as planned. (AP)

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Police secure the evacuation of people from buildings due to the discovery of a World War II bomb on Landererova Street in Bratislava on Sept 9. (AP)

**Thousands rally in Serbia:** Thousands of student-led protesters chanted slogans against Serbia’s President Aleksandar Vucic at a rally in downtown Belgrade on Monday, accusing police of brutality during recent anti-government demonstrations that have shaken his populist rule.

The protesters demanded that police officers responsible for excessive use of force during months of unrest be punished, including for alleged rape threats against a female student.

The protests started in November when a concrete canopy collapsed at a train station in Serbia’s north, killing 16 people. The disaster ignited an anti-corruption movement led by university students alleging graft-fueled negligence as its cause.

Student Nikola Sindjelic, who was detained last month during the protests, said she was beaten and sexually harassed during her detention. Sindjelic told the rally that the “entire state system has been directed against its own citizens.” (AP)

## French govt collapses in confidence vote, forcing Macron to seek yet another PM

PARIS, Sept 9, (AP): Legislators toppled France’s government in a confidence vote on Monday, a new crisis for Europe’s second-largest economy that obliges President Emmanuel Macron to search for a fourth prime minister in 12 months.

Prime Minister François Bayrou was ousted overwhelmingly in a 364-194 vote against him. Bayrou paid the price for what appeared to be a staggering political miscalculation, gambling that lawmakers would back his view that France must slash public spending to rein in its debts. Instead, they seized on the vote that Bayrou called to gang up against the 74-year-old centrist who was appointed by Macron last December.

The demise of Bayrou’s short-lived minority government - now constitutionally obliged to submit its resignation after just under nine months in office - heralds renewed uncertainty and a risk of prolonged legislative deadlock for France as it wrestles with pressing challenges, including budget difficulties and, internationally, wars in Ukraine and Gaza and the shifting priorities of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Although Macron had two weeks to prepare for the government collapse after Bayrou announced in August that he’d seek a confidence vote on his unpopular budget plans, no clear front-



French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou addresses the National Assembly, prior to a parliamentary confidence vote that could bring him down, in Paris, France on Sept 8. (AP)

runner has emerged as a successor.

After Gabriel Attal’s departure as prime minister in September 2024, followed by former Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier’s ouster by parliament in December and Bayrou now gone, too, Macron again is hunting for a replacement to build consensus in the parliament’s lower house that is stacked with opponents of the French leader.

Macron’s office said that he’d ac-

cepted the resignation of Bayrou’s government on Tuesday and name a new prime minister “in the coming days.”

As president, Macron will continue to hold substantial powers over foreign policy and European affairs and remain the commander in chief of the nuclear-armed military. But domestically, the 47-year-old president’s ambitions are increasingly facing ruin.

## Norway’s Labor Party claims victory in general election

OSLO, Norway, Sept 9, (AP): Norway’s Labor Party of Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre has claimed victory in Monday’s general election with most votes now counted and with a narrow but clear win by the center-left block over the right-wing parties.

Rapturous cheering erupted in Oslo on Monday night as Labor supporters gathered to celebrate a closely fought campaign in which the future of a wealth tax that dates to the late 19th century has been a central issue.

Addressing the crowd, Prime Minister Gahr Støre thanked his supporters and said the victory showed it’s possible for Social Democratic parties to win elections even with right-wing forces on the rise in Europe, according to broadcaster VG.

A short while earlier, Conservative leader Erna Solberg apologized for the dismal performance of her party, which fell to third place in parliament behind the right-wing populist Progress Party that saw its best result ever in a national election.

Addressing supporters, Progress Party leader Sylvi Listhaug was pleased with her party’s result but lamented what she called “four tough years ahead for people and businesses.”

About 4.3 million people in the Scandinavian nation were eligible to vote for the new 169-member parlia-



Re-elected Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, speaks to the press at the Prime Minister’s residence in Oslo, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. (AP)

ment, or Storting. With almost all votes now counted, center-left parties have won just over the 85 seats needed to form a majority.

Final 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.

Monday’s result was never expected 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).

## Czech Republic and allies break up Belarus spy network across Europe

PRAGUE, Sept 9, (AP): A spy network being built in Europe by Belarus was broken up by intelligence services from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania, the Czech counterintelligence agency said Monday.

The Czech agency, also known as BIS, said in a statement that a team of European agents discovered spies in several European countries from Belarus’ KGB security agency. BIS said that a former deputy head of Moldovan intelligence service SIS who handed over classified information to the KGB was among them.

The Czechs also expelled a Belarusian agent who was operating under the cover of a diplomat. That person was given 72 hours to leave the Czech Republic, the Czech Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The Czech agency said that Belarus managed to create the network because its diplomats are able to freely travel across European countries.

“To successfully counter these hostile activities in Europe, we need to restrict the movement of accredited diplomats from Russia and Belarus within the Schengen (borderless) area,” BIS head Michal Koudelka said in a statement. The agency didn’t immediately offer more details.

Romania’s anti-organized crime agency, DIICOT, said on Monday that it implemented an arrest warrant for a 47-year-old suspect on treason charges. The suspect had previously held management positions within Moldova’s SIS. The suspect allegedly disclosed state secrets to Belarusian intel-



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko attends a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the southern Russian city of Volgograd, Russia on April 29. (AP)

ligence officers that would likely “endanger national security,” DIICOT stated.

The Romanian agency added that, between 2024 and 2025, the Moldovan suspect - who wasn’t named - met twice with Belarusian spies in Budapest, Hungary, and that there is “reasonable suspicion” that the meetings involved “transmitting instructions” and exchanging payments for services provided.



Political leaders' homes set on fire

## Nepal's premier resigns but protests against government and corruption rage on

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 9, (AP): Nepal's prime minister resigned Tuesday as protests against a short-lived ban on social media grew increasingly violent and expanded into broader criticism of his government and accusations of corruption among the Himalayan country's political elite.

The resignation appeared to have little effect on the demonstrations. Tens of thousands of protesters remained on the streets late in the day, blocking roads, storming government buildings and setting them on fire, and, in some cases, attacking political leaders. Army helicopters ferried some ministers to safe places.

A day earlier, demonstrations led by young people angry about the blocking of several social media sites gripped the country's capital, and police opened fired on the crowds, killing 19 people.

The ban was lifted Tuesday, but the protests continued, fueled by anger over the deaths and growing frustration with the political elite in the nation wedged between China and India.

As the protests intensified, Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli announced he was stepping down. The president accepted the resignation and appointed Oli to lead a caretaker government until a new one is in place - though it was unclear what power he would wield or even where he was.

The army issued a statement calling for calm and urging political dialogue, but did not give any other details.

The demonstrations - called the protest of Gen Z - began after the government blocked platforms, including Facebook, X and YouTube, saying the companies had failed to register and submit to government oversight.

But they spiraled to reflect broader discontent. In particular, many young people are angry that the children of political leaders - so-called Nepo Kids - seem to enjoy luxury lifestyles and numerous advantages while most youth struggle to find work. With youth unemployment running at about 20% last year, according to the World

Bank, the government estimates that more than 2,000 young people leave the country every day to seek work in the Middle East or southeast Asia.

"I am here to protest about the massive corruption in our country," said Bishnu



Protesters celebrate at the Singha Durbar, the seat of Nepal's government's various ministries and offices after burning it down during a protest against social media ban and corruption in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sept 9. (AP)

Thapa Chetri, a student. "The country has gotten so bad that for us youths there is no grounds for us to stay."

Videos shared on social media showed protesters beating up Nepali Congress party leader Sher Bahadur Deuba and his wife, Arzu Rana Deuba, the current foreign minister. Both appeared to be bleeding, while one video showed the party leader being helped to safety. The party is the country's largest and is part of the governing coalition.

Local media and videos on social media also showed protesters attacking government buildings and the residences of the top political leaders throughout Tuesday.

The presidential palace, the prime minister's official residence, and a building that houses the offices of the prime minister and several ministries were all torched. Thick smoke rose from the prime minister's office building.

Earlier, Oli's private home was set on fire, as were those of the president, home minister and the Deubas. The

home of the leader of the opposition Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) was also set ablaze.

Some protesters blamed the government for the police opening fire and called for the ouster of the increasingly unpopular prime minister.

"We are here to protest because our youths and friends are getting killed, we are here to see that justice is done and the present regime is ousted," said Narayan Acharya, who was among the protesters outside the battered wall of the parliament building Tuesday.

"K.P. Oli should be chased away."

Monday's rallies swelled to tens of thousands of people in Kathmandu and crowds surrounded the Parliament building before police opened fire on the demonstrators.

"Stop the ban on social media. Stop corruption, not social media," the crowds chanted, waving national flags.

Seven of the 19 killed and scores of the wounded were taken to the National Trauma Center, the country's main hospital.

### S.Korea, NATO discuss defense cooperation

## N.Korea conducts final test of solid-fuel engine for long-range missiles

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 9, (Agencies): North Korea said Tuesday it had conducted the final ground test of a solid-fuel rocket engine for a long-range ballistic missile in its latest advancement toward having an arsenal that could viably threaten the continental United States.

The test Monday observed by leader Kim Jong Un was the ninth of the engine built with carbon fiber and capable of producing 1,971 kilonewtons of thrust, more powerful than past models, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. The report came a week after Kim visited the research institute that developed the engine, which North Korea then said will be used for future intercontinental ballistic missiles, including a system called Hwasong-20.

Some analysts say that North Korea may conduct another ICBM test around the end of the year, showcasing its military strength ahead of a major ruling party congress expected in early 2026, where Kim will likely issue his new directions in domestic and foreign policies.

North Korea in recent years has



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, (right,) watches a test of a new rocket engine at an undisclosed location, North Korea on Sept 8. (AP)

flight-tested a variety of ICBMs that demonstrated potential range to reach the U.S. mainland, including those with built-in solid propellants that are easier to move and conceal and can be pre-

pared for launch more quickly than the North's previous liquid-fuel missiles.

Kim has called for further advancements in North Korea's long-range weapons, including the development

of multi-warhead systems that would improve their chances of defeating missile defenses. Some experts say North Korea's efforts to build more efficient rocket engines could also be aimed at developing smaller ICBMs that can be launched from a wider range of vehicles or submarines, a capability Kim is also pursuing.

All of North Korea's ICBM tests so far have been conducted at steeper-than-normal trajectories to avoid neighboring territories, and experts say the country may not yet have perfected the technology needed to ensure its warheads survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry.

KCNA said Kim expressed satisfaction after Monday's test, calling the "eye-opening" development of the new rocket engine a "significant change" in his effort to expand North Korea's nuclear forces.

Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said South Korea and the United States are closely monitoring North Korea's weapons development but did not provide a specific assessment of the new rocket engine.

## 2 Philippine senators implicated in flood control corruption inquiry

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 9, (AP): Two Philippine senators were implicated Tuesday in a massive corruption scandal involving flood-control projects that is being investigated by Congress and the government and has sparked outrage in a Southeast Asian nation prone to deadly storms and flooding.

Senators **Jinggoy Estrada** and **Joel Villanueva** strongly denied the allegations made by Brice Ericson Hernandez, a former engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways, who testified under oath in a nationally televised House of Representatives committee on infrastructure inquiry.

In a separate Senate inquiry on Monday, two construction company owners identified at least 17 House legislators

who allegedly demanded and received huge kickbacks from them.

The corruption scandal led to the resignation of the public works secretary.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has said he would form an independent commission to carry out an investigation into the widespread anomalies he described as "horrible" and prompted him to withhold fundings for flood control projects next year.

There have been relatively small but boisterous pockets of protests, mostly by activists. On Friday, more than 150 former cabinet members, Catholic church leaders, retired generals, business executives and anti-corruption watchdogs expressed outrage in a joint statement over "the multi-billion-peso flood control scandal that has harmed and killed our fellow Filipinos in a climate crisis that brings our country even deadlier storms."

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, who leads the country's disaster-response agency, backed the investigations.



Estrada

## 10 dead and more than 50 injured after double-decker bus hit by train in Mexico

ATLACOMULCO, Mexico, Sept 9, (AP): The freight train's horn rang out shortly before it cleaved in two a double-decker bus carrying domestic and construction workers to Mexico's capital on Monday morning, leaving at least 10 dead, more than 50 injured and sending families to hospitals to search for answers.

Minutes earlier Isabel Segundo, 38, was chatting by phone with her 17-year-old daughter Yoana Segundo, who was aboard the bus. Like thousands of others, Yoana is a domestic worker and was commuting to her job as the sun rose over throngs of workers doing the same early Monday.

"I was terrified when I saw news of the accident. I thought my daughter had died," Segundo said. "We were calling and calling, and all I got was voice-mail."

Late Monday, Segundo said she was relieved to hear her daughter survived as she waited outside a hospital with dozens of other families. Medical workers called out names through a megaphone as hospital staff rushed injured people on stretchers into ambulances to be transferred to other hospitals throughout the State of Mexico.

Women cried at the entrance of the medical facility, while others set up a tent in preparation for a long night of waiting to hear of news of their loved ones.

Authorities were investigating the accident, but videos of the collision and



A man stands next to a bus that was hit by a freight train in Atlacomulco, Mexico on Sept 8. (AP)

immediate aftermath showed the bus creeping onto the train tracks as bumper-to-bumper traffic crawled through an industrial area in Atlacomulco, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northwest of Mexico City.

There was a stop sign and a decrepit railroad crossing sign, but no protective gates or lights to signal an approaching train.

Still, even 100 yards away Miguel Sánchez heard the familiar horn blast from the freight train as he started his shift at a nearby gas station.

It was the thunderous crash that followed shortly after that surprised him.

"We thought it was just a car. We never thought it would be a bus with so many people aboard," Sánchez said.

Mexico's train line regulatory authority did not respond to request for comment. The bus line Herradura de Plata said in a statement it was working with authorities and providing "medical, psychological, legal and logistical" help to those affected. The company spokesperson wrote that it "deeply regrets" the accident.

## Thailand's former PM to serve 1-year prison term for previous convictions

BANGKOK, Sept 9, (AP): Thailand's Supreme Court said Tuesday former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra must serve a one-year prison term for previous convictions on graft and abuse of power charges, after investigating whether officials had mishandled his return to Thailand in 2023 to begin serving the sentences.

A judge said that the enforcement of Thaksin's penalty was not done properly, and therefore his detention in a police hospital did not count as serving prison time.

Following his return to Thailand after more than a decade of living in self-exile, Thaksin was sent to a suite at Bangkok's Police General Hospital in the middle of the night, reportedly for medical reasons, after spending less than a day in prison. His eight-year sentence was then commuted to one year by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, and he was released on parole after six months in the hospital.

The circumstances raised questions about whether he received special treatment and many were suspicious whether he was genuinely ill.

The court's statement Tuesday said evidence showed that Thaksin's condition on that night was treatable by the prison's hospital, but that he was instead sent directly to the police hospital without first being as-



Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, (center), and his daughter and former prime minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, (right), arrive at Supreme Court in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. (AP)

sessed by prison doctors, which was a violation of procedures.

It also said that the police hospital's request for an extension of his stay claimed that Thaksin needed urgent neck surgery, but a record showed that he received surgeries for a locked finger joint and tendonitis in his right shoulder, which were not serious conditions and not what originally sent him to the hospital. The court added Thaksin did not end up having neck surgery before

his release.

It also said that Thaksin was believed to have intervened in the treatment procedures to avoid having to go back to the prison, and that he falsely claimed having a health condition in order to be sent to the hospital.

Thaksin was sent to the Bangkok Remand Prison after the proceedings. A message on his Facebook page, shared by his team following the ruling, said that he accepted the court's decision.

## 80 killed in ADF rebel attack in eastern DR Congo

KINSHASA, Sept 9, (Agencies): At least 80 people were killed overnight Monday to Tuesday in an attack blamed on Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), local authorities confirmed to Xinhua on Tuesday.

The attack targeted a funeral gathering in the village of Ntoyo, said Colonel Alain Kiwewa, administrator of Lubero territory in the eastern North Kivu province, putting the provisional death toll at around 80, while adding that several people remain missing or were taken hostage by the assailants.

The ADF, an Islamic State affiliate in Central Africa and a Ugandan-origin armed group, has escalated assaults on villages in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in recent months, mainly targeting civilians.

According to the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC, the assaults claimed at least 52 lives on Aug. 9-16 in North Kivu. In late July, some 40 civilians were killed during an attack on a Catholic church in Ituri.

Joint Congolese and Ugandan military operations against the ADF have been underway since November 2021, but attacks have persisted.

**Also:**

**GOMA, Congo:** Unarmed protesters in eastern Congo who accused a military officer of supporting Rwanda-backed rebels became the targets of gunfire Monday that left at least three people dead, wit-



Women walk in the Bulengo refugee camp in Goma, Congo on Aug. 15, 2024. (AP)

nesses and the regional governor said.

Witnesses belonging to a militia and a civil society group participating in the protest in the city of **Uvira** in **South Kivu** province said members of Congo's military opened fire on the protesters and killed at least four of them and injured seven.

But South Kivu Gov. **Jean-Jacques Purusi Sadiki** said the regional government's death toll so far was three, with five people wounded. He said the victims were "unarmed protesters," and gave his condolences to victims, but he declined to say who had opened fire.

The protesters accused Gen. **Olivier Gasita**, a commander recently deployed to the city by the Congolese military, of supporting the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels and demanded his removal. Gen. Gasita denied the allegation and urged the locals to "remain united behind the institutions" of the government.

**Marafiki Masimango** said his civil society group in Uvira organized a march on Gasita's hotel with a document calling for the officer's resignation. Members of the Walazendo militia group, which often fights alongside Congolese forces, joined the demonstration.

### US steps up military ops in Caribbean

## Hegseth and Caine visit Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Sept 9, (AP): US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Puerto Rico on Monday for an unexpected visit as the US steps up its military operations against drug cartels in the Caribbean.

Their arrival in the US territory comes more than a week after ships carrying hundreds of US Marines deployed to Puerto Rico for what officials said was a training exercise, a move that some on the island have criticized.

But on Monday night, Hegseth said in a video posted on X that the deployed Marines were "on the front lines of defending the American homeland."

"Make no mistake about it, what you're doing right now is not training. This is the real-world exercise on behalf of the vital national interest of the United States of America to end the poisoning of the American people," he said while aboard the USS Iwo Jima.

Earlier in the day, Puerto Rico's Gov. Jennifer González said Hegseth and Caine visited on behalf of President Donald Trump's administration to support those participating in the training.

"We thank President Trump and



US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth listens as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine speaks during an event with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House on Sept 5, in Washington. (AP)

his administration for recognizing the strategic importance of Puerto Rico to US national security and for their fight against drug cartels and the narco-dictator Nicolás Maduro," González said.

Hegseth and Caine met with officials at the 156th Wing Muñoz Air National Guard Base in Carolina, a city just east of the capital of San Juan.

González said Hegseth spoke to

nearby 300 soldiers at the base and thanked those he described as "American warriors" for their work. He later departed for the USS Iwo Jima.

"The American people are counting on you to ensure the American homeland is kept safe," Hegseth told the Marines aboard the USS Iwo Jima. "Narco terrorists and drug traffickers are on notice."



Kuwait oil price edges up to \$71.37 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Kuwait oil price rose three cents to USD 71.37 per barrel on Tuesday compared to Monday's USD 71.34 per barrel, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. In global markets, Brent crude went up 52 cents to reach USD 66.02 pb while West Texas Intermediate rose 39 cents to reach USD 62.26 pb.

# Business

Students show strong interest in Gulf Bank’s youth-focused red account

## Gulf Bank concludes its participation in the orientation forum for students at the Public Authority for Applied Education & Training

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance financial awareness among new students, Gulf Bank concluded its participation in the Admission Fair organized by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). The initiative reflects the Bank’s commitment to engaging with incoming students and introducing them to its banking services tailored specifically for the youth segment, in line with its continuous support for education and the promotion of financial literacy in the community.

The Bank’s booth witnessed strong interest from students eager to learn more about its offerings, particularly the red account for youth, designed for individuals aged 15 to 25. The account provides numerous benefits that enable students to manage their financial resources effectively from the start of their academic journey.

Gulf Bank affirmed that this participation falls within its broader commitment to supporting education and empowering Kuwaiti youth, by offering innovative banking solutions that raise financial awareness and enable students to make sound financial decisions that



Great turnout of students at Gulf Bank’s booth.

positively impact their future.

In the same context, Gulf Bank also participated recently in the University Admission Fairs at Kuwait University and Abdullah Al-Salem University, continuing its outreach efforts to the youth segment. At these events, the Bank’s booth provided students with financial tips to help students begin their university life with confidence and financial independence.

During its three participations, the Bank’s team emphasized highlighting services that meet the aspirations of young people and align with their fast-paced lifestyle, while also supporting educational initiatives that contribute to building a more aware and sustainable society.

At the conclusion of its participation, Gulf Bank extended its gratitude to the management of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, as well as to the university administrations for organizing these fairs. The Bank reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting educational and youth initiatives that enhance quality of life and reinforce its role as a leading financial institution serving the community

### The Bank offers customers added-value benefits

## KFH cardholders enjoy exclusive discounts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is offering its cardholders a wide range of exclusive discounts of up to 50% on healthcare, electronics, and fitness centers, enabling them to enjoy invaluable benefits when shopping locally. Full details are available on the bank’s website (kfh.com).

In the healthcare sector, cardholders can enjoy a 50% discount at Shams Dental Center, a 20% discount on laboratory services at Al Ansari Medical Center, and a 10% discount at Al Mutawa Pharmacy. These offers are valid until December 31, 2025.

For electronics, KFH cardholders can enjoy 15% at Alpha Store and 10% at Cavaraty and AlFuhod Electronics, with the offer running until 31 December 2025.

Cardholders can avail themselves of a 25% discount at Flex VIP, Flex Health Club (men), Flex Boutique, and Flex Executive. Furthermore, a 20% discount is extended to Platinum Sabah Al-Salem, Miss Platinum Sabah Al-Salem, and Manchester Academy. These promotional offers are valid until December 31, 2025.

KFH aims to provide its credit cardholders with a variety of benefits and added value to boost customer loyalty and rewards. The initiative seeks to enhance the competitiveness of KFH’s cards by connecting them to numerous



KFH cards

benefit programs and services that align with customers’ expectations. Furthermore, the range of discounts reflects KFH’s dedication to meeting the diverse interests of its customers.

It is worth noting that KFH credit and prepaid cards are recognized as some of the best in the industry, receiving commendations from prominent organizations such as Visa and Mastercard. In addition, KFH cards consistently earn awards for their excellence and efficiency within the banking sector.

### Kuwaiti craftsmanship brought closer to homes

## ZAH1 joins talabat as the platform expands its offering beyond food

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Building on its commitment to supporting local brands and expanding its services to cater to the diverse needs of its customers, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering and delivery platform in the MENA region, announced that all Zahi home fragrance products are now on the platform. By strategically partnering with an ever-growing diverse range of emerging sectors, talabat is redefining the very essence of convenience, offering unparalleled and seamless access to an extensive ecosystem of products that enrich and simplify every facet of daily life.

The new partnership was announced in a signing ceremony held at Grand Hyatt Kuwait on the 8th of September, underscoring talabat’s commitment to supporting homegrown businesses and enabling entrepreneurs to flourish in Kuwait’s vigorous digital economy through its wide network of logistics partners, advanced digital infrastructure, and fast, reliable delivery services.

In line with its expansion strategy, talabat is moving beyond food and everyday essentials by introducing a wider selection of lifestyle products that reflect the evolving needs of today’s modern consumer. This move demonstrates talabat’s commitment to meeting evolving expectations for fast, seamless, and convenient access to an increasingly diverse range of offerings.

On this occasion, Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, said: “Our partnership with Zahi comes as part of our ongoing efforts to expand the range of services we offer on our platform, aligned with the growing needs of our customers and the evolving nature of



talabat x Zahi

their lifestyles. We remain dedicated to supporting promising local brands, and through this collaboration, we seek to strengthen the presence of Kuwaiti ventures in the e-commerce space, enabling them to grow and scale. This stems from our strong belief that their success is inherently an extension of our own.”

On his part, Khaled Alajeel, Managing Partner of Zahi, said: “With the help of an end-to-end logistics and tech-enabled delivery partner like talabat, we are delighted to increase accessibility to Zahi products across Kuwait and reach customers wherever they are, while preserving the quality and craftsmanship that define our brand. Our artisan diffusers and home perfumes are thoughtfully designed to capture the unique experience Kuwait offers those who call it home, giving customers a wide range of scents that add an air of welcome, warmth, and



talabat logo

character to their spaces.”

It serves to note that talabat has been strategically expanding its partner portfolio beyond traditional food and FMCG categories, tapping into emerging sectors to serve a broader and more diverse customer base. From food to fragrance, talabat is redefining convenience and ease to keep pace with today’s fast-moving lifestyle, while remaining committed to connecting customers with their favorite every day, right away.

### Global demand, prices drive decline

## KPC cuts propane to \$520, butane to \$490 per ton

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: In view of the decline in demand for propane and butane gases, and following Kuwait Petroleum Corporation’s (KPC) announcement of new prices – \$520 per metric ton for propane and \$490 per metric ton for butane – KPC confirmed that these revised prices were set in line with market demand.

Sources explained that this adjustment also followed a decline in global prices for the two gases. In June, KPC sold propane at \$600 per metric ton, reflecting a 1.64 percent decrease compared to \$610 in May.

The price of butane also dropped in June, falling by 3.39 percent to \$570 per metric ton, compared to \$590 in May.

Sources pointed out that the intense political developments in the Middle East during the final months of 2024 affected transportation, which was the main driver behind the surge in propane and butane prices in December 2024.

According to KPC’s records for the last month of that year, propane was priced at approximately \$635 per metric ton, while butane stood at \$630.

In the same context, sources confirmed that Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), a leading exporter of propane and butane, is planning to expand production in the coming years.

KNPC is working toward raising its export volume to

7,000 metric tons in fiscal 2025/2026 to increase revenues and maximize profits over the current and following two years. This comes after successfully exporting more than 6,200 metric tons of propane and butane in fiscal 2024/2025, compared to approximately 5,278 metric tons in the previous year.

Sources pointed out that propane and butane have significant applications in Europe, particularly in power generation and heating, in addition to their role as intermediate feedstocks in the petrochemical industry. They explained that KNPC is a leading exporter of several gases – including methane, ethane, propane, and butane – produced from the fifth liquefied natural gas (LNG) train. The company, they emphasized, is focused on diversifying income sources by expanding its range of refinery products.

According to KNPC’s 2024/2025 report, the company’s net production of petroleum products during that period reached approximately 40.56 million metric tons, compared to 39.42 million metric tons projected in the plan. The report also indicated that KNPC’s share of refined petroleum products in 2023/2024 stood at around 40.04 million metric tons.

KNPC’s most important products include naphtha, gasoline, reformat, kerosene, jet fuel, gas oil, diesel and fuel oil. The fifth liquefied gas line at the Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery enhanced the company’s production capacity, playing a key role in generating higher returns and contributing to the supply of clean fuel

### Main Market Index up 0.52%

## Boursa Kuwait All Share Index surges 0.84% to 8,712.18 points

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday with the All Share Index rising by 72.42 points, or 0.84 percent, to reach 8,712.18 points. Trading was active with 455 million shares changing hands through 27,306 transactions, valued at KD 116.9 million (USD 356.5 million).

The Main Market Index gained 40.42 points, or 0.52 percent, closing at 7,881.67 points, with 223.18 million shares traded in 14,110 transactions worth KD 39.9 million (USD 121.6 million).

The Premier Market Index saw a stronger rise, gaining 83.99 points, or 0.91 percent, to 9,349.85 points. This was driven by 231.9 million shares traded across 13,196 transactions, valued at KD 77 million (USD 234.8 million).

Additionally, the Main 50 Index increased by 71.06 points, or 0.89 percent, reaching 8,076.77 points. It recorded 177 million shares traded through 8,905 transactions, with a total value of KD 31.9 million (about USD 97.2 million).

# Real estate transactions dip sharply in early Sept

Market shows 55% decline

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The real estate market witnessed a significant decline in the number and value of transactions in the first week of September, compared to the same period last year, as well as the last week of August.

This is a clear indication that the market has entered a period of relative calm and investment anticipation driven by seasonal factors and qualitative shifts in transactions, particularly commercial real estate, which accounted for about 60 percent of the total trading value during the week, compared to only three transactions.

It reflects the interest of major institutions or entities in ‘heavy’ commercial transactions.

The weekly report of the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice for the period from Sept 1 to 3 showed that the number of real estate transactions was 62, with a total value of KD83.92 million. These include 37 private transactions worth KD 13.5 million, 22 investment transactions worth KD 17.6 million, and three commercial transactions worth KD 52.8 million.

Compared to the first week of September 2024, weekly trading recorded a decline of approximately 39 percent in the number of transactions, compared to a 16.8 percent increase in total value due to the completion of qualitative commercial deals.

The number of transactions during that period reached 101, valued at KD 69.8 million, reflecting a quantitative decline versus a qualitative increase in transactions on an annual basis.

Compared to trading during the fourth (and final) week of August 2025, the decline was more severe, with 139 transactions recorded, valued at KD 163.24 million. This is a decline of approximately 55 percent in the number of transactions (77 transactions) and a 49 percent decrease in the value or KD 79.32 million.

It is a clear indication that the market has entered a short-term slowdown after a remarkable wave of activity in August.

Regarding private real estate transactions, they declined from 89 in the last week of August to just 37, a decrease of nearly 58 percent.

The value also fell from KD 33.4 million to KD 13.5 million — by KD19.9 million, a decrease of nearly 60 percent.

This indicates a decline in residential ownership activity due to travel or investors’ anticipation of market movements following the recent enactment of several real estate laws.

Despite the decline in the number of investment transactions from 28 in August 2025 to 22 in September, the value of transactions increased to KD 17.6 million, compared to KD 15.3 million in August.

It means continued demand for investment properties and the search for attractive, quality opportunities.

As for commercial transactions, only three transactions were recorded this week, worth KD52.8 million or 60 percent of the total weekly trading value.

It shows the execution of quality deals and investors’ focus on quality transactions and assets with long-term returns.

### Hong Kong, Kuwait signed 24 MoUs in May

## Belt & Road Summit opens Sept 10 in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Sept 9, (KUNA): The 10th edition of the Belt and Road Summit is scheduled to kick off on Wednesday in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center on September 10 and 11.

The two-day event is jointly organized by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTD), and is expected to gather several high-profile senior government officials and business leaders from countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and explore business collaboration, trade, and investment opportunities.

The summit in the past nine editions have witnessed approximately 45,000 participants from more than 120 countries around the world, including Kuwait.

On that matter, Charge d’Affaires and interim of the Embassy of China Liu Xiang told KUNA in a statement that Kuwait was the first country in

the Middle East to sign a cooperation document with China on jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative.

“In recent years, China and Kuwait have worked together to strengthen the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and Kuwait Vision 2035, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and promote common development. At present, the two sides are advancing the implementation of a series of major cooperation agreements witnessed the singing of them by the heads of both countries, with positive progress achieved across the projects. Cooperation between the two countries in traditional energy, renewable energy, infrastructure, finance, the digital economy, and desertification control is steadily expanding, with broad prospects ahead,” said Xi-ang.

“Economic and trade cooperation between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (HKSAR) and Kuwait also enjoys a solid foundation. In May this year, Chief

Executive of HKSAR John Lee visited Kuwait, met with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and engaged with Kuwait’s business community. During the visit, Hong Kong and Kuwait signed 24 memoranda of understanding (MoU) and cooperation agreements, yielding fruitful outcomes,” he pointed out.

“Recently, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit was successfully held in China. During the meeting, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for better alignment of development strategies, and promoting the high-quality implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, and strengthening the momentum of regional development and improve the well-being of the people. Kuwait is a partner country of the SCO, also a close friend and reliable partner of China,” he noted.



# ‘Together for E-Waste-Free Schools’ initiative kicks-off to advance environmental sustainability goals & embed circular economy culture



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



Abdalmohsen Al-Faqaan, Chairman of Kuwait Airways



Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait



Waleed Al-Saqabi, Executive Director of Corporate Communications and Relations at Boubyan Bank



Jassem Al-Abouh, founder of ECO Business Incubator and initiative director

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: In a joint effort that reflects synergy among public and private institutions to advance the national sustainability agenda, ECO Business Incubator launched the ‘Together for E-Waste-Free Schools’ initiative in cooperation with Ahmadi Governorate, Zain Kuwait, Boubyan Bank, the Ministry of Education, the Environment Public Authority, Kuwait Airways, Kuwait University, the Arab Open University, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and Kuwait Oil Company. This community initiative aims to reinforce environmental sustainability goals and embed a culture of circular economy across society.

The launch was announced at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC), in the presence of H.E. the Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chairman of Kuwait Airways Capt. Abdulmohsen Al-Faqaan, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education Hamad Al-Hamad, Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority Nouf Bahbahani, Chairman of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Dr. Mohammad Dawood Al-Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer - Consumer, Private, and Digital Banking at Boubyan Bank Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri, Chief Purpose and HR Officer at Zain Kuwait Nawal Bourisli, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait Waleed Al-Khashti, Director General of the Arab Open University Dr. Salah Al-Hammadi, the Deputy Managing Director for Support Services at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Dhari Al-Gharabally, and the founder of ECO Business Incubator and the initiative’s Director Jassem Al-Abouh.

The initiative primarily aims to instill responsible environmental behaviors in schools and households and to build a practical model for e-waste management through an institutional collaboration framework that includes schools, government entities, the private sector, and certified recycling partners. It also seeks to increase collection rates of end-of-life devices, recover valuable materials, and reduce the impact of hazardous substances associated with e-waste.

During his opening remarks, Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed that current environmental challenges require shared awareness and responsibility from institutions and individuals. He noted that e-waste is a major source of pollution due to its health and environmental risks if not properly treated and recycled.

He added that this national initiative reflects a commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection by reinforcing a culture of responsibility through public-private cooperation and community engagement, emphasizing that the integration of official, community, and volunteer efforts, particularly within school environments, will strengthen sustainable practices for handling e-waste and achieve the initiative’s goals.

Kuwait Airways Chairman Capt. Abdulmohsen Al-Faqaan expressed the company’s pride in joining this national initiative. He explained that the participation aligns with the airline’s social responsibility programs and focus on sustainability, noting that the national carrier adopts eco-friendly technologies and practices across its fleet and operations to safeguard the future of upcoming generations, while pledging continued support for national environmental efforts in line with the nation’s vision and leadership.

Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait, stressed that the partnership with ECO builds on a strategic relationship that began in 2022 and that its results are realized when visions unite around sustainability. He explained that starting with schools and focusing on e-waste is directly tied to

- In partnership with ECO Business Incubator, Ahmadi Governorate, Zain, Boubyan Bank, the Ministry of Education, the Environment Public Authority, Kuwait Airways, Kuwait University, the Arab Open University, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and Kuwait Oil Company.
- **Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber:** “This national initiative embodies a commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection through public-private collaboration and community participation.”
- **Abdalmohsen Al-Faqaan:** “Our participation aligns with our social responsibility programs and the national carrier’s focus on sustainability.”
- **Waleed Al-Khashti:** “Zain’s responsibility does not end with offering digital innovations. It extends to managing their full environmental impact.”
- **Waleed Al-Saqabi:** “Sustainability is at the heart of Boubyan’s strategy by supporting the role of schools as the nucleus of change and deploying innovative solutions that reduce environmental impact.”
- **Jassem Al-Abouh:** “Our message is to turn e-waste from an environmental burden into an opportunity that recovers valuable resources and anchors sustainability values in our schools and communities.”

Zain’s business as a technology leader.

As a sustainable institution, Zain’s responsibility extends beyond providing digital services to managing that service’s entire environmental footprint. He added that uniting the efforts of ministries, government bodies, and leading national companies aims to educate the next generation and involve them early in shouldering responsibility, and that working inside schools is an investment in daily habits that shape a sustainable social behavior, giving Kuwait a competitive edge in the green transition and bringing it closer to its sustainable development vision.

Waleed Al-Saqabi, Executive Director of Corporate Communications and Relations at Boubyan Bank, stated that schools are the starting point for instilling environmental awareness among young generations and that this initiative is a practical step to build a more responsible youth. He emphasized that e-waste is among the fastest-

growing and most hazardous pollutants globally, which necessitates management according to best standards to protect soil, water, and public health.

He noted that Boubyan Bank previously implemented an initiative with ‘Tadweeri’ through which more than 3.4 tons of e-waste were collected and nearly 5 tons of CO2 emissions were avoided. He concluded that the initiative is a model of national collaboration that brings together government entities and private sector partners, confirming that sustainability is central to the bank’s strategy through concrete steps that support schools as the nucleus of change and deploy innovative digital solutions to reduce environmental impact toward a green and sustainable future.

Jassem Al-Abouh, founder of ECO Business Incubator and Director of the ‘Toward E-Waste-Free Schools’ initiative, affirmed that launching this national effort aims to build integrated environmental awareness across Kuwait’s schools by promoting responsible consumption and encouraging the recycling of e-waste to protect the environment and students’ health.

He explained that the initiative targets students, teachers, school administrations, and parents through awareness sessions and hands-on workshops over four months, converting schools into primary collection points for devices prior to safe and sustainable reuse and recycling. Partnerships include the Ministry of Education, the Environment Public Authority, and other supporting entities, with recognition for the main partners Zain, Boubyan Bank, and Kuwait Oil Company.

Al-Abouh added that the initiative’s message is clear: transforming e-waste from a burden into an opportunity that recovers valuable resources and anchors sustainability values in schools and communities. He noted that the initiative will continue until January 2026 and will conclude with a comprehensive environmental and technical report and recognition of the most outstanding participating schools and entities.

**Roadmap**

The first-year roadmap comprises sequential phases that ensure continuity and wide community impact. The awareness and education phase runs from September to December 2025 and includes talks, hands-on workshops, and educational materials for students, teachers, and parents.

This is followed by a practical application phase from October to December 2025 with school collection points activated and creative upcycling activities for non-functional devices. The initiative concludes in January 2026 with evaluation, publication of an environmental and technical report, and recognition of distinguished schools and stakeholders.

**Implementation Mechanism and Partnerships**

The initiative follows an integrated participatory approach based on institutional collaboration that engages ministries and government authorities along with leading national private sector companies. Field implementation includes monthly workshops and talks across Kuwait’s six governorates.

The campaign focuses on waste management by placing dedicated containers as central collection points inside schools and transporting devices using approved waste management processes to certified recycling partners. Rigorous documentation and follow-up include measuring collected volumes and issuing interim and final reports. The initiative aims to involve students in volunteer work, encourage parents to drop off old devices at collection points, and build partnerships with cooperative societies and civil society organizations to maximize impact.



Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with the program’s partners



Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues its global expansion spree

# Kareena Kapoor Khan launches two flagship showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in UK at Birmingham & Southall



Birmingham ribbon cutting



Southall ribbon cutting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world’s 5th largest jewellery retailer with over 400 showrooms across 13 countries, has proudly expanded its UK footprint with the launch of their 2 new flagship showrooms at Birmingham & Southall. Acclaimed Bollywood actress & brand ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Kareena Kapoor Khan inaugurated the showrooms, marking a significant milestone in the brand’s growing influence in the international jewellery sector.

Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD – International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. A K Faisal, Group Executive Director; other directors and senior management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, community leaders, valued customers, and well-wishers were present for the occasion.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. M.P Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group,said:“UK is an integral link in our global growth journey in the west, and we are delighted to celebrate this new milestone with the launch of our flagship showrooms in Birmingham and Southall. With the current retail presence of 4 showrooms & more in the pipeline, these openings not only strengthen our presence in the UK but also reinforce our mission of being among the most preferred jewellery retailer in the global market. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our customers, shareholders, and team members for sharing in our vision & placing their trust in us.”

The newly opened flagship showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Birmingham & Southall are designed to be a complete luxury destination, offering jewellery lovers access to over 30,000 designs in 18K, 22K Gold, Diamond, and Precious gems, representing over 25 exclusive collections from Malabar Gold & Diamonds’ vast design portfolio. Specialized services such as customized jewelry designing facilities & exclusive bridal designs are also available. Spanning 5,700+ sq.ft, the Birmingham showroom is the brand’s largest outlet in the UK.

Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group, said: “Our uncompromising approach towards transparent and responsible sourcing underlines every showroom we open across the international markets. From sourcing conflict-free, certified diamonds and responsibly mined gold to ensuring ethical labour prac-

tices, Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues to set standards in the global jewellery sector. The UK marks the beginning of our consistent growth strategy across Europe, with further launches planned in key cities across the continent.”

With these new additions, Malabar Gold & Diamonds now proudly operates 4 showrooms across the United Kingdom—at Birmingham, Leicester, Southall, and Green Street (London).

Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD–International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, stated: “The United Kingdom is home to a vibrant South Asian diaspora and a global hub for arts, fashion, and business. By expanding our retail presence in the country with the launch of Birmingham & Southall showrooms, we have positioned ourselves closer to our customers, ensuring easier access to our timeless artistry and trusted services. The resounding success of the inaugural event with Kareena & the massive crowds that gathered for the same reflect the trust & admiration our brand enjoys in the UK. Looking ahead, our future expansion plans in the UK include opening showrooms in Manchester and a third showroom in London. Beyond the UK, we will also be marking our entry into Ireland and France.”

Both showrooms house extensive bridal collections along with ornaments for daily wear, workwear, and festive occasions. With a wide product range in 18K, 22K gold, diamonds, and precious gemstones, the showrooms cater to varied customer preferences, from those seeking timeless heirloom pieces to millennials looking for contemporary, lightweight designs. Every purchase from Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also covered under the “Malabar Promise” of incomparable quality & service assurance. The Malabar Promise includes 100% value on diamond & gold exchange, guaranteed buyback, hallmarked jewellery, exclusive usage of tested & certified natural diamonds, assured lifetime maintenance and more.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiatives have been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment.

As part of the group’s Hunger Free World initiative, over 70,000 meals are distributed daily across 170 locations, including 3 schools in the African country

of Zambia.

In India alone, the group has established 716 micro learning centres, enrolling more than 32,000 underprivileged children, many of whom transition into formal schooling. Additionally, Malabar Group has awarded more than 115,000 scholarships to female students, supporting their academic journey and empowering the next generation of women leaders.

The company also runs the “Grandma Home” project, providing accommodation for needy and destitute women. With several such initiatives already in place, the company’s long-term goal is to ensure its global success benefits local communities wherever it operates.

## Editor’s Note:

Malabar Gold & Diamonds was established in 1993 and is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate.

With an annual turnover of \$7.36 billion, the company currently ranks as the 5th largest jewellery retailer globally and today has a strong retail network of over 400 showrooms spread across 13 countries in addition to multiple offices, design centers, wholesale units, and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East, the USA, the UK, Canada & Australia. The group, owned by more than 4,000 shareholders, has more than 25,000 professionals from over 26 countries working towards its continued success. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also features an online store [www.malabargold-anddiamonds.com](http://www.malabargold-anddiamonds.com) providing customers the opportunity to purchase their favorite jewelry at any time and on any day from the comfort of their homes.

The group also operates MGD – Lifestyle Jewellery, a retail concept offering trendy and light weight jewellery that represents the independent and the modern woman through its designs and collections.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) has been the primary commitment of the group since its inception. The key ESG focus area of Malabar Group are Health, Housing, Hunger Free World, Education, Environment and Women empowerment. Integrating the principles of responsibility and sustainability into its core business, Malabar Group periodically strengthens its ESG goals to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization. The group contributes 5% of its profit to such initiatives in the same country of operation.

## Trade should remain fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory

## India urges BRICS to address ongoing global conflicts

NEW DELHI, Sept 9, (KUNA): India called upon the BRICS countries to focus attention on ongoing conflicts along with its current focus on stabilizing the international economy and reforming the world order.

Addressing the BRICS Leaders’ Summit on Monday, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that the state of the world today, is a cause for genuine concern.

The virtual summit meeting was hosted by Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva.

“The last few years have witnessed the devastating impact of the Covid pandemic, major conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, volatility in trade and investment flows, extreme climate events and a discernible slowing down of the SDG Agenda,” Jaishankar said in a speech on behalf of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BRICS countries are discussing these challenges as the multilateral system appears to be failing the world and so many serious concerns are being left unaddressed, he said.

“Today, the focus is on stabiliz-

ing the international economy and the world order. But it is equally essential that we turn our attention to ongoing conflicts, not least because they have direct developmental and supply chain implications,” he said.

He also pointed out to the weight of the members of BRICS as they represent a broad diversity of societies underlining the need to find common ground between respective national policies and to act on the basis of common challenges.

Jaishankar appealed to maintain fair and transparent economic practices that are to everyone’s benefit.

“When there are multiple disruptions, our objective should be to proof it against such shocks. That means creating more resilient, reliable, redundant and shorter supply chains.

“Not just that, it is also essential that we democratize manufacturing and production and encourage their growth in different geographies,” he went on.

He criticised linking trade measures to non-trade matters and asserted that trade barriers and complicating transactions will not help.

“The world requires constructive and cooperative approaches to pro-

mote trade that is sustainable. The BRICS itself can set an example by reviewing trade flows among its member states,” he stated.

He also appealed to protect the international trading system which he said is based on the foundational principles of open, fair, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive, equitable and a rules-based approach.

Jaishankar called for an urgent resolution of ongoing conflicts saying the Global South has experienced a deterioration in its food, energy and fertilizer security.

“Where shipping is targeted, not just trade but livelihoods also suffer. A selective protection cannot be a global answer. An early end to the hostilities and undertaking diplomacy to ensure a durable solution is the obvious pathway before us,” he said.

He called for an exchange of views on reforming multilateralism as the next UN General Assembly Session is approaching. He also underlined the importance of addressing climate change lamenting that both climate action and climate justice are currently slipping in global priorities.

## Pakistan eyes foreign investment to ease financial crisis

## US firm makes \$500 million investment deal with Pakistan for critical minerals

ISLAMABAD, Sept 9, (AP): A U.S. metals company signed a \$500 million investment deal with Pakistan on Monday.

Pakistan’s Frontier Works Organization - which is the country’s largest miner of critical minerals - signed a memorandum of understanding with Missouri-based U.S. Strategic Metals for collaboration plans that include setting up a poly-metallic refinery in Pakistan.

The deal comes after Washington and Islamabad last month reached a trade agreement that Pakistan hoped would attract American investment in its minerals and oil reserves.

U.S. Strategic Metals is focused on producing and recycling critical minerals, which the U.S. Department of Energy has defined as essential in a variety of technologies related to advanced manufacturing and energy production.

A second agreement was signed between the National Logistics Corp of Pakistan and Mota-Engil Group, a Portuguese engineering and construction company.

A statement from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s office said he held talks with the delegation from U.S. Strategic Metals and Mota-Engil over Pakistan’s copper, gold, rare earths and other mineral resources.

The sides expressed readiness to develop value-added facilities, enhance mineral processing capacity, and undertake large-scale projects tied to mining, the statement said.

“The partnership will begin immediately with the export

of readily available minerals from Pakistan, including antimony, copper, gold, tungsten, and rare earth elements,” it added.

The U.S. embassy in Pakistan said in a statement: “This signing is yet another example of the strength of the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship that will benefit both countries.”

Earlier this year, Sharif claimed that Pakistan possesses mineral reserves worth trillions of dollars, and foreign investment in the mineral sector could help the country overcome its prolonged financial crisis and free itself from the burden of massive foreign loans.

Most of Pakistan’s mineral wealth is in the insurgency-hit southwestern Balochistan province, where separatists have opposed the extraction of resources by Pakistani and foreign firms.

In August, the U.S. State Department had designated the Balochistan National Army separatist group and its fighting wing, the Majeed Brigade, as a foreign terrorist organization.

Oil and minerals reserves have also been found in the southern Sindh, eastern Punjab and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bordering Afghanistan.

Several companies have already signed agreements with Pakistan in the mining sector. They included the Canadian firm Barrick Gold, which already owns a 50% stake in the Reko Diq gold mine in Balochistan.

## Workers, activists form alert networks with whistles, radios, and patrols

## Immigration raids target day laborers at Southern California Home Depot stores

LOS ANGELES, Sept 9, (AP): At a Home Depot parking lot, a man patrols on a bicycle for federal immigration agents, toting a megaphone on his hip so he can blast a warning to day laborers wanting to land a landscaping or construction job.

The workers from Mexico, El Salvador and elsewhere carry whistles to also sound the alarm, while activists swap details over two-way radios about whether cars whizzing by could be unmarked vehicles carrying officers preparing for a raid.

Their work is cut out for them. Agents have raided the lot outside the 108,000 square-foot Home Depot store in the Van Nuys neighborhood of Los Angeles at least five times this summer, rounding up some immigrants and sending others running in search of safety.

Home Depot stores in Southern California have long been an informal job-seeking hub for day laborers in the country both legally and illegally. Now the locations have become a prime target for immigration agents.

In fact, Home Depot was reportedly mentioned as a target for immigration raids by Stephen Miller, the White House deputy chief of staff and chief architect of President Donald Trump’s immigration policies, earlier this year.

At least a dozen Home Depot stores have been targeted, some of them repeatedly, in Southern California since the administration stepped up its immigration crackdown this summer.

Immigrant advocates sued over the raids but on Monday the Supreme Court cleared the way for federal agents to continue conducting sweeping immigration operations for now in Los Angeles, the latest victory for the Trump administration at the high court. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem called it “a win” for the rule of law, while advocates swiftly criticized the ruling.

“When you undermine the civil rights of those who are more vulnerable, you undermine the civil rights of everyone else,” Pablo Alvarado, co-executive director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, said Monday during a press conference held near a Home Depot.

Last month, outside a Home Depot in Monrovia, a man ran onto a nearby free-way to flee immigration authorities, and was struck and killed.

The Van Nuys location has been hit particularly hard.

Javier, a 52-year-old Mexican immigrant who has lived in U.S. states spanning from California to Kansas over the past three decades, said he narrowly escaped three raids at the store, avoiding agents by hiding beneath a truck, peeling off in his car and dashing inside among the busy shoppers.

“They come in big vans and they all go out to chase people,” he said in Spanish, asking that his last name not be used out of fear of government reprisal.

The store sits on property near the Van Nuys Airport that is owned by Los Angeles World Airports, a department in a city whose policies limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said in a statement that her office supports the litigation against the sweeps and has trained city workers to prepare for immigration enforcement on city-owned properties.



A day laborer eats his meal near a Home Depot sign in the Van Nuys section of Los Angeles, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025. (AP)

City councilperson Ysabel Jurado has voiced opposition to a plan for a new Home Depot in her district, contending the company hasn’t done enough to fight the raids.

Chris Newman, legal director for the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, said “these locations should be protected by the city to the same degree the public libraries are.”

The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to a request for comment.

Immigrant advocates say the country’s largest big-box home improvement retailer benefits from having an ample labor pool at the ready for contractors and should do more to protect customers, employees and day laborers.

The Atlanta-based company, with nearly \$160 billion in annual sales through Feb. 2, counts on contractors and professionals for about half its business - and that’s a key draw for largely immigrant-day laborers. Its second-ranked competitor, Lowe’s, gets about 30% of its business from contractors, relying more heavily on homeowners and DIY enthusiasts, said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail.

“So if you’re going for the volume, if you’re going where people are, and you

can enforce things, you go to Home Depot,” Saunders said.

The raids haven’t hurt overall sales, but the disruptions could affect specific stores by making some customers afraid to shop there, Saunders said.

In the Los Angeles area, the company’s stores saw a 10.7% decline in foot traffic in June from a year ago and a 10% decline in July, according to Placer.ai, an analytics firm that tracks people’s movements based on cellphone usage. That’s a larger drop than the 3.8% and 2.7% declines reported at stores nationwide for the same months.

Home Depot has repeatedly denied being involved in immigration enforcement operations. The company’s late co-founder Bernie Marcus supported Trump, though a Home Depot political action committee has donated to both Democrats and Republicans.

The company said it isn’t told if a raid is going to take place at any of its roughly 2,300 stores.

“We tell associates to report any suspected immigration enforcement activity immediately and not engage with the activity for their safety,” said Beth Marlowe, a company spokesperson, adding that if employees feel uneasy after a raid, they can go home for the rest of the day with pay.

In Van Nuys, witnesses said federal agents have arrested those in the lot before appearing to ask about their immigration status. Local managers have shut the store’s automated glass doors to keep agents out, they said.

“They’re just fishing,” said Luis, a 37-year-old day laborer who is a legal resident and grew up in the United States after arriving from Mexico as a child. He declined to use his last name fearing government reprisal.

The trend of workers gathering outside Home Depot began with the rise of the home improvement retail store that allowed people, including contractors, to price shop and buy materials directly, said Nik Theodore, a professor of urban planning and policy at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

“The basis of competition began to shift and what distinguishes a contractor from getting the bid or not more and more has to do with labor costs,” Theodore said. “Home Depot is not an innocent bystander in all of this. Their sources of success were instrumental in catalyzing this change.”

As the trend grew so did complaints about workers congregating in store parking lots, and in 2008 Los Angeles passed an ordinance requiring similar retailers opening up to adopt plans to provide relief, such as a seating area, bathrooms and trash facilities.

In the parking lot in Van Nuys, a non-profit runs a labor center that takes workers’ names and tracks employers who fail to pay as promised. That’s one reason workers said they keep returning even after the repeated raids.

The other is community.

Since the raids, Javier said he’s started considering returning to Mexico to wait out the Trump administration. In the meantime, he said he’ll keep coming to Van Nuys to find work.

“It’s a place that becomes familiar,” he said. “Here, all of us together, we’ve become friends.”



Actor offers insight into family life, creativity and addiction

## Sheen talks his road to sobriety ahead of memoir release

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): Charlie Sheen said fatherhood quickly occupied his life when he got sober eight years ago.

"It turned into just an interesting daily grind of just sudden responsibility and, you know, having to answer the call and it was amazing," Sheen said Monday, telling an audience that once he "finally put down the bottle," his children started coming to his home.

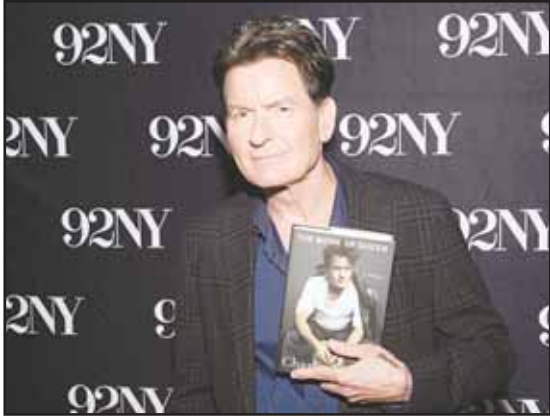
Sheen sat down with actor and writer David Duchovny during an event at 92nd Street Y, New York on Monday to discuss the writing process behind his memoir, "The Book of Sheen," his journey through sobriety and his passion for acting.

The actor battled addiction throughout his decades-long career. Writing about it candidly, as he does in his book set to be released Tuesday, took years of self-reflection, he said.

Sheen grew up on film sets and began creating home movies as a young child, before getting his big break starring in movies like "Platoon" and "Wall Street." His decorated career in Hollywood, however, was accompanied by decades of drug abuse, legal battles, an HIV diagnosis and messy divorces.

"I'm a good guy," Sheen said. "Good guys sometimes do some bad things but the only way to stay a good guy is to own that (expletive) and move forward."

Amid jokes and lighthearted prodding, Duchovny



Charlie Sheen poses backstage before discussing his book 'The Book of Sheen' at the 92nd Street Y on Monday, Sept. 8, in New York. (AP)

applauded the memoir, which he described as "not vindictive at all. There's no animus against any other person in the book, even yourself, which I really appreciate. Not just your gentleness with other people, but your gentleness with yourself."

The book chronicles Sheen's life from a near-death experience during his birth in 1965 to the moment he

decided to get sober in 2017. It carries a unique writing style, with certain words purposefully misspelled and instead written the way Sheen sees them in his mind, he said. Dude, for instance, became "dood."

Sheen said he was inspired by the narration and rhythm in "Apocalypse Now," the 1979 film his father, Martin Sheen, starred in.

"I wanted it to feel like the reader was kind of in the room with me or at the small dinner party hearing this story," he said.

His drug addiction and recovery is at the center of the book and addressed in the latter half of the discussion. Sheen spoke on the "intense sexual component" of a lot of the drugs he grew reliant on, including cocaine. When substance abuse is "the first bridge you build," the actor said, "that's the one you'll keep walking across."

Sheen said he figured out early on that alcohol helped calm his stutter, which had negatively impacted his acting, and it turned into "the most difficult drug for me to deal with."

"The only part of the drinking that I could navigate was the first hour," Sheen said. "But, it's the next 500 hours or just the next 12 hours. So, once I can just abandon that fantasy of living inside that hour, then it is not a big deal."

Sheen struggled to answer whether he'd be open

to acting in the future, noting that "writing the book was the most challenging job I've ever had and hands down the most rewarding one."

"It was incredible to have a job where I didn't have to get approval ... it's just you and the page," he said. "Maybe I need to write the next thing I act in."

Sheen's career began young, making home movies with childhood friends like the Penn brothers, Chris and Sean, in the Malibu, California, neighborhood he grew up in.

Clips from the movies, which had previously only been enjoyed by family and friends, will be featured in Sheen's upcoming Netflix two-part documentary, "aka Charlie Sheen," which will be released Wednesday.

The movies, Sheen said, had simple plots, often revolving around a crime, a villain and someone seeking revenge. They were filmed on old cameras with props handed down by his father, Martin Sheen, and the Penn brother's parents, who were actors and directors themselves.

"Everybody was surfing or skateboarding or doing other stuff and we just found a way to, just kind of emulate or mimic or copy what our parents were doing," Sheen said.

The documentary, which includes interviews with Sean, felt like "the perfect place for them to finally be put on full display," he said.

## Film

'Wake Up, Dead Man' explores faith, family, and forgiveness

## Johnson takes Close to church in new mystery

TORONTO, Sept 9, (AP): The morning after Rian Johnson premiered his latest whodunit "Wake Up, Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery," he and one of his stars, Glenn Close, were debating billing.

Not among the main cast, which considering all the stars in "Wake Up, Dead Man" - Daniel Craig, Josh O'Connor, Josh Brolin, Mila Kunis, to name a few - would be a headache for any filmmaker to sort. But for an uncredited one: Close's dog, Pip, who very briefly appears in the movie.

"And he's got a pain in the butt for an agent," chuckles Johnson.

In each "Knives Out" movie, Johnson has assembled some of his favorite actors and managed to give nearly all of them a moment to shine. "Wake Up, Dead Man" is no different; there are numerous standout performances. But one of them, most definitely, is Close's, whose connections to Johnson's film run deeper than her Havanese's cameo.

"When Rian called, it was so thrilling," Close says. "I had heard about what a good guy he was before I talked to him. And to be on set with him was really something. It's such a delicate chemistry when you're putting a cast together."

In "Wake Up, Dead Man," Johnson, drawing on G.K. Chesterton's Father Brown mysteries, shifts from the Greek isles of "Glass Onion" to an upstate New York church. A young priest named Jud Duplenticy (O'Connor) has been sent to aid a flagging church led by Brolin's monsignor, a charismatic but tyrannical figure. Much of the cast make up his loyal flock, with Close's Martha Delacroix as his most devout follower.

"Knives Out" has forged its own community. When "Wake Up, Dead Man" premiered over the weekend at the Toronto International Film Festival, it was the third of the three movies to launch here, and the most eagerly anticipated film of the festival. The movie, which Netflix will release in theaters Nov. 26 before it



This image released by Netflix shows Kerry Washington, left, and Glenn Close in a scene from 'Wake Up, Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery.' (AP)

streams two weeks later, has plenty of the comic elements of the first two "Knives Out" films. But it's less satirical when it comes to questions of faith and belief.

"For me, that's where this whole thing came from," Johnson says. "I grew up Protestant and what we'd now term evangelical. I was very Christian growing up and not just my parents dragging me to church. Through my early 20s, I really was entirely in it and framed the world around through my relationship with Christ. It was a big, big part of my life. And it's not anymore. But anyone who is a lapsed Christian, you still carry so much with you."

And it's this backdrop of sincere reckoning with religion that makes "Wake Up, Dead Man" more than a simple part for the 78-year-old Close. When Close was 7, her parents moved from Greenwich, Connecticut, to join with Moral Re-Armament, a religious movement Close has called a cult. For years, it dictated much of her life, including what she wore and said. Close later joined with an outgrowth of that movement, the conservative performance troupe Up With People, before quitting at age 22. Acting, she has said, saved her.

"I just think religion has been responsible for most of the things human beings have done to each other," Close says. "It's very hard for me not to look at religion as a way of controlling people. It's more political for me. I do think there's something in the human psyche that we don't know who we are, where we came from and where we're going. I think we're tribal creatures and the comfort you can get from a community, whether religious or not, is palpable."

When Johnson decided to reach out to Close for the role, he was aware of her history. But his

reasons were simpler. He hoped to cast Close, he says, because "she's one of the best actors of our generation."

"The truth is, it's a part that calls for somebody who can both have fun with a certain degree of archness with it but ultimately can land the real emotional truth," says Johnson. "And that's a very, very tall order."

The less said, the better is generally the case with the narratives of the "Knives Out" movies. But it's fair to say that Close, after making an impeccably timed entrance, fills Martha with an uncommon amount of depth in a performance ranging from comic to tragic.

## Career

"I love characters that have this crazy belief that others can look from the outside and say, 'Whoa, that's over the top.' But it's real," says Close, whose celebrated career has included films like "Dangerous Liaisons" and "Fatal Attraction."

From the first "Knives Out," Johnson set out to draw Agatha Christie-style mysteries - usually quaint period pieces - into the present day. Though "Wake Up, Dead Man" doesn't sharpen its knives for Christianity quite the way the previous films did for MAGA hat-wearers in "Knives Out" or tech bros in "Glass Onion," it doesn't ignore political connections, either. There's a DOGE mention, among other references.

"When you talk about Christianity in America today, it's hard not to talk about politics," says Johnson. "For me, growing up in the evangelical church, right into the rise of Reaganism, it was kind of the crucible of the Christian right. I obviously have a lot of thoughts about that, but I also grew up with a very personal relationship with Christ. I also have a deep feeling

about the stuff I took from Christianity that's positive, which is largely just the stuff Jesus actually said, is exactly what the world most needs right now. And that's the irony of it."

Johnson adds: "You're trying to thread the needle in terms of having an actual conversation about this, instead of just wagging your finger and saying 'How could you think this, or how can you think that?' on both sides."

Murder mysteries ultimately deal in justice and meting out moral determinations. But "Wake Up, Dead Man" makes room, also, for understanding and grace in a way that, in many ways, goes against whodunit conventions.

"I really believe the hardest thing for a human being to do is to forgive," Close says. "And I'm not even talking in a religious context. Especially now. It goes so against our basest instincts. When you forgive, you stop the circle."

Now that "Knives Out" has become a trilogy, or, rather, a trinity, it's natural to wonder if "Wake Up, Dead Man" is also closing a loop for Johnson. The writer-director has begun writing something original outside of the series, but, he says, that doesn't mean he's moving on.

"Three is the smallest number where you can establish and then break a pattern. For me, it was largely about showing how these movies can be anything," Johnson says. "It's not so much the closing of a chapter, so much as the promise, hopefully, that as long as Daniel and I can keep getting ourselves excited about these things, we can keep making them."

"Wake Up, Dead Man," of course, also brings some parts of Close's life full circle. When Martha's big moment comes in a dramatic scene inside the church, Close says, "the thing that was kind of a surprise was how real it became."



Britain's Prince Harry speaks at the annual WellChild Awards 2025, in London, Monday Sept. 8, which celebrates the achievements and resilience of seriously ill youngsters and their families. (AP)

## 'Mending ties'

## Harry visits late queen's grave

LONDON, Sept 9, (AP): Prince Harry arrived in the UK on Monday for a visit to his charities, sparking 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 visited the monarch's grave in Windsor to offer his respects and lay flowers.

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.

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 meeting was impossible.

## Impediment

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 Andreae, 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."



Rian Johnson, (right), director of the film 'Wake Up, Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery,' poses with cast member Glenn Close. (AP)

## Variety

NEW YORK: Ella Langley, Megan Moroney and Lainey Wilson lead the nominations for the 2025 Country Music Association Awards, with six nods each.

Joining Wilson in competing for the night's highest honor - CMA entertainer of the year - will be Luke Combs, Cody Johnson, Chris Stapleton and Morgan Wallen, last year's winner in the category.

Also among top nominees announced Monday: Zach Top with five nods, and Riley Green and Johnson with four. Receiving three nods were Kristian Bush, Carson Chamberlain, Combs, Charlie Handsome, Stapleton and Wallen.

The 59th annual CMA Awards will be broadcast live from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena Nov. 19 on ABC, and the next day on Hulu. The prizes are nominated and voted

on by members of the Country Music Association, which includes music executives, artists, publicists, songwriters and other industry professionals.



Langley

and music video of the year for her project "Am I Okay?" and its title track. She's also nominated for female vocalist of the year and musical event of the year.

Lainey Wilson is nominated for en-

tertainer of the year, single and song of the year ("4x4xU"), album of the year ("Whirlwind"), female vocalist of the year, and music video ("Somewhere Over Laredo").

Joining Moroney, Wilson, and Langley and Green for single of the year nods are Combs ("Ain't No Love In Oklahoma") and Top ("I Never Lie").

The nominees for new artist of the year are Langley, Shaboozey, Top, Tucker Wetmore and Stephen Wilson Jr. (AP)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: Howard Stern, the popular and highly paid radio host, returned to SiriusXM's airwaves Monday after trolling listeners into thinking he had departed his long-running show.

Stern, 71, who evolved from his shock jock origins to become a respected interviewer, enlisted a seemingly flustered Andy Cohen at the top of "The Howard

Stern Show" to pretend to be his successor.

"This was supposed to be a cleaner hand off. I'm kind of winging it," said Cohen.

Stern then came on the air and thanked the Bravo personality, who has his own SiriusXM show and podcast, for agreeing to do the bit.

The stunt was the culmination of weeks of promos that promised a big reveal, following swirling speculation that Stern's show would be canceled.

"The tabloids have spoken: Howard Stern fired, canceled," one promo video said. "Is it really bye-bye Booye?"

The speculation grew after Stern postponed his return from a summer break last week.

While he did return Monday, Stern did not announce that he had reached a new contract with SiriusXM. His current deal expires at the end of 2025. (AP)



Activists link artwork to Palestine Action ban

New Banksy mural of a judge beating protester to be removed

LONDON, Sept 9, (AP): A new mural by elusive street artist Banksy showing a judge beating an unarmed protester with a gavel will be removed from a wall outside one of London’s most iconic courts, authorities said Monday.

The mural appeared Monday and depicts a protester lying on the ground holding a blood-splattered placard while a judge in a traditional wig and black gown beats him with a gavel. Banksy posted a photo of the work on Instagram, his usual method of claiming a work as authentic. It was captioned “Royal Courts Of Justice. London.”

Security officials outside the courthouse covered the artwork Monday with sheets of black plastic and two metal barriers, and it was being guarded by two officers and a security camera.

Because the Victorian gothic revival style building is 143 years old, the mural will be removed with consideration for its historical



Undated photo released by Banksy of the new artwork by the artist which portrays a judge beating a protester with a gavel at the Royal Courts of Justice in London. (AP)

significance, according to HM Courts and Tribunals.

“The Royal Courts of Justice is a listed building and HMCTS are obliged to maintain its original character,” it said in a statement. Listed buildings are considered the country’s most significant historic buildings and sites and are protected by law.

While the artwork doesn’t refer to a particular cause or incident, activists saw it as a reference to the UK government’s ban on the group Palestine Action. On Saturday almost 900 people were arrested at a London protest challenging the ban.

Defend Our Juries, the group that organized the protest, said in a statement that the mural “powerfully depicts the brutality unleashed” by the government ban.

“When the law is used as a tool to crush civil liberties, it does not extinguish dissent, it strengthens it,” the statement said.

The courts have weighed in on the Palestine

Action case, with judges initially rejecting the organization’s request to appeal its ban. A High Court judge then allowed the appeal to go forward, though the government is now challenging that decision.

Banksy began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England, and has become one of the world’s best-known artists. His paintings and installations sell for millions of dollars at auction and have drawn thieves and vandals.

Banksy’s work often comments on political issues, with many of his pieces criticizing government policy on migration and war.

At the Glastonbury Festival last year, an inflatable raft holding dummies of migrants in life jackets was unveiled during a band’s headline set. Banksy appeared to claim the stunt, which was thought to symbolize small boat crossings of migrants in the English Channel, in a post on Instagram.

The artist has also taken his message on mi-

gration to Europe.

In 2019, “The Migrant Child,” depicting a shipwrecked child holding a pink smoke bomb and wearing a life jacket, was unveiled in Venice, Italy. In 2018, a number of works including one near a former center for migrants that depicted a child spray-painting wallpaper over a swastika were discovered in Paris.

Banksy has also created numerous artworks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the years, including one depicting a girl conducting a body search on an Israeli soldier, another showing a dove wearing a flak jacket, and a masked protester hurling a bouquet of flowers. He designed the “Walled Off Hotel” guesthouse in Bethlehem, which closed in October 2023.

Last summer, Banksy captured London’s attention with an animal-themed collection, which concluded with a mural of a gorilla appearing to hold up the entrance gate to London Zoo.

Heritage



Artisans use traditional wooden looms to craft Bahraini textiles.



The Heritage Textile Factory... the beating heart of craftsmanship in Bani Jamra.



Eight-meter looms weaving hundreds of threads in Bani Jamra.



Traditional looms highlight artisans’ skill in weaving Bahraini textiles.



Heritage-inspired designs sold inside the factory.



Cotton and silk threads ... the start of every masterpiece.

Bani Jamra Textile Factory: Authentic craft weaving past and present

Bani Jamra Textile Factory, renovated by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, is a destination that introduces generations and visitors to one of the oldest industries that reflects Bahrain’s identity and ancient heritage.

In the heart of Bani Jamra village, among the threads of cotton, wool and silk, the art of weaving is born in Bani Jamra Textile Factory, which embraces a craft that is a source of creativity, economy and culture.

Bahraini textiles are characterized by the use of tra-

ditional hand looms about eight meters long that hold hundreds of threads of cotton, wool and silk, decorating the fabrics with geometric patterns and motifs inspired by the sea and the desert, making them a unique piece of art. (KUNA)

Violence against judges should not be public service cost

Justice Barrett reflects on historic cases in memoir

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett says “violence or threats of violence” against judges shouldn’t be the cost of public service.

But in an interview at the court with The Associated Press about her new book, “Listening to the Law: Reflections on the Court and Constitution,” Barrett was not willing to join other judges who have called on President Donald Trump to tone down rhetoric demonizing judges.

She said there “has been a lot of clear polarization” that has “spilled over into a bad place, spilled into a bad place when it comes to these acts of political violence.”

Along with other justices she said she has received death threats following the court’s decision in 2022 that overturned Roe v. Wade’s right to an abortion.

At 53, Barrett is the youngest member of the court. She said she wrote the book, for which she received a reported \$2 million advance, to make the nation’s highest court accessible to non-lawyers.

Barrett joined the court in 2020, just over a month after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died and Trump chose Barrett to replace her. In her book, the Republican president gets just a few mentions, mainly in connection with her nomination and confirmation.

She dealt with the court’s 2024 decision that spared Trump from prosecution for his efforts to

overturn his 2020 election loss without even using his name or explaining the decision.

“For example, when a former president was indicted - a historical first - the court took the case to decide whether he could be prosecuted for his official acts,” Barrett wrote. She joined most of Chief Justice John Roberts’ majority opinion.

Even as Barrett writes about political polarization across the country, she does not address what role Trump may have played in it. The book does not deal with events of his second term, which began in January, about when Barrett said she was wrapping up the writing.

The court’s consideration of the president and executive power “necessarily has to be detached from the current occupant of the office because ... the court has to think about things in the context of the broad sweep of history, of the presidents who have come before and the presidents who will come later. And so the court in deciding cases about executive power, it really is focused on the presidency rather than the president,” Barrett said.

In the interview and in subsequent public appearances, Barrett downplayed the idea that the nation is facing a constitutional crisis or dealing with unprecedented events.

“It’s hard to say when you look over all of history that there haven’t been times in which that disagreement has been even more acute,” she said, listing the Civil War, Vietnam war protests



Supreme Court Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett poses for a photo during an interview with The Associated Press, prior to the release of her new book, ‘Listening to the Law: Reflections on the Court and Constitution’ in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 3. (AP)

and the Great Depression.

The book is being published Tuesday by Sentinel, a conservative imprint of Penguin Random House.

Barrett wrote clearly on two topics that suggest some disagreement with the president. Trump signed an executive order last month requiring the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute people for burning the American flag, despite a 1989 high court decision protecting the act

as political speech.

Barrett wrote admiringly of the free-speech votes of Justices Anthony Kennedy and Antonin Scalia, for whom she once worked, despite their personal distaste for burning the flag.

Without reference to Trump and his musings about seeking a third presidential term, Barrett also noted the clarity of the two-term limit added to the Constitution in 1951.

“That clear imperative - now memorialized in our binding law - leaves no room for second-guessing,” she wrote.

Barrett was the last of Trump’s three appointees to join the court, cementing a conservative supermajority that has moved quickly to undo the constitutional right to abortion, end affirmative action in education, expand gun rights and make it harder to sustain government regulations.

In a series of emergency orders this year, Barrett has mainly been in the majority to allow Trump to move ahead with plans to remake the federal government, even after lower-court judges have found some of his actions likely illegal.

The decision to overturn Roe hinged on Barrett’s vote. At the time, she was the junior justice and the last to vote when the court met in a private conference following arguments.

In all likelihood, when it came her turn to speak, the court would have been split 4 to 4 on the central question of overturning nearly 50 years of high court precedent.

Obituaries

Rick Davies dies

Maestro Dohnányi passes away at 95

CLEVELAND, Sept 9, (AP): Christoph von Dohnányi, a conductor acclaimed for performances as music director of the Cleveland Orchestra from 1984 to 2002, has died at age 95.

Dohnányi died in Munich on Saturday, the Cleveland Orchestra said in a statement Monday.

“A grand seigneur among the great international conductors to whom the Salzburg Festival owes its world reputation,” Salzburg Festival artistic director Markus Hinterhäuser said in statement.

Dohnányi was most known for his time in Cleveland, helping burnish an orchestra led by George Szell from 1946 to 1970 and Lorin Maazel from 1972 to 1982.

“It’s an ensemble of musicians who come somehow from making chamber music,” Dohnányi said in a 2011 interview for the Cleveland Orchestra Musicians. “The real, very special (characteristic) about the Cleveland Orchestra is that people, musicians, are used to listen to each other very much. All orchestra should do it, many do it, but very few do it to the extent the Cleveland Orchestra is able to do it.”

Showing remarkable stability, the orchestra has been led since his departure by Franz Welser-Möst, who plans to leave in 2027.

Dohnányi was born in Berlin on Sept. 8, 1929, a son of lawyer Hans von Dohnanyi and Christine Bonhoeffer, sister of the pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and grandson of the Hungarian composer Ernst von Dohnányi.

“His storied family history gave him a unique musical perspective,” Cleveland Orchestra CEO André Gremillet said in statement. “Maestro Dohnányi’s artistry and dedication led to a deep mutual respect with our musicians, which was felt sincerely by our audiences.”

Hans von Dohnanyi and Bonhoeffer were arrested by Germany’s Nazi government in 1943 and executed two years later, according to a timeline Christoph von Dohnányi helped prepare for the Cleveland Orchestra.

Christoph von Dohnányi initially studied law for two years after World War II, then attended Munich’s Musik-hochschule to study piano, composition and conducting and coached at the Bavarian State Opera. He studied with his grandfather at Florida State in 1952-53, then at the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Tanglewood Music Center.

Also:

**LONDON:** Rick Davies, the co-founder, singer and songwriter of British band Supertramp, has died after a long battle with cancer, the band said Monday. He was 81.

Davies, who co-wrote the band’s music with Roger Hodgson, was “the voice and pianist behind Supertramp’s most iconic songs, leaving an indelible mark on rock music history,” the band said in a statement on its website.

He died Saturday after battling multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer, for more than a decade, the band said.

Davies and Hodgson formed Supertramp in 1969, and produced hits including “Goodbye Stranger,” “Take the Long Way Home,” “The Logical Song,” and “Give a Little Bit.”

The band’s 1979 album “Breakfast in America” topped charts in the United States and Canada, won two Grammys and sold over 18 million copies.

Star Trek plans packed lineup for franchise’s 60th anniversary

LOS ANGELES, Sept 9, (AP): Not many franchises have fueled society’s timeless fascination with the boundless possibilities of a utopian future like “Star Trek.”

Next year the sprawling franchise will add more shows, Lego sets and even a Rose Parade Float in a yearlong celebration of its 60th anniversary.

The hefty lineup of “fan-centric” celebrations was announced by the franchise on its 59th anniversary Monday, known as Star Trek Day. The projects are the first wave, Paramount said in its announcement.

“The 60th anniversary celebrates “Space for Everybody,” extending an open invitation to celebrate the future that “Star Trek” aspires to - a future of HOPE, a future of EXPLORATION and a future where we rise to the challenge to BE BOLD,” the announcement read.

The sci-fi franchise began with the TV series cre-

ated by Gene Roddenberry that debuted in 1966 and has since sprawled into a multi-billion dollar cultural phenomenon. Today, fans, known as Trekkies, have enjoyed countless movies, spinoff shows and video games based on the original series.

Set in the Milky Way a couple hundred years in the future, the series followed the crew behind the starship USS Enterprise. Their journey led them to, “Boldly go where no man has gone before,” as William Shatner, who played Captain James T. Kirk, famously said at the top of every episode.

The yearlong celebration will kick off on New Year’s Day, with a float in the Rose Parade in California. The float “will reflect values of hope, inclusivity, exploration and unity,” the franchise representatives wrote in a statement.

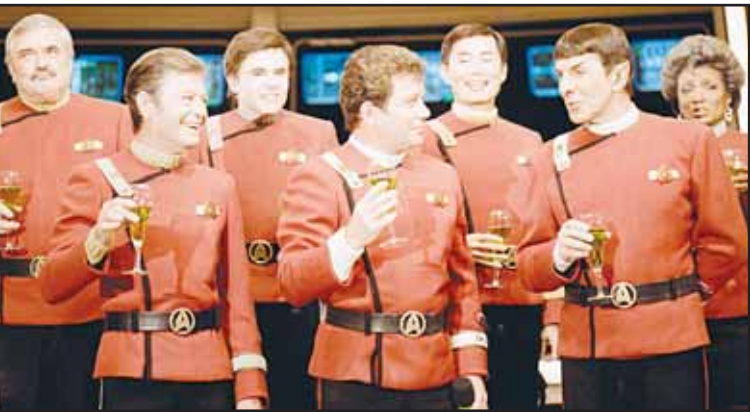
The float will also feature the upcoming new series “Star Trek: Starfleet Academy” set to launch in

early 2026 on Paramount+. The show will center on a group of young cadets who navigate the responsibilities of becoming Starfleet officers all the while juggling new friendships, love interests and enemies.

Paramount gave a first look of the show, which starts actors Holly Hunter and Paul Giamatti, during a Comic-Con event in late July.

The franchise also announced “Star Trek: Scout” a new original, animated YouTube-first series. Created by Nickelodeon Digital Studio in association with CBS Studio, the show is the first preschool extension of the franchise. It follows three 8-year-old friends as they train to become future Starfleet Explorers.

The first two episodes of the 20-episode run were released Monday, and the rest will roll out into the next year. A new scripted podcast, “Star Trek: Khan” also released its first episode Monday.



Members of the ‘Star Trek’ crew, (from left), James Doohan, DeForest Kelley, Walter Koenig, William Shatner, George Takei, Leonard Nimoy, and Nichelle Nichols, toast the newest ‘Star Trek’ film at Paramount Studios on Dec. 28, 1988. (AP)



Pest discovery in Maine marks US northeast limit

Invasive, disease-carrying tick found in Maine for first time

PORTLAND, Maine, Sept 9, (AP): Researchers have confirmed the presence of an invasive species of tick in Maine for the first time, marking the farthest northeast in the United States the pest has been discovered.

The University of Maine and state conservation officials said Monday they confirmed the presence of the Asian longhorned tick in the state in July. The tick is native to east Asia, where it is capable of spreading tick-borne infections such as spotted fever.

The tick was first confirmed in the United States in New Jersey in 2017 and it has since spread to more than 20 states, clustering mostly around the eastern third of the country. Exactly



This handout photo provided by the University of Maine and taken in July, 2025 shows an Asian longhorned tick. (AP)

how the tick arrived in the country isn't certain, but public health officials have cited possible routes of entry including on pets and livestock.

"This discovery underscores the

critical importance of continued tick surveillance in Maine," said Griffin Dill, director of the UMaine Extension Tick Lab. "While this appears to be an isolated case, we are closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with state and federal partners."

The tick specimen was not yet an adult and it was collected in the southern part of the state, the lab said in a statement. Follow-up surveillance didn't turn up any additional specimens in the surrounding area, the lab said.

Asian longhorned ticks feed on numerous animals, including cattle and humans. They pose a challenge for pest control authorities because female ticks of the species can reproduce

without mating, which means a single individual can create an infestation, the lab said. The specimen found in Maine could not reproduce yet because it was a juvenile, the lab said.

Research is still going on to determine the tick species' ability to spread pathogens in Maine and elsewhere in the US, the lab said. Ticks are a major public health concern in the Northeastern US, where another species, the blacklegged or deer tick, spreads Lyme disease.

In the meantime, the public can prevent tick bites by taking steps such as conducting rigorous checks for them, avoiding overgrown vegetation and wearing protective clothing, public health officials said.

Drug cuts cataplexy attacks by over 80% in studies

New drug offers hope for narcolepsy patients

SINGAPORE & OSAKA, Japan & CAMBRIDGE, Mass, Sept 9, (AP): Takeda has presented data from two global Phase 3 double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of ovesporexton (TAK-861), a potential first-in-class investigational oral orexin receptor 2 (OX2R)-selective agonist in narcolepsy type 1 (NT1), during multiple oral presentations at the World Sleep 2025 Congress in Singapore yesterday.

Both the FirstLight (TAK-861-3001) and Radiant-Light (TAK-861-3002) studies met all primary and secondary endpoints demonstrating statistically significant improvement across a broad range of NT1 symptoms compared to placebo with p-values of 0.001 across all doses (twice-daily 1mg/twice-daily 2mg) at week 12. Ovesporexton was generally well-tolerated with a safety profile consistent across clinical studies to date. No serious treatment-related adverse events were reported. The most common adverse events were insomnia, urinary urgency and frequency.

NT1 is a chronic, rare neurological disease caused by the loss of orexin neurons in the brain that results in a range of debilitating symptoms, which can severely impact every aspect of life. Currently, the standard available therapies only partially address some of the symptoms people face. As an orexin agonist, ovesporexton is designed to fully address a broad range of NT1 symptoms by targeting the underlying orexin deficiency.

"Our research has shown that the loss of orexin is the cause of narcolepsy type 1, which results in symptoms like excessive daytime sleepiness and cataplexy," said Dr. Emmanuel Mignot, M.D., Ph.D.,

principal investigator for the FirstLight Phase 3 study and one of the presenting authors. "Takeda's groundbreaking efforts targeting the orexin receptor 2 in clinical studies led to positive Phase 3 results for ovesporexton, bringing us a major step closer to having the first orexin therapy that addresses the underlying cause of narcolepsy type 1 — with the potential of transforming the current treatment paradigm."

Ovesporexton was discovered in our Takeda labs. The Phase 3 ovesporexton program is one of the largest, most comprehensive development programs for NT1. The studies investigated 14 primary and secondary endpoints over a total of 12 weeks in 273 patients across 19 countries. More than 95 percent of the participants who completed the studies enrolled in the ongoing long-term extension (LTE) study.

The oral presentations at World Sleep include data from objective and patient-reported measures of wakefulness, cataplexy, symptom severity and quality of life, including:

Wakefulness: Ovesporexton improved excessive daytime sleepiness demonstrating statistically significant improvement from baseline in mean sleep latency on the Maintenance of Wakefulness Test (MWT) and in Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) scores at week 12 across doses compared to placebo. The majority of participants treated with the 2/2mg dose achieved wakefulness within normative range (≥20 min) on the MWT, and close to 85 percent of participants achieved ESS scores comparable to healthy individuals (≤10).

Cataplexy: Ovesporexton demonstrated significant

reduction in weekly cataplexy rate over 12 weeks across doses compared to placebo (median of percent change from baseline more than 80%). Median cataplexy free days compared to placebo improved from 0 days at baseline to 4-5 days per week at week 12. Cataplexy is a defining symptom for NT1 and is the sudden loss of muscle tone triggered by strong emotions.

Symptom Severity: Ovesporexton showed statistically significant changes from baseline in the narcolepsy severity scale (NSS-CT) total score compared to placebo with more than 70 percent of participants reporting the lowest severity level (mild; score 0-14) across doses. Ovesporexton also resulted in statistically significant improvements in overall narcolepsy symptoms as assessed by the self-rated Patient Global Impression of Change (PGI-C) scale with nearly all treated participants (97%) reporting improvements.

Quality of Life: Ovesporexton resulted in statistically significant improvements in quality of life reaching scores in the normative range as assessed by the Short Form-36-item (SF-36) survey. These outcomes were supported by significant improvements on exploratory endpoints including the EuroQol 5-Dimension 5-Level (EQ-5D-5L).

Safety Profile: Across both studies, ovesporexton was generally well-tolerated. No treatment-related serious adverse events were observed. Consistent with our experience from previous clinical studies, the most common adverse events were insomnia, urinary urgency and frequency. Most adverse events were mild to moderate.

Bubonic plague

Pakistan reports 11 dengue cases

ISLAMABAD, Sept 9, (Xinhua): Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad reported 11 new dengue cases during the last 24 hours, officials said on Monday.

A total of seven cases were detected in rural areas, while four were reported from urban localities. Surveillance and inspections were continuing across the federal capital to prevent further spread.

The areas with confirmed larva presence have been treated immediately to curb mosquito breeding, and follow-up inspections were also planned to ensure the complete elimination of breeding grounds.

To control the rising trend of cases, enforcement actions against violations of dengue preventive standard operating procedures were being carried out across the capital.

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**Bubonic plague:** Two additional cases of bubonic plague have been confirmed in Khuvsgul Province, northern Mongolia, bringing the national total to three, the country's health ministry said Tuesday.

The cases, reported in Tsagaan-Uul and Murun soums (administrative subdivisions), are being treated at the Khuvsgul provincial general hospital.

A total of 80 people who had contact with the patients have been isolated and are receiving treatment at local hospitals, the ministry said in a statement.

On Sept. 7, a 24-year-old herder in Tsagaan-Uul soum died from the disease after consuming marmot meat.

Some 17 of Mongolia's 21 provinces are now considered at risk of bubonic plague, according to the National Center for Zoonotic Diseases.

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**Childcare:** A Chinese health spokesperson on Monday announced that the country's nationwide childcare subsidy program is now open for applications.

Hu Qiangqiang, a spokesperson for the National Health Commission, said at a press conference that the public can now apply through multiple online platforms — including Alipay and WeChat, as well as via offline channels.

China in July introduced the nationwide subsidy program, effective from Jan. 1, 2025, which is expected to benefit more than 20 million families each year, as part of the country's efforts to support families and encourage childbirth.

The program will offer families 3,600 yuan (about 507 U.S. dollars) per year for each child under the age of three.

The Ministry of Finance later said the central budget will allocate 90 billion yuan this year to support the issuance of these subsidies.

New research aims to end need for insulin

PSA sheds light on hidden challenges of type 1 diabetes and calls for cure

MIAMI, Sept 9, (AP): The Diabetes Research Institute Foundation (DRIF), a not-for-profit corporation funding critical research at the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI), today launched a national public service announcement (PSA) that sheds light on the hidden daily impact of type 1 diabetes (T1D) and the urgent need for a cure.

Titled "Our Best Shot," the PSA offers an intimate glimpse into the reality of T1D through the eyes of children and adults living with this autoimmune disease, and encourages audiences to visit diabetesresearch.org to learn more about the most promising research toward a cure that could end diabetes forever.

"This PSA captures what drives our mission: to cure and prevent T1D and ensure that no diagnosis stands in the way of a full and healthy life," said Michael J. Burton, chief executive officer of the DRIF. "By spotlighting how the DRIF's best shot at a cure is the best shot at life for people living with T1D, we're showing the public what's really at stake — from constantly monitoring blood sugar levels to the daily anxiety of potential complications. Through our cutting-edge research, we are confident a cure will be found to reverse T1D and restore the body's ability to produce insulin naturally."



During an important job interview, Danica checks her blood sugar levels to manage her type 1 diabetes. (AP)

We don't just hope for a cure, we're building it. At the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, the DRI's integrated research teams are pioneering breakthrough approaches in immune therapies, cell transplantation, and regenerative medicine.

Each discovery brings us closer to the ultimate goal: restoring natural insulin production in people with T1D

and eliminating the threat of this insidious disease once and for all.

The DRI is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary research center and recognized world leader in the field. By working in close collaboration with cure-focused partners in real-time across the globe, we can accelerate the pace of discovery and ensure that the best ideas are quickly translated into actionable clinical research.

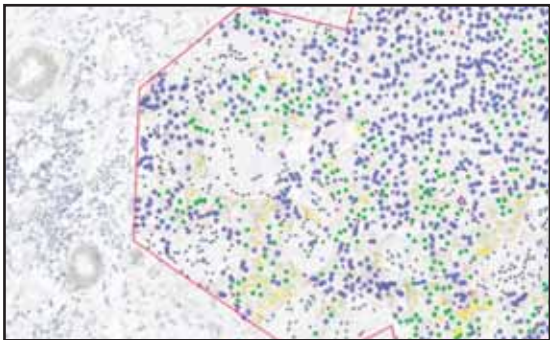
Ibex AI boosts accuracy in HER2 diagnosis

AI tool wins EU nod for breast cancer testing

BOSTON, Sept 9, (AP): Ibex Medical Analytics (Ibex), a leader in artificial intelligence (AI)-powered cancer diagnostics, has announced it has received In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (IVDR) certification for its HER2 breast cancer biomarker scoring solution. Ibex's fully automated "zero-click" AI-enhanced decision support tool for pathologists efficiently increases the accuracy and consistency of HER2 immunohistochemistry (IHC) scoring, including HER2-low cases. Ibex's breast HER2 solution was developed and validated by Ibex in collaboration with AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo.

Using digitized images of HER2 IHC stained breast cancer samples, Ibex's breast HER2 solution detects invasive tumor cell staining patterns and classifies HER2 expression into four standard scores: 0, 1+, 2+ and 3+ (based on ASCO/CAP guidelines). It can assist pathologists in the detection and interpretation of cases with HER2 ultralow expression (defined as IHC 0 with membrane staining present). The AI-powered computational tool automates and optimizes case review with:

- "Zero-click" invasive tumor detection (automatically excluding ductal carcinoma in situ)



Ibex's HER 2 breast cancer biomarker scoring solution.

- Automated tumor cell identification and cell staining pattern classification
- Editable invasive contours and score recalculation
- Visualization of AI findings and cell staining pattern percentages for better understanding of score result

Pathologists supported by Ibex's breast HER2 solution showed improvement in scoring accuracy and consistency, as demonstrated by two clinical studies; one spanning 14 international cancer centers and an additional multi-reader validation study.

The IVDR certificate was received following a meticulous review process, as required by EU regulations, reflecting trust in the quality, safety and performance of the product. Ibex's breast HER2 solution has been shown to be exceptionally robust, with high performance across multiple labs, scanners, anti-HER2 antibodies, and patient demographics during IVDR clinical studies:

- Improved Accuracy (relative to experts): Pathologists supported by AI demonstrated improved sensitivity, when scoring HER2 0 and 1+ slides (91.2% manual score vs. 97.4% with AI) and overall accuracy for all HER2 scores (77.5% manual score vs. 86.6% with AI).
- Increased Consistency: Pathologists' average inter-observer agreement was significantly higher when assisted by AI (94.1%) than with manual scoring (77.3%), in all slides, and specifically for HER2 0 and 1+ slides (97.2% with AI vs. 87.4% for manual score).

"AI can be a valuable decision support tool, aiding pathologists to improve HER2 scoring accuracy and align more closely with expert breast pathologists, as well as enhancing consistency among pathologists, particularly in challenging cases at the lower end of the HER2 expression spectrum," says Dr. Elena Provenzano, lead breast histopathologist at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

"Ibex's HER2 tool could be extremely valuable in today's clinical landscape, where there is increasing pressure to identify low-expressing HER2 cases in a more reproducible and objective manner."

Authority still urges vigilance

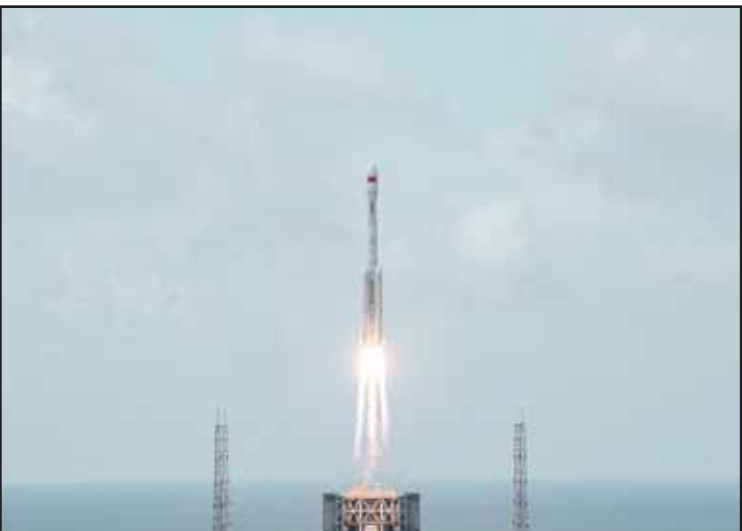
WOAH confirms Kuwait free of 'foot-and-mouth' disease

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) announced the end of the foot-and-mouth disease (SAT1) outbreak in Kuwait, following the adoption of the final report of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), which officially confirmed the end of the epidemic in the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the Authority praised the efforts of workers

in the livestock sector, including the Animal Health and Animal Production departments, medical laboratories and veterinarians, in cooperation with cattle breeders, the Dairy Producers Union and farm workers.

It also stressed the need for farms to remain committed to biosecurity regulations and prompt reporting to the Animal Health Department of any suspected cases, in order to protect livestock and prevent the spread of epidemics.



A modified Long March-7 carrier rocket carrying the Yaogan-45 satellite blasts off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province, Sept. 9. (Xinhua)

Remote sensing sat launched

NASA to begin year-long Mars mission simulation

LOS ANGELES, Sept 9, (Xinhua): Four volunteers will spend a year inside a 3D-printed habitat at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas State as part of a mission simulation to help prepare for future human exploration of Mars, the agency said Monday.

Ross Elder, Ellen Ellis, Matthew Montgomery, and James Spicer will enter the 1,700-square-foot (158-square-meter) Mars Dune Alpha, a 3D-printed habitat, on Oct. 19 to begin their 378-day mission, which is scheduled to conclude on Oct. 31, 2026, said NASA.

During the simulation, the crew will face realistic challenges such as limited resources, equipment malfunctions, communication delays, isolation and confinement, as well as simulated high-intensity extravehicular activities. These scenarios are designed to help NASA assess risks and develop strategies for long-duration space exploration.

The participants will conduct scientific research and operational tasks, including simulated Mars walks, growing a vegetable garden,

robotic operations, and testing technologies designed for Mars and deep space exploration, such as a potable water dispenser and diagnostic medical equipment, according to NASA.

The project is part of NASA's Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog program, carried out in the 3D-printed habitat to evaluate certain human health and performance factors ahead of future Mars missions.

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China launched a new remote sensing satellite from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan on Tuesday.

The Yaogan-45 satellite was launched at 10 a.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a modified Long March-7 carrier rocket. It has entered the preset orbit successfully.

It will be mainly used for scientific experiments, land resource surveys, crop yield estimates, and disaster prevention and relief work.

The launch was the 594th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

US scientist honored

Balzan prize recognizes new frontiers in cancer therapy

MILAN, Sept 9, (AP): American historian Josiah Ober, whose studies of Athenian democracy provide insights into current political crises, and US immunologist Carl H. June, who works on gene-modified cell therapy that offers hope for future cures of autoimmune diseases, were among four winners of the 2025 Balzan Prizes announced Monday.

The Switzerland-based Balzan Foundation makes four awards each year in the humanities and hard sciences. Winners receive a total of 800,000 Swiss francs (about \$940,000), half which must be used to support projects by young researchers. The awards were announced in the northern Italian city of Milan and will be presented in Bern, Switzerland on Nov. 14.

The other recipients were Rosalind Krauss, a Columbia University art historian cited for her role in establishing the field of contemporary art history, and French physicist Christophe Salomon, for his work revolutionizing the ultra-precise measurement of time, according to the Balzan Foundation.

Ober, the American historian, is a classics professor at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. He was cited for "groundbreaking research" identifying factors behind the success of Athenian democracy, and drawing comparisons with the present day, the foundation said.

"The relevance of the topic is more than obvious, because it is clear in recent times that the Western form of democracy, long considered a model for ideal government, is truly in crisis, adding to the desire to study historic precedents to better understand the deep social and cultural transformations underway," said Christoph Ried-



June

weg, a Swiss scholar who read the citations.

June, an immunologist at the University of Pennsylvania, was recognized for having invented a genetically engineered cellular therapy called CAR-T cells that has contributed to the treatment of childhood and adult leukemia, and holds promise for the treatment of autoimmune disease and solid tumors.

June runs a lab at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine that focuses on designing new engineered receptors for T-cells and developing improved delivery methods for use in cancer treatment.

"June's pioneering discovery has had a cascading effect that has generated new versions of the CAR-T cells and to engineer new responses in cells," said presenter Alberto Mantovani, an Italian immunologist. "The hope is that the CAR-T cells will help us to treat and heal autoimmune diseases," for which currently there are no cures.

Krauss, lauded as one of the world's most acclaimed female scholars, was cited as a pioneer in contemporary art history who made it one of the most important disciplines within the broader field. She is the co-founder of the influential magazine "October," and her writings have been translated into many languages.

Salomon, a physicist at the Laboratoire Kastler Brossel Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, was cited for "his pioneering contribution in paving the way for the application of ultracold atoms to the creation of atomic clocks which have revolutionized the measurement of time."

Next year's prizes will be awarded in the social science of digital technology, Jewish studies, biodegradable polymers from renewable sources and molecular evolution.

The Balzan Foundation will also make an additional award for Humanity, Peace and Fraternity among People.



One last chance to say goodbye

# After Paris heartbreak, Fraser-Pryce seeks redemption in Tokyo

TOKYO, Sept 9, (AP): It certainly wasn't Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce's greatest race.

But in getting to the core of who she is and how to define the most decorated female 100-meter sprinter to ever put on spikes, that race earlier this year against other parents at her son's sports day at school says a lot.

Fraser-Pryce beat all those parents in the short sprint by a veritable mile. The drone footage of the scene is hilarious. At 38, with enough medals, trophies, and other hardware to fill a warehouse, Fraser-Pryce surely didn't have to line up for that one.

But she was a parent, and her son, Zyon, was a student and ... why not? Did the thought of easing up a bit - letting some lucky mom or dad say she hung with, or beat, the champ - ever cross her mind?

"I would never do that," Fraser-Pryce said with a laugh. "It's not in my DNA to do it. What amazes me is that they actually think they stood a chance!"

Fraser-Pryce will be back on the starting line this week for the 100 meters at the world championships in Tokyo - her eighth and, she says, final appearance on track's biggest stage outside of the Olympics.

This is a retirement that has been delayed by a year after things at what was supposed to be her closing act - at the Paris Games a year ago - went dreadfully wrong.

It's a chance for the three-time Olympic gold medalist, the champion for women in sports, and the athlete many have watched grow up - from a 21-year-old brace-faced unknown in Beijing to an all-time great - to go out on her own terms.

On the day of the 100-meter final in Paris last year, a video of Fraser-Pryce being denied entry to the stadium popped up on social media.

It happened to several sprinters that day, including the American favorite at the time, Sha'Carri Richardson.

The Olympics called it a simple mix-up. The video shows Fraser-Pryce clearly under duress, as she argues that, up to that day, the most important day -- she and other athletes had gone in through the same gate where they were now being denied.

She stood there for around 30 minutes, seeing if the situation would be resolved.



In this file photo, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, of Jamaica, center, reacts after winning Gold in the final in the women's 100-meter run with teammates Elaine Thompson-Herah and Shericka Jackson, at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Ore. (AP)

She saw busloads of athletes passing by, watching the scene unfold. She felt humiliated.

By the time she finally made it to the warmup track, an hour later than scheduled, nothing felt right. If nothing else, finely tuned sprinters are creatures of habit. Fraser-Pryce, running well that season and in the mix for a medal, had lost her mojo.

"I've had injuries before, and I've had setbacks, and I've really been tough and got it done," she said. "And this time, I wasn't able to get to the line. It's the first time in my entire career that I have had a panic attack. That's what the unfinished business is - is having the opportunity to walk away knowing I gave everything."

When she made her Olympic debut in 2008, Fraser-Pryce concedes she didn't really know what kind of sprinter she might be. She was hoping to make the final.

"That was the only goal I had going in," she said.

She won that night, leading a Jamaican medal sweep that generated more headlines than her individual win.

When she won again in 2012, she was officially royalty - up there with Gail Devers and Flo Jo and all the greats to ever run track -- even if her win, once again, got overshadowed by the spectacle of Usain Bolt and the overall dominance of her country.

Yet other than the braces, which came off in 2010, the trademark colorful wigs and the nickname "The Pocket Rocket" - homage to the 5-foot-tall burst of speed and color that she was - Fraser-Pryce's story wasn't all that well-known outside of Jamaica and, specifically, around Waterhouse, a working-class community in Kingston, where she grew up sharing a bed with two brothers and her mom in a house without an indoor toilet.

The story, however, gained more texture and heart after her son, Zyon, was born in 2017.

She sat on the bed and cried after learning she was pregnant. Some friends were wishing her congratulations on a career that, they now suggested, was certainly over.

"Everyone's entitled to their opinion," she said. "I knew how I felt, and I knew I wasn't ready to go, I had something left to do, and I stayed focused on the goal."

That quote came in 2019, after winning the gold medal at the world championships in Doha. Fraser-Pryce became a symbol of a growing phalanx of runners-turned-mothers - including Allyson Felix, Alyisia Montano and Faith Kipyegon -- who were tired of being written off just because they'd had kids.

Three years later in Oregon, after Fraser-Pryce won her fifth world title in the 100 - this one after another Jamaican, Elaine Thompson-Herah, had won two Olympics and seemingly left her far behind - she was shedding another stereotype.

"So many people believe that when women turn 35, it somehow diminishes our gift, our talent," Fraser-Pryce said after that one. "But I'm still able to line up and compete, and that is very special."

## 'A proven and consistent record'

## Postecoglou appointed coach of Forest hours after sacking Nuno

LONDON, Sept 9, (AP): Ange Postecoglou is back in management after taking over as coach of Nottingham Forest on Tuesday.

The Australian was fired by Tottenham in June, but has made swift return to the Premier League - replacing Nuno Espirito Santo at Forest.

"We are bringing a coach to the Club who has a proven and consistent record of winning trophies. His experience of coaching teams at the highest level, along with his desire to build something special with us at Forest, makes him a fantastic person to help us on our journey and achieve consistently all our ambitions," said Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis.

Postecoglou's appointment concluded a frantic 24 hours at Forest, with Nuno's departure confirmed shortly past midnight on Tuesday, UK time.

Within hours Postecoglou emerged as the favorite to take over and he was confirmed in his new role that afternoon.

Postecoglou led Tottenham to its first trophy in 17 years last season when winning the Europa League and securing qualification to the Champions League. But that wasn't enough to save his job at the end of a campaign that saw Spurs finish 17th in the 20 team English top flight - its worst position since the start of the Premier League in 1992. His team also lost 22 times in the league - a club record in the modern era.

Postecoglou will get the chance to compete in the Europa League again at Forest after Nuno guided the club back into Europe for the first time since 1996. Forest finished seventh last season - having mounted an unlikely challenge for Champions League qualification for much of the campaign - its best placing in the top flight since 1995.

"After gaining promotion to the Premier League, then building consistently season after season to secure European football, we now must take the right step to compete with the very best and challenge for trophies. Ange has the credentials and the track-record to do this, and we are excited he is joining us on our ambitious journey," said Marinakis.

Postecoglou's swift return to top level management will give him the chance to prove Tottenham was wrong to let him go after he ended its trophy drought.

The outspoken 60-year-old coach boldly claimed last year that he always wins a trophy in his second season, having done so with former clubs Brisbane Roar, Yokohama F Marinos and Celtic. That streak looked highly unlikely as his Spurs team struggled for form all season, but an improbable run to the final of the Europa League ended with victory against Manchester United.

Forest hasn't won a major trophy since the English League Cup in 1990 and has spent long periods of the Premier League era outside of the top flight.

Postecoglou is known for his ultra-attacking style of soccer, which some critics have labeled naive.

After a 4-3 win against United in the League Cup last season, he famously quipped "Are you not entertained?" during his post-match interview.

He takes over a team that proved itself to be one of the most difficult to beat in the Premier League under Nuno, with a more pragmatic approach than Postecoglou and it is unknown how the players will transition to a new style.

Nuno took Forest from a relegation battler to a Champions League contender.

Appointed in December 2023 when Forest was 17th in the standings, he secured Premier League survival despite the club being deducted four points for breaching financial rules. The next season Forest was fighting at the other end of the table and looked set to claim a top five finish until a late dip in form saw it win just one of its last five matches.

Against parts of the Premier League's rules last year, following a case initiated by the club.

The APT regulations are designed to stop clubs from benefiting from sponsorship or commercial agreements with owner-related companies that exceed "fair market value." In November 2024, most Premier League clubs voted to strengthen those rules, despite City's objections.

The club is still awaiting the outcome of a separate high-profile disciplinary case, in which the Premier League has charged it with more than 100 alleged breaches of financial regulations. City continues to deny any wrongdoing.

Man City, Premier League settle dispute

LONDON, Sept 9, (Xinhua): Manchester City and the Premier League have settled their dispute over regulations governing commercial partnerships.

Under the agreement, City has accepted that the league's rules on associated party transactions (APTs) are valid and enforceable. Both sides confirmed that ongoing legal proceedings will be brought to an end.

"Neither the Premier League nor the club will be making any further comment about the matter," a joint statement said.

City had previously challenged the APT framework, arguing that the regulations were "unlawful." An independent arbitration panel had already found

Best of the Rest

Suarez handed additional ban: Inter Miami striker Luis Suarez has been given an additional three-match suspension by Major League Soccer after spitting on a Seattle Sounders staff member in the League Cup final, the league said on Monday.

The sanction extends the 38-year-old's punishment to nine games in total. Suarez had already been banned for six matches by tournament organizers, ruling him out of next year's Leagues Cup.

The new penalty applies to MLS fixtures, meaning he will miss league games against Charlotte FC on Sept. 13, Seattle on Sept. 16 and D.C. United on Sept. 20.

The altercation followed Miami's 3-0 defeat to Seattle in last month's final. Suarez grabbed Obed Vargas by the throat before Sergio Busquets struck the midfielder on the chin. The Uruguayan forward was then restrained by teammates as he spat at Sounders director of security Gene Ramirez. (Xinhua)

Santos out as Azerbaijan coach: Veteran coach Fernando Santos left his job with the Azerbaijan national team on Monday following a 5-0 loss to Iceland in the team's first qualifying game for next year's World Cup.

The man who led Portugal to the 2016 European Championship title stepped down after a decision that was mutually agreed, the Azerbaijan soccer federation said.

After Friday's loss to Iceland, Santos was directly criticized by the federation's secretary general who said "the head coach did not do his homework."

Santos has now been ousted from the Poland and Azerbaijan national-team jobs since taking Portugal to the 2022 World Cup quarterfinals. Portugal lost to Morocco and Santos left days later, after more than eight years in charge. (AP)

# India enters Asia Cup campaign with eye on home T20 World Cup

Samson's place in the XI under scrutiny as Gill re-enters the fold

DUBAI, Sept 9, (AP): Suryakumar Yadav's India lineup will have one eye on an Asia Cup title defense and the other on the Twenty20 World Cup it is co-hosting next year, when it opens Group A against the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday.

India is the designated host of this 2025 edition of the Asia Cup, although it is being played at a neutral venue in the UAE under the Asian Cricket Council's guidelines for when the continental tournament is scheduled for either India or Pakistan.

The Asia Cup marks a resumption of cricket ties between India and Pakistan, only months after the neighboring countries were engaged in a tense border tension in May that disrupted the IPL and the Pakistan Super League.

India's government has given the national cricket team permission to play against Pakistan only in multi-nation tournaments.

The first of a potential three meetings at the Asian Cup will be on Sunday, with a chance for more in the Super 4 stage and the Sept. 28 final. India also faces tournament newcomer Oman in the group stage on Sept. 19.

India's test captain Shubman Gill has returned to the T20 squad after a year out. He last played T20s against Sri Lanka in July 2024 when coach Gautam Gambhir took charge of the



In this file photo, India's men's T20 captain, Suryakumar Yadav (left) and chief selector Ajit Agarkar pose during a press conference to announce the team for the T20 Asia Cup. (AP)

Indian team.

Gill scored 754 runs in England as India's new test skipper, helping the team draw 2-2 in the five-match series, and now returns as T20 vice-captain.

T20 ace Suryakumar Yadav retained captaincy, so there's some speculation about where Gill will slot into the XI.

"He has been very successful in the IPL. He was part of the Indian team earlier, too. The kind of form he is in, it really augurs well," India great Sunil Gavaskar, who is part of the commentary panel for the Asia Cup, said. "Having him back was a no-brainer."

In Gill's absence, Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma formed an attacking opening partnership for India in T20s.

While left-hander Sharma has shored up his opening spot with a mix of clever left-arm spin, Samson will be vying with Gill for the other opening slot.

Since July of last year, Samson has scored 487 runs in 17 matches at an impressive strike rate and hit three centuries. Those three hundred inflated his run tally, though, and masked a string of poor scores in between. Samson scored 111, 107, and 109 not out across five innings last October and November against Bangladesh (home) and South Africa (away). Take away those scores, and he is left with 160 runs in 13 innings.

Samson does play the dual wicket-keeper-batter role, but should Gill open, Jitesh Sharma provides a middle-

order alternative. Sharma helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru win its first IPL trophy, and his hitting prowess in the late overs didn't go unnoticed.

Along with Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, and Hardik Pandya, he provides a solid finishing platform for India, putting Samson's place in some doubt.

"Samson should be left alone as opener - he is most dangerous at the top and can win you matches," Ravi Shastri, former India captain and coach, told the Asia Cup's broadcasters. "Gill can come in for someone else."

Jasprit Bumrah's fitness and availability leave Samson's position as India's only selection headache. Bumrah featured in three of India's five tests in England and, after being released from the squad ahead of the fifth test, has had sufficient rest ahead of the Asia Cup. The next T20 World Cup is India's - and Bumrah's - foremost assignment, and team management is balancing the paceman's workload.

Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh are expected to share pace duties with Bumrah, while Pandya will back up as the all-round pace option. He will share all-rounder duties with Axar Patel and Dube. Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy should headline India's spin attack.

The last Asia Cup played in the T20 format was in 2022, when Sri Lanka beat Pakistan in the final. This edition is a precursor to the T20 World Cup next February, where India will be playing at home and Pakistan will play its games in Sri Lanka.

The Asia Cup has alternated between ODI and Twenty20 white-ball formats since 2016, when India won the first of the T20 edition in Bangladesh.

## He doesn't have weaknesses

## Alcaraz keeps rivals guessing with constant variety

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): Here's the thing about watching Carlos Alcaraz play tennis: He will hit shots no one else would dare try, make them, then crack a smile and rile up a crowd by pointing to his ear or raising his fist.

And here's the thing about trying to beat Carlos Alcaraz at tennis: He is never quite the exact same player, from tournament to tournament, match to match, set to set, game to game, or even point to point, really.

Part of that is because he's always trying to find ways to improve, including a remodeled serve that has gone from a vulnerability to a strength this year. Part of that is also Alcaraz's ability, and willingness, to do a bit of everything, even in Sunday's crucible of a Grand Slam final against his biggest

rival and the other Big Thing in men's tennis right now.

That full bag of tricks and an unmatched athleticism were responsible for the way Alcaraz beat Jannik Sinner 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 for a second U.S. Open championship, sixth major trophy overall, and, as of Monday, a return to No. 1 in the rankings.

"Every player has their styles. My style - it's about the variety that I have in a match. I feel I can do everything on court, to be honest: slices, drop shots, topspin, flat. I just trust my physical conditions. I feel like I can reach every ball, which gives me the confidence and the security of making good points," said Alcaraz, a 22-year-old from Spain. "Since I was really, really young, I just (had) that feeling of

doing everything."

The victory, Alcaraz's 10th in their 15 career head-to-head matchups, allowed him to end Sinner's reign as the champion at Flushing Meadows and his year-plus stay atop the ATP, too.

They are the first two men to play each other in three Grand Slam finals in a row within a season, and after Alcaraz won their matchup at the French Open in June, Sinner triumphed at Wimbledon in July.

From the moment the latter contest ended, Alcaraz and his coach, 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, focused on finding ways to beat Sinner.

Nothing else really mattered to them. And Sunday's outcome proved that work was successful.

At least this time.

Asked what makes Alcaraz different from other opponents on tour, Sinner said: "He doesn't have weaknesses."

Now it's Sinner's turn to make the adjustments with an eye to next year.

One thing the 24-year-old from Italy with four Grand Slam titles figures he needs to add is more of an air of unpredictability, of the sort Alcaraz possesses.

"Carlos does that very well. He might be the best at it. He changes a lot. He goes to the net. He does a drop shot. He hits a slice. I'll never be like him. I'll always be the player I am," Sinner said. "But it is necessary to push me to a zone where I don't feel comfortable as a player. Then, when you get back in your comfort zone, it lets you be a better player."



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, returns a shot to Jannik Sinner, of Italy, during the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)



Embassy of India  
Kuwait

Tender No.- KUV/ADM / 881 / 01 / 2020      Dated - 10.09.2025

**TENDER NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF PACKERS**

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites sealed tenders from reputed and eligible companies for empanelment as Packers and Shippers for handling shipment of personal effects of Embassy staff.

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The detailed Tender Document along with its Annexure may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/> and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from <https://indembkuwt.gov.in/whats-new.php> (please scan QR)

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# China kicks off ISSF World Cup with gold in 10m air pistol mixed team

Lihao and Xinlu break world record

NINGBO, China, Sept. 9, (Xinhua): Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai gave China a winning start on home soil at the ISSF World Cup on Tuesday with victory in the 10m air pistol mixed team.

Yao and Hu, who had already collected one gold and two silvers from three World Cups this year, combined for 585 points to lead qualification. Veronika Schejbalova and Jindrich Dubovy of the Czech Republic followed with 581 to make their first mixed team final.

In the final, Yao and Hu broke away after a 3-3 tie to lead 9-3, forcing a timeout from their opponents. The Czech pair responded with 10.3 and 10.6 but could not stop the Chinese duo, who

secured the title 17-5.

“It’s an honor to win the first gold medal of this World Cup on home soil. There’s still a long way ahead, so we must keep pushing forward and working hard,” said Hu, who averaged 10.1 points in the final.

Hungary’s Veronika Major and Akos Karoly Nagy clinched bronze, defeating neutral athletes Iana Enina and Anton Aristarkhov 17-13.

In the 10m air rifle mixed team event, 20-year-old Olympic champion Sheng Lihao and 16-year-old Peng Xinlu broke the qualification world record but fell short in the gold medal match.

In the qualification, Sheng scored 318.4, while Peng impressed with 318.5 in her first World Cup appearance. Their combined 636.9 points surpassed the previous record of 635.9 set by Sheng and Wang Zifei at the Munich World Cup in June.

But in the final, Norway’s Jeanette Hegg Duestad and Jon-Hremann Hegg raced to a 7-1 lead.

After a timeout by China’s coach Yao Ye, Peng and Sheng rallied to level at 7-7. Norway’s coach Kim Andre Aannestad Lund then called his own timeout, before the Norwegians pulled away to close the match 17-9.

“It was a really interesting final. It’s always hard to shoot against the Chinese but it’s just even more fun. We really enjoyed the final today and we have some new tactics that we’re trying, so it seemed to be fun,” Duestad said after the match.

“Since it’s my first time participating, there are still many shortcomings. I’ll continue to learn from ‘brother Hao’ and other teammates and make up for my weaknesses,” Peng said.

In the bronze medal match, Carlotta Salafia and Danilo Dennis Sollazzo of Italy defeated Marta Zeljkovic and Petar Gorsa of Croatia 16-4.

The tournament runs through Sunday, with the men’s 10m air pistol title to be contested on Wednesday.

## Panama draws against Guatemala

# Suriname makes historic start in CONCACAF final round with win



Guatemala’s Arquimidez Ordonez, right, controls the ball as Panama’s Anibal Godoy defends during a World Cup 2026 qualifying soccer match at Rommel Fernandez stadium in Panama City. (AP)

PANAMA CITY, Sept 9, (AP): Suriname scored late to edge El Salvador 2-1 on Monday and take the lead in Group A after Panama struggled at home in a 1-1 draw against Guatemala in Central American qualifying for the World Cup.

The Panamanians, who played in their first and only World Cup at Russia in 2018, were group favorites after losing to Mexico in the League of Nations final earlier this year.

Oscar Santis put Guatemala ahead in the 35th min-

ute and Carlos Harvey equalized two minutes later.

Suriname secured its away victory at El Salvador with Radinio Balkar scoring with a header in the 12th and Dhoraso Moreo Klas firing in the winner in the 81st.

El Salvador scored in the 73rd via Anfernee Dijksteel’s own goal.

Suriname leads Group A with four points from two games. El Salvador has three points, from its opening win, and Panama has two points from

two draws.

Twelve teams, divided into three groups, are vying for three direct spots from regional qualifying for next year’s World Cup. The United States, Canada and Mexico have qualified automatically as World Cup co-hosts.

Suriname, one of CONCACAF’s founding nations in 1961, has never reached the World Cup and is playing in the final round of qualifying for the first time since 1978.

## Uganda cruises past Somalia

# Ghana inches closer to World Cup qualification

ACCRA, Sept. 9, (Xinhua): Alexander Djiku’s second-half strike sealed a 1-0 victory for Ghana over Mali in the 2026 FIFA World Cup African qualifier at the Accra Sports Stadium on Monday.

Djiku scored his third international goal in the 49th minute, heading home from a corner delivered by captain Jordan Ayew.

The win puts Ghana three points clear at the top of Group I with 19 points from eight matches, ahead of Madagascar. Comoros sits third with 15 points, followed by Mali on 12, the Central African Republic (CAR) on five, and Chad with one.

Ghana will next face the CAR away in October before hosting Comoros in its final qualifier.

The Black Stars have previously appeared at



Alexander Djiku in the 39th minute.

four World Cups - in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2022.

Allan Okello and Jude Ssemugabi struck in the first half as Uganda claimed a 2-0 home win over Somalia in a 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier on Monday.

Okello opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the sixth minute, before Ssemugabi doubled the lead with a composed finish in

the 39th minute.

Somalia raised its intensity after the break, but Uganda goalkeeper Jamal Magoola stood firm to keep the visitors at bay.

Uganda captain Khalid Aucho praised the team’s effort after collecting maximum points from two qualifiers in quick succession. “We have worked hard as a team winning and scoring a total of six goals in two matches,” he said.

The victory lifted Uganda to 15 points, keeping it second in Group G, four points behind Algeria, which was held to a goalless draw by Guinea.

Nine African teams will earn automatic spots at next summer’s World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with one additional place available via an inter-confederation playoff.

## They’re ridiculously fast, says Logano

# Toyotas turning heads with speed in playoffs

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): When Toyota entered NASCAR’s premier series in 2007, the manufacturer was concerned more about making races than winning 200 of them.

In its first year, Toyota drivers suffered through nearly 100 failed qualifying attempts - but the lack of speed didn’t dissuade Joe Gibbs Racing from signing with the auto-maker for the 2008 season despite its drivers’ concerns.

“Certainly, I was worried when we switched over,” JGR driver Denny Hamlin said Sunday after winning at World Wide Technology Raceway to make Toyota the fourth manufacturer to reach the 200-victory mark in Cup. “Obviously, it was a big leap of faith by everyone at Joe Gibbs Racing. The drivers were kind of like an innocent bystander. We were going to live and die by those decisions that JGR made. It turned out to be the best partnership that they



Denny Hamlin pits during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison, Ill. (AP)

could imagine.”

Two races into the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series playoffs, Toyota’s blazing pace in trying to end a six-year championship drought has emerged as a prevailing storyline.

After Toyota swept the top four and took six of the top seven spots

in the playoff opener at Darlington Raceway, Hamlin and teammate Chase Briscoe claimed the top two spots at the 1.25-mile oval outside St. Louis that commonly is known as Gateway.

Toyota’s Camrys have led 515 of 607 laps in the playoffs, and their

all-around performance has left defending series champion Joey Logano marveling at the gap with Ford and Chevrolet.

“They’re ridiculously fast,” Logano said when asked about Toyota after his No. 22 Ford took fifth at Gateway. “They’ve got a lot of grip, and they’ve got a lot of horsepower. We’ve got a lot of work to do to catch up. We’ve got to be absolutely perfect in every category to contend, and we need them to make mistakes, which they do. We have the potential to do it, it’s just going to be really challenging.”

Logano has won two of the past three titles for Team Penske by winning the season finale at Phoenix, a track that is similar in size and shape to Gateway.

After failing to lead a lap at Phoenix in his past two Championship 4 appearances in 2020-21, Hamlin is hopeful of being a factor again after leading a race-high 75 of 240 laps at Gateway.

## New first-team kits revealed

# Al-Qadsia teams up with Jazeera Airways for season

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Al-Qadsia Club unveiled its official sponsors for the 2025-2026 sports season and revealed the new first-team kits during a press conference at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center – Conference Building. The event was attended by club board member and spokesperson Mohammed Reda Maarefi, Jazeera Airways’ Executive President of Government Affairs Eng. Nasser Al-Obaid, and representatives from the sponsoring companies.

Maarefi announced the signing of Jazeera Airways as Al-Qadsia’s main sponsor and official carrier, highlighting the mutual trust between the two parties. Miles Company joined as a gold sponsor, while Inter Sport and Auto 1 signed silver sponsorship agreements, and FX Pro became a bronze sponsor. Errea continued as the club’s kit sponsor for the sixth consecutive season, holding the longest-running sponsorship in Kuwaiti club football.

“Al-Qadsia always seeks to set an example in fostering strong relationships between sports clubs and private sector partners,” Maarefi said.

He added, “Today’s announcement is more than just sponsorship contracts; it represents the genuine spirit of partnership between the club and national institutions that believe in our mission and our role in



Reda Maarefi and Jazeera Airways’ Nasser Al-Obaid at the signing ceremony and new jersey unveiling.

serving sports and youth.”

Maarefi emphasized that these collaborations aim to create a sustainable sports environment, offering both financial and moral support to help Al-Qadsia achieve its goals, satisfy its fans, and continue the legacy of excellence built over decades.

# Lankan prime minister hosts FINA president Al-Musallam



Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Sri Lanka’s Prime Minister, welcomes FINA President Captain Husain Al-Musallam.

COLOMBO, Sept 9: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya welcomed FINA President Captain Husain Al-Musallam to discuss the future of aquatic sports in the country.

The leaders explored FINA’s Discover-Water program, strategies for developing aquatic sports in Sri Lanka, and the shared

ambition to host a major international open-water competition. They also highlighted the importance of initiatives aimed at preventing drowning.

Al-Musallam described the meeting as productive and reaffirmed FINA’s commitment to promoting and advancing aquatic sports globally as part of its international agenda.

# Smesko breaks WNBA record

COLLEGE PARK, Ga., Sept 9, (AP): Rhyne Howard scored 18 points, Allisha Gray added 15 and Atlanta beat the Connecticut Sun 87-62 on Monday night, giving the Dream’s Karl Smesko a WNBA-record 29 wins for the most by a first-year coach.

Atlanta (29-14), which won its fifth straight game, moved past Last Vegas (28-14) for sole possession of second place. The Dream closed the regular season on Wednesday at Connecticut.

Atlanta led 45-40 late in the first half before Saniya Rivers banked in a long 3-pointer for Connecticut just before the halftime buzzer. The Dream’s lead was just 52-49 with 5:56 left

in the third quarter before closing on a 16-3 run for a 16-point advantage.

The Sun scored nine points in the third and 10 in the fourth.

Naz Hillmon had 14 points, five rebounds, four assists and four steals for Atlanta. Maya Caldwell added 11 points and Brittney Griner scored 10.

Rivers scored 16 points, Aneesah Morrow had 13 points and 14 rebounds, and Tina Charles scored 12 for Connecticut (11-32), which dropped to 4-18 on the road this season.

Rivers made two 3-pointers in the first half to set Connecticut’s rookie record with 42 3-pointers in a single season.

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NEWS





Poland's Michal Sokolowski, left, and Turkey's Ercan Osmani in action during the Eurobasket, European Basketball Championship quarter final match between Turkey and Poland at the Riga Arena in Riga, Latvia. (AP)

# Sports

Croatia eases past Montenegro

## Italy wins nine-goal thriller in World Cup qualifying



Israel's Manor Solomon, left, in action against Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma during a Group I, World Cup qualifier soccer match between Israel and Italy at the Nagyerdei Stadium in Debrecen, Hungary. (AP)

DEBRECEN, Hungary, Sept 9, (AP): Sandro Tonali scored a stoppage-time winner as Italy won a chaotic nine-goal thriller against Israel 5-4 and dodged another big setback in its bid to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

A 3-0 loss to Norway in June left Italy's qualification campaign in trouble. More difficulties were in store when Israel twice took the lead in a game held in neutral Hungary.

Moise Kean found space among the Israeli defense to score each side of half-time, leveling the score on both occasions. Matteo Politano finally gave Italy the lead in the 59th minute off a backheeled flick assist from Mateo Retegui, and Giacomo Raspadori scored a fourth.

The game seemed over, but Israel scored twice in two minutes to level the score at 4-4, Dor Peretz scoring his second of the game.

Tonali then hit a speculative curling shot in the first minute of stoppage time which seemed unthreatening but found its way through a crowd of players and into the net.

Italian errors were a major topic, with two own goals and some glaring mistakes from new Manchester City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The game was played less than a month after the Italian Soccer Coaches' Association said it wrote a formal letter calling for Israel to be suspended over the war in Gaza. Some in the largely empty stadium seemed to whistle during the Israeli anthem.

Italy moves ahead of Israel for second place in Europe Group I.

Winning the group is the only way to ensure direct qualification to next year's tournament in North America. The second-placed team goes into the playoffs, the stage where Italy was eliminated by Sweden and North Macedonia and ruled out of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, respectively.

But at least Italy, which started qualifying with a 3-0 loss at Norway, is now in position to make the playoffs.

Assuming that Erling Haaland's Norway continues to cruise, four-time champion Italy needs to be perfect in its remaining qualifiers and vastly improve its goal differential - the first tiebreaker - before a likely decisive final group game against Norway at the San Siro in November.

Norway's goal differential entering Tuesday's game was +11 while Italy's was +5.

Gattuso was criticized for benching Arsenal defender Riccardo Calafiori against Israel, with center backs Gianluca Mancini and Alessandro Bastoni unable to stop Manor Solomon from slaloming his way through the Azzurri defense.

Napoli center back Alessandro Buongiorno was unavailable due to injury, and veteran Francesco Acerbi's days with Italy appear done after he turned down a call up for the Norway match under Spalletti.

There were also glaring mistakes from new Manchester City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and Juventus midfielder Manuel Locatelli.

"We're a crazy team, because we're too fragile, we concede ridiculous goals too easily," Gattuso said. "The guys know that. But this is my problem, not theirs. My staff and I need to figure out solutions."

Gattuso likened the match to the wild 2005 Champions League final, when the AC Milan team he played for squandered a 3-0 halftime lead and lost to Liverpool in a penalty shootout.

"We need to learn that these matches are never finished," Gattuso said.

On the positive side, Gattuso has several in-form forwards.

Mateo Retegui scored two goals and provided three assists in two matches; Moise Kean scored three goals and Giacomo Raspadori scored two and assisted



Denmark's Mika Biereth, left, and Greece's Ntinos Mavropanos fight for the ball during a World Cup qualifying soccer match between Greece and Denmark at Georgios Karaiskakis stadium in Piraeus port, near Athens. (AP)

on two off the bench.

But reverting to a traditional 4-4-2 featuring both Retegui and Kean left Italy unbalanced.

"Nearly nobody in modern soccer plays with two strikers, but we're sticking with them and we're pleased with what they've produced - and not just in terms of goals scored," Gattuso said.

It marked the first time that Italy - which has traditionally been known for its defensive tactics - scored five goals in consecutive matches.

Another positive takeaway was the growing leadership provided by Tonali, who as a kid modeled his game after Andrea Pirlo and Gattuso.

"It's inspirational for me," Tonali said, "to work with a coach who has always been my reference point."

Sweden's qualifying bid is already struggling after a 2-0 loss to Kosovo left the Swedes with one point from their first two games. Kosovo scored both goals on lightning-fast counterattacks which began in its own penalty area.

Switzerland stayed top of Group B after beating Slovenia 3-0 with two of its goals coming from headers at corners.

Denmark and Scotland were level on four points at the top of Group C after the Danes beat Greece 3-0 and Scotland won against Belarus 2-0.

Croatia eased past Montenegro 4-0 to top Group L after Montenegro's Andrija Bulatovic was sent off for two bookings in the space of eight minutes before half-time.

Croatia was level on points with the second-placed Czech Republic but has played one less game. The Faroe Islands beat Gibraltar 1-0.

### Kuwait eyes strong performance in Beach Volleyball Championship

BEIRUT, Sept 9, (KUNA): The West Asia Beach Volleyball Championship, organized by the Lebanese Volleyball Federation, in the coastal city of Batroun, with Kuwait participating in both the men's and women's competitions.

Issa Al-Sulaim, head of the Kuwaiti delegation, expressed optimism that the teams would achieve strong results in the championship, building on the experience they gained in the recent Arab Beach Volleyball Championship.

François Mansour, head of the Lebanese Volleyball Federation's Courts Committee, said he hoped the tournament would be successful, noting that holding it on the same courts used for the Arab Championship would allow for improvements and enhancements in the current event. He also praised the participation of Arab countries, marking the return of major regional volleyball events to Lebanon after a long hiatus.

Kuwaiti coach Ahmed Abdulrazzaq commented that the women's team faced a tough start, losing 2-0 to the Lebanese team.

In parallel, the referee training



KUNA photo  
Issa Al-Sulaim, head of the Kuwaiti delegation.

and development program for volleyball officials began at the Abdullah Al-Salem Center for Leadership Preparation, running until the 18th of this month. Ten referees will be promoted from second to first grade during the program, which is led by international referees Dr. Ahmed Aneezan and Adel Bounashi.

## Kuwait fails to qualify for U-23 Asian Cup

Blues suffer heavy loss to Japan

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

**MYANMAR, Sept 9: Kuwait's Olympic soccer team saw its AFC U-23 Asian Cup dreams end after a crushing 6-1 defeat to Japan in their final Group B qualifier at Thuwunna Stadium in Myanmar.**

The Olympic side, which needed a win to advance, remained on four points and exited the qualifiers alongside Afghanistan and Myanmar. Japan, meanwhile, topped the group with a perfect nine points.

Kuwait started brightly, taking an early lead through Ahmed Boudi in the 10th minute. However, defensive lapses and organizational issues allowed Japan to quickly regain control. Takumo Kawai equalized in the 19th minute after capitalizing on a goalkeeper error, and Japan added a second goal from a penalty caused by Nasser Khidr in the 32nd minute. Late first-half strikes from Kawai and Ryonzuki Wada gave Japan a commanding 4-1 lead at halftime.

Despite substitutions by coach Dario Basic, including Mohammed Al-Surayei, Montaser Abdulsalam,



Players vie for the ball during Kuwait match against Japan.

Jarrah Al-Helili, and Mohammed Isa, Kuwait could not turn the tide. Japan scored twice more in the second half to complete a 6-1 victory, while Kuwait's counterattacks failed to yield results.

The loss marks a disappointing end for Kuwait, who had started the campaign with hope but ultimately could not match the strength and consistency of their Japanese counterparts.

### China and Australia qualify for finals

XI'AN, Sept 9, (Xinhua): China and Australia took one point apiece as they played out a 0-0 stalemate in the final Group D game of the AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers, with both teams reaching the finals.

The Olyroos finished as group winners with a superior goal difference. China took second place and qualified by virtue of finishing as one of the four best runners-up among the 11 qualifying groups.

Australia dominated possession and had the chance to break the deadlock in the first half, but striker Nathanael Blair's header was kept out by China goalkeeper Li Hao in the 39th minute.

In the 48th minute, Oscar Priestman could have given Australia the lead, but his close-range volley was denied by Li, and Blair fired over the crossbar eight minutes later.

"We came here knowing it was going to be a difficult match against a very good team," Australia head coach Antony Vidmar told Xinhua after the game.

"We really fought hard in difficult conditions, so we're very proud," Vidmar added.

China head coach Antonio Puche Vicente said he was satisfied with his players' efforts. "Before the qualifiers, I asked my players to bring Chinese football fans some happiness, because Chinese fans have had few opportunities to feel happy. Today, my players finished our mission," he said.

"We fought like 11 terracotta warriors on the pitch," Vicente added.

GENEVA, Sept 9, (Xinhua): FIFA unveiled the curtain-raiser for its inaugural Women's Champions Cup in China, where six continental club champions will battle to become the first world champions in women's club football.

The tournament will kick off on October 8 at the Wuhan Sports Center Stadium, with local side Wuhan Jiangda WFC, winner of the AFC

Women's Champions League, facing Auckland United FC, champion of this year's OFC Women's Champions League.

"As Round 1 approaches, clubs' fans, the media and soccer lovers around the globe are preparing to witness history being made, as the first FIFA Women's Champions Cup commences in Wuhan. This tournament will bring together the best

women's clubs from every continent under the FIFA banner for the very first time, offering a global stage to showcase excellence, elevate the women's club game and inspire generations to come," said FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafstrom in a statement.

The winners will progress to Round 2 to meet the champions of the CAF Women's Champions League, who

will be crowned in November. That match will be staged in December at a venue still to be confirmed.

FIFA added that the final phase of the tournament, comprising the semifinals, third-place play-off and final, will feature the four strongest women's clubs in the world in a centralized location. Those matches are scheduled for January 28 to February 1, 2026.