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Kuwait hangs 7, spares 1

Failed blood money plea ends at gallows

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Interior executed seven convicts at the Central Prison on Thursday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is a confirmation of the report that the newspaper published Wednesday, and in accordance with the Quranic principle, "In retribution there is life for you, O people of understanding."

Kuwait's property sector holds steady amid price adjustments

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: 'Real Estate' is a weekly page published by the newspaper, focusing on the real estate sector.

It covers the latest developments and major technical, legal and economic events in various segments of the sector, including residential, investment, commercial, industrial and exhibition properties.

It also features the opinions of experts in this field, given its importance as the second largest sector of the Kuwaiti economy.

The residential real estate sector in Kuwait maintained a stable pace during the first eight months of 2025, recording 2,663 transactions valued at more than KD1.04 billion.

There are indications that prices have declined by about five percent to 30 percent in the governorates, depending on location, quality, design, size and other factors that influence property value.

The newspaper interviewed several real estate experts who confirmed that this decline does not reflect a collapse in the residential market, as it is rather a corrective movement towards more realistic price levels that align with actual purchasing power. They explained that supply remains limited compared to demand.

These experts pointed out that the full support of the government for large-scale housing projects and land distribution in new cities will gradually alleviate pressure in the medium term, without causing a sharp drop in prices.

They said September is a crucial month for the Kuwaiti real estate market -- residential and investment -- due to several factors, such as the pending ruling on the appeal against the law prohibiting land hoarding, the expected decrease in bank interest rates, and the upcoming property auctions.

They indicated that the coming days will be decisive in shaping the new real estate landscape, as the market is awaiting the outcome of the court ruling on the land hoarding law and the interest rate decision, which will determine the market trend in the final quarter of the year -- whether towards stability or continued price fluctuations.

Real estate expert Abdulaziz Al-Daghishim confirmed that the current decline in prices for plots and land is a natural correction after a period of unjustified inflation, disclosing that the drop ranges from 25 to 30 percent in various areas. He explained that this decline does not entail market collapse, but a return to more realistic levels, which are in line with the actual purchasing power.

He said the transaction activity over the past eight months showed that demand is still present, but buyers have become more aware and careful in reviewing and comparing prices.

He emphasized that the market is more mature today, as location alone is no longer sufficient to justify the price, because quality, design and land size have also become major factors in completing a deal.

He attributed the price decline to the increased supply of various types of land, especially with the approaching implementation date of Law No. 126/2023 to combat land hoarding, which is scheduled for January.

He stated that many landowners, especially heirs, are rushing to complete sales before the law takes effect, as it imposes escalating annual fees on undeveloped residential land exceeding 1,500 square meters, starting from KD10 and gradually increasing to KD100 per square meter.

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Damascus Street shut for maintenance till Sunday

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), in coordination with the General Traffic Department, announced the complete closure of Damascus Street towards the Fourth Ring Road, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure will begin Thursday at 4:00 pm and continue until dawn on Sunday, as part of ongoing traffic maintenance and development work.

The executed individuals included three citizens, two Asians convicted of murder and two others involved in drug trafficking.

Among those executed were the killers of citizens Abdul Aziz Al-Zaatar and Ahmed Al-Jalal.

Security sources revealed that the eighth convict received pardon from the victims' families a few hours before the execution, leading to postponement of his execution pending completion of the necessary legal procedures based on the new development.

Sources indicated that the four Asians were two Bangladeshis convicted of murder and two Iranians convicted of drug trafficking. Sources confirmed the completion of all three stages of litigation before the final death sentences were issued.

Meanwhile, social media users and influencers tried to raise KD2 million blood money hours before the execution of the convict identified as A.A., hoping to secure a settlement with the victim's family. However, fate preceded their efforts and the death sentence was carried out.



PM Diwan photo

HH the PM chairs a ministerial committee meeting to follow up on agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed with China.

PM chairs Kuwait-China cooperation review

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Thursday a ministerial committee meeting at Bayan Palace, to follow up on agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed with China.

The 26th meeting discussed the progress of joint Kuwait-China initiatives, particularly the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, renewable energy development, housing, environmental infrastructure for sewage treatment plants, eco-friendly recycling, cooperation in combating desertification, and sustainable agriculture.

His Highness the Prime Minister instructed committee members to coordinate with Chinese state companies on major development projects and expanded investment, praising their efforts under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and member and rapporteur of the Ministerial Committee, Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat, presented the results of the visit of three delegations representing Chinese government companies to Kuwait this month, expressing the interest of both the Kuwaiti and Chinese sides and their keenness to enhance joint cooperation between

them and push it in all fields to broader horizons, stressing the continued increase in the pace of communication between state agencies to take all necessary steps and measures that would contribute to accelerating the implementation of major development projects in the country, especially in light of the Chinese governments recent submission of more new nominations for Chinese government companies with global expertise, determined to participate effectively in major development projects in the country.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakhil, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works and Acting Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Noura Mohammed Al-Mashaan, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Hamed Al-Mishari, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr. Meashaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Counselor Salah Al-Majed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, and member and rapporteur of the Ministerial Committee Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat.

Al added to curriculum

Kuwait's education plan extends to 1,141 schools

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Education launched its new strategy for the 2025-2026 academic year recently, covering general preparations, the opening and equipping of new schools, school cafeterias, and the new academic calendar, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During a presentation at the Government Communication Center's hall, the acting Undersecretary Eng. Mohammed Al-Khalidi stated that the strategy includes equipping 1,141 schools including 950 public schools and 191 private schools.

He noted that the total number of students in public and private education sectors this year reached 520,271, with approximately 131,969 teaching and administrative staff in all schools.

Al-Khalidi also announced the opening of ten new schools in cooperation with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), including seven schools in Mutlaa City, one school in Ishbiliya in the Farwaniya Educational Zone, and two special education schools for the hearing impaired and students with cochlear implants.

He explained that preparations for the academic year included furnishing schools, with 15,000 pieces of furniture distributed to student and administrative facilities. Also, 900 computer lab equipment units were provided, science labs were equipped, and technical infrastructure was prepared for schools and gymnasiums. Furthermore, 100 interactive screens were installed, and 1,400 buses were arranged to serve students.

Al-Khalidi also highlighted the approval of a comprehensive educational calendar for the next five academic years, aimed at reducing mass student absenteeism and maximizing the educational benefit of each school day. He added that the last week of Ramadan was designated as a holiday for students, teaching staff, and administrative personnel, without reducing the total number of school days.

During the video presentation, the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs, Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad, confirmed the assignment of 800 teachers and 183 administrators to the new schools, adding that 1,380 male and female teachers were transferred, and 687 school principals and assistant principals were seconded.

He also highlighted coordination with the Ministry of Health to open health clinics in the new schools.

Eng. Al-Hamad explained that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been integrated into the computer science curriculum for grades 10 and 11 to enhance thinking and innovation skills. The ministry also launched the "Chat with Hamad" service for offering AI-based support for students, teachers, and parents.

He also highlighted the ministry's support for gifted students through their participation in specialized Gulf camps on AI.

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Sochi dialogue tackles Gaza, Ukraine, Iraq issues

Attack on Qatar is attack on all GCC: Kuwait

MOSCOW, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Foreign Minister and Chairman of the current session of the Gulf Ministerial Council, Abdullah Al-Yahya, affirmed the GCC's full solidarity and unwavering position with Qatar and its absolute support for the measures and procedures it is taking to ensure the protection of its people and the preservation of its security.

This came in the opening speech delivered by Al-Yahya, on Thursday, at the eighth joint ministerial meeting of the strategic dialogue between the GCC and the Russian Federation, held in the Russian city of Sochi.

Al-Yahya affirmed that any attack against any GCC country is considered an aggression against



Left: Kuwait Foreign Minister and Chairman of the current session of the Gulf Ministerial Council, Abdullah Al-Yahya, delivers a speech at the eighth joint ministerial meeting of the strategic dialogue between the GCC and the Russian Federation, held in the Russian city of Sochi.



KUNA photos

Right: Foreign Minister Al-Yahya meets with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on the sidelines of the eighth joint ministerial meeting.

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Hot temps, dust to dominate weekend

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Meteorology Department has forecast generally hot daytime weather and warm to mild nights in Kuwait this weekend.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the acting Director of the Meteorology Department Dhirar Al-Ali said the country is currently affected by the extension of the Indian seasonal low, accompanied by light to moderate north-westerly winds that may become active at times, especially in desert areas, potentially stirring up dust.

He explained that weather will be hot on Friday during daytime, with northwesterly winds ranging from 12 to 42 km/h, which may become more active and raise dust in open areas. High temperatures are expected, ranging between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will be slight to moderate, occasionally becoming rough, with wave heights between two and six feet.

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Other Voices

Fifty years of Mexico-Kuwait friendship

By H.E. Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller
Ambassador of Mexico to the State of Kuwait

The National Holiday of Mexico is celebrated on September 16 in all parts of the world where Mexican citizens reside. In Mexico the full month of September is considered the month of "La Patria" (motherland). Therefore on the night of September 15 the so-called "Cry of Independence" takes place, which commemorates the beginning of the armed struggle in 1810, led by priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla that allowed Mexico to become an independent country. It is therefore very usual for every Mexican household to



H.E. Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller, Ambassador of Mexico to the State of Kuwait

celebrate this dates with joy and patriotism, organizing a Mexican fiesta,

where family and friends taste delicious typical dishes and enjoy traditional and modern music.

Also in September 1st of each year, the president of Mexico presents to the Federal Congress a report on the progress made by his government during the year. It is important to stress that for the first time in the history of Mexico, a woman, Dr. Claudia Scheinbaum, handed in her government report as President of Mexico.

As for the bilateral sphere, the president noted in her report that in the face of the new tariff reality in the world, Mexico has managed to maintain the lowest average level of tariffs globally.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the State of Kuwait's welcome of the agreement to resume joint cooperation between **Iran** and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which was reached under the auspices of **Egypt**. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities **Ahmad Al-Hajjar** affirmed on Wednesday that cooperation remains ongoing between **Lebanon** and Arab countries, including **Kuwait** and **Saudi Arabia**, to combat drug trafficking.

The minister's remarks came following a meeting with Lebanese President **Joseph Aoun**, accompanied by senior internal security officials, where they reviewed recent anti-narcotics operations. (KUNA)



2 We need to restore Kuwait's elevated dialogue

10 Beacon of light in Kuwait's education lives on

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:10	Asr	15:15
Sunrise ..	05:30	Maghrib ..	17:59
Zohr	11:45	Isha	19:17

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 12-42 km/h.			
By Night: Rather hot to mild			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	46	35	
Kuwait Airport	46	34	
Abdaly	46	29	
with light to moderate north-erly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.			
Jahra	47	32	
Salmiyah	42	34	
Ahmadi	41	32	
Nuwaisib	47	31	
Wafra	46	27	
Salmiy	43	26	
Managish	48	30	

Sheikh Sabah Khaled affirms condemnation of the ‘barbaric Israeli airstrike’ on Doha

Kuwait’s Crown Prince delivers Amir’s condolences to Qatar

DOHA, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah conveyed on Thursday the sincere condolences of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Amir of Qatar and the brotherly Qatari people on the martyrdom of a security man in the barbaric Israeli airstrike on Doha on Monday and his best wishes of a speedy recovery to all the injured people.

During a meeting with His Highness the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at Lusail Palace in Doha, the Amir’s Representative affirmed the State of Kuwait’s strong condemnation of the barbaric Israeli assault on the sisterly State of Qatar.

This airstrike is a flagrant violation of international laws and norms and poses a serious threat to the security and stability of the region, His Highness Sheikh Sabah warned.

He called on the UN Security Council and the international community to shoulder their responsibilities in maintaining international security and peace

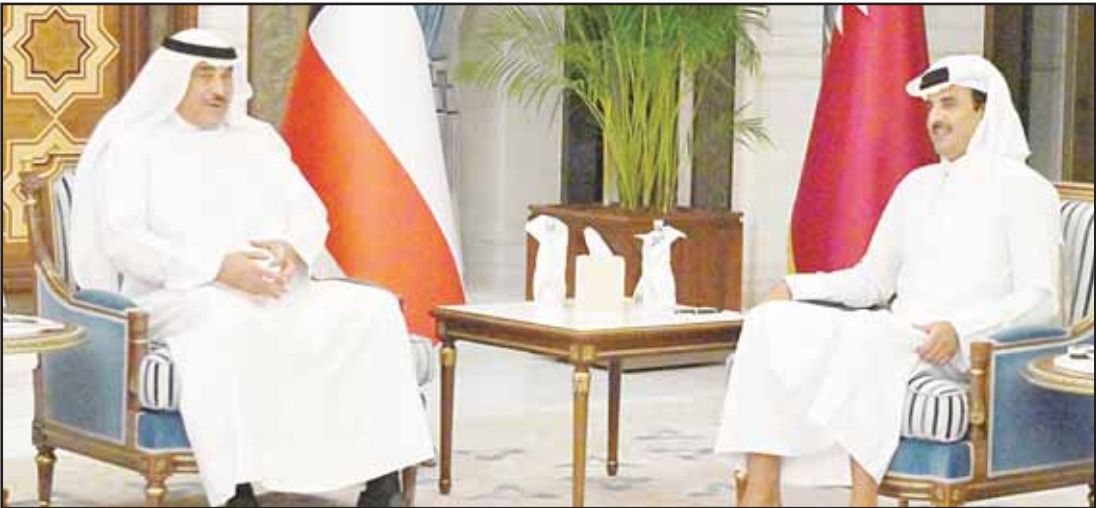
and put an end to Israeli attacks.

His Highness the Amir’s Representative reiterated Kuwait’s full support and solidarity with the sisterly State of Qatar in all measures it takes to preserve its security and stability and ensure the safety of its citizens and residents.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and the Chief of Staff of His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait on Wednesday after a short visit to the sisterly State of Qatar.

During the visit, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled was accompanied by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and the Chief of Staff of His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



KUNA photo
Amir's Representative, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, conveys condolences to Amir of Qatar on the deadly Israeli airstrike.

Kuwait hosts GCC security planning



Representatives of interior ministries of the GCC states.

Ministries review regional threats

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait hosted on Thursday the 17th meeting of the permanent committee of the strategic security planning in the GCC countries, on sidelines of a workshop for drawing up the GCC strategy to handle money laundering.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement the meeting grouped representatives of interior ministries of the GCC states, the back-up secretariat for GCC security affairs and police,

held under chairmanship of the Jurist Brigadier General Salem Al-Ajmi, with participation of a delegation from the ministry headed by Colonel Abdulaziz Al-Barrak.

The convening officers discussed a host of topics, namely follow-up on the joint security strategies and challenges, revamping the coordination and inclusion mechanisms among the security apparatuses of the GCC countries and means of dealing with regional and international security challenges.

The meeting was held in line with the GCC efforts to boost the joint security tasks, bolster the unified Gulf strategy for safeguarding the council’s countries security and stability.

Other Voices

We need to restore Kuwait’s elevated dialogue

By Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Anjeri

Governments that rule through fear do not protect their nations. Fear turns a state into a trembling body where citizens fear officials and ministers fear the prime minister. Action is reduced to blind obedience, with no room for debate, innovation or correction.

In Kuwait, many unresolved issues sit like ticking time bombs. We see them but stay silent, afraid that a single word could upset an official or even land someone in prison. Yet silence is like carbon dioxide filling a closed tent, slowly suffocating those inside.

Years ago, in Washington DC, I attended a Track II discussion of Gulf Arab military capacity issues. The discussion was sobering. American military officials and scholars spoke candidly. And I was allowed to draft a summary that might be suitable for publication.

When I suggested it to an editor back home, he brushed it aside with a joke, warning that publishing such material would only invite endless trouble.

And when I later shared the report with a few senior figures in Kuwait, they were stunned that what they considered tightly guarded secrets were being debated openly in Washington think tanks, which in many ways serve the same role as our

own Dewaniyas.

When diverse voices are silenced, flawed decisions go unchallenged. Mistakes accumulate until they grow into crises. What we need instead are public forums where officials engage openly, sometimes making mistakes and apologizing, sometimes surprising us with insight. The government cannot thrive behind scripted statements and staged smiles.

We are not a nation ruled by militias. Our sovereign decisions are not dictated from abroad. We are not consumed by sectarian warfare that destroys lives bullet by bullet. Honest words, therefore, are not rebellion but a national duty that protects the state from decline.

Would anyone tell a diabetic showing early signs of gangrene that he is perfectly healthy. Do we wait until his leg is amputated before admitting there is a problem.

In the same way, telling our governments that everything is fine while decay spreads is not loyalty. Genuine criticism, even when uncomfortable, is a medicine that can save the body before the illness becomes fatal.

To those in executive authority, open the space for voices to speak freely. Restore Kuwait’s tradition of elevated public dialogue. We are already losing wisdom, balance, serious analysis and honest counsel.

And when the voices of the wise are silenced, what remains is only the noise of clowns and the applause of cheerleaders.



Al-Anjeri

Al-Roumi named Operations Director

KNPC CEO reshuffles Mina Abdullah leadership

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Wadhwa Al-Khatib recently issued a decision on new appointments at Mina Abdullah Refinery.

Reliable sources disclosed that Duaij Hilal Al-Roumi was appointed Director of Operations at Mina Abdullah Refinery, while Saleh Al-Shammari was promoted to advisor. Sources said Al-Roumi and Al-Shammari will now report to the Deputy CEO of the refinery.

Sources affirmed that the KNPC executive management, headed by Al-Khatib, aims to inject new blood into the middle management ranks through these promotions, which include the Mina

Abdullah and Al-Ahmadi refineries.

Sources pointed out this will help provide qualified and experienced personnel to manage the operations of the two refineries, in line with the strategy of KNPC to increase the production capacity of these refineries while maintaining operational safety, especially since Mina Abdullah refinery ranked first among 230 refineries worldwide in an assessment by Marsh -- a risk management company.

Furthermore, the Ahmadi refinery is ranked among the largest and most important refineries globally in engineering safety. This reinforces the efforts of the leadership and all employees of KNPC.

As part of efforts to develop the performance of KNPC employees and that of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), the two com-

panies recently launched an initiative in cooperation with KPMG.

This is to develop the staff of the financial departments of the two companies, enabling them to learn about the best international technologies and developments in global financial accounting systems. Through the initiative, the KNPC and KIPIC employees will be able to prepare financial reports in accordance with the latest international systems.

Sources also confirmed that KNPC aims to increase the percentage of Kuwaitization within the company to 95 percent over the next three years, particularly since the Kuwaitization rate reached 90.4 percent in the first quarter of 2025. Sources explained that this increase in the Kuwaitization rate will be achieved through upcoming appointments.

‘Disability rights a government priority’

MoSA pledges stronger programs

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that people with disabilities have an important and prominent position in society.

Al-Huwailah made the statement during her meeting with a group of people with disabilities on Thursday. She listened to their comments and suggestions on ways to im-

prove the services provided to them.

She emphasized that the Ministry fulfills its duties to meet the needs of people with disabilities, help them overcome the challenges they are facing, and ensure their integration and empowerment in various fields.

She added the government is keen on developing initiatives and programs that serve people with disabilities, out of its belief in their active role in society and their contribution to the development process.

KWA highlights collaboration and youth initiatives at global forum

Kuwait pledges active role in regional water sustainability

MANAMA, Sept 11, (KUNA): Technical Advisor and Head of the Sustainability Committee at the Kuwait Water Association (KWA), Eng. Hebah Abbas, affirmed on Wednesday Kuwait’s keenness to actively contribute to international efforts aimed at enhancing water security and sustainability in the region.

This statement was made to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during her participation in the second session of the Global Water, Energy, and Climate Change Conference, which began on Tuesday and will continue until Thursday. Eng. Abbas explained that the association’s role as a regional partner at the conference reflects Kuwait’s commitment to its pioneering role in water, energy, and climate issues.

Abbas noted that the association inaugurated its participation on the first day by chairing a high-level closed roundtable on water, attended by global sector leaders. The session reviewed the best strategies and practices in water security and explored ways to en-



Honoring the Technical Advisor and Head of the Sustainability Committee of the Kuwait Water Association, Engineer Hebah Abbas, in Manama.

hance international cooperation in addressing common challenges.

She added that her participation on the second day as a speaker in the closing session of the Global Leaders Forum provided an opportunity to present the topic “Transforming Vision into Action: Key Findings and Future Maps.” She emphasized that sustainability cannot be achieved in isolated silos but requires a deeper

understanding of the interconnectedness of water, energy, and climate, along with a shift from separate planning to strategic cross-sectoral collaboration.

Abbas explained that the association will continue its participation on the third day by chairing a dialogue session within the Youth Forum titled “Youth Initiatives and Pioneering Achievements in Water and Energy Sustainability,” highlighting the pivotal role of youth in shaping future solutions.

She emphasized that Kuwait has successfully translated its proactive vision into tangible actions on the ground, reflecting its role as a key player in shaping a sustainable water future in the region. Abbas noted that international cooperation and investment in innovation are essential for transforming challenges into real development opportunities.

She also indicated that the Kuwait Water Association will continue to collaborate closely with local and international partners to enhance Kuwait’s position as a pioneering model in water resource



KUNA photos
Technical Advisor and Head of the Sustainability Committee at the Kuwait Water Association, Engineer Hebah Abbas, during her participation in one of the conference sessions.

management, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

A number of senior officials, specialists, and representatives

of organizations and institutions concerned with natural resources and climate change, from inside and outside the Kingdom, are participating in the World Conference on Water, Energy, and Climate

Change, which was inaugurated by Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and organized by the Bahraini Ministry of Oil and Environment.

Israel's blatant attack on Qatar exposes empty peace rhetoric

“LET us approach the blatant Israeli attack on our sisterly state of Qatar with a level head, even though calm alone is not enough in such situations. Nevertheless, it is essential to handle the matter with clarity and composure to ensure that all relevant facts are understood.” columnist **Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Doha is the venue for negotiations between the Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans. Qatar is the host, not a party to the conflict. Therefore, any hostile action must be seen as an extension of Israel’s American sponsor, and as an ally of the Arabian Gulf states, a country that maintains a major military base in Qatar, and holds close ties with all involved parties.

“The blatant aggression against Qatar is clear evidence of Tel Aviv’s lack of seriousness in any negotiations. It reaffirms that Israel is pursuing its agenda with total disregard for international law. Once again, Israel demonstrates that it operates outside the bounds of legality, behaving, in effect, like a “spoiled child” whose parent, Washington, rejects all accountability and justifies every crime.

“Not only did Israel carry out the attack, but it also openly claimed responsibility, in flagrant violation of international agreements, and in an act that constitutes a war crime. Time and again, whenever pressure mounts on Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu commits a new crime to distract the world from the previous one. This pattern has long been a hallmark of the Israeli leadership.

“Whenever negotiations inch closer to reaching an agreement to end the war or secure a partial deal, the Israeli side responds by committing a new act of aggression. This pattern reveals Israel’s unwillingness to accept any form of agreement, especially now that it has come to realize the Palestinian resistance is not an easy target, but a force capable of imposing its own conditions and pushing negotiations to their limits. At the same time, the Israeli public is putting immense pressure on its government, and any deal could mean political downfall for Netanyahu.

“The Israeli Broadcasting Authority published a report, citing government sources, stating that the Israeli army had been waiting for Hamas leaders to return from Turkey in order to target them in Qatar. The report itself reveals Israel’s fear of Ankara, recognizing that any attack on Turkish soil would carry severe consequences. This highlights how different countries are treated based on how they are perceived in terms of strength and response capabilities. It also confirms that tolerance is not a language understood by all. When the United States bombed Iran, Iran responded by striking targets in Qatar. When Hamas refused to submit to American and Israeli conditions, Tel Aviv responded by bombing the Qatari capital, Doha.

“What does this mean? Clearly, the Gulf states are not direct parties to any war; rather, they play a neutral role in facilitating dialogue and bringing opposing sides closer together, even when doing so may come at the expense of their own interests. Qatar, in particular, has consistently upheld these principles but Israel has repeatedly crossed all red lines.

“It is now imperative to adopt a position that, while aligned with internationally accepted principles, also puts a stop to Israel’s U.S.-backed aggression in the Arab world. This can only be achieved through a unified and resolute Arab, and specifically Gulf, stance, to ensure that Israel does not dare to repeat such actions in a secure nation.”

□ □ □

“In today’s world, interests intersect and crises unfold at an accelerated pace. As a result, security in its traditional sense is no longer just a protective buffer,” columnist Major General **Eng. Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The world has become a dynamic space that demands active engagement and an enhanced ability to influence events. Kuwait is no exception. Despite its unique characteristics and symbolic stature, it faces complex challenges that extend far beyond conventional notions of protection.

“Striking a balance between strategic depth and institutional effectiveness has become essential for a state’s stability and its regional and global presence. This need is growing more urgent amid escalating regional crises, major shifts in the balance of power, the rise of non-traditional actors, and the rapid advancement of digital technologies. Delays in developing security agencies or intelligent tools of influence only increase a state’s vulnerability to changes.

“This underscores the need to develop a comprehensive strategic vision



Al-Kharafi

for security, one built on the pillars of protective depth, systemic effectiveness, and broad-based presence and influence. The goal of this vision is not merely to enhance defense capabilities, but to empower the state with a meaningful and influential role in its regional environment and global standing, with the capacity to manage risks and turn challenges into strategic opportunities.

“The presence of qualified and capable individuals is essential to transform this vision into actionable plans and practical programs, as well as identify performance indicators, monitor progress, and conduct ongoing evaluations. The current phase demands more than good intentions; it requires institutional maturity, strategic foresight, and the ability to act proactively. Sustainable national security begins with a clear vision, is realized through disciplined execution, and is sustained by deep planning and effective performance.

“I renew my call to decision-makers to take these necessary steps, ensuring that Kuwait maintains a strong and influential position that is capable of protecting its interests and contributing to regional peace and stability.”

□ □ □

“Everyone knows that death is the destroyer of pleasures and the separator of loved ones, but do you know what is the destroyer of values and the divider of societies?” **Hamad Salem Al-Merri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“It is a technological means used by the vast majority of people and is always available and present at their fingertips. In fact, it has become a staple of their modern lives, difficult to do without. It is the social media channels, which have become an obsession that occupies the minds and thoughts of many people, regardless of their race or language.

“These technological applications have many positive aspects, as they have brought communication closer between people, facilitated their access to knowledge, and expanded their information base, as if they are in a small village, with news and information passing among them in the blink of an eye.

“They know the news and watch the events taking place in the East and West, the North and the South, in sound and image as they happen, and extract knowledge and information from these applications in various areas of life.

“However, the obsession of many who use these applications and the encouragement of some companies and international organizations to financially support social media celebrities have made these applications destructive to noble values and divisive to societies.

“This is due to many people trying to become famous in order to obtain money through sponsorship or publishing advertisements for consumer or service companies, even if this fame comes at the expense of noble values and appearing in videos and live broadcasts that are frivolous and ill-mannered.

“Social media channels are filled with many live broadcasts and videos of people speaking in ill-mannered language, committing immoral acts, and women flaunting their charms in immodest clothing, all with the aim of gaining many views and support, as it has become an easy way to make money.

“Some people have become so obsessed with these channels that they film themselves praying, reading the Holy Quran, or performing Umrah, risking the consequences of the Prophet’s (PBUH) saying, ‘The thing I fear most for you is minor polytheism.’

“They asked: What is minor polytheism, O Messenger of Allah? He said: Hypocrisy. Allah Almighty will say to them on the Day of Resurrection when people are rewarded for their deeds, ‘Go to those for whom you showed off in this world and see if you find any reward with them.’

“Unfortunately, it has become clear that some have been recruited by foreign organizations, whether knowingly or unknowingly, to insult, curse and attack the symbols of some Arab countries, with the aim of sowing discord among the people of these countries.

“One of these organizations is the ‘bankrupt Muslim Brotherhood’ and those who orbit around them or support their ideology.

“We see their activity and enthusiasm in insulting and cursing Arab governments and peoples through the accounts of those known to belong to this group, or people opposed to their countries, or fake accounts. They support every person who participates in the insults and cursing financially and in the media.

“Every day, we hear and see a lot of visual and audio filth broadcasted by social media obsessives. They even exploit children’s innocence for fame and to gain more viewers, which makes these channels destructive to noble values and divisive among Arab societies. I ask Almighty Allah to protect us and our children from this filth broadcasted by fools and idiots.”

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



Al-Merri

Kuwait appoints first female judges to Court of Cassation

Appointments mark a milestone in judicial equality

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: In an unprecedented step that marked a new chapter in the history of the Kuwaiti judiciary, two female judges have been appointed to the Court of Cassation.

This decision crowns decades of the journey of Kuwaiti women in the legal profession. It confirms the confidence of the State and the Supreme Judicial Council in the competence and ability of women to hold the highest positions.

It is a manifestation of a modern reform vision and the belief of judicial institutions in the capability of women to contribute to the protection of the rule of law and preserving justice, not only as supporting partners, but as a fundamental pillar of the judiciary.

This is not a spur-of-the-moment achievement, as it is the result of a journey that began in 2014 when the first batch of female public prosecutors was appointed.

Since then, Kuwaiti women have proven their ability to enter the judicial arena, armed with knowledge, skill and discipline. In 2022, former Attorney General Justice Dhirar Al-Asousi issued a historic decision nominating eight female prosecutors to serve as judges after undergoing an intensive training course at the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies.

This step opened the door for a new generation of female judges, who have now reached the highest echelon in the judicial authority.

Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait confirmed to the newspaper that the decision is a judicial precedent, reflecting the excellence and competence of Kuwaiti women in various fields, particularly in the judicial field.

Al-Sumait explained that this step embodies the great confidence of the State in the role of women and affirms their ability to undertake various tasks in all areas of the judiciary, enhancing the efficiency of the judicial system and keeping pace with development requirements.

He added that women’s rise to this advanced position in the judiciary is a reflection of the firm belief of the State in their ability to actively participate in promoting justice and protecting rights, indicating that the Kuwaiti judiciary is witnessing a new phase of openness and development, while keeping pace with the aspirations and ambitions of society.

Meanwhile, Attorney Enaam Haidar expressed her pride, and told the newspaper that this step is considered justice for Kuwaiti women, as well as a clear message that their competence is no longer up for debate. “Women have proven their ability to handle major cases and issue decisions that guarantee justice,” she asserted.

Attorney Israa Al-Haddad Alaa Al-Saeed considers the appointment of two female judges to the Court of Cassation a qualitative addition to the judicial system, providing future generations with a model of ambition and commitment.

Attorney Fatima Al-Shatti emphasized that Kuwaiti women have proven their ability to make

a difference. “Today, women have reached the highest judicial position with merit -- a step that will strengthen societal confidence in justice,” she stressed.

Furthermore, the Supreme Judicial Council is continuing its policy of empowering female competencies, paving the way for expanding the presence of women in various judicial departments, thus, establishing balance and comprehensive justice.

Kuwait is writing a new chapter in its long history of leadership, proving that the empowerment of women is not just a slogan, but a reality that is renewed at every stage.

The following figures confirm the achievement:

- 144 female prosecutors form a solid foundation for the female judiciary in Kuwait (until June 2025)
- 19 female judges were promoted from deputy prosecutors, reflecting the ability of women to overcome the most difficult challenges in the field.
- 40 new female prosecutors joined the Public Prosecution in June, as part of the Kuwaitization and Judicial Development Plan.
- The continuous journey since 2014 confirms that the dream has become a reality, and that the path is now open for further achievements.

Implications of the decision:

- Reinforce the principle of equal opportunities.
- Consolidate community confidence in female competencies.
- Support the Kuwaitization policy of the judiciary.
- A step that reflects the regional leadership of Kuwait in empowering women.

Central Prison inmate acquitted

Appeals Court suspends hearing for ex-MP controversial remarks

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Court of Appeals postponed hearing the case of former MP Bader Al-Dahoum, accused of insulting Constitutional Court judges in a seminar, pending a ruling on Sept 17.

The Criminal Court previously convicted the accused and sentenced him to one year in prison, which is temporarily suspended, with bail of KD5,000.

He was also ordered to delete his personal account on the X platform (formerly Twitter), as his statements were deemed offensive to the Constitutional Court judges.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court acquitted an inmate at the Central Prison of trafficking and using drugs and psychotropic substances.

The court accepted the arguments of Attorney Ayed Mahdi Al-Rashidi, lawyer for the accused, that the search procedures are invalid, and that his client had no connection to the seized items.

The court affirmed in its ruling that a prisoner may not be searched any time, except in cases stipulated by law. It deemed the seizure invalid due to the violation of this rule, hence, the evidence against the accused is not valid as well.

The court rejected the request of the Public Prosecution to impose life sen-

tence on the accused and acquitted him of all the charges.

Also, The Court of Cassation has adjourned to October 23 the trial of those accused of setting fire to Judge Sultan Bursali’s house and possessing drugs and weapons.

Previously, the Criminal Court sentenced one defendant to four years in prison, and another to 15 years, and acquitted Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Mubarak of all charges.

Meanwhile, the Public Prosecution ordered the detention of three Ministry of Justice employees, including a court clerk, and the mother and two sisters of one of the defendants, for 21 days pending investigation.

The defendants were caught red-handed possessing narcotics for the purpose of trafficking and consumption in Doha.

In a previous press statement, the Ministry of Interior announced that the Drug Control General Department found marijuana, a weighing scale, and several empty bags in the possession of the defendants.

The statement added that during the search, the police officers were physically assaulted by the mother and two sisters of one of the suspects.

One of the sisters slammed a glass door on the hand of an officer, causing a deep cut that required hospitalization.



PAFN photo

Sheep carcasses seized unfit for human consumption.

320 kg of spoiled meat seized

Mubarakiya meat facility closed over health threat

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced the seizure of 34 livestock carcasses weighing about 320 kilograms of meat unfit for human consumption. The natural characteristics of the meat, including color and shape, were found to have changed, and a foul odor was observed. The carcasses showed a greenish tinge and visible fungi.

The Authority explained that inspectors at the Mubarakiya Food Inspection Center observed, during an inspection tour Wednesday, that the establishment responsible for attempting to sell this meat removed expiration dates from the carcasses and food data cards to conceal the fraud. The Authority stressed that these violations pose a serious threat to public health. It confirmed that legal action was taken against the violating establishment, and that it was immediately closed as part of its efforts to protect consumers and ensure the safety of food circulating in the markets.



KFF photo

Part of the inspection campaign.

KFF conducts inspection campaign in Mubarakiya

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign in Mubarakiya Market to identify shops and buildings violating safety and fire prevention regulations, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The campaign resulted in the administrative closure of 20 establishments and shops, while 31 notices and warnings were issued to other establishments due to their failure to meet the KFF requirements.

News in Brief

Bangladeshi man run over on Fahaheel Expressway

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: A Bangladeshi died on Wednesday after being run over by a vehicle on Fahaheel Expressway, opposite Messilah, while attempting to cross the road.

A security source revealed that the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received a report about the accident. Security and emergency medical personnel rushed to the scene.

It was discovered that the victim had been run over by a female citizen who was unable to avoid the victim, leading to his immediate death.

The source added that the body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department and the citizen was detained.

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University advances strategic plan

AUK names Dr Aseel Al-Awadhi as Vice President for Academic Affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) announced the appointment of Dr. **Aseel Al-Awadhi** as Vice President for Academic Affairs, reports Al- Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the university disclosed that Al-Awadhi earned her PhD in Political Philosophy from the University of Texas in Austin and was a visiting scholar at Georgetown University. It added that as Vice President for Academic Affairs, Al-Awadhi will assume strategic leadership of the academic system and will be responsible for promoting academic priorities and improving the quality of teaching and learning.

The university explained that the appointment marks an important milestone in its journey, especially since it enters the implementation phase of its strategic plan. It added that the creation of the Vice President for Academic Affairs position ensures the presence of specialized leadership to guide the university's academic path, promote scientific research, and prepare students for



Al-Awadhi

professional success.

Meanwhile, Al-Awadhi affirmed her enthusiasm to assume the position, saying, "I am honored to be appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs at the American University of Kuwait. I look forward to working with the university community to achieve its mission, vision and strategy, as well as to ensure our students are prepared for a promising future. With my collaboration and commitment, I will work hard to strengthen the position of the university as the leading liberal arts and culture university in Kuwait."

Moreover, University President Dr. Rawda Awwad stressed the importance of the decision, indicating that "Al-Awadhi's joining the university comes at a crucial moment as we continue to implement our strategic plan and academic mission. She will play a vital role in enhancing the academic contribution of the university and its presence in the educational and societal landscape in Kuwait. We are happy to have her on board and look forward to working with her to serve our students and the broader academic community in the country."

Legal updates align with UN standards

Kuwait advances child rights reforms

AMMAN, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait reviewed its legislative frameworks and all reforms related to child rights during a high-level regional workshop held in Jordan.

This came during Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' participation in the UNICEF and UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized workshop, which concluded today in Amman. Second Secretary at the Human Rights Department Haya Al-Duraie delivered a presentation outlining key national measures to protect child rights in Kuwait, stressing

that Law No. 21 (2015) is the cornerstone of Kuwait's child rights protection.

She highlighted Kuwait's "New Kuwait 2035" vision, which aims to build a creative and productive generation through a safe and supportive environment aligned with the UN sustainable development goals.

The presentation reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to the 1991 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2015 national law, noting the Cabinet's recent approval to amend child protection laws in line with international standards.



KUNA photo
Haya Al-Duraie, Second Secretary at the Human Rights Department

MoCI revamps inspection centers ahead of upcoming school season

New plan to boost market oversight

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Ansari held meetings with heads of external centers in all governorates during both morning and evening shifts, reports.

Al-Ansari emphasized holding accountable anyone responsible for negligence or shortcomings and stressed the need to enhance the productivity of the control centers.

According to informed sources from the ministry, the meeting focused on developing a new plan for managing the external control centers. The plan involves dividing work teams so that a limited number of employees handle visitors at the centers to process ration card transactions and handle complaints. The majority of male and female inspectors will conduct field inspections at cooperative societies, supermarkets, retail outlets, restaurants, bakeries, and other commercial establishments.

The sources revealed that the meeting was productive, especially in light of the ministry's preparations to implement a new control plan ahead of the next school year, coinciding with the start of the stationery and school supplies season.

In addition, Al-Ansari emphasized the need to prepare the centers for the upcoming seasons, noting that unproductive inspectors will be transferred to other sectors and deprived of their excellent performance bonuses.

He stated that the plan aims to enhance the efficiency of inspection work and ensure the effectiveness of field inspection visits.

Social Affairs restricts retiree caregiving roles

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Social Affairs has issued a circular to the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies prohibiting the appointment of any retiree within co-operative societies if they are assigned to care for disabled persons, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release today, the ministry affirmed that this step aims to

protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure they receive comprehensive care.

The ministry explained that the circular is based on the provisions of Law No. 8/2010 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly Article 41, which guarantees that the person assigned to care for a disabled individual devotes their full time to

this task. This ensures the best interests of the disabled person and that they receive the necessary care without the caregiver being distracted by other job obligations.

The ministry stressed the need for cooperative societies to review existing employment contracts and take the necessary legal measures if a retired employee is assigned to care for

a disabled person.

It emphasized that this approach aims to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and maintain the quality of care provided to them.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening partnerships with various entities to support, empower, and care for persons with disabilities.

Ministry of Education launches kindergarten enrollment online

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Education opened the kindergarten online registration for 2025/2026 academic year on Sept 9, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry announced that the period for receiving parents' applications to register their children has been set, starting Tuesday until the end of the working day on Sept 25 through its website www.moe.edu.kw.



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Other Voices

Epstein and Ben-Menashe: Secrets behind the scandal

By Ahmad alsarraf

JEFFREY Epstein stands at the center of one of the most explosive political and sex scandals in modern history. His story reads like a dark thriller, one that demands the attention of a skilled investigative journalist, as each new chapter reveals deeper, more disturbing truths.

Epstein's web of espionage and sexual exploitation covered multiple countries and implicated dozens of powerful, wealthy, and influential individuals, including heads of state and world leaders, as well as hundreds of beautiful underage girls.

Born in New York in 1953, Epstein was a Jewish, unlicensed mathematics teacher who rose from humble beginnings. Despite lacking formal credentials, he managed, through illicit means, to amass vast wealth and wield considerable political influence on an international scale. His ascent, according to some reports, was aided by intelligence agencies, particularly Israel's Mossad, as he pursued objectives that allegedly served the interests of his powerful backers.

The intelligence services funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to Epstein, in addition to the fortune he amassed through illicit activities. His assets included homes worth tens of millions of U.S. dollars, yachts, and private islands. Each of these properties was reportedly equipped with hidden cameras that recorded everything, a setup that seems almost unreal. These recordings were allegedly used to blackmail high-profile individuals who were caught in compromising situations.

The financier Epstein was convicted of sex crimes and trafficking underage girls. He skillfully used his connections to build a powerful and far-reaching social network.

Despite serving a prison sentence abroad, Epstein voluntarily returned to the United States, perhaps in the hope of securing a presidential pardon during Donald Trump's first term. However, no such pardon was granted.

Due to the vast amount of information, secrets, and scandals Epstein had documented about his friends and clients, and the blackmail he conducted, it was inevitable that his life would come to an end, whether by being driven to suicide or eliminated by covert agents.

Epstein's continued existence posed a huge threat to sensitive systems, powerful individuals, and intelligence agencies.

It is worth noting that investigating Epstein and exposing his client list was a promise made in Trump's campaign. However, his subsequent appointees to the Department of Justice chose to keep the matter out of the public eye.

Former Israeli intelligence officer Ari Ben-Menashe, author of "Profits of War: Inside the Secret US-Israeli Arms Network" and known for exposing some of Israel's nuclear secrets and the "Contra" scandal, stated in a notable interview with Afshan Rattansi that the Israelis exploited Epstein's "talents" and turned him into an agent. Ben-Menashe added that the U.S. administration is caught in an Israeli trap and will find it difficult to break free.

This is evident in the American stance on the situation in Gaza and Syria, and the U.S. attacks on Yemen and Iran.

Epstein was part of that trap. Where did he acquire such enormous wealth? The interview raised serious and provocative questions, suggesting that we are witnessing a vast conspiracy and deep collusion between American authorities, their intelligence services, and Israel. It also revealed that some of the world's largest newspaper owners established their media empires with Israeli funding.

The interview offered an indirect rebuttal to certain "suspicious" local columnists who claim that the Palestinians have always been the obstacle to peace, that Israel has consistently pursued peace, and that former U.S. President Bill Clinton nearly succeeded in achieving a two-state solution after convincing both Yasser Arafat and Ehud Barak of his plan. However, according to the interview, it was Epstein, acting under pressure from Israeli right-wing parties and the Mossad, who sabotaged the plan.

In his interview, Ben-Menashe indirectly addressed the so-called "suspicious" writers known for whitewashing Israel and portraying it as a haven for intellectuals and writers. He dismissed the notion that any Israeli can openly criticize their government and simply return home unharmed, calling it absurd. Ben-Menashe revealed that Israeli intelligence attempted to assassinate him, pursuing him all the way to Canada and even bombing his home, but failed to kill him.

Ben-Menashe is a controversial figure, the kind whose life demands a documentary, and may well be the subject of a future article.

In conclusion, the attempted assassination of Hamas leaders in Doha serves as yet another indication of how deeply the U.S. administration appears, for reasons still unclear, to be subservient to Israel's hidden powers.

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



KUNA photo
Director of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Homoud Mubarak Al-Homoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Indian Ambassador Dr. Adarsh Swaika.

Kuwait and India expand aviation collaboration with new initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Director of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Homoud Mubarak Al-Homoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah discussed Wednesday with the Indian Ambassador Dr. Adarsh Swaika, ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the civil aviation sector.

In a press statement, Sheikh Homoud Al-Sabah said the meeting addressed mutual interests, including developing training programs, localizing skills in civil aviation, explor-

ing joint workshops or exchanges with Indian institutions, and expanding technical and operational cooperation following a recent memorandum of understanding.

For his part, the Indian ambassador expressed gratitude for the warm reception, emphasizing his country's commitment to strengthening coordination and cooperation, enhancing air service quality, expanding partnerships, and commending Kuwait's ongoing efforts to sustainably develop and advance its civil aviation sector.



KUNA photo
Photo during the inauguration.

Kuwaiti publishers showcase works at Baghdad International Book Fair

BAGHDAD, Sept 11, (KUNA): A number of Kuwaiti publishing houses, alongside Arab and Foreign houses, are taking part in the 26th Baghdad International Book Fair launched Wednesday in Iraq.

Inaugurating the fair was Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani, who underlined the significance of culture and called on writers and intellectuals

to document what is happening in their homelands, so that it remains engraved in history.

He welcomed Qatar as the fair's guest of honor, represented by Qatari Minister of Culture Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

The fair, which includes a number of events and activities, will last until September 21.

Kuwait highlights GCC efforts to boost maritime integration

Bloc mulls unified licenses, navigation rules

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The committee of port authorities and maritime administrations in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states held its 33rd meeting on Wednesday, chaired by Kuwait, to discuss a proposed agreement on freedom of navigation for GCC citizens within Gulf waters.

Speaking to KUNA following the meeting, Director General of Kuwait's Coast Guard, Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah, said the committee discussed mutual recognition of maritime licenses, in line with efforts to enhance Gulf integration.

He noted that discussions also addressed regulations for traditional commercial vessels entering GCC waters and ports, safety requirements for berths serving such vessels, and the implementation of an electronic ownership registration system for maritime units.

Other agenda items included easing the use of maritime means for coastal travel, regulations for issuing marine driving licenses, and the establishment of specialized training centers to build national maritime capacities.

Sheikh Mubarak emphasized the GCC's commitment to enhancing co-operation and advancing the maritime transport sector to boost its economic and social impact and support regional maritime trade.

He added that with all GCC countries overlooking the Arabian Gulf, port authorities play key roles not only in regulating maritime movement but also in protecting the marine environment and ensuring the sustainability of



KUNA photos
Group photo of officials of the port authorities and maritime administrations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Part of the meeting of the Committee of Officials of Port Authorities and Maritime Administrations in the GCC.

vital resources.

Highlighting member state achievements, he noted that Kuwaiti-flagged ships recently received top operational performance ratings under the Tokyo MoU after 30 inspections without any

remarks.

Saudi Arabia has expanded its fleet to 409 vessels with a combined deadweight of over 16.5 million tons, and registered 3,000 national seafarers.

Dubai launched a 2030 marine transport plan, Qatar's Hamad Port ranked 11th globally in container efficiency, Oman's Port of Salalah ranked second, and Bahrain launched a national maritime data program.

Continued from Page 1

Fifty years

She also pointed out that new strategies have been implemented to diversify the markets of Mexican exports. Hence a memorandum of understanding has been signed with Brazil and the Trade Agreement with the European Union (EU) has been updated. Also this September the Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has been invited to visit Mexico.

In the economic and social fields, President Scheinbaum's report notes that foreign direct investment hit a historic high in the first half of the year, with more than \$36 billion, and highlights the advances in technological innovation achieved, mentioning the production of an electric mini car Olfinia, the design of semiconductors, weather observation and civil protection satellites, as well as the development and production of state-of-the-art drones.

With regard to security Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo noted that Mexico continues to face risks and threats to its national security from both outside and inside the country but that thanks to the coordination of federal and state security authorities, a 25.8% reduction in manslaughter has been achieved September of last year.

She also highlighted the "historic" reduction in poverty levels in the country, as she reported that between 2018 and 2024 more than 13 million people ceased to be poor, thanks to the federal government investing nearly one trillion pesos in social programs and pensions for more than 30 million people nationwide. Now 82% of Mexican households receive direct budget through social welfare programs.

On hospital infrastructure, President Sheinbaum Pardo pointed out that construction of 31 hospitals was completed and another 20 were started.

In terms of housing, the report highlights the start of construction of 200,000 houses for Mexican families earning between one and two minimum wages.

In education, the federal government is implementing a new baccalaureate model and spaces for students at that educational level have been expanded, so that, during September alone, 38,000 new places will be added. The Universidad Rosario Castellanos was also created, which already has 77,000 students.

Regarding the Kuwait-Mexico relationship it is important to note that 50 years have passed since both nations decided to establish diplomatic relations. In the year 1975, the then President of Mexico Luis Echeverria Alvarez paid a 4-day state visit to Kuwait, where his host was the Amir

Sheikh Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah. Another very significant fact for the bilateral relationship constituted the two official visits to Mexico in 2010 by the then Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, that turned out to be fundamental for Kuwait to open its embassy in Mexico, in 2011 and Mexico in Kuwait in 2012. It is also important to remember that in 2016 President Enrique Peña Nieto visited officially Kuwait.

With regard to trade links between the two countries it is important to mention that they have been increasing every year. Currently Mexico exports to Kuwait: cars, trucks, auto parts, industrial products, canned foods, soft drinks, avocados, chilies, green tomatoes, strawberries, raspberries, raspberries, etc.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary, the Mexican embassy has proposed to the Kuwaiti authorities the creation of a small fund, with resources from both countries, to drive projects that serve to instrument the more than 25 conventions and agreements between the two countries' peoples of the 4 deserts that exist in Mexico.

Finally I would like to leave note of Mexico's gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister, the Government of Kuwait and all Kuwaiti and Mexican nationals residing in this beautiful country, who day by day show us their kindness and deference.

Long live Kuwait!
Long live Mexico!

Hot temps,

Friday night will be warm to mild, with light to moderate northwesterly winds ranging from 12 to 38 km/h. Temperatures are expected to drop to between 27 and 29 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will remain slight to moderate, with wave heights ranging from two to five feet.

On Saturday, hot weather will continue throughout the day, with northwesterly winds ranging from 15 to 50 km/h. These winds may become active at times, raising dust, particularly in open areas. High temperatures will range between 42 and 44 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will be slight to moderate, occasionally becoming rough, with waves between two and six feet.

Saturday night will be warm, with light to moderate northwesterly winds between 10 and 32 km/h. Low temper-

atures will range from 26 to 28 degrees Celsius. The sea will remain slight to moderate, with wave heights between one and four feet.

Kuwait's education

Meanwhile, the acting Director General of the General Administration of Support Services Maryam Al-Enezi affirmed the Ministry of Education's commitment to student health.

She revealed a contract with Kuwait Flour Mills Company to manage school cafeterias and the appointment of an "educational coordinator" to assist teachers in all schools.

Al-Enezi stressed that 88 textbooks of all grades have been updated, and programming languages have been introduced into the intermediate school computer science curriculum.

She said an appendix has been added to the curriculum for grades 6 through 9 to reinforce behaviors, customs, and traditions, adding that a social studies curriculum has been introduced for grades 1, 2, and 3.

Al-Enezi revealed that textbooks have been divided into four parts in order to reduce the weight of students' school bags.

Kuwait's property

He asserted that price fluctuations are part of the nature of real estate markets, both locally and globally, adding that the current decline has affected different areas in the country, but at varying degrees depending on the location -- whether it is a corner plot or a standard plot, and its proximity to essential facilities and services.

Emad Haider, head of the Real Estate Brokers Association, stated that the month of September marks a pivotal stage for the real estate market in Kuwait, both in the residential and investment sectors, for three reasons: first, the ruling on the appeal against the law prohibiting the hoarding of vacant land, second, the anticipated decrease in bank interest rates, and third, the auction of government properties.

He believes the ruling on the appeal against the law prohibiting the hoarding of vacant land will have a direct impact on prices, as rejecting the appeal will lead to a decrease in residential land prices before the law takes effect in January 2026, while accepting the appeal will mitigate this decline.

He pointed out that the anticipated interest rate cut will significantly affect the market, citing the inverse relationship between interest rates and property prices -- lower interest rate stimulates investment activity and increases de-

mand, including the withdrawal of funds from banks and their redirection to the real estate market.

He said the sale of all properties at the recent auction reflects strong demand and continuous market activity, albeit at new prices based on current market conditions.

He indicated that transactions in the first eight months of 2025 totaled 2,663 deals with a total value of KD1.04 billion -- 30 percent increase in the number of transactions and 12 percent increase in value compared to the same period last year.

He clarified that this increase is a result of the correction in residential property prices, which started to recover after a decline in average prices, thus, revitalizing the market and encouraging investors and buyers to enter into transactions.

Real estate expert Basma Sultan said the decline in residential property prices is more pronounced in areas farther from the city center and key districts, with some 'peripheral' areas experiencing a drop of up to 20 percent. She attributed this to buyers' reluctance to pay high prices for properties located in areas lacking amenities or requiring long commute to business centers.

She revealed the real estate market is currently witnessing a clear geographical divide. She said central or urban areas are maintaining more stable prices, with only a slight decrease of five to seven percent, while more remote areas are forced to offer larger discounts to attract buyers.

She added that this situation is a real opportunity for families looking for more affordable housing, but at the same time, it puts pressure on owners of larger properties to accept lower prices, relinquishing some of the gains they made in previous years.

She said the continuous governmental support for large-scale housing projects and the allocation of land in new cities will gradually alleviate market pressure in the medium term, without leading to a steep drop in prices.

She praised the efforts of the government, specifically the Ministry of Housing and the Housing Finance Corporation, in implementing the Real Estate Development Law and Law No. 118 governing real estate developers.

She considers the 10-year plan announced by Housing Minister Abdulatif Al-Mashari at the Gulf Housing Conference -- which includes the launch of the first three real estate development projects on the 18th of this month as part of a plan to build 170,000 housing units over the next 10 years -- as a reflection of the gradual trend towards increasing supply and stabilizing prices.

Real estate expert Sulaiman Ahmed stated that the residential sector in Kuwait witnessed a significant improve-

ment in activity indicators from January to August 2025, both in terms of the number of transactions and the total value of transactions, compared to the same period in 2024.

Ahmed said the number of residential transactions rose to 2,348, compared to 1,843 in the previous year, while the total value of transactions increased from KD868 million to nearly KD956 million, reflecting an active market.

Despite this quantitative improvement, he noted that the average price per square meter declined significantly, from KD934 in 2024 to KD 844 in 2025.

He disclosed this price decline led to a negative assessment of the sector's performance, especially since the analysis relied on the average price per square meter as the main indicator of market trends, excluding transactions involving co-ownership, auctions and inheritance transfers.

Attack on

all GCC countries, and that what we have all witnessed of the sinful aggression against Qatar by the Israeli occupation forces comes at a time when the peoples of the region were hoping for security and stability.

Today's meeting embodies the deep belief that the strategic partnership between the two sides is a fundamental pillar for building a brighter and more secure future for our peoples and for constructing solid bridges that expand areas of cooperation, the minister added.

He also stressed that this meeting represents a milestone in enhancing cooperation on what was agreed upon in previous meetings.

The joint action plan (2023-2028) represented a practical embodiment of the collective will, as it included multiple horizons of political and economic cooperation. This ambitious plan resulted in tangible partnerships and practical programs that translated the desired common goals and aspirations.

"What brings us together today is more than shared interests. It is a convergence of convictions and visions on the necessity of cooperation as the basis for peace, dialogue as a means to resolve conflicts, and partnership as a means to achieve development and prosperity," said the minister.

The Kuwaiti minister stressed the Palestinian cause is one of the main priorities as it is the key to stability in the entire region.

He emphasized that there can be no just peace or lasting stability without ending the Israeli occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967, borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Ini-

tiative and relevant international resolutions.

Minister Al-Yahya went on commending the friendly Russian Federation's stance on the importance of ending the cycle of conflict and supporting efforts to achieve an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

He reiterated his strong condemnation and denunciation of the policy of starvation, repression, and displacement pursued by the Israeli occupation forces against innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip, in flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

He also stressed the need to lift restrictions imposed on the entry of humanitarian and relief aid into the Strip, which is facing an unprecedented humanitarian disaster.

Further, he praised the outcomes of the Alaska Summit, which brought together the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States, stressing that this summit represents a positive and important step toward reaching a solution to the Russian-Ukrainian crisis through dialogue and diplomacy.

He reiterated the GCC's firm position in calling for constructive dialogue to resolve all conflicts in a way that puts an end to humanitarian, security, and economic challenges, leads to a lasting peaceful settlement that ends the suffering of civilians, and contributes positively to regional and international security and stability.

Minister Al-Yahya also commended Russia's efforts aimed at urging the Republic of Iraq to exert maximum efforts to resolve all outstanding issues with Kuwait in accordance with the provisions of international law and relevant international resolutions.

He emphasized the importance of the completion of the demarcation of the maritime border between Kuwait and Iraq beyond border marker 162, the full implementation of the agreement regulating maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah, concluded on April 29, 2012, and the importance of Iraq's commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

The minister hoped that the upcoming Arab-Russian summit, scheduled for October 15, would yield positive, constructive results that would contribute to strengthening cooperation between the two sides in all fields.

Earlier, Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on the sidelines of the eighth joint ministerial meeting of the strategic dialogue between the GCC and the Russian Federation, held in Sochi.

See Also Page 2

Trump administration cuts grants for minority-serving colleges

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): The Trump administration is ending several grant programs reserved for colleges that have large numbers of minority students, saying they amount to illegal discrimination by tying federal money to racial quotas.

In a shift upending decades of precedent, the Education Department said Wednesday it now believes it's unconstitutional to award federal grants using eligibility requirements based on racial or ethnic enrollment levels. The agency said it's holding back a total of \$350 million in grants budgeted for this year and called on Congress to "reenvision" the programs for future years.

More than \$250 million of that figure was budgeted for the government's Hispanic-Serving Institution program, which offers grants to colleges and universities

where at least a quarter of undergraduates are Hispanic. Congress created the program in 1998 after finding that Latino students were going to college and graduating at far lower rates than white students.

Several smaller programs are also being cut, including \$22 million for schools where at least 40% of students are Black, along with programs reserved for schools with certain enrollment levels of Asian American, Pacific Islander or Native American students. The programs have traditionally received bipartisan support in Congress and were created to address longstanding racial disparities in education.

Not included in the cuts is federal funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are open to all students regardless of race.

"Diversity is not merely the presence of a skin color," Education Secretary **Linda McMahon** said in a statement Wednesday. "Stereotyping an individual based on immutable characteristics diminishes the full picture of that person's life and contributions, including their character, resiliency, and merit."



McMahon

'Solemn ceremonies, tributes honoring victims'

United States marks 24th anniversary of 9/11 terror attacks

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): Americans are marking 24 years since the Sept 11, 2001, attacks with solemn ceremonies, volunteer work and other tributes honoring the victims.

Many loved ones of the nearly 3,000 people killed will join dignitaries and politicians at commemorations Thursday in New York, at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Others choose to mark the day at more intimate gatherings.

James Lynch, who lost his father, Robert Lynch, during the World Trade Center attack, said he and his family will attend a ceremony near their hometown in New Jersey before spending the day at the beach.

"It's one of those things where any kind of grief, I don't think it ever goes away," Lynch said as he, his partner and his mother joined thousands of volunteers preparing meals for the needy at a 9/11 charity event in Manhattan the day before the anniversary. "Finding the joy in that grief, I think, has been a huge part of my growth with this," he said.

The remembrances are being held during a time of increased political tensions.

At ground zero in lower Manhattan,



Flags and flowers are placed in the inscribed names at the National September 11 Memorial in New York on Sept 10. (AP)

the names of the attack victims will be read aloud by family and loved ones in a ceremony attended by Vice President JD Vance and his wife, second lady Usha Vance.

Moments of silence will mark the exact times when hijacked planes struck the World Trade Center's iconic twin towers, as well as when the skyscrapers fell.

At the Pentagon in Virginia, the 184

service members and civilians killed when hijackers steered a jetliner into the headquarters of the US military will be honored. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump to attend the service before heading to the Bronx for a baseball game between the New York Yankees and Detroit Tigers Thursday evening.

And in a rural field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, a similar cere-

mony marked by moments of silence, the reading of names and the laying of wreaths, will honor the victims of Flight 93, the hijacked plane that crashed after crew members and passengers tried to storm the cockpit. That service will be attended by Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins.

Like Lynch, people across the country are also marking the 9/11 anniversary with service projects and charity works as part of a national day of service. Volunteers will be taking part in food and clothing drives, park and neighborhood cleanups, blood banks and other community events.

In all, the attacks by al-Qaeda militants killed 2,977 people, including many financial workers at the World Trade Center and firefighters and police officers who had rushed to the burning buildings trying to save lives.

The attacks reverberated globally and altered the course of US policy, both domestically and overseas. It led to the "Global War on Terrorism" and the US-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and related conflicts that killed hundreds of thousands of troops and civilians.

Killer 'appears to be of college age' and 'blended in': authorities

Conservative activist Kirk assassinated at Utah university; shooter still at large

OREM, Utah, Sept 11, (AP): An official in Utah said Thursday police are working to identify Charlie Kirk's shooter, who jumped off a roof and fled after firing the fatal shot. A high-powered, bolt-action rifle was recovered from area where the suspected Kirk shooter fled, the FBI said.

Kirk's killer "appears to be of college age" and "blended in" with the college population on the Utah campus where the shooting occurred.

Authorities searched on Thursday for the sniper who assassinated Kirk, a conservative activist and close ally of US President Donald Trump, with one bullet and then slipped away in the mayhem resulting from the latest act of political violence to befall America.

Kirk was killed with a gunshot from a rooftop at the Utah Valley University campus, where he was speaking on Wednesday, authorities said. Federal, state and local authorities were working what they called "multiple active crime scenes." As the search stretched into a second day, they provided little information about the shooter's identity, motive, location or evidence and were reviewing grainy security videos of a mysterious person in dark clothing.

"This is a dark day for our state. It's a tragic day for our nation," Utah Gov Spencer Cox said. "I want to be very clear this is a political assassination."

Two people were detained Wednesday, but neither was determined to be connected to the shooting and both were released, public safety officials said.

The circumstances of the shooting drew renewed attention to an escalating threat of political violence in the United States that in the last several years has cut across the ideological spectrum. The assassination drew bipartisan condemnation, but a national reckoning over ways to prevent political grievances from manifesting as deadly violence seemed elusive.

Videos posted to social media from Utah Valley University show Kirk speaking into a handheld microphone while sitting under a white tent emblazoned with the slogans "The American Comeback" and "Prove Me Wrong." A shot rings out, and Kirk can be seen reaching up with his right hand as blood gushes from the left side of his neck. Stunned spectators gasp and scream before people start running away.

Vice President JD Vance and his wife, Usha, were set to visit with Kirk's family on Thursday in Salt Lake City.

Vance posted a remembrance on X chronicling their friendship, dating back to initial messages in 2017, through Vance's Senate run and ultimately praying after hearing of the shooting. Kirk played a pivotal role in setting up the second Trump administration, Vance wrote.

"So much of the success we've had in this administration traces directly to Charlie's ability to organize and convene," Vance wrote. "He didn't just help us



Charlie Kirk speaks before he is shot during Turning Point's visit to Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah on Sept 10. (AP)

win in 2024, he helped us staff the entire government."

Kirk was speaking at a debate hosted by his nonprofit political youth organization, Arizona-based Turning Point USA, at the Sorensen Center courtyard on campus. Immediately before the shooting, he was taking questions from an audience member about gun violence.

The questioner asked Kirk: "Do you know how many mass shooters there have been in America over the last 10 years?"

"Counting or not counting gang violence?" Kirk asked.

Then a shot rang out.

The shooter, who Cox pledged would be held accountable in a state with the death penalty, wore dark clothing and fired from a building roof some distance away.

Madison Lattin was watching only a few dozen feet from Kirk's left when she heard the bullet hit him.

Tusk vows to press ahead with army modernization

WARSAW, Poland, Sept 11, (AP): Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk pledged Thursday to push ahead with a "great modernization program" for his country's military, a day after Russian drones crossed into Poland and amplified international tensions around Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including what the Kremlin's future territorial ambitions might be.

European officials described Wednesday's incursion, which occurred during a wave of recent unrelenting Russian strikes on Ukraine, as a deliberate provocation, forcing the NATO alliance to confront a potential threat in its airspace for the first time.

It deepened longstanding fears that the three-year war between Poland's neighbors could precipitate a wider conflict. US-led efforts to steer Moscow and Kyiv toward a peace settlement have so far failed to get traction.

The Polish Air Navigation Agency announced Thursday morning that Poland was introducing air traffic restrictions in the eastern part of the country. It said the step was taken at the request of the Polish army for national security reasons but did not elaborate.

Poland said some of the drones that entered its airspace Wednesday came from Belarus, where Russian and local troops have begun gathering for war games scheduled to start Friday. Poland is closing its border with Belarus at midnight Thursday, a planned move also associated with the military exercises.

Underscoring the global repercussions of the war, China on Thursday urged Poland to keep open a section of the Belarus border for a China-EU freight track that crosses it. The rail line is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative to boost trade with other countries.



Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk holds an extraordinary government meeting at the chancellery, with military and emergency services officials, following violations of Polish airspace during a Russian attack in Warsaw, Poland on Sept 10. (AP)

Tusk addressed Polish troops at an air base in the central city of Lask, praising their quick action and that of NATO allied forces from the Netherlands that responded to the multiple Russian drone incursions.

The response also brought questions, however, about the wisdom of using advanced fighter jets to shoot down relatively cheap drones.

Poland expects to receive its first F-35 fighter jets from the United States next year, he said. It will be the first delivery of some of the 32 aircraft expected by 2030 as part of a support package finalized five years ago, Tusk said.

UK's prime minister fires ambassador to US Mandelson over links to Epstein

LONDON, Sept 11, (AP): UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday fired the country's ambassador to the United States, Peter Mandelson, over his links to the Jeffrey Epstein.

In a statement in the House of Commons on Thursday, Foreign Office minister Stephen Doughty said the decision came in the wake of the publication this week of emails Mandelson sent to Epstein in the 2000s, in which he gave his support to the disgraced financier even when he was facing jail for sex offenses.

Doughty said the emails showed that the "depth and extent" of Mandelson's relationship with Epstein was "materially different" from what was known when he was appointed ambassador to Washington last year in the wake of the Labour Party's election victory.

Mandelson, who took up his post in February this year after what was said to have been a thorough vetting process, has voiced his deep regret over his previous links with Epstein and said he knew nothing about his criminal activities.



Alicia Arden, a woman who accused Jeffrey Epstein of battery in 1997, gets emotional while reading her statement before her attorney Gloria Allred, (foreground), during a news conference in Los Angeles on Aug 6. (AP)

"In light of the additional information in the emails written by Peter Mandelson, the prime minister has asked the foreign secretary to withdraw him as ambassador to the United

States," Doughty said.

In particular, he pointed to Mandelson's suggestion that Epstein's first conviction in 2008 was "wrongful and should be challenged."

North America

Shooter dead, 2 hurt in Colorado shooting: A student shot two of his peers Wednesday at a suburban Denver high school before shooting himself and later dying, authorities said.

The handgun shooting was reported around 12:30 p.m. at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado, about 30 miles west of Denver in the Rocky Mountain foothills.

Shots were fired both inside and outside the school building, and law enforcement officers who responded found the shooter within five minutes of arriving, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Jacki Kelley said.

None of the law enforcement officers who responded to the shooting fired any shots, Kelley said. More than 100 police officers from the surrounding area rushed to the school to try to help, Kelley said. A 1999 school shooting at Jefferson County's Columbine High killed 14 people, including a woman who died earlier this year of complications from her injuries in the shooting.

The teens were originally listed in critical condition, St. Anthony Hospital CEO Kevin Cullinan said. Their ages were not released. (AP)

Canada daycare crash kills 1, injures 9: A young child was killed when an SUV smashed through the window of a daycare north of Toronto shortly before pickup time on Wednesday.

York Regional Police said the boy was just 1 1/2 years old. Six other children ranging in age from 18 months to 3 years old were also injured in the crash. One was still in critical condition hours later.

Police told a news conference that three staff members were also hurt at the daycare near Yonge Street and Nottingham Drive in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Const. Kevin Nebrija said a driver in his 70s was arrested at the scene and police do not believe it was a deliberate act.

"As you can imagine, this was a very chaotic scene.



Students walk to board a bus amid heavy police presence at the Evergreen Library after a shooting at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colo on Sept 10. (AP)

I can tell you that the initial information suggests the vehicle was in the parking lot at the time, and for reasons unknown, drove through the front of the window," he said. "We can appreciate that this is a very alarming call for parents to receive and to attend at the end of their day." (AP)

'Lo mentally fit to stand trial': A Canadian judge ruled Wednesday that the man accused of killing 11 people by ramming his sport utility vehicle into a crowd during a Filipino heritage festival is mentally fit to stand trial.

Kai-Ji Adam Lo, 30, faces multiple counts of second-degree murder in the tragedy that struck the Lapu Lapu Day Street festival in Vancouver, British Columbia, on April 26. Dozens of people were also injured.

Police said Wednesday that Lo has been charged with 31 additional counts of attempted murder.

"He's able to conduct his defense," said Provincial Court Judge Reg Harris in announcing his decision. "He knows the nature and the consequences of the proceedings.

He is able and willing to communicate with his lawyer." (AP)

Belarus frees 52 prisoners, says Lithuanian leader

VILNIUS, Lithuania, Sept 11, (AP): Belarus has freed 52 prisoners, and they have crossed into Lithuania, the Lithuanian president said Thursday.

As the release became public, Belarusian state media posted a video of a U.S. envoy announcing that Washington had lifted sanctions on Belarus national air carrier, Belavia.

Among those released were 14 foreigners - six Lithuanians, two Latvians, two Poles, two Germans, one French national and one UK national - according to the Belarusian presidency's press service.

In June, Belarus freed Siarhei Tsikhanouski, a key dissident figure and the husband of exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, and 13 others following a rare visit by a senior envoy from the Trump administration.

"I am deeply grateful to the United States and personally to President @realDonaldTrump for their continued efforts to free political prisoners. 52 is a lot. A great many. Yet more than 1,000 political prisoners still remain in Belarusian prisons and we cannot stop until they see freedom!" Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda wrote on X.

Nausėda said the prisoners left "behind barbed wire, barred windows and constant fear."

Last month, US President Donald Trump spoke to Belarus' authoritarian president, Alexander Lukashenko, about the release of more prisoners.



Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda speaks during a presser at the Presidential Palace in Vilnius, Lithuania on Sept 8. (AP)

John Coale, Trump's deputy Ukraine envoy, met with Lukashenko in the Belarusian capital on Thursday, and announced the lifting of sanctions.

Lukashenko has ruled the nation of 9.5 million with an iron fist for more than three decades, relentlessly cracking down on the opposition and independent media.

Waters begin to recede

Flash floods in Indonesia leave at least 20 dead, rescuers search for missing people

DENPASAR, Indonesia, Sept 11, (AP): Rescuers on Thursday searched in rivers and the rubble of devastated villages for survivors of devastating flash floods that struck two provinces in Indonesia a day earlier, as waters began to recede.

Torrential rains beginning Monday caused flooding and landslides on the tourist island of Bali and in East Nusa Tenggara province, killing at least 20 people and leaving 6 missing.

Rain caused rivers to burst their banks, tearing through nine cities and districts on Bali. Mud, rocks and trees tumbled onto mountainside hamlets and rising rivers submerged at least 120 neighborhoods and resulted in a dozen landslides in several places, National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said in a statement.

Muhari said Thursday that rescuers had retrieved five more bodies as floods receded in Bali, bringing the death toll from floods on the island to 14. Rescue workers are searching for two residents still missing, he said.

As river levels returned to normal on Thursday, people in Denpasar, Bali's capital, left crammed emergency shelters. They found streets covered in mud and debris, cars lying upside down in parks or piled up in narrow alleys, and sidewalks strewn with sandals, pots and pans and old photographs.

Authorities took advantage of the receding waters to begin clearing away mud and removing piles of wet garbage from the streets, and electricity was restored to tens of thousands of residences and businesses.

Heavy seasonal rain from about September to March frequently causes flooding and landslides in Indonesia.



In this photo released by Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS), rescuers search for victims of flash flood in Bali, Indonesia, on Sept 11. (AP)

Suharyanto, the head of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, told a news conference late Wednesday that the threat of flooding in Bali is

over.

The floods in Bali swept away people and about 474 kiosks and small shop-houses in art and public markets, killing at least six residents and submerging hundreds of houses and buildings, forcing hundreds of residents to flee to temporary shelters, said Suharyanto, who goes by a single name like many Indonesians.

He said up to 600 rescue workers, police and soldiers have been deployed since Wednesday to search for six people reportedly still missing in Bali as the floods also have damaged roads, bridges and other infrastructures.

About 562 people remain crammed in government shelters in Bali, the agency said.

Scores of rescue personnel were searching through a river around the remote village of Mauponggo in East Nusa Tenggara, where floods left tons of mud, rocks and trees.

Rescuers were focused on finding four people, including two toddlers, who were swept away by floods along with 35 houses, said local police chief Dewa Putu Suariawan. Six other villagers were pulled out of floodwaters or mud on Wednesday.

Local Disaster Mitigation Agency head Agustinus Pone said the severe weather and rugged terrain that hampered rescue efforts exacerbated by the disruption of electricity, clean water, and telecommunications networks in 18 villages by flash floods.

He said that flooding and landslides in the area also destroyed two bridges, two government offices, a plantation and rice fields, and killed livestock.

Armed soldiers guard streets, check vehicles

Hundreds of people seek to leave Nepal

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 11, (AP): Hundreds of people crowded Nepal's main airport in Kathmandu Thursday to get a flight out of the country, as confusion set in over who governs the Himalayan nation after violent protests toppled the country's government.

In the capital, residents rushed to buy food staples like rice, vegetables and meat early Thursday, when the army briefly lifted a curfew. Armed soldiers were guarding the streets, checking vehicles and offering assistance to those in need.

Nepal's army took control of the capital Tuesday night after two days of huge protests that left the presidential residence and government buildings in flames and forced the prime minister to resign and flee. Many tried to leave the country after the airport reopened late Wednesday and international flights resumed Thursday.

"It was very difficult time for us. We had trouble just to get to airport and back to hotel hoping for flights but finally I have found a seat and am going to be flying out of Nepal," said Raj Kumar Bika, a chicken farmer who was trying to get to New Delhi for business.

It remained unclear who would take control of the government as the search for an interim leader continued.

When the protests prompted Prime



Tourists arrive to take their flight after Nepal's international airport which was closed due to nationwide protests reopens in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sept 11. (AP)

Minister Khadga Prasad Oli to resign Tuesday, the country's ceremonial President Ram Chandra Poudel asked him to lead a transitional government until a new one could be put in place. But Oli fled from his official residence, and his whereabouts were not clear.

Residents of the capital were left wondering who was in charge. "I feel there should be an election soonest and

new leaders who are able to work for the country should be elected," said Sanu Bohara, a shop owner. "After all this what we need is peace. I feel there should not have been so much destruction, but that has already happened."

Anup Keshar Thapa, a retired government officer who was looking at the charred official residences of ministers, said it was not clear who would lead the country and if people would actually listen to them. "If the protests had gone in an organized way, it would be clear who was leading," he said.

Protest leaders met with military officials at the army headquarters in Kathmandu on Wednesday to discuss a transitional leader.

Rehan Raj Dangal, a representative of the protesters, said his group proposed to military leaders that Sushila Karki, a popular former chief justice, should head an interim government. Karki was the only woman to serve as chief justice of Nepal's Supreme Court. Other protesters opposed her appointment.

Demonstrations by thousands of protesters were sparked Monday by a short-lived government ban on social media platforms including Facebook, X and YouTube, which the government said had failed to register with authorities and submit to oversight.



Vehicles drive through a flooded road caused by heavy rain on Sept 11. (AP)

Sudden deluge of rain floods some streets in Tokyo

Heavy rain flooded some streets and halted rail and air traffic in Tokyo on Thursday with more storms forecast.

Twelve centimeters (4.7 inches) of rain falling in just one hour in the capital, according to the Japan Meteorological Association.

Air traffic control and other ground services at Haneda Airport were halted because of lightning, preventing aircrafts from taking off.

Railway operations were also suspended, including

the bullet train and other lines in the region.

Across Tokyo, the storm flooded streets and some social media users reporting seeing hail. According to the Tokyo Electric Power Company, more than 7,000 homes in Tokyo are without power.

Authorities warned of more thunderstorms overnight and urged residents to stay indoors, avoid unnecessary travel and monitor weather updates. (AP)

Massive gas tanker explosion in Mexico City kills 4 people and injures 90 others

MEXICO CITY, Sept 11, (AP): Mexican investigators were working to determine the cause of a crash in which a tanker truck carrying more than 13,000 gallons (49,500 liters) of gas exploded on a major highway in the capital, killing at least four people and injuring 90.

The fiery crash Wednesday that burned more than two-dozen vehicles created a gruesome scene of badly burned survivors staggering in the street in tattered clothing as first responders rushed to the scene. The injured suffered second- and third-degree burns.

The tragedy drew renewed attention to the thousands of trucks that rumble through Mexico daily carrying liquid propane, which most homes and businesses rely on for cooking and heating water. Regulators said a preliminary review revealed the truck did not have up-to-date insurance allowing it to transport gas.

While Wednesday's accident involved a large tanker, rather than the smaller ones that make residential deliveries, both have been involved in deadly crashes over the past decade. In 2020, a double tanker carrying liquid propane flipped on a highway in the western state of Nayarit and killed 13 people when the fire spread to other vehicles.



Firefighters spray hoses at a gas tanker that exploded under a highway overpass in Mexico City on Sept 10. (AP)

In 2015, a leak on a smaller propane truck making a delivery at a Mexico City maternity hospital allowed gas to leak into the building and blow most of it up, killing five and injuring dozens.

"This is a horrible accident," Mexico City Mayor Clara Brugada said at the site of the explosion Wednesday night.

Lists of the injured showed that some suffered burns over 100% of

their bodies. Among those injured were a baby and a 2-year-old child.

As emergency vehicles sped by and medics attended to the injured, groups of neighbors ran helped pull burn victims from the fire and get them to safety.

The crash occurred on the highway connecting Mexico City with Puebla and in the capital's most populous borough Iztapalapa.

Boat evacuating flood victims capsizes, 9 dead

Pakistani security forces kill 19 militants

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Sept 11, (AP): Pakistani security forces raided three militant hideouts in northwestern Pakistan, killing 19 fighters, the military said Thursday.

The statement described the militants as "Khawarij," a term the government uses for the Pakistani Taliban. The group is allied with, but separate from, the Afghan Taliban, which seized power in Kabul in 2021. The military said fourteen militants were killed in an operation Wednesday in Mohmand district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the Afghan border, and five others were killed in raids Thursday in the districts of North Waziristan and Bannu.

The Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, attacked a security camp in Bannu last week, killing six soldiers.

The raids came two days after Maj. Adnan Aslam died at a military hospital from wounds sustained in the Sept. 2 attack on a security camp in Bannu. A video circulating online showed Aslam shielding a wounded soldier during the assault before returning fire and killing an attacker, despite being critically wounded.

Aslam has been hailed as a hero, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir attended his funeral this week.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge



Villagers get off from a boat after being evacuated by rescue workers from a flooded area in Jalalpur Pirwala, in Multan district, Pakistan on Sept 10. (AP)

in militant attacks, most claimed by the Pakistani Taliban and Baloch separatists in the southwest.

Also:
MULTAN, Pakistan: A rescue boat evacuating people displaced by floods capsized in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province this week, killing nine people, government officials said Thursday.

The boat, carrying 20 people, overturned Tuesday on the swollen Indus River when strong winds and fast currents caused it to lose balance, said Musarrat Jabeen, the

region's top government administrator.

Jabeen said rescuers initially recovered five bodies during an hours-long operation. By early Thursday, four more bodies were pulled from the water by teams including Pakistan Army divers.

The dead included women and children, she added.

On Saturday, five people died in a similar incident on the outskirts of **Jalalpur Pirwala city** after the **Chenab** and **Sutej** rivers flooded the region following water releases from Indian dams.

Argentina's Milei reopens ministry, restarts dialogue with opposition

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Sept 11, (AP): The administration of Argentina's President Javier Milei resurrected the country's interior ministry on Wednesday in a rare bid to build alliances with opposition governors days after his party lost by a landslide in a key provincial election.

But just hours after the radical libertarian appeared to prioritize his political needs over his cost-cutting crusade, Milei vetoed an opposition-backed bill seeking to increase funds for cash-strapped public universities.

The veto, part of Milei's long-running strategy to block the opposition's social spending measures and defend his hard-won fiscal surplus, raised questions about his commitment to cross-aisle cooperation.

"The government is sending mixed signals," wrote policy editor Maia Jastreblansky in the newspaper La Naci3n. "On the one hand, Milei exhibits an openness to political dialogue. On the other, he remains intransigent in his course and will not open his wallet or budge."

The moves come as Milei's La Libertad Avanza party scrambles to shore up his crumbling congressional support ahead of national midterm elections. The makeup of the Congress to



Actress Valentina Bassi, mother of a son with autism, celebrates after senators rejected President Javier Milei's veto to expand protections for people with disabilities, in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Sept 4. (AP)

be elected in late October will prove pivotal for the president's continued overhaul of Argentina's crisis-stricken economy.

"In this new phase, which we consider essential to implement the structural reforms that we've worked on, we are willing to strengthen ties with provinces that share the spirit of change," Milei's chief

of staff, Guillermo Francos, wrote on social platform X. Shortly after coming to office in late 2023 on the heels of the country's worst economic crisis in two decades, Milei dissolved or defunded over a dozen ministries as part of his effort to eliminate Argentina's monumental deficits by diminishing the largess of the state.

Ghana receives 14 W.African nat'ls deported from US

ACCRA, Ghana, Sept 11, (AP): A group of 14 West Africans deported from the US arrived in Ghana, the country's president said. The country joins Eswatini, Rwanda and South Sudan as African countries that have received migrants from third countries who were deported from the US, a controversial approach whose legality lawyers for the deportees have questioned.

"We agreed with (Washington) that West African nationals were acceptable because all our fellow West African nationals don't need a visa to come to our country," President John Mahama told reporters late Wednesday.

The deportees had arrived in the country and included Nigerian and Gambian nationals who planned to return to their countries, he added.

US President Donald Trump in his second term, has been aggressively cracking down on immigrants he says are criminals and from countries whose nationals have overstayed their visas in the US.

However, there have been concerns about the conditions facing some deportees sent to Africa. Lawyers and activists have also questioned the legality of the deportations and argued that Trump's administration appears to be making such requests to the nations



Ghana's President John Mahama speaks to the media at the Jubilee House in Accra, Ghana, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025. (AP)

most affected by his policies on trade, migration and aid.

The five men deported to Eswatini in July have been held in a maximum-security prison for seven weeks without charge or explanation and with no access to legal counsel, their lawyers said last week. Rights groups have also argued that most of the African countries that have received such deportees have one thing in common: A poor human rights record with government

critics often targeted.

In July, Trump hosted five West African presidents - from Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Gabon - at the White House to discuss whether the countries would be open to accepting deportees from the US.

Nigeria, whose nationals comprise the bulk of deported migrants to Ghana, said at the time that African countries were under "significant pressure" to receive migrants and that it would not agree.

Kuwait crude climbs to \$72.60 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil rose 71 cents during Wednesday's trading to reach USD 72.60 per barrel compared with USD 71.89 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Thursday.

Brent future surged USD 1.10 to USD 67.49 pb and West Texas Intermediate gained USD 1.04 to USD 63.67 pb.

Business

Focus on AI, green tech, infrastructure, and smart cities

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to Belt and Road goals

HONG KONG, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Consul General of the State of Kuwait in Hong Kong and Macau, Ambassador Naser Saqer Al-Ghanim stressed on Thursday his country's commitment to the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), affirming Kuwaits early participation since 2014 and its alignment with the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

In a statement for KUNA during his participation in the Belt and Road Summit, the Consul underlined that Kuwait values the efforts made in organizing this major international gathering, and is keen on effective participation through diverse Kuwaiti delegations from both public and private sectors, represented by the Ministry of Finance, Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC).

Consul Al-Ghanim expressed his appreciation for the Organizers of the Belt and Road Summit, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), all Kuwaiti delegations for participating in this event as it reflects Kuwaits commitment to the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative.

He highlighted Kuwaits focus on strategic sectors such as infrastructure, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, green technology, trade, investment, and innovation, describing them as vital drivers for sustainable growth and building smart cities.

The Consul also noted the importance of collective action in addressing global challenges, including cybersecurity risks, digital divides, economic volatility, and geopolitical tensions, calling for strengthened regional and international partnerships to secure supply chains and enhance cooperation.

He reaffirmed Kuwaits policy of openness and its favorable investment climate, urging international partners to seize opportunities in major development projects under Vision 2035.

Consul Al-Ghanim concluded his speech by emphasizing Kuwaits stability, strategic location, and strong investment capacity as factors that make it a unique regional and global hub, expressing readiness to boost cooperation and achieve mutual benefit with Belt and Road partners.

The 10th Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong concluded with the signing of nine memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and the conclusion of 36 business-to-business (B2B) deals worth close to USD one billion.

The two-day summit, co-organized by the Govern-

ment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), attracted more than 6,000 participants, including senior officials, business leaders, and representatives from international organizations.

The MoUs covered areas such as dispute resolution, customs, anti-corruption, meteorology, and investment promotion, while the B2B agreements spanned finance, technology, logistics, professional services, and education sectors.

Since its launch in 2016, the Belt and Road Summit has grown into a global platform, gathering over 45,000 participants from more than 120 countries and regions, and presenting more than 2,800 projects over its 10 editions.

Organizers highlighted that Hong Kongs external trade with Belt and Road countries reached USD 276 billion in 2024, an increase of 80 percent since 2013, underlining the citys role as a "super-connector" in advancing the initiative.

The summit was held under the theme "Collaborate for Change- Shape a Shared Future," gathered more than 90 speakers from 18 Belt and Road economies, reflecting a decade of cooperation since the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013.

Core inflation holds at 3.1%

US inflation rises to 2.9% in Aug, highest since Jan

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): Inflation moved higher last month as the price of gas, groceries, hotel rooms and airfare rose, along with the cost of clothes and used cars.

Consumer prices rose 2.9% in August from a year earlier, the Labor Department said Tuesday, up from 2.7% the previous month and the biggest increase since January. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices rose 3.1%, the same as in July. Both figures are above the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

The reading is the last data the Fed will receive before its key meeting next week, when policymakers are widely expected to cut their short-term rate to about 4.1% from 4.3%. Still, the figures underscore the challenges the Fed is facing as it experiences relentless pressure from President Donald Trump to cut rates.

Even as inflation has ticked higher, recent government reports have also shown that hiring has slowed sharply in recent months and was lower than previously estimated last year. The unemployment rate ticked up in August to a still-low 4.3%. And weekly unemployment claims rose sharply last week, a sign layoffs may be picking up.

Typically the Fed would cut its key rate when unemployment rose to spur more spending and growth. Yet it would do the opposite and raise rates - or at least keep them unchanged - in the face of rising inflation. Last month, Chair Jerome Powell signaled that Fed officials are increasingly more concerned about jobs, and are likely to cut their rate when they meet next week. Yet stubbornly high inflation could keep the Fed from cutting very quickly.

On a monthly basis, overall inflation accelerated, as prices rose 0.4% from July to August, faster than the 0.2% pace the previous month. Core prices rose 0.3% for the second straight month.

U.S. inflation likely ticked higher last month as the Trump administration's import taxes have lifted the price of goods, potentially putting the Federal Reserve in a tough spot when it meets next week.

Economists forecast that consumer prices rose 2.9% in August from a year earlier, according to a survey of

economists by data provider FactSet. That would be an increase from an annual pace of 2.7% in July. Excluding volatile food and energy costs, core inflation is expected to have increased 3.1%, the same as in July. Both figures are above the Fed's 2% inflation target.

The potential increases, while modest, would underscore the challenges the Fed is facing as it experiences relentless pressure from President Donald Trump to reduce its short-term interest rate. Trump hopes that rate cuts will spur more borrowing and spending and boost the economy.

Recent government reports have also shown that hiring has slowed sharply in recent months and was lower than previously estimated last year, a sign that companies may be worried about future sales and are less interested in adding staff. The unemployment rate ticked up in August to a still-low 4.3%.

Typically the Fed would cut its key rate when unemployment rose to spur more spending and growth. Yet it would do the opposite and raise rates - or at least keep them unchanged - in the face of rising inflation. Last month, Chair Jerome Powell signaled that Fed officials are increasingly more concerned about jobs, and are likely to cut their rate when they meet next week. Yet stubbornly high inflation could keep the Fed from cutting very quickly.

On a monthly basis, prices are expected to have risen at an accelerated pace, increasing 0.3% from July to August. Core prices are expected to also increase 0.3% on a monthly basis. The cost of groceries and gas are forecast to have risen last month.

Still, Powell suggested in remarks in August that tariffs could simply lead to a one-time increase in prices, rather than ongoing inflation. If so, that would make it easier for the Fed to keep cutting its key rate. Wall Street investors expect the Fed to implement three cuts this year, according to futures pricing tracked by CME Fedwatch.

The inflation data arrives at the same time that Trump has sought to fire Fed governor Lisa Cook as part of an effort to assert more control over the Fed. Yet late Tuesday, a court said the firing was illegal and ruled that Cook could keep her job while the dispute played out in the courts.

Jobless applications surge to 263k

Unemployment claims jump to highest in nearly 4 years

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): In another grim sign for the U.S. labor market, jobless claim applications jumped to their highest level in almost four years last week, virtually assuring the Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark interest rate next week.

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits for the week ending Sept. 6 rose by 27,000 to 263,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's the most applications since the week of Oct. 23, 2021 and well above the 231,000 new applications economists forecast. It's also the biggest week-to-week increase in almost a year.

Most analysts were already forecasting an interest rate cut after Fed Chair Jerome Powell signaled as much at a conference of central bankers three weeks ago. However, another report Thursday showing that consumer inflation remains elevated could complicate the Fed's dual mandate of keeping prices in check while supporting a healthy labor market.

Typically the Fed would cut its key rate when unemployment rose in an attempt to spur more spending and growth. But it would do the opposite and raise rates - or keep them unchanged - in the face of rising inflation. "The hot inflation print will not likely change the Fed's plan to cut rates in

September, but it's possible the Fed will hold in October if inflation expectations no longer look well-contained," said Jeffrey Roach, chief economist for LPL Financial.

Fed officials recently have expressed greater concern about the deteriorating labor market than inflation, and while a rate cut could spur economic growth and boost the job market, economists fear it could push inflation even farther above the Fed's target of 2%.

Earlier this week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics issued a massive preliminary revision of U.S. job gains for the 12 months ending in March, further evidence that the labor market has not been as strong as previously thought.

The BLS's revised figures showed that U.S. employers added 911,000 fewer jobs than originally reported in the year ending in March 2025, with the biggest weakness coming from the leisure and hospitality sector, professional and business services and retail. The report showed that job gains were tapering long before President Donald Trump rolled out his far-reaching tariffs on U.S. trading partners in April.

The department issues the revisions every year, intending to better account for new businesses and ones that had gone out of business. Final revisions will come out in February 2026.

Lagarde faces questions on France's fiscal crisis

ECB keeps rates unchanged at 2%

FRANKFURT, Sept 11, (AP): The European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged Thursday with inflation back under control and the economy is weathering Trump's tariff onslaught better than expected.

The bank's rate-setting council left its benchmark deposit rate unchanged at 2% at a meeting at its skyscraper headquarters in Frankfurt.

Attention at the post-decision news conference will focus on what bank President Christine Lagarde will have to say about France's fiscal crisis - and any possible role for the ECB in containing potential market turmoil that could erupt from the country's out-of-control deficit and political logjam.

The ECB is standing pat on interest rates even as the US Federal Reserve has held the door open for a possible cut at its Sept. 17 meeting.

The 20 countries that use the euro currency - and where the ECB sets rate policy - showed 0.1% growth in the second quarter over the quarter before, not great but not sliding into outright recession either despite the disruption from U.S. President Donald Trump's new and higher tariffs. The S&P Global survey of purchasing managers, a key indicator of economic activity, came in at 51.1 in August, with readings over 50 indicating expansion.

The EU's executive commission calmed the mood somewhat by negotiating a 15% ceiling on US tariffs, or import taxes, on European goods brought into the US. While that's far higher than pre-Trump tariff levels, Trump had threatened even higher rates and the deal gives some certainty that trade will continue, albeit with higher costs.

The ECB's deposit rate influences borrowing costs throughout the economy. The ECB raised rates sharply to combat a burst of inflation in 2021-23, and has since lowered them as inflation came back under control and concerns grew about growth. Higher rates fight inflation but can slow growth, while lower rates can stimulate economic activity by making borrowing cheaper for purchases.



The Euro sculpture stands in front of the former headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, Germany, May 23, 2023. (AP)

Eurozone inflation was 2.1% in August, roughly in line with the bank's target of 2%. With growth holding up, that means there was no great pressure to move rates Thursday. Analysts think another cut is possible in coming months.

France's fiscal trouble presents a challenge for Lagarde's communication at her post-decision news conference. The French government's bond-market borrowing costs have risen somewhat due to the inability of a divided parliament to tackle the large deficit, which was 5.8% of GDP last year.

In case of a full-blown market panic that sends rates higher, the ECB could intervene to purchase French bonds and drive down borrowing costs. But that's only possible for countries that are obeying the EU's rules on limiting debt or are moving to comply, which France at this point is not.

Analysts say the challenge for Lagarde is to avoid suggesting the ECB would bail out politicians who won't manage the government's finances properly, while not taking such a hard line that she unsettles bond markets.

Foreign Minister Cho presses Washington for humane treatment

Hundreds of Korean workers released after US immigration raid

ATLANTA, Sept 11, (AP): Buses carrying workers from South Korea who were detained last week in an immigration raid at a battery factory were traveling Thursday from a detention center in southeast Georgia to Atlanta, where a charter plane was waiting to take them home.

More than 300 Koreans were among about 475 workers detained during last week's raid at the battery factory under construction on the campus of Hyundai's sprawling auto plant west of Savannah. South Korea's foreign ministry has said that a Korean Air Boeing 747-8i that arrived in Atlanta on Wednesday will depart at noon Thursday with the workers on board.

The workers had been held at an immigration detention center in Folkston, 285 miles (460 kilometers) southeast of Atlanta. South Korea's Foreign Ministry confirmed that U.S. authorities have released the 330 detainees - 316 of them Koreans - and that they were being driven by bus to Hartsfield-



Protesters stage a rally against the detention of South Korean workers during an immigration raid in Georgia, near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. The signs read 'A tariff bomb and workers confinement.' (AP)

Jackson Atlanta International Airport, where they will board a charter flight scheduled to arrive in South Korea on

Friday afternoon. The group also includes 10 Chinese nationals, three Japanese nationals and one Indonesian.

South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung called Thursday for improvements to the United States' visa system, saying Korean companies will likely hesitate to make new investments in the U.S. until that happens.

South Korean officials have said they were negotiating with the U.S. to win "voluntary" departures for the workers, rather than deportations, which could make them ineligible to return to the U.S. for up to 10 years.

During a visit to Washington, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun met with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and told him that his people were left with "big pains and shocks" because the video of the workers' arrests was publicly disclosed, the ministry said in a statement.

Cho called for the U.S. administration to help the workers leave as soon as possible - without being handcuffed - and to ensure they do not face problems in future reentry to the U.S., the statement said.

Larry Ellison briefly tops Musk as world's richest

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): The battle among billionaires for bragging rights as the world's richest person got heated Wednesday with the surprising surge of an old contender: Larry Ellison.

In a stunning few minutes after markets opened, stock in Ellison's Oracle Corp. rocketed more than a third, enough for him to temporarily wrest the title from its longtime holder Elon Musk and hand it to the software giant's co-founder.

But the stock market is fickle, and Musk was back on top by the end of the day, at least according to Bloomberg, as Oracle gave up a bit of its earlier gains.

For those keeping score, the difference now is a billion, which isn't much given the size of the figures: Musk's \$384.2 billion versus \$383.2 billion for Ellison.

The dueling fortunes are so big each could fund the lifestyles of 5 million typical American families for a year, about the entire population of Florida, allowing them to all quit their jobs. Or they could just tell all of South Africa to take a vacation for year and produce nothing, based on its gross domestic product.

The brief switch in the ranking came after a blockbuster earnings report from Oracle powered by multibillion dollar orders from customers as the artificial-intelligence race heats up.

Musk became the world's richest person for the first time four years ago. A big reason is his stake in a hot, but now cooling, electric car maker, Tesla.

Stock in the company has been moving in the opposite direction of Oracle's, dropping 14% so far this year. Musk also controls several private companies, including rocket maker SpaceX, his artificial intelligence company xAI and the former Twitter, now called X.

Ellison owns about 40% of Oracle, which means its surging stock added \$100 billion to his net worth in little over a half-hour after the stock market opened.

The night before, after trading had closed, the company announced in an earn-

ings report that it had struck more than \$300 billion worth of new deals, including contracts with the OpenAI, Meta, Nvidia and Musk's xAI. It said that it now expects revenue from its cloud infrastructure business to jump 77% to \$18 billion this fiscal year, then rise to \$144 billion in four years after that.

Ellison said in an earnings call that Oracle would not just be making money from its computing centers that help build the next chatbots, but from the day-to-day running of those AI systems to run robots in factories, design drugs in laboratories, place bets in financial markets and automate legal and sales work at companies.

In other words, Ellison's surge in wealth Wednesday morning reflected investor expectations that computers will take over many jobs now done by humans - and Oracle will benefit.

Or as the 81-year-old said on the call, "AI Changes Everything."

Musk is hoping the same for Tesla and his own net worth, but he's been struggling to convince investors. The company had been promising a big turnaround in electric car sales after they fell sharply earlier this year, but the bounce back hasn't happened. Musk has been downplaying the bad numbers by trying to shift investors' focus to Tesla's other business of making robots and advances in the artificial intelligence behind its cars and robotaxis.

While he keeps talking up the Tesla future, though, the bad news keeps coming. Tesla sales in the European Union plunged 40% earlier this summer, the seventh month in row of drops, as customers balked at buying his cars after he took to X to support extreme right-wing politicians there. The company has been losing market share in the U.S., too, as buyers angry with his embrace of Donald Trump have stayed away from Tesla showrooms. Oracle stock closed Wednesday at \$328.33, a 36% jump. Tesla was up less than 1% at \$347.79.

Agreement aims to enhance banking and aviation services

Kuwait Finance House signs an MoU with Kuwait Airways



KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan

■ **AlShamlan:** MoU will open new opportunities and contribute to achieving the shared objectives of both parties.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) and Kuwait Airways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance their partnership and drive growth in the banking and aviation sectors. The agreement aims to improve banking services for both customers and employees of the two parties while strengthening their cooperation to serve mutual interests.

Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Alfagaan said: “We are honored at Kuwait Airways to sign this MoU with KFH, a pioneer in the banking sector both locally and regionally. This protocol has been an expected progress to expand the shared services with one of Kuwait Airways longstanding partners.”

He added that Kuwait Airways places significance on strengthening ties with leading national institutions. “This represents a milestone in expanding the company’s strategic partnerships across the public and private sectors, reflecting our shared commitment to-



Khaled AlShamlan and Captain Abdulmohsen Alfagaan congratulating after signing the agreement.

wards delivering outstanding services that enrich customer experience and support the national economy.”

Alfagaan indicated that Kuwait Airways firmly believes that enhancing cooperation with KFH Group will undoubtedly have a positive impact on both institutions. “We look forward to seeing the outcomes of this initiative materialize soon, contributing to enhancing both institutions standing, serving their customers and meeting their needs through an added-value offerings,” he remarked.

Alfagaan concluded: “On behalf of Kuwait Airways, I extend our sincere appreciation to all concerned departments at KFH for their dedicated efforts in finalizing this protocol. We beseech the Almighty for continued success in serving our country under

the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, may Allah protect them.”

In a statement following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan said, “We are pleased to have signed this agreement with Kuwait Airways. We are confident that this partnership will open up new opportunities and contribute to achieving the shared objectives of both parties, benefiting both institutions and their customers. We look forward to implementing the terms of the agreement and continuing to explore new opportunities for further development and growth.”

“The MoU aims to strengthen the long-standing relationship between KFH and Kuwait Airways. It also reflects the bank’s leadership in partnering with key



Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Alfagaan

Alfagaan: This represents a milestone in expanding the company’s strategic partnerships across the public and private sectors.

public and private sector institutions. The collaboration will focus on developing new services and loyalty programs, sharing expertise, and ultimately meeting the needs of both the community and customers,” he added.

AlShamlan said: “At KFH, we believe that collaborating with leading national institutions is essential for the benefit of Kuwaiti society and the national economy. This approach is in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, which emphasizes public and private sector partnerships, promotes integration across vital sectors, and encourages joint initiatives that improve service quality and support sustainable development.”

He stated that the Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates KFH’s commitment to providing added value to its customers. He also noted that Kuwait Airways, founded in 1953, is one of the oldest airlines in the Middle East, and this collaboration will significantly contribute to their shared goals and vision.



Khaled AlShamlan and Captain Abdulmohsen Alfagaan in a group photo with officials from Kuwait Airways and Kuwait Finance House.



Nasser Alshaya, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh, and Sameh El Meligy among the attendees.



Yousef Al Mutawa, Talal AlArbeed, and Nehal Al-Musallam, with Kuwait Airways officials, among the attendees.

In Memoriam

A TRIBUTE TO RHODA MUHMOOD M.B.E.



Above: Mr and Mrs Muhmood — the perfect couple. Inset top: Mrs Muhmood receiving her MBE from Her Highness the Queen in 2016. Inset below: HRH Princess Anne with Rhoda Muhmood, MBE when she visited KES during her official tour of Kuwait.

Rhoda Muhmood beloved mother, nurturer of minds ... builder of spirits

Beacon of light in Kuwait’s education lives on

By Chaitali B. Roy
Special to the Arab Times

“One must not look beyond education as something which ends with one’s youth. It is the key to many doors, doors both of knowledge and wisdom,” said Winston Churchill. This was the very quote that Rhoda Muhmood MBE, one of Kuwait’s pioneering educationists, often repeated, and one she highlighted during an in-depth interview I conducted with her for Radio Kuwait in 2021.

Mrs. Muhmood was a treasure trove of anecdotes and quotations, each perfectly suited to the moment. Warm, humorous, humble, resilient, generous, and kind, she carried with her an unmistakable old-world charm. Her slight frame belied a formidable strength of conviction, an almost missionary belief in education as the answer to life’s challenges, and the extraordinary leadership that enabled her to establish and build one of Kuwait’s foremost international institutions-Kuwait English School.

Her passing on Tuesday, September 9, leaves a huge void, not only in the hearts and lives of her equally extraordinary family (her four sons are high achievers in their own rights), but in the minds and hearts of countless lives she touched – the Kuwaiti and non-expatriate children who graduated from the hallowed portals of her school in Salwa during her 41 years of stewardship and even now, her many colleagues who she won over with kindness, thoughtful gestures and inspiring leadership, and her innumerable friends throughout the world.

During that interview in 2021, when she was her usual bubbly self, already planning her next charity event, she reiterated Churchill’s quote and said, “You know, this quote resonates with me. I believe anybody who’s put in a position to help other people, you’ve got the privilege of doing it, and you’ve got the pleasure, and the responsibility.” True to her words, she was always deeply involved in charitable causes, giving her time and energy generously to uplift others.

She recalled her childhood in Manchester and her first encounter with school as a young girl, and the magic spell it cast on her. “From my childhood, I always felt that education was a magic world. When I was four years old, I recall my mother walking

my older brother and me to school in Manchester. It was raining heavily that morning, so she dressed us carefully-my brother with his raincoat and umbrella, and me in my little Wellingtons. She held my hand tightly as we splashed through puddles together. As we reached the school gates, I heard the sound of chanting coming from inside the building. There was something magical about it, an energy that drew me in before I had even stepped through the door. At that moment, I felt a spark of excitement and wonder. I didn’t understand it then, but the seed of my love for learning had been planted. From that day forward, the idea of being with others, of discovering and growing together, became something I cherished,” she recalled.

Mrs Muhmood arrived in Kuwait with her husband Muhmood Ebdewe Muhmood, who was newly appointed at Kuwait Television as an Engineer in the 1970s. At that time, Kuwait was coming into its own, using its oil wealth to build a developed, modern country. International schools in Kuwait were a rarity. “For any kind of quality recreation, you had to join a club,” she recalled. “At the time, there was one called Salmiya Sporting Club, and we became members there. Very soon, we built some truly wonderful friendships-many of them lasting for years, even as our children grew up together. Those friends brought warmth and richness to our lives in ways we will always value.” Here, she began teaching at New English School before an opportunity arrived to fulfil her life’s mission.

Speaking about the establishment of Kuwait English School, now a thriving institution of 2,700 students aged 3 to 19, she explained how it grew to offer the very best in education across a broad spectrum, including music, art, and design. “My life has been shaped by incredible coincidences. One day, I bought a copy of the Arab Times. Newspapers weren’t very popular then, but that day, it carried an advertisement for a head of staff at a school. In the staff room of New English School, my colleagues immediately noticed it and said, ‘Rhoda, you should apply, you love organising, and you’re passionate about education.’ I decided to give it a try.”

What followed was the founding of an institution that has, since 1979, been one of Kuwait’s premier international schools, offering a comprehensive British curriculum that mentors



Mrs Rhoda Muhmood, Co-Founder and Founding Director of Kuwait English School after receiving her MBE.

and creates all-rounders. She oversaw the establishment of the Green Unit in 1991, for students with special educational needs and the Sixth Form ‘Millennium Centre’ in 1997. Her students, who live well-established lives in different parts of the world, including Kuwait, remember her mothering, mentoring, and kindness.

Over the years, Mrs Muhmood’s career in education rose to remarkable heights. She inspired generations of students with her passion, warmth,

and practices remain an enduring part of KES, a legacy that continues to shape its growth and success.

Mrs. Muhmood’s career is a powerful reminder that true teaching is driven by passion. For her, the heart of education lay in those daily, meaningful interactions with 26 children over 40 minutes, moments that shaped both learning and character.

She witnessed the school’s remarkable transition into digital learning during the pandemic. “I believe that education and nurturing children’s lives go hand in hand. You shouldn’t be in this profession unless you’re truly passionate, because every day you walk into a room filled with eager faces. When you think about it, 26 children, each lesson lasting 40 minutes, that’s an incredible amount of human time you’re entrusted with. That is why I have the deepest appreciation for the success we’ve achieved,” she had said.

To what extent does an educational institution that nurtures children into young adulthood prepare them for life or the world? “What children really need are many skills, especially facilitation skills. They must be encouraged to become strong readers, not just reading for information, but reading to nurture their spirit and to find joy. Literacy is essential, and that journey begins right from the early years,” she had urged.

Because of her extraordinary impact on education and social welfare, Mrs Muhmood was honoured with an MBE by Her Majesty, the Queen in 2016. The terms ‘inspirational’ and ‘catalyst for change’ aptly describe her character and the difference she made to the educational landscape of Kuwait. Her contribution and legacy will continue to serve as a driving force in Kuwait, encouraging us to believe that we can change the world through education.

Arab Times shares the thoughts and sentiments of some of her family, friends and colleagues.

Laith Al Hemairy, Khaled Muhmood, Tareq Muhmood and Ziad Muhmood

Mrs Muhmood’s sons

Mum’s greatest legacy is the profound impact she had on so many lives—including ours. She had a unique gift for bringing out the very best in us. For that, we will be forever grateful and deeply proud to be her sons.

Stuart Summers
Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, Kuwait

All of us at the British Embassy were very sorry to hear of the passing of Rhoda. The British educational presence in Kuwait is a critical part of the close relationship between our countries, and she was a wonderful ambassador for the UK in that regard. Her MBE was a just recognition of this. I wish to extend my deepest condolences to her family.

Belinda Lewis
Former British Ambassador to Kuwait

I am glad to have known Rhoda. I will remember her kindness, her gentleness, and her relentless positivity.

Dr Lavinia Davenport
Spouse of the former British Ambassador Michael Davenport MBE

How very sad Michael and I are to receive the sorrowful news that dear Rhoda Muhmood has left us. Bereft we feel, as we remember both her role as a public person and as a friend. One of our most enjoyable evenings in Kuwait was the musical celebration we shared with Rhoda and her husband on the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Kuwait English School. She loved music. There was also an enormous and delicious cake. It was such an achievement to found so excellent a school, and her selfless dedication shone ever forth.

Rhoda was a vibrant member of the British Ladies Society, of which I was privileged to be the patron. I remember that at one of our gatherings in the Residence, she took me aside to tell me all about her magical encounter with Princess Diana in 1989. She stood at the top of the Residence stairs and described the princess’s ascent up them in the most vivid detail - Rhoda had a wonderful way with words. A few months later when Prince William visited Kuwait, in 2019, I was honored to receive him at the top of those very stairs and told him the story, word by word. Rhoda was always a loyal support to both Michael and I. We had so looked forward to our next planned encounter with her and her beloved husband - a jolly dinner à quatre in London town. Alas, it was not meant to be. We both send all our deepest sympathy and condolences to her dear family and friends. May she rest in Peace.

Continued on Page 12



A general view of the David Bowie Centre, a new archive at the V&A East Storehouse in London, Wednesday, Sept. 10, ahead of its public opening on Saturday. (AP)



Man Who Sold the World, a wide sculpted bodice designed by David Bowie and Mark Ravitz in 1979, is on display. (AP)



The Harptone 12-string acoustic guitar and case used by David Bowie on Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars and Let's Dance in 1970, is displayed. (AP)

Icon's archive opens

David Bowie's creative world now on display

LONDON, Sept 11, (AP): When David Bowie died in 2016, he left a vast musical legacy - and a trove of unrealized projects.

Tantalizing details of those abandoned and unfinished ideas are revealed in Bowie's archive, which opens to the public this week.

The 90,000 items acquired from Bowie's estate by London's Victoria and Albert Museum include handwritten notes for a movie in which Major Tom, the fictional astronaut "sitting in a tin can far above the world" in Bowie's song "Space Oddity," is sent to "a disgruntled America."

Curator Madeleine Haddon said the unmade film - titled "Young Americans," like Bowie's 1975 album of the same name - is "reflective on what it's like to be a Brit in the US, and thinking about international politics and their place in the world."

Other might-have-beens include "The Spectator," a stage musical about an 18th-century London outlaw that Bowie was working on shortly before his death from cancer in January 2016 at the age of 69.

It's about "the relationship between art and politics in London at the cusp of modernity," Haddon said Wednesday at a preview of V&A's David Bowie Centre. "I would love to see where he was going with that."

The center, which opens Saturday, is a treasure chest for Bowie fans and researchers, holding everything from stage outfits and musical instruments - a strunged Japanese koto, Ziggy Stardust's acoustic guitar - to letters, lyrics, photos, to-do lists and idea-filled sticky notes.

The archive chronicles five decades of restless creativity by the shape-shifting musician, who was born plain old David Jones in the London suburbs in 1947.

Harriet Reed, a theater and performance curator at the V&A, said Bowie was "an active archivist" of his life and work.

Exhibition

"The notes he made, the to-do list, things where he's making a record of the exhibitions he wants to see, the films he wants to see, books he wants to read - that kind of devouring of culture is really fascinating," she said.

Bowie donned and shed personas as he moved through musical styles, from glam rock to soul, electronica and collaborations with British jungle and drum 'n' bass musicians, including A Guy Called Gerald and Goldie. He also acted in movies and on Broadway, collaborated on stage shows, painted and embraced technology, setting up a 1990s internet service provider called BowieNet.

"He was such a world-builder," Haddon said. "Music was (just) one angle into the worlds he wanted to build."

The archive occupies part of the V&A East Storehouse, a hybrid warehouse-museum that opened in June in east London's Olympic Park. As with the storehouse as a whole, visitors can book appointments to see any of the items for free - and in many cases handle them, under supervision.

"We want visitors to be inspired by Bowie, to pursue their own creativity, discover new stories and make unexpected connections between Bowie, contemporary discussions and themselves," Haddon said.

Since the bookings site opened this month, the most requested item is a distressed frock coat that Bowie created with British fashion designer Alexander McQueen for his 50th birthday concert at Madison Square Garden in 1997.

Bowie's impact on fashion is attested to by the 400 costumes in the archive, including Japanese designer Kansai Yamamoto's knitted jumpsuit for Bowie's androgynous alien rock star persona, Ziggy Stardust, and the white suit Bowie wore on his 1983 Serious Moonlight tour.

"The Alexander McQueen costumes and some of the Ziggy costumes are proving particularly popular," said V&A archivist Sabrina Offord.

About 200 items are displayed in cabinets in the archive's main room, a selection made in consultation with local 18- to 25-year-olds as part of a project to provide opportunities for local young people

"Many didn't know who he was or they had a lot of questions about why the V&A wanted to build an entire center dedicated to him," Haddon said. "By the end, they were convinced."

Some of the items are iconic, others delightfully mundane. There's the key to the Berlin apartment Bowie shared with Iggy Pop in the 1970s, and his Rarotonga driver's license from a period filming the 1983 movie "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" on the South Pacific island.

Late icon's voice lives on in new duet with Calum Scott

Houston 'sings' again... 13 years after her death

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): It sounds impossible, but that's the magic of it. On Thursday, a new Whitney Houston song is set to arrive 13 years after her death.

English singer Calum Scott is responsible. The single is a duet between Scott and Houston, a balladic reinterpretation of the timeless "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)," using Houston's original vocal stems. (Stems are the individual musical elements that, when combined, make up a song.)

"It wasn't even something I could have dreamt as a possibility, and the fact that I'm getting to do it is, geez, one of the honors of my career," Scott told The Associated Press. Houston's voice is one that soundtracked his childhood - courtesy his mom - and he refers to Houston as one of the most influential performers in his life and the lives of many. "Timeless," he describes her.

Here's how the new song came into existence. Such an undertaking couldn't be possible without the approval of a number of parties. Specifically, it required Pat Houston, Whitney's sister-in-law and the executor of her estate, and Primary Wave, which acquired the copyrights to hit Whitney Houston songs as part of a 2022 deal.

Pat Houston says the idea for Scott's "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)" actually came from Primary Wave. They were familiar with Scott's live cover version of the song from his stint opening for Ed Sheeran in 2024. On that tour, Scott stripped the 1987 classic down into a ballad, blending it with Robyn's "Dancing On My Own."

After hearing what Scott could do with the song - taking it from its up-tempo pop spirit to a big-hearted ballad, while also taking into consideration that 2025 marks the 40th anniversary of Houston's music career - Pat Houston was on board. It was yet another opportunity for celebration. "I said, you know what, this is a no-brainer. This is the Houston



Calum Scott, (left), and Whitney Houston. (AP)

style. So, let's go with this," she said.

"Whitney was a balladeer and that's why we all fell in love with her," she continued. "And Calum turned the song into a beautiful ballad."

First, the Houston estate and Primary Wave provided Scott with the original vocal stems, produced by her long-time producer Narada Michael Walden. Then Scott recorded the song with producers Jon "MAGS" Maguire, Andrew Yeates and Charlie T in the U.K. in "about a week," he recalls. They were joined by a string section, which gave additional dimension to their somber take on the song.

"Take a pop song and make it sad," Scott jokes of his approach.

Recording the ballad made sense because, as Scott points out, the lyrics to the original song are a bit melancholic.

Fashion

Winfrey, Usher, Kaling and others attend intimate show

Lauren reimagines the classic in Spring 2026

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): Arriving at Ralph Lauren's latest runway show on Wednesday, Oprah Winfrey reminisced about a big purchase she made long ago, once she started earning enough money to pay rent and have some left over.

"My first big splurge was Ralph Lauren towels," Winfrey said. She added she'd even showed them off to Barbara Walters when the newswoman came to her house. "I said, 'Do you want to see my Ralph Lauren towels?'"

"Growing up for me, he was the standard," Winfrey added, "not just for dressing, but for home life and for what it meant to be surrounded by beauty and excellence and form and structure, and appreciating everything about your own life."

Winfrey came to Lauren's show Wednesday for the first time since he took over Central Park for a lavish 50th anniversary extravaganza in 2018. There, she had toasted him for half a century "of designing our dreams."

Wednesday's show was what Lauren calls one of his intimate ones, using his own design studio on Madison Avenue, decorated cleanly and sparsely with white couches. Still, "intimate" for the 85-year-old designer still means fans lined up five rows deep outside the building, eager to snap photos of celebs like Winfrey and her friend Gayle King, Nick Jonas, Usher, Laura Dern, Mindy Kaling, Naomi Watts and many others.

What guests inside saw was a Spring 2026 collection that leaned strongly into Lauren's signature menswear-for-women look, with roomy but tailored jackets open to reveal bralette tops, paired with wide trousers or skirts. The key color for jackets and coats was crispy white, as in the very first item, a long white polo coat open to reveal a black bra top with black trousers.

The color palette was mainly white and black - accented with red. Sometimes the red was just in a bow around the neck. There were also a few dresses in brilliant red - one more casual, with spaghetti straps, and another lush, strapless silky gown to close out the show. As for accessories, many of the ensembles were accented with chunky silver pendants, and some with huge floppy hats.

Kaling said Lauren's work had been important to her immigrant family.

"His vision was very emblematic (of) the American dream for my parents, who are immigrants," Kaling said. "Particularly my dad, wearing the polo symbol was so like the sign of making it."

On the sidelines of the show, David Lauren, the brand's chief branding and innovation officer as well as Ralph Lauren's son, reflected on a moment of pride for the label - the engagement of Taylor Swift to Travis Kelce, with Swift wearing a casual striped Polo Ralph Lauren dress in photos she posted on Instagram.

"We're always proud to work with Taylor," David Lauren said. "She's worn our clothes for years, and to be part of a romantic moment in her life, it's a great moment for us."



A model walks the runway during the Ralph Lauren Spring 2026 fashion show as part of New York Fashion Week on Wednesday, Sept. 10, in New York. (AP)



Oprah Winfrey, (left), and Gayle King attend the Ralph Lauren Spring 2026 fashion show. (AP)



A model walks the runway during the Ralph Lauren Spring 2026 fashion show. (AP)



A model presents a look on the runway at Ralph Lauren Spring 2026 fashion show. (AP)



A model walks the runway during the Ralph Lauren Spring 2026 fashion show in New York. (AP)

Variety

ISTANBUL: One of Turkey's largest television news broadcasters has been confiscated by the state as part of a fraud, tax evasion and money laundering investigation, media reported Thursday.

Haberturk was one of 121 companies belonging to Can Holding to be seized and transferred to the state-run Savings Deposit Insurance Fund, the state-run Anadolu Agency and others said. Broadcaster Show TV was also confiscated.

Arrest warrants were issued for 10 people, including senior Can Holding executives. The group includes companies across a wide range of sectors including media, education, energy, hotels, health, construction and logistics.

In a statement, the Kucukcekmece Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in Istanbul said companies under Can Holding were involved in fraud, tax evasion and laundering the proceeds of crime.

Investigators had discovered that "large amounts of money of unknown origin were entered via companies operating under Can Holding" which were transferred between companies to conceal the origin, the statement said. Forged documents were also allegedly used to reduce tax liability.

Prosecutors added that some of Can Holding's activities

were "directly financed with criminal revenues."

Like the majority of media outlets in Turkey, Haberturk largely supports the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The broadcaster was operating normally Thursday morning. (AP)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand:

A New Zealand court has rejected the latest bid by internet entrepreneur Kim Dotcom to halt his deportation to the United States on charges related to his file-sharing website Megaupload.

Dotcom had asked the High Court to review the legality of an official's August 2024 decision that he should be surrendered to the US to face trial on charges of copyright infringement, money laundering and racketeering. It was the latest chapter in a protracted 13-year battle by the US government to extradite the Finnish-German millionaire from New Zealand.

The Megaupload founder had applied for what in New Zealand is called a judicial review, in which a judge is asked to evaluate whether an official's decision was lawful.



(Pic X) Dotcom

"You want to dance with somebody who loved you, you know, you're not actually dancing with them," he says. It's about yearning. But in an early demo, the chorus was recorded in a minor chord - which sounded a bit too depressing. The change was made swiftly; even slowed, the song needed some of that Houston ebullience.

Another early decision: The new song would start with just Houston's voice, alone, in the first verse. "Whitney starts the song because this is her song," Scott says simply. "I would never dare stand in front of Whitney for that first verse."

Eagle-eyed (eared?) fans might notice the sound of a snare drum bleeding into her vocal on that verse - because it was originally recorded to tape, not digitally, and because "we can't change anything like that because those are etched into the song and into her vocal," says Scott. "And to remove it would be taking a piece away."

It's one of the reasons they kept the song's iconic key change in the last chorus as well.

"I really had to dig for those high notes," he says of the recording. "It was an honor just to harmonize with her."

Scott looked to the original songwriters for approval - the dream team of George Merrill and Shannon Rubicam. They were immediately on board.

"Some people would have come in and they would have added something ... to boost their visibility next to Whitney. And he had the boldness to tear it all down and just have acoustic piano, just Whitney, and then give her the first verse," said Merrill. "And I mean, this is his project. To me, that's showing such respect."

That, and they recognize Scott as a virtuosic vocalist. "His music really features his voice, as with Adele or Whitney, and rightly so because he can carry it off," said Rubicam. "There aren't just hundreds of people who can carry that off with his kind of power."

Rhoda Muhmood beloved mother, nurturer of minds ... builder of spirits

Beacon of light in Kuwait’s education lives on

Continued from Page 10

Michael Hassan
Headteacher of Secondary School

Kuwait English School
It is with the greatest sadness that I have learned of the passing of Mrs Rhoda Elizabeth Muhmood MBE, the founder of our school. I know many of us have had the pleasure of working with ‘Mrs M’ for many years. I, for one, chose to join KES due to her passion for Music. Her life was Kuwait English School through and through, and she created the legacy of our wonderful institution and the team we have today. She founded KES, from its humble beginnings in a small villa, into one of the leading international schools in the region. An achievement and a legacy that will live on for many, many years.

Mrs Muhmood was a pioneer and a great leader who loved and cared for all the students and the staff in the school. She was always present at events and helped inspire many functions and concerts for not only the school but also charitable causes. She really cared. She has changed the lives of so many students, staff, and me personally. For this, we will always be grateful.

Our thoughts are with Mr Muhmood, who was the General Manager at KES for many years, and his family at such a sad time.

Claudia Farkas Al Rashoud
Journalist and Author

When I interviewed Rhoda Muhmood for the Arab Times shortly after she retired from Kuwait English School, she expressed her appreciation for the different roles in life she’d been given. She was a pioneer educator with more than fifty years of experience in British schools in Kuwait, an active philanthropist, and a proud mother and grandmother. She was also a mentor and dear friend who served as a source of inspiration to so many individuals in the community. She felt so thankful for knowing all these people and had

said, “I’ve had a lot of quality people in my life, good people that have nurtured me along the way.”

Even from her hospital bed during the last months of her life, Rhoda constantly voiced her gratitude for her wonderful life and all the lovely people with whom she had shared it. She was always thinking of others. She’d look around the room at the family members and friends visiting her and ask if they were well or if they needed anything. She also had a great sense of fun and never lost her gentle sense of humour. During the interview, Rhoda had shared some of her favorite quotes with me. One of them was, “A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.” Another was by the Dalai Lama, “Share your knowledge. It’s a way to achieve immortality.” Rhoda embodied the wisdom in these quotes. She will be greatly missed.

Vera Al-Mutawa MBE
Founder & Director, The British School of Kuwait

It is with great sadness and deep respect that I pay tribute to my dear friend and esteemed colleague, Rodah Al-Humairy, MBE. I first met Rodah in 1971, through mutual friends from the Quttina family—Elsie, Issmit, and Ivonne. From the very beginning, our friendship was marked by mutual support and admiration, which soon grew into a lifelong bond of professional respect and shared purpose.

Together with her devoted husband, Mehmoud Al-Humairy, Rodah raised a wonderful family of four sons—Laith, Khalid, Tareq, and Ziad. Her family was always at the centre of her life, providing her greatest joy, her strength, and the foundation upon which she built her remarkable career. Professionally, Rhoda was a true pioneer in education. Alongside Jassem Alsedah, a former diplomat and respected educator, she co-founded one of Kuwait’s most reputable English-medium schools. Their shared vision created an institution that has served the community with distinction for



His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, the then Prince of Wales with KES students during a visit to Kuwait.

more than five decades, shaping generations of young minds with quality education and strong values.

Rhoda’s passion for education was profound. She often remarked that she felt almost guilty being paid for work she loved so deeply. That humility, combined with her dedication, defined her character. She was not only a leader but also a mentor to teachers and an inspiration to countless students.

Though we worked in the same sector, our friendship was never defined by rivalry. Instead, it was strengthened by mutual respect and a shared belief that education is a collaborative mission, not a contest. Rhoda was more than a colleague—she was an inspiration. A loving wife, devoted mother and grandmother, and exceptional school leader, she brought grace and purpose to everything she did. Her service was rightfully recognised when she was awarded the honour of MBE, a fitting tribute to her lifelong dedication. On behalf of The British School of Kuwait, The Sunshine Kindergarten, and personally, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Rhoda’s beloved family and to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

John Price
Retired Principal of KES Senior School

Alison S Price MBE
Cultural Historian & Creative
Rhoda Elizabeth Muhmood MBE has left a legacy in the hearts and minds of many thousands of people of different cultures and religions. She was, at her very centre, a ‘mother’. The dedication, determination and kindness which nurtured her beloved family and was given, for decades, to generations of children, far exceeded her role as co-founder and director of Kuwait English School.

It was our great privilege to know and work through four decades with Mrs Muhmood. To us, she was a mentor, an inspiration, and an enthusiastic supporter of all we endeavoured. To our family, Mrs Muhmood was a dear friend.

Jennifer Cadiz
President British Ladies Society

A founding member of BLS and constant support to the British Ladies’ Society in Kuwait for all of our 32 years, Rhoda’s generosity of spirit

and graciousness was so welcoming to new members. Everyone in BLS who managed to spend any time with her, became instantly enamored. Rhoda is fondly remembered for the joy she brought to every situation with such a delightful sense of humour and a twinkle in her eye that meant she got away with more than most! Rhoda seized every day, and we are so thankful that she did that with BLS.

Caroline Lynskey
Former Headteacher, Kuwait English School

Mrs. M’s passion for education and her strength as a leader touched countless lives, mine included. Through both tragedy and triumph in my own life, she was always there with wisdom, kindness, and unwavering support. A true trailblazer, her legacy will continue to inspire generations.

Nejoud Al Yaqout
Poet, Activist & Friend

Today, Kuwait mourns the loss of an iconic woman who shaped the history of English education in Kuwait. Everyone who had the privilege of knowing Rhoda remembers her as a welcoming, kind, charitable and jovial person who made every person she encountered feel like the most important person in a room. Rhoda juggled work, marriage, motherhood, and service to others with superhuman ease. To say she will be missed by all the hearts she touched in her transient sojourn on Earth is an understatement.

Elsie Quttainah
Friend

There are no words to truly capture the grief I feel. Fifty years- a lifetime of shared memories, you were so much more than a sister to me, you were woven into the very fabric of my life, and I will always love you.

Wendy Beddison
First President of the British Ladies Society, Kuwait

Rhoda was one of the founding members of the BLS; we were on the steering committee together, and she was elected Vice President for the

inaugural year. She did a great deal to support the BLS in the early years, even finding us a place at KES to hold our Committee meetings. She was a remarkable woman and a good friend for some forty years. I will miss her.

Cezary Owerkowicz
Co-founder of Kuwait Chamber Philharmonia

My wife, Anna, and I came to Kuwait 40 years ago, in 1985, at the invitation of the Ministry of Information, where we served as teachers and concert pianists. Thanks to this, we soon became acquainted with a number of significant persons, such as Mrs. Rhoda Muhmood and her husband. Soon, we began to participate, both as listeners and performers, in school concerts at Kuwait English School.

A few years later, together with our friend, cellist Mr. Witold Wnuk, we offered the Kuwaiti community a regular concert season as the Kuwait Chamber Philharmonia. Its launch was made possible thanks to the Founders of KES and the management headed by Mrs. Rhoda. The first ever professional concert season started on November 11th, 1992, at the KES hall.

Over the next years and decades, the KCP stage hosted several famous orchestras, ensembles and soloists from all over the world, as well as talented Kuwaiti youth (including well-known Kuwaiti composer, Dr. Sulaiman Al Dekan). Mrs. Rhoda supported our efforts in various forms throughout. It is no wonder that, celebrating the 30th anniversary of KCP on November 11th, 2012, we returned to the historic KES hall at her invitation. By contributing proudly and diversely to the life of Kuwait and its community, she has become a permanent part of our lives, of the education, culture and musical development of the country, which has become a second homeland for many of us.

Glory to her for that. As long as her friends are alive, Mrs. Rhoda’s memory will also live on, remembered with gratitude, love and respect.

Film



This image released by Focus Features shows Raquel Cassidy, from left, Kevin Doyle, Sophie McShera, Phyllis Logan, Lesley Nicol, Jim Carter, Brendan Coyle and Joanne Froggatt in a scene from ‘Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale.’ (AP)

New faces, old traditions clash in Downton’s final chapter

Downton’s matriarch gets a loving goodbye

LOS ANGELES, Sept 11, (AP): Change comes slowly to the Downton Abbey universe and its Crawley family. Just watch Robert Crawley go flat-hunting in London.

Wait, what? Flat-hunting? The Earl of Grantham? Well, yes, and it’s the most amusing scene in “Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale” (a self-announcing title if there ever was one).

Just look at proud and starched Robert (Hugh Bonneville), trying to be open-minded but utterly flummoxed by this “flat” in which you cannot go “up” to bed because there is no “up.” Well, you can go “along” to bed, suggests daughter Mary (Michelle Dockery - as always the sensible center of things), trying to make it all sound manageable.

But the prospect of flat-living - rather than maintaining a mansion in London - is a thing the Crawleys must consider as they move into the 1930s, with financial and social instability always around the corner. “Families like ours have to keep moving to survive,” says Mary, with the weight of Downton Abbey’s future itself resting on her shoulders.

A note to those coming in cold to the franchise here: Well, it’s going to be quite hard. Writer Julian Fellowes and director Simon Curtis do not engage in hand-holding when it comes to mastering the Crawley family tree or the broader family of servants that Downton fans know and love. Even those who saw the first two films - the last in 2022 - might feel the need for a refresher.

We begin in London’s West End, at a show by Noel Coward, attended by Downton inhabitants from all levels. They’re all there to watch dashing actor Guy Dexter (Dominic West), who in the last movie asked former butler Thomas Barrow to become his dresser, and more. It’s nice to see Barrow is happy now, able to live life as a gay man - even if

Robert can’t quite grasp their relationship (change is slow, remember).

Meanwhile Mary is shopping in London with sister Edith, and the importance of this scene is perhaps to remind us that the real star of the “Downton” universe, after that stupendous house of course, is the costumes. Mary finds a sleek red satin gown that is quite possibly the most smashing outfit we’ve seen yet.

But when she puts it on for a society ball, trouble erupts. As the family arrives we learn that Mary’s divorce decree has come through - and this means, alas, that she will become a pariah. The newspaper screams of “divorce in high places,” and indeed, the ball’s hostess (Joely Richardson) actually kicks Mary out of the party because royalty is coming. Mary’s concerned parents are outraged - but they stay, and their daughter heads out, quipping that she hopes a taxi will agree to take her.

Characters

Soon enough we’re back at Downton, and there is one very big difference: no longer does Violet Crawley, aka Maggie Smith, with her inimitable style and those hilarious quips, rule the halls. She died in the last film - and Smith died in 2024. But the film is dedicated to her in more ways than one.

Besides Violet, almost everyone is back, and we have a few new (or newly returning) characters as well. Paul Giamatti is, happily, back from the TV show as Harold, the brother of Cora (Elizabeth McGovern, always a warm presence as Robert’s American wife).

Harold arrives from America with some unfortunate news - he’s wasted away much of their family fortune. Accompanying him is friend Gus, a handsome and clever type - or so it seems - who has been advising Harold on his finances. Gus (Alessandro

Nivola) worms his way into Mary’s good graces, and more - but he may not be nearly as clever as he first appears.

Then there’s Simon Russell Beale as the pompous Hector, who tries to hold onto local tradition but runs up against Isobel (Penelope Wilton), and a charming Arty Froushan as Noel Coward himself. The playwright is the closest thing in Downton world to a modern celebrity - everyone wants to be with him, no matter status nor gender, and he winds up helping Mary overcome her social shunning.

Nowhere to be seen is dashing Hugh Dancy, who played a film director (besotted with Mary) in the last movie. But the character that director anointed as a screenwriter, Joseph Molesley (Kevin Doyle), is back, and Fellowes must have enjoyed writing this line for him: “In many ways the writers are the stars of cinema.”

To be honest, the script veers from clever to extremely sappy, or to filler lines like “I think I’ll go get another cup.” But kudos for moment a befuddled Robert describes the newfound phenomenon of an apartment building as “a layer cake of strangers.”

“Sometimes I feel that the past is a more comfortable place than the future,” someone says in a poignant moment. But this final movie will give loyal Downton fans what they want: a satisfying bit of closure and the sense that the future, though a bit scary, may look kindly on Downton Abbey as long as Mary is in charge. And as long as Smith’s Violet, imposing in a front-hall portrait, is looking down from above.

“Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale,” a Focus Features release, has been rated PG by the Motion Picture Association “for suggestive material, smoking and some thematic elements.” Running time: 123 minutes. Two and half stars out of four.

Books

2024 campaign fallout

Harris defends Biden in her memoir ‘107 Days’

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): Former Vice President Kamala Harris says it was “recklessness” for Democrats to leave it to President Joe Biden to decide whether to continue seeking another term last year, but she defends his ability to do the job, according to an excerpt of her new book.

Harris, in an excerpt of “107 Days” published Wednesday in The Atlantic, writes that as questions swirled about whether the then-81-year-old Biden should seek reelection, she and others left the decision to him and first lady Jill Biden.

“Was it grace, or was it recklessness? In retrospect, I think it was recklessness,” Harris said.

The remarks are the first time Harris has been publicly critical of Biden’s decision to run again - an ill-fated decision that saw him drop out in July 2024 after a disastrous debate performance, leaving her to head up the Democratic ticket and ultimately lose to Republican Donald Trump.

“The stakes were simply too high,” Harris writes in the book. “This wasn’t a choice that should have been left to an individual’s ego, an individual’s ambition. It should have been more than a personal decision.”

Biden’s office did not immediately have a comment Wednesday.

Throughout the campaign and in its wake, Harris had avoided much criticism of the president she served beside and defended him amid questions about his mental acuity.

In the book excerpt, Harris continues to defend Biden’s ability to do the job but describes him in 2024 and especially at the time of his “debate debacle” as “tired.”

“On his worst day, he was more deeply knowledgeable, more capable of exercising judgment, and far more compassionate than Donald Trump on his best. But at 81, Joe got tired. That’s when his



The then Vice President Kamala Harris listens during an event with President Joe Biden in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Sept. 26, 2024. (AP)

age showed in physical and verbal stumbles,” Harris writes. “I don’t think it’s any surprise that the debate debacle happened right after two back-to-back trips to Europe and a flight to the West Coast for a Hollywood fundraiser. I don’t believe it was incapacity.”

She adds that if she believed Biden were incapacitated, she would have said so out of loyalty to the country.

Harris also blames those close to Biden for unflattering media coverage throughout the time she served as vice president and throwing her under the bus to boost Biden’s public standing.

She writes about receiving a high level of scrutiny as the first female vice president but says “when the stories were unfair or inaccurate, the president’s inner circle seemed fine with it. Indeed, it seemed as if they decided I should be knocked down a little bit more.”

Harris writes that she often learned that Biden’s staff was “adding fuel to negative narratives” that surrounded her, such as stories about her vice presidential office being in disarray and having high turnover.

Variety

SANAA, Yemen: The Israeli airstrikes in Yemen that killed at least 35 people and wounded more than 130 others also caused damage to Yemen’s national museum and other historical sites in its capital city, the Houthi Ministry of Culture said Thursday.

The status of the artifacts inside the museum is still unclear but thousands of historical artifacts are at risk of damage, according to the ministry. Associated Press photos and video footage from the site of the strike showed damage to the building’s facade.

The ministry called on the UN cultural agency UNESCO to con-

demn the attack and to intervene to help protect this historical building and its artifacts. (AP)

□ □ □

RIYADH: Chinese teachers working in Saudi Arabia celebrated a special occasion on Wednesday, Chinese Teachers’ Day, which is observed annually on September 10.

In a classroom at the Confucius Institute at Prince Sultan University in Riyadh, Zhang Yanfang explained the origins of Chinese Teachers’ Day to her students, while guiding them to discover the commonalities between Chinese and Arab civilizations by referencing ancient Chinese philosophers and Arab scholars. (Xinhua)

Perseverance discovers organic compounds in ancient riverbed rocks

NASA Mars rover’s new findings offer strong hints of ancient life

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 11, (AP): NASA’s Mars rover Perseverance has uncovered rocks in a dry river channel that may hold potential signs of ancient microscopic life, scientists reported Wednesday.

They stressed that in-depth analysis is needed of the sample gathered there by Perseverance - ideally in labs on Earth - before reaching any conclusions.

While acknowledging the latest analysis “certainly is not the final answer,” NASA’s science mission chief Nicky Fox said it’s “the closest we’ve actually come to discovering ancient life on Mars.”

Roaming Mars since 2021, the rover cannot directly detect life, past or present. Instead, it carries a drill to penetrate rocks and tubes to hold the samples gathered from places judged most suitable for hosting life billions of years ago. The samples are awaiting retrieval to Earth - an ambitious plan that’s on hold as NASA seeks cheaper, quicker options.

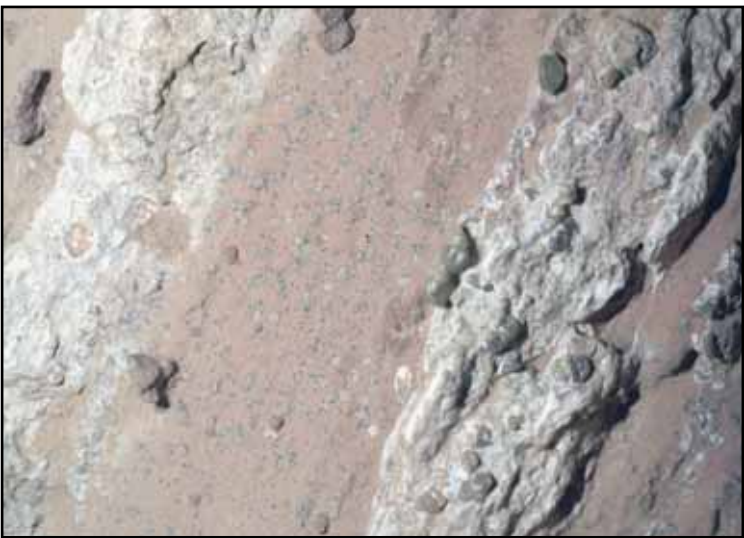
Calling it an “exciting discovery,”

a pair of scientists who were not involved in the study - SETI Institute’s Janice Bishop and the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Mario Parente - were quick to point out that non-biological processes could be responsible.

“That’s part of the reason why we can’t go so far as to say, ‘A-ha, this is proof positive of life,’” lead researcher Joel Hurowitz of Stony Brook University told The Associated Press. “All we can say is one of the possible explanations is microbial life, but there could be other ways to make this set of features that we see.”

Either way, Hurowitz said it’s the best, most compelling candidate yet in the rover’s search for potential signs of long-ago life. It was the 25th sample gathered; the tally is now up to 30. The findings appeared in the journal Nature.

“It would be amazing to be able to demonstrate conclusively that these features were formed by something that was alive on another planet billions of years ago, right?” Hurowitz



This image provided by NASA shows leopard spots on a reddish rock nicknamed ‘Cheyava Falls’ in Mars’ Jezero Crater discovered by NASA’s Perseverance rover in July 2024. (AP)

said. But even if that’s not the case, it’s “a valuable lesson in all of the ways that nature can conspire to fool us.”

Collected last summer, the sample is from reddish, clay-rich mudstones in Neretva Vallis, a river channel that once carried water into Jezero Crater. This outcrop of sedimentary rock, known as the Bright Angel formation, was surveyed by Perseverance’s science instruments before the drill came out.

Along with organic carbon, a building block of life, Hurowitz and his team found minuscule specks, dubbed poppy seeds and leopard spots, that were enriched with iron phosphate and iron sulfide. On Earth, these chemical compounds are the byproducts when microorganisms chomp down on organic matter.

“There is no evidence of microbes on Mars today, but if any had been present on ancient Mars, they too might have reduced sulfate minerals to form sulfides in such a lake at Jezero Crater,” Bishop and Parente wrote in an accompanying editorial.

There’s no evidence of present-day life on Mars, but NASA over the decades has sent spacecraft to Mars in search of past watery environments

that might have supported life way back when.

When Perseverance launched in 2020, NASA expected the samples back on Earth by the early 2030s. But that date slipped into the 2040s as costs swelled to \$11 billion, stalling the retrieval effort.

Until the samples are transported off of Mars by robotic spacecraft or astronauts, scientists will have to rely on Earthly stand-ins and lab experiments to evaluate the feasibility of ancient Martian life, according to Hurowitz.

NASA’s acting Administrator Sean Duffy said budgets and timing will dictate how best to proceed, and even raised the possibility of sending sophisticated equipment to Mars to analyze the samples on the red planet. “All options are on the table,” he said.

Ten of the titanium sample tubes gathered by Perseverance were placed on the Martian surface a few years ago as a backup to the rest aboard the rover, all part of NASA’s still fuzzy return mission.



In this photo provided by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a female Culex quinquefasciatus mosquito, also known as the southern house mosquito, sits on a person’s skin before taking a blood meal in 2022. (AP)

40% higher than usual

West Nile virus cases surge, prompting health warnings

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): West Nile virus infections are intense so far this year, with case counts running 40% higher than normal, health officials say.

More than 770 cases, including about 490 severe cases, were reported as of early September, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data posted this week. About 550 cases - 350 of them severe - are usually reported by this time of year.

Health officials are ramping up warnings to the public, because most cases of the mosquito-borne disease are reported in August and September.

“West Nile virus can be a very serious disease and its presence in mosquitoes remains high right now in Massachusetts,” said the state’s public health commissioner, Dr. Robbie Goldstein, in a statement last week.

People can protect themselves by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants when possible, and using an EPA-registered insect repellent when spending time outdoors, health officials say.

West Nile virus was first reported in the United States in 1999 in New York, and then gradually spread across the country. It peaked in 2003, when nearly 10,000 cases were reported.

Scientists say many people - perhaps tens of thousands each year - are infected but don’t know it because they have no symptoms, or only mild ones such as headaches, body aches,

joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea and rashes.

In severe cases, damage to the central nervous system causes inflammation of the brain or spinal cord, and even death.

In the last decade, health officials have fielded reports of 2,000 cases annually on average, including 1,200 life-threatening neurological illnesses and approximately 120 deaths. Deaths are on pace to be higher this year, CDC officials said, but they declined to discuss specifics, saying mortality statistics are too preliminary.

The problem is not that there are more mosquitoes this year, but rather that a higher proportion of the bugs are carrying the virus, CDC officials said. Mosquito infection rates can be affected by such factors as temperature, rainfall, the amount of insect control going on, and how many near-by birds are infected.

Colorado, which tends to see more West Nile virus, has reported about 150 of the nation’s cases - more than double what other states are reporting.

Fort Collins is a hot spot. Monitoring last month in an area in the southwest part of the city found that 35 out of every 1,000 female mosquitoes were infected - far higher than the 8 per 1,000 that would be expected for that time of year - said Roxanne Connelly, a CDC entomologist who lives there.

It’s not clear why, but she noted it’s been a wet and warm year.

HPV vaccine

6th brain fever death in India

NEW DELHI, Sept 11, (Xinhua): A 49-year-old man died Thursday due to Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), commonly known as brain fever, at a hospital in the southern Indian state of Kerala, officials said.

The man died while undergoing treatment at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode district.

Since Aug. 14, five people in the state have died from the rare but deadly infection affecting the brain, and Thursday’s fatality has raised the death toll to six.

PAM is a rare but highly fatal brain infection caused by free-living amoebae found in contaminated water. The infection is caused by the amoeba Naegleria fowleri, which thrives in warm, stagnant freshwater such as ponds and lakes.

Doctors say the infection occurs when contaminated water enters the nose, allowing the amoeba to reach the brain. Although infection occurs very rarely, it almost inevitably results in death, with a mortality rate of 95-98 percent.

Meanwhile, the local government has launched a campaign to clean and chlorinate public wells and water sources.

■ ■ ■

HPV vaccination: China is planning to roll out human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination services for females of eligible age and incorporate the vaccine into its national immunization program this year, the National Health Commission (NHC) announced on Thursday.

Under China’s Vaccine Management Law, the country implements a national immunization program that provides residents with selected vaccines free of charge.

In recent years, a growing number of local governments have begun providing free domestic HPV vaccinations to girls -- mainly adolescents aged 9 to 14.

Calls to add HPV vaccines to China’s national immunization program have increased in recent years, driven by the wider availability of affordable domestic vaccines and the mounting burden of cervical cancer.

China currently has both domestic and imported HPV vaccines on the market. The country’s first homegrown nine-valent HPV vaccine, rolled out in June, was administered for the first time this Tuesday.

No simple test for Lyme ... doctors use multiple clues

Unproven Lyme disease treatments and tests are proliferating: experts



This undated photo provided by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows a blacklegged tick, also known as a deer tick, a carrier of Lyme disease. (AP)

were diagnosed.

The challenge of diagnosing it begins with the standard laboratory test, which comes with a number of caveats that must be carefully weighed.

The bacteria that causes Lyme, carried by certain ticks in the Northeast and Midwest, doesn’t circulate throughout the body. Often it stays in the skin near the tick bite, making it hard to detect.

Instead, Lyme tests look for antibodies, proteins that help fight off foreign invaders, which usually only appear in the blood several weeks after an infection.

That’s the best approach available, but experts acknowledge its shortcomings: If the test is given too early it will come back negative because antibodies haven’t yet appeared.

“That’s one of the problems,” Smith says. “We can’t say for sure in the first couple of weeks that it’s Lyme disease or not based on these tests.”

Also, these antibodies continue to circulate in the blood long after the infection. That means the test can return a positive result years or even decades later - making it difficult to distinguish between a new case and an old one.

Medical guidelines deal with this ambiguity by recommending doctors diagnose and start antibiotics in all patients who have the signature bull’s eye rash associated with Lyme. But as many as 30% of those infected never get the rash, causing further uncertainty.

The limitations of the approved test has opened the door to alternative tests, ranging from over-the-counter kits to

specialty laboratories.

The more expensive tests are often ordered by self-described “Lyme literate” physicians and health providers, who may have backgrounds in fields unrelated to infectious disease, like homeopathy.

Spotting unproven Lyme tests is relatively easy, since only antibody blood tests are approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Any Lyme test available for sale at a drugstore or website is unapproved, says Andrea Love, a microbiologist and director of the American Lyme Disease Foundation. Another red flag is the use of saliva, urine or other bodily fluids besides blood to detect Lyme.

“When you see these other tests appear on the market, it’s very likely that they’re not accurate and haven’t done their due diligence, which should make people skeptical,” Love says.

Patients will bear most of the costs for unapproved tests, which may provide inaccurate information and derail a diagnosis for other conditions that are sometimes mistaken for Lyme, such as rheumatoid arthritis.

While acceptance of post-treatment Lyme is growing, Love and some other experts recommend caution when approaching the topic. Studies estimate that 10% to 20% of people treated for Lyme will have ongoing symptoms that can’t be clearly explained. But she and others point to startlingly high numbers of people reporting such problems in regions that have no documented history of Lyme, such as Australia.

Experts uncover gene defect as key driver of lupus

Genes could shape gut bacteria to combat obesity and diabetes: study

SYDNEY, Sept 11, (Xinhua): Australian researchers have found that genes actively shape gut bacteria, revealing a potential new weapon against obesity and diabetes.

The researchers found that mice with certain genes produced natural peptides, or small proteins, called alpha-defensins, which act as gardeners of the microbiome, shaping which gut bugs thrive and weeding out undesirable bacteria, according to a statement released Thursday by Australia’s University of Sydney (USYD).

Importantly, alpha-defensin peptides are also found in people, which the researchers believe is highly relevant to human health, it said.

These mice had healthier microbiomes and were much less likely to develop insulin resistance, a key cause of type 2 diabetes and heart disease, according to the study published in The EMBO Journal.

“Our work suggests that our DNA actively works to shape a healthy gut microbiome, and these microbial-shaping peptides could one day, if harnessed, become a new weapon against obesity and diabetes,” said Prof. David James, joint interim academic director of the USYD’s Charles Perkins Center.

The researchers synthesized the defensin peptides in the lab and fed them to mice without the genes. The experiments showed this protected mice from

the negative effects of an unhealthy diet.

The study shows that manipulating gut microbiome peptides benefits some individuals but not others, highlighting the potential of precision medicine and the risks of altering the gut microbiome with supplements or fad diets, James said.

The team plans to measure defensins in humans to clarify their role in metabolism and other chronic conditions such as cancer.

Meanwhile, the rates of overweight and obesity among Chinese children under the age of 6 decreased from 10.4 percent five years ago to the current 9.7 percent, head of the National Health Commission Lei Haichao said on Thursday.

The incidence rate of macrosomia, or large-for-gestational-age infants, has dropped for five consecutive years during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), Lei told a press conference.

The nutritional status of children in China has continued to improve, with the stunting rate among children under 6 years old nationwide dropping to 4.5 percent and the underweight rate decreasing to 1.4 percent, Lei added.

■ ■ ■

A recent study led by Chinese scientists has identified a gene defect -- PLD4 deficiency -- that can cause

systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), a chronic and complex autoimmune disease affecting millions of patients worldwide. The findings, published in Nature on Wednesday, provide crucial insights for future targeted therapies.

The research was conducted by a team from Liangzhu Laboratory at Zhejiang University, with Liu Zhihong, Yu Xiaomin, and Zhou Qing as co-corresponding authors.

SLE is characterized by high heterogeneity, varying widely in both clinical manifestations and genetic background, which has long complicated understanding of its pathogenesis.

Using whole-exome sequencing, the team identified recessive mutations in the PLD4 gene in five SLE patients with lupus nephritis. The PLD4 gene is expressed in key immune cells, including dendritic cells, B cells, and monocytes. The deficiency of PLD4 was shown to trigger sustained inflammation and autoimmune activation.

Further validation in mouse models demonstrated that baricitinib, a JAK inhibitor, effectively alleviated symptoms such as weight loss, autoantibody production, and tissue inflammation in mice with the PLD4 defect.

This breakthrough suggests that baricitinib may offer a targeted therapy for SLE patients with PLD4 mutations, paving the way for genotype-based personalized medicine in lupus care.

Programs help ease parenting

India trains families to help newborns thrive

GURUGRAM, India, Sept 11, (AP): Antima Kumari lifts one of her newborn nephews, positions him between his father’s bare chest and wraps a cloth around him to steady the tiny body. The baby quickly snuggles into his father’s skin.

Kumari stepped in as a caregiver for the newborn twins when her sister Lilavati Devi felt physically weak after giving birth and was unable to take care of the babies on her own. Even though she had no experience handling babies, she was able to offer significant support to her sister after learning newborn baby care through a training program.

She uses the so-called kangaroo mother care technique involving prolonged skin-to-skin contact between the baby and its father or mother. Drawing inspiration from the way kangaroos carry their babies, the technique has shown benefits for premature and low birth weight infants by helping them sleep more soundly and gain weight faster.

The technique is part of guidance for parents and families in basic maternal and newborn health skills to improve their care at home. Trainings are offered at many clinics and government-run hospitals in India where social disparities such as parental education, financial support and access to healthcare can significantly influence an infant’s health.

Kumari attended Care Companion Program sessions for parents and car-

egivers at a government hospital in Gurugram, near India’s capital New Delhi.

Noora Health, an India-based non-profit organization, trains nurses and public health care workers to equip parents and families with the skills they need for taking care of newborns, including guidelines for expecting mothers and caregivers. It also provides sessions on a range of health conditions, including cardiac care and noncommunicable and infectious diseases.

Seema Murthy, who heads Noora

Health’s India program, said her organization has trained millions of caregivers across India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nepal and equipped them with resources and skills needed for medical and emotional support.

Training family members in caregiving can prove to be important when health systems are over stretched and healthcare worker shortages are common, Murthy said.

“We have to look at being more efficient in addressing this critical gap,” she said.



Nurses conduct a Sick Newborn Care Unit session for women whose newborns are premature or sick, at an intensive care unit of a government hospital in Gurugram, a satellite city of New Delhi, India, on Aug. 7, 2025. (AP)

India routs UAE for 57, notches 9-wicket win at Asia Cup

Batters have no answer for relentless bowling attack

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 11, (AP): Left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav and seamer Shivam Dube helped limit the United Arab Emirates to 57 runs as India swept to a nine-wicket win in the Asia Cup.

Kuldeep baffled batters with his sharp googlies and bagged 4-7 while Dube claimed 3-4 to dismiss UAE in 13.1 overs - the lowest-ever T20 total against India. In the Group A game, India cruised to 60-1 in just 4.3 overs with opening batter Abhishek Sharma (30) showing flashes of his skillful power-hitting and Shubman Gill scoring an unbeaten 20. UAE batters had no answer for India's relentless bowling attack despite Jasprit Bumrah showing signs of rustiness in his first T20 game since the World Cup last year.

Captain Suryakumar Yadav believed his team was "flexible" when India won the toss and the skipper chose to field. India had lost the toss in 15 consecutive games.

Alishan Sharafu (22) and captain Muhammad Waseem (19) gave UAE a reasonable start of 41-2 in the powerplay before the batters crumbled against Kuldeep's sharp spin and Dube warmed up for more



India's Abhishek Sharma plays a shot during the Asia Cup Cricket match between United Arab Emirates and India at Dubai International Cricket stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

tougher games ahead in the tournament with a three-wicket haul. Bumrah nailed Sharafu will his

trademark smearing yorker in the second over and Mohammad Zohair sliced a catch to backward

point when he tried to play Varun Chakravarthy inside out. Kuldeep's three-wicket over,

that included a plumb leg before wicket dismissal of Waseem, rattled UAE middle-order before

Dube claimed three wickets in his two overs and UAE folded with more than six overs to spare.

India called back No. 10 batter Junaid Siddique after wicketkeeper Sanju Samson had him stumped when the batter strolled out of his crease after he missed a pull shot of Dube.

India accepted Siddique's clarification that he came out of his crease to explain that he got distracted with a rag falling from the pocket of Dube.

However, Siddique couldn't open his account as he fell of the next legitimate ball of Dube when Suryakumar held onto a high catch at mid-on.

Kuldeep finished off the innings when he had Haider Ali caught behind.

Left-handed Abhishek showed how quickly he could unsettle the bowlers in the powerplay when he smashed spinner Ali's first ball for a six over wide extra cover with his trademark inside out shot. He smashed three sixes and two boundaries in his 16-ball knock.

India needed only 10 runs when Abhishek miscued Siddique's short ball and got caught at wide mid-wicket but Suryakumar smashed Siddique over fine-leg for a six off the first ball he faced.

Gill then completed the victory with a boundary to mid-on of Simranjeet Singh as UAE slumped to heavy defeat in the group that also include Pakistan and first-timer Oman.

Why it keeps happening?

Racial abuse of Black players spikes early in the European soccer season

LONDON, Sept 11, (AP): The Premier League season wasn't even 30 minutes old when Bournemouth forward Antoine Semenyo reported being racially abused by a spectator.

The same weekend, a German Cup match was stopped after Schalke midfielder Christopher Antwi-Adjei was racially abused at a throw-in.

In Italy, Juventus condemned racist abuse targeting U.S. player Weston McKennie as he warmed down after a league game.

And in Spain, police on Wednesday arrested a spectator for allegedly making monkey noises and gestures toward Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappé during a match on Aug. 24. An early-season surge in abuse directed at Black players in competitions across Europe has alarmed anti-discrimination campaigners and highlighted how racism persists in soccer despite multiple initiatives by soccer bodies FIFA and UEFA, national federations and individual clubs to eliminate it.

"I think it's more than double what we had last season at the same time," said Piara Powar, executive director of the Fare network, an anti-discrimination group which works with the global and European soccer bodies to monitor and advise on incidents at games.

"If you layer social-media issues on top of that," Powar added in a phone interview, referencing the abuse of England player Jess Carter at the Women's European Championship this summer, "then you really are getting into a lot of stories coming out."

Frustrated at the lack of progress, some Black players have called for tougher penalties against offenders from both the justice system and soccer institutions.

"In this day and age, we're still, us players, getting racially abused and it just doesn't make sense," Semenyo told British broadcaster ITV. "We just want to know why it keeps happening."

The man arrested on suspicion of hurling abuse at Semenyo in the Premier League opener against Liverpool was released on bail and told he cannot go within 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) of a soccer stadium in Britain while police investigate the incident.

Soccer's tribal culture and frenzied fan base makes it a prime stage for societal problems like racism to surface. English soccer had a particularly harrowing time with racism in the 1970s and '80s when Black players were regularly subjected to monkey chants and offensive slurs.



In this file photo, referee Anthony Taylor during a stop in play after Bournemouth's Antoine Semenyo, second right, informs the referee of a possible racial comment from the crowd during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Bournemouth at Anfield, Liverpool, England. (AP)

A generation later, racial abuse of players is more common in social media but also continues in stadiums. A high-profile example came in Spain in 2023 when Real Madrid's Vinicius Júnior confronted a supporter who called him a monkey. Months earlier, four people hung an effigy of the Brazilian player off a highway bridge, resulting in prison sentences this year.

Soccer's governing bodies have struggled to stamp out the problem, despite measures such as longer bans for players, heavier fines for clubs, partial stadium closures, points deductions and a three-step protocol used by referees when racism occurs in matches.

FIFA recently fined the soccer federations of Albania, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina for offenses including racism during World Cup qualifiers they hosted in June. Argentina, Colombia and Chile also were punished for what FIFA said was "discrimination and racist abuse."

FIFA created a racism task force in 2013 but controversially disbanded it three years later, saying it had "completely fulfilled its temporary mission."

43 3-pointers this season. Tina Charles scored nine to eclipse 700 points this season, the first time in her 14-year WNBA career she's hit the mark. (AP)

□ □ □

'NBA will not rush judgment': The NBA will not rush to any judgment in its probe of whether a business relationship between Kawhi Leonard and a California company was legitimate or merely a way for the Los Angeles Clippers to circumvent salary cap rules, Commissioner Adam Silver said Wednesday.

Silver spoke after a board of governors meeting in New York - one that Clippers owner Steve Ballmer attended - and said the league will wait to see the report from the outside firm it has hired to run its investigation before taking next steps.

"We're constantly learning in the league office and again, I'm reserving judgment because I don't know the facts here," Silver said. "I don't know what Kawhi was paid. I don't know what he did or didn't do. We'll leave all that for the investigation." (AP)

Two changes were necessitated by injuries to hooker Codie Taylor and winger Emoni Narawa. Samisoni Taukei'aho will start at hooker and Brodie McAlister comes onto the bench for his second test.

Narawa was injured in the sixth minute of last weekend's test after which Damian McKenzie came off the bench to play at fullback and Will Jordan moved to the right wing. McKenzie will start along with Jordan, while Carter joins the back three.

Noah Hotham returns from injury at scrumhalf, relegating Finlay Christie to the bench. Tyrel Lomax will start at tighthead prop while Fletcher Newell also moves to the reserves.

Utility back Ruben Love was added to the bench for his third test after scoring two tries against Japan last year.

Carter is the ninth player to make his debut for New Zealand in seven tests this season. He has played more than 100 games for the New

Zealand sevens team, including at last year's Paris Olympics.

"We are excited to inject Leroy into the backline this week and watch what he creates with his speed and skillset," Robertson said. "He has trained hard and put himself into the position where he is ready to perform on Saturday night. It is a special occasion for him and his family."

Springboks coach Rassie Erasmus made seven changes to his team announced

Monday, including five in the backline. Erasmus has named new halves and mid-field combinations and has made a change at fullback.

He also has restored Siya Kolisi as captain. Kolisi will move from the back to the side of the scrum.

"It is an awesome opportunity to face South Africa in front of a sell-out home crowd for a second week in a row," Robertson said. "Every test match has its own story line and this one will be another passionate

battle."

Lineups:
New Zealand: Damian McKenzie, Will Jordan, Billy Proctor, Jordie Barrett, Leroy Carter, Beauden Barrett, Noah Hotham, Wallace Sititi, Ardie Savea, Simon Parker, Tupou Vaa'i, Scott Barrett (captain), Tyrel Lomax, Samisoni Taukei'aho, Ethan de Groot. Reserves: Brodie McAlister, Tamaiti Williams, Fletcher Newell, Fabian Holland, Du'Plessis Kirifi, Finlay Christie, Quinn Tupaea, Ruben Love.

South Africa: Aphelele Fassi, Cheslin Kolbe, Canan Moodie, Damian Willemse, Ethan Hooker, Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, Cobus Reinach, Jasper Wiese, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Siya Kolisi (captain), Ruan Nortje, Lood de Jager, Thomas du Toit, Malcolm Marx, Ox Nche. Reserves: Marnus van der Merwe, Jan-Hendrik Wessels, Wilco Louw, R.G. Snyman, Kwagga Smith, Grant Williams, Manie Libbok, Andre Esterhuizen.

Best of the Rest

Dream moves into second place: Brittney Griner scored 17 points off the bench, Rhyn Howard added 15 and the Atlanta Dream beat the Connecticut Sun 88-72 on Wednesday night to move into second place in the WNBA standings.

Atlanta (30-14) became just the sixth team in league history to reach 30 wins during the regular season. The Dream can secure the No. 2 seed in the playoffs if Las Vegas (29-14) loses to Los Angeles on Thursday.

Brianna Jones and Allisha Gray each added 13 points, and Nia Coffey scored 10 for Atlanta. Howard went 3 of 7 from distance to become the ninth player in WNBA history to make 100 or more 3-pointers in a season.

Marina Mabrey scored 22 points and Aneesa Morrow had 11 points and 10 rebounds for Connecticut (11-33). Saniya Rivers set a Sun rookie record with

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WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Sept 11, (AP): Leroy Carter, a winger described by head coach Scott Robertson as "probably the fastest in New Zealand," has been selected to make his All Blacks debut Saturday in the second Rugby Championship test against South Africa.

Carter was selected Thursday in a starting lineup that features five changes from the first test at Auckland, where New Zealand won 24-17.

Carter to make debut as New Zealand makes 5 changes

64th Zain Premier League kicks off

Kuwait Club begins title defense against Al-Tadamon

By Hasan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The 64th edition of the Zain Premier League kicks off this weekend with four exciting matches. The opening day features Al-Jahra taking on Al-Fahaheel at Mubarak Al-Ayar Stadium at 6:25 PM, followed by Al-Arabi versus Al-Shabab at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 8:40 PM.

Al-Qadsia will face Al-Nasr at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium at 6:25 PM, while defending champions Kuwait Club begin its title defense against Al-Tadamon at 8:40 PM at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium on Saturday. The first round concludes on Sunday with Al-Salmiya hosting Kazma at Thamer Stadium at 6:20 PM.

Kuwait Club remains the most successful team in league history, boasting 20 titles, including four consecutive wins over the past four seasons. Al-Arabi and Al-Qadsia follow with 17 titles each, while Al-Salmiya and Kazma have four each, and Al-Jahra has one.

Kuwait Club is aiming for a historic fifth consecutive title, having previously achieved four straight wins twice: from 2016–2017 to 2019–2020 and from 2021–2022 to 2024–2025.

Other top clubs, including Al-Qadsia, Al-Arabi, Kazma, and Al-Salmiya, are determined to challenge for the championship. Their goals include reclaiming long-lost titles, ending Kuwait Club's recent domestic dominance, and establishing themselves as strong contenders in the league.



A file of Kuwait Club celebrating after winning Zain Premier League.

Coaches and foreign players in the Zain Premier League clubs

Kuwait Club



Coach: Nebojsa Jovanovic (Montenegro)
Foreign Players: Yassine Khennissi (Tunisia), Mohammed Marhoon (Bahrain), Arsen "Malik" Zola (Congo), Sam Morsi (England), Al-Mahdi Barhama (Morocco)

Al-Arabi



Coach: Marco Alves (Portugal)
Foreign Players: Hassimi Fadiga (France), Julien Ngoy (Belgium), Ayano Iwuala (Nigeria), Christopher John (Nigeria), Nabil Marmouq (Morocco)

Al-Qadsia



Coach: Nabil Maaloul (Tunisia)
Foreign Players: Mohammed Soula (Libya), Sofiane Bouchare (Algeria), Victor Lakhhal (Algeria), Mahmoud Abdelmonem "Kahraba" (Egypt), Neskins Kipano (Congo)

Al-Salmiya



Coach: Nasser Al-Shatti (Kuwait)
Foreign Players: Imad Louati (Tunisia), Alex Lima (Brazil), Hossam Abu Dahab (Jordan), Mahmoud Al-Aswad (Syria)

Al-Nasr



Coach: Jamil Belkacem (Tunisia)
Foreign Players: Hossam Al-Habasi (Tunisia), Haykal Al-Sheikhawi (Tunisia), Al-Mutassim Al-Lafi (Libya), Nemanja Kojizik (Serbia)

Al-Fahaheel



Coach: Firas Al-Khatib (Syria)
Foreign Players: Zakaria Ben Shaa (Algeria), Lucas Brambilla (Brazil), Brendon Lucas (Brazil), Bruno Clisetau (Brazil), Victor Da Silva (Brazil)

Kazma



Coach: Dragan Tadic (Croatia)
Foreign Players: Idris Choubi (Algeria), Ali Azaiza (Jordan), Youssef Abu Jazar (Jordan), Anas Al-Awdat (Jordan), Samson Akinola (Benin)

Al-Tadamon



Coach: Miguel Leal (Portugal)
Foreign Players: Jonathan Bamba (France), Zakaria Slimani (France), Pedro Rodrigo (Portugal), Ahmed Al-Dali (Syria), Afolabi Okiki (Nigeria)

Al-Jahra



Coach: Rodion Ghassanin "Radan" (Croatia)
Foreign Players: Omar Ben Zakri (Tunisia), Antonio Silva (Angola), Filip Dangovic (Croatia), Oliver Stoyminovski (North Macedonia), Mimola Haisen (Italy)

Al-Shabab



Coach: Slavoljub Bobanga (Montenegro)
Foreign Players: Caic Augusto (Brazil), Bruno Luiz (Brazil), Jonathan Pereira (Brazil), Lucas Goncalves (Brazil), Marcos Ramos (Brazil)

Lone Kuwaiti coach Al-Shatti sets sights on Al-Salmiya's revival

By Hasan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Al-Salmiya's head coach Nasser Al-Shatti is the only Kuwaiti leading a team in this season's Zain Premier League, taking charge for the first time after previously coaching Al-Qadsia and Al-Arabi.

Al-Shatti and his assistant, brother Maitham, have been tasked with returning Al-Salmiya to the winner's podium after a 25-year league title drought—their last league triumph came in the 1999–2000 season, with the Crown Prince Cup in 2015–2016 marking their most recent trophy.



Al-Salmiya's head coach Nasser Al-Shatti.

"This is a new challenge in my coaching career," Al-Shatti said. "We have agreed on a three-year project with the club to rebuild and compete at the highest level. My focus is on developing the players' mindset, enhancing individual skills, and improving our collective performance."

He added, "The ultimate goal is to make Al-Salmiya strong both mentally and tactically. Beginnings are always challenging, but I have full confidence in my staff and players."

Al-Shatti aims to lay a strong foundation that will help Al-Salmiya become a consistent contender in Kuwaiti basketball for years to come.

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NEWS



Germany's Franz Wagner, left, Slovenia's Alen Omic, centre, Germany's Justus Hollatz in action during the EuroBasket, European Basketball Championship quarter final match between Germany and Slovenia at the Riga Arena in Riga, Latvia. Germany rallied to beat Dončić's Slovenia 99-91 and set up EuroBasket semifinal with Finland. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Club, Kazma & Sulaibikhat lead the charge as 40th Arab Handball Clubs Championship begins

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The 40th edition of the Arab Handball Clubs Championship for League and Cup Winners kicks off today at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex in Kuwait, with 11 teams competing until September 22.

The draw placed Kuwait Club (host), Kazma, Al-Ahli (Qatar), Naft Al-Basra (Iraq), and Al-Talia (Syria) in Group A, while Group B features National Bank of Egypt, Al-Hashd (Iraq), Qatar Club, Sulaibikhat, Al-Shabab, and Al-Nawaeir (Syria).

The opening matches see Al-Shabab face Qatar, Al-Hashd play Al-Nawaeir, Al-Ahli meet Kazma, National Bank of Egypt take on Sulaibikhat, and Kuwait Club begin its campaign against Al-Talia. The preliminary round runs in a single round-robin format, with the top four teams from each group advancing to the quarterfinals, leading up to the final on September 22.

Kuwait Club enters as the two-time defending champion, having beaten Zamalek in the 2022 final



Saif Al-Adwani

in Dammam and Al-Salmiya in the 2023 final at home.

Tournament director Sameh Al-Hajri welcomed the participating clubs, expressing pride in Kuwait hosting "this important Arab sporting event in the land of friendship and peace." He praised the efforts of the club's management, headed by Khaled Al-Ghanem, as well as the support of the Public Authority

for Sport and the Kuwait Handball Federation.

Arab Handball Federation Secretary-General Fakher Al-Ghashi affirmed confidence in the success of this edition, citing Kuwait's proven track record in hosting major tournaments. Sulaibikhat team director Hussein Siywan added that Kuwaiti clubs stand strong chances of reaching the quarterfinals, noting Sulaibikhat's return to international competition after a 15-year absence.

Esperance of Tunisia leads the all-time winners with seven titles, followed by Al-Ahli (Egypt) with five. Étoile du Sahel (Tunisia) and Mouloudia Oran (Algeria) have three each. Clubs with two titles include Mouloudia Algiers, Al-Ahli (Saudi Arabia), Club Africain (Tunisia), Al-Noor (Saudi Arabia), Al-Khaleej (Saudi Arabia), and Kuwait Club.

Among the one-time champions are Al-Ain (UAE), Nadit (Algeria), Al-Rayyan (Qatar), Zamalek and Sporting (Egypt), Al-Ahli (Bahrain), Sahelian Ezzit (Tunisia), and Al-Gharafa (Qatar).



Players preparing for the championship in Kuwait.

Goalkeepers take spotlight as City and United renew rivalry

Defending champion Liverpool at newly promoted Burnley

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 11, (AP): Manchester City and Manchester United have spent fortunes on some of the world's best attacking players, and yet Sunday's derby will spotlight their goalkeepers.

Both teams are likely to start with new goalkeepers after the transfer deadline day signings to address problems in their lineups. City secured Gianluigi Donnarumma from Paris Saint-Germain, and United landed Belgium international Senne Lammens. Donnarumma was outstanding as PSG won the Champions League last season, but was let go in the summer and will replace City's long-time No. 1 Ederson.

The Italian was not a typical choice for City manager Pep Guardiola, who usually wants his keepers to operate as almost auxiliary defenders, with an emphasis on playing out from the back. That is not Donnarumma's natural game, though he is willing to change. He said, "I always try to help the team and do what the coach asks of me. I do everything."

United dropped former No. 1, Andre Onana for all three of its league games but backup Altay Bayindir failed to impress. United plucked Lammens from Royal Antwerp. He's largely unknown outside of Belgium. The Manchester derby at Etihad Stadium already feels like a must-win for both teams. City, whose four-year title reign ended last season, is playing catch-up after only three games (1-2). Back-to-back defeats to Tottenham and Brighton have highlighted concerns that Guardiola's squad is not equipped to mount a challenge at the top. Arsenal lost to Liverpool last time out and faces a Nottingham Forest team with a new manager in Ange Postecoglou after Nuno Espirito Santo was fired. Defending champion Liverpool is at newly promoted Burnley.

In the first round, since transfer deadline day, there could be a host of debuts. Alexander Isak finally arrived at Liverpool but missed the start of the season and may not have a prominent role yet. He was a late substitute for Sweden against Kosovo on Monday. Newcastle replaced Isak with Nick Woltemade and Yoane Wissa. Aston Villa secured late loan deals for Jadon Sancho and Harvey Elliott, and Tottenham boosted its attack with Randal Kolo Muani and Xavi Simons.

Injuries are mounting for City



In this file photo, Manchester City's Omar Marmoush receives the ball during the Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Tottenham in Manchester, England. (AP)

with Omar Marmoush injuring a knee on international duty with Egypt. Rayan Cherki will be out for around two months because of a torn left quadricep. New United signing Matheus Cunha hurt his hamstring against Burnley. Arsenal's injury list includes Bukayo Saka, William Saliba, and Kai Havertz. It's a new era at Tottenham.

After nearly 25 years at the top, executive chairman Daniel Levy stood down last week, and Spurs said it was setting itself up to "deliv- er long-term sporting success." Fans called for Levy to go for years, even after last season's Europa League

triumph ended a 17-year trophy drought. The fans have also been critical of club owner ENIC, accusing it of neglect. After Levy's departure, campaign group Change for Tottenham said it would "continue to make sure sporting success, not just financial success, is a key priority for the club." Nottingham Forest fans may also have something to say following the firing of Nuno this week. Nuno became a fan favorite for turning Forest from a relegation battler into a team that challenged for Champions League qualification last term. Forest is at Arsenal on Saturday.

proved both their technical and physical readiness.

Dragić acknowledged that the Asian qualifiers will be challenging, but expressed confidence that the team can rise to the occasion and secure one of the coveted spots for the Morocco World Cup.

Kuwait heads to Jordan for U-17 Handball World Cup qualifiers

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Kuwait's national under-17 handball team will depart for Amman, Jordan tomorrow to compete in the Asian qualifiers for the inaugural Under-17 Handball World Cup. The qualifiers run from September 15 to 25, with the World Cup scheduled in Morocco from October 24 to November 1.

Kuwait opens its campaign against Hong Kong at 3:00 PM on Monday, followed by a match against Bahrain at 1:00 PM on Wednesday. The team has been drawn into Group A for the competition.

The delegation is led by Handball Federation Secretary Khaled Taleb and includes administrator Hussein Siywan, head coach Ivan Dragic, assistant coach Khaled Al-Mulla, goalkeeper coach Marwan Muqayez, and physiotherapist Hani Al-Dawas.

Coach Dragic confirmed that the squad consists of 18 players. While a few have minor injuries, the technical staff is working to ensure full fitness ahead of the opening match. He also highlighted the team's preparation during training camps in Croatia and Slovenia, where friendly matches im-



Zaid Talal Al-Otaibi stands out as a key player for the Kuwait U-17 national team.

Chelsea hit with 74 charges

LONDON, Sept 11, (AP): Chelsea was charged with 74 breaches of English soccer's rules on Thursday.

The charges cover a period from 2009-22, and relate to regulations covering soccer agents, working with intermediaries and third party involvement in player transfers.

Chelsea said in a statement it self-reported the potential breaches to the English Football Association, which came to light when American investors Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital led a consortium to buy out former owner Roman Abramovich in 2022.

Chelsea said it became aware of "potentially incomplete financial reporting" of historical transactions and other "potential breaches of FA rules."

"Immediately upon the completion of the purchase, the club self-reported these matters to all relevant regulators, including The FA."

The FA said the charges primarily related to the 2010-11 to 2015-16 seasons, a period in which Chelsea won two Premier League titles and the Champions League.

Russian billionaire Abramovich bought Chelsea in 2003 and his lavish spending sparked an unprecedented period of success, including 21 trophies.

He was forced to sell the club in 2022 after being sanctioned by the British government for his connection to Russian President Vladimir Putin following the invasion of Ukraine.

A fast-tracked \$3.2 billion buyout was completed in May that year by Boehly and Clearlake.

Chelsea has been charged with a breach of regulation J1, which prohibits the direct or indirect use of or payment to an unauthorized agent. Another charge relates to using or paying an unregistered intermediary.

Regulation C2 says a player or authorized agent must not "conceal or misrepresent the reality and/or substance" of any matters relating to a transaction or contract negotiation.

Another charge is in regard to payments, rights or liabilities relating to a third party involved in the transfer of a player.

"The club has demonstrated unprecedented transparency during this process, including by giving comprehensive access to the club's files and historical data," Chelsea said. "We will continue working collaboratively with the FA to conclude this matter as swiftly as possible."

Chelsea has until Sept. 19 to respond to the charges.

La Liga returns as Madrid, Bilbao look to continue perfect starts

MADRID, Sept 11, (Xinhua): La Liga returns to action after the international break with Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao looking to continue their perfect starts to the season, while several clubs will feature new faces following the closure of the transfer window.

Real Madrid travels to San Sebastian on Saturday to face Real Sociedad, a side that has yet to show its best form under new coach Sergio Francisco, recording two draws and a defeat.

Madrid remains without Jude Bellingham as he recovers from shoulder surgery but will be grateful that former coach Carlo Ancelotti did not call up the Brazilian trio of Vinicius Jr., Rodrygo and Eder Militao for the recent internationals.

Athletic Bilbao will seek its fourth consecutive win at home against Alaves in a Basque derby but will do so without coach Ernesto Valverde on the sideline. He was given a four-game ban for his red card at the end of Athletic's 2-1 win over Betis.

Nico Williams is also sidelined with a groin injury sustained while playing for Spain, and Benat Prados has a knee problem. UEFA also confirmed a

10-month ban for defender Yeray Alvarez for inadvertently using a prohibited substance in an anti-hair loss product.

FC Barcelona will play Valencia at the 6,000-capacity Johan Cruyff Stadium after the Barcelona City Hall refused to grant the necessary paperwork for the club to return to Camp Nou as redevelopment work continues.

Alejandro Balde, Gavi and likely Frenkie de Jong are out for Barca, meaning Marc Casado is expected to start in midfield. Coach Hansi Flick will hope his side can improve defensively after looking vulnerable in a 1-1 draw with Rayo Vallecano.

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone said Wednesday that he is not worried by his team's slow start to the season, even though two draws and a defeat have left it seven points off the top of the table.

Villarreal travels to Atletico's Metropolitan Stadium sitting third in La Liga, unbeaten this season and playing attractive football despite the sale of Alex Baena to Atletico (although Baena will not play after an appendix operation). The visitor's pace in attack poses a real threat to Simeone's side.

The round of matches kicks off Friday night with newly promoted Elche

looking to maintain its impressive unbeaten start away to Sevilla. Elche features in-form striker Rafa Mir, who is on loan from Sevilla.

The home side has been able to register its new signings but had to sell wingers Dodi Lukebakio and Stannis Idumbo to do so.

Getafe hosts Oviedo on Saturday afternoon, with Luis Milla suspended for the home side after his red card in a 3-0 defeat to Valencia. The match will test Oviedo's survival prospects after a 1-0 win over Real Sociedad two weeks ago.

Girona added Bryan Gil and striker Vladislav Vanat to its squad. Coach Michel Sanchez will demand a reaction in Sunday's visit to Celta Vigo after his side opened the season with three defeats and has looked fragile in defense.

Levante also will try to end a three-game losing streak in a tough home game against Betis, while Osasuna hosts a Rayo Vallecano side that has looked impressive in attack this season.

The round ends Monday as Espanyol hosts Mallorca, with the home side looking to striker Javi Puado to continue a positive start to the campaign.