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Qatar's security cornerstone of regional stability: Kuwait Amir's Representative



Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

What comes after the mad flood of Hamas?

THE United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the 'New York Declaration' on resolving the Palestinian issue through peaceful means and implementing the two-state solution puts things on the right track. The most important aspect is that the Arab and Palestinian intentions should be sincere.

The announcement of 142 countries to recognize the two-state solution compels the world to act decisively despite the statement of the United States Secretary of State in Tel Aviv. He said "we have warned countries against recognizing the Palestinian State, and Israel will react to that."

However, if Arab and Palestinian whims continue to control sensitive positions, this will push the international community to abandon its positions, so the opportunity will be lost, just as successive opportunities have been lost since 1947 till date.

As I have said many times, this issue has entered the political marketplace. Every regime, leader or commander now has its own grocery store to exploit the blood and daily suffering of the Palestinian people. Everyone raises the slogan, "Liberating Palestine from the sea to the river," while Israel continues to expand.

Let us be frank: Tel Aviv is supported by the entire western capitals led by Washington. American Senator Lindsey Graham was clear when he said in Beirut, "If America abandons Israel, God will abandon us." This is not a passing position, it has been the firm decision that the United States has adopted since inception. This is the fact that we must internalize.

This is why we cannot deal with the issue through slogans, wishes and dreams. Things cannot proceed as the wish of some Arab leaders who, up to this day, still adopt the slogans of Ahmad Shukeiri and Gamal Abdel Nasser about throwing the Jews into the sea.

The truth is that when this slogan was launched, Tel Aviv was establishing its nuclear project, which means such slogans did not frighten Israel. The aide of David Ben-Gurion responded, "Arabs do not distinguish between good and bad."

We must admit that Arab peoples have been brainwashed and exploited in the worst possible way by their leaders, because the Arabs neither possess a military force comparable to that of Israel or nor they possess military industries. Foreign Arab allies focus only on their own interests, without harming their interests with Israel. Positions have a high cost. Therefore, Arabs cannot rely on allies in war.

Consequently, we must be realistic in dealing with the Palestinian issue, especially after what happened on Oct 7, 2023, and the insane 'Hamas flood' that brought anguish to 2,200,000 Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip.

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Left: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries participating in the Emergency Arab-Islamic summit being held in Doha. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah speaks at the summit.



Amiri Diwan photos

Qatari Amir vows to protect sovereignty amid Israeli aggression

DOHA, Sept 15, (KUNA): The security of Qatar is a fundamental pillar and integral part of the security of the Arab and Islamic nations, said the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

This came in His Highness's speech, which was delivered at the Emergency Arab-Islamic summit being held in Doha.

"The occupying forces' insistence on violating the sovereignty of Arab and Islamic states is a continuation of their escalatory approach, the consequences of which we have long warned," said His Highness.

His Highness the Amir's Representative also stressed

that the occupation's behaviour constitutes a clear threat to regional and international security, directly undermines international efforts to establish peace in the region and is a clear disregard for the international system.

Further, His Highness called on the international community and the Security Council to fulfil their responsibilities and take serious and effective measures to halt the systematic aggression against the region's countries and hold the perpetrators accountable.

"Since the beginning of the latest Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip nearly two years ago, we have been following the tireless and sincere efforts undertaken by Qatar to stop the bloodshed of the brotherly Palestinian people, to address the war crimes, genocide, and starvation they are being subjected to, and to work towards a ceasefire agreement between all parties," said His Highness.

His Highness also stressed that the blatant Israeli aggression against Doha is clear evidence of the occupation's intentions to undermine any efforts to calm the

situation and achieve sustainable peace in the region.

His Highness the Amir's Representative reiterated Kuwait's support for the measures taken by Qatar to preserve its security, stability, sovereignty, and the safety of its citizens and residents.

Meanwhile, Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani reaffirmed his country's resolve to do whatever necessary to protect its sovereignty and national security in the face of the Israeli occupation aggression.

"The extremist government of the Israeli occupation persists in pursuing terrorist and racist policies," he said in his inaugural speech to the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha on Monday.

Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah took part in the Summit alongside Arab and Muslim leaders.

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KUNA photos

First graders' joyful return meets the disciplined watch of Kuwait traffic police.

Kuwait's traffic police ace school rush as first graders return

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Ministry of Interior on Monday continued its efforts to guarantee the smooth start of the new school year, through a comprehensive field plan aimed at easing traffic flow and ensuring the safety of students and parents.

The Traffic, Public Security and Emergency sectors have intensified their field presence in front of schools and on main and secondary roads to address traffic congestion that may accompany the start of the school year and ensure smooth traffic flow in various governorates.

Head of the Central Control Section at the General Traffic Department (GTD) in the ministry Lieutenant

Colonel Ali Al-Qattan disclosed that the control room monitors traffic through 300 cameras installed at intersections and highways to detect accidents or obstacles and deal with them immediately.

The ministry affirmed that these preparations are in line with its commitment to guarantee a safe and orderly return to school, a reflection of the cooperation between various security sectors keen on serving the community.

Meanwhile, on the morning of Monday, September 15, elementary schools welcomed first-grade students for the start of their academic journey. Hallways and classrooms were adorned with colorful decorations and cheerful drawings prepared by the educational staff to create a welcoming atmosphere for the young learners, reports Al-Seyassah

daily.

The students arrived with faces full of joy and curiosity, many accompanied by their parents, whose excitement was mixed with a touch of anxiety and pride as they marked this important milestone in their children's lives.

School administrations took special care to ease the transition for the new students by organizing introductory programs and educational games designed to help them integrate into the school environment and build their self-confidence as they take their first steps into the world of learning.

It is worth noting that the academic year for the remaining elementary, preparatory, and high school students will begin on Tuesday, while kindergarten classes are set to start on Wednesday.

Experts advise flexibility to navigate economic turbulence

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Sabah Mubarak Al-Jalawi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA), said the "Financial and Economic Resilience: Driving Growth in an Era of Challenges" conference is held at a time the

world is facing accelerating economic challenges that require practical solutions and precautionary measures capable of absorbing emergency crises and protecting the future generations.

In his opening remarks at the event, Al-Jalawi stated that KAAA, since its founding in 1973, has been playing a vital role in developing the accounting and auditing profession, while enhancing

economic resilience through the establishment of specialized institutions.

He revealed these institutions include the Academy of Accountants for training national manpower, Center for Arbitration, Accounting, Tax and Bankruptcy Expertise for resolving commercial disputes and improving the business environment, Professional Accreditation Center that regulate the profession's

standards and prevent intrusions, and Center for Professional Companies that is considered a qualitative shift in the field of accounting and auditing.

He confirmed the Association has submitted substantive proposals that supported the economic and legislative system in the country over the past years.

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Kuwait tightens controls on freelance, specialized work

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The official gazette "Kuwait alyoum" recently published Ministry of Commerce and Industry Resolution No. 168/2025, which regulates freelance business activities, specifically for companies engaged in freelance work, nano-businesses, and activities of a special

nature, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The resolution stipulates specific conditions that must be met when applying for a license to practice freelance business activities, including the following:

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Day by Day

NO one can ignore the need to resolve the issue of the Bedoun (stateless) residents, even if it comes at a high cost.

All Gulf countries have faced the Bedoun issue, yet they managed to find solutions. It wasn't too difficult for them to do so.

We, too, want a solution for these people. Some problems can indeed be solved with money. After all, they live in Kuwait where they built their lives, started families, and contributed by working in various sectors.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

KNG, Turkish Gendarmerie ink cooperation protocol



Kuwait National Guard photo

Photo during the signing of cooperation protocol between KNG and Turkish Gendarmerie.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwait National Guard and the Turkish Gendarmerie signed on Monday a protocol on cooperation in the field of training of the security personnel.

Attending the signing ceremony were Acting Director of the KNG President's Diwan Col. Khaled Al-Nouri and advisor of the Internal Affairs at Turkish Embassy in Kuwait, according to a statement from the KNG Presidency.

The protocol falls in the framework of the 2030 KNG strategy "Protection of Homeland" aiming to upgrade the preparedness of the security personnel, the statement added.

Sahel app surpasses 111mn transactions

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's all-in-one government e-services app Sahel has processed 111 million digital transactions since its September 2021 launch and counts 2.9 million users, Sahel Spokesman Yousef Kazim said Monday.

Speaking to KUNA, Kazim said the app makes services from many government entities accessible through one interface.

This year, transactions exceeded 32 million, reflecting strong public usage and the government's push to streamline services, he mentioned.

Sahel now offers over 460 services, up from 123 at launch, making it the most used government app and easing pressure on service centers, Kazim said.

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2 Central America marks 204 years of independence

11 'The Studio' and Seth Rogen have record-setting Emmys

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:12	Asr	15:13
Sunrise ..	05:32	Maghrib ..	17:54
Zohr	11:43	Isha	19:12

Local

Officials review regional stability efforts

Defense and Interior ministers hold talks with US CENTCOM Commander

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah received visiting Commander of the US Central Command Admiral Brad Cooper on Sunday to discuss topics of mutual interest.

The meeting, attended by Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt.-Gen. Khaled Al-Shuriaan, reviewed the latest developments of the situations in the region and the joint efforts to preserve security and stability, according to a statement from the Ministry of Interior.

Both sides highlighted the importance of continuing coordination and consultation in the framework of the strong friendship between their two countries.

Kuwait's Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah received Commander of the US Central Command Admiral Brad Cooper on Sunday to discuss topics of mutual interest.

The meeting with Admiral Cooper and his entourage at Bayan Palace in the presence of Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt.-Gen. Khaled Al-Shuriaan, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

Both sides reviewed the existing military cooperation between Kuwait and the United States, as well as discussed regional and international topics of mutual interest.

They praised the strong bilateral relations, which have lasted for decades due to mutual cooperation, affirming the importance of continuing coordination to face security challenges.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah meets Commander of the US Central Command Admiral Brad Cooper.



KUNA photos Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah receives Commander of the US Central Command Admiral Brad Cooper.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-42 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.
By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather			
with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-30 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	44	32	
Kuwait Airport	44	25	
Abdaly	44	24	

Babyan	38	18
Jahra	45	30
Fallaka Island	41	25
Salmiyah	42	32
Ahmadi	41	28
Nuwaisib	40	24
Wafra	43	22

Minister Al-Yahya praises efforts for peace

Kuwait welcomes Quartet statement on Sudan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya expressed Sunday Kuwait's welcome over a joint statement issued by the Quartet group regarding support for a peaceful solution in Sudan, which would preserves its sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity, and help advances regional peace, security, and stability.

Minister Al-Yahya affirmed, in a statement to KUNA, Kuwait's full support and appreciation for the efforts made by UAE,



Al-Yahya

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United States to end the ongoing conflict in Sudan, praising the collective commitment to Sudan's unity and stability that these efforts represent.

Al-Yahya stressed on the importance of the Sudanese parties' commitment to a ceasefire, creating appropriate conditions to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, protecting civilians, and engaging in serious negotiations in accordance with the terms of reference of the Jeddah Declaration.

In addition, commitment to relevant international resolutions, in order to achieve the aspirations of the Sudanese people for security, peace, and sustainable development.

Prayers offered

Kuwait mourns Congo tragedy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed on Sunday Kuwait's solidarity and sympathy with the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the tragic sinking of two boats that resulted in the deaths, injuries, and missing of dozens of people.

A statement by the ministry said, Kuwait extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery for the injured and the return of the missing.

In the past two days, at least 193 people have been killed in two deadly boat accidents in Congo.

The most recent incident occurred on Thursday and saw a boat with nearly 500 passengers catch fire and capsize on the Congo River, in the Equateur Province's Lukolela territory, authorities said.



Amiri Diwan Minister, Crown Prince's Diwan Chief receive UAE Ambassador.

Amir and Crown Prince's Diwan minister hosts UAE ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received, at

Bayan Palace on Monday, the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi and newly appointed Emirati Charge D'Affaires Counselor Hamad Al-Mansouri and Military Attache Colonel Mohammad Al-Muhairi.

Diplomats laud Kuwait's support for stability and cooperation

Central America marks 204 years of independence

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The ambassadors of Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador to Kuwait celebrated the 204th anniversary of the independence of Central American countries on Monday.

Present at the event were Assistant Foreign Minister for American Affairs Nawaf Al-Ahmad, a number of ambassadors, diplomats and representatives of accredited international bodies and organizations.

Speaking at the event, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Farrara Lashtar asserted that "the Kuwaiti leadership has set an honorable example of sound diplomacy, political wisdom, and positive openness to the world. Kuwait has truly become a beacon of goodness, humanitarian work, coexistence, and international support for the principles of peace and justice. I hope it will always remain a symbol of peace, giving and prosperity."

He expressed his appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled for their wise efforts in supporting, promoting, and achieving stability regionally and internationally. He praised the friendly and cooperative relations with Nicaragua and other Central American countries, and their effective contributions to



Photo by Mohammad Morsi Cake-cutting ceremony during the celebration.

solidifying the peace process.

Regarding the occasion, he said "we celebrate together this precious historical occasion, which embodies the real meanings of freedom, dignity and sovereignty, and prompts us to remember the sacrifices made by our peoples in order to determine their destiny and build their future with their own free and independent will."

He added that "on Sept 15, 1821, our countries marked a pivotal moment in their journey when they affirmed their independence, heralding a new beginning in which nations are built on the founda-

tions of justice and equality, and in which the voice of the peoples rises above all others, within a framework of mutual respect, the rule of law, and a deep belief in human progress." He emphasized that true independence is only achieved in a world where the sovereignty of states is respected, the will of the people is protected, and the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations are adhered to.

Meanwhile, Honduran Ambassador to Kuwait Francisco José Herrera Alvarado disclosed that "diplomatic relations between Honduras and Kuwait started in

1972. We established our diplomatic mission here in 2014. We have recognized Kuwaiti sovereignty since 1960, but our decisive support was in the 1990-1991 period."

He recalled the presidential visit from Honduras to Kuwait 14 years ago, hoping it will be repeated in 2026.

Ambassador of El Salvador to Kuwait Juan Carlos Staben Boillat expressed his deep gratitude to the State of Kuwait, which has consistently demonstrated its solidarity and strong desire for dialogue. He pointed out the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries, based on mutual respect and a shared desire to cooperate for the benefit of their citizens.

He said "Kuwait is globally recognized for its role in promoting peace. It is a valuable partner with whom El Salvador looks forward to deepening ties in many areas. Together, we can expand our cooperation, develop new joint initiatives, and build opportunities that will further strengthen our bilateral relations."

On the occasion, he stated "it is a great honor to address you on this special occasion as we celebrate the 204th anniversary of the independence of El Salvador, a date that fills us with pride and inspires us to reflect on our past, celebrate our present, and look toward the future with hope."

PAHW expands digital services

Housing processes simplified

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Omar Al-Ruwaih, Deputy Director for Public Relations and Development and official spokesperson of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), revealed that PAHW has provided more than one million electronic services to citizens through the 'Sahel' application over the past four years.

This coincides with the fourth anniversary of the launch of the electronic government services through 'Sahel'.

In a press statement on Monday, Al-Ruwaih affirmed that PAHW continues to exert tremendous efforts toward the full digital transformation of all services provided to citizens. He said the PAHW launched the first of its five electronic services on Sept 15, 2021, and has succeeded throughout this period in achieving a qualitative leap, providing 30 services to citizens.

He pointed out that through the digital transformation of services, the PAHW

made citizens save effort, while easing the process of obtaining documents from government agencies by utilizing the electronic linkage mechanism with the agencies, obtaining the required data related to applicants, and eliminating the need for personal attendance.

Regarding the top five most requested services over the past four years, Al-Ruwaih disclosed that the Authority carried out the following:

- 761,000 'To Whom It May Concern' certificates
- 84,591 telephone number update requests
- 28,544 allocation decision certificates
- 21,278 housing care and rental allowance applications
- Allocation applications for 20,560 citizens.

He stated that the total number of users of the services of the Authority through the Sahel app reached 312,487, while the total number of employees in charge of these services has reached 42 – up from only two when the electronic services of PAHW were launched.

About the future plans to develop electronic services, he revealed that the Authority is currently working toward the launching of a video call service for scholarship students, members of diplomatic missions, and citizens undergoing treatment abroad and their companions, to benefit from housing services.

Gender-specific

PAAET opens health sciences interviews

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The College of Health Sciences at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) has announced the schedule for personal interviews for students applying to its programs for the upcoming academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a statement issued by the college, interviews for female applicants will be held on Monday and will cover the following specializations - Anesthesia Technician, Respiratory Therapy Technician, Oral and Dental Health Technician, Dental Clinic Technician, and Medical Emergency.

Interviews for male applicants are scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the College of Health Sciences building in Shuwaikh.

The college affirmed the need to bring medical examination results to the interview, as they are required to complete the admission process. All applicants are urged to adhere strictly to the specified dates and times.

Other Voices

Al-Rashed urges realism amid rising regional threats

By Ahmad alsarraf

My colleague Abdulrahman Al-Rashed recently wrote an article in which he asked us to be pragmatic. He stated that Arab countries with ties to Israel will not sever those relations, nor will countries hosting American military bases shut them down. Egypt and Jordan will not withdraw from their peace agreements, and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) will not step down from power.

Al-Rashed justified this stance by highlighting the high costs of such actions, suggesting that even if they were taken, neither the concerned countries nor the Palestinians would gain any concessions or victories.

He urged us to base our expectations on what is politically achievable, emphasizing the importance of focusing on the "two-state solution", which is supported by the international community, including Israel's allies and friends.

Al-Rashed, as well as his followers in Kuwait, praised the outcomes of peace agreements that returned the Suez Canal and Sinai to Egypt, and allowed thousands of Palestinians to return from exile in Tunisia and Yemen to the West Bank.

He also praised Israel's overwhelming military superiority,

noting that it is still capable of even more.

Al-Rashed said Iran, despite its possession of powerful missiles, has retreated, limiting its response to issuing official statements.

He further claimed that Israel, even though it excels at waging wars, is wary of political confrontations. Even with backing from the U.S. administration, Israel cannot always count on unwavering support when it comes to carefully calculated diplomatic confrontations.

Al-Rashed concluded by stating that political solutions, particularly the two-state solution, are likely to gain acceptance from some segments of the Israeli public and will gradually win more support over time. This is because such a solution promises long-term security for Israelis and helps prevent a repeat of events like those of October 7, unlike the wars pursued by Netanyahu.

We are on the brink of an unprecedented phase. All Arab countries, particularly the Gulf states, are increasingly vulnerable to potential aggression. The Gulf region, with its immense wealth, relatively small populations, and internal stability compared to countries like Egypt, Sudan, and Iraq, presents an attractive target for any aggressor.

More importantly, today's Israel is not the Israel of the past. Even though it once returned Sinai and a few kilometers to the Palestinians and Jordanians, the current trajectory suggests a shift in ambition. The long-held dream of a "Greater

Israel" could inch closer to reality within a few years. This opportunity might vanish with any shift in leadership in influential global powers.

The 12-Day War proved that Israel's relatively small geographic size is a strategic vulnerability, even with its nuclear arsenal. Israel now appears eager to expand its territory and is unlikely to let this moment slip away to securing greater land and long-term safety.

* * *

It is clear that we are being subjected to a calculated political and psychological campaign designed to instill despair, spread frustration, and prepare us to surrender to whatever fate awaits us. If Israel expands southward tomorrow, the same narratives will resurface. We will be urged to accept the status quo, normalize ongoing expansion, and continue living in submission and humiliation.

I am not calling for war, nor am I advocating for the cancellation of treaties or the removal of U.S. military bases. What I am calling for is the preservation of the minimum level of self-respect and solidarity in the face of a ruthless military and political machine whose leaders openly believe, as they interpret from the Torah, that we are destined for nothing less than annihilation. This is a war between the people of heaven and the people of hell.

I fear the day when we will find ourselves saying, "I was eaten on the day the white bull was eaten."

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Al-Awadhi and the health sector

“DR. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi has been serving as Kuwait’s Minister of Health since October 5, 2022. A prominent figure in the healthcare sector, he has played a major role in driving significant improvements and reforms in this sector,” journalist **Hamed Al-Hamli** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“With extensive medical experience and a forward-looking administrative vision, Dr. Al-Awadhi has led the Ministry of Health toward measurable progress in line with the “New Kuwait 2035” vision, which aims to enhance quality of life and deliver high-standard healthcare services to both citizens and residents.

“He has held several leadership roles, including Director of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, Jahra Hospital, and the Kuwait Cancer Control Center, as well as Head of the Pediatrics Department at Al-Sabah Hospital.

“This diverse experience has given him deep insight into the sector’s needs, both in service delivery and in healthcare management and planning.

“Since assuming the role of Minister of Health, Dr. Al-Awadhi has prioritized enhancing the quality of healthcare services, strengthening medical infrastructure, and developing human capital.

“His leadership is marked by a commitment to international collaboration, digital transformation, and supporting partnerships with the private sector. These efforts are contributing to positioning Kuwait as a leading healthcare hub in the region.

“In July, Dr. Al-Awadhi led a delegation to France, where he signed five memoranda of understanding with renowned medical institutions, including Curie, Foch, Montessori, and Rothschild hospitals.

“The engagements cover vital areas such as oncology, cardiology, organ transplantation, scientific research, and the development of advanced training programs for Kuwaiti healthcare professionals.

“This initiative aims to boost Kuwait’s capabilities in specialized care and promote the exchange of knowledge with top international institutions.

“During Dr. Al-Awadhi’s tenure, several new healthcare facilities have been inaugurated, including the Nuwaiseeb Port Health Center, which offers both primary and emergency care, and the outpatient clinic building at Sidra Hospital Kuwait, designed to provide a modern, patient-centered environment. These projects reflect the ministry’s commitment to enhancing the patient experience and delivering world-class healthcare services.

“Dr. Al-Awadhi has also championed digital transformation by developing electronic medical record systems, improving patient experience, and facilitating access to healthcare services. These efforts have helped reduce waiting times and significantly increase the efficiency of healthcare services throughout the country.

“Dr. Al-Awadhi has placed strong emphasis on developing human resources through continuing medical education, supporting the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations, and offering global training opportunities for healthcare professionals. He also encouraged the recruitment of qualified medical staff to enhance the level of healthcare services.

“The minister emphasized the importance of collaboration with the private sector. His tenure witnessed the strengthening of partnerships with hospitals such as Sidra Kuwait, which has earned international accreditation, reflecting the success of these efforts in enhancing the quality of healthcare services.

“Despite these achievements, the healthcare sector continues to face ongoing challenges, including rising demand for medical services and the need to keep pace with rapid technological developments.

“However, Dr. Al-Awadhi has been working on balancing the growing demands of the healthcare sector with the need for greater operational efficiency.

“His vision for the future is aimed at positioning Kuwait as a regional healthcare hub, with a strong focus on innovation, sustainability, and the empowerment of national talent.

“Dr. Al-Awadhi’s most recent accomplishment, welcomed by the residents of Ahmadi Governorate, was a major restructuring of the healthcare administration at Adan Hospital.

“He exemplifies a leader who successfully combines academic expertise with administrative capabilities, enabling him to achieve meaningful progress in Kuwait’s healthcare sector.

“Through his efforts to strengthen international cooperation, develop medical infrastructure, and advance digital transformation, Dr. Al-Awadhi has made a lasting impact on the nation’s healthcare sector.

“With his continued leadership, further progress and innovation are expected to ensure the health and well-being of Kuwaiti society.”

□ □ □

“In an era where content creation has become one of the most powerful tools in society, the role of the content creator goes beyond merely entertaining or sharing information. They bear the responsibility of shaping awareness, guiding public opinion, and influencing individual behavior, especially among the youth.

This underscores the urgent need to address the ethics of content creation, which must never be compromised, regardless of the content type or its audience,” Kuwaiti writer **Nasser Mohammed Al-Ajmi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Honesty is the foremost value that content creators must uphold, as today’s audience is too discerning to be deceived and too aware to be exploited. Content creators must remain truthful and avoid misleading their followers with fake content or baseless exaggerations. While dishonesty may bring short-term views, it will quickly lead to loss of credibility and popularity.

“Secondly, content creators must respect public taste, religion, and values. They do not operate in isolation but are part of a culture, society, and belief system. Ethical content creation demands respecting social norms and avoiding offense to religions, symbols, or deeply held beliefs.

“Third, avoid publishing negative or harmful content solely to become a trend or go viral. Sharing violent footage, exposing scandals, or highlighting embarrassing situations just to generate engagement is inappropriate and unprofessional behavior for any respectable content creator.

“Fourth, respect the privacy of others, even when filming in public spaces. Recording people without their consent or intruding into their personal lives is unjustifiable. Respecting others’ privacy reflects not only ethical responsibility but also self-respect and true professionalism.

“Fifth, content creators should serve as positive role models, irrespective of whether their content is entertaining, educational, or social. They must avoid ridiculing others or promoting bullying, mockery, or stereotypes targeting individuals, professionals, or ethnic groups. A kind word is often more powerful than any provocative scene.

“Sixth, content creators should embrace collaboration over competition and steer clear of envy. They must not discourage others, steal ideas, or undermine the efforts of their peers. True success is available to all.

“Content creation is a message before it is a profession. As a content creator, you hold a microphone heard by thousands, perhaps millions. Choose your words wisely, speak with sincerity, and strive to make a meaningful impact with every video and every post.”

□ □ □

“While Chinese leader Xi Jinping recently delivered his country’s message to the world - “War or peace, dialogue or confrontation”, a massive military parade showcased the lethal force of this giant nation that operates under two political and economic systems,” columnist **Khalid Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Beijing hosted an impressive military parade marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was a demonstration that revealed only a fraction of China’s military might. It served as a political and military message to nations that wield power with arrogance.

“China’s political and military strength, its global influence, and its strategic ability to preserve and develop its historical narrative for the benefit of the state and its people should not be underestimated. Remarkably, this has been achieved without triggering the collapse of the communist system or undermining the country’s path to prosperity and development.

“President Xi delivered a speech that was politically firm, and devoid of weakness, appeasement, or any retreat from China’s military power, political influence, or pragmatic vision for the future.

“In fact, the United States, and President Donald Trump in particular, needs

to seriously consider China’s message to its Western counterparts - cohesion, unity, and the preservation of the legacy of leader Mao Zedong.

“Unlike the political fragmentation and internal rivalries seen in the U.S. administration, especially the attitudes toward former presidents, marked by partisan conflict, political revenge, and media defamation, Chinese President Xi Jinping has built upon the foundations laid by Mao Zedong, both in terms of political system and ideological framework.

“Understanding China’s message requires comparing it to the contradictions within U.S. policy, particularly Washington’s stance on the blatant Israeli attack on the State of Qatar, which can be summed up as “sympathy for Qatar, understanding of Israel’s motives.” At the same time, the U.S. Department of Defense has seemingly shifted from a defense posture to one of aggression, despite ongoing calls within the country to end wars.

“Unlike the former Soviet Union, China has not experienced the same level of political turmoil or internal collapse.

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Al-Ajmi



Al-Hamli



Al-Tarrah

Roads, KNPC and mosque requests approved

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Jahra Governorate Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Enezi, approved four out of five items on its agenda during its meeting on Sunday.

The approved items are as follows:
- Requests of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to establish two

temporary and permanent roads extending from the Google Cloud Services site in Mutlaa to Road 80, and two other temporary and permanent roads extending from the Google Cloud Services site in Sulaibiya Agricultural Area to the road leading to the Central Fruit and Vegetable Market,

- Request of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to cancel the location of Fuel Filling Station No. 166 in Oyoun (Block One),
- Request of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs

to cut a portion of Abu Salama Abdullah bin Abdul Asad Mosque, located in Qaser (Block One), for the construction of a family residence for the Imam and Muezzin.

Meanwhile, the committee returned to the executive branch the request of the Central Agency for Information Technology to allocate a second location for the National Data Center for Business Continuity and Disaster Management for discussion and technical advice.

Court upholds jail sentence for defaming the Amir on ‘X’

Former MPs acquitted in Al-Muwaizri entry ban case

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Court of Cassation, headed by Justice Sultan Buresli, on Sunday upheld the conviction of a defendant accused of publicly insulting His Highness the Amir and defaming him on the social media platform

‘X.’

The court sentenced the defendant to one year and eight months in prison with hard labor.

The ruling closed the final stage of litigation in this case, after investigations proved that the defendant used his account to broadcast offensive statements that harmed His Highness the Amir.

The court considered this act a violation of the Constitution and the law.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals on Sunday

upheld the acquittal ruling in the case of publishing false news related to the ban on former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri’s entry into the country.

A number of former MPs and bloggers are involved in the case.

The Criminal Court previously acquitted all defendants of the charges against them, including publishing false news, harming national interests, and misusing their phones.

These charges stemmed from tweets circulating allegations about Al-Muwaizri’s entry ban.

Counterfeit goods seized

MoCI ramps up inspections to protect consumers rights

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry continued its inspection campaigns to uncover violations and protect consumers.

The Commercial Control Department in Farwaniya Governorate carried out an intensive inspection campaign targeting shops in the area, resulting in the seizure of 381 counterfeit watches, women’s handbags, wallets and hats bearing well-known international brands.

Farwaniya Governorate Supervisor Mansour Al-Juraiddan, who led the campaign with the participation of inspectors Mishari Eid, Ahmed Faihan and Barak Lafi, stressed that the ministry is committed to combating commercial fraud and protecting the rights of consumers and owners of authentic brands. He confirmed that legal action will be taken against violators.

In a related development, the Commercial Control Department, in cooperation with the General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior and the Kuwait Municipality, carried out a joint campaign in Fahaheel Industrial Area, resulting in the issuance of seven violation citations to garages.

Hawally Governorate Inspector and acting Capital Inspector at the Control Department Khaled Al-Wateed clarified in a press statement that the campaign is an extension of the efforts of the ministry to regulate the work environment in industrial workshops and protect consumer rights.

He disclosed the violations include failure to put a visible notice in Arabic stipulating the terms of exchange and return, failure to provide a warranty schedule for new, used and refurbished spare parts, and repair of vehicles damaged in traffic accidents by some workshops without obtaining written permission from the Ministry of Interior.

He added the ministry will continue its field campaigns in various governorates to instill discipline at workshops and garages, and ensure their compliance with the laws and regulations.



MoCI photo

A photo of the trade tour in Fahaheel industrial garages.

123 drivers fined for overtaking

Unidentified pedestrian dies after being run over in Jahra

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: An unidentified person died after being run over in Qasar, Jahra Governorate.

According to a security source, the accident occurred while the victim was crossing the road, turning an ordinary moment into a tragedy that ended with his death.

The source confirmed that the Operations Unit in the Ministry of Interior received a report about the accident. Security and emergency medical personnel rushed to the site, where it was determined that the accident resulted in the death of a person who had no identification documents.

The source added that the body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department for further procedures.

A case was registered in preparation for an investigation into the circumstances leading to the tragic accident.

Meanwhile, the General Traffic Department issued 123 violation citations for ‘overtaking’ vehicles at traffic lights within 24 hours.

A security source confirmed to the newspaper that traffic surveillance cameras operate at traffic intersections and record all types of violations.

At the same time, the source warned against ‘overtaking’ vehicles while at traffic lights, as this could result in traffic violations.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor meets with security officials.

Farwaniya Governor meets with security officials to tackle traffic



KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office Monday morning the Director of Farwaniya Security Command General Mohammed Eid Al-Ghasab, Assistant Director General of Traffic Regulation Brigadier General Badr Ghazi Al-Qattan, Director of Farwaniya Traffic Department Colonel Raed Al-Sulaiman, and Acting Director of Emergency Colonel Mishari Shuja.

According to a press statement issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was held as part of ongoing joint cooperation to discuss traffic-related issues in the governorate.

During the meeting, attendees discussed traffic challenges within the governorate, and ways to enhance cooperation among the various sectors.

The governor reviewed the traffic plan in preparation for the start of the new academic year and praised the efforts of the director and officials of the security sectors in Farwaniya Governorate for their role in maintaining security and stability.

At the end of the meeting, the Director of Farwaniya Security Command and other security officials expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the governor for his warm welcome, attention, and continuous support of the security sectors’ efforts.




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MoE rolls out updated curricula, distributes over 4 mln textbooks

Ministry denies change in to school hours

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (Agencies): The Ministry of Education announced on Monday the distribution of over 4,155,000 textbooks for various educational zones and grade levels. The total number of students enrolled in public, private, and national schools at all levels has reached approximately 520,000.

In a statement, the ministry confirmed that the printing and delivery of the remaining textbooks are ongoing daily to ensure full availability.

It noted that the supply process from the printing presses is continuing as planned.

The ministry also announced that printed science and mathematics textbooks for intermediate students will be available starting next week.

It explained that it has made full electronic versions of all textbooks available through its official website via the electronic library, in addition

to providing access through students’ Microsoft Teams accounts. This enables students, parents, and teachers to easily access and download educational content at any time.

This initiative is part of an electronic support plan developed by the ministry to bridge the gap until printed textbooks are fully delivered to schools.

The ministry went on to explain that textbooks from kindergarten to grade 9 have been completely revised and developed based on a new vision aimed at reshaping the educational process. The updated curricula focus on strengthening national identity, instilling core educational values, and keeping pace with modern learning standards and 21st-century skills.

The textbook development process went through comprehensive and detailed stages, including curriculum sequencing for all educational levels, content composition, technical and linguistic review, artistic design, printing approval, and the creation of digital versions.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Education states that student attendance hours remain unchanged, deny-

ing reports circulating on some websites about the issuance of an official decision to postpone school attendance, reports Aljarida daily.

In a statement published on its official website, the ministry explained that attendance for Grade 1 students will begin on Monday, while the rest of the grades will return according to the pre-announced schedule. Students in elementary, preparatory, and high school will start attending on Tuesday, while kindergarten students will begin on Wednesday.

The ministry also outlined the school hours as follows:

- Elementary school: 7:15 am to 1:25 pm
- Intermediate school: 7:30 am to 1:40 pm
- High school: 7:45 am to 1:55 pm.

Meanwhile, the Technical Guidance Department for Academic Subjects launched a series of training courses on Monday in several schools for supervisors and department heads. These sessions aim to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to train teachers on implementing the newly developed curricula.

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait Amir congratulates El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras on Nat’l Days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Monday sent cables of congratulations to the President of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele; Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega; and Honduras, Xiomara Castro, on the occasion of their countries’ National Days.

His Highness the Amir conveyed his best wishes for their health and wellbeing, as well as continued progress and prosperity for their peoples.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also dispatched congratulatory cables to Presidents Bukele, Ortega, and Castro, expressing his sincere wishes for welfare, progress, and prosperity to them and their nations.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent similar cables of congratulations to the three leaders, wishing their countries further advancement and development.

Move helps rationalize consumption

Factory operating hours restored

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: As electricity consumption started to decline due to lower temperatures compared to the peak hours that began in April, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy contacted the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to allow factories to resume operations from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, as this year’s summer peak has ended.

Sources explained that the move aims to restore industrial productivity to normal, after the reduction in operating hours during summer.

Sources confirmed that coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry contributed significantly to the rationalization of consumption and reducing pressure on the electricity grid, thus, sparing the country from resorting to the scheduled power outage.

Sources stated that the Ministry of Electricity issued a circular to shut down industrial facilities during peak hours from the beginning of the high-lead season in April until October. However, the recent drop in temperatures has had a positive impact on consumption rates, which

encouraged the ministry to recommend the return to normal operations starting Sept 15.

According to the sources, the shutdown will be reactivated during peak periods in the summer of 2026, with the dates announced way ahead of time to allow the affected sectors to arrange their operations.

They also stressed the need to continue rationalizing electricity consumption to preserve public funds and maintain the stability of the electricity grid, indicating that maintenance of generating units has started in preparation for the upcoming summer season.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) extended the deadline for submitting bids for the tender to connect external sites of the ministry with Data Center until Sept 28, instead Sept 14.

The tender is for the connection of all external sites of the ministry with the Data Center in its main building and the National Control Center, enabling the exchange of data and information, the provision of electronic services, and the integration of various departments into a unified network.

Kuwait’s 9th humanitarian aircraft departs for Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): The ninth relief aircraft of the second Kuwaiti air bridge departed on Monday, as part of the “Kuwait Is By Your Side” campaign, to assist Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The aircraft took off from Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base heading to Al-Arish Airport in Egypt, carrying around 40 tons of food aid, in preparation for its delivery into the Strip.

This is part of the “Fazaa for Gaza” campaign, organized by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society in cooperation with Kuwaiti charities and in coordination with the Ministries of Social Affairs, Foreign

Affairs, and Defense.

Dr. Latifa Al-Meer, board member of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, told KUNA that the Society continues to send humanitarian convoys to Gaza, in line with leadership directives and to address urgent humanitarian needs.

She stressed that the current situation in Gaza requires an immediate response and intensified efforts by humanitarian organizations to provide relief and meet the critical needs of the affected population in the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Al-Meer noted that the Society prepared this planeload, provided by Al-Salam Humanitarian Society, with essential food items targeting the basic nutritional needs of affected families in Gaza.

She praised the Ministries of Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, along with Kuwait’s Embassy in Egypt, and the Egyptian Red Crescent for facilitating the procedures required to deliver urgent aid promptly.

Since its launch, the second Kuwaiti air bridge has delivered approximately 150 tons of urgent humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, reflecting Kuwait’s continued commitment to international relief and solidarity.



KUNA photo
Representatives of the official bodies participating in preparing the ninth relief plane within the second airlift.



Farwaniya Governorate
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives entrepreneur Abdulrahman Waleed Al-Osaimi and citizen Mohammed Al-Dhafiri.

Farwaniya Governor praises citizens’ initiatives

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received entrepreneur Abdulrahman Waleed Al-Osaimi and citizen Mohammed Al-Dhafiri on Monday morning at his office in Farwaniya Governorate.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the governor, during the meeting, affirmed that Kuwaiti citizens are naturally eager to

participate and contribute to initiatives that improve services and present the best image of Kuwait.

He emphasized that such national efforts reflect the spirit of cooperation and unity that define Kuwaiti society.

At the end of the meeting, Al-Osaimi expressed his gratitude to the governor for his support, cooperation, and warm reception.

PIFSS firms now included

MoCI revises ownership disclosure rules for gov’t-affiliated companies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Ministry of Commerce has exempted companies owned by or affiliated with local or foreign government entities from disclosing their beneficial owners, reports Al-Rai daily.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel issued a decision amending Clause One of Article Three of Resolution No. 4/2023 regarding procedures for identifying the beneficial owners. Under the amended clause, the exemption now applies to “companies owned by or affiliated with the government of the State of Kuwait or a foreign government,” without specifying the percentage of ownership. The previous resolution restricted the exemption to “wholly owned” companies.

Reliable sources told the daily that “with the implementation of the decision, it became clear that there are companies controlled by the government with ownership shares reaching up to 99.6 percent in one case. According to the previous resolution, such companies were still required to disclose their beneficial owners since they are not 100 percent government-owned.”

Sources added “the Public Institution for Social Security holds controlling stakes in around 35 companies, all exceeding the 50 percent threshold but remaining below full ownership. The amendment ensures these government-owned companies are also covered by the exemption, without requiring 100 percent ownership.”

News in Brief

CSC to nominate waiting applicants: Citizens registered in the central employment system of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), who were rejected in earlier nomination rounds, are now waiting to be nominated to employers according to the actual manpower needs of government agencies, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources from the CSC.

Sources told the daily that the abovementioned job applicants will be nominated within the next two weeks or before the end of September.

Sources added the education graduates from Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, and private universities for the summer semester are also waiting the opening of a new registration period to submit their data for nomination to work in government agencies. They stated that “the registration period usually opens in September to accommodate the summer semester graduates.”

Decree abolishes education center: Decree No. 180/2025 abolishing the National Center for Educational Development was published recently in the official gazette Kuwait Al-yom, reports Al-Anba daily.

Article 1 of the decree cancels Decree No. 308/2006 on the establishment of the National Center for Educational Development.

Article 2 stipulates that all employees of the National Center for Educational Development will be transferred to the Ministry of Education with the same salaries, grades, allowances, and bonuses. These employees will assume the powers and responsibilities previously held by the center.

Article 3 mandates that the relevant ministers implement the decree within their respective jurisdictions. The decree takes effect immediately upon its publication in the official gazette.

SEPTEMBER

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Developers sought for Kuwait’s future cities

PAHW pushes public-private housing partnerships

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced Sunday the opening of prequalification for companies specializing in the development of residential and mixed-use real estate.

The companies will implement three major residential proj-

ects in accordance with Law No. 118/2023 -- Al-Mutlaa City, East Saad Al-Abdullah City, and West Saad Al-Abdullah City, in addition to developing the service axis in Jaber Al-Ahmad City.

The Authority explained in the project tender that the contract period for each residential project is 30 years -- four-year construction period and 26-year investment period, with the possibility of participating in the implementation of one or more projects.

It invited specialized companies with at least 10 years experience in implementing residential and mixed-

use real estate projects, stressing the need to develop all assets in each of these residential projects based on design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance and sale contracts, with the exception of non-residential assets and ownership transfer.

The contract documents for each residential project are part of multiple agreements detailed in the request for the proposals stage.

The Authority confirmed that it encourages private sector participation by contracting with a real estate developer to develop one or more residential areas.

Continued from Page 1

What comes

The West Bank is under military rule, while Israel expands its settlement. These conditions have deprived the Palestinian National Authority of the ability to exercise its power over its land, which is supposed to be the core of an independent State.

If we, as Arabs, want to support the Palestinian cause, we must take the right path. We must abandon our dreams, because the Arab and Islamic worlds do not have the capacity to defeat Israel. Each has its own calculations, so the bazaar will expand further and the opportunity will be lost once again. No one outside the Arab or Islamic world will stand with us, because every position has its cost.

They will do nothing more than the issuance of condemnation statements. The opportunity is available now, after the announcement of the United Nations. A realistic solution begins with the Palestinians removing the pretexts from Israel by releasing Israeli prisoners, accepting a peaceful settlement, and removing Hamas from power in Gaza.

Otherwise, we will remain trapped in a vicious cycle. Politicians will continue to invest in Palestinian blood and Hamas will become crazier. Will the Arabs understand this? This question must be posed to the rational Arabs.

Sahel app

He recalled last year’s first fully digital “Newborn Journey” service offering users steps, start-to-finish online path for naming and birth certificates without in-person visits, condensing multiple procedures into a few clicks.

Next up are a major app upgrade, the house, marriage and report journeys.

Kazim thanked the political leadership and Kuwait’s Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar for supporting the digital shift, commending ministries and agencies for expanding services and updating procedures.

Kuwait tightens

- The company applying for the license must be a single-person company.
 - The founder, who also serves as the company’s manager, must be a Kuwaiti national with full legal capacity and must not have been convicted by a final court ruling of a felony or a crime involving honor or trust, unless rehabilitated.
 - The license holder must be at least 21 years old, unless legally authorized by a court to engage in commercial activity at a younger age.
 - The license holder must specify an elected address, a P.O. box, or an email address registered with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), according to the latest update.
 - If the chosen location is a private residence, the license holder must obtain approval from the property owner.
 - The prescribed fee must be paid.
 - The license holder must sign the required pledge using the designated form prepared for this purpose.
 - The licensed activity must not involve materials that are harmful to the environment or pose risks to public health and safety, as defined by relevant authorities.
 - Any additional documents required by a decision of the minister or their authorized representative must be submitted.
- The decision also stipulates that the license is valid for four years. It allows for the addition of multiple activities under the same license, provided the following conditions are met:
- The additional activity must fall within the scope of approved freelance business activities.
 - The additional activity must be similar to, complementary to, necessary for, or related to the activity covered by the existing license.

Experts advise

He said these proposals include the Companies and Bankruptcy Law, contributing to the drafting of the Auditing Profession Law issued in 2019, and establishing a financial accounting standard for charitable organizations to enhance transparency in the charitable sector.

He indicated that the Association focuses on communicating with decision-makers locally, regionally and

internationally to provide technical insights and build financial buffers capable of confronting crises and achieving sustainable growth.

On the other hand, Professor of Finance at Kuwait University Dr. Turki Al-Shammari emphasized in a lecture titled, “Resilient Financial Strategies in Times of Crisis,” that institutions cannot deal with economic, geopolitical or health fluctuations, such as the COVID-19 crisis, without adopting resilient financial strategies.

He explained that financial flexibility means the ability to quickly rearrange priorities, control cash flows, diversify funding sources, and adopt effective governance systems for quick and implementable decisions.

He said this flexibility enables institutions to maintain their financial stability, withstand pressures, and even seize growth opportunities despite the challenges.

He pointed out that several regional and global experiences have proven the success of these policies.

He said institutions that adopted financial flexibility were able to continue and even achieve gains during crises, while others that relied on rigid traditional patterns faltered.

Dr. Riyadh Al-Faris, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Kuwait University, stated in his lecture, “Economic Strategies and Their Role in the Stability of Governments and Companies,” that economic policies cannot be the same for all countries or situations.

He stressed the need to assess each economic situation individually and adopt appropriate policies. He pointed out that relying on ready-made recommendations from some international organizations without taking into account the specific economic and social structures of developing countries has led to stifling crises and heavy debt burdens. He called for the involvement of various stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation, and for coordination with neighboring countries and trading partners to increase the chances of success and limit the influence of pressure groups.

He pointed out that economic policies, despite their benefits, are not without drawbacks, particularly inflation resulting from expansion, unemployment resulting from contraction, increased public debt, and the risks of entering into trade wars due to protectionist measures.

humanitarian aid to Gaza, and releasing of Palestinian prisoners, he went on

When Doha came under the treacherous attack of September 9, the political leadership of Hamas were meeting to mull over a US proposal for ceasefire.

It is clear that the Israeli occupation authorities were aware of that meeting in a neighborhood frequented by diplomats, journalists, and others.

The Israeli occupation authorities decided to assassinate Hamas negotiators before they finalize response to the US proposal, Sheikh Tamim noted.

Blasting the Israeli occupation attack, he said it was impossible to deal with this level of malice and treachery.

“Those, who work systematically to assassinate the party with whom they are negotiating, are clearly determined to foil the negotiations. They (the Israeli occupation) claim that their goal is to free their captives, but the attack on Hamas negotiators prove that this claim is false,” he argued.

Liberating the Israeli occupation soldiers and citizens is not among the priorities of their leaders; the negotiations are just a ploy to continue the war, Sheikh Tamim affirmed.

Referring to Egypt and Jordan, the Qatari leader said, “Two neighboring countries have signed peace agreements with Israel and are committed to them, and two other countries are committed to the Arab Peace Initiative and are seeking a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict.”

Had the Israeli occupation authorities accepted the Arab Peace Initiative, the region would have been spared countless tragedies, he added.

Qatar is hosting an Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit on Monday, with the participation of several Arab and Islamic leaders -- including the Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The participating leaders will review the agenda, reflecting regional solidarity with Qatar against Israeli occupation’s aggression and a unified rejection of actions undermining peace and stability in the region.

The summit will conclude with the adoption of a final communique, followed by a press conference highlighting the key outcomes of the meeting.

Arab and Islamic Foreign Ministers convened a preparatory closed-door session in Doha, chaired by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, discussing draft statement on the Israeli occupation’s attack.

The Qatari Prime Minister condemned the occupation’s airstrike as a flagrant and reckless violation of the sovereignty of a United Nations and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member state, and a peace mediator, describing the act as brutal and unjustifiable.

He expressed appreciation for the solidarity shown by Arab, Islamic, and friendly nations, and their full support for Qatar’s legal measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He reaffirmed Qatar’s continued commitment to peaceful conflict resolution, underlining its ethical and humanitarian obligations and asserting that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace remains a strategic necessity.

OIC Secretary General Hussein Taha described the assault on Qatari sovereignty as a dangerous escalation that threatens regional peace and violates international law and United Nations resolutions.

He called for intensified efforts to hold the occupation accountable for violations against Qatari sovereignty, as well as for war crimes, illegal settlement activity, and organized terror against the Palestinian people.

For his part, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Aboul-Gheit affirmed on Monday that the Israeli occupation aggression against Qatar’s sovereignty on September 9 exceeded all limits and violated every humanitarian principle. This came in a speech AboulGheit delivered at the opening of the emergency Arab-Islamic summit being held in Doha, with the participation of the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and a number of other leaders.

“The attack on security personnel, mediators and negotiators reflects the level of moral decline in relations between countries,” said AboulGheit.

Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said at a treacherous attack targeted an apartment building in the capital city of his county where the family of one the political leaders of Hamas and the movement’s negotiating team were living.

“The residential area is home of schools, diplomatic missions,” he said in the opening speech to the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit in Doha on Monday.

“The heinous aggression left six martyrs, including a Qatari citizen - a member of the Internal Security Force (ISF), and injured 18 others,” he added.

“The citizens and residents of this safe country along with entire world were shocked, not only because this aggression is a blatant and dangerous violation of a state’s sovereignty and a trampling on international conventions and norms, but also because of the special circumstances surrounding this cowardly terrorist act,” Sheikh Tamim regretted.

“Qatar, which is thousands of miles away from the location from which the hostile aircraft took off, is making strenuous efforts over the past two years to mediate a peace deal that could put an end to the deadly and destructive war against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and secure the release of the Israeli hostages.

“This war has long since turned into a genocide and extermination.

“During these negotiations, Doha is hosting delegations from Hamas and Israel. The joint mediation with sisterly Egypt and the United States, has already achieved the release of 135 hostages in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners under two truce deals in 2023 and 2025,” the Qatari leader reminded.

Though the Israeli occupation forces resumed the war of aggression, Qatar continued the mediation effort in the hope of achieving a durable ceasefire, releasing of all hostages, ensuring withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Gaza Strip, delivering

Qatar’s security

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The Saudi Minister of Interior, along with his official delegation, visits the Al-Salam Palace Museum, accompanied by Kuwait’s First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

Saudi Minister of Interior explores historic Al-Salam Palace Museum

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud Al-Saud and his accompanying delegation visited Al-Salam Palace Museum, accompanied by Kuwait’s First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Upon arrival, the delegation was received by the museum’s General Supervisor Sheikha Mona Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Kuwait Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement.

The tour included the museum’s historical collections and documents that reflect significant aspects of Kuwait’s history, the history of its rulers, and the civilizations that inhabited Kuwait, the statement added.

The visit comes within the framework of the two countries’ keenness to consolidate their well-established brotherly relations, in a way that contributes to strengthening the common historical and cultural ties between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Ministry of Interior photos
The Saudi Minister of Interior during a tour of Al-Salam Palace Museum.

6 deals signed, thousands of homes taking shape

Housing authority reports strong project progress

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Omar Al-Ruwaih, Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development and official spokesperson of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), revealed that six construction and supervision contracts were signed in August.

In a press statement, Al-Ruwaih confirmed that the Authority continues to sign and tender contracts according to the timetable for implementing housing projects, and as per the directives of the Council of Ministers and Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari.

He revealed that the first contract signed last month is for “the supply, installation, implementation and maintenance of underground cables to feed three main 132/11 kV transformer stations in the investment suburb of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential Project.”

He stated that among the signed contracts are “the construction, completion and maintenance of services, infrastructure, and public buildings in the N6 district center in Al-Mutlaa Residential City, and another to complete services, infrastructure, and public buildings in the N7 district center in the city.”

He added the Authority also signed “the consulting services contract for the management and supervision of the construction and completion of public buildings for vertical housing, comprising 60 residential buildings in the investment suburb of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, and the consulting services contract for the management and supervision of the construction and completion of 1,162 homes and public buildings, asphalt surface works, supply and installation of low- and medium-voltage cables, and road lighting works in Sector BP2 of the Affordable Housing Project.”

Regarding the progress rates of the housing care projects, which include main roads and plot infrastructure, Al-Ruwaih disclosed that the South Saad Al-Abdullah project is witnessing progress, indicating the actual work rate for the main roads contract has reached 43.5 percent.

He added the actual completion rate for the first infrastructure contract, which serves 8,677 plots, reached 1.19

percent, while the second contract, which serves 7,649 plots, reached 0.73 percent, and the third contract, which serves 7,225 plots, reached 1.07 percent.

He stressed that all infrastructure contracts are progressing ahead of schedule and contractual rates.

On South Sabah Al-Ahmad Project, Al-Ruwaih said the main roads contract has reached 62.45 percent completion rate.

The first infrastructure contract, which serves 7,623 plots, has achieved a completion rate of 15.7 percent, while the second infrastructure contract, which serves 6,189 plots, has reached 25.1 percent. The third contract, which serves 6,568 plots, has reached to 9.3 percent.

On the affordable housing project, he said the Authority has started implementing six contracts, all of which are showing progress in actual completion rates compared to the contractual rates.

He indicated that the completion rate for the first contract (1,568 homes), reached 12.5 percent, while the second contract (1,777 homes) reached 11.4 percent. The third contract (1,162 homes) reached 13.5 percent. The fourth contract (1,700 homes) is underway, with a completion rate of 0.67 percent. The fifth contract (1,608 homes) achieved 1.17 percent completion and the sixth contract (1,985 homes) has entered the implementation phase.

He pointed out that the Authority is also following up the implementation of 200 public buildings, 17 of which are in Sabah Al-Ahmad City, 74 buildings in the Affordable Housing Project, 92 in Mutlaa City, 13 buildings in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, two buildings in Saad Al-Abdullah City, and one building each in Jaber Al-Ahmad City and South Khaitan.

Talking about the electronic services, Al-Ruwaih confirmed that the Authority is continuing to develop the services it provides to citizens, revealing continuous demand for services implemented through the Sahel government application and the automated system of the PAHW.

He said the total number of services provided to citizens in August reached 46,684 -- 26,287 services implemented electronically through the Sahel application and website, 2,409 services through reception centers, and 17,988 telephone calls were responded to through the telephone service and chatbot.

Kuwaiti Cultural Days in UAE to boost exchanges


ABU DHABI, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Cultural Days in the United Arab Emirates activities will kick off Tuesday in Abu Dhabi, featuring a range of artistic and literary events with the participation of prominent Kuwaiti creators.

The event, held over several days, includes art exhibitions, musical performances, and cultural seminars, aiming to strengthen cultural ties and highlight Kuwait’s rich artistic identity.

Kuwait’s Ambassador to the UAE Jamal Al-Ghunaim told KUNA that the event reflects the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations and underscores their shared commitment to cultural cooperation, emphasizing that culture serves as a bridge between nations and enhances mutual understanding.

Al-Ghunaim explained that the initiative offers a platform to showcase Kuwait’s cultural and artistic achievements and contributes to promoting Gulf heritage and identity, adding that such efforts play a key role in supporting intellectual exchange and nurturing cultural awareness among younger generations.

The program includes visual arts and photography exhibitions, musical shows, and discussion panels highlighting key milestones in Kuwait’s cultural landscape.



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Walk-in Interviews at

Oxford Learning Center,
Shaab Bahri, Block 8, Mohamed Darwiche Al-Arabi Street

Interview Date/Time

Thursday, September 18
From 9:00 am –2:30 pm

California Democrat turns to TikTok to reach Hispanic voters in gov’s race

New York Governor Kathy Hochul endorses Zohran Mamdani for NYC mayor

NEW YORK, Sept 15, (AP): Governor Kathy Hochul on Sunday urged New Yorkers to vote Zohran Mamdani for mayor of New York City, giving the Democratic nominee one of his most significant endorsements to date in the contest to lead the nation’s biggest city.

Writing in the New York Times’ opinion section, Hochul said that while she and Mamdani diverged on some issues, they came together on the importance of addressing the affordability crisis in the city and across the state.

“But in our conversations, I heard a leader who shares my commitment to a New York where children can grow up safe in their neighborhoods and where opportunity is within reach for every family,” wrote Hochul, a Democrat. “I heard a leader who is focused on making New York City affordable - a goal I enthusiastically support.”

The stunning success of Mamdani, a 33-year-old self-described democratic socialist, in the race for New York City mayor has exposed divisions within the Democratic Party as it struggles to repair its brand more than half a year into Donald Trump’s presidency. Hochul’s endorsement is the latest sign that Democratic leaders who had been skeptical of Mamdani’s liberal views are beginning to consolidate around him.

Mamdani thanked Hochul for the boost, saying it’s a sign “our movement is growing stronger.”

“Governor Hochul has made affordability the centerpiece of her work. I look forward to fighting alongside her to continue her track record of putting money back in New Yorkers’ pockets and building a safer and stronger New York City where no one is forced to leave just so they can afford to raise a family,” Mamdani said in a statement Sunday night. “I’m grateful to the Governor for her support in unifying our party - as well as the work she’s done standing up to President Trump, securing free lunch meals for our kids, and expanding access to childcare.”

In recent weeks, the other candidates in the race - former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, incumbent Mayor Eric Adams and Republican Curtis Sliwa - have intensified their criticism of Mamdani over his platform and past statements ahead of the city’s general election in November.

Hochul said another reason she decided to back Mamdani was his vow that he would make sure the New York Police Department had the resources it needs to keep the city’s streets and subways safe.

“I urged him to ensure that there is strong leadership at the helm of the N.Y.P.D. - and he agreed,” Hochul wrote.

Mamdani, who is leading in the polls, has not been endorsed by some prominent Democrats, including Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries,



New York Gov Kathy Hochul delivers her first State of the State address in the Assembly Chamber at the state Capitol, on Jan 5, 2022, in Albany, NY. (AP)

the minority leaders in the US Senate and House.

US House Republican Leadership Chairwoman Elise Stefanik, a New York congresswoman, said Hochul’s endorsement is a sign that the governor is moving left to shore up falling poll numbers.

“At the exact moment when New Yorkers are looking for strong leader-

ship from their Governor with a majority opposing Zohran Mamdani, Kathy Hochul embraces this raging Communist who will destroy New York making it less affordable and more dangerous - once again putting criminals and communists first, and New Yorkers LAST,” Stefanik said in a Sunday statement.

Mamdani soundly defeated Cuomo

in the Democratic primary. Cuomo has since relaunched his campaign as an independent. Adams, a Democrat, skipped the primary to run as an independent in November. Sliwa ran unopposed in the Republican primary.

Hochul served as lieutenant governor to Cuomo and replaced him after he stepped down in 2021 following a barrage of sexual harassment allegations. He denied wrongdoing during the campaign, maintaining that the scandal was driven by politics.

Also:

WASHINGTON: A Democratic candidate for governor of California will be giving TikTok a go, but with a caveat: He’ll only post videos in Spanish.

At least for now.

Former Biden administration Health Secretary **Xavier Becerra** is embracing the popular short-video app to target Spanish-language users. His campaign and surveys note that Hispanic adults use TikTok in much higher numbers than Black and white adults.

Congress last year passed a ban on TikTok, but President **Joe Biden**, who signed the bill into law and was Becerra’s boss at the time, announced before leaving office that he wouldn’t enforce it. After the Supreme Court ruled the ban constitutional, President **Donald Trump** suspended it on his first day in office to give the **China**-based com-

pany ByteDance time to find a new buyer.

Trump, a Republican, had tried to ban dealings with ByteDance during his first term, but he joined the platform last year and has millions of followers. He has repeatedly extended the deadline for ByteDance to find a buyer and hinted occasionally that there was a deal in place, but without offering details. The White House started its own TikTok account last month.

Becerra’s new approach is part of an effort by Democrats to counter the rightward swing that was seen last year both in red states such as **Texas** and **Florida** and blue states such as California, **New Jersey** and **New York**, where Trump improved his numbers among Latinos.

The idea is to lock in a key user base by pushing out content early on a platform politicians are still largely experimenting with. The effort comes when the Trump administration is phasing out multilingual services as part of the president’s push to make English the official language of the **United States**.

Candidates running in the 2025 elections in New Jersey and **Virginia** are already adapting their campaigns to appeal to Hispanics, who may have stayed away from the polls or voted for Trump based on his economic promises. But strategists say that it’s still very much up for debate whether the trend will hold.



In this photo released by the Navajo Police Department, a tornado funnel is seen on Sept 13, northeast of Montezuma Creek, Utah. (AP)

Tornadoes destroy several homes in southeastern Utah

Tornadoes destroyed several homes in southeastern Utah over the weekend, but authorities said there were no reports of people injured.

A storm produced two tornadoes in San Juan County in southeastern Utah over the span of an hour starting around 12:35 p.m. Saturday, according to meteorologist Kris Sanders with the National Weather Service’s office in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The paths of the tornadoes that touched down near Montezuma Creek likely covered less than 10 miles (16 kilometers), but the weather service hadn’t yet determined their exact tracks or wind speeds, Sanders said by telephone. A survey may be conducted Monday, he said Sunday.

Three homes in the area were demolished in the storm, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said in a social media post. The 27,000-square-mile (70,000-square-kilometer) reservation stretches into Arizona, New Mexico and Utah and is the largest of any Native American tribe. (AP)

Political leaders confront security concerns after Kirk’s assassination

MORRISTOWN, NJ, Sept 15, (AP): Even before the killing of Charlie Kirk, Gov Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania was struggling with the emotional toll of political violence.

In the middle of the night just five months ago, someone broke into his home and set it on fire. Shapiro, who is also a likely 2028 Democratic presidential contender, was asleep with his wife and children.

And in the weeks since his family fled the blaze, Shapiro has been forced to confront the vexing questions now consuming elected officials in both parties as they face the impact of Kirk’s assassination on their own public lives.

“The emotional challenge for me that’s been the hardest to work through is that, as a father, the career I chose, that I find great purpose and meaning in, ended up putting my children’s lives at risk,” Shapiro, a father of four, told The Associated Press. “Make no mistake, the emotional burden of being a father through this has been something that continues to be a challenge for me to this day.”

Across the nation, it is much the same for Republican and Democratic officials after another stunning act of political violence. Politicians in both



House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, speaks during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington on June 4. (AP)

parties and at virtually every level of public service are suddenly being forced to deal with acute security concerns - and feelings of grief, anger and fear - as they move deeper into a fraught election season.

Some political leaders are canceling public appearances. Others are relying on a large police presence to keep them safe. And still others insist that the fall-

out from Kirk’s death won’t have any impact on their duties.

Indeed, even as Shapiro offered prayers for Kirk’s widow and children, the Democratic governor said he is undeterred in his duties as a leading figure in his national party and his state.

“I’m not slowing down,” he said.

On that, he and President Donald Trump appear to agree.

Europe

Merz’s conservatives ahead in local polls:

Chancellor **Friedrich Merz**’s party finished first in municipal polls in Germany’s most populous state, but the biggest winner in the first electoral test since Merz’s government took power was the far-right Alternative for Germany, which nearly tripled its showing compared with five years ago.

Final results Monday showed that Merz’s center-right Christian Democratic Union took 33.3% of the vote in Sunday’s elections for councils and mayors in North Rhine-Westphalia, a western region that is home to about 18 million people. Its partners in a national government that so far has failed to lift the country’s mood, the center-left Social Democrats - for whom the state was long a reliable heartland - took 22.1%.

Both were slightly below their score in the last municipal elections, in 2020. But Alternative for Germany, or AfD, took 14.5% of the vote - a gain of 9.4% points. The anti-immigration AfD is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, but Sunday’s showing underlined its arrival in recent years as a force in western Germany too. (AP)



Merz

key phase of the Russia-Belarus joint strategic military drills Zapad-2025 is underway in Belarus on Monday.

The scenario involves infantry units delivering fire strikes on simulated enemies, including live-fire exercises, aviation support with drone air strikes, motorized fire groups on motorcycles and buggies, and air defense coverage.

It also includes evacuating casualties and damaged equipment using robotic platforms. Notably, infantry operates on the front line without armored vehicles, which are deployed from concealed positions.

According to the Belarusian defense ministry, over 150 journalists from about 15 countries have been invited to observe the final exercise. (Xinhua)

Slovenia bans Dodik from entering nation: Slovenia banned separatist pro-Russian Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik from entering the small European Union country.

The Slovenian government’s decision followed Dodik’s refusal to step down from the position of the president of a Serb-run entity in Bosnia despite a court ruling that removed him from office.

Dodik in August was formally ousted by Bosnia’s electoral authorities after he was sentenced to a year in prison and banned from politics for six years.

Dodik, who travelled to Russia this week, has repeatedly called for the separation of the Serb-run half of Bosnia to join Serbia, which has prompted US sanctions against himself and his close associates and family. Dodik has also faced U.K., German and Austrian sanctions.

Slovenian media have reported that Dodik’s family owns a number of properties in the country, including villas at the Adriatic Sea coast. (AP)



US President Donald Trump and Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II inspect a Guard of Honour, formed of the Coldstream Guards at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England on July 13, 2018. (AP)

UK prepares to welcome Trump for 2nd state visit

King Charles III to deploy tiara diplomacy

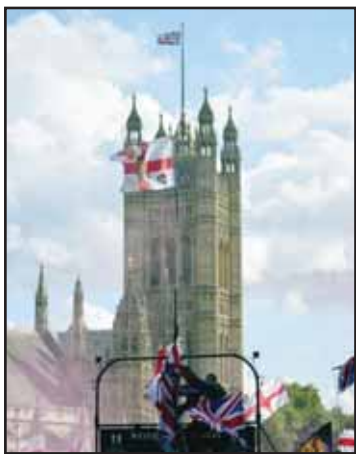
LONDON, Sept 15, (AP): Windsor Castle staff are setting the 50-meter-long (164-feet-long) mahogany table. Grooms are buffing the hooves of the horses that will pull the royal carriages. And the military honor guard is drilling to ensure every step lands with precision.

Throughout the halls and grounds of the almost 1,000-year-old castle west of London, hundreds of people are working to make sure King Charles III puts on the best show possible when he welcomes US President Donald Trump for his historic second state visit this week.

The visit, featuring glittering tiaras, brass bands and a sumptuous banquet served on 200-year-old silver, is a display of the pomp and ceremony that Britain does like no one else. But it’s a spectacle with a purpose: to bolster ties with one of the world’s most powerful men at a time when his America First policies are roiling longstanding trade and security relationships.

“We’re buttering up to him,” said Robert Lacey, a royal historian and consultant on the Netflix series “The Crown.”

“He wouldn’t come to Britain if he wouldn’t have the chance to stay at Windsor Castle, probably pay homage to the (late) queen he admires so much,



People demonstrate during the Tommy Robinson-led Unite the Kingdom march and rally, in London on Sept 13. (AP)

mate tool, with world leaders vying to get the full royal treatment.

During seven decades on the throne, the late Queen Elizabeth II hosted everyone from Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to South African President Nelson Mandela.

Also:

LONDON: Prime Minister **Keir Starmer** faced calls Monday to sanction **Elon Musk** after the X and Tesla owner told an anti-immigration rally that violence is coming to **Britain** and they must fight or die.

Starmer denounced violence on the fringes of Saturday’s 100,000 or more-strong “Unite the Kingdom” demonstration in London organized by far-right campaigner **Tommy Robinson**.

Police said 26 officers were injured, four seriously, as protesters tried to breach lines separating them from a smaller anti-racist counter-demonstration. There were 25 people arrested at the event and the Metropolitan Police said more arrests would follow.

Addressing the demonstration by video link, Musk called for the dissolution of Parliament, an early election and a change of government in Britain. He told protesters “violence is coming to you” and “you either fight back or you die.”

Kosovo ex-president ‘was not in charge’ during war, former US official tells trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Sept 15, (AP): Former US State Department spokesman James Rubin testified Monday as the first defense witness for Hashim Thaçi, the former president of Kosovo, who is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed during his country’s 1998-99 war for independence from Serbia.

Thaçi is on trial at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers court in The Hague with three other former leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army guerilla group that fought Serb forces in the war. They are widely regarded as national heroes in their homeland.

Rubin was with former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at peace talks in France in 1999 and later was present at negotiations to disarm the Kosovo Liberation Army, also known as the KLA. He described Thaçi as a political “front man” for the force, without real power.

“It was clear to me that he was not in charge,” Rubin told the court. “He didn’t have the knowledge, the capabilities or the authority to make decisions in any way, shape or form.”

Thaçi rose to political power af-



Former Kosovo president Hashim Thaçi, (left), appears before the Kosovo Tribunal in the Hague, on April 3, 2023. (AP)

ter the war but resigned as president to defend himself against charges he faces along with Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, including murder, persecution, torture and enforced disappearances.

The trial opened April 3, 2023, with Thaçi - known as “The Snake” during

the war - telling judges he was innocent. Prosecutors wrapped up their case after calling 125 witnesses.

Prosecution lawyers argued at the trial’s opening that they were not putting on trial either the Kosovo Liberation Army or the war for independence.

INTERNATIONAL

Australia, Papua New Guinea to sign defense pact

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 15, (AP): Australia and Papua New Guinea’s defense forces will be integrated under a new security pact that will be signed this week, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday, as his government attempts to curb China’s security influence in the region.

Albanese said he and his Papua New Guinean counterpart, James Marape, will sign the pact on Wednesday, a day after celebrating the South Pacific island nation’s 50th anniversary of independence from Australia.

US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau will also be in the Papua New Guinea capital, Port Moresby, for the celebrations.

“It is a very significant upgrade in our defense relationship,” Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp in Perth in Western Australia state before flying to Australia’s nearest neighbor.

“It provides for mutual defense, which means that we will provide support for each other, provide for an integration of our interoperability of our assets and our respective defense forces,” Albanese added.

With an estimated population of almost 12 million people, Papua New Guinea is the most populous nation in the South Pacific after Australia. Australia has 27 million people.

The deal will allow the nations’ citizens to serve in either militaries.



This photo shows the emblem of an Australian Army soldier, left, and a Papua New Guinea Defence Force soldier during an exercise at Talisman Sabre in Townsville, Australia, on July 21, 2025. (AP)

Australia would offer Australian citizenship as an incentive for Papua New Guineans to enlist in the Australian military.

Australia currently only accept recruits from its Five Eyes intelligence-sharing partners, including the United States, Britain, Canada and New Zealand.

Three Pacific island nations have changed their allegiances from Taiwan to Beijing since 2019 as China’s

influence in the region has grown. The US and its allies are particularly concerned by China’s growing sway in security through police training in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Australia and Papua New Guinea signed a security agreement in 2023 that broadened the two nations’ defense cooperation and strengthened Australia’s place as the preferred security partner in a region.

United States, S.Korea and Japan open joint air and naval exercise

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 15, (AP): The United States, South Korea and Japan opened an air and naval exercise off a South Korean island Monday in their latest joint drill condemned by North Korea as a “reckless show of strength.”

The exercise called Freedom Edge is aimed at strengthening the countries’ combined operational capabilities in the sea, air and cyberspace and is necessary to counter North Korea’s growing nuclear and missile threats, South Korea’s Defense Ministry said.

The US Indo-Pacific Command said the exercise will include US Marine and Air Force aerial assets and feature enhanced ballistic-missile and air-defense drills, medical evacuations and maritime operations training, making it “the most advanced demonstration of trilateral defense cooperation to date.”

The exercise off South Korea’s southern Jeju Island runs through Friday.

Also:
SEOUL, South Korea: Kim Seong-Min, a prominent North Korean



Protesters shout slogans during a press conference to oppose the military exercise called Freedom Edge in Seoul, South Korea on Sept 15. A banner reads ‘Oppose Freedom Edge.’ (AP)

defector who used radio broadcasts, USB sticks and a network of sources in the secretive country to inform the North Korean public about the truth of their authoritarian government, has died. He was 63.

The founder of the Seoul-based Free North Korea Radio was pro-

nounced dead at a Seoul hospital on Friday, years after fighting a lung cancer which recently spread to his liver, his former colleagues said. They said Kim was cremated and his remains were placed at a columbarium near the border with North Korea,

Philippine president forms anti-graft body

Marcos supports public outrage over corruption but says protests should be peaceful

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 15, (Agencies): The Philippine president on Monday encouraged the public to express their outrage over massive corruption that has plagued flood-control projects in one of Asia’s most typhoon-prone countries but said street protests should be peaceful.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr vowed that an investigation by an independent commission would not spare even his allies in the House of Representatives and the Senate, where several legislators have been identified and accused in televised congressional hearings of pocketing huge kickbacks, along with government engineers and construction companies. Marcos first spoke about the corruption scandal in July in his annual state of the nation speech.

Unlike recent violent protests in Nepal and Indonesia, street rallies against alleged abuses in the Philippines have been smaller and relatively peaceful. Outrage has largely been vented online, including by Catholic church leaders, business executives and retired generals.

A planned protest on Sept 21 in a pro-democracy shrine in the Manila metropolis near guarded upscale neighborhoods, where some of the corruption suspects live in affluence, is expected to draw a larger crowd. Police forces and troops have been placed on alert.

“If I wasn’t president, I might be out in the streets with them,” Marcos said of anti-corruption protesters.

“Of course they are enraged, of course they are angry, I’m angry,” Marcos added, calling on the protesters to demand accountability. “You let them know your sentiments, you let them know how they hurt you, how they stole from you, shout at them and do everything, demonstrate, just keep it peaceful.”

But Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro said over the weekend that “people who have ill intentions and want to destabilize the government” should not exploit the public’s outrage.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Jr and military chief of staff Gen



Protesters hold a rally at the People Power Monument in Manila on Sept 13, over allegations of massive corruption in flood control projects that have implicated several congressmen and public works officials and sparked pockets of street protests. (AP)

Romeo Brawner Jr issued a joint statement late Friday rejecting a call for the country’s armed forces to withdraw support from Marcos in response to public outrage over the corruption scandal. They did not elaborate, but underscored that the 160,000-member military was non-partisan, professional and “abides by the constitution through the chain-of-command.”

During a recent rally, a speaker called on the military to end its loyalty to

8 children hospitalized after hostel mates glue their eyes shut in India

NEW DELHI, Sept 15, (Xinhua): Eight school students at a hostel in India’s eastern state of Odisha were hospitalized after fellow students put instant glue in their eyes when they were sleeping, local media reports said Monday.

The incident took place on Friday night at a boarding school in Salaguda of Kandhamal district, about 248 km west of Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha.

Reports said the boys, with their eyes shut, were seen crying as doctors were carefully trying to separate the glued eyelids.

“Doctors have said the adhesive had caused significant eye damage, but timely medical attention could prevent a permanent loss of vision for the children,” New Delhi-based local television news channel NDTV said.

Authorities have ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident.

Meanwhile, the school headmaster has been placed under suspension on the grounds of negligence of duty.

Also:

NEW DELHI: Indian security forces gunned down three armed Naxals rebels in the country’s eastern state of Jharkhand early on Monday, said a local police officer.

The incident took place in the state’s Hazaribagh district. A search operation was still underway in the forested region to look out for more Naxals.

The killed Naxals included a top leader.



NEW DELHI: Red alert issued for Mumbai heavy rains: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday issued a red alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rains in India’s financial hub Mumbai, said media reports.

An online report by the Indian Express said heavy showers battered Mumbai for the second consecutive day on Monday, with the Colaba coastal observatory recording over 100 millimeters of rainfall between Sunday and Monday morning, triggering intense waterlogging and traffic snarls.

Movement of trains was partially affected in Mumbai due to waterlogging on the rails.

Bolsonaro’s political influence in Brazil could endure despite ex-prez conviction

SAO PAULO, Sept 15, (AP): Former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro was not present in the room when a Supreme Court panel convicted and sentenced him to 27 years and three months in prison on charges of attempting a coup.

With Bolsonaro under house arrest and in poor health, his lawyer has said that the ex-leader was too sick to attend the final hearings. But despite frailty and his conviction, Bolsonaro’s political influence will certainly endure.

Even after his sentencing, public opinion is divided on whether he committed a crime and should go to prison, a debate that exists even though experts agree the far-right politician will continue to have a significant influence on the political landscape of the Latin American giant.

“Maybe we’ll see something relatively new in Brazilian politics: a public figure who is under house arrest, who cannot formally take part in politics because of a conviction and ineligibility, but who still influences the course of politics,” said anthropologist Isabela Kalil, coordinator of the Extreme Right Observatory, a research



Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro, (center), temporarily allowed out of house arrest for medical treatment, departs a hospital in Brasilia, Brazil on Sept 14. (AP)

group based in Minas Gerais state.

Four days before his conviction, tens of thousands of Bolsonaro supporters took to the streets across Brazil on Independence Day. Among them

was Luiz Niemeyer, a 62-year-old businessman in Rio de Janeiro, who sees the former president as a “hero” who has built an unstoppable political movement.

Campaign period closes in Malawi

LILONGWE, Sept 15, (Xinhua): The campaign period for Malawi’s Sept 16 general elections officially ended on Sunday, after competing political parties conducted their last campaign rallies on Saturday.



Chakwera

and independent candidates have criss-crossed the country’s 28 districts, wooing the electorate to vote for them. The campaign activities officially ended at 6 am local time on Sunday, 48 hours before the commencement of voting at 6 a.m. on Tuesday.

Ruling Malawi Congress Party President Lazarus Chakwera closed his party’s campaign with a mega rally in Lilongwe, the country’s capital, with a call for Malawians to re-elect him to finish the infrastructure development and other programs launched during his past five years in office.

The Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) opened the campaign period on July 14, and for the past two months, the competing parties



Rescue workers evacuate villagers from a flooded area in Jalalpur Pirwala, in Multan district, Pakistan on Sept 10. (AP)

Flood survivors begin to return home in Pakistan’s eastern Punjab

Displaced families began returning home as floodwaters significantly receded across much of Pakistan’s eastern Punjab province, where swollen rivers displaced more than 2.5 million people and killed about 100 during weeks of monsoon deluges, officials said Monday.

Photos and videos posted on

social media show lush fields that once swayed with crops are now only sand and silt. Returning residents said they will have to replant while rebuilding their homes.

Floodwater levels are decreasing at Panjnad, where the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers all converge before flowing into

the Indus, said Irfan Ali Kathia, the authority’s director general.

Rescue and relief operations in some districts are ongoing, officials said.

Nargis Bibi, 46, from a village in Kasur district, said the Sutlej river swept into her village home, forcing her to flee with her husband, daughter and two sons. (AP)

Interim govt prepares to hold elections in March

Nepal’s PM appoints 3 new ministers

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 15, (AP): Nepal’s prime minister on Monday selected three new ministers to join her interim administration, which is tasked with holding fresh elections in March after violent street protests last week led to the collapse of the previous government.

Sushila Karki, the Himalayan country’s first female prime minister, appointed Kalman Gurung as energy minister, Rameshwar Khanal as finance minister and Om Prakash Aryal as home minister.

Karki, 73, was named prime minister on Sept. 12. She was a popular figure while serving as the Supreme Court’s chief justice in 2016 and 2017, and was known for standing against corruption in the government.

Last week’s massive demonstrations - called the protest of Gen Z - ended with at least 72 people killed and hundreds wounded. The army stepped in to impose a curfew and finally agreed to make Karki the head of an interim government that will hold elections in



New ministers, (from left), Rameshwar Prasad Khanal, Minister of Finance, Kulman Ghising, Energy and Irrigation Ministry, and Om Prakash Aryal Home Ministry attend an oath swearing ceremony in front of the presidential building vandalized during recent protests, in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sept 15. (AP)

six months.

“I did not come to this position because I had sought it but because there were voices from the streets demanding that Sushila Karki should be given

the responsibility,” Karki said Sunday. “We are here for only six months to complete the task given to us and transfer the responsibility to the upcoming government and ministers.”

Dollar stable at KD 0.304

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): The US dollar exchange rate remained stable against the Kuwaiti dinar on Monday at KD 0.304, while the euro was recorded at KD 0.357, unchanged from the previous day.

According to the Central Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) daily bulletin, the British pound was valued at KD 0.413, the Swiss franc at KD 0.382, and the Japanese yen at KD 0.002.

Business

Hosts Keeta's executives as part of its commitment to supporting technological developments

Warba Bank welcomes global platform Keeta to the Kuwaiti market

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Continuing its investment in supporting innovation and digital developments in the Kuwaiti market to deliver value and drive local progress, Warba Bank hosted a delegation of executives from Keeta, the global leader in food delivery platforms, in a comprehensive visit organized by the Bank to showcase its advanced services and technological capabilities.

The visit included a detailed tour of the Bank's key departments, where the Keeta delegation was introduced to Royal Banking services, which provide distinguished financial solutions for high-net-worth clients. The delegation also visited the Digital Factory, which serves as the Bank's hub for technological innovation, as well as the Innovation and Partnerships Department, which focuses on developing creative solutions and building strategic alliances with leading global companies.

On this occasion, Mr. Naser Maher Al Mutawaa, Chief Digital Officer at Warba Bank, said:

"We welcome Keeta to the Kuwaiti market and look forward to the positive contributions this leading platform will bring in enhancing the consumer experience in food delivery. Keeta's entry into Kuwait reflects the attractiveness of the local mar-

ket for innovative global companies and at Warba Bank we are committed to supporting such developments that contribute to strengthening the local digital economy."

Al Mutawaa added: "The visit of the Keeta team to our specialized departments reaffirms our commitment to supporting innovative companies and digital platforms that deliver real added value to the Kuwaiti community. We believe that collaboration between the banking sector and leading technology firms helps create a progressive economic environment that benefits society as a whole and further reinforces Kuwait's position as a regional hub for innovation and technology."

Comprehensive Support for Innovation and Digital Developments

Al Mutawaa emphasized that this visit comes as part of the Bank's comprehensive strategy to support innovation and digital developments in the local market. The Bank is keen to be a partner for companies striving to deliver innovative solutions that meet the needs of Kuwaiti consumers and contribute to developing the digital economy.

He added: "During the visit, the Keeta team was introduced to the latest digital banking technologies and solutions we are developing at the Digital Factory, which



Naser Al Mutawaa, Chief Digital Officer

are designed to enhance the customer experience and provide advanced financial services that keep pace with global trends. We also explored potential future collaboration in digital financial solutions that could enhance Keeta's services and deliver added value to consumers."

Al-Mutawaa pointed out that "Warba Bank plays a pivotal role in supporting the eco-

system of startups and digital platforms in Kuwait, by providing specialized banking solutions, technical advisory and logistical support needed for these companies to succeed in the local market. We believe that the success of such platforms contributes to strengthening Kuwait's economy and creating new job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth."

Added Value for Consumers and Society

Al Mutawaa also highlighted the added value that platforms like Keeta bring to the Kuwaiti community, stating that the entry of such global platforms into the local market reflects the maturity and progress of the Kuwaiti economy, while offering consumers broader choices and more advanced services in food delivery and logistics.

He added: "At Warba Bank, we consider ourselves part of this progress, as we provide banking support and advanced financial solutions that help these platforms deliver their services at the highest standards. We also ensure the development of banking products and services tailored to the needs of such companies, contributing to their growth and prosperity in the local market."

A Future Vision for Digital Collaboration

Al Mutawaa shed light on the Bank's

commitment to its vision embodied in the slogan "Let's Own Tomorrow" by supporting companies and platforms that contribute to building a digitally advanced future for Kuwait. He also praised the joint collaboration with Keeta to enhance Warba Bank's customer experience through added services, including exclusive offers and partnerships available via the Marketplace feature on Warba's mobile application, in line with the Bank's strategy of always focusing on the local market.

Keeta is recognized as one of the world's leading food delivery platforms, operating in multiple international markets and distinguished by its advanced technological solutions and innovative services aimed at enhancing the user experience in food ordering and delivery.

Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short period, establishing itself as a pioneer in Islamic digital banking services. It is also among the local banks with the highest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement reaffirms the Bank's position as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering best-in-class financial services and products.

With the launch of the new delivery app

KFH announces exclusive partnership with Keeta

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced a cooperation agreement with Keeta, the leading global platform for delivering orders and daily necessities. This partnership allows the Chinese delivery giant to join the KFH Rewards Program, offering amazing exclusive deals to KFH customers who are members of the program. These deals enable KFH customers to redeem their points for vouchers to be used as a payment method on the Keeta app.

Deputy General Manager Cards at KFH, Talal AlArbeed said that this exclusive collaboration is part of KFH's efforts to provide the best benefits to its customers and promote rewards programs. This comes in conjunction with the official launch of Keeta operations in the local market of Kuwait on 15 September 2025. The company aims to pro-



Talal AlArbeed

vide an innovative and competitive delivery experience in the Kuwaiti market.

■ AlArbeed: Customers can redeem their KFH Rewards points for payment vouchers on the company's app

AlArbeed added: "There are other exclusive offers awaiting KFH cardholders in cooperation with Keeta, which will be announced soon. These surprises will enable KFH customers to redeem their points and obtain Keeta vouchers worth KD 3, KD 6 and KD 12 to use on Keeta platform. This is part of the bank's efforts to provide the best benefits to its customers and promote rewards programs."

He noted that KFH Rewards Program offers cardholders a unique shopping experience, allowing them

to explore a world of opportunities and earn up to 200 points for every purchase worth KD 1 when they use eligible cards at participating stores.

AlArbeed highlighted KFH cards benefits and comprehensive features, stating: "Green, Silver and Black cardholders will earn reward points with every local or international card usage, as well as gaining access to all rewards redemption options. Members of the program can also enjoy numerous rewards by redeeming their points for vouchers at participating stores, or by redeeming them for a variety of exclusive deals and special offers via the online marketplace. They can also redeem their points for flights and hotel reservations, car rentals, or by transferring points to loyalty and rewards programs of international companies participating in KFH Rewards Program."

Nespresso joins talabat's growing partner network

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Expanding on its expansive growth strategy, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, announced the latest addition to its portfolio of partners: Nespresso, the household name for luxury home brewing and premium coffee experience.

This new milestone underscores talabat's ongoing commitment to supporting both local and international brands expand their reach and presence within the Kuwaiti market. Through its wide network of logistics partners and fast, reliable delivery services, talabat continues to cement its position as the go-to platform for all delivery needs.

In addition, this expansion is part of talabat's ongoing efforts to enhance convenience and drive innovation by strengthening its network of partners. By offering seamless digital access to both global and local brands, talabat continues to play an active role in supporting the New Kuwait Vision 2035, particularly in advancing the digitization of the retail sector and accelerating the growth of the country's digital economy.

Commenting on the partnership, Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, said: "There is power in choice and there is convenience in having all the choices available in one place; and that is what we strive to offer our customers through talabat, even when they are shopping for their everyday household essentials. To guarantee a rounded experience for our customers, we continue to work tirelessly to make sure that our

■ Furthering its effort to bring everyday essentials conveniently closer to customers in Kuwait
■ Nespresso chooses talabat as its first delivery partner

delivery service is consistently satisfactory."

He added: "Our partnership with Nespresso represents a significant milestone in expanding our platform's portfolio to include global brands, allowing our customers broader choice and a more inclusive digital ordering experience. We are committed to building strategic partnerships that strengthen our position as the leading platform that keeps pace with the modern lifestyles of our customers in Kuwait."

On his part, Hady Hanna, General Manager of Nasco Trading Company, the exclusive distributor of Nespresso in Kuwait, said: "This collaboration introduces an additional channel that gives Nespresso coffee lovers more choice and flexibility in how they enjoy their favorite products, alongside our existing channels. Our priority is to make the Nespresso experience as seamless and convenient as possible, while ensuring customers always enjoy the premium service they know and expect from us."

Besides everyday groceries, food, and household essentials, talabat offers a wide range of products that fulfill customers' needs and match their modern, diverse, and fast-paced lifestyles.



talabat Nespresso

Boursa Kuwait closes higher

All Share Index rises 31.48 points

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Monday's session on a positive note, with the All Share Index climbing 31.48 points, or 0.36 percent, to close at 8,816.31 points.

Trading activity was robust, with 468.2 million shares exchanged across 27,716 transactions, generating a total value of KD 114.8 million (USD 349 million).

The Main Market Index recorded the sharpest gains, adding 44.80

points, or 0.56 percent, to settle at 8,047.53 points. This performance came on the back of 272.4 million shares traded through 17,221 transactions, worth KD 49.3 million (USD 150 million).

The Premier Market Index also advanced, rising 29.72 points, or 0.32 percent, to close at 9,443.71 points. It accounted for 195.8 million shares traded in 10,495 deals, valued at KD 65.4 million (USD 199 million).

In contrast, the Main 50 Index slipped 21.17 points, or 0.26 percent, to settle at 8,230.24 points. A total of 203.5 million shares were traded through 10,970 transactions, amounting to KD 39.4 million (USD 120 million).

Emphasis on SMEs, AI, and circular economy for sustainable growth

Combining traditional & renewable energy ensures security: AEO

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization (AEO) Jamal AlLoughani said Monday that combining traditional and renewable energy sources is the best way to achieve energy security, ensure supply stability, and meet rising demand while protecting the environment.

Speaking at the opening of the 'Empowering the Future: Energy Transition and Economic Diversification in Arab States' conference in Kuwait, Al-Loughani stressed the importance of diversifying Arab economies beyond fossil fuels to ensure sustainability and competitiveness.

The two-day event is organized by the Arab Planning Institute in cooperation with the Arab Energy Organization and the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government.

He noted that oil and gas would remain central to global and Arab energy in the coming decades, serving as a key source of revenue, jobs, and industrial investment.

Al-Loughani highlighted that Arab investments in renewable projects reached more than USD 18 billion in 2024, a 35 percent increase since 2020, covering solar, wind, and green hydrogen initiatives.



Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization (AEO) Jamal Al-Loughani

He added that the energy transition does not mean abandoning oil and gas but using them more efficiently through carbon capture, blue hydrogen, and cleaner refineries, with natural gas playing a vital role in electricity generation during the transition.

For his part, Dr. Ali Al-Marri, CEO of the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government said the world's rapid changes of economic shifts, climate pressures, and technological advances require new policies to safeguard energy security and drive economic diversification.

He emphasized the role of small and medium enterprises, artificial intelligence, and the circular economy in building sustainable growth, while calling for regional cooperation and investment in clean technologies.

Al-Marri stressed that regional cooperation is essential for sharing expertise, developing joint energy networks, boosting cross-border investments, and building platforms for economic integration. He noted that the energy transition is a collective project requiring the combined efforts of governments, the private sector, academic and research institutions, and international organizations.

Al-Marri expressed his gratitude to the government of Kuwait and the conference partners, wishing the sessions would serve as a platform for constructive ideas and practical visions to support development in the region and strengthen its global presence.

Discussions cover renewable certificates, project stability & grid integration

Kuwait hosts GCC renewable energy workshop

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The State of Kuwait, represented by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, hosted a specialized workshop organized by the Gulf Committee for Renewable and New Energy on Monday, with the participation of a select group of experts and representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Ministry Spokesperson Fati-

ma Hayat disclosed that Committee Chairman Ahmed Al-Dosari opened the workshop with a speech, in which he welcomed the participating delegations and emphasized the importance of Gulf cooperation in supporting clean energy projects.

Hayat added that the GCC Secretariat General stressed the need to continue joint efforts to achieve energy security and diversify energy sources.

She said the workshop discussed several key topics, including renewable energy certificates, mechanisms

for developing and implementing projects and ensuring their stability, studying the connection of renewable energy capacities to electricity grids, and examining strategies and regulatory frameworks for storage projects.

She pointed out that the participation of prestigious international institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), contributed to enriching the discussion and exchange of global expertise, thereby, supporting the GCC countries' efforts to expand the use of renewable energy.

Labor market weakens

Fed likely to cut rates by 0.25%, balancing inflation

WASHINGTON, Sept 15, (AP): In a sign of how unusual this week’s Federal Reserve meeting is, the decision it will make on interest rates - usually the main event - is just one of the key unknowns to be resolved when officials gather Tuesday and Wednesday.

For now, it’s not even clear who will be there. The meeting will likely include Lisa Cook, an embattled governor, unless an appeals court or the Supreme Court rules in favor of the removal of her from office. And it will probably include Stephen Miran, a top White House economic aide whom Trump has nominated to fill an empty seat on the Fed’s board. But those questions may not be resolved until late Monday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy is mired in uncertainty. Hiring has slowed sharply, while inflation remains stubbornly high.

So a key question for the Fed is: Do they worry more about people who are out of work and struggling to find jobs, or do they focus more on the struggles many Americans face in keeping up with rising costs for groceries and other items? The Fed’s mandate from Congress requires it to seek both stable prices and full employment.

For now, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed policymakers have signaled the Fed is more concerned about weaker hiring, a key reason investors expect the central bank will reduce its benchmark interest rate by a quarter point on Wednesday to about 4.1%.

Still, stubbornly high inflation may force them to proceed slowly and limit how many reductions they make. The central bank will also release its quarterly economic projections Wednesday, and economists project they will show that policymakers expect one or two additional cuts this year, plus several more next year.

Ellen Meade, an economics professor at Duke University and former senior economist at the Fed, said it’s a stark contrast to the early pandemic, when it was clear the Fed had to rapidly reduce rates to boost the economy. And when inflation surged in 2021 and 2022, it was also a straightforward call for the Fed, which moved quickly to raise borrowing costs to combat higher prices.

But now, “it’s a tough time,” Meade said. “It would be a tough time, even if the politics and the whole thing weren’t going on the way they are, it would be a tough time. Some people would want to cut, some people would not want to cut.”

Amid all the economic uncertainty, Trump is applying unprecedented political pressure on the Fed, demanding sharply lower rates, seeking to fire Cook, and insulting Powell, whom he has called a “numbskull,” “fool,” and “moron.”

Loretta Mester, a former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and finance professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, said that Fed officials won’t let the criticisms sway their decisions on policy. Still, the

attacks are unfortunate, she said, because they threaten to undermine the Fed’s credibility with the public.

“Added to their list of the difficulty of making policy because of how the economy is performing, they also have to contend with the fact that there may be some of the public that’s skeptical about how they’ve gone about making their decisions,” she said.

David Andolfatto, an economics professor at the University of Miami and former top economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, said that presidents have pressured Fed chairs before, but never as personally or publicly.

“What’s unusual about this is the level of open disrespect and just childishness,” Andolfatto said. “I mean, this is just beyond the pale.”

There are typically 12 officials who vote on the Fed’s policies at each meeting - the seven members of the Fed’s board of governors, as well as five of the 12 regional bank presidents, who vote on a rotating basis.

If a court rules that Cook can be fired, or Miran isn’t approved in time, then just 11 officials will vote on Wednesday. Either way, there ought to be enough votes to approve a quarter-point cut, but there could be an unusual amount of division.

Miran, if he is on the board, and Governor Michelle Bowman may dissent in opposition to a quarter-point reduction in favor of a steeper half-point cut.

There could be additional dissenting votes in the other direction, potentially from regional bank presidents who might oppose any cuts at all. Beth Hammack, president of the Fed’s Cleveland branch, and Jeffrey Schmid, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, have both expressed concern that inflation has topped the Fed’s 2% target for more than four years and is still elevated. If either votes against a cut, it would be the first time there were dissents in both directions from a Fed decision since 2019.

“This degree of division is unusual, but the circumstances are unusual, too,” Andolfatto said. “This is a situation central banks really don’t like: The combination of inflationary pressure and labor market weakness.”

Hiring has slowed in recent months, with employers shedding 13,000 jobs in June and adding just 22,000 in August, the government reported earlier this month. And last week a preliminary report from the Labor Department showed that companies added far fewer jobs in the year ending in March than previously estimated.

At the same time, inflation picked up a bit last month and remains above the Fed’s 2% target. According to the consumer price index, core prices - excluding food and energy - rose 3.1% in August compared with a year earlier..

With inflation still elevated, the Fed may have to proceed slowly with any further cuts, which would likely further frustrate the Trump White House.

“When you get to turning points, people can reasonably disagree about when to go,” Meade said.

TikTok ownership to shift

Trump announces deal reached to save TikTok

WASHINGTON, Sept 15, (AP): A meeting between U.S. and Chinese officials went well and a deal was reached regarding “a ‘certain’ company that young people in our Country very much wanted to save,” President Donald Trump posted on his social media site on Monday.

Trump’s comment suggests that the company is TikTok, the social media company associated with China that U.S. law requires to be sold or else cease operations.

The Republican president has repeatedly extended the deadline on TikTok’s fate and was noncommittal on an agreement when asked by reporters on Sunday evening. Trump also said that he would be speaking on Friday with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

The Chinese government has yet to confirm Trump’s statements.

The basis of Trump’s post stemmed from a meeting in Spain that U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had with Chinese officials, including Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, in which TikTok was to be a subject, according to a statement by the Treasury Department.

During Joe Biden’s Democratic presidency, Congress and the White House used national security grounds to approve a U.S. ban on TikTok unless its parent company, ByteDance, sold its controlling stake.

But Trump has kept delaying the possible reckoning for the social media app. He has extended the deadline three times during his second term - with the next one coming up on Sept. 17.

TikTok is one of more than 100 apps developed in the past decade by ByteDance, a technology firm founded in 2012 by Chinese entrepreneur Zhang Yiming and headquartered in Beijing’s northwestern Haidian district.

In 2016, ByteDance launched a short-form video platform called Douyin in China and followed up with an international version called TikTok. It then bought Musical.ly, a lip-synching platform popular with teens in the U.S. and Europe, and combined it with TikTok while keeping the app separate from Douyin.

Soon after, the app boomed in popularity in the U.S. and many other countries, becoming the first Chinese platform to make serious inroads in the West. Unlike other social media platforms that focused on cultivating connections among users, TikTok tailored content to people’s interests.

The often silly videos and music clips content creators posted gave TikTok an image as a sunny corner of the internet where users could find fun and a sense of authenticity. Finding an audience on the platform helped launch the careers of music artists like Lil Nas X.

TikTok gained more traction during the shutdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, when short dances that went viral became a mainstay of the app. To better compete, Instagram and YouTube eventually came out with their own tools for making short-form videos, respectively known as Reels and Shorts. By that point, TikTok was a bona fide hit.

Challenges came in tandem with TikTok’s success. U.S. officials expressed concerns about the company’s roots and ownership, pointing to laws in China that require Chinese companies to hand over data requested by the government. Another concern became the proprietary algorithm that populates what users see on the app.

IMF upgrades global growth forecast for 2025 and 2026

Economic growth shows resilience as peak uncertainty passes, but tariff risks remain

By National Bank of Kuwait

Growth among the major economies has come in stronger-than-expected recently and the IMF has upgraded its global growth forecast for 2025 and 2026. While peak uncertainty seems to be behind us for now, the tariff drama might not be completely over. The US economy is facing a weakening labor market and rising inflation although underlying economic activity has remained relatively decent. Meanwhile, the Fed faces an unprecedented attack on its independence which could have global repercussions. In the Eurozone, the EU-US trade agreement has restored some stability to the economy, but the growth outlook remains mediocre. The UK economy has to grapple with a looming fiscal tightening in the November budget. In Japan, the political developments have aggravated fiscal vulnerabilities with long-term bond yields at multi-decade highs. In China, the economy is poised to achieve the government’s ‘around 5%’ growth target for this year with the de-escalation of the trade war with the US likely to be sustained.

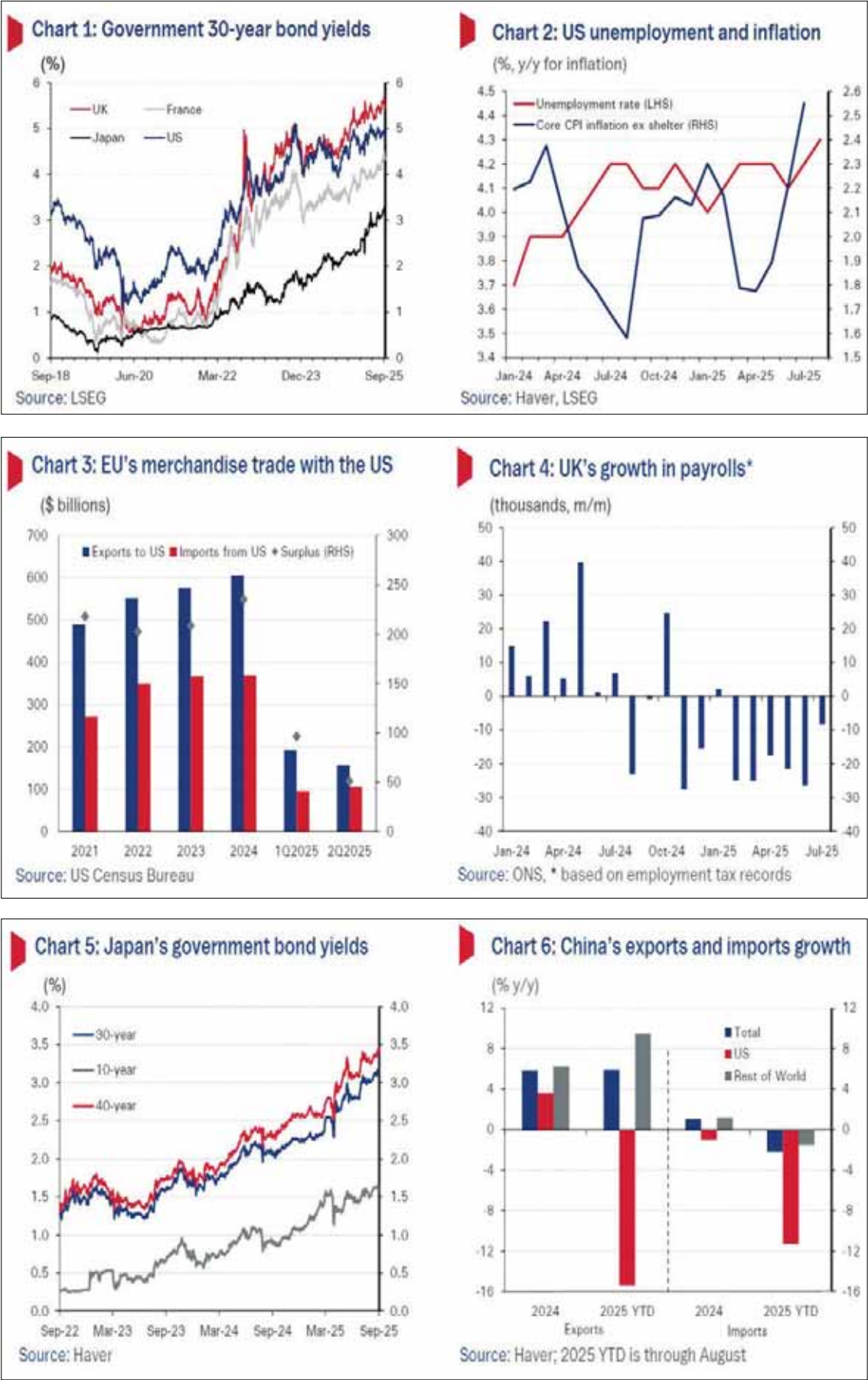
US: Weakening labor market and rising inflation; the unprecedented attack on the Fed is a key risk

Tariffs are pushing up inflation with core CPI excluding shelter increasing by 2.7% y/y through August versus 1.8% in April. Absent no additional tariff shocks, we think it is going to take several more months for the full impact of the tariffs to be seen. The labor market has weakened materially recently with average monthly job gains of only 27K during the May-August period while the unemployment rate rose to 4.3%, the highest since October 2021. Job growth may remain lackluster, even with rate cuts, as labor market weakness is driven by both the demand side and supply side. The futures market is currently indicating cumulative easing of around 150 bps from now through end-2026. However, this carries high uncertainty and, even if it materializes, a lower yield curve (other than for short-dated securities) is not guaranteed. The trade agreements reached between the US and some of its key trading partners have lowered uncertainty and improved sentiment. Nevertheless, the tariff-related drama may not be over yet given still no agreements between the US and some of its largest trading partners and more sector-specific tariffs in the pipeline. Furthermore, the legality of the country-specific tariffs is now in the hands of the US Supreme Court, and uncertainty will heat up again if that court revokes these tariffs.

On another note, damage is already being done from the unprecedented attack by the US administration on the Fed’s independence, with the most challenging time for the Fed, in our view, being after Fed Chair Powell’s term ends in May 2026. While the market has taken that threat in stride for now, we think this will not be the case if it is judged that this independence is actually compromised. On a more positive note, despite the very high levels of uncertainty that prevailed for most of this year, economic activity remained broadly resilient with ‘real final sales to private domestic purchasers’ growing by 1.9% (annualized) in both Q1 and Q2, though lower than the 3% average in 2024. GDP growth, which has been volatile on a quarterly basis due to trade disruptions, is seen at around 2% in 2025 down from nearly 3% in 2023-2024.

Eurozone: The US-EU trade agreement restores some stability for now; high bar for further easing by the ECB

The Eurozone economy has continued to beat expectations so far this year, although it grew by a modest 0.1% q/q in Q2, down from an outsized 0.6% in Q1 that was driven by significant export-led tariff frontloading. The EU’s trade deal with the US, which puts a tariff rate of 15% on most EU exports to the US, lowered uncertainty and restored some stability to the largest trading relationship in the world. However, other than the US-imposed tariff rate, other key terms of the deal (such as the EU purchasing \$750 billion of US energy products over three years and EU companies investing \$600 billion in the US by 2029) are either unrealistic targets or just expressions of interest. The EU’s trade relationship with the US continues to be developing with President Trump recently threatening to launch a Section 301 trade investigation against the EU in response to the EU slapping



Google with a \$3.5 billion fine for antitrust violations. Such developments, in addition to other matters such as the digital services tax that several EU countries levy on US technology companies, and which Trump staunchly opposes, indicate that the current status quo is on shaky grounds and a re-escalation in trade tensions can still happen. Separately, NATO members’ decision in June to increase defense spending from 2% to 5% of GDP by 2035 is positive for economic growth across the Eurozone. After the ECB kept rates unchanged in its meeting last week, the futures market is indicating that rates will remain on hold, or be cut by a maximum of 25 bps through end-2026. With the collapse of the government, political paralysis in France, the bloc’s second-largest economy, adds to downside risks to growth.

UK: Growth seen broadly stable despite inevitable fiscal tightening and limited room for BoE easing

After the frontrunning of higher US tariffs and property stamp duty changes in Q1, GDP growth in Q2 slowed, but to a higher-than-expected 0.3% q/q from Q1’s 0.7%. The outlook is generally uninspiring given a looming fiscal tightening and a weakening labor market; the number of jobs has fallen by a combined 164K (0.5%) since July 2024 after the hikes in national insurance contributions and minimum wages. The government faces an ongoing poor fiscal position and, making matters worse, has already annulled plans to cut some welfare spending after political opposition. This, coupled with concerns about higher government borrowing, led to a recent surge in long-term gilt yields (30Y near its highest since 1998), shrinking Chancellor Reeve’s already-limited headroom of meeting current spending with revenues by 2029-30. In the upcoming budget, which has been pushed until November, the Chancellor will likely unveil higher taxes and/or spending cuts. Though essential for fiscal consolidation, this tightening could weigh on growth, with the BoE forecasting only a slight improvement in GDP growth to 1.2%-1.3% in 2025-2026 (1.1% in 2024).

Still, there are signs of optimism, with the composite PMI rising to a 12-month high in August (53.5), driven by solid improvement in services while the expectations gauge hit the highest level since October 2024.

Meanwhile, CPI inflation rose to an 18-month high of 3.8% y/y in July with the BoE expecting a peak of 4% in September and then a gradual softening, hitting 2% in Q2 2027. Given the inflation dynamics and following a narrow MPC vote (5 to 4) to cut the bank rate by 25 bps in August (bringing cumulative easing to 125 bps since August 2024), the futures market currently indicates no further rate cuts this year.

Japan: Political developments aggravate fiscal vulnerability; long-term bond yields at multi-decade highs

Japan’s economy has beaten expectations so far this year with growth in Q2 at 0.5% q/q, driven by a rebound in exports (+2.0% q/q) following a contraction in Q1. Private consumption, which accounts for more than half of GDP, increased by 0.4% after being flat in Q1, underscoring a moderate recovery in demand. The recently-finalized trade agreement with the US, which sets a tariff of 15% on most imports from Japan, reduced uncertainty but continued to weigh on external demand with the manufacturing PMI remaining in contraction territory in July and August. Meanwhile, consumer price inflation moderated to 3.1% y/y in July, but the core-core measure (excluding fresh food and energy) remains elevated and sticky at 3.4%, reflecting persistent price pressures in non-subsidized categories.

On the political front, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party coalition’s loss in July’s parliamentary elections and the gains of the San-seito Party, which campaigned on tax cuts, added to the market’s concern over fiscal sustainability, driving long-dated Japanese bond yields higher. Prime Minister Ishiba’s recent decision to step down is putting further pressure on the bond market, given the perception of a looser fiscal policy ahead. Amid all the political, trade, and fiscal uncertainties, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) kept its policy rate at 0.5% for the fourth consecutive meeting in July but raised its forecast for core inflation (excluding fresh food) to 2.7% (from 2.2%) and 1.8% (from 1.7%) for FY2025 (ending in March 2026)

and FY2026, respectively. The BoJ is widely expected to keep rates unchanged at its 19 September meeting, with the futures market currently indicating one 25 bps rate hike by Q1 2026 or earlier.

China: GDP growth well poised to hit the target this year; US-China de-escalatory stance to likely sustain

The Chinese economy continued to defy expectations, growing by 5.2% y/y in Q2 and remaining on track to achieve the government’s “around 5%” growth target for 2025. The 25% y/y plummet in exports to the US since April has been compensated by higher exports elsewhere, with total exports climbing by 6% y/y in 8M2025, which is remarkable given the global trade headwinds during that period. The trade truce with the US has been extended by another 90 days, and while it remains a non-permanent agreement, we think that the most plausible scenario going forward is that the de-escalatory stance will sustain. Meanwhile, despite ongoing stimulus initiatives by the authorities, the economy continues to suffer from weak domestic demand with imports falling by around 2% y/y in 8M2025 and consumer prices in deflation (-0.4% y/y in August). However, on a positive note, core inflation has been steadily increasing, standing at 0.9% y/y in August, the highest rate since early 2024. The PPI has been in deflation for nearly three years now, although that eased to a four-month low of 2.9% y/y (and 0% m/m) in August, a preliminary sign that the authorities’ recent efforts to combat overcapacity and excessive price cuts might be starting to have an impact. The all-important property sector continues to be a drag, though early signs of stabilization are emerging; while new home prices continue to drop on a y/y basis, that narrowed to 2.8% in July, a softer decrease for the ninth straight month and the smallest since March 2024. The People’s Bank of China has recently signaled no urgency to cut interest rates, pointing to the economy’s general resilience and to the uptrend in core inflation, while sticking to its “moderately loose” monetary policy as announced in late 2024.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT



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Barrio Fiesta 2025 to showcase the best of Philippine culture

Pinoy Arabia to mark 11th anniversary with Talent Quest 2025

By Michelle Fe Santiago

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Pinoy Arabia ME, the leading and only Filipino online radio station and only Filipino social media platform duly licensed by the Kuwait Ministry of Information will mark its 11th anniversary celebration with the Barrio Fiesta 2025 showcasing the best of the Philippine culture and heritage on November 7, 2025 from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Grand Majestic Hotel in Kuwait City.

The annual Barrio Fiesta will have the Mobile Consular Services by the Philippine Embassy and the Migrant Workers Office in Kuwait from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm followed by the “Pinoy Arabia Talent Quest 2025” from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

One of the highlights of the anniversary celebration will be the “Pinoy Arabia Talent Quest 2025,” aimed at discovering fresh talented Filipinos in Kuwait.

“One of the main thrusts of Pinoy Arabia is to provide a platform to discover and hone new talents, that’s why we are encouraging all Filipinos out there including those of Filipino descent to join the biggest talent competition.

This year, we are opening it to visa 20 only to give them this one-of-a-kind opportunity. This is your time to shine,” stated Juliecioussa, Pinoy Arabia Program Director.

The competition is open to holders of VISA 20 ONLY; talented Filipino individual or group of 10 members maximum; anyone of Filipino descent; with valid residence in Kuwait; with good moral standing and no police record. All talents are welcome (i.e. singing, dancing, arts, acting, etc.) except death-defying stunts, dangerous acts, obscene performance and acts that go against the culture, tradition and morals of Kuwait.

The first weekly audition will be held on September 26, 2025 and every Friday thereafter. The last day of audition will be on October 24, 2025. All those who will pass the audition will join in the weekly elimination round in October and those who will make it to the elimination round will get to the grand finals on November



Team Pinoy Arabia (right to left): Mr. O., Summer, Juliecioussa, Red, Erika, Maxxy, Gem, Buddy Jake, Kris, Mr. Ruba-Ruba and Denzil



Pinoy Arabia Talent Quest 2025 poster



Pinoy Arabia Barrio Fiesta 2025 poster

7, 2025.

Those who are interested may text their name, talent description and contact details to +96560089662 or email to pinoyarabiatalentquest@gmail.com

The grand prize winner will get KD1,000 cash prize and a round-trip ticket to Manila while the first and second runners-up will be getting valuable prizes.

Meanwhile, a special event during the Barrio Fiesta will be held in promoting breast cancer awareness from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in co-operation with the Kabayan Cancer Support Group.

Now on its 11th year, Pinoy Arabia ME continues to sizzle and conquer the airwaves with its new programs to inform and entertain its over almost half a million organic followers.

Broadcasting live from the Ooredoo Tower in Kuwait, Pinoy Arabia ME, since its launch on October 30, 2014 at Marina FM, has generated a sensational following and a great number of listeners not only in Kuwait but in the GCC countries and beyond.

Pinoy Arabia ME fully supported by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait and Filipino community organizations, plays Filipino and English current and old hits with regular guests from the Philippine Embassy and other visiting Philippine government officials as well as known personalities and dignitaries in Kuwait. It caters to Filipino community events and other vital announcements.

Pinoy Arabia has become one of the trusted sources of information among the Filipino community especially at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pinoy Arabia with its team Maxxy Santiago, Red, Kris, Erika, Juliecioussa, Mark Neil, Denzil, Gem, Mr. O., Summer, Buddy Jake and Mr. Ruba-Ruba, has carved its niche as a reliable source of information for Overseas Filipinos and a venue of pure entertainment.

Pinoy Arabia’s core value is public service at its finest – the heart that propels Pinoy Arabia ME to do what it does best.

Inauguration by Rev. Emmanuel Gharib

IPC Kuwait Convention & Golden Jubilee Inaugural Meeting concludes successfully

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The IPC Kuwait Convention and Golden Jubilee Inaugural Meeting concluded on a blessed note, witnessing the presence and participation of many faithful brothers and sisters.

The Golden Jubilee Inaugural Meeting was inaugurated by NECK Chairman, Reverend Pastor Emmanuel Benjamin Gharib and was graced by felicitations from Pastors of various

churches across Kuwait.

IPC Kuwait Church also presented a variety of spiritual programs and by the grace of God, everything went smoothly and successfully.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all our media partners for their valuable support and presence.

Attached are some moments captured from the Golden Jubilee Inaugural Meeting.



Photo during the event.

IPC Kuwait wins KTMCC Talent Test '25

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: IPC Kuwait emerged as the overall champion of the 10th KTMCC Talent Test 2025, organized by the Kuwait Town Malayalee Christian Congregation (KTMCC). The competitions, held at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait (NECK) premises, witnessed the participation of over 500 contestants representing 34 churches under NECK and Ahmadi St. Paul's, including Mar Thoma, CSI, Evangelical, Brethren, and Pentecostal congregations.

IPC Kuwait triumphed as Overall Winner at KTMCC Talent Test 2025. St. Peter's CSI Church secured the second position, while Church of God Ahmadi claimed third place. In the group song category, Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish bagged first place, St. Peter's CSI Church won second, and IPC Kuwait came third.

Marking KTMCC Sunday School's 70th anniversary, the event began with a lamp-lighting procession led by Sunday

School children and was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Stephen Neduvakkattu. The closing ceremony was inaugurated by the Presiding Bishop of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church, Most Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Abraham.

NECK Secretary Roy K. Yohannan, KTMCC President Varghese Mathew, Secretary Ajosh Mathew, Common Council member Sajju Vazhayil Thomas, Shijo Thomas, Shibu V. Sam, Deepak Philip Thomas, Bobby Kurian and Reju Daniel John addressed the gathering. Harvest Television Director Bibi George Chacko was also honored on the occasion by Joel Jacob, Philip Koshy and James Mathew.

From the morning inaugural session to the grand closing, hundreds of spectators filled the various competition halls, adding to the vibrant atmosphere of the day-long event. A fellowship lunch was also arranged for all participants and guests.



Photo during the event.



Photo during the regional Vendor's Day.

AmCham Kuwait hosts regional Vendor's Day on US Government Contracting & Compliance

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The American Business Council - American Chamber of Commerce Kuwait (ABCC-AmCham Kuwait) hosted its second Vendor's Day of the year on Monday, August 25, in collaboration with the 386th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron (ECONS), JCCS, and the U.S. Embassy Kuwait through an online session, and welcomed members from Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia from their respective AmChams.

The program provided vendors with a comprehensive overview of how to access U.S. government contracts in the Middle East. The morning began with opening remarks from Pete Swift, Chairman of AmCham Kuwait, who noted that “events like Vendor's Day are critical to building trust, transparency, and capacity between the public and private sectors,” adding his appreciation for the collaboration of the 386th ECONS and the guest speakers in “empowering the local vendor community.”

Presenters from the 386th ECONS outlined the registration process on SAM.gov, highlighting common errors that delay approvals and stressing the

importance of maintaining accurate records. They explained solicitation procedures and detailed the requirements for installation access in Kuwait, including submission of the Installation Access Authorization form and valid identification documents.

The session continued with a briefing from Doug Dunn, who joined virtually from Germany to explain the Joint Contingency Contracting System (JCCS), the Department of Defense platform for vendor vetting across the CENTCOM region. Dunn emphasized the importance of companies securing a CAGE or NCAGE code and completing the JCCS questionnaire in full, while clarifying that incomplete or inconsistent documentation can hinder eligibility.

Discussion also covered the government's payment processes, with guidance on using the Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) system, the role of Government Purchase Cards (GPCs) for smaller purchases, and the proper use of SF-44 forms. Presenters emphasized that accuracy and complete documentation are essential to avoid delays in payments.

The event concluded with a session on Combating

Trafficking in Persons (CTIP), delivered by the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. Speakers outlined Kuwait's anti-trafficking legislation and action plans, while urging businesses to remain vigilant to warning signs such as withheld passports, restricted movement, or unpaid wages. They emphasized that compliance with both U.S. and local labor standards is a crucial component of maintaining eligibility for contracts.

Reflecting on the importance of the day's discussions, Doug Hurst, AmCham Kuwait Board Member and DSS Focus Group Chair, observed that “these sessions help businesses move from uncertainty to readiness. From registration and compliance to ethical labor practices, the message is clear: vendors who prepare thoroughly will be positioned to succeed.”

As U.S. government procurement continues to represent significant opportunities across the Middle East, AmCham Kuwait reaffirmed its commitment to serving as a bridge between local businesses and contracting authorities, ensuring that vendors in the region are equipped with the knowledge, tools, and resources to compete successfully and responsibly.

IMA Kuwait conducts Jalsa-E-Seerat Un Nabi events

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait successfully organized a series of Spiritually Enriching Gatherings, Jalsa-E-Seerat Un Nabi on Thursday, 4th September 2025 across Kuwait in Fahaheel, Mahboubia, and Maliya Kuwait City.

The Central Theme of the programs was:

“Building a Model Society in the Light of Seerat-un-Nabi & The Home of the Prophet: A Model for Us All”.

Hundreds of Community Members, Families, and Youth participated in these inspiring Events, which were aimed at reviving the Message of the Prophet Muhammad and presenting his Blessed Household as a Timeless Example for building Ethical Families and Compassionate Societies.

Highlights of the Gatherings

Renowned Scholars including Mr. Mohammed Umar Falahi, Mr. Arshad Habeeb, Mr. Waleed Umri, Mr. Irfan Nadwi, Mr. Shamvel Parvez, and Mr. Mohammed Samoil Falahi addressed



Photo during the event.

the gatherings across all three Venues. Their Talks centered on two inter-related Themes:

■ Building a Model Society in the Light of Seerat-un-Nabi – The Schol-

ars highlighted how Prophet Muhammad laid the foundations of an Ideal Society – beginning in Makkah with Tawheed (the message of Oneness of God), Truthfulness, Humanitarian Service, and Social Reform, and later in Madina by Uniting Diverse Communities under Justice, Fairness, and the Unprecedented Concept of the Ummah. They emphasized his establishment of Economic Justice, the First Written Constitution, and the Cultural and Educational Advancement of the Community as a Blueprint for Humanity.

Prophet built a Just and Inclusive Community that honored Women by granting them Rights and Roles, Eradicated Racism by upholding Equality, ensured Peace and Protection of Life, Wealth, and Dignity against the notion of “Might is Right,” and proclaimed the Unity of Humanity by declaring that all are equal before God and justice. These Principles, they stressed, remain a timeless Framework for building a Fair and Harmonious Society today.

■ The Home of the Prophet: A Model for Us All – The Speakers also described how the Prophet balanced his role as the Messenger of Allah with his Responsibilities as a Husband and Father. They described his Household as a place of Compassion, Fairness, and Humility, where he assisted in Chores, showed deep Affection, and treated his Family with Respect and Friendship rather than Authority. This served as a reminder that Harmony within the Home is the foundation of a Healthy Society.

Together, the Addresses conveyed that the Prophet's Domestic Example and Societal Leadership together form a Comprehensive Framework for Humanity today – offering Practical Solutions to challenges in Family Life, Community Building, and Global Human Progress.

All Programs began after Isha prayer and concluded with heartfelt Duas, followed by dinner served to the attendees, fostering Brotherhood and Community Spirit.

Top award sets stage for Oscar contention

Zhao's 'Hamnet' wins People's Choice Award at TIFF

TORONTO, Canada, Sept. 15, (AP): "Hamnet," Chloé Zhao's drama about William Shakespeare's marriage and the death of their 11-year-old son, won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday, putting it on an enviable track to Academy Awards contention.

Winners of the top honor at TIFF have historically almost always gone on to land a best-picture Oscar nomination. That was the case every year since 2012, until the

streak was likely snapped last year when "The Life of Chuck" won the award. Mike Flanagan's Stephen King adaptation wasn't released until the following June, and isn't expected to figure into the Oscar race.

"Hamnet," starring Paul Mescal as William Shakespeare and Jessie Buckley as Agnes Shakespeare, has drawn an especially emotional reaction in its screenings at the Telluride Film Festival and at TIFF. The film, adapted from Maggie O'Farrell's 2020 novel, is about

how grief, following the death of their son, Hamnet, may have inspired Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, "Hamlet."

The film, which Focus Features will release in theaters Nov. 27, is likely to return Zhao and her two stars to the Academy Awards. Zhao's 2020 drama "Nomadland" won best picture and best director for Zhao. It, too, won the People's Choice Award in Toronto.

Festival attendees vote for People's Choice Award. The runners-up were a pair of Netflix releases:

Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein" and Rian Johnson's "Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery."

The audience award for international film went to Park Chan-wook's "No Other Choice." In the festival's Midnight Madness section, the audience prize went to Matt Johnson's "Nirvana the Band the Show the Movie." The prize in the documentary category was awarded to Barry Avrich's "The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue."



This image released by Focus Features shows Jessie Buckley, (left), and Paul Mescal in a scene from 'Hamnet.'

Emmy Awards

Noah Wyle and 'The Pitt' get top drama wins

'The Studio' and Seth Rogen have record-setting Emmys



Noah Wyle accepts the award for outstanding lead actor in a drama series for 'The Pitt.' (AP)



Britt Lower accepts the award for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for 'Severance.' (AP)



Tramell Tillman accepts the award for outstanding supporting actor in a drama series for 'Severance.' (AP)



Katherine LaNasa with award for outstanding supporting actress in a drama series for 'The Pitt.' (AP)

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 15, (AP): Seth Rogen and "The Studio" turned the Emmys into a wrap party, winning best comedy series Sunday and breaking a comedy record for victories in a season with 13, while Noah Wyle and "The Pitt" took the top drama prize.

The evening also brought meaningful wins for Jean Smart, Stephen Colbert and 15-year-old Owen Cooper, whose Netflix series "Adolescence" dominated the limited series categories.

"I'm legitimately embarrassed by how happy this makes me," "The Studio" co-creator Rogen said with his signature giggle, surrounded by cast and crew from the Apple TV+ movie-business romp after it won best comedy at the Peacock Theater in a show hosted by Nate Bargatze that aired on CBS. Rogen personally won four, including best actor.

"The Pitt" from HBO Max completed a sentimental journey with its win for best drama series. The character-driven medical drama won over viewers and gained emotional momentum during a season whose biggest drama prizes once seemed destined to be swept by "Severance."

Wyle won best actor in a drama for playing a grizzled, warm-but-worn-down supervising doctor, getting his first Emmy after five nominations with no victories in the 1990s for playing a scrubbed young cub doctor on "ER."

"What a dream this has been," Wyle said. "Oh my goodness." Katherine LaNasa, whose nurse is perhaps the show's most beloved character, was a surprise winner of best supporting actress in a drama over three women of "The White Lotus" on a night when every acting Emmy but one went to a first-time victor.

The first-timers included Britt Lower, who won best actress in a drama, and Tramell Tillman, who won best supporting actor, in the night's two biggest moments for "Severance."

Along with its creative arts wins, the Orwellian workplace satire ended up with eight for its acclaimed second season. Star Adam Scott lost out to Wyle for best actor.

The show's losses kept the evening from being a total triumph for Apple TV+, which has still never won a best drama prize, though it has now won best comedy three times between "The Studio" and "Ted Lasso."

Lower's win was a surprise in a category where Kathy Bates was considered a heavy favorite, for "Matlock."

Cristin Milioti won best actress in a limited series for "The Penguin."

Jean Smart bucked the rookie trend, winning her fourth Emmy for best actress in a comedy for "Hacks" and her seventh Emmy overall. At 73, she extended her record for oldest winner in the category.

Acclaimed

Netflix's widely acclaimed "Adolescence," the story of a 13-year-old in Britain accused of a killing, won six times, including the Emmy for best limited series. Co-creator Stephen Graham won for lead acting and writing while Cooper won best supporting actor and became the youngest Emmy winner in over 40 years.

Cooper said in his acceptance that he was "nothing three years ago."

"It's just so surreal," Cooper said. "Honestly, when I started these drama classes a couple years back, I didn't expect to be even in the United States, never mind here."

Best supporting actress went to Erin Doherty, who played a therapist opposite Cooper in a riveting episode that like all four "Adolescence" episodes was filmed in a single shot.

"The Studio" came into the evening having won nine Emmys already during last weekend's Creative Arts ceremony.



The team from 'The Pitt' pose in the press room with the award for outstanding drama series during the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)



The team from 'The Studio' with the award for outstanding comedy series during the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 14. (AP)



Stephen Graham, (center), and the cast and crew of 'Adolescence' accept the award for outstanding limited or anthology series. (AP)

emony. On Sunday night, it added four more, which all went to Rogen. Along with the comedy series award, he won best directing with his co-creator and longtime collaborator Evan Goldberg, and best writing with Goldberg and others.

The show brought blockbuster buzz for its first season from the start and

the Emmys ate it up, whether because of Hollywood's love for stories about itself (with A-list guest stars) or the television industry's love for stories that mock the self-importance of movie people.

Backstage, Rogen clumsily tried to hold up all four Emmys at once. Asked whether the night will be fodder for



Seth Rogen accepts the award for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series for 'The Studio.' (AP)

season two, he said no.

"This is, like, far too good a thing to have happen on our show," he said. "Our show is generally based on stress and disappointment and right now, we're all very happy."

Smart's castmate and constant scene partner Hannah Einbinder, who had also been nominated for all four seasons of "Hacks" but unlike Smart had never won, took best supporting ac-

trepreneur in a comedy.

She said she had become committed to a long-term bit where "it was cooler to lose."

"But this is cool too!" she shouted, then ended her speech by cursing the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and saying "Free Palestine!" Political sentiments from the stage were otherwise rare.

In perhaps the night's biggest upset, Jeff Hiller won best supporting actor in a comedy for "Somebody Somewhere," over Ike Barinholtz of "The Studio" and others.

Colbert may have been the night's most popular winner, taking best talk series for "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" for the first time. He got huge ovations both when he took the stage to present the first award and when he won.

The win may have been the result of a protest vote and a desire to pay tribute to its host, weeks after its cancellation by CBS. Jimmy Kimmel, who was among his competitors, campaigned for Colbert to win.

"Sometimes you only truly know how much you love something when you get a sense that you might be losing it," Colbert said in his acceptance.

Many perceived the end of the show as punishment of Colbert and placation of President Donald Trump after Colbert was harshly critical of a legal settlement between the president and Paramount, which needed administration approval for a sale to Skydance Media. Executives called the decision strictly financial.

Colbert showed no bitterness to CBS, thanking the network, which telecast the Emmys and aired a commercial celebrating his win, for letting him be part of the late-night tradition.

Bargatze delivered his opening monologue only after the first award was handed out.

The show opened with a sketch where "Saturday Night Live" stars Mikey Day, Bowen Yang and James Austin Johnson joined Bargatze, who played television inventor Philo T. Farnsworth opining on what the future of TV will be like. Bargatze-as-Farnsworth mentions that there will one day be a Black Entertainment Television. When asked if there will be a network for white people, he replied, "Why, CBS of course."

See Also Page 12



Lorne Michaels, (right), and the cast and crew of 'SNL50: The Anniversary Special' accepts the award for outstanding variety special. (AP)



Stephen Colbert accepts the Emmy for outstanding talk series. (AP)



John Oliver with the Emmy for outstanding writing for a variety series for 'Last Week Tonight With John Oliver.' (AP)



Stephen Graham with the Emmy for outstanding lead actor in a limited or anthology series or movie for 'Adolescence.' (AP)



Hannah Einbinder, (left), winner for supporting actress, and Jean Smart, winner for lead actress in a comedy series for 'Hacks.' (AP)

'The Conjuring: Last Rites' holds strong in second weekend

'Demon Slayer' breaks anime box office records with \$70M debut

LOS ANGELES, Sept 15, (AP): “Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - Infinity Castle” carved out a place in box-office history this weekend as the Japanese anime film sliced straight to No. 1 - outpacing the horror sequel “The Conjuring: Last Rites.”

The Sony-owned Crunchyroll release shattered expectations with a mighty \$70 million debut in North America, according to Sunday estimates from Comscore. That haul marks the biggest domestic opening ever for an anime film, surpassing “Pokémon: The First Movie,” which opened with \$31 million in 1999.

The film extended its meteoric run, scoring the biggest anime opening of all time with a \$132.1 million weekend, according to Comscore. Crunchyroll and Sony rolled it out across North America and 49 international markets, pushing the global total to \$177.8 million.

“This performance by this particular film shows the unpredictability of the box office,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “If we were sitting here, let’s say a month or even a couple of weeks ago, would we be thinking, ‘Wow, a Japanese anime film would be number one at the box office, overperform and bring in \$70 million?’ If you predicted that, kudos to you.”

The movie is the first in a three-film trilogy that brings the hit Shonen saga to its climactic showdown. The story



This image released by Sony Pictures Entertainment shows a scene from 'Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - Infinity Castle.' (AP)

follows Tanjiro Kamado, a kind-hearted boy who takes up swordsmanship after his family is slaughtered and his sister, Nezuko, is turned into a demon. Together, they fight a supernatural underworld of monstrous foes while clinging to what’s left of their humanity.

The “Infinity Castle” opener hails from renowned studio Ufotable, whose lavish visuals and breakneck fight sequences have helped make the franchise a global sensation and

juggernaut.

The film’s domination also points to a September rebound after a sluggish August. Warner Bros.’ “The Conjuring: Last Rites,” which opened to \$83 million last weekend, slipped to second with \$26 million.

The horror sequel has now scared up \$131 million domestically.

“This shows that two months of down trending box office can be totally reversed over the course of a couple of weekends,” Dergarabedian said.

Focus Features’ “Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale” opened in third with \$18.1 million. Set in the 1930s, the film finds Lady Mary embroiled in a public scandal as the Crawleys confront financial strain and the looming threat of social disgrace. While the aristocratic family adapts to change, the household staff prepares for a new chapter with the next generation leading Downton into the future.

In fourth place, Lionsgate’s “The Long Walk” debuted with \$11.5 million. Directed by Francis Lawrence, the adaptation of Stephen King’s first-written novel is a thriller that asks a chilling question: “How far would you go to survive?”

Pixar’s “Toy Story (30th Anniversary)” brought Buzz, Woody and the gang back to the big screen, opening in fifth with \$3.5 million across 2,375 theaters. Warner Bros.’ “Weapons” followed in sixth with \$2.75 million, while Dis-

ney’s filmed musical “Hamilton” landed seventh with \$2.2 million. “Freakier Friday” claimed eighth with \$2.1 million.

Rounding out the top 10: “Spinal Tap II: The End Continues” debuted with \$1.6 million, narrowly edging “The Sound of Music (60th Anniversary),” which sang up \$1.4 million.

Dergarabedian said he expects more September good fortunes with the release of Jordan Peele’s horror film “HIM” next week and Paul Thomas Anderson’s “One Battle After Another” coming out this month.

“September, after a very modest month of August, is proving to be an absolutely fantastic post-summer month for movies and for audiences and for movie theaters,” he said.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. “Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - Infinity Castle” \$70 million;
2. “The Conjuring: Last Rites,” \$26 million;
3. “Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale,” \$18.1 million;
4. “The Long Walk,” \$11.5 million;
5. “Toy Story (30th Anniversary),” \$3.5 million;
6. “Weapons,” \$2.75 million;
7. “Hamilton,” \$2.2 million;
8. “Freakier Friday,” \$2.1 million;
9. “Spinal Tap II: The End Continues” \$1.6 million and
10. “The Sound of Music (60th Anniversary),” \$1.4 million.

Fashion



Britt Lower



Brittany Snow



Selena Gomez



Stars graced the 77th annual Emmy Awards honoring the best in television, with stars like Ortega, Sydney Sweeney, Britt Lower, Selena Gomez, Lainey Wilson, Lisa providing some of the night’s standout fashion moments. (AP)



Scarlett Johansson



Cristin Milioti



Alexis Bledel



Julianne Nicholson



Lainey Wilson



Hunter Schafer



Lisa



Sydney Sweeney

A list of the top winners at the 2025 Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES, Sept 15, (AP): “The Studio” made history at the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards by winning 13 awards, becoming the most awarded comedy series in a single season. It beat the previous record of 11 set by “The Bear” last year.

“The Pitt” won best drama and delivered Noah Wylie the best drama actor award for his performance as a wise but weary emergency room doctor.

“Adolescence” won six awards in the limited series categories, including best supporting actor for 15-year-old Owen Cooper.

“Severance” entered the ceremony as the top overall nominee and ended up taking two acting trophies.

Here’s a list of winners at Sunday’s Emmys:

- Drama series: “The Pitt”

- Actor in a drama series: Noah Wyle, “The Pitt”
- Actress in a drama series: Britt Lower, “Severance”
- Supporting actor in a drama series: Tramell Tillman, “Severance”
- Supporting actress in a drama series:Katherine LaNasa, “The Pitt”
- Directing for a drama series: Adam Randall, “Slow Horses”
- Writing for a drama series: Dan Gilroy, “Andor”
- Comedy series: “The Studio”
- Actor in a comedy series: Seth Rogen, “The Studio”
- Actress in a comedy series: Jean Smart, “Hacks”
- Supporting actress in a comedy series: Hannah Einbinder, “Hacks”

- Supporting actor in a comedy series: Jeff Hiller, “Somebody Somewhere”
- Directing for a comedy series: Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, “The Studio”
- Writing for a comedy series: Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, Peter Huyck, Alex Gregory and Frida Perez, “The Studio”
- Limited series, anthology series or movie: “Adolescence”
- Actor in a limited series, anthology series or movie: Stephen Graham, “Adolescence”
- A Actress in a limited series, anthology series or movie: Cristin Milioti, “The Penguin”
- Supporting actor in a limited series, anthology series or movie: Owen Cooper, “Adolescence”

- Directing for a limited series, anthology series or movie: Philip Barantini, “Adolescence”
- Writing for a limited series, anthology series or movie: Jack Thorne and Stephen Graham, “Adolescence”
- Variety special: “SNL 50: The Anniversary Special”
- Scripted variety series: “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver”
- Writing for a variety series: “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver”
- Talk series: “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert”
- Reality competition program: “The Traitors”
- Bob Hope Humanitarian Award: Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen

'Giving back to poetry: A lifetime devoted to the art'

Library of Congress appoints Arthur Sze as new US poet laureate

NEW YORK, Sept 15, (AP): At a time when its leadership is in question and its mission challenged, the Library of Congress has named a new US poet laureate, the much-honored author and translator Arthur Sze.

The library announced Monday that the 74-year-old Sze had been appointed to a one-year term, starting this fall. The author of 12 poetry collections and recipient last year of a lifetime achievement award from the library, he succeeds Ada Limón, who had served for three years. Previous laureates also include Joy Harjo, Louise Glück and Billy Collins.

Speaking during a recent Zoom interview with The Associated Press, Sze acknowledged some misgivings when Rob Casper, who heads the library’s poetry and literature center, called him in June about becoming the next laureate. He wondered about the level of responsibilities and he worried about the upheaval since President Donald Trump fired Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden in May. After thinking about it overnight, he called Casper back and happily accepted.

“I think it was the opportunity to give some-

thing back to poetry, to something that I’ve spent my life doing,” he explained, speaking from his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. “So many people have helped me along the way. Poetry has just helped me grow so much, in every way.”

Sze’s new job begins during a tumultuous year for the library, a 200-year-old, nonpartisan institution that holds a massive archive of books published in the United States. Trump abruptly fired Hayden after conservative activists accused her of imposing a “woke” agenda, criticism that Trump has expressed often as he seeks sweeping changes at the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian museums and other cultural institutions.

Hayden’s ouster was sharply criticized by congressional Democrats, leaders in the library and scholarly community and such former laureates as Limón and Harjo. It also led to a debate over who has the authority to decide on an interim replacement.

Although the White House announced that it had named Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche as the acting librarian, daily operations are being run by a longtime official at the library,

Robert Randolph Newlen. Events such as the annual National Book Festival have continued without interruption or revision.

Laureates are forbidden to take political positions, although the tradition was breached in 2003 when Collins publicly stated his objections to President George W. Bush’s push for war against Iraq.

Newlen is identified in Monday’s announcement as acting librarian, a position he was in line for according to the institution’s guidelines. He praised Sze, whose influences range from ancient Chinese poets to Wallace Stevens, for his “distinctly American” portraits of the Southwest landscapes and for his “great formal innovation.”

“Like Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, Sze forges something new from a range of traditions and influences - and the result is a poetry that moves freely throughout time and space,” his statement reads in part.

Sze’s official title is “Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry,” a 1985 renaming of a position established in 1937 as “Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress.” The mission is loosely defined as a kind of literary ambassador, to “raise

the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.” Initiatives have included Robert Pinsky’s “Favorite Poem Project,” for which the public would share thoughts on works of their choosing, and Limón’s “You Are Here,” which included poetry installations at national parks.

Sze wants to focus on a passion going back more than a half-century to his undergraduate years at the University of California, Berkeley - translation. He remembers reading some English-language editions of Chinese poetry, finding the work “antiquated and dated” and deciding to translate some of it himself, writing out the Chinese characters and engaging with them “on a much deeper level” than he had expected. Besides his own poetry, he has published “The Silk Dragon: Translations from the Chinese.”

“I personally learned my own craft of writing poetry through translating poetry,” he says. “I often think that people think of poetry as intimidating, or difficult, which isn’t necessarily true. And I think one way to deepen the appreciation of poetry is to approach it through translation.”



Arthur Sze attends the 70th National Book Awards ceremony on Nov. 20, 2019, in New York. (AP)

New warnings on driving under the influence of prescription drugs

Drugged driving is quietly becoming a dangerous road hazard

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

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By Andrew Yockey
University of Mississippi

In October 2023, an unthinkable tragedy unfolded in Coleman, Wisconsin: An 8-month-old girl lost her life when a driver, impaired by cannabis, ran a stop sign and crashed into another vehicle. In February 2025, the driver pleaded guilty to negligent vehicular homicide and drugged driving with a minor passenger - and now faces up to 10 years behind bars.

These preventable circumstances highlight a stark reality: Drugged driving can be just as deadly as alcohol-impaired driving. Meanwhile, driving under the influence of drugs is becoming increasingly common across the United States.

Yet public awareness and policy responses continue to lag behind.

I study the prevalence and risk factors of drugged driving. Although public health messaging in the U.S. has long emphasized the dangers of alcohol-impaired driving, far less attention has been paid to the risks posed by other substances - even as drug-impaired driving becomes more widespread and complex.

Whether the substance is illegal, like methamphetamine,

or legal but still impairing - like cannabis, sedating sleep aids or certain prescription drugs like benzodiazepines and pain killers - the result is the same: impaired judgment, dulled reflexes and devastating outcomes on the road.

In 2020, an estimated 12.6 million people ages 16 and up drove after using illicit drugs. Of that total, roughly 11.7 million were under the influence of cannabis. In 2018, some 2.3 million people in the United States reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs other than marijuana during the previous 12 months. Globally, roadside surveys worldwide find that between 3.9% and 20% of drivers tested positive for drugs.

While alcohol typically impairs coordination and reaction time, drugs present a more complex picture.

Cannabis, for example, slows reaction time and affects spatial awareness. Opioids can cause drowsiness and dizziness. Stimulants like cocaine or methamphetamine may lead to overconfidence and aggressive driving. When drugs are mixed - or combined with alcohol - the risks increase dramatically.

Cannabis, in particular, presents a unique challenge: It's the most commonly used federally illegal drug in the United States, and public perception often downplays its risks behind the wheel.

Research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reveals that over 80% of cannabis users admit to driving just hours after using the drug, and nearly 20% believe their driv-

ing got much better. Multiple studies have found that drivers with THC, the primary psychoactive compound in cannabis, in their bloodstream are about twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash - either as the cause or as a victim - compared with those who haven't used drugs or alcohol. For alcohol, with a blood alcohol content of 0.08%, the odds of dying in a motor vehicle crash are approximately 13 times higher than sober drivers.

Every US state has laws prohibiting drug-impaired driving, but enforcement varies dramatically.

Some states, such as Texas and California, use "impairment-based" laws, which rely on observable signs of impairment. Others, such as Ohio and Wisconsin, use per se laws, setting thresholds for drugs like THC - such as 5 nanograms per milliliter of blood.

Then there are zero-tolerance laws, in states like Georgia and Rhode Island, which penalize drivers for having any trace of a controlled substance while behind the wheel, regardless of whether they're impaired at the time.

These inconsistencies create legal gray areas in how the laws are interpreted and enforced. For instance, in Illinois, it is a crime to drive with any trace of a controlled substance in your system, even if you are not impaired - and even if the drug was legally prescribed.

In Arizona, medical cannabis patients cannot be convicted solely based on THC presence, but prosecutors can still argue impairment.

A significant factor in the inconsistency from state to state is that there is no standardized way to measure drug impairment as there is with blood alcohol content.

While alcohol can be tested on the spot using a breathalyzer, detecting drug use is far more complicated. THC and other substances can linger in the body long after their impairing effects have worn off. Meanwhile, newer synthetic drugs such as spice or bath salts may not be detected at all without specialized equipment.

To address this, many states are turning to oral fluid testing - or saliva tests - which can detect recent drug use more quickly. As of late 2023, 27 states had authorized some form of roadside oral fluid screening.

Unlike alcohol, where there's a clear legal limit of 0.08% blood alcohol concentration, there's no easy-to-understand number for cannabis. Laws around driving after cannabis use vary widely and can be confusing. Scientists are still figuring out how much THC it takes to affect a person's driving skills and to what degree, so it stands to reason that people don't know how to judge it for themselves.

Another twist is that the roadside tests that cops use to spot drunk drivers don't work as well for drug impairment. THC can linger in the body long after the high fades, so a test might not tell the whole story.

New testing tools, like saliva swabs and eye-tracking, are being developed, but are not yet ready for application in real-life scenarios. (AP)

Disasters leave mental scars on children

Youth face persistent mental health challenges years after trauma: study

LAHAINA, Hawaii, Sept 15, (AP): Mia Palacio felt like she lost a piece of herself when wildfires destroyed her hometown of Lahaina.

She isolated from loved ones after the 2023 disaster while struggling to process the grief, often angry that her family didn't have a permanent place to stay and that so many others were unable to evacuate.

Moving between high schools, she never felt welcome, Palacio said, and the pain only intensified as the months wore on. Finally, near the first anniversary of the fires, Palacio reached out for help.

Hundreds of students like Palacio have struggled mentally since the fires - and not all have received the help they need.

The Hawaii Department of Education estimates more than a third of Maui students lost a family member, sustained a serious injury or had a parent lose a job after the fires, which killed 102 people and damaged more than 3,300 properties in Lahaina.

Two years later, many in Lahaina are ready to return to normal. But therapists say students' mental health challenges continue to mount.

That's common after a disaster, especially at the two-year mark, when adrenaline wears off and stress remains high, said Christopher Knightsbridge, one of several researchers at the University of Hawaii who has studied the well-being of Lahaina fire survivors. While kids may feel numb immediately following a disaster, after two years, they're facing the toll of constant uncertainty and change, he said.

It's a phenomenon seen wherever schooling has been disrupted by natural disasters, reporting by Honolulu Civil Beat, The Associated Press and several other news outlets shows. But a couple years after the disaster, schools are not always prepared with extra mental health supports.

On Maui, the island is dealing with an ongoing shortage of specialists. In the past few years, the number of psychiatrists serving youth has dropped from four to two, even as demand has grown.



Maui Hero Project's Joseph Anderson, DayJahiah Valdivia, Ocean Viera and Ivan Macias follow Kahakūahi Ocean Academy's Zane Kekoa Schweitzer's breathing exercise to re-center themselves after the beach physical training and lifeguard skills training in Lahaina, Hawaii, on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Anderson and Valdivia were affected by the August 2023, fires on Maui. (AP)

"The crisis isn't over," Knightsbridge said.

Palacio made progress with the help of a school counselor and then a local organization that supports teens' mental health through outdoor activities and adventures.

The senior at Lahainaluna High School said she's now more comfortable confiding in others and controlling her emotions. She takes pride in mentoring younger students who also have struggled since the fires.

Two years in, many kids still wrestle with depression and anxiety.

DayJahiah Valdivia, a senior at Kihei Charter School, said her stress levels spike when there are strong winds or small brush fires. Valdivia lives in Upcountry Maui, which also faced wildfires that burned over a thousand acres of land on the same day as the 2023 Lahaina fires. Her home was spared, but it took months for her family to return because their property was covered in soot and needed professional cleaning.

She feels less anxious now that her family members have discussed their escape plan for future disasters. But

a summer fire near a friend's home in Central Maui renewed her fears about her loved ones' safety.

"The anxiety never really wore off," she said. On windy days, it was especially difficult to concentrate in class or feel safe.

In a University of Hawaii study of fire survivors conducted in 2024, just over half of children reported symptoms of depression, and 30% were likely facing an anxiety disorder. Nearly half of kids in the study, ages 10 to 17, were experiencing PTSD.

Children in disaster-torn towns across the US can relate.

In Paradise, California, where the 2018 Camp Fire took 85 lives, a protracted period of disillusionment followed what some called the "hero phase," when the community pulled together and vowed to resurrect their town. Both Lahaina and Paradise had housing shortages after their fires, so families had to move away or live with friends to go to school or work in the area. In general, students who don't have a permanent living arrangement tend to struggle more academically and have more behavioral challenges, research shows.

US state targets polluters to fund clean energy

California to continue cap-and-trade program in push to meet climate goals

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept 15, (AP): California will extend a key climate program under a bill state lawmakers passed Saturday, sending the measure to Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has championed it as a crucial tool to respond to the Trump administration's environmental rollbacks.

The Democrat-dominated Legislature voted to reauthorize the state's cap-and-trade program, which is set to expire after 2030. Then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, signed a law authorizing the program in 2006, and it launched in 2013.

The program sets a declining limit on total planet-warming emissions in the state from major polluters. Companies must reduce their emissions, buy allowances from the state or other businesses, or fund projects aimed at offsetting their emissions. Money the state receives from the sales funds climate-change mitigation, affordable housing and transportation projects, as well as utility bill credits for Californians.

Newsom, a Democrat, and legislative leaders, who said months ago they would prioritize reauthorizing the program, almost ran out of time to introduce the proposal before the state-house wraps for the year.

"After months of hard work with the Legislature, we have agreed to historic reforms that will save money on your electric bills, stabilize gas supply, and slash toxic air pollution - all while fast-tracking California's transition to a clean, green job-creating economy," Newsom said after striking the deal this week.

The proposal would reauthorize the program through 2045, better align the declining cap on emissions with

the state's climate targets and potentially boost carbon-removal projects. It would also change the name to "cap and invest" to emphasize its funding of climate programs.

The Legislature approved another bill committing annual funding from the program's revenues. It includes \$1 billion for the state's long-delayed high-speed rail project, \$800 million for an affordable housing program, \$250 million for community air protection programs and \$1 billion for the Legislature to decide on annually.

Pressure

The votes came as officials contend with balancing the state's ambitious climate goals and the cost of living. California has some of the highest utility and gas prices in the country. Officials face increased pressure to stabilize the cost and supply of fuel amid the planned closures of two oil refineries that make up roughly 18% of the state's refining capacity, according to energy regulators.

Proponents of the extension say it will give companies certainty over the program's future. The state lost out on \$3.6 billion in revenues over the past year and a half, largely due to uncertainty, according to a report from Clean and Prosperous California, a group of economists and lawyers supporting the program. Some environmentalists say the Trump administration's attacks on climate programs, including the state's first-in-the-nation ban on the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035, added urgency to the reauthorization effort.

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas said the extension balanced the state's ambitious emission-reduction and affordability goals. The Democrat called

Africa CDC reports 16 deaths, 68 suspected cases

Ebola vaccination begins in southern Congo

LAGOS, Nigeria, Sept 15, (AP): Vaccination for those exposed to the Ebola virus and front-line health workers has begun in southern Kasai province, the World Health Organization said Sunday.

An outbreak of the highly contagious disease was announced earlier this month in the locality of Bulape, in Kasai, and has left at least 16 dead and 68 suspected cases, according to last week's briefing by the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Only an initial 400 doses of the Ervebo vaccine have been dispatched, with the rest to be delivered later, the WHO said. The operation has been hampered by limited access and scarce funds.

The vaccination is expected to pick up later as the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision approved roughly 45,000 additional vaccines, the WHO said, adding to an initial stockpile of 2,000 doses was already in the country.

The latest Ebola outbreak is Congo's 16th since 1976, and it is caused by the Zaire species, named after the country's former name. It adds another layer of worry for the central African country that is battling a multi-pronged conflict with rebel groups, especially in the eastern region of the country, where violence has decimated the health system.

Vaccination against the Ebola virus has begun in the Bulape health zone in the central Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where an outbreak was declared earlier this month, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Sunday.

The ongoing phase of vaccination targets frontline health workers and contacts of confirmed cases, the WHO said in a statement.

An initial batch of 400 doses of the

coolers to reduce mosquito breeding.

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Swine fever: South Korea issued a quarantine alert over the reported case of the African swine fever (ASF), the interior ministry said Monday.

The ASF case was confirmed on Sunday night at a pig farm in Yeoncheon county, Gyeonggi province, according to the Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

It marked the fifth case this year, with the previous one reported in July.

The quarantine authorities issued a red alert across the country, giving a 48-hour standstill order for pig farms and relevant facilities in Yeoncheon and surrounding areas until 8:00 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) on Tuesday.

The authorities sent a quarantine team to strengthen disinfection around and control access to the Yeoncheon pig farm while culling the affected pigs.

Gastroenteritis: Seventeen children and two staff members at a pre-school in eastern Singapore developed symptoms of gastroenteritis from Sept. 9, authorities said on Sunday.

No one was hospitalized, and the case is under investigation, according to a joint statement by the Communicable Diseases Agency, the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA).

The ECDA said it is monitoring the situation and working with the pre-school operator to safeguard the well-being of pupils and staff. The agency has also reminded the pre-school to comply with infection prevention and control guidelines.

Meanwhile, the SFA has been working with the ECDA to strengthen food safety practices in pre-schools, the statement added.



Health workers dressed in protective gear begin their shift at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo DRC, Tuesday, July 16, 2019. (AP)

Ervebo vaccine, which protects against the Zaire ebolavirus species behind the current outbreak, has arrived in Bulape, one of the epicenters of the epidemic in Kasai Province. About 45,000 additional doses are expected to be shipped in the coming days, according to the WHO.

Containing the outbreak is possible if appropriate measures are taken within the next two weeks, WHO Program Area Manager Patrick Otim told a press briefing in Geneva on Friday. He said another 1,500 doses were available in Kinshasa, the country's capital, and would be deployed once ultra-cold chain storage is operational.

At least 68 suspected cases have been reported, including 16 deaths, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday at an on-

line briefing. The WHO said on Friday that 25 cases have been confirmed.

The epicenter of the outbreak is located near Tshikapa, the capital of Kasai Province, about 100 to 200 km from the Angolan border. The outbreak is currently affecting a remote rural district, though frequent population movements between Bulape and Tshikapa increase the risk of wider spread.

It is the 16th Ebola outbreak recorded in the DRC since 1976. Kasai Province previously reported Ebola outbreaks in 2007 and 2008, according to the WHO. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing, with transmission chains and the source of infection yet to be identified. The WHO currently assesses the public health risk as high at the national level, moderate at the regional level, and low at the global level.

Heat-related deaths could rise 444%

Millions of Australian homes at risk from rising sea levels: gov't report

CANBERRA, Sept 15, (Xinhua): Millions of Australian homes will be at risk from rising sea levels and heat-related deaths will more than double if global warming exceeds 3 degrees Celsius, according to a government report released on Monday. Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA), which was released on Monday by the Australian Climate Service (ACS), found that 1.5 million coastal homes would be at risk from rising sea levels by 2050 if warming exceeds 3C above pre-industrial levels.

By 2090, the report said more than 3 million homes will be at risk from rising sea levels if warming exceeds 3C.

Under a 3C warming scenario, it said the number of heat-related deaths would increase by 444 percent in Sydney and by 259 percent in Melbourne. If global warming is limited to 1.5C, heat-related deaths would increase by 103 percent in Sydney and by 60 percent in Melbourne, the report said.

"Australians are already living with the consequences of climate change today but it's clear every degree of warming we prevent now will help future generations avoid the worst impacts in years to come," Chris Bowen, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, said in a statement.

The NCRA found that global average temperatures are currently 1.2C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average, but that Australia's climate has warmed by 1.5C since na-

tional records began in 1910.

At 3C of warming, it said that Australian species would be forced to move, adapt to new conditions or die out, with up to 70 percent of native plants exposed to conditions that they do not currently experience.

In response to the report, the government released Australia's first National Adaptation Plan outlining adaptation actions already underway.

The government is expected to announce Australia's 2035 emissions reduction target within days.

Meanwhile, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting ended with a landmark regional climate finance facility, but a sour taste of "Australian climate hypocrisy," reported Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) on Sunday.

Despite promising a Pacific partnership in tackling the climate crisis, the Australian government simultaneously approved the extension of the North West Shelf gas project from 2030 to 2070, the FBC said.

This decision raised eyebrows among climate activists and leaders in the Pacific, who view it as contradictory to Australia's stated dedication to climate action. The meeting saw the Pacific Resilience Facility formally established as a means of accessing direct, grant-based finance for communities grappling with the impacts of climate change.

Hull takes advantage of Thitikul's meltdown

Scheffler wins Procore Championship in Ryder Cup preparation

NAPA, Calif., Sept 15, (AP): Scottie Scheffler wanted to stay sharp ahead of the Ryder Cup and the world's No. 1 player looked every bit of that Sunday, closing with a 5-under 67 to win the Procore Championship for his sixth PGA Tour victory of the year.

Scheffler made up a two-shot deficit on Ryder Cup teammate Ben Griffin, who was poised to force a playoff until he three-putted the par-5 18th from 60 feet for par to finish one behind.

Griffin, who started the final round with three straight birdies, shot a 70. He had a birdie putt from 5 feet on the 18th that caught the left edge and spun away. It was the second time this year he has finished runner-up to the world's No. 1 player.

Scheffler was one of the players who earlier in the year targeted the Procore Championship as a good spot for the Ryder Cup team to play so they could avoid the mistake of two years ago when all but two of them had a month off.

Scheffler made up eight shots on Griffin over the weekend with a 64-67 finish. It was his 19th career victory on the PGA Tour.

There were plenty of fans, the largest crowd Silverado has seen since the tournament moved to wine country



Charley Hull, of England, holds the trophy after winning the Kroger Queen City Championship golf tournament at TPC River's Bend in Cincinnati. (AP)

in 2014. And most of them were with Scheffler, who joined Tiger Woods as the only players to have at least six wins in back-to-back seasons in the last 40 years.

Auburn junior Jackson Koivun, the No. 1 amateur in the world who played

in the final group, was two shots behind with seven holes to play when he took a soft bogey on the par-5 12th and then bogeyed the 13th when he went long of the green. Koivun closed with a 71 and tied for fourth.

Charley Hull took advantage of



Scottie Scheffler holds the trophy after winning the Procore Championship on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at Silverado Resort in Napa, California, for his sixth PGA Tour title of the year. (AP)

top-ranked Jeeno Thitikul's final-hole putting meltdown to win the Kroger Queen City Championship.

Thitikul - a stroke ahead after Hull bogeyed the par-4 17th - four-putted the par-5 18th from about 50 feet, missing a 5-footer and a 3-foot come-

backer. Hull two-putted from about 30 feet, making a 2-footer for the victory.

Fighting ankle and back issues, Hull closed with a 4-under 68 to finish at 20-under 268 at TPC River's Bend. The 29-year-old English player won her third LPGA Tour title and first

since 2022. She also has four victories on the Ladies European Tour.

Thitikul matched Hull with a 68. The Thai star - the winner in May at Liberty National in New Jersey, missed a chance to become the first multiple winner on the tour this season.

Lottie Woad of England was third at 18 under after a 66.

Alex Noren turned a bad shot into a playoff victory, chipping from short of a stream to 3 feet for birdie on the par-5 18th hole at Wentworth to beat Adrien Saddier of France and win the BMW PGA Championship for the second time.

Both closed with a 4-under 68, two shots ahead of Aaron Rai and Patrick Reed.

In the playoff on the par-5 18th, Saddier found a tough lie left of the green. Noren hit fairway metal heavy and feared it would go into the stream. It was so bad it came up short of the water, leaving him a good lie in thick grass.

Noren now has won twice in his last three starts on the European Tour - he won the British Masters three weeks ago at The Belfry. He won for the 12th time on the European Tour and should move into the top 20 in the world ranking.

Allegri sent off late on

Modric joins exclusive 40 club with milestone goal in Milan win

MILAN, Sept 15, (AP): Luka Modric scored days after his 40th birthday to join an exclusive club and give AC Milan a 1-0 win over Bologna in Serie A.

Modric, who celebrated his birthday on Tuesday, became the sixth player to score in the Italian league after turning 40, including most recently Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Fabio Quagliarella.

"I hope someone next time will not remind me of my age anymore," Modric said with a laugh.

Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri was sent off late on - in his third league match back in charge of Milan - for dissent after a penalty awarded to the Rossoneri was revoked on video review.

In familiar scenes from his time at Juventus, Allegri angrily threw off his jacket and also sarcastically shouted "Bravo" at the officials as he was escorted away.

"At that moment I had some things to say to the fourth official, fortunately the jacket saved me," said Allegri, who also heaped praise on Modric.

"Luka is an extraordinary player and it's a pleasure to watch him, but he is also a really humble guy, and that's a demonstration of what a great champion he is. He knows a minute before where the ball will go, and he has such extraordinary technique,"

Pervis Estupinan hit the post for Milan in the first half but Allegri's team struggled to break Bologna down until the 61st minute.

Modric started the move midway inside his own half, finding Ruben Loftus-Cheek to go forward and spread the ball for Alexis Saelemaekers. The Belgium international cut inside and rolled it across for the onrushing Modric to drive into the back of the net from just inside the area.

Samuele Ricci, who had just come off the bench, saw an effort

come off the post and Milan hit the woodwork for a third time in the match through Santiago Gimenez.

The match also saw Adrien Rabiot and Jonathan Rowe face each other following a locker room bust-up that forced them both out of Marseille last month. Rabiot started the match for Milan, while Rowe came on in the second half for Bologna.

Argentinian forward Giovanni Simeone scored his first Serie A goal in more than a year to help Torino to a surprise 1-0 win at Roma.

It was Torino's first win of the season under new coach Marco Baroni and Roma's first loss after two 1-0 victories in Gian Piero Gasperini's first two matches in charge.

Simeone - the son of Atlético Madrid coach Diego Simeone - joined Torino from Italian champion Napoli last month. And he opened his account in stunning fashion in the 59th minute, starting and finishing the move.

The 30-year-old got past his marker to spark a counter and then played a one-two with Cyril Ngonge, getting on the return pass to curl a magnificent strike into the top-right corner.

Simeone last scored in the Italian league in August 2024.

Nicola Zalewski grabbed a goal and an assist and also hit the crossbar to help Atalanta crush Lecce 4-1 for its first win since Ivan Juric replaced Gasperini.

Giorgio Scalvini headed in Zalewski's corner shortly before halftime for the opener.

The Poland wing back scored his first goal for the club in the 70th, cutting inside between two defenders and drilling into the bottom left corner.

That came either side of a brace from Charles Ketelaer and after Zalewski had seen a free kick crash off the bar early in the second half.



AC Milan's Luka Modric celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during a Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Bologna at San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Flamengo cruises past Juventus: Giorgian de Arrascaeta and Emerson Royal scored either side of halftime as leaders Flamengo cruised to a 2-0 away win over Juventus in Brazil's Serie A on Sunday.

De Arrascaeta put the visitors ahead in the 32nd minute, timing his run to perfection to head home after Saul Niguez's cross.

Emerson added a second by latching onto Jorge Carrascal's in-swinging free kick with a header at the far post. (Xinhua)

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Willemse retires from rugby: Former France forward Paul Willemse announced his retirement from rugby on Monday after sustaining multiple concussions during his career.

The South Africa-born lock has not played since October last year, when he was taken off for a concussion when playing for club side Montpellier. Willemse said he had been concussed six times in his career.

"After many years on the field, it is time to close this chapter," Willemse posted on Instagram. "Choosing to stop after multiple concussions has been the hardest decision I've ever made. For a long time, I tried to hold on, because when you've lived one dream, it's frightening to imagine life beyond it." (Xinhua)

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Riccitello joins French team: Promising American cyclist Matthew Riccitello, who finished fifth overall in the Spanish Vuelta and won the white jersey for best young rider, is joining a French team with big ambitions in 2026.

The 23-year-old rider from Tucson, Arizona, has signed with the Decathlon CMA CGM team for the next three seasons, the French outfit said on Monday.

"I want to continue to progress as a rider in stage races and grand tours. I'm convinced that this team will push me to reach my full potential," said Riccitello, who is known for his climbing skills. (AP)

PSG begins Champions League defense, revamped format promises more drama



Manchester City's Bernardo Silva receives the ball in front of Manchester United's Manuel Ugarte during the Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Manchester United in Manchester, England. (AP)

Europe's giants ready for another wild ride

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 15, (AP): The new-look Champions League format brought upsets, thrills, and ultimately a new winner of European club soccer's elite prize last season. Now Europe's top teams are ready to go again.

It all kicks off on Tuesday, with a first round of games being played over three days this week.

Paris Saint-Germain triumphed in May with the biggest win in a final in the tournament's history - routing Inter Milan 5-0. But its route to the final was far from smooth, having looked in danger of being eliminated at the first phase.

That was the type of drama and jeopardy UEFA wanted when embarking on a radical revamp of the competition. Gone were predictable mini groups where, more often than not, the favorites advanced. In their place was a league phase where "every game counts" and a sense of jeopardy carried through to the final round of fixtures, with the likes of Real Madrid, Manchester City, and PSG all uncertain of their fate.

Yes, the tournament was still won by one of the most powerful and expensively assembled teams in the world in PSG - but a new name was added to the famous old trophy and the format shake-up created a level of unpredictability rarely seen in recent times.

UEFA introduced a new 36-team league phase of the competition to replace the previous format of eight groups of four.

It means more teams, more games, and more money. And last season, it also meant more danger for the elite.

Rather than playing every group opponent twice, teams play one game against eight different sides.

The draw for the league phase involved four seeding pots, with the highest-ranking teams in pot one and the lowest in pot four. Teams were drawn to play against two opponents from every pot.

The result is more games between the highest-ranking teams in the first phase. For instance, Madrid plays both Liverpool and Manchester City. PSG plays Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

While the format hardly improves the chances of a winner coming from

a league like Norway or Switzerland, it does give lower-ranked teams more of a chance to build points and advance to the playoffs or the round of 16. That's because they are guaranteed two games against opponents from pot four and therefore play teams of a similar quality, rather than just being rolled over by the elite.

Last season, Brest and Brugge advanced to the playoffs. Young Boys and Slovan Bratislava, however, were pointless.

The top eight teams advance to the round of 16. The next 16 teams enter a two-legged playoff, with eight advancing.

The team placed ninth, the team placed 24th, with 10th playing 23rd, and so on.

Last year, that led to more drama with the previous two champions, Madrid and Manchester City, meeting in the playoffs, with City eliminated.

Liverpool topped the league phase - beating Madrid, AC Milan, and Bayer Leverkusen - but PSG's struggles meant it had to progress via the playoffs, and the pair were drawn against each other in the round of 16.

PSG, having finished 14 places below Liverpool and picked up eight fewer points, won the two-legged matchup and went on to lift the trophy.

Liverpool coach Arne Slot described his team as "so, so, so unlucky" to come up against "one of the best teams in Europe" after losing 4-1 in a penalty shootout. "That's the format we are in and we have to accept it," he said.

Newly-crowned world champion Chelsea marks its return to the Champions League with a mouthwatering trip to Bayern Munich on Wednesday. On the same night, PSG begins its defense against Atalanta, and Liverpool has a testing home game against Atletico Madrid.

On Thursday, Newcastle hosts Bar-

celona, and Manchester City is at home against Italian champion Napoli.

Last season's triumph ended PSG's long wait to conquer Europe. Now the challenge is to stay there and do what only Madrid has managed in the Champions League era - retain the trophy.

The swashbuckling style of Luis Enrique's team appeared to usher in a new era in European soccer. The dominant performance against Inter Milan in the final set a new benchmark.

But holding on to the trophy is notoriously difficult, and PSG's rivals have strengthened in a bid to topple the French giant.

Notably, Liverpool has spent around \$500 million to improve a team that won the Premier League last season.

Madrid, meanwhile, has a new coach in Xabi Alonso, while Pep Guardiola's Manchester City rebuild has also seen around \$500 million of arrivals since January.



PSG's Lee Kang In, left, challenges for the ball with Lens' Adrien Thomasson, right, during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Lens at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. Defending champion Paris Saint-Germain extended its perfect start to the French league with a fourth straight win by beating Lens 2-0. But the victory was overshadowed by more injuries for the European champion ahead of its Champions League opener. (AP)

Germany crowned EuroBasket champion

Greece edges Finland for bronze

RIGA, Latvia, Sept 15, (AP): Dennis Schröder simply took over to deliver more gold for Germany.

Schröder had the game's final six points, Isaac Bonga scored a team-best 20 points and Germany topped Turkey 88-83 on Sunday in the gold medal game at the European championship.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, leading Greece past Finland, 92-89 for the bronze medal earlier.

It was Germany's first EuroBasket title since 1993 and comes two years after the team - largely with the same core - won the World Cup title in 2023.

Franz Wagner scored 18 points and Schröder finished with 16 points and 12 assists for Germany, which finished the tournament 9-0. The game had 15 lead changes and 11 ties, with the final lead change coming when Schröder scored on a drive to put Germany up by one with 1:15 left.

He added a jumper with 18.7 seconds remaining and after Turkey's Alperen Sengun missed a 3-pointer that would have tied it, Schröder sealed gold with a pair of free throws.

"To be a World Cup winner and a European champion, that's big time," Schröder said. Sengun had 28 points for Turkey, which got 23 from Cedi Osman and a 13-point, nine-assist, six-rebound game from Shane Larkin.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, lead-



Germany players celebrate after winning the EuroBasket, European Basketball Championship final match between Turkey and Germany at the Riga Arena in Riga, Latvia, Sunday. (AP)

ing Greece past Finland for the bronze medal earlier.

It was Greece's first EuroBasket medal since winning bronze in 2009.

It was the sixth time that Greece finished on the podium at the EuroBasket, with two golds, one silver and three bronze medals. Utah Jazz forward

Lauri Markkanen had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Finland.

Greece - which never trailed and led by 17 at one point - had an 11-point

lead with less than two minutes remaining, but Finland rallied.

Elias Valtonen had a chance to tie the game with three free throws with

five seconds left but missed the third. Antetokounmpo eventually controlled the rebound for Greece and sealed the game with a pair of free throws.

Al-Otaibi leads delegation

Kuwait Club begins camp in Türkiye

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ISTANBUL, Sept 15: Kuwait Club's first volleyball team has traveled to Turkey for a pre-season training camp that includes participation in a friendly tournament alongside Turkish clubs Bursa Spor and Gebze Spor, as well as Libya's Al-Swehli.

The team arrived yesterday and will remain in Turkey until September 25 as part of preparations for the new season, which officially begins on September 26.

The delegation is led by team director Mohammed Al-Otaibi and includes assistant coach Dr. Abdullah Taleb, fitness trainer Kozak, team manager Abdulaziz Duwisan, and physiotherapist Mohammed Saleh Al-Shabi. The roster features players Abdullah Jassim, Amer Al-Saleem, Omar Al-Enezi, Hamad Al-Sager, Ahmed Al-Hamdan, Nasser Al-Sane, Abdulaziz Najm, Khaled



Kuwait Club volleyball players in action during a match.

Bouarki, Ahmed Al-Suraheid, Athbi Al-Enezi, Ibrahim Safar, Abdullah Al-Muwaina, and Ab-

dulrahman Kamel, along with Estonian professional Oliver Veno.

Brazilian coach Carlos Eduardo, recently appointed to lead the team this season, will join the team during the camp. The club has also strengthened its lineup with professionals Veno and Canadian Nicholas Hoag as it looks to defend the titles it won last season.

The domestic league will open with a preliminary round involving all clubs before splitting into Premier and First Divisions. The team finishing first in the preliminary stage will carry one win into the next phase.

In the second stage, both divisions will compete in a three-phase league format, with the title going to the team with the most victories. The international points system will be applied: a 3-0 or 3-1 win earns three points for the winner, while the loser gets none; a 3-2 result gives the winner two points and the loser one.

Al-Fatat claims key victory in Arab Women's Basketball Championship

MADINAH, Sept 15: Al-Fatat of Kuwait secured an important 78-71 win over Bahrain's Al-Hala in the fourth round of the 26th Arab Women's Club Basketball Championship, hosted at Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Hall in Madinah.

The victory lifted Al-Fatat's tally to six points, placing the Kuwaiti side in joint second with Jordan's Shabab Al-Fuheis - who handed hosts Al-Ula of Saudi Arabia their first defeat of the competition (75-68) - and Algeria's Cosidar, which defeated fellow Kuwaiti club Al-Qurain 72-52.

The preliminary stage concludes today with three decisive fixtures: Al-Fatat face Shabab Al-Fuheis at 3:00 p.m., Al-Qurain meets Sharjah of the UAE at 5:00 p.m., and Al-Ula clash with Cosidar at 7:00 p.m.

Seven clubs are competing in this year's championship, which runs un-



Al-Fatat players compete fiercely against Al-Hala of Bahrain.

til September 19. Following the group stage, teams will be ranked from first to seventh. The top two will contest the title, while the third- and fourth-placed sides will battle for the bronze medal.

Al Hilal, Al Duhail set for AFC Elite Champs League opener

RIYADH, Sept 15: Al Hilal begins its 2025-2026 AFC Elite Championships League campaign tonight with a home clash against Al Duhail at Kingdom Arena.

The Riyadh giant heads into the game with renewed confidence under new coach Simone Inzaghi, determined to claim all three points and make an early statement in their bid to reclaim the title. The team also hopes to bounce back after last season's disappointing finish.

According to Saudi daily Al-Yaum, Al Hilal's squad for the match includes three fresh additions: Marcos Leonardo, Yusuf Aktisisc, and Matteo Botlimet.

Leonardo was registered for the Elite Championships League squad but left out of the Saudi Pro League roster due to the foreign-player quota, while Aktisisc and Botlimet joined during the summer transfer window.

Al Hilal warmed up for the con-



Players contesting the ball during training session.

tinental showdown with a 2-2 draw against Qadsia in the Saudi Pro League on Saturday - their final rehearsal before facing Al Duhail.

Elsewhere, Shabab Al Ahli launches its Elite Championships League journey today against Iran's Tractor Sazi at Rashid Stadium in Dubai.

Vuelta organizers defend decision to keep Israel-based team in race

MADRID, Sept 15, (AP): Spanish Vuelta organizers on Monday defended their decision to keep an Israel-based team in the cycling race despite pro-Palestinian protests that ultimately provoked chaotic scenes in a disrupted finale in Madrid this weekend.

Sunday's final stage had to be cut short after protesters threw barriers onto the road and clashed with police near the finish line in the Spanish capital.

The Vuelta race director condemned calls for the boycott of the three-week-long race that became a diplomatic battleground as protesters called for team Israel Premier Tech to be expelled.

Javier Guillén said there was nothing organizers could have done regarding the presence of the Israeli team.

"The Vuelta's position was clear, we had to abide to the norms of the International Cycling Union. It's the UCI that regulates the right of admission

to the race," Guillén said in a news conference. "We never got into any other type of debate. All we wanted to do was to be able to finish the race with normalcy, and that wasn't possible."

Spain's left-wing government expressed sympathy with the protesters and suggested Israel Premier Tech should withdraw from the race. The team removed the team name from its uniforms but remained in the race until the end.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar on Sunday criticized Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez for what he said was encouragement for the protesters. Madrid's conservative mayor, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, also criticized Sánchez and described Sunday's events as a sad day for the Spanish capital.

"When you call for a boycott of the race and the race is boycotted, that obviously hurts those who are involved in the race," Guillén said, adding that he was not referring specifically to Sánchez's comments.

Aces, Liberty, and Dream start strong

Lynx dominates Valkyries in playoff opener

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept 15, (AP): Napheesa Collier scored 20 points to lead five players in double figures and the Minnesota Lynx breezed to a 101-72 victory over the Golden State Valkyries on Sunday in Game 1 of the best-of-three first-round WNBA series.

Collier hit 7 of 11 shots with a 3-pointer and all five of her free throws, adding six rebounds.

Natisha Hiedeman made two 3-pointers and scored 18 for the Lynx, while Kayla McBride added 17. Jessica Shepard had 12 points and eight rebounds and Courtney Williams pitched in with 11 points and four steals.

Aces 102, Storm 77

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson scored 29 points to help the No. 2 seed Las Vegas Aces beat the seventh-seeded Seattle Storm 102-77 in Game 1 of their best-of-three first-round playoff series.

Las Vegas closed the season with 16 consecutive wins, tying the 2014



Indiana Fever guard Shey Peddy (5) drives the ball during the second half of Game 1 against the Atlanta Dream in the first round of the WNBA basketball playoffs Sunday. (AP)

Phoenix Mercury for the second-longest regular-season win streak in WNBA history. Las Vegas can advance to the semifinals with a win in

Game 2 on Tuesday in Seattle.

Liberty 76, Mercury 69, OT
In Phoenix, Natasha Cloud scored 23 points, Breanna Stewart added 18

before hurting her knee in overtime and the New York Liberty beat the Phoenix Mercury of their best-of-three first-round playoff series.

New York will advance to the semifinals with a win in Game 2 on Wednesday in New York.

Stewart fell to the ground and grabbed at her left knee after making a layup with 3:01 to play in overtime. She stayed in the game and missed the free throw, trying to play through the injury. She left the game about a minute later and didn't return.

Dream 80, Fever 68

In College Park, Allisha Gray and Rhyné Howard scored 20 points apiece to help the Atlanta Dream beat the Indiana Fever.

Naz Hillmon, who was the AP Sixth Person of the Year, added 16 points and nine rebounds for the third-seeded Dream. Atlanta can advance to the semifinals with a win in Game 2 on Tuesday in Indianapolis.

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NEWS



Sweden's Armand Duplantis poses after setting a new men's pole vault world record of 6.30 meters, at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

Sports

Mondo breaks pole vault world record for 14th time

Simbu clinches Tanzania's first-ever gold

TOKYO, Sept 15, (Agencies): Armand "Mondo" Duplantis broke the pole vault world record for the 14th time Monday night, clearing 6.30 meters to capture his third world championship.

Duplantis, who grew up in Louisiana but competes for his mother's native Sweden, easily won his 49th straight meet and fifth straight major title, including Olympics, then kept the crowd around for another drama-rich half-hour to watch him go for the record.

He cleared his top height (20 feet, 8 inches) on his third and final try -- the bar still bouncing but not falling as he leaped off the mat and jumped into second-place finisher Emmanouil Karalis' arms to start the celebration.

Duplantis gets \$70,000 for the victory plus a \$100,000 bonus for setting the record at the world championships. The jam-packed stadium that stuck around for his finale gets a great memory.

"To give you guys this moment, it's just amazing," Duplantis said in an in-stadium interview.

The 25-year-old first broke the record on Feb. 8, 2020, clearing 6.17 meters and knocking France's 2012 Olympic champion, Renaud Lavillenie, off the top spot.

Since then, Duplantis has improved upon the record by one centimeter every time, giving him more opportunities to pocket bonuses like the one he gets at this event.

"What Mondo has in spades is

what every pole vaulter is trying to achieve," said Sam Kendrick, the fourth-place finisher who is the last man not named Duplantis to win a world title (in 2019). "He's got a jump, he's got the jets. He's got a family that really supports him, and then he's got a field of guys that's really pushing him up there."

As great a showman as an athlete, Duplantis shared handshakes and hugs with all those guys after Karalis missed at 6.20 meters to guarantee Duplantis the win.

He headed over to the edge of the track to consult with his coach, walked back near the runway and took a seat, then stood up, chalked up his hands and let the drama begin.

Just as he did a year ago at the Paris Olympics, Duplantis missed his first two tries, leaving himself with one, last all-or-nothing attempt.

After sitting for about five minutes, he got up, took off, reached a speed of more than 35 kilometers per hour (22 mph), then went vaulting over the highest height ever cleared -- enough room to fit a full-sized pickup truck.

London World Championships bronze medalist Alphonse Felix Simbu waited eight years for his second medal on the global stage, and this time he made history by becoming the first Tanzanian to win gold at the World Athletics Championships with victory in the men's marathon.

The 42.195-kilometer race came down to a 100-meter sprint in the Japan National Stadium, where the 33-year-old Simbu edged Germany's Amanuel Petros at the line. Both clocked two hours, nine minutes and 48 seconds, with the photo finish confirming Simbu ahead by just 0.03 seconds - the



New Zealand's Geordie Beamish, Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali and other athletes compete in the men's 3,000 meters steeplechase final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

smallest winning margin ever in a global championship marathon.

Italy's Ilias Aouani, 29, took bronze in 2:09:53.

In a rare sight at a major marathon, neither Kenya nor Ethiopia placed a runner in the top 15.

China's national record holder He Jie finished 26th in 2:14:52, with teammates Yang Shaohui and Wu Xiangdong placing 30th and 31st.

New Zealand's Geordie Beamish delivered a dramatic upset in the men's

3,000m steeplechase final at the World Athletics Championships on Monday, outsprinting Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali in the final strides to secure his first global title.

Beamish, 28, clocked 8:33.88, edging

out two-time Olympic champion and two-time world champion El Bakkali by a mere 0.07 seconds. El Bakkali settled for silver, while Kenya's Edmund Serem claimed bronze with a time of 8:34.56.

Kuwait wins gold, 4 bronze medals at Arab Table Tennis Championship

CASABLANCA, Sept 15, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti national table tennis team secured one gold and four bronze medals in the team events at the 2025 Arab Table Tennis Championship, currently taking place in Casablanca, Morocco.

The U-11 gold medal was claimed by Sheikha Al-Ali, Haya Abdullah, and Al-Joud Al-Sanawi. In addition, the national squad earned four bronze medals across different age categories: Meshaan Al-Mansouri and Osama Al-Kandari in the U-11 doubles, Rayan Al-Eidan and Maryam Al-Helwaji in the U-17 doubles, Abdullah Al-Haddad, Fahad Al-Shammari, and Meshal Falhan in the U-19 team event, and

Maryam Baron and Jana Abdullah in the general doubles category.

The Kuwaiti delegation hopes to continue its strong performance in the singles competitions, which began today and feature some of the highest-ranked players from across the Arab world.

Organized by the Arab Table Tennis Federation in cooperation with the Royal Moroccan Table Tennis Federation, the championship runs from September 12 to 18 in Casablanca. The tournament brings together 300 male and female athletes from 14 countries, including Kuwait, providing a key platform for the development of table tennis in the Arab region and

Raphinha and Lewandowski score off the bench

Barca moves within 2 points of Real after Valencia rout

MADRID, Sept 15, (AP): Raphinha, Robert Lewandowski, and Fermin Lopez scored two goals each as Barcelona routed Valencia 6-0 in the Spanish league.

The match was played at the team's training facility because the Catalan club doesn't yet have the proper permits to reopen the renovated Camp Nou stadium.

Barcelona got the victory despite playing without the injured Lamine Yamal.

It was the third win in four matches to open the season for Barcelona, which moved within two points of early league leader Real Madrid, which won 2-1 at Real Sociedad on Saturday.

Barcelona had to play its first home league game of the season at the 6,000-capacity Estadi Johan Cruyff while it waits for the permits that will allow it to return to the Camp Nou, which will seat nearly 100,000 fans.

The Johan Cruyff facility typically hosts the Barcelona women's team and men's reserve and youth squads.

Barcelona played the last two seasons at the city's publicly owned Olympic Stadium while renovation work at the Camp Nou took place.

Barcelona was in control from the start against Valencia. Lopez scored his goals in the 29th and 56th minutes, Raphinha netted in the 53rd and 66th, and Lewandowski got on the board in the 76th and 86th.



Valencia's Cesar Tarrega, right, and Barcelona's Marcus Rashford vie for the ball during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Valencia at the Johan Cruyff stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Both Raphinha and Lewandowski scored their goals after coming off the bench. Unconfirmed Spanish media reports stated that Raphinha did not start

because he was late reporting to the team on Sunday.

Lewandowski had not previously scored for Barcelona in this league

season.

Valencia, sitting near the bottom of the standings with two losses, had only two attempts, with one of them on target.

Political tension spills onto cricket field

No handshakes between India and Pakistan players

DUBAI, Sept 15, (AP): The strained political relations between India and Pakistan spilled onto the cricket field when no handshakes were exchanged between players - before or after their Asia Cup game in Dubai.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said match referee Andy Pycroft of Zimbabwe requested both captains - Suryakumar Yadav of India and Salman Ali Agha of Pakistan - not to shake hands during the pre-game coin toss on Sunday.

The PCB, in a late-night statement released in Urdu to domestic media, described Pycroft's decision as "against sportsmanship" and said team manager Naveed Akram Cheema registered a "formal protest against the match referee's behavior" with the International Cricket Council. The ICC is yet to issue a public response.

"Utterly disappointing to witness the lack of sportsmanship," PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi wrote in a post on X. "Dragging politics into the game goes against the very spirit of sports. Lets hope future victories are celebrated by all teams with grace."

Naqvi is also the current president of the Asian Cricket Council and de-



India's Tilak Varma plays a shot during the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

manded "an immediate removal" of Pycroft from further duties at the Asia Cup.

Suryakumar, who hit the winning runs for India as India's spinners scripted a seven-wicket win over

archival Pakistan with 25 balls remaining, didn't wait for the customary handshakes with opposing players after the match before walking to the dressing room along with his teammate Shivam Dube.

Agha reacted by skipping a post-match TV interview with former India international cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar, a move which Pakistan coach Mike Hesson described as a "follow-on effect."

"We were ready to shake hands at the end of the game, we obviously are disappointed that our opposition didn't do that," added Hesson, a New Zealander who was appointed to the Pakistan job in May. "We sort of went over there to shake hands and they'd already gone into the changing room."

"That was a disappointing way for the match to finish, and a match we were disappointed for the way we played but we were certainly willing to shake hands."

Sunday's game was the first between the top cricket teams from India and Pakistan since the Pahalgam attack in April, when gunmen opened fire on a group of tourists in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

India is the designated host of the eight-nation Asia Cup, but the Twenty20 tournament is being played in the United Arab Emirates because the India and Pakistan cricket teams don't play on each other's territory.

Kuwaiti goalkeepers, referees shine at Arab Club Handball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Kuwait Club continues to impress as host of the 40th Arab Club Handball Championship for League and Cup Winners, currently taking place at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex and running until September 22.

The team's goalkeepers, brothers Ali and Hassan Safar, have been standout performers, playing a decisive role in securing three straight wins in the preliminary round to give "Al-Abyad" maximum points and top spot in Group A.

Ali Safar was named the best goalkeeper of the third round with 19 saves, while Hassan had led the second round with 17 saves. In the opening round, Hassan also ranked second with 10 saves. Their consistent brilliance has made Kuwait Club's goalkeeping a major strength, boosting hopes of reaching the final and capturing a third consecutive Arab title.

Today's fixtures in the penultimate group stage round feature Group A clashes between Naft Al-Basra and Kazma at 4:00 p.m., followed by Kuwait Club against Syria's Al-Shabab at 8:00 p.m. In Group B, Syria's Al-Nawair faces Egypt's Al-Ahly Bank at 2

p.m., while Al-Sulaibikhat meets Iraq's Al-Hashd at 6:00 p.m.

Kuwaiti referees have also left their mark on the tournament. Officials Mohammed Bouyabes and Hamad Maher are part of the refereeing crew, while Ahmed Al-Mutawa — Vice Chairman of the Arab Handball Federation Referees Committee and head of Kuwait's Referees Committee — serves as a technical committee member and tournament supervisor.

Al-Mutawa praised the performance of Kuwaiti referees, noting their high standards and the federation's commitment to developing more officials as Kuwait prepares to host future regional and continental events. "It is a big responsibility, but I hope to represent Kuwaiti referees in the best possible way," he said, while commending the excellent organization of the tournament.

Referee Maher added that the choice of a Kuwaiti crew reflects the strong reputation of local referees. He credited workshops and training programs organized by the federation for raising refereeing standards, stressing that current successes are the result of long-term investment.

He also praised the smooth running of the championship on both administrative and organizational levels, wishing success to all referees involved.



Ali Safar makes a save during the Arab Club Handball Championship.