

Schools go all-healthy

20 meal providers score deal

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: With the start of the new academic year, attention is turning to school canteens as an important part of the educational environment and a major contributor to student health.

In this context, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced a comprehensive plan to regulate school canteen operations and provide healthy, safe meals, with the approval of 20 supply companies that meet the highest nutritional standards.

Director General of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Dr. Reem Al-Faleej affirmed the authority's strong commitment to the role of school canteens in supporting student health and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Continued on Page 5



HH Amir receives credentials of Ambassador of Poland.



HH Amir receives credentials of Ambassador of Benin.

HH Amir accepts credentials from five new ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday the credentials of several foreign diplomats.

The diplomats were Dr. Adam Abdo Hassan; Ambassador of the Republic of Niger, Dr. Brahimia Diakite Kaba; Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia, Badero Agumon; Ambassador of the Republic of Benin, Michal Cholewa; Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, and Hassan Sogo; Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director of the Office of His Highness the Amir Lieutenant General Jamal Al-Theyab, Undersecretary of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Abdulaziz Meshal Mubarak Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs and Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulmohsen Al-Zaid, and Commander of the Amiri Guard Major General Bader Al-Sahloul.



HH Amir receives credentials of Ambassador of Niger.



HH Amir receives credentials of Ambassador of Senegal.



HH Amir receives credentials of Ambassador of Liberia.

Amiri Diwan photos

Summit issues strong statement against Israeli aggression

FM offers condolences to Qatari martyr's family

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: In a gesture that reflects the depth of brotherly relations between Kuwait and Qatar, Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya expressed his condolences to the family of Saad Al-Dosari -- the Qatari martyr killed in the Israeli airstrike on Qatar last week.

Al-Yahya offered condolences when he attended the Arab-Islamic Summit hosted by Doha recently. Members of the official delegation accompanying Al-Yahya at the summit, along with the Kuwaiti Embassy staff in Qatar, headed by Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy, Minister Plenipotentiary Mohammad Al-Zoubi joined the minister in this gesture.

The gesture reflects the diplomatic and humanitar-

ian solidarity that Kuwait strives to uphold in various forums. This humanitarian initiative embodies the Kuwaiti diplomacy's commitment to adhere to noble values and share the feelings of its brothers in various situations, thereby, strengthening the Gulf bond.

The gesture is also a manifestation of an aspect of the steadfast approach of the State of Kuwait, which always affirms that political and diplomatic summits are inseparable from the humanitarian dimension, and that Arab solidarity is embodied in action and stance before words and rhetoric.

The martyr's family highly appreciated such a gesture, as it conveyed a message of sincere love and brotherhood, while confirming the unity of the people of the Gulf in good and bad times.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held an extraordinary meeting

on Monday in Doha on the implications of the blatant Israeli occupation aggression on Qatar and adopted a final statement.

The statement reads as follows:

1. The Supreme Council strongly condemned the Israeli occupation aggression and blatant violation of the sovereignty of the State of Qatar, asserting that this aggressive act represents a serious and unacceptable escalation and a violation of the principles of international law and the United Nations charter.

2. The council affirmed full solidarity of the GCC states with the State of Qatar in all measures to confront this aggression, stressing that the security of the GCC states is indivisible, and that any aggression against any of them is an aggression on all of them, in accordance with the Joint Defense Agreement.

Continued on Page 5

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Only peace will end Israel

THE Arab and Islamic Summit in Doha, Qatar has concluded. His Highness the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani delivered a speech during the summit. He explained the position clearly and revealed the details of the Israeli aggression against his country.

HH the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad dotted the i's and crossed the t's regarding what could be done in response to the lies and pretexts of Tel Aviv.

Several stances were discussed regarding the mechanisms for responding and preserving the collective Arab security. However, these discussions did not specify the steps to activate such mechanisms.

It is clear that Arab leaders are committed to peace as the best solution for Arabs and Muslims, and that it is the primary option.

Nevertheless, honest talk is required on this matter. How can the slogan be transformed into action? What comes next?

For eight decades, the Arabs have not changed their strategy in approaching the Palestinian issue. They have become accustomed to responding to defeats with raising more slogans, which have alienated the world, especially in their adherence to war and the liberation of Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Arabs have not realized that the results of World War II established an inescapable reality -- Israel's existence is a

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:

@Ahmedaljarallah

Ahmed aljarallah

ahmed@aljarallah.com



Scan QR code to visit the website:

aljarallah.com

Kuwait welcomes autumn Sept 22

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Al-Ojairi Scientific Center announced that Kuwait will soon experience the rising of "Al-Zabra", the third phase of the Suhail season, considered the first season of autumn, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the center explained that "Al-Zabra" lasts for 13 days, starting from September 20, during which temperature changes occur along with continued daytime humidity. "Al-Zabra" involves two stars called "Niran" and is marked by mild nighttime temperatures and pleasant early mornings, with hot and dry conditions in the middle of the season.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

THERE are no waste recycling factories in our country, while garbage continues to pile up in the streets.

Around the world, countries make use of waste through recycling, industrial applications, and even energy production. In some parts of East Asia, for example, electricity is generated from waste, which helps in meeting the power needs of major cities.

In contrast, here in Kuwait, the stench of uncollected waste overwhelms the senses, disturbs residents, and poses health risks.

What's really happening? And why is there even a dispute over waste?

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



The ceremonial cutting of the cake marking the 215th anniversary of Mexico's independence and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with the State of Kuwait.

Mexican ambassador highlights strengthening bilateral relations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Mexico's Ambassador to Kuwait Eduardo Haller said on Monday that bilateral relations between the two countries are "continuously developing, especially in the

economic sphere and political dialogue."

The remarks came in a speech delivered by Ambassador Haller during

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait's roads authority primed for rainy season, swift response

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Director General of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) Eng. Khaled Al-Osaimi confirmed Tuesday that the Authority and all relevant teams are fully prepared

for the rainy season, emphasizing their readiness to respond quickly according to pre-established plans.

In a press statement, Al-Osaimi disclosed "there is round-the-clock

Continued on Page 5

Ashal makes labor requests easy

Kuwait pushes electronic workforce assessment

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Rabab Al-Osaimi has underscored the importance of ensuring the smooth implementation of the Manpower Needs Assessment System for companies

through the 'Ashal' platform and the prompt completion of transactions, indicating that one of the conditions for applying for the service is to have the salaries on file to ascertain seriousness and fairness in the assessment.

Al-Osaimi made the statement during the first coordination meeting that PAM held with officials from the Manpower Needs Assessment De-

partment and representatives of the Information Systems Center on Monday. She presided over the meeting, which was aimed at following up the implementation of the first phase of the system through 'Ashal' platform and to discuss the implementation mechanisms.

Continued on Page 5

International conference steers regional path to 'clean energy'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The international conference, "Empowering the Future: Energy Transition and Economic Diversification in Arab Countries", kicked off Monday under the patronage and with the attendance of Minister

of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Planning Institute Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, in partnership with the Arab Planning

Continued on Page 5



Group photo during the conference.



Boursa Kuwait and MSCI organize a corporate research session exploring the evolving global investment landscape and its implications on the GCC

Markaz launches Private Real Assets Strategy to empower qualified investors with solid income and expected long-term capital growth

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:13 Asr 15:12
 Sunrise .. 05:33 Maghrib .. 17:53
 Zohr 11:43 Isha 19:10

Local

Crown Prince and PM extend warm wishes

Kuwait's Amir congratulates Mexico, Papua New Guinea on National Days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sent a congratulatory cable to the President of the United Mexican States, Claudia Sheinbaum, on the occasion of Mexico's Independence Day. His Highness wished the President well-being and expressed hopes for continued progress and prosperity for her nation and the friendly Mexican people.

His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also sent a congratulatory cable to President Sheinbaum, extending his wishes for her well-being and for Mexico's ongoing development and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, sent a

similar cable on Tuesday, congratulating the Mexican President on her country's Independence Day.

On the same day, His Highness the Amir sent a congratulatory cable to the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Bob Dadae, on the occasion of his country's National Day, wishing him well-being and Papua New Guinea continued progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince also sent a cable to Governor-General Dadae, conveying his wishes for the Governor-General's well-being and for the nation's further development.

Similarly, His Highness the Prime Minister sent a cable to Governor-General Dadae congratulating him on Papua New Guinea's National Day.

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-38 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Rather hot to mild with

light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	32
Kuwait Airport	43	24

Abdaly	44	24
Babyan	43	21
Jahra	44	29
Failaka Island	43	26
Salmiyah	41	32
Ahmadi	41	28
Nuwaisib	41	28

Promoting journalism, social media accuracy

KUNA, France strengthen media ties

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Mohammad Al-Mannai, met on Tuesday with French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvain to discuss ways to strengthen media cooperation.

Both sides highlighted the role of media in fostering closer relations between Kuwait and France, particularly in cultural and social fields.

Al-Mannai emphasized the importance of exchanging expertise between KUNA and Agence France-Presse (AFP), citing their longstanding cooperation in news, photo services, training, and promoting Francophone culture in Kuwait.

Ambassador Gauvain praised the professionalism of Kuwaiti media, describing it as transparent and objective, and commended KUNA's services, including its French-language news, which provides a vital link for the Francophone community in Kuwait.

He also underlined the importance of KUNA's fact-checking unit in countering misinformation, especially on social media.

The meeting was attended by KUNA Deputy Director General for the Editorial Sector, Essam Al-Ghanem, and Acting Editor-in-Chief, Mohammad Al-Bahar.



KUNA acting Director General with French Ambassador to Kuwait. KUNA photo

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to ozone protection, climate efforts

EPA-UNDP collaboration drives sustainable dev't

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Kuwait has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the Ozone layer and advancing sustainable development, as the Acting General Manager of the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Nouf Behbehani said.

Behbehani highlighted Kuwait's active role in global environmental efforts during a ceremony marking the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

This year's event emphasized the importance of science and international cooperation in safeguarding the ozone layer for future generations.

Bahbahani noted that Kuwait ratified the 1987 Montreal Protocol in 1992 and has since phased out most ozone-depleting substances, establishing a dedicated national unit to ensure compliance.

In November 2024, Kuwait also ratified the Kigali Amendment, marking a critical step in reducing climate-impacting gases such as HFCs while promoting energy-efficient cooling technologies.

The current United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Kuwait, Emma Morley, underscored the significance of a new environmental cooperation agreement signed with the Environment Authority last year.

The agreement lays out a national roadmap for reducing harmful refrigerants, strengthening regulations, and advancing sustainable cooling, reinforcing Kuwait's regional leadership in environmental protection and climate action.



Nouf Behbehani, Acting General Manager of the Environment Public Authority



Emma Morley, United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Kuwait



Part of the discussion panel.

Other Voices

Kennedy's herd ... history repeats

By Ahmad alsarraf

On a cold New York morning in 1929, Joseph Kennedy, the prominent millionaire and father of future U.S. President John F. Kennedy, was on his way to his Wall Street office when he stopped to have his shoes shined by a young boy. As the boy worked diligently, he suddenly looked up and said confidently, like a grown man, "Did you buy Ford's stocks? Everyone is buying them. They say the price is going to soar this week."

Kennedy didn't reply. He didn't smile, scoff, or even ask the boy where he got his information. Instead, a thought struck him, "When the shoeshine boy starts giving stock tips, it is a sign that the madness has reached its peak. The market is no longer ruled by logic but it has become a herd blindly rushing toward the edge."

Kennedy returned to his office and immediately began selling off all his stocks, quietly withdrawing from the market. Just a few weeks later, on October 29, 1929 - Black Tuesday - the stock market crashed. Millions lost everything. Banks collapsed. Businessmen and investors leapt from office windows to escape the shame. It marked the start of the Great Depression, plunging America and the world into a decade of economic darkness. Only Kennedy avoided the massive losses, because he had recognized the warning signs early.

This widely shared story on social media has no basis in fact. The name of the millionaire changes

from one version to another. Sometimes it is Rockefeller, other times Vanderbilt. In truth, Joseph Kennedy wasn't even a prominent trader on the New York Stock Exchange at the time.

Yet nearly a century later, the same scene keeps repeating, and still, no one learns. Such is human nature. The pattern persists, though it often takes new forms. The shoeshine boy has now become a former actor, a self-proclaimed "stock expert," or even a preacher, once offering marital advice, now promoting grand ventures and promises of quick and easy wealth through minimal investment.

Today, addicts of platforms like X (Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp, and Facebook have turned into "experts" in countless fields. They no longer carry shoeshine kits but they wield social media accounts, dispensing opinions on everything from pharmaceuticals and health food to investments, politics, and religion. Each offers their own spin, justifying what they like, condemning what they don't, and there are always people ready to believe them, follow their guidance, or be captivated by their words.

Millions of minds have become idle, captive to any charlatan or extremist, even if that person leads them to ruin. Logic, reason, and critical thinking are commodities these people have never learned to value, not at school, not at home, and not in the streets.

And so, collapse becomes inevitable. The herd marches steadily toward its doom. The clearest sign? Israel's unrestrained aggression, met with silence from a 1.5 billion-strong Muslim world, as if it is none of their concern, unaware that their turn will come, just as the white bull was devoured before them.

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



alsarraf

New president leads members through art, flavors, and traditions honoring Mexico-Kuwait ties

IWG kicks off 2025-2026 season with Mexican cultural celebration

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The International Women's Group (IWG) launched its 2025-2026 season with a meet-and-greet event celebrating Mexico's culture and heritage on Sunday, 14 September, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The new president, Mrs. Marika Kochlamazashvili, wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia, welcomed members and guests in the presence of the group's board, ambassadors, and distinguished invitees.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Roda Elizabeth Mahmoud MBE, IWG member, founder, and former director of Kuwait English School, who dedicated 43 years of her life to education.

In her opening address, Mrs. Kochlamazashvili thanked H.E. Sheikha Hanouf Bader Al Mohammed Al Sabah, IWG Honorary President, for her continued support. She also expressed sincere gratitude to the IWG board members for their confidence in her leadership, conveying a deep sense of responsibility.

Mrs. Kochlamazashvili then introduced the new vice presidents of the board: Mrs. Rima Khalidi, wife of the Ambassador of the State of Palestine; Mrs. Theano Platos, wife of the Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic; Mrs. Midori Muki, wife of the Ambassador of Japan; and Mrs. Sayeh Gauvin, wife of the Ambassador of the French Republic. She also extended heartfelt thanks to her predecessor and current IWG presidential advisor, Mrs. Polina Dlamini, wife of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Eswatini, recognizing her as a valuable asset to the group. Furthermore, she acknowledged the efforts of IWG member Mrs. Laura Duclaud Vilares, wife of the Ambassador of the United Mexican States, for her support in organizing the event.

Looking ahead, Mrs. Kochlamazashvili pledged to build on IWG's long history of cultural exchange through a diverse program of social activities and events.

The event began with a video highlighting a journey to four African countries—South Africa (Cape Town and Johannesburg), Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Eswatini—undertaken by IWG members and their spouses from 17 September to 3 August. The trip, meticulously organized by Mrs. Dlamini, was introduced with a short briefing about this exceptional experience.

Under the theme "Mexico: Land of Tradition, Art, Flavors, and Heritage," Mrs. Dlamini served as the Master of Ceremonies.

This year's celebration held special significance, as it also marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Kuwait. To honor this milestone, guests were invited on a cultural journey exploring some of Mexico's most treasured traditions. The program opened with a short travel film showcasing Mexico's landscapes and heritage, setting the tone for a morning of discovery. Attendees were then introduced to the life and legacy of the iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, whose extraordinary work transformed pain and struggle into timeless art.

The journey continued with a glimpse into one of Mexico's most vibrant traditions: Lucha Libre, professional wrestling that emerged in the 1930s. Known for its colorful masks and dramatic storytelling, it symbolizes the eternal struggle between good and evil and has become a cultural phenomenon both in Mexico and abroad.

Attention then turned to Mexican gastronomy, an essential expression of the nation's identity. Guests learned how Mexican cuisine blends ancestral techniques with creativity, earning



IWG members and diplomats celebrate art, food, and culture marking Mexico-Kuwait ties.

recognition by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This introduction was followed by a live cooking demonstration by Mexican chefs Fernanda and Daniela Pérez Barrera of Holy Guacamole Mexican Restaurant, who delighted the audience with authentic flavors.

The morning was further enriched by live Mexican music performed by the artist Yousef, which added

rhythm and atmosphere to the celebration.

A highlight of the event was the interactive Mercado Mexicano, which recreated the lively spirit of a traditional market. Stations included a Frutería (fruit shop) by Star Fruit Company, a Cafetería (coffee shop) by Laura Duclaud, a Panadería by Panadería La Corita, Esquites (corn trolley) by Mexican chef Lilia López,

Artesanías (crafts shop) by Talavera Creations, a Florería (flower shop), an Estudio Fotográfico (photo studio), and even a Kitco supermarket truck.

This memorable morning offered guests an authentic taste of Mexico's rich culture, art, flavors, and traditions while marking the launch of IWG's 2025-2026 season in Kuwait—a season that promises to be both remarkable and inspiring.

In closing, Mrs. Kochlamazashvili expressed her gratitude to all contributors who helped make the event a success.

Special acknowledgements were extended to the Embassy of Mexico in Kuwait, Crowne Plaza Hotel, British School of Kuwait (BSK), Star Fruit, Sultan Centre, Talavera Creations, Mexita, KITCO, Holy Guacamole, and La Corita.

How long will we have to wait?

"PROMISES keep being made, meetings held, and statements issued, yet citizens have yet to see real change in their daily lives," Kuwaiti lawyer **Dr. Abdullah Mohammad Al-Turaiji** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The crises are well-known and clear, chief among them being the housing issue, with over 300,000 applications and no clear solution in sight. The economy has faced mounting challenges for years, while official discourse repeats the same slogans. For decades, we have heard about strategies, five-year plans, and major development projects, but in reality, it is all ink on paper. People want real solutions, not empty promises. The housing crisis is worsening, job opportunities for youth are becoming scarce, and bureaucracy continues to stifle investment and production.

"Today, there is no National Assembly to obstruct the government's work, as some claim. This places full responsibility on the current Cabinet. Hope is therefore pinned on it to take serious and swift action, rather than settling for mere statements. Citizens want to see built homes, completed projects, and available job opportunities, not deferred promises.

"Kuwait has the potential and resources to become a regional leader. However, unless these words are turned into action, development will remain delayed, and the aspirations of future generations will remain unfulfilled. The ball is now solely in the Cabinet's court. Will we see implementation, or will everything stay the same?"



Al-Turaiji

one of the best in the world. Its government invests heavily in education, with teacher salaries comparable to those of engineers. The goal is to teach students how to think critically, solve problems, and acquire new skills. The government has adopted the slogan - "Teach fewer subjects, but with greater understanding." Singapore is renowned for the competence of its teachers, thanks to continuous professional development, with educators receiving 100 hours annually to enhance their teaching skills.

"Dear government, work to reform education so we can rebuild society. Help students truly understand their lessons and grasp religious teachings. What is the point of memorizing without comprehension? Why should students enter the classroom with hearts pounding in fear, dreading the teacher's stick or harsh words? Raise men of strong, virtuous morals to lead the country."

"Thank you, Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, for your support of the Arab Children's Theatre Festival, which is one of the most significant events dedicated to children's theatre in the Arab world. This festival stands out as a major cultural and artistic event aimed at raising children's awareness about the value of performing arts and nurturing their creative and intellectual abilities." columnist **Ghani Jumaa** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"Since its inception, the festival has succeeded in becoming a platform that connects children with art and culture. It has helped instill confidence in young Arab talents whose performances have captivated audiences. These young artists have worked diligently to refine their artistic and technical skills, reaching impressive levels of creativity and excellence. The festival also offers a nurturing environment for young talents and plays a vital role in preserving and promoting Arab culture and identity among the younger generation.

"The judging panel of the 8th Arab Children's Theatre Festival announced four performances as outstanding - two from Kuwait, one from the UAE, and one from Iraq.

"The winning Kuwaiti plays were "A Lost Wish" by Othman Al-Shatti, directed by Mohammed Al-Ansari, and "The Treasure" written and directed by Hani Abdul-Samad Zakaria. From Iraq, "Me and the Clown" by Dr. Zainab Abdul-Amir, and from the UAE, "The Jungle Circus" by Sheikha Sarah bint Mohammed bin Majid Al Qasimi, directed by Abdullah Al-Huraibi.

"The festival has continued to grow steadily, with more diverse performances and expanded activities reaching different regions of Kuwait and other Arab countries. This ongoing development has earned it a strong and respected position at the regional level.

"The Arab Children's Theatre Festival in Kuwait aims to support and develop children's artistic and creative skills, strengthen Arab identity and heritage, raise social and moral awareness among children, and provide a platform to showcase new and innovative talents. It strives to educate and engage children through theatre in an enjoyable and captivating way.

"The festival also encourages cultural exchange between theatre groups from across the Arab world and promotes values of peace, tolerance, and coexistence among children. It serves as a vital link between society and the arts, delivering an educational message that elevates the status of children's theatre throughout the Arab world.

"Some of its most important contributions include reviving Arab heritage by transforming it into interactive theatrical works, training children in artistic expression and acting, encouraging new directions in writing and directing theatre that focus on children's interests, and enabling children to actively participate by boosting their confidence and inspiring them to continue in the field of theatre.

"The festival showcases a variety of performances that blend entertainment and education. They are carefully chosen to convey meaningful messages while engaging children. These plays include folklore, global tales, historical narratives, and contemporary themes, often emphasizing values such as tolerance, peace, and friendship.

"Workshops are a vital part of the festival, focusing on theatrical arts and giving children opportunities to develop real skills. In the future, we hope to host renowned Arab artists to further enhance the festival's artistic and cultural significance.

"We also look forward to the organizing body launching new global, regional, and Arab artistic festivals in Kuwait to advance the country's cultural scene. These festivals not only provide cultural and artistic platforms but also help promote tourism and economic growth.

"May God protect Kuwait and its people from all harm, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (May God preserve and protect him)."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

"An elderly citizen whose name we will not disclose, living alone in a single room on Tunis Street in an old building, went to the Ministry of Health years ago. He approached an official and gave him a check for two million dinars, asking that the money be allocated to a health center to benefit the people," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"An example of kindness is the volunteering of Kuwaiti youth, both men and women, to renovate and maintain the homes of poor and needy families in areas like Al-Qurain, Taima, Sabah Al-Salem, and Sulaibiya. One citizen donated KD 2,600 to a Filipina woman with cancer who had worked for him for less than a month and bought her a plane ticket home. In a rare act of generosity, a citizen waived his legal right to a house in court in favor of his siblings to preserve harmony among them.

"Only four pages, for example, on virtuous morals in a file I titled "Good Behaviors in Kuwaiti Society." Naturally, good morals exist, but they are not visible. As for bad behavior, I still have "three volumes," each containing 500 pages. This reflects the decline of morals in our society and the death of conscience. Is that conceivable? Examples are everywhere. There is the son who sued his mother to evict her from the house, while the mother wept before the judge, saying, "Let me die, for I have nothing left to live for."

"Students fight over the smallest matters, disobey their parents, and representatives tamper with and undermine education. Some hold doctorates but lack vocabulary and conversational skills. Some assault doctors in hospitals, others storm police stations or verbally attack officers. With consciences dead, the sale of fake university degrees has become widespread. What kind of country would this be if such young people took over the government?"

"The government's educational curriculum does not build the character of a good citizen. It continues to pour billions of dollars into reforming the economies of Arab, African, Asian, and South American countries, while young Kuwaitis stand in long queues waiting for jobs. The people suffer hardship and the high cost of living. Those closest to power are the first to receive favors. Is Kuwait supposed to forever support the world with a resource that will one day run out?"

"They say if you want to know whether a country, any country, is heading in the right direction, don't look at its oil or gold resources, but at its level of education. Take Taiwan, for example. It is plagued by earthquakes and seasonal hurricanes. It is poor, lack oil or rich minerals, and at one point was forced to import sand from China, no less, for construction purposes.

"However, its government focused on individual development through skill acquisition, quality education, and improving the caliber of teachers. After World War II, it sought modest financial assistance from the international community and transformed its population into a valuable resource. Taiwan became one of the advanced Asian countries, known as one of the "Asian Tigers." The knowledge and expertise of its citizens became its most valuable assets.

"Singapore, on the other hand, is a resource-poor island but boasts an excellent education system, considered



Al-Dawas

Mol oversees smooth traffic as schools reopen

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Under the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the acting Deputy Minister of Interior Major General Ali Al-Adwani conducted a field tour on Tuesday to monitor traffic conditions, with the start of the 2025-2026 academic year.

In a press statement, the ministry explained that Major General Ali-Adwani observed smooth traffic flow around schools, main roads, and highways during the tour.

He affirmed the need to implement security and traffic preparations with utmost precision to

reduce congestion and ensure students can arrive at their schools easily and smoothly.

Major General Ali-Adwani also stressed the importance of taking firm action against any improper behavior on the roads to ensure everyone reaches their destinations safely.

He called for an increased field presence of traffic leadership to directly supervise traffic flow and respond immediately to any emergencies. He also highlighted the



Al-Adwani

need to strengthen security presence on highways, major intersections, and secondary roads leading to residential areas near many schools, aiming to prevent traffic disruptions and eliminate random parking in front of schools.

Parents and students were urged to cooperate with traffic officers and comply with traffic rules and regulations, contributing to strengthening security and traffic efforts and achieving the highest levels of traffic flow and safety.

Major General Ali-Adwani also expressed confidence in the ability of the Ministry of Interior's personnel to perform their duties efficiently and competently, emphasizing that success and the achievement of desired goals rely on cooperation and a spirit of teamwork.

Businesswoman, citizen freed as courts rule accusations baseless

Cassation upholds 5-year sentence for police bribery

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Misdemeanor Court acquitted a Kuwaiti businesswoman of renting residential units to bachelors in Sabah Al-Ahmad Coastal Area, a private residential area.

This was based on the provisions of Decree-Law No. 125/1992 prohibiting non-family housing.

The case is based on the report of a Kuwait Municipality inspector in Ahmadi Governorate, responding to complaints on the supposed presence of bachelors in several residential plots, including the plot owned by the defendant.

The inspector indicated that he issued eviction notices to the property owners, but he did not receive any response. He then filed a report against the businesswoman, including the property details and the type of violation.

Attorney Enaam Haidar, who appeared in court

on behalf of the businesswoman, argued that the accusation is false and groundless. She asserted that the documents have no conclusive evidence proving that her client rented the property to bachelors.

She indicated that the incident was fabricated and based on a complaint that was not supported by legal arguments or material evidence.

She added that the Decree-Law explicitly states in its first article that any lease contract proven to have violated the law is void, making legal liability dependent on a valid and enforceable lease contract, which is not present in the case.

The court accepted the arguments of Haider, finding the accusation "shaky and baseless," and that the case documents lack conclusive evidence of the defendant's alleged violation.

Consequently, the businesswoman was acquitted of all the charges against her.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court acquitted a citizen of forging bank documents and laundering money estimated at KD54,000.

The court made its decision based on the arguments of Attorney Hussein Al-Asfour, lawyer of the accused, who asserted that the investigations conducted by the Criminal Investigations Department at the Interior Ministry are invalid due to lack of seri-

ousness and the unreasonable nature of the incident, in addition to the absence of the elements of the two crimes attributed to his client.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant and other unidentified individuals with forming an organized criminal group and laundering money estimated at KD 54,000, which they allegedly obtained through forgery and the statement of the victim's account at a local bank.

The court charged the defendants with complicity in forging private documents and KNET company records, as well as using the victim's bank card data in illegal online transfers.

Also, the Court of Cassation upheld the ruling of the Court of Appeals, which sentenced a Ministry of Interior police officer with the rank of sergeant to five years in prison with hard labor and fined him KD1,000 for bribery. He was convicted of accepting bribe and fabricating a liquor trafficking case against a number of Asians with the intent of deporting them.

It was concluded that the defendant accepted a bribe of KD500 from a secret source in exchange for arresting another secret source and framing him for liquor trafficking. However, the detectives set up an entrapment, during which they caught the police officer red-handed while receiving the money.

Firefighters quickly control Sharq, Abdally fires, no injuries reported



KFF photo

Fire extinguished in Abdally shops.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Firefighting teams from Al-Hilali and Madinah fire stations controlled the fire that broke out on the roof of a tower under construction in Sharq, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

In a post on its X account, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) confirmed that its firefighting teams extinguished the fire in record time and no injuries were recorded.

Meanwhile, Firefighting teams from Abdally, Subiya, Sour and Isnad fire stations controlled the fire that broke out in several shops and a warehouse in Abdally recently, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

The fire was extinguished in record time and no injuries were reported.

A case was registered and investigations are underway to determine the cause of fire.

PAAAFR cracks down on misused Sulaibiya farms

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), under the guidance of the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, conducted surprise inspection campaigns on agricultural holdings that are not being used for their designated purposes in Sulaibiya, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The authority confirmed that these inspections are part of a comprehensive plan to tackle any violations, and legal actions have been taken against offenders.

It added that the campaigns will continue in various agricultural regions to ensure full compliance with laws and regulations.



Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem

Farwaniya police arrest Arab woman for drug possession

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Security personnel arrested an Arab woman for drug consumption.

According to a security source, Farwaniya security officers got suspicious of the woman. Upon detaining her for investigation, the officers discovered drugs and drug paraphernalia in her possession.

The woman and the confiscated items were referred to the relevant authorities.



Removal of abandoned cars.

Capital Municipality clears 577 abandoned vehicles in August

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality announced that the Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Department of Capital Municipality lifted 577 abandoned vehicles during August, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

Director of Capital Municipality's Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Department Faisal Al-Otaibi emphasized that the intensive field inspection campaigns aim to monitor violators and take legal action against them.

He highlighted the inspection team's commitment to improving hygiene, removing items that distort the aesthetic appearance, and clearing obstructions from roads in all areas.

Al-Otaibi explained that the department's field inspections in August resulted in the removal of abandoned cars, boats, and scrap containers. The team also issued 417 violations related to road and public cleanliness and placed 3,610 stickers on abandoned vehicles, boats, grocery stores, and commercial containers, in preparation for their removal after the expiration of the designated grace period.




BACK to SCHOOL

Celebrate with your Schoolmates & Family

Dine-In Vouchers	
BEFORE	AFTER
10 KD	8.250 KD
20 KD	16.000 KD
50 KD	38.900 KD

Download our App to Buy These Voucher



SCAN THE QR TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



www.mughalmahal.com | 1800 188 / 5501 1985 | @mughalmahakuwait

Municipal Council charts new urban vision

New rules for residential buildings and Google Cloud roads approved

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, on Monday held its fifth regular session for the fourth term.

The Council approved the following during the session:

■ Final version of the proposed amendment to Table No. 5 regarding the requirements and specifications for residential buildings in and outside Kuwait City.

■ Request of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to create four temporary and permanent roads for the Google Cloud Services site. These include two roads extending from the Google Cloud Services site in South Mutlaa to Road 80, and two other 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 allocate the site of the facilities, administrative and residential buildings area previously used by Chevron Saudi Arabia -- Site F1 in Zour, and to cancel the site of Fuel Filling Station No. 166 in Oyoun, Block One.

■ Public Prosecution Letter No. 501 regarding exemption from the fees for issuing description certificates for properties subject to cases handled by the Public Prosecution.

■ Request of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to cut a portion of Abu Salama Abdullah bin Abdul Asad Mosque, located in Qaser, Block One to establish a family residence for the Imam and Muezzin.

■ Request of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) to allocate a multi-storey parking building in Mubarak Al-Abdullah suburb.

■ Request of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to add a coffee shop to the Environmental Pollutants Building in Salmiya, Block One.

Munira Al-Amir, Chairwoman of the Technical Committee, emphasized



Municipal Council hold its fifth regular session for the fourth term, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Council Member Alia Al-Farsi commenting on the executive body's response to her question.

that Table No. 5 is a qualitative leap in organizing the urban environment. She pointed out the most prominent features of the table, which includes defining residential complexes in and outside Kuwait City for the first time, thereby, establishing a clear basis for planning and eliminating ambiguity in implementation.

She said this provides developers with greater flexibility in construction and design, enabling optimal land use without compromising living comfort or safety requirements. She added the table does not neglect the humanitarian

aspect by requiring projects to implement the Disability Code and granting privileges to developers cooperating with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to provide units for community service.

She indicated that the amendments are not just liberalization of ratios or expansion of building areas, but a strategic step towards a smart, flexible and safe urban environment that balances the right to housing with the requirements of economic growth, and encourages real estate investment in a manner that serves the interests of Kuwait and its people.

Council Member Alia Al-Farsi commented on the executive body's response to her question regarding the cleanliness of cities, suburbs and regions, thanking the Kuwait Municipality for its efforts regarding the most important file for all municipalities worldwide - waste management and public cleanliness.

Al-Farsi reviewed the efforts exerted by the Council, in cooperation with the relevant State agencies, to complete the new waste management and public cleanliness regulations.

She said the new regulations and the new approach are based on the principle of the five-tiered hierarchy for waste management, which was approved by EPA in its national strategy.

She added "as for the change to the new cleaning contracts that the Municipality presented in response to my question, which mentions increasing the capacity of waste containers provided in homes, such an amendment contradicts the objectives upon which the regulations are based, because increasing the size of containers leads to an increase in the amount of waste produced automatically."

Key Amendments to the Residential Complex Buildings Table

■ Unifying the definition of a residential complex in and outside Kuwait City.

■ Granting developers more freedom in design, with a maximum building ratio within Kuwait City of 400 percent of the plot area, compared to 250 percent outside.

■ The possibility of adding building ratios ranging from 30 percent to 80 percent depending on the plot area.

■ Cancelling the building ratio limit for each floor, allowing the distribution of heights and internal divisions.

■ Unifying the minimum setback to three meters on all sides within the plot boundaries.

■ Permitting the adjoining of some buildings or basements through an agreement between the owners.

■ Commercial services at a rate of five percent, with a minimum shop area of 20 square meters.

■ Using the first basement for recreational purposes, such as building a swimming pool, gym or playground.

■ Establish more than one basement as needed.

■ Allow the combination of residential and commercial uses on plots measuring 2,000 square meters or more, provided that commercial uses do not exceed 30 percent of the total building ratio (400 percent).

■ Allow the combination of residential, commercial and hotel activities for residential units, measuring not less than 3,000 square meters.

■ Implement the building code for people with disabilities.

Zero tolerance

MoE to probe facility breach

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei has issued a ministerial decision to form a committee, headed by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Hamad Al-Hamad and with specialists from the Ministry of Education's Legal Department as members, to investigate the unauthorized entry of

an unidentified individual into the ministry's warehouses in Subhan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the ministry affirmed that the formation of the committee

reflects its commitment to protecting its facilities and preserving the public interest. It also is in line with the ministry's efforts to uphold the highest standards of governance and accountability in dealing with any violations that may compromise the security of its facilities.

The committee has been tasked with gathering all evidence and documentation related to the incident and conducting a thorough investigation into all parties involved.

The committee's responsibilities also include reviewing surveillance footage to document movements within the site, completing a thorough investigation, and submitting a detailed report with findings and recommendations to the relevant security authorities.

In addition, the committee will also oversee the process of officially reporting the incident and will propose firm measures against anyone found to be involved or negligent, in order to protect public facilities and deter any attempts at tampering or unauthorized access.

The ministry stressed that it will not tolerate any violations that compromise the integrity of its facilities or endanger its assets.

It reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing administrative penalties and, when necessary, referring violators to judicial authorities to uphold accountability and discipline.



Al-Tabtabaei

Step expands study options

MoHE adds 18 new US Univ majors

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has issued a decision to add 18 new academic majors at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels to the list of American higher education institutions recommended by the National Authority for Academic Accreditation and Education Quality Assurance, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The new majors cover a wide range of fields, including Clinical Nutrition, Kinesiology, Historic Preservation, Business Administration with specializations in Accounting, Analytics, Finance, and Supply Chain Management, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, as well as engineering and science disciplines such as Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Energy, Applied

Mechanics, Applied Ocean Sciences, Physical and Aerospace Engineering, along with engineering majors related to Energy, Mechatronics, and Computational Sciences.

The American universities included in the decision are:

- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Columbia University, New York
- University of California campuses in Riverside, Davis, Los Angeles, San Diego
- Colorado State University, Fort Collins
- California Institute of Technology
- Stanford University

The decision emphasizes that studies must be conducted through regular weekly attendance and that students must not exceed the maximum allowed time to obtain their degree, while adhering to the scholarship regulations issued by Kuwait's Ministry of Higher Education.

The Ministry of Higher Education stressed that this step aims to expand options for Kuwaiti students wishing to pursue their studies at prestigious academic institutions, enhancing their opportunities for scientific specialization and future employment.



Dr. Al-Jalal

Call for better service and appearance

Consumer Co-op Union acts to improve urban landscape

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Chairperson of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies Maryam Al-Awadh issued a number of administrative decisions and circulars aimed at strengthening field oversight and improving services provided to consumers, as per the directive of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.

This move is in line with the commitment of the Union to beautify public facilities and develop the environment surrounding the headquarters of cooperative societies.

In its circulars, the Union stressed the need for cooperative societies to develop their services and add an aesthetic and civilized appearance to residential areas, while focusing on public walkways and their maintenance to ensure the comfort and safety of residents.

This is in accordance with Article 60 of Ministerial Resolution No. 159/2023 amending the Cooperative Work Regulations.

The Union also issued a decision to form field teams, consisting of its employees, to inspect cooperative societies and ensure

their compliance with all previous circulars, dating back to Aug 11. The chairperson of the Union will be responsible for selecting the members of the teams and informing the management about the observations and reports of the teams.

It stressed the need for cooperative societies to efficiently play their role in serving residential areas, while ensuring the improvement of the urban landscape and the advancement of services in line with the requirements of the current phase and the aspirations of the State for developing the cooperative sector.

It indicated that the relevant departments are mandated to implement these decisions, each within their jurisdiction, affirming that follow up will continue to guarantee compliance and address shortcomings, in order to enhance transparency and protect the vital role of cooperative societies in serving the community.



Al-Awadh

Avian flu spurs import changes

MoCI revises poultry import bans

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued decisions to ban and lift bans on the import of poultry meat from several countries, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the first decision, the import of all types of poultry meat (fresh, chilled, frozen, and processed), along with its derivatives, products, and table eggs, is banned from Spain, except for those heat-treated at

70°C, due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The second decision stated that the ban on the import of all types of poultry meat (fresh, chilled, frozen, and processed), along with its derivatives, products, and table eggs, from the following U.S. states - South Dakota, California, Ohio, and New Jersey, is lifted due to the end of the highly pathogenic avian influenza.



SEPTEMBER

Room Promotion







Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 53.361	BHD 119.173
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 76.230	BHD 170.247

Promo period from 1st September to 19th September 2025 Terms & conditions apply*
 25th September to 30th September 2025

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

Other Voices

From an Arab citizen to Doha:
Our hearts are with Qatar

By Fahad Al-Tamimi

At a time of global silence, and as aggressors seek to violate the sovereignty of nations with warplanes and missiles, I write these words not as a columnist, but as an ordinary Arab citizen who feels, deep in his heart, the pain of a nation. I believe that sometimes, words are more powerful than bullets and more lasting than the shifting sands of the desert.

On September 9, I awoke to news that shook not only my ears but my soul... that an Israeli airstrike had targeted Doha, the capital of Qatar, a city known for its peace, hope, and dignified neutrality. The strike targeted land, sovereignty, and innocent lives. It left six people dead, including the son of a commander and a Qatari officer.

Is this the extent of Israeli arrogance? A state that disregards international conventions and norms, shows no respect for mediators, and holds no value for diplomacy. Have "messages of fire" become the language of occupation when dialogue fails to subdue free people?

O Qatar, a land of dignity, sovereignty, and principled stands, you are not alone. What happened in Doha was not an internal issue, but a blow to the heart of every free Arab citizen. It is a warning bell that appealing an aggressor only emboldens him to target everyone.

As an Arab who does not represent any political party or authority, I say this with all my heart - I stand with the good and noble people of Qatar, and with its sincere and honest Amir. I stand with Qatar, which has consistently upheld the Palestinian cause and extended a hand for dialogue when others turned away. I stand with Qatar, a country that had always been a platform for peace when the world's



Fahad Al-Tamimi

stages fell silent.

The attack on Doha is not just a political crime, but a moral failure, and a blatant violation of international law as well as a direct assault on the Arab mediation platform. This is the very platform that, despite all challenges, has worked to keep dialogue alive between Israel and the Palestinian factions, in an effort to spare innocent lives.

Those who attacked Doha did not aim merely to assassinate individuals but they sought to extinguish the very prospects of peace and to bomb the idea of justice from the skies. The Israeli strike on Qatar sends a dangerous message that neutrality is no longer respected, mediation holds no value, and no one is beyond the reach of weapons.

However, the Israeli attack struck the wrong target.

Qatar is a nation of great stances... It cannot be swallowed, intimidated, or defeated. Doha has never been a capital of submission; it has always been, and remains, a steadfast Arab voice, committed to upholding the dignity of the Palestinian people.

It is time for us, as Arabs, to wake up. What happened in Qatar is a wake-up call. It is time for us to stand united, not out of a desire to respond to aggression, but to preserve our existence. We must overcome our disputes. Today, Qatar was targeted; tomorrow, it could be any other Arab capital.

I call on every Arab man, every father, and every young person who carries hope in their heart to speak out and stand with Qatar, as well as with every Arab country under threat. Today, whoever keeps silent is considered a partner in the crime.

Oh, sisterly Qatar, do not grieve. We are with you, with your Amir, and with your martyrs.

Truth will not die as long as there is a beating heart in the nation and a woman unafraid to say, "Enough is enough."

Enough arrogance, enough aggression. Let this attack be the beginning of awakening, not the start of another period of silence.

Kuwait-IAEA pact unlocks
next-gen nuke applications

10-year plan outlined for sustainable development

VIENNA, Sept 16, (KUNA): Kuwait and the IAEA signed an agreement on Monday, as part of the fourth plan for technical cooperation with the IAEA for the years 2026-2035.

The signing was made by Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan, and the Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Head of the Technical Cooperation Department, Hua Liu, during a ceremony in Vienna.

The plan is the fourth framework plan for technical cooperation with the IAEA for the years 2026-2035.

Following the signing ceremony, Al-Humaidan affirmed to KUNA on the strength of the partnership between the State of Kuwait and the IAEA, which spans more than a decade of fruitful cooperation in the areas of sustainable development.

Al-Humaidan added that the agreement will enable Kuwait to benefit from the latest precise and effective nuclear applications in addressing challenges of food, water, health, and environmental security, stressing that the national framework will focus on capacity building, knowledge transfer, and empowering national competencies.

Al-Humaidan, who is participating in the 69th IAEA General Conference in Vienna, said that Kuwait and the IAEA have officially announced the launch of a new strategic cooperation for the next 10 years through the signing of the National Program Framework Agreement.

He explained that this historic agreement embodies Kuwait's unwavering commitment to harnessing the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology to support its national priorities, diversify the econ-



KUNA photos

Top and above: Photos during the signing of cooperation agreement.

omy, and enhance the well-being of citizens and residents, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and the United

Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Al-Humaidan added that the new

framework outlines a comprehensive strategy for cooperation with the IAEA in seven key areas, including developing legal and regulatory frameworks; enhancing nuclear and radiation safety; supporting food security through crop development and combating animal diseases; improving healthcare through nuclear medicine and radiotherapy; managing water and environmental resources using nuclear technologies; and innovation in the fields of energy and industry and preserving cultural heritage.

Al-Humaidan expressed pride in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) granting of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) the status of a "Cooperating Center" for marine and coastal pollution assessment since 2019, considering this to enhance Kuwait's position as a potential regional center of excellence in the fields of environmental monitoring and cancer patient care.

Continued from Page 1

Only peace

must for European and western countries. These countries and their peoples will not accept the return of the Jews to Europe.

On the other hand, the Arabs, as I mentioned earlier, do not have the power to impose their conditions.

The Arabs did not learn from what Prophet Mohammad (Peace and Blessings be Upon Him) did when he concluded a 10-year peace treaty with the Jews and polytheists despite his knowledge of the incitement and conspiracy of the Jews in Khaybar against the Muslims.

Nonetheless, prophetic wisdom saw what the Companions did not see. The Jews broke their covenant with the Prophet (Peace and Blessings be Upon Him), and the situation turned against them. Without a fight, they agreed to leave and never return to Madinah. This important lesson on concluding the peace treaty had positive results for the Muslims, as it helped strengthen their power.

The Arabs did not realize the truth behind Levi Eshkol's statement at the height of his euphoria after the 1967 War. He said "we must keep the Arabs under fire. Every 10 years we must occupy a new territory so that they forget the land previously taken from them and demand for what they lost recently. This is the best option for maintaining Israel's superiority and imposing its terms on the Arabs, as long as they respond with slogans."

The Arabs continued to escalate their fervent slogans, while failing to establish their own power. This led to the situation we see today: Israeli attacks on some countries and the systematic genocide being perpetrated by Israel in the Gaza Strip. Israel does not care about international conventions or United Nations resolutions, because first, it is supported by the major powers and Europe, and second, it uses Arab slogans to incite the hostility of European and western governments against the Arabs.

What benefit will the Arabs gain if they continue to raise slogans without seeking peace, even temporarily, until they could build their own strength? The Arabs are in urgent need of changing the world's perception of them as the ones intent on annihilating the Jewish race. The world has not yet forgotten the actions of Hitler during World War II.

The Arabs fought four wars with Israel and were defeated in all of them. Even the October 1973 War could have been a defeat had it not been for the far-sighted vision of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Sadat said that 99 percent of the cards were in Washington's hands. He emphasized that the Arabs could not defeat Israel, because the United States would not abandon it. That is why Sadat signed the peace treaty with Israel.

I repeat the same questions: What can we do beyond denunciation, condemnation and denunciation? What are the winning cards in the hands of Arabs? Is not peace better for them at this stage? Is it not better to seek peace, far from the futility of Hamas, and the futility of those who boast and exploit the Palestinian cause, who are accustomed to wage war from five-star hotels rather than the real battlefield?

Schools go

She explained that the new plan for the 2025/2026 academic year includes a set of procedures and requirements designed to provide healthy and safe meals that cater to students' daily nutritional needs.

The authority approved 20 companies that specialize in supplying and investing in school canteens after a thorough review of their applications and verification of their compliance with health and nutritional standards, from a total of 36 applicants. The selection prioritized the most efficient and compliant companies.

The approved food list includes carefully selected healthy products rich in protein and fiber, providing natural alternatives to unhealthy eating habits. Selling soft drinks, energy drinks, foods high in saturated fats, and those with high sugar content is banned inside schools.

Dr. Al-Falej stressed that the authority has established a daily monitoring and inspection plan for school canteens through specialized teams.

She affirmed strict action against any violations in order to protect students' health, adding that this is part of a national plan to prevent obesity and chronic diseases, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director General of the Community Nutrition Sector Dr. Shaimaa Al-Asfour said the success of school canteen regulation initiatives depends not only on government measures but also on active partnership between schools, families, and the private sector to ensure sustainable positive changes in the dietary habits of future generations.

She emphasized that these efforts are part of a national strategy to enhance community health, noting that building a nutrition-aware generation requires the combined efforts of all governmental and civil organizations.

Dr. Al-Asfour also offered a set of recommendations for students and parents to encourage healthy eating habits in schools.

Kuwait pushes

In a press statement, the Authority explained that the system allows employers to submit manpower needs assessment requests electronically in a secure and smooth manner, along with the accurate number of workers they need.

It added that the Manpower Needs Assessment Department is in charge of processing applications to verify the data and attachments before being transferred to the Inspection Department for completion of procedures.

It stated that the meeting included a visual presentation by employees at the Information Systems Center. These employees explained the workflow of the system and reviewed the most important updates introduced to the manpower needs assessment request service.

The meeting also tackled future projects to develop the manpower needs assessment mechanisms in line with technological and scientific developments, as well as to guarantee efficiency and objectivity in meeting labor market needs.

Kuwait welcomes

The Autumn Equinox will occur on September 22, as the Earth moves around the sun and the sun aligns perpendicularly with the equator.

During "Al-Zabra", specifically on September 28, the ninth day of the season, day and night are equal, each lasting 12 hours. In the latter part of "Al-Zabra", temperature fluctuations become noticeable, with chances of sand and dust storms when the wind is active. The sky takes on a yellowish hue during this period, known as "Al-Safri." Increased bird migration activity is also observed.

The center reported that the onset of "Al-Safri" signals the approach of winter, with clear weather changes, especially at night and dawn. Humidity remains noticeable, and fog often forms in the early morning hours.

Kuwait's roads

monitoring to ensure preparedness through the emergency teams and concerned units at the Authority. This is in addition to the completion of all necessary equipment and machinery, such as water pumps and others."

He added that a well-studied plan is in place to identify critical points that require attention and remediation, ensuring smooth traffic flow and the safety of road users during the rainy season.

Mexican ambassador

a celebration held by the Mexican Embassy, marking the 215th anniversary of his country's independence and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with the State of Kuwait.

The event was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for American Affairs, Minister Plenipotentiary Nawaf Abdullah Al-Ahmad, and a group of heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of international organizations in Kuwait.

The ambassador noted the cooperation in the diplomatic, academic, and cultural fields, expressing pride in the "remarkable growth" in trade and investment, and his aspiration to expand the scope of cooperation in the fields of renewable energy, education, and tourism, as "our two friendly countries can exchange experiences and expertise for the benefit of both parties."

The ambassador praised Kuwait's role in promoting a policy of dialogue and the search for peaceful solutions to global challenges, stressing that his country shares the same approach.

International

Institute, OPEC and Mohammad bin Rashid School of Government.

Al-Mukhaizeem pointed out the current evidence indicates that the climate change bill will be enormous, and that the greatest burden will fall on developing countries, especially Arab countries, which are at the heart of this crisis. "Faced with this reality, the shift to future energy is no longer an option, but an imperative imposed by the need

for survival. The success of this energy transition lies in employing three indispensable foundations -- strengthening Arab cooperation, strengthening global partnerships, and developing green financing channels to ensure sustainability and a better future for Arab societies," he elaborated.

He said the timing of the conference is profoundly significant, "as we meet at a time the Arab world is facing unprecedented challenges, particularly climate change and its economic, social and environmental repercussions. This imposes a shared responsibility on everyone and necessitates concerted efforts to confront such reality and prevent its exacerbation," he asserted.

He revealed the conference is an important scientific and dialogue platform that brings together a group of academic experts and decision-makers, providing opportunities to exchange experiences and offer practical insights that will help formulate more effective policies.

He hopes that the discussions will result in clear and implementable recommendations, which will contribute to strengthening the Arab region's position on the global energy map and empowering its peoples to work toward a more prosperous and sustainable future.

Meanwhile, Director General of the Arab Planning Institute Dr. Adel Al-Waqyan explained that the conference aims to understand the future challenges that humanity could face as a result of environmental imbalance and greenhouse gas emissions, in order to outline development policies for Arab society at this critical juncture and to address the dire consequences that scientists, thinkers and international policymakers have been warning about.

He stated that the world continues to witness unprecedented challenges in the fields of energy, economy, climate change, market fluctuations, and the widening gap in technological developments between countries, which increases development constraints on Arab countries.

He clarified that future-prosperous economies are those that diversify sources of income and invest in people, knowledge and innovation. He stressed that achieving such a strategic transformation requires a shared vision and high-level coordination to transform challenges into real opportunities.

He pointed out that the Arab region possesses the wealth and human resources that qualify it to be an effective partner in the global energy map, indicating the challenge lies in transforming this potential into sustainable achievements through income diversification and investment in the green economy.

He said the conference features 19 scientific papers, including sessions on climate change, energy, and energy transition issues, their importance to Arab countries, and the green economy, which has become a significant economic activity with estimated global revenues of approximately \$5 trillion by 2024, with a growth rate of 15 percent.

He disclosed that scientists "expect a humanitarian catastrophe if global warming reaches two degrees, which will result in rising ocean levels, submerging lands, polluting rivers, and the

resulting deterioration of public health and food security." He said estimates indicate that failure to address climate change will cost the world between 11 and 14 percent of global GDP, with developing countries bearing the brunt of the losses.

He added the transition to clean energy requires massive investments, estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at \$4.5 trillion annually until 2050.

He indicated that the size of the renewable energy market in the Arab region reached around \$27 billion in 2024 and is expected to grow at a rate of 14 percent annually to reach \$60 billion by 2030.

In a similar statement, Jamal Al-Loughani, Secretary General of the Arab Energy Organization (AEO), suggested that the integration of traditional and renewable energy sources is the best way to achieve energy security, ensure stable supplies, and meet growing demand while adhering to environmental standards.

He added that the conference's title accurately reflects the magnitude of the challenges and opportunities the region is facing in light of accelerating global challenges -- whether energy, communications, technology or climate.

"It also comes at a crucial time to raise important questions about innovation and governance, opening new horizons for charting a common Arab path toward a comprehensive and just energy transition that keeps pace with global developments, addresses climate challenges, and enhances the Arab position in the global economy," he stated.

Al-Loughani stressed that energy transition is no longer an option, but a strategic necessity imposed by environmental crises, development aspirations, and changes in global markets.

He said diversifying the Arab economy and freeing it from excessive dependence on fossil fuels are vital in achieving sustainability and enhancing competitiveness, while emphasizing that oil and gas will be key components of the global and Arab energy equation in the coming decades, as they are not only a major source of energy but also an economic and strategic pillar for Arab countries in terms of revenues and employment opportunities.

He disclosed that Arab investments in renewable energy projects increased by 35 percent last year compared to 2020, reaching more than \$18 billion, including solar energy, wind energy and green hydrogen projects, according to the OPEC 2024 report.

He pointed out that energy transition does not mean abandoning oil and gas, as it entails using them in a more efficient and sustainable manner through technologies such as carbon capture, blue hydrogen capture, and improving refinery efficiency.

He explained that natural gas, as the least emitting fossil fuel, plays a vital role in the transition to clean energy, especially for generating electricity.

He confirmed that OPEC believes that the integration of traditional and renewable energy sources is the best way to achieve energy security, ensure stable supplies, and meet growing demand while adhering to environmental standards.

FM offers

3. The GCC leaders have directed the GCC Joint Defense Council to hold an urgent meeting in Doha, preceded by a meeting of the Higher Military Committee. The purpose is to assess the defense situation of the member states and the threat sources in light of the Israeli occupation aggression against the State of Qatar, to direct the Unified Military Command to take the necessary executive measures to activate joint defense mechanisms and Gulf Deterrence capabilities.

4. The Supreme Council affirmed that the brutal Israeli occupation aggression against the State of Qatar poses a direct threat to joint Gulf security and to regional peace and stability. The Council believes that the continuation of these aggressive policies undermines efforts to achieve peace and the future of existing understandings and agreements with the Israeli occupation, as it carries serious implications for the stability of the entire region.

5. The Supreme Council called on the Security Council, the international community, and influential states to assume their full responsibilities and take firm and deterrent measures to stop these violations, which have undermined the prestige of international law and the authority of its institutions.

6. The Supreme Council urged the international community to deter the Israeli occupation and put an end to its repeated violations of international law, as well as called on all countries and international organizations to condemn the Occupation's aggression to protect civilians.

7. The council commended the efforts made by the relevant security and defense authorities in the State of Qatar in their immediate handling of the incident, containing its repercussions, and safeguarding the safety of citizens and residents.

8. The council stressed that the attack obstructs the diligent efforts made by the State of Qatar and its role in mediating a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the release of the hostages and detainees, and alleviation of the Palestinian people's suffering. The attacks made by the Israeli occupation against several countries in the region is an obstacle towards international efforts aimed at peace and security.

9. The council stressed the need of adhering to United Nations principles, international treaties and agreements, respect for the sovereignty of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, resolving disputes by peaceful means, and refraining from the use or threat of force.

10. The leaders expressed their thanks to brotherly Arab and Islamic nations, and to friendly nations in the international community, which were quick to condemn the brutal Israeli occupation aggression and declare solidarity with the State of Qatar.

11. The Supreme Council called upon nations of the world to condemn the brutal Israeli occupation aggression against the State of Qatar and its crimes of genocide in the Gaza Strip. These crimes include displacing and starving the population, disrupting humanitarian aid, as well as killing journalists, essential workers, and humanitarian crews.

INTERNATIONAL



Former California gov Arnold Schwarzenegger, (right), expresses his opposition to Proposition 50, a California ballot measure to redraw US House maps to boost Democrats, during a conversation with University of Southern California interim president Beong-Soo Kim, (left), on democracy at the USC campus in Los Angeles on Sept 15. (AP)

Ex-gov urges vote against new California districts

Schwarzenegger enters fight on House control

LOS ANGELES, Sept 16, (AP): Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday entered the national battle over US House control, urging voters to reject a California ballot proposal to rejigger districts that he said would erode democratic principles and allow politicians to "take the power away from the people."

"It is insane," the former Republican governor and action-movie star said of Democratic-backed Proposition 50, a November ballot initiative intended to add five Democratic US House seats in California to offset President Donald Trump's moves in Texas to gain five Republican districts before the 2026 midterm elections.

"It doesn't make any sense to me that because we have to fight Trump, to become Trump," Schwarzenegger said. "Two wrongs don't make a right."

The proposal championed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom would temporarily set aside districts crafted by an independent state commission and replace them with dramatically reshaped districts drafted by Democrats and designed to benefit the party's candidates.

If approved, it's possible the new political maps could slash five Republican-held House seats in the liberal-leaning state while bolstering Democratic incumbents in other battleground districts in the 2026 midterm elections. That could boost the Democratic margin to 48 of California's 52 congressional seats, up from the 43 seats the party now holds.

Speaking at the University of Southern California, Schwarzenegger repeatedly stressed the proposal would set aside maps drawn in a public process by an independent commission he promoted as governor, and replace it with partisan maps shaped behind closed doors and blessed by "the politicians." He never directly criticized Newsom or the Legislature's Democratic majority, which endorsed the proposal.

Schwarzenegger signaled last month he would actively oppose the ballot proposal, posting a photo of himself lifting weights on the social platform X while in a T-shirt imprinted with the slogan, "Terminate Gerrymandering" and a partially obscured obscenity aimed at "the politicians."

"I'm getting ready for the gerrymandering battle," he wrote.

But it's not yet clear how involved the wealthy former governor and one-time bodybuilding champion will be in the campaign, in which he could finance advertising and use his global celebrity to influence voters. Schwarzenegger, a centrist, is a longtime critic of Trump who has argued the parties need to move away from the extremes to break Washington gridlock.

Still, he's remains a formidable political presence 15 years after he left office.

"I don't think you want to run against Arnold Schwarzenegger," said Bill Whalen, a fellow at Stanford University's right-leaning Hoover Institution.

California and Texas - the nation's two most populous states - have emerged as the center of a partisan turf war in the House that is spiraling into other states as well as the courts in what amounts to a proxy war ahead of the 2026 elections.

Newsom has cast the contest as a showdown with Trump, as Republicans seek to maintain the party's slim House majority.

Senate considering its own proposals

Federal govt shutdown talk heats up as Dems insist on stopping health care cuts

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): A deadline looming, Congress charged Monday toward a federal government shutdown as Republicans brush back Democratic demands to save health care funding from cutbacks, while Democrats are flexing a newfound willingness to play hardball, even if it means closing offices and services.

Republican leaders are ready to call the Democrats' bluff, possibly as soon as this week, with a test vote before the end-of-the-month deadline to keep government running.

GOP leaders said they could tee up a vote on a short-term spending bill that would keep the federal government fully operational when the new budget year begins Oct 1. It would likely be a temporary patch, into mid-November.

House Speaker Mike Johnson said the measure would include funds to boost security for lawmakers in the wake of the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Additionally, the Trump administration said it's asking Congress for \$58 million in increased funding for the US Marshals Service and security for the Supreme Court. And the Senate is considering its own proposals.

"I want everyone within the sound

of my voice to understand: Members of Congress are safe," Johnson, R-La., said Monday at the Capitol. "They will be kept safe. They have security measures now at their residence and personally. We can always enhance and do more and do better."

In the past budget battles, it has been Republicans who've been willing to engage in shutdown threats as a way to focus attention on their priority demands. That was the situation during the nation's longest shutdown, during the winter of 2018-19, when President Donald Trump was insisting on federal funds to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

This time, however, Democrats, facing intense pressure from their base of supporters to stand up to Trump and refuse to fund the administration's policies, are taking a tougher position - even if it means halting funds needed to run federal offices.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said he and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries are united in opposing any legislation that doesn't include key health care provisions.

They have particularly focused on the potential for skyrocketing health care premiums for millions of Ameri-



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, walks to the chamber to begin the legislative week, at the Capitol in Washington on Sept 15. (AP)

cans if Congress fails to extend enhanced subsidies, which many people use to buy insurance on the Affordable Care Act exchange. Those subsidies were put in place during the COVID crisis, but are set to expire.

Schumer contends that Republicans

and Trump will be held responsible if they don't negotiate a bipartisan deal.

"If one side refuses to negotiate, they are the ones causing the shutdown," Schumer said.

Trump, though, called on Republicans to stay united, and sought to pin the

blame for any shutdown on Democrats.

"In times like these, Republicans have to stick TOGETHER to fight back against the Radical Left Democrat demands, and vote 'YES!'" Trump wrote on social media.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said that if the House acted, he would prefer senators also vote this week before they leave town. They are scheduled to be out of session all next week. The fiscal year draws to a close Sept. 30, and Congress must act by then to avoid a partial shutdown.

The top Republicans on the Senate and House Appropriations Committees have been urging that the stopgap spending bill fund the government through Nov. 20. But congressional leaders said a final date has not been set.

It's unclear if Democrats would support a temporary funding bill to avoid a government interruption if talks were underway on the health care issue.

Jeffries issued a statement in response to Trump's social media comments, saying that insurance premiums are skyrocketing and millions of Americans are losing coverage. He also warned that hospitals, nursing homes and community-based health clinics are closing

throughout the country.

"House Democrats will not support a partisan Republican spending bill that continues to gut the healthcare of the American people. That's what this shutdown fight is all about, Mr. President," Jeffries said.

There's support on both sides of the political aisle for extending tax credits that have made health insurance more affordable for millions of people since the COVID-19 pandemic. But there are still differences over how to do so.

Democrats are threatening to vote to shut down the government at the end of the month if Republicans don't extend the subsidies, which were first put in place in 2021 and extended a year later when they controlled Congress and the White House. The tax credits go to low- and middle-income people who purchase health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

Without the tax credits, the cost of health coverage next year will soar for millions. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the number of people without insurance would rise by 2.2 million in 2026, and by 3.7 million the following year, if Congress failed to act.



In this photo provided by the Zaporizhzhia regional military administration on Sept 16, rescuers work on a site of a house destroyed by a Russian strike on a residential neighbourhood in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. (AP)

Russian strike wounds 20 in Ukrainian city

Zelenskyy calls for European air defense system

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 16, (AP): Russian forces bombarded the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia with rockets overnight, wounding 20 people, including two children, officials said Tuesday, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged European leaders to make the continent safe by building an ambitious air defense umbrella.

With the war grinding on since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor more than 3½ years ago, there has been no let-up in Russian strikes on civilian areas of Ukraine and its army's push on the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

A peace settlement appears to be no closer despite months of US-led peace efforts. US President Donald Trump's ultimatums and deadlines for Putin to engage with proposals to stop the fighting have passed without obvious consequences.

Just over the past two weeks, Zelenskyy said on Telegram, Russia has launched more than 3,500 drones,

more than 2,500 powerful glide bombs and almost 200 missiles at targets inside Ukraine.

Russian glide bombs, usually dropped by jets at high altitude and far behind the front line, and drone swarms are a major challenge for Ukrainian defenses. Glide bombs aren't very accurate, but they leave big craters, and Ukraine has no effective countermeasure against them.

Russian drones also recently landed on Polish soil, prompting NATO to beef up the alliance's European air defenses as tensions with Moscow mounted.

"Now is the time to implement the joint protection of our European skies with a multilayered air defense system. All the technologies for this are available," Zelenskyy said on Telegram. "We need investments and desire, we need strong actions and decisions from all our partners."

In Zaporizhzhia, the Russian barrage struck more than 20 apartment buildings,

starting fires, regional head Ivan Fedorov said on national television.

"We hadn't yet recovered from enemy strikes on Aug. 30. We are currently repairing those buildings, those windows, but now the enemy has added more work for our municipal workers," Fedorov said.

In response, Ukraine has developed its own long-range drones that have hit deep inside Russia, damaging installations vital for Russia's war effort.

Recent strikes have included oil refineries, depots and terminals. Russia remains the world's second-largest oil exporter, but a seasonal rise in demand and sustained Ukrainian drone strikes have caused gasoline shortages in recent weeks.

Ukraine's General Staff said Tuesday that the armed forces struck an oil refinery in the Saratov region of western Russia during the night. Explosions and a fire were reported at the facility, the General Staff said on its Facebook page.

US president fascinated by royals

Trump arrives in UK for state visit

LONDON, Sept 16, (AP): US President Donald Trump arrives in the United Kingdom on Tuesday for a state visit during which the British government hopes a multibillion-dollar technology deal will show the transatlantic bond remains strong despite differences over Ukraine, the Middle East and the future of the Western alliance.

State visits in Britain blend 21st-century diplomacy with royal pageantry. Trump's two-day trip comes complete with horse-drawn carriages, military honor guards and a glittering banquet inside a 1,000-year-old castle - all tailored to a president with a fondness for gilded splendor.

King Charles III will host Trump at Windsor Castle on Wednesday before talks the next day with Prime Minister Keir Starmer at Chequers, the British leader's rural retreat.

Starmer's office said the visit will demonstrate that "the UK-US relationship is the strongest in the world, built on 250 years of history" - after that awkward rupture in 1776 - and bound by shared values of "belief in the rule of law and open markets." There was no mention of Trump's market-crimping fondness for sweeping tariffs.

The White House expects the two countries will strengthen their relationship during the trip as well as celebrate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, according to a senior White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. It was not clear how the UK was planning to mark that chapter in their shared history.

"The trip to the UK is going to be incredible," Trump told reporters Sun-



US President Donald Trump and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer exit Air Force One as they arrive at Royal Air Force Lossiemouth en route to Aberdeen, Scotland on July 28. (AP)

day. He said Windsor Castle is "supposed to be amazing" and added: "It's going to be very exciting."

Trump is the first US president to get a second state visit to the UK.

The unprecedented nature of the invitation, along with the expectation of lavish pomp and pageantry, holds dual appeal to Trump. The president has glowingly praised the king's late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, and spoken about how his own Scotland-born mother loved the queen and the monarchy.

The president is also royally flattered by exceptional attention and has embraced the grandeur of his office in his second term. He has adorned the normally more austere Oval Of-

fice with gold accents, is constructing an expansive ballroom at the White House and has sought to refurbish other Washington buildings to his liking.

Foreign officials have shown they're attuned to his tastes. During a visit to the Middle East this year, leaders of Saudi Arabia and Qatar didn't just roll out a red carpet but dispatched fighter jets to escort Trump's plane.

Starmer has already shown he's adept at charming Trump. Visiting Washington in February, he noted the president's Oval Office decorating choices and decision to display a bust of Winston Churchill. During Trump's private trip to Scotland in July, Starmer visited and praised Trump's golf courses.

Denmark leads exercise in Greenland, with Russia in mind at time of tensions with US

NUUK, Greenland, Sept 16, (AP): Denmark is leading a military exercise with hundreds of troops from several European NATO members in Greenland, a maneuver that coincides with months of tensions over the Trump administration's desire for US jurisdiction over the vast Arctic territory.

The Arctic Light 2025 exercise, which follows maneuvers with identical or similar titles in previous years, involves more than 550 service members from Denmark and NATO allies France, Germany, Sweden and Norway, according to the Danish military.

The chief of Denmark's Joint Arctic Command pointed to wariness toward Russia as a "regional superpower" in the far north and highlighted what he called "a very good relationship with the US military."

On Monday, Danish forces trained boarding ships with special forces as military observers from the United States, Britain, Canada, Sweden and Germany looked on. Troops descended from helicopters on ropes and climbed up from speedboats in temperatures barely above freezing.

The guests from allied nations aboard the Danish frigate Niels Juel saw Danish F-16 fighter jets fly by, as well as live-fire exercises.

The stated aim of the exercise is to strengthen the opera-



Danish military forces participate in a military exercise with hundreds of troops from several European NATO members in the Arctic Ocean in Nuuk, Greenland on Sept 15. (AP)

tional readiness of the Danish armed forces and Greenland, a strategically located island that is a semiautonomous territory of Denmark.

America

Stein requests \$13.5B from Congress: North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein on Monday requested \$13.5 billion more from Congress in recovery aid for Hurricane Helene almost a year after the historic storm, saying additional help is needed from Washington to address record amounts of damage and to get funds to the region quicker.

The proposal also asks the federal government to distribute an additional \$9.4 billion in federal funds that the state has already requested or is expecting but first needs additional action from U.S. agencies. (AP)

□ □ □

Duncan announces Georgia gov bid: Former Republican and onetime Georgia Lt Gov Geoff Duncan is running as a Democrat for governor, a step for a critic of President Donald Trump who left the conservative fold in a region where party switchers have gone in the other direction for generations.

"I've never wavered in taking on Trump. So Georgia Republicans threw me out of their party," Duncan said in his announcement video released Tuesday. "I was leaving anyway. Now I'm running for governor as a proud Democrat."

A 50-year-old resident of a Republican stronghold north of Atlanta, Duncan joins an already crowded field of life-long Democrats. Top candidates include former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, state Sen. Jason Esteves and former labor commissioner Michael Thurmond. (AP)

Asia

11 killed in Malaysia landslides: At least 11 people have been confirmed dead and several more were missing on Monday following a series of landslides triggered by continuous heavy rain across Malaysia's northern Borneo state of Sabah.



Anwar

The accident took place in a village near the state capital of Kota Kinabalu.

Meanwhile, flooding has displaced over 1,788 people in the state, with the victims being housed in 12 relief centers, according to the country's social welfare department.

Separately, Prime Minister **Anwar Ibrahim** on Monday announced an additional allocation of 10 million ringgit (2.38 million US dollars) in aid to be channeled to victims, on top of the 11 million ringgit previously allocated, urging Malaysians to come together to help those in need. (Xinhua)

Philippines raises La Nina alert: The Philippine weather bureau PAGASA on Monday raised a La Nina alert, citing a 70 percent chance of above-normal rainfall from October to December, likely to persist until February 2026.

La Nina, the cool phase of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation, is linked to heavier rains and more tropical cyclones in the Philippines. PAGASA warned of possible floods and landslides from rain-bearing systems.

The agency urged government offices and the public to prepare, and said it will continue monitoring the climate phenomenon. (Xinhua)

1 dead, 6 hospitalized in Sydney gas leak: One person has died and six more, including five police officers, have been hospitalized following a gas leak at a restaurant in northwest Sydney on Tuesday morning.

A police statement said that emergency services responded to reports of the gas leak at a restaurant in Riverstone, 38 km northwest of central Sydney, at around 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday.

One person was confirmed deceased at the scene, police said. Five police officers and one member of the public were taken to hospital in a stable condition. (Xinhua)

Japan's LDP leadership race gathers pace as multiple candidates enter fray

TOKYO, Sept 16, (Agencies): The contest to choose a successor to Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was gaining momentum, with multiple candidates officially entering the race this week.

Former Economic Security Minister Takayuki Kobayashi held a press conference on Tuesday to outline his vision for party unity and economic growth, declaring his candidacy in the LDP leadership election.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi also confirmed his intention to run, telling reporters at the National Diet that he felt compelled to lead the party.

Agriculture minister Shinjiro Koizumi expressed his intention to run earlier on Tuesday, stressing the need for party unity to tackle challenges such as rising prices.

Former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi was expected to announce her candidacy later this week.

He also revealed that Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato, who ran in last year's leadership race, has agreed to serve as his campaign chief, national broadcaster NHK reported.

Meanwhile, former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi declared his candidacy last week.

The LDP leadership race, now less than a week from its formal announcement, was shaping up to be a crowded and competitive contest.



People look at a screen broadcasting a live TV news program showing Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba speaking at a press conference, in Tokyo, Japan on Sept 7. (AP)

The LDP has decided to hold its leadership election in a full-scale format, including votes from both lawmakers and rank-and-file party members, on Oct. 4.

Meanwhile, Japan will send Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) F-15 fighter jets for the first time to Europe and Canada starting on Sunday to deepen defense exchanges with partner nations, Defense Minister Gen Nakatani announced Friday.

Four F-15s from Chitose Air Base in northern Japan, along with transport and refueling aircraft, will be dispatched to the US, Canada, Britain and Germany until Oct 1, Nakatani said at a press conference.

Nakatani expressed hope that Japan will further deepen cooperative relations with allies and like-minded countries through this dispatch, to realize the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Trump claims US military again strikes alleged Venezuelan drug boat, killing 3

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (Xinhua): US President Donald Trump said Monday that the US military launched the second strike in two weeks targeting an alleged drug boat from Venezuela, killing three men aboard the vessel in international waters.

"This morning, on my Orders, US Military Forces conducted a SECOND Kinetic Strike against positively identified, extraordinarily violent drug trafficking cartels and narcoterrorists in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility," Trump wrote on social media.

"These extremely violent drug trafficking cartels POSE A THREAT to US National Security, Foreign Policy, and vital US Interests," he said.

Trump's post also includes a video marked "unclassified," showing that a vessel caught fire in unknown waters.

On Sept 2, Trump ordered a US military strike in international waters on a vessel allegedly carrying drugs from Venezuela, killing 11 people on-board, whom Trump described as all "positively identified Tren de Aragua (TDA) Narcoterrorists."

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro later denounced the first US strike as "unlawful." He accused Washington



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro gives a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela on Sept 15. (AP)

of fabricating drug trafficking claims to justify its regime change attempt, insisting that Venezuela is free of coca cultivation and cocaine production.

The Venezuelan side has not yet commented on the second US strike.

Maduro said at a press conference Monday that channels of commu-

nication between the United States and Venezuela have been severed by Washington.

He blamed the breakdown on "threats and blackmail" from Washington, while stressing that Venezuela has "managed to preserve peace" despite provocations from the United States.

Laaulialemalietoa sworn in as Samoa new premier

SUVA, Sept 16, (Xinhua): **Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Schmidt** has been sworn in as new prime minister of Samoa, beginning his five-year term in office.

The first sitting of Samoa's newly elected 18th parliament and swearing-in ceremony took place at the Tualaimatua Multipurpose Gymnasium in Apia on Tuesday.

During the sitting, the 31 majority FAST party members of parliament confirmed their official nomination and appointment of their party leader Laaulialemalietoa as Samoa's new Prime Minister.

Extending thanks to his family and all of Samoa, Laaulialemalietoa called on the people to "work together hand in hand to build a stronger Samoa in united peace and harmony."

Born in 1966, Laaulialemalietoa has extensive political experience.

He has served as speaker and deputy speaker of parliament, and twice as minister of agriculture, fisheries and scientific research.

Laaulialemalietoa's FAST Party secured 30 seats at the polls, while the Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP) came in second with 14 seats. Former Prime Minister Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa's Samoa Uniting Party (SUP) won only 3.

In Samoa's 51-seat Parliament, the FAST Party now has 31 seats, having been joined by one extra MP, who contested the election as an independent.



Laaulialemalietoa



People line up to cast their votes in Thyolo District, Malawi on Sept 16. (AP)

Malawi votes

Malawians cast their votes Tuesday in elections to choose a president, lawmakers and local government representatives at a time of economic turmoil in one of the world's least-developed countries.

Voters face a choice between giving President Lazarus Chakwera, 70, a second term in office or selecting another leader to solve the southern African nation's sky-high inflation, cost-of-living crisis and critical fuel shortages.

There are 16 other candidates standing for president in the one-day election, including 85-year-old former president Peter Mutharika, whose victory in a 2019 vote as the incumbent was nullified by a court because of widespread irregularities.

He is viewed as Chakwera's strongest challenger in this vote. (AP)

Australia gifts Papua New Guinea Parliament House extension for its 50th independence anniversary

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 16, (AP): Australia offered to gift Papua New Guinea an extension to its Parliament House as the South Pacific island nation celebrated 50 years of independence on Tuesday.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was among government leaders who gathered at Independence Hill in the Papua New Guinea capital of Port Moresby for a flag-raising ceremony.

Albanese said Australia will support the construction of a new ministerial wing for Papua New Guinea's National Parliament.

"Our support for the expansion of Parliament House is an investment in Papua New Guinea's democracy and sovereignty that will benefit future generations," Albanese said.

Australia is emphasizing the democratic principles it shares with its former colony as China increases its influence in the region.

The United States was represented at the celebration by Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau.

Prince Edward represented his brother King Charles III, who is Papua New Guinea's head of state. Charles had attended the first independence



Papua New Guineans stand in front of a statue of Papua New Guinea's first Prime Minister Michael Somare during a flag-raising ceremony at Parliament House in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on Sept 16. (AP)

ceremony in 1975 representing his mother Queen Elizabeth II.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape reminded the gathering of the words of his country's first Governor-General John

Guise, the monarch's representative, who said in 1975, "We are lowering the Australian flag and not tearing it down."

Marape said Guise had captured the dignity of Papua New Guineans' deci-

sion to become an independent state and the goodwill of Australians.

"Independence was not born out of anger, but out of respect, humility and faith in the future prospects of Papua New Guinea," Marape said.

Australia is underscoring its respect for Papua New Guinea sovereignty, which some local lawmakers fear could be undermined by a proposed bilateral defense treaty.

Several Pacific island nations including Papua New Guinea avoid taking sides in the growing strategic competition between China and U.S. allies such as Australia.

Some Papua New Guinea lawmakers fear the bilateral treaty with Australia would jeopardize its foreign policy of "friend to all, enemy to none."

Albanese had originally planned to sign the treaty with his counterpart James Marape on Monday ahead of independence festivities. Albanese announced on Monday before leaving Australia that the signing was delayed until Wednesday.

But a Papua New Guinea Cabinet meeting scheduled on Monday to approve the treaty did not go ahead because not enough ministers turned up to form a quorum, Albanese said.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, holds talks with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, and co-chair the fourth meeting of the China-Poland Intergovernmental Committee in Warsaw, Poland, on Sept 15. (Xinhua)

Chinese FM calls for steady growth of China-Poland ties

As China and Poland approach the 10th anniversary of their comprehensive strategic partnership next year, the two countries should build on historical experience, carry forward their friendship, uphold mutual respect, accommodate each other's core interests and work together to ensure the steady, undisturbed growth of bilateral ties, Chinese

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski.

Wang said that both China and Poland are nations of self-reliance

and resilience, committed to independence and having forged development paths suited to their own national conditions through hardships. Poland was among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China and among the first to sign cooperation documents on the Belt and Road Initiative with China, he added. (Xinhua)

'Colombia fails to cooperate in drug war for first time in nearly 30 years'

MIAMI, Sept 16, (AP): The Trump administration on Monday added Colombia to a list of nations failing to cooperate in the drug war for the first time in almost 30 years, a stinging rebuke to a traditional US ally that reflects a recent surge in cocaine production and fraying ties between the White House and the country's leftist president.

Even as it determined that Colombia had failed to comply with its international counternarcotics obligations, the Trump administration issued a waiver of sanctions that would have triggered major aid cuts, citing vital US national interests.

Nonetheless, it is a major step against one of the United States' staunchest allies in Latin America, which analysts said could hurt the economy and further hamper efforts to restore security in the countryside.

President Gustavo Petro, who has said on several occasions that whiskey kills more people than cocaine, lamented Trump's decision during a televised cabinet meeting Monday, saying Colombia was penalized after sacrificing the lives of "dozens of policemen, soldiers and regular citizens, trying to stop cocaine"



Laundry dries on a clothesline in the middle of a coca field on a hillside of the Micay Canyon, southwestern Colombia on Aug 13, 2024. (AP)

from reaching the United States.

"What we have been doing is not really relevant to the Colombian people," he said of the nation's antidrug efforts. "It's to stop North American society from smearing its noses" in cocaine.

The US last added Colombia to the list, through a process known as decertification, in 1997 when the country's cartels - through threats of

violence and money - had poisoned much of the nation's institutions.

"Decertification is a blunt tool and a huge irritant in bilateral relations that goes well beyond drug issues and makes cooperation far harder in any number of areas," said Adam Isacson, a security researcher at the Washington Office on Latin America. "That's why it's so rarely used."

UN report cites huge gov't corruption in S. Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept 16, (AP): Billions of dollars in public funds in South Sudan have been stolen over the past decade in massive government corruption while the vast majority of the country suffers food insecurity, a UN commission said Tuesday.

The report by the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan details several schemes allegedly used by political officials to divert huge chunks of public revenues since achieving independence from Sudan in 2011 after decades of civil war.

Meanwhile, the impoverished country's food crisis has deepened, and last year the government postponed for the second time what would have been the first-ever national elections, citing lack of funds.

"While a small group of powerful actors pillage and loot the country's wealth and resources, enriching themselves, the state has effectively abdicated its sovereign responsibilities to its population, outsourcing critical services - such as the provision of food,



President Salva Kiir of South Sudan looks on during the inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia on Sept 9. (AP)

healthcare, and education to international donors," the report states. "Corruption is killing South Sudanese."

In a written statement, the government called many of the allegations

"absurd," and said the report contained "methodological errors" and overstepped the commission's mandate. It also said it had not been given sufficient time to respond to the findings.

Kuwait oil price surges to \$73.08 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by USD 1.38 to USD 73.08 per barrel on Monday, compared to USD 71.70 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

In global markets, the prices of the Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate went up by 45 cents and 61 cents, respectively, to reach USD 67.44 per barrel and USD 63.30 pb.

Business

Boursa Kuwait and MSCI organize a corporate research session exploring the evolving global investment landscape and its implications on the GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Boursa Kuwait hosted an informative and in-depth corporate research session for listed companies and market participants, which examined the evolving global investment landscape and its implications for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) markets. Organized in collaboration with MSCI, a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the investment community, the event shed light on the forces shaping capital markets and the pivotal role of global benchmarks in driving capital flows to the region.

The session featured four presentations led by MSCI, offering valuable insights into emerging market trends, the significance of global benchmarks in broadening investor access, and the opportunities that index inclusion creates for issuers and investors alike. The session also shed light on how companies can utilize sustainability to enhance their performance and gain access to global capital.

"Boursa Kuwait continues to push the envelope for the Kuwaiti capital market, ensuring that its participants remain informed of the latest macro and microeconomic trends shaping the global investment landscape and affecting the region's capital markets, strengthening their ability to keep pace with the rapid evolution of financial

markets. The exchange is committed to providing a comprehensive investment environment built on transparency and governance, empowering investors to make well-informed decisions as part of our efforts to support Kuwait's economic development journey and reinforce its position as a regional financial hub capable of attracting capital from around the world," said Boursa Kuwait's Executive Director of Markets, **Noura Al-Abdulkareem**.

In 2019, MSCI announced the reclassification of the Kuwaiti capital market from Frontier to Emerging Market status, paving the way for the inclusion of seven listed companies in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index on November 30, 2020. This resulted in traded values exceeding KD 961.6 million, one of the highest single-day totals in the history of the Kuwaiti capital market.

"Engaging with world-renowned index providers enhances the appeal of Kuwaiti companies to prominent institutional investors on the international investment map, enabling them to benefit from global expertise in developing innovative investment products, improving standards of governance and transparency and elevating disclosure levels to meet the increasing demands of international investors. Such engagement also creates opportunities for listed companies to broaden their investor base and attract long-term capital that supports market stability and contributes to the diversification of the national economy. I would like to extend my gratitude to MSCI for the valuable insights and corporate research shared, and look forward to further collaboration in the future," she added.



Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer, Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi with MSCI Team.

The session began with Mr. Dimitris Melas, Managing Director of MSCI Research, delivering the latest market updates, which allowed participants to gain insights into the latest investment trends and their impact on global capital allocation. Emphasizing GCC markets, Mr. Melas spoke about the global macro uncertainties of 2025 and their impact on public and private assets as well as the implications for global capital allocation in light of the various conflicts, trade wars and institutional shifts around the world.

Mr. Ramon Subramanian, Managing Director, MSCI Research, then began his presentation on the importance of global benchmarks, country and company index inclusion criteria and their impact on capital flows. Mr. Subramanian delved into the importance of MSCI global benchmarks in visibility and capital access, the

criteria for company inclusions, including liquidity, free float, and eligibility factors as well as how index inclusion drives capital flows and broadens investor base, detailing a roadmap for issuers to attract global investors.

The session then moved on to Ms. Jasmine Mehta, Head of EMEA Corporate Sales, who gave a presentation showcasing ESG ratings and their role in index construction. She highlighted effective methods of reporting sustainability and climate returns on investment (ROI) and how to understand sustainability and climate performance and measure their ROI through indexed funds.

Finally, Mr. Ashish Lodh, Executive Director, MSCI Research, spoke about the latest MSCI index innovations and what opportunities were present for GCC indices. Among the topics

covered were MSCI's latest research-driven innovations in index design, the use of new data sources, investment signals, and construction methodologies, GCC investment opportunities and index strategies for the region as well as insights into building indexes aligned with evolving client objectives and market conditions.

MSCI strengthens global markets by connecting participants across the financial ecosystem with a common language. The company's research-based data, analytics and indexes, supported by advanced technology, set standards for global investors and help clients understand risks and opportunities to make better decisions and unlock innovation. MSCI serves asset managers and owners, private market sponsors and investors, hedge funds, wealth managers, banks, insurers and

corporates.

The initiative forms part of Boursa Kuwait's efforts to create a lasting, meaningful impact on the community where it operates as part of its Corporate Sustainability strategy and ongoing efforts to equip all market participants with an in-depth understanding of the functioning of capital markets and various tools and techniques required to make informed investment decisions and effectively meet investors' needs. It is also in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

Investment properties see higher value

Kuwait real estate transactions rise 60% in second week of Sept

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Real estate transactions during the second week of September witnessed varying shifts in the three real estate sectors -- residential, investment and commercial.

The residential sector continued its remarkable rise in terms of the number and value of transactions and the qualitative increase in investment properties, while the commercial real estate witnessed a sharp decline in the number and value of transactions during the week, with a decline of 66 percent in number and nearly 99 percent in value.

According to the weekly statistical report of the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice, the total number of transactions from Sept 7-11 reached 99 worth KD50.9 million, compared to 62 transactions worth KD83.9 million in the first week of the month. This is a 60 percent increase in the number of transactions, compared to the 39.3 percent decline in total value due to the sharp decline in commercial

transactions.

The number of residential transactions rose to 79, valued at KD26.5 million, compared to 37 transactions worth KD13.5 million in the first week. This sector recorded significant growth of 113 percent in number and 96 percent in value, reflecting the continuation of the strong demand for residential properties as the implementation of the Vacant Land Monopoly Law approaches.

The investment sector witnessed decline in the number of transactions with 19, compared to 22 in the first week (a decrease of 13.6 percent), but achieved a jump in total value, reaching KD23.9 million, compared to KD17.6 million in the previous week -- an increase of 35.8 percent. This confirms that the nature of transactions is characterized by quality rather than quantity.

In contrast, the commercial sector recorded a sharp decline, from three transactions worth KD52.8 million in the first week to only one transaction worth KD500,000 in the second week.

This is a decline of 66 percent in number and more than 99 percent in value, the direct cause of the decline in total transactions.

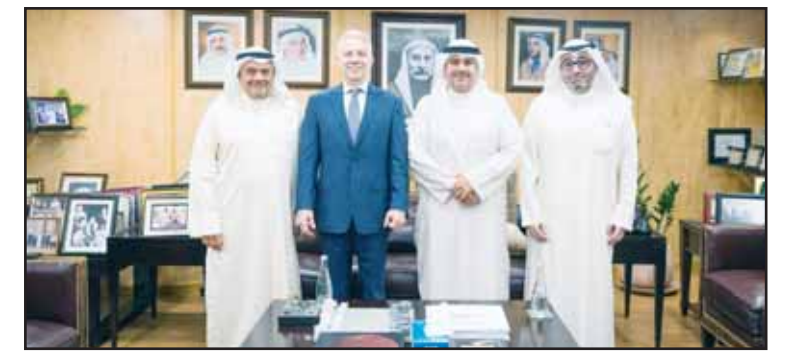
Chairman reaffirms commitment to Swiss Brands

AAW hosts the Swiss Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Dr. Tiziano Balmelli

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Chairman and CEO of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW), Mr. Faisal Ali Al Mutawa and the Deputy CEO Mr. Khalid Faisal Al Mutawa, received the Swiss Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Dr. Tiziano Balmelli, yesterday at the company's headquarters. The two parties discussed ways to strengthen and expand business relations between AAW and Swiss companies.

Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. Chairman and CEO Mr. Faisal Ali Al Mutawa said: "We are delighted to welcome back the Swiss Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Dr. Tiziano Balmelli. Our relationship has continued to grow and we look forward to strengthening our ties and co-operation bringing new leading Swiss brands to Kuwait."

Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Com-



AAW leadership welcomes Swiss Ambassador Dr. Balmelli to headquarters.

mercial Company is one of the largest retail and distribution companies in Kuwait's private sector, with world-class operations across various industries.

AAW represents more than 100 global brands in Kuwait's surging wholesale and retail market including prominent Swiss brands.

Gulf Bank continues to support youth & SMEs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: As part of its strategy to deliver unique banking experiences and its ongoing efforts to strengthen its position as the most rewarding bank in Kuwait, Gulf Bank continues to roll out its distinctive initiative "Naqsat Alkhaleej," where it regularly surprises its customers with free meals and drinks, in collaboration with leading local restaurants, cafés, and stores.

Surprising customers weekly with complimentary meals and beverages in collaboration with leading local restaurants, cafés, and stores.

This initiative combines rewarding customers with supporting young entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), reinforcing Gulf Bank's role as a key partner in supporting the national economy. It also reaffirms the Bank's commitment to providing meaningful experiences that bring it closer to the community -- especially the youth.

Through strategic partnerships with some of Kuwait's most prominent local brands, Gulf Bank is shining a spotlight on youth initiatives and entrepreneurial talents that are shaping the SME sector in Kuwait. The Bank collaborates with several standout youth-driven brands such as San Ristorante, Matbakhy, Seeko, Toby's, Yellow, Juice Time, and Fat Cup. These partnerships aim to support young business owners, increase the visibility of their ventures, and provide customers with innovative experiences that combine quality and creativity.

Engaging With Youth
Youth remain a central focus across all of Gulf Bank's initiatives. The Bank strives to be present in the heart of their daily experiences through on-the-ground activities in universities and social spaces they frequent. These initiatives include sponsoring and participating in various university exhibitions such as those at Kuwait University, Abdullah Al-Salem University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), and the American University of Kuwait. The Bank also participated in the "Darrasaty" (My Studies) Exhibition to introduce students to Gulf Bank's banking ser-



Gulf Bank pays special attention to youth and participates in various activities.

VICES and offer them exclusive products and instant rewards.

Through these collaborations, Gulf Bank delivers fun and innovative experiences that align with youth lifestyles and interests, reinforcing its role as the bank closest to the next generation.

Exceptional Experiences
"Naqsat Alkhaleej" has gained widespread engagement on social media, with customers sharing photos and videos of their experiences. This has helped raise awareness of the initiative and generate excitement and anticipation for the weekly giveaways.

As a result, it supports increased sales and growth for SMEs by expanding their reach and attracting new customer segments.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's Head of Marketing, Ms. **Najla Aleisa**, stated: "Our mission goes beyond offering exceptional banking services. We aim to reward our customers while also supporting young entrepreneurs and SME owners. Through the Naqsat Alkhaleej initiative, in collaboration with the best restaurants and local businesses, we strive to reward our customers and contribute to the national economy at the same time."

She added: "Our continued presence in universities and youth-centric spaces, and our support for their entrepreneurial ambitions, make Gulf Bank part of their daily lives -- not just a financial service provider. Gulf Bank is also a main sponsor of the annual Company Program competition organized by INJAZ Kuwait, which aims to encourage high school and university students to explore entrepreneurship, teaching them how to establish and manage businesses and equipping them with leadership and management skills."

Step supports company's sustainability strategy to reduce emissions

Zain joins Kuwait Green Building Council to accelerate sustainability agenda in the workplace and community

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Zain Kuwait announced that it has joined the Kuwait Green Building Council (KGBC) as a Platinum member, in a step that reflects its commitment to accelerating the sustainability agenda in the workplace and the community and to reducing emissions and enhancing energy efficiency. This comes as a core part of Zain's sustainability strategy and as an extension of its community programs that focus on reducing environmental impact and supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Commenting on the partnership, Corporate Relations Department Manager Hamad Al-Musaibeeh said: "Joining the Kuwait Green Building Council confirms Zain's direction to turn sustainability principles into measurable, day-to-day operational practice. We will benefit from the capacity-building programs and technical advisory services that KGBC provides to develop the competencies of our engineering and operations teams and to adopt more advanced standards for energy and water efficiency and waste management across our facilities."

He added: "We believe that sustainable ecosystems enhance quality of life and create economic and social value for our customers, partners, and society as a whole, and they support Kuwait's shift toward a more sustainable future. We are therefore pleased with this partnership and look forward to advancing our shared vision to achieve lasting social impact."

General Manager of the Kuwait Green Building Council, Dalal Al-Hashash, said: "We are proud to welcome Zain as a Platinum Member of the Kuwait Green Building Council. For years, Zain has been at the forefront of integrating sustainability into its business strategy and operations, setting an example for the private sector in Kuwait."

She added: "This partnership is not about starting the journey, but about deepening collaboration and knowledge exchange to accelerate innovative solutions in energy efficiency and emissions reduction. As the technology sector is set to experience one of the fastest rises in energy demand, we are delighted to work with one of Kuwait's leading companies to ensure that future growth is guided by sustainability principles that put people and the environment at the center of



Hamad Al-Musaibeeh and Dalal Al-Hashash with Zain and KGBC team members.

development."

The Kuwait Green Building Council will provide Zain, through its Platinum Membership, with specialized capacity-building platforms through training, workshops, and seminars, in addition to technical advisory services to align projects with sustainable building standards and practices.

The Council also offers marketing support channels to highlight members' environmental responsibility, and spaces for professional networking and the exchange of expertise among leaders in this field to enhance opportunities for partnerships and collaboration.

As a Platinum Member, Zain will support the Council's activities, programs, and campaigns, and will share its experience in adopting best practices across its current and future projects. This includes expanding energy-efficiency applications, rationalizing water consumption, improving waste management, and enhancing indoor environmental quality in facilities, which will positively affect users' health and wellbeing and increase productivity.

Green buildings are defined as the design, implementation, and operation of buildings in a manner that reduces negative environmental impacts and improves the quality of life for occupants and workers throughout a building's life cycle, from planning to decommissioning.

This is achieved through solutions that include reliance on renewable energy sources, maximizing natural lighting, using sustain-

able materials, applying water-conservation technologies, and adopting effective waste-management strategies.

This step aligns with Zain's sustainability vision, which places climate action and resource efficiency at the core of its operations and supply chain and supports its long-term emissions-reduction targets. It also reflects the company's commitment to partnering with specialized local entities to build more sustainable buildings and urban infrastructure in Kuwait.

The Kuwait Green Building Council was officially established as a non-profit, non-governmental entity in 2017. As a membership-based organization of relevant stakeholders, it aims to encourage and support sustainable urban and built-environment development in Kuwait. It is affiliated with a global network of more than 75 Green Building Councils operating under the umbrella of the World Green Building Council.

The Council offers annual membership packages for various segments including companies, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, specialists, and students. These packages cover benefits and responsibilities that include capacity-building programs, technical consulting to implement green building standards, marketing support to highlight members' commitments, and opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange, with the aim of entrenching a culture of sustainable construction and supporting related initiatives and strategic plans.

BUSINESS

NBK elevates employee experience with innovative digital solutions from Weyay Bank

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: In a new move that reaffirms its commitment to empowering employees and providing them with the latest banking solutions, the National Bank of Kuwait announces a special initiative in collaboration with Weyay Bank, the first digital bank in Kuwait by NBK. This initiative aims to offer a comprehensive and exclusive digital banking experience to NBK Group employees, enhancing their financial well-being and supporting their modern lifestyle.

This partnership underscores NBK's firm belief in the importance of investing in its employees and providing an advanced work environment that fosters their professional and personal growth. The initiative also reflects the Weyay Bank's role in adopting the latest digital transformation technologies through delivering innovative banking solutions and digital loans that meet the evolving needs of its customers.

Key Weyay's Digital Features for NBK Employees:

NBK employees will have full access to the innovative digital services offered by Weyay Bank through its application, including:

- **Seamless Banking and Smart Financial Management:** The Weyay app features an intuitive and modern user interface, specifically designed to meet the digital needs and preferences of



Emad Al-Ablani



Amal Al-Duwaisan

its customers. Users can easily access different card types and services and arrange their products in a way that suits them. To further cater to customer preferences, the app allows users to search for offers and rewards, with the option to categorize them by the type of bank card they hold or the type of offer. Weyay offers advanced tools for personal budgeting and real-time expense tracking, along with fast and easy money transfers. These features give employees complete control over their finances and enhance their ability to manage them efficiently.

- **Digital Marketplace:** The app includes a diverse digital marketplace where users can securely purchase various digital cards and pay their mobile

phone bills. Customers can also manage mobile services and buy packages at competitive prices from stc Telecom Company without ever leaving the Weyay app.

- **Innovative Saving Solutions:** The Weyay app allows employees to use features like "Saving Pots," which help them set specific savings goals and work toward achieving them effectively. These pots also offer the option of earning monthly interest, helping users reach their financial goals faster. A standout feature is the "Hide Balance" option, allowing users to focus on their savings goals without the temptation of spending triggered by seeing a constantly growing balance. Additionally,



NBK, Weyay partner to empower staff with exclusive digital services.



users can temporarily lock their saving pot, preventing direct withdrawals until a specified goal is met.

- **"Jeel" Card and App for Ages 8-14:** With the Weyay app's parental controls, employees can issue a "Jeel" card for their children, instilling financial literacy and responsible money management from an early age. The "Jeel" user interface is simplified and designed to resonate with children, setting a new standard for banking services tailored to this age group.

Commenting on the initiative, Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at the National Bank of Kuwait, said: "NBK has always been committed to empowering its employees and providing a stimulating work environment. This step with Weyay Bank is about delivering an integrated banking experience that aligns with their modern lifestyle. We believe that providing our employees with the best tools and services not only boosts their productivity and job satisfaction but

also helps them achieve their financial and personal goals."

Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank, added: "We are proud of this initiative, which affirms Weyay Bank's position and its role in redefining the banking experience to be more accessible and flexible. Offering our digital services to NBK employees is a testament to our confidence in Weyay's ability to keep pace with the rapid changes in today's world."



Closing ceremony of the Kuwait Programs 2025 initiative.

Company concludes its sponsorship of the 2025 edition

Agility KSCP invests in youth through Kuwait Codes program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Agility KSCP, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, has announced the successful conclusion of the 2025 edition of the Kuwait Codes program as part of its ongoing strategic partnership with CODED Academy.

Now in its fourth year, Kuwait Codes has established itself as a leading platform for developing tech and coding talent in Kuwait, providing free training in 2025 to more than 1,000 high school students in app, web, and game development, as well as cybersecurity.

During the closing ceremony, Agility KSCP recognized student achievements by pre-



Agility awarded for 'Most Ready to Market Project'.

senting Agility's award for the "Most Ready to Market Project" for Kuwait Codes 2025. The award was given to Salah Younes Ali, whose project stood

out for its innovation and real-world potential. Agility KSCP is committed to empowering and investing in youth development in Kuwait

through strategic partnerships with leading non-profits that expand access to technical and vocational education. Its collaboration with CODED Academy



Agility receives an award from CODED CEO Ahmad Marafi in recognition of its strategic partnership.

stands as a strong example, with more than 4,500 young learners reached since the launch of the "Kuwait Codes" program in 2022, including 1,072 in 2025 alone, equipping them with essential coding and entrepreneurship skills.

Agility KSCP's CSR program underscores the private sector's critical role in advancing youth development and fostering innovation in Kuwait. This year, Agility KSCP aims to reach over 5,000 individuals nationwide through initiatives focused on education, technology, and entrepreneurship, building on two decades of partnerships that have already impacted more than 51,000 people across the country.

A leading role in designing innovative investment products

KFH offers Thimar investment plan for secure retirement

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: As part of its commitment to delivering the best investment solutions, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers Thimar investment plan, designed for a secure retirement. This plan is available for customers aged 21 to 55, with investment term ranging from 5 to 39 years.

Thimar key features include the flexibility to adjust the target amount, or the monthly deduction at any time and automatic monthly transfers from the customer's account to Thimar investment plan. Additionally, customers can withdraw up to 60% of the balance in the first year, and up to 60% each year following the initial withdrawal.

They also have the option to increase the monthly investment amount automatically once every two years.

Customers can deposit fixed amounts in addition to the monthly savings without affecting the plan's schedule. Upon completion of the saving period, the targeted saving amount and the accumulated profits will be available. The plan can be canceled at any time, with the amount invested and accrued profits up to the closing date refunded to the customer. The target investment amount ranges from KD 4,000 to KD 120,000.

When opening Thimar plan, a Takaful insurance



KFH's Thimar initiative.

coverage is automatically issued in the customer's name. The insurance will cover the unpaid savings due to death or total disability (sickness or accident) during the saving period.

Through Thimar, customers can save monthly amounts that yield higher investment returns on their savings. Upon reaching retirement age, the total

amount saved, along with investment profits, will help cover the customer's expenses and personal projects during this phase of life, all with the benefit of Takaful coverage.

It is worth noting that KFH long-term investment plans encourage customers to strengthen their future planning and saving culture, prioritize family spending, and enhance opportunities to increase household income through flexible, innovative solutions with attractive returns.

In addition to Thimar plan, KFH offers several other long-term investment plans. Among them is the Jameati plan, which is designed to support university education expenses for children once they reach the age of 18. Another plan is Injaz, a multipurpose investment option that allows young people to plan ahead and realize their future ambitions by starting to invest their savings early, whether to establish a business, purchase a home, or pursue other personal goals.

There is also Rafaa, an investment product created to ease the costs of marriage for children through early planning. Parents can set a specific amount to cover marriage expenses, which is made available in full at the end of the plan, helping them prepare for their children's family life.

'Strengthening economic cooperation'

Bangladesh, Kuwait explore boosting trade ties at KCCI

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: On 16 September 2025, a business delegation from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), and other trade bodies, participated in a business meeting organized by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) at Al Boom Hall, Chamber Building.

The discussions focused on strengthening economic relations between the two brotherly nations, exploring opportunities in various sectors, and building sustainable trade partnerships. The Bangladeshi delegation included companies from diverse industries such as ready-made and knitted garments, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, and renewable energy. Senior officials of KCCI and prominent Kuwaiti businessmen from relevant sectors also attended the meeting. It is worth noting that a Protocol of Cooperation was signed between the FBCCI and KCCI in 2016, and this was the first meeting held since that agreement.

The meeting began with welcome remarks by Mr. Firas M. Al-Oda, Assistant Director General of KCCI, who warmly received the delegation and reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to deepening business cooperation between Kuwait and Bangladesh. Then, H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the State of Kuwait Major General Syed Tareq Hussain, OSP, awc, psc, also addressed the gathering. In his remarks, the Ambassador emphasized that this meeting not only continued the spirit of the 2016 Protocol of Cooperation but also marked the beginning of a new chapter in the growing economic partnership between the two brotherly countries. He highlighted Bangladesh's rapidly expanding economy, youthful population, and robust industrial growth, par-

ticularly in garments, pharmaceuticals, IT, shipbuilding, renewable energy, and agro-processing, as offering significant opportunities for Kuwaiti investors.

Mr. Md. Abdur Rahim Khan, Additional Secretary (Export) of Bangladesh's Ministry of Commerce and head of the delegation, delivered a detailed presentation on Bangladesh's dynamic business environment. He underscored the country's strategic location, skilled workforce, and demographic advantages. He also outlined progress in key sectors such as garments, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, IT, plastics, leather, footwear, and healthcare, alongside recent infrastructure developments and policy reforms aimed at facilitating foreign investment. He further highlighted the one-stop services provided by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enhance the ease of doing business. Mr. Khan extended an invitation to Kuwaiti business leaders to visit Bangladesh and witness these opportunities firsthand.

Industry representatives from Bangladesh elaborated on sector-specific prospects, presenting investment proposals and inviting their Kuwaiti counterparts to explore facilities in Bangladesh, with particular attention to opportunities in the healthcare sector.

The Kuwaiti side expressed strong interest in expanding imports from Bangladesh and exploring outsourcing collaborations. KCCI representatives also indicated plans to organize a delegation visit to Bangladesh to assess investment prospects on site.

The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding to intensify cooperation, with the shared objective of boosting trade and investment between Bangladesh and Kuwait, paving the way for a stronger and more collaborative economic partnership.



Bangladesh Business Delegation meets Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry to strengthen economic ties.

Markaz launches Private Real Assets Strategy to empower qualified investors with solid income and expected long-term capital growth

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" has announced the launch of its Private Real Assets Strategy, a global investment solution designed to serve qualified and professional investors, whether individuals, family offices, or institutions. The strategy, in partnership with top-tier managers, provides them with access to resilient income stream and potentially long-term total return through a curated, diversified portfolio of real tangible assets that power the global modern economy. The assets span across various sectors including energy, transport, logistics, and digital infrastructure. They are selected for their potential to generate stable, inflation-resilient cash flows while offering solid growth characteristics across market cycles.

At the core of the strategy is Markaz's conviction in real assets as a potentially all-weather investment class. The offering is positioned to address today's macroeconomic volatility, and persistent inflation by investing in assets with steady demand and relatively low correlation to traditional asset classes. By targeting a total annual return of more than 10% with potentially quarterly income distributions, the strategy seeks to meet the dual investor objective of long-term growth and income generation.

The investment structure allows monthly subscriptions and quarterly redemptions, with a two-year soft lock-up designed to support long-term positioning without compromising investor access. Markaz partners with leading global fund managers who demonstrate consistent performance across market environments, while the company's internal investment team actively monitors and rebalances exposures to optimize risk-adjusted returns.

Introducing the strategy, Mr. Kashish Tandon, CFA, CIP-MEVP, Investment Advisory at Markaz, commented: "We believe a portfolio of private real assets is an innovative investment choice for clients to potentially future proof their portfolios by investing in tomorrow. With global mega trends such as Digitali-



Sheikh Humoud S. Al Sabah

zation and Decarbonization truly underway, this strategy enables our clients to get exposure to this generational opportunity of building out of the modern economy, targeting dual benefits of inflation-protected income and long-term growth in a diversified manner.

Additionally, private real assets are like an all-weather portfolio ballast which can help reduce the volatility associated with short-term market fluctuations.

This is due in part to the stable nature of these assets and their long-term investment horizon."

Sheikh Humoud S. Al Sabah, SVP, Investment Advisory, at Markaz, added: "In a time when investors seek both safety and opportunity, this strategy delivers access to essential infrastructure with the potential for stable income, downside protection, and long-term capital growth. By leveraging our institutional relationships and premier in-house manager allo-



cation expertise, we are enabling qualified investors to participate in institutional opportunities that are traditionally hard to access, yet increasingly relevant for portfolio resilience. This strategy is built on a carefully designed multi-manager architecture that spans core, core-plus, and value-add investments across geographies and sectors. It is diversified by asset type and investment style to reduce concentration risk and enhance risk-adjusted returns."

It is worth mentioning that Markaz launched its Private Credit strategy in 2024, designed to offer diversified income solutions to its professional and qualified clients. Continuing its tradition of innovation and leadership within the investment community, Markaz is actively expanding its portfolio offerings to better meet the evolving needs of its clients.

Disclaimer

This press release has been prepared for promotional purposes and has been approved by "Markaz", and no necessary



Kashish Tandon

data about the investment in question has been omitted. Private real assets and private credit portfolio investments may be subject to the risks, investment returns and performance are difficult to predict and are not guaranteed. Therefore, prospective investors are required to review the constituent documents and should conduct their own analysis and research, as well as consult with their financial, legal, and other advisors specialized in making investment decisions regarding any strategy covered in this content, and understand that such an investment carries a high degree of risk of loss of the investment, and the amount of potential returns cannot be predicted or guaranteed.

The Private Real Assets Strategy is only intended and suitable for Qualified Professional Client/Professional Client by Nature as defined by the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority, and willing to accept the risks, known and unknown, associated with private real assets and private credit portfolio investing.

Johair Marafi: ABK's participation reflects its strategy to empower youth and support education

ABK participates in Public Authority for Applied Education & Training (PAAET) orientation days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: As part of its ongoing commitment to education, youth empowerment, and community engagement, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is proud to announce its participation in the orientation days of the Public Authority for Applied Education & Training (PAAET), one of Kuwait's largest educational institutions.

The orientation days were held at the Mishref Exhibition Center during September. Each day was tailored to different groups of students, such as females, males, and a day with mixed attendance.



Johair Marafi

ABK's participation reflects the Bank's commitment to contributing to the growth and development of young people in Kuwait. By actively supporting student-focused initiatives, ABK demonstrates its belief in the importance of education and



The bank's pavilion at the event.

financial literacy in shaping the future. Commenting on the initiative, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, said, "At ABK, we believe that education is the cornerstone of progress, and sup-

porting students at the start of their academic journey is both a privilege and a responsibility. The PAAET orientation days provide an excellent platform to connect with young people, guide them in building healthy financial habits, and encour-

age them to approach their studies with confidence." ABK's participation also aligns with its broader corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy, which places strong emphasis on empowering youth, supporting education, and pro-



Presenting the bank's services.

moting financial inclusion. By engaging directly with students through initiatives such as PAAET's orientation days, ABK continues to strengthen its role as a trusted partner in the community and an advocate for the success of future generations.



Student inquiries during the forum.

'Economic concerns mount'

Senate Democrats, led by Kaine, to force votes on Trump's tariffs

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): Democrats are planning to force two Senate votes on President Donald Trump's tariffs in the coming weeks, keeping pressure on Senate Republicans as many of them have voiced frustration with the policies.

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine says he will introduce two separate bipartisan resolutions this week that would terminate the national emergencies that Trump declared to justify the tariffs he has imposed on Canada and Brazil. In April, four Republicans voted with Democrats to block Trump's tariffs on Canada, but the House never took it up.

Kaine said it's common for Republican senators to express concerns about the tariffs, but he wants to put them on the record as often as he can.

Republicans can "vote with your constituents or vote with President Trump," Kaine said. "Over time, the instability is creating huge concerns."

Kaine is introducing the two resolutions with a group of Democrats and Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, an outspoken opponent of Trump's tariffs. By introducing the measures, the group is triggering a decades-old law that allows Congress to block a president's emergency powers and force votes on Trump's declarations, whether majority Republicans want to hold the votes or not.

The law allows lawmakers to reintroduce the legislation and force new votes every six months - something Kaine says he will do until the policy is changed.

The votes will come at a time of turmoil for the economy. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said last week that Trump's tariff policy is one of several factors that are expected to increase jobless rates and inflation and lower overall growth this year. Republicans from farm states and beyond, including Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota, have expressed wariness about some of the sweeping tariffs and concerns about the effects on businesses that depend on Canadian trade.

Still, Republicans have mostly deferred to Trump on his administration's trade policy, so far declining to block it and arguing that the president needs time to work on deals with individual countries.

"I think everybody kind of knows my views on tariffs, but the fact of the matter is, the president ran on this," Thune said earlier this year.

The resolution to block the Canadian tariffs would end the emergency declaration that Trump signed in February to implement tariffs on Canada as punishment for not doing enough to halt the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S. The Senate passed the same resolution in April with support from Paul and three other Republicans - Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine and Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. Trump called out the four on social media at the time, encouraging them to "get on the Republican bandwagon."

The second resolution would block Trump's 50% tariffs on Brazil, ending an emergency that Trump linked to Brazil's policies and criminal prosecution of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

In addition to oil, Brazil sells orange juice, coffee, iron and steel to the U.S., among other products. The U.S. ran a \$6.8 billion trade surplus with Brazil last year, according to the Census Bureau.

Democrats hope that more Republicans will vote against the tariffs as effects on the economy become more clear.

Kaine says his hope is that Republicans will support the measure because "now it's real," when the tariffs hadn't been implemented yet last spring. "It's not theoretical," he said.

Kaine also forced a separate vote on the broader global tariffs Trump announced in early April, but that was voted down 49-49. The resolution potentially could have passed, though, if Republican Sen. McConnell and Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island had not been absent.

Lula calls tariffs on Brazilian goods 'political' and 'illogical'

BRASILIA, Sept 16, (AP): Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Sunday pushed back against a 50% tariff on Brazilian imported goods to the United States, arguing that it was "political" and "illogical."

Lula said in a New York Times op-ed that his government is open to negotiating anything that can bring mutual benefits. "But Brazil's democracy and sovereignty are not on the table," he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump imposed the tariff on Brazil in July, citing what he called a "witch hunt" against former President Jair Bolsonaro, who at the time stood accused of trying to illegally hang onto power.

The trial came to an end on Thursday after a panel of Supreme Court justices ruled that Bolsonaro had attempted a coup after his 2022 electoral defeat to Lula, sparking fears of further U.S. measures against Brazil.

Lula said he was proud of the Supreme Court for its "historic decision" which safeguards Brazil's institutions, the democratic rule of law and is not a "witch hunt."

"(The ruling) followed months of investigations that uncovered plans to assassinate me, the vice president and a Supreme Court justice," Lula said.

Lula added that the tariff increase was "not only misguided but illogical," citing the surplus of \$410 billion in bilateral trade in goods and services the U.S. has accumulated over the past 15 years.

The op-ed is a sign that Brazil is bracing for more possible sanctions af-

ter the Supreme Court's decision.

After Thursday's ruling, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on X that Trump's government "will respond accordingly."

Brazil's Foreign Ministry called Rubio's comments an inappropriate threat that wouldn't intimidate the government, saying the country's judiciary is independent and that Bolsonaro was granted due process.

Bolsonaro on Sunday briefly left his home in Brasilia where he is under house arrest to undergo a medical procedure at a nearby hospital, his first public appearance since Thursday's ruling.

Escorted by police, Bolsonaro went to the DF Star hospital in Brazil's capital in the morning for procedures related to skin lesions - a temporary release granted by Justice Alexandre de Moraes on Sept. 8.

He was later discharged, doctors from the hospital said in a statement. Medical staff removed eight skin lesions that will be sent for analysis to establish a definitive diagnosis and assess the need for further treatment.

The 70-year-old far-right politician was placed under house arrest in early August, after de Moraes said that Bolsonaro had violated precautionary measures imposed on him in the context of the coup trial. He had already been wearing an ankle monitor.

In late August, de Moraes increased security measures further and ordered that police conduct inspections of all vehicles leaving Bolsonaro's residence and monitor the exterior of the house.

Majid Al Futtaim launches HyperMax in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Majid Al Futtaim, a leading shopping mall, communities, retail, and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, today announced the launch of its independently-owned grocery retail brand, HyperMax, in Kuwait. Following its successful debut in Jordan, Oman, and Bahrain, HyperMax is now bringing its deep local insights, international best practices and omnichannel concept to Kuwait, setting a new benchmark for modern grocery retail in the market.

Charbel Azouri, Head of Operations at Majid Al Futtaim Retail - HyperMax Kuwait, commented: "With the launch of HyperMax in Kuwait, we are delivering a modern omnichannel shopping experience that blends world-class stand-



- Five stores and a fully integrated e-commerce platform set to redefine grocery shopping in Kuwait with greater choice, value, and convenience
- With over 1,500 employees, Majid Al Futtaim reaffirms its commitment to nurturing competitive talent while supporting Kuwait Vision 2035
- Strategic partnerships with over 150 Kuwaiti farmers, suppliers, and SMEs to strengthen food security, drive competitiveness, and foster sustainable economic growth

ards with local relevance, rooted in regional insights. By working closely with Kuwaiti farmers, suppliers, and SMEs, HyperMax

is strengthening national supply chains, promoting economic self-reliance, and contributing directly to the ambitions of Kuwait Vision 2035 - all while ensuring our customers enjoy greater variety, quality, and everyday value."

In support of Kuwait Vision 2035, HyperMax is collaborating with over 150 local farmers, producers, suppliers, and SMEs to strengthen national supply chains, reinforce food security, and create meaningful opportunities for the private sector to grow alongside the country's development agenda. With a workforce of over 1,500 team members, Majid Al Futtaim reaffirms its long-standing commitment to nurturing talent and advancing Kuwait's socio-economic prosperity.

Back-to-school shopping boosts retail spending

Retail sales up 0.6% in Aug from July even as tariffs hurt jobs and lead to price hikes

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): Shoppers increased their spending at a better-than-expected pace in August from July, helped by back-to-school shopping, even as President Donald Trump's tariffs are starting to hurt the job market and lead to price increases.

Retail sales rose 0.6% last month from July, when sales were up a revised 0.6%, according to the Commerce Department's report. In June, retail sales rose 0.9%.

The August performance, announced Tuesday, was also likely helped by the continued efforts by Americans to keep pushing up purchases ahead of expected price increases.

The retail sales increases followed two straight months of spending declines in April and May.

Excluding auto sales, which have been volatile since Trump imposed tariffs on many foreign-made cars, retail sales rose 0.7% in August. Sales at auto vehicle and parts dealers rose 0.5%.

The data showed solid spending across various other outlets. Business at electronics and appliance stores was up 0.3%, while online retailers had a 2% increase. Business at clothing and accessories retailers rose 1%.

And business at restaurants, the lone services component within the Census Bureau report and a barometer of discretionary spending, rose 0.7%.

"This is further evidence that we shouldn't underestimate the strength of the consumer," Bankrate senior industry analyst Ted Rossman wrote in a note

Tuesday. "Back-to-school shopping was a key theme in August, as evidenced by the strong clothing and electronics sales."

Government retail data isn't adjusted for inflation, which rose 0.4% from July to August, according to the latest government report. That was faster than the 0.2% pace the previous month. So that could have inflated the sales figures as well.

Inflation rose last month as the price of gas, groceries and airfares jumped while new data showed applications for unemployment aid soared, putting the Federal Reserve in an increasingly tough spot as it prepares to cut rates at its meeting this week despite persistent price increases.

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

Core prices rose 0.3% for the second straight month.

Earlier this month, the Labor Department reported that U.S. employers - companies, government agencies and nonprofits - added just 22,000 jobs last month, down from 79,000 in July and well below the 80,000 that economists had expected. The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3%, the highest since 2021.

Major retailers including Walmart, Macy's and

Best Buy recently reported their quarterly results, underscoring that shoppers are still buying, but are choosy. Some have raised prices but many, including Home Depot and Macy's, have described the hikes as modest.

Still, so far, shoppers haven't felt the big sting as some economists predicted earlier in the year as many retailers had ordered goods ahead of tariffs and absorbed a big chunk of the costs as they came in, worried about passing on any hefty price increases to consumers.

The price gains have also been gradual enough to mute changes in consumer spending behavior. Walmart CEO Doug McMillon told analysts last month after the nation's largest retailer reported its fiscal second-quarter earnings results.

But Walmart and others said they expect to see costs increase as they replenish inventory at post-tariff levels.

Jewelry maker Pandora hasn't announced specific price increases, but Pandora CEO Alexander Lacik said in a call with analysts last month that the company is monitoring the scenario.

He noted that "the U.S. consumer will eventually have to bear the brunt of these tariffs," but added, "it's not just on jewelry, it's on many product categories. So the big question mark is, what happens with inflation in the U.S., unemployment rates, all sorts of other macro drivers, and I think this is ahead of us."

112 countries ratify WTO pact to protect global fish stocks

WTO fisheries subsidies agreement enters into force

GENEVA, Sept 16, (AP): A World Trade Organization agreement aimed at reducing overfishing took effect Monday, requiring countries to reduce subsidies doled out to fishing fleets and aiming to ensure sustainability of wild-life in the world's seas and oceans.

Following a string of national approvals more than three years after its adoption, the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is designed to help limit the depletion of fish stocks caused by excessive fishing.

The Geneva-based trade body touts the deal as its first focusing on the environment, and the first broad and binding multilateral agreement on ocean sustainability.

The deal, championed by WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, formally took effect on Monday after four more countries - Brazil, Kenya, Tonga and Vietnam - adopted it.

The approvals mean 112 countries are on board, clearing by one country the requirement that at least two-thirds of WTO's 166 members give formal acceptance.



China's Long Fa fishing vessel is followed by flocks of seabirds in the Southern Ocean off the coast of the South Orkney Islands, north of the Antarctic Peninsula, on March 10, 2023. (AP)

China, the United States, and the European Union's 27-member states are among those that have signed on, while India and Indonesia have been among the holdouts.

The Pew Charitable Trust, an advocacy group, say the agreement will require countries to limit some of the \$22 billion in subsidies worldwide that encourage practices by fleets that de-

plete fish stocks, and will create a "fish fund" that can help developing countries implement it.

Only part of the agreement - focusing on subsidies for illegal fishing and overfished stocks - has taken effect. A second part, which concentrates on subsidies that produce overcapacity in the large-scale fishing industry, such as for building ships, has not been finalized.

The economic reason that the second part is important is because the more that the world's fleets have ships to fish, the lower those ships will cost - making it cheaper and more appealing to fish on a large scale and thus further threaten global fish stocks.

Experts hope the first approval will build momentum for the second part.

Oceana, a top advocacy group devoted to ocean conservation, says that fish populations were already declining because of overfishing more than a generation ago - and today the situation is "even more dire" with some 38% of global stocks overfished.

"Without fish, it's game over for the hundreds of millions of people who depend on the ocean," said Rashid Sumaila, an Oceana board member and head of the Fisheries Economics Research Unit at the University of British Columbia.

He said the first phase of the deal "won't stop the billions in subsidies that fuel overfishing and overcapacity," adding: "But it does create a foundation that must be built on further."

The most-watched Emmys telecast since 2021

Emmy Awards ratings up 8% with CBS audience of 7.4M

LOS ANGELES, Sept 16, (AP): Ratings for the Emmy Awards have continued their climb from all-time lows as the television industry looks to shake off the shake-ups of recent years.

About 7.42 million viewers tuned in to watch the Nate Bargatzte-hosted 77th Primetime Emmy Awards on CBS, according to Nielsen company data released Monday by the network. The night's big winners were "The Studio," "Adolescence," "The Pitt" and late-night host Stephen Colbert, who got a huge outpouring of support from the Peacock Theater audience.

It was the most-watched Emmys telecast since 2021, and was up 8% from the 6.87 million that watched the "Shogun"-dominated ABC telecast in September 2024.

Sunday's show was up more than 70% from the all-time low of 4.3 million from the Fox telecast of January 2024, which was delayed by months because of Hollywood's writers and actors strikes.

The Emmys telecast rotates annually between the four broadcast networks.

The pandemic brought its own all-time low. The Emmys in 2020 on ABC, with no in-person audience and remote nominees attracted 6.1 million viewers. The show bounced back the following year with 7.4 million for CBS with help from an NFL game lead-in.

But NBC's 2022 telecast dropped to 5.9 million, followed by the further dip in early 2024.

Sunday night's telecast also had football as a lead-in in some regions of the West, but had to compete against a national game on NBC. The Emmy Awards have had to consistently compete with the NFL - by far the biggest force in broadcast and cable television ratings - in a way that no other awards show faces.

The Emmys lag well behind comparable shows, bringing less than half the viewers of the Oscars or Grammys and significantly fewer than the Golden Globes.

Like the Oscars, the show has had to reckon with prestige nominees that bring with them buzz but not big audiences. In the 1990s "Seinfeld" and "ER" were drawing massive viewer numbers along with their Emmy tallies in

a way that "The Studio" and "The Pitt" do not.

Bargatzte made a joke of the phenomenon in his show-opening sketch with "Saturday Night Live" cast members, in which he played TV inventor Philo T. Farnsworth predicting the future of the medium.

"The shows that win an Emmy will achieve the highest level of artistry," he said.

"And will have the most viewers," scene partner Mikey Day said.

"Not even close," Bargatzte replied. "Most people will watch football and 'Yellowstone.'"

The last Emmys to reach more than 10 million viewers was 2018, when it drew in 10.2 million. The show had nearly 22 million viewers in 2000, a level it's unlikely ever to hit again given the vast and fractured entertainment environment.

But interest remains.

About 6 in 10 US adults say they've watched an awards show, clips or both in the last year, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.



Jack Thorne, (left), and Stephen Graham pose in the press room with the Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie Emmy for 'Adolescence' at the 77th Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025 at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: A copyright infringement lawsuit former Congressman George Santos filed against talk show host **Jimmy Kimmel** and ABC was properly dismissed by a lower court judge, an appeals court said Monday.

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan rejected the lawsuit in which Santos alleged that Kimmel deceived him into making videos on the Cameo app that were used to ridicule the disgraced New York Republican on air.

The appeals court said Kimmel was protected by fair use laws allowing limited use of copyrighted material without permission for humor and parody, among other possibilities.

Lawyers in the case did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The 2nd Circuit said Kimmel used fictitious names to submit requests to Santos for personalized videos that the comedian then aired on his show as part of a mocking series of segments titled "Will Santos Say It?"

In one clip, Santos offers congratulations to the purported winner of a beef-eating contest, calling the feat of consuming 6 pounds (2.7 kilograms) of loose ground beef in under 30 minutes "amazing and impressive."

In his February 2024 lawsuit, Santos said Kimmel was "capitalizing on and ridiculing" his "gregarious personality."

The appeals court, in an opinion written by Circuit Judge Raymond J. Lohier, Jr., said even the lawsuit filed by Santos portrays the defendants as being motivated by sarcastic criticism and commentary, two purposes protected by the fair use doctrine. (AP)

NEW YORK: Former MSNBC host Joy Reid and authors Percival Everett and John Edgar Wideman are among this year's recipients of the 46th annual American Book Awards, which celebrate diversity in American art and culture. The awards are presented by the Before Columbus Foundation, the nonprofit that author-playwright Ishmael Reed helped found in 1976.

Reid, who left MSNBC in February soon after the network canceled her prime time show "The ReidOut," was awarded the foundation's anti-censorship prize. Wideman, an acclaimed fiction and nonfiction writer since the 1960s, has won a lifetime achievement award. Honorees for current works include Everett for "James," his Pulitzer Prize-winning retelling of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"; Kaveh Akbar for "Martyr!"; Danzy Senna for "Colored Television" and Claire Messud for "This Strange Eventful History."

Other recipients announced Monday ranged from Amy M. Alvarez for her poetry collection "Makeshift Altar" to Sarah Lewis' nonfiction "The Unseen Truth: When Race Changed Sight in America." Penguin Random House editor Erroll McDonald, whose authors have included Wideman and Nobel laureates Toni Morrison and Wole Soyinka, won the editor/publisher award.

"The purpose of the awards is to recognize literary excellence without limitations or restrictions," the foundation's announcement reads in part. "The award winners range from well-known and established writers to under-recognized authors and first works. There are no quotas for diversity; the winners list simply reflects it as a natural process." (AP)

SEATTLE: A man accused of breaking into the homes of Seattle-area celebrities, including baseball Hall of Famer Ichiro Suzuki and hip-hop artist Macklemore, and pepper-spraying people he encountered inside pleaded not guilty Monday to multiple charges.

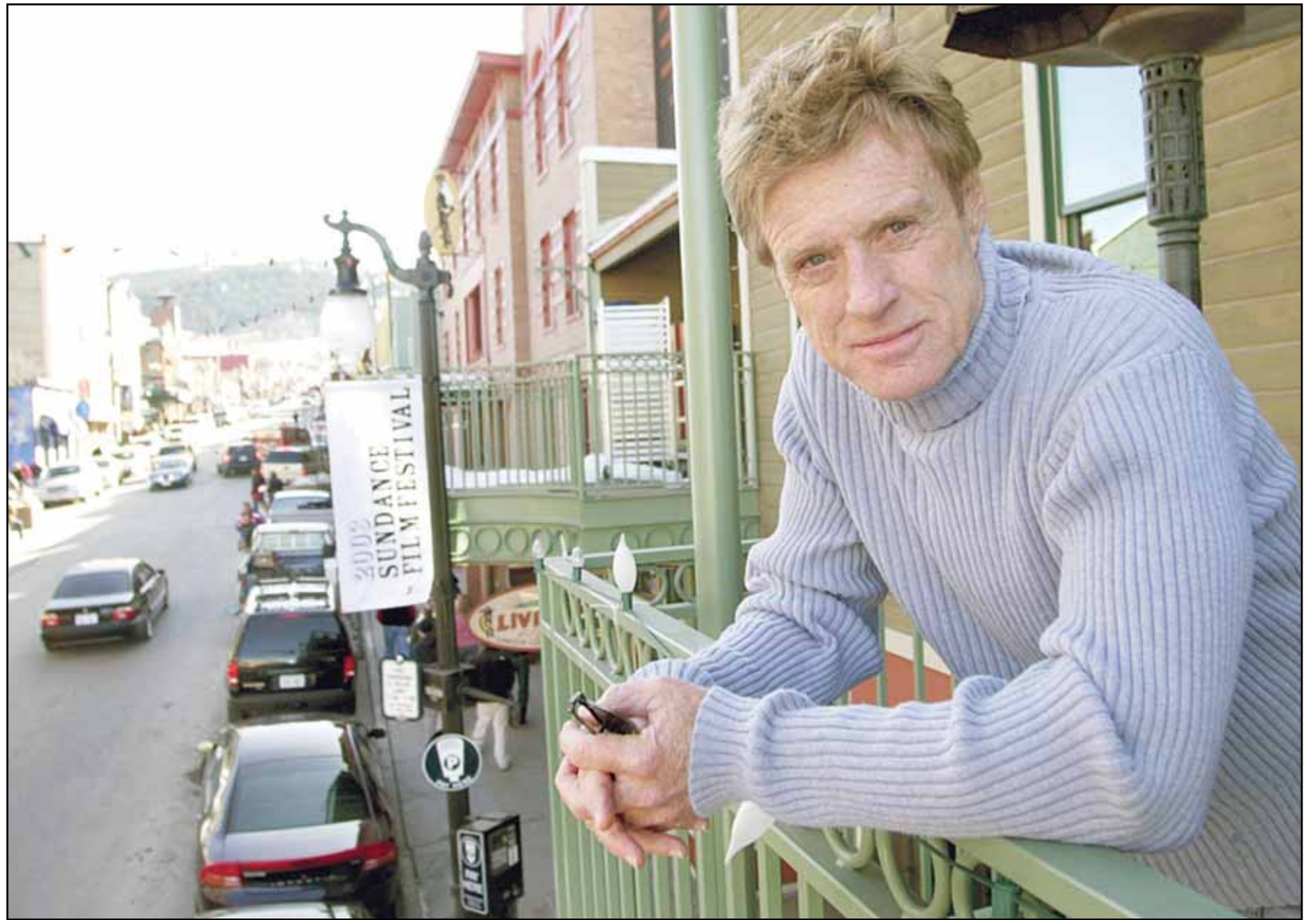
Patrick Maisonet, 29, was arrested at his home in on Aug. 21 in connection with another burglary, to which he has pleaded not guilty, and has been held on bail totaling more than \$2 million.

Investigators say surveillance images and cellphone data helped link him to the break-ins, and that some of the precious items taken during the heists - including Macklemore's Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Sounders championship rings - were later recovered from a south Seattle jewelry store.

The break-ins mirrored a slew of burglaries at the homes of well-known professional athletes across the US in recent months. The players have been targeted because of the high-end products believed to be in their homes and sometimes the thefts happen when they are away with their teams for road games.

The FBI has warned sports leagues about crime organizations targeting professional athletes. The NFL and NBA have also issued security alerts after burglaries at the homes of such star athletes as Kansas City Chiefs stars Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce. Seven people were charged in connection with those burglaries in February. (AP)

Obituary



Robert Redford poses on a balcony along Main Street decorated with his Sundance Film Festival banners on Jan. 17, 2003, in Park City, Utah. (AP)

Celebrities, fans mourn Oscar-winning actor's death

Robert Redford, Hollywood golden boy, dies at 89

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): Robert Redford, the Hollywood golden boy who became an Oscar-winning director, liberal activist and godfather for independent cinema under the name of one of his best-loved characters, died Tuesday at 89.

Redford died "at his home at Sundance in the mountains of Utah - the place he loved, surrounded by those he loved," publicist Cindi Berger said in a statement. No cause of death was provided.

Hollywood figures and fans of movies mourned the death of Robert Redford, expressing affection and admiration for the Oscar-winning director, liberal activist and godfather for independent cinema.

Actor Colman Domingo said Redford had an "everlasting impact" on movies and director Ron Howard called his Sundance Film Festival a "game changer." "Reservation Dogs" director Sterlin Harjo said Redford empowered filmmakers. Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump said they admired his work.

After rising to stardom in the 1960s, Redford was one of the biggest stars of the '70s with such films as "The Candidate," "All the President's Men" and "The Way We Were," capping that decade with the best director Oscar for 1980's "Ordinary People," which also won best picture in 1980. His wavy blond hair and boyish grin made him the most desired of leading men, but he worked hard to transcend his looks - whether through his political advocacy, his willingness to take on unglamorous roles or his dedication to providing a platform for low-budget movies.

His roles ranged from Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward to a mountain man in "Jeremiah Johnson" to a double agent in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and his co-stars included Jane Fonda, Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise. But his most famous screen partner was his old friend and fellow activist and practical joker Paul Newman, their films a variation of their warm, teasing relationship off screen.

Redford played the wily outlaw opposite Newman in 1969's "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," a box-office smash from which Redford's Sundance Institute and festival got its name. He also teamed with Newman on 1973's best picture Oscar winner, "The Sting," which earned Redford a best-actor nomination as a young con artist in 1930s Chicago.

Film roles after the '70s became more sporadic as Redford concentrated on directing and producing, and his new role as patriarch of the independent-film movement in the 1980s and '90s through his Sundance Institute. But he starred in 1985's best picture champion "Out of Africa" and in 2013 received some of the best reviews of his career as a shipwrecked sailor in "All is Lost," in which he was the film's only performer. In 2018, he was praised again in what he called his farewell movie, "The Old Man and the Gun."

"I just figure that I've had a long career that I'm very pleased with. It's been so long, ever since I was 21," he told The Associated Press shortly before the film came out. "I figure now as I'm getting into my 80s, it's maybe time to move toward retirement and spend more time with my wife and family."

Redford had watched Hollywood grow more cautious and controlling during the 1970s and wanted to recapture the creative spirit of the early part of the decade. Sundance was created to nurture new talent away from the pressures of Hollywood, the institute providing a training ground and the festival, based in Park City, Utah, where Redford had purchased land with the initial hope of opening a ski resort. Instead, Park City became a place of discovery for such previously unknown filmmakers as Quentin Tarantino, Steven Soderbergh, Paul Thomas Anderson and Darren Aronofsky.

"For me, the word to be underscored is 'independence,'" Redford told the AP in 2018. "I've always believed in that word. That's what led me to eventually wanting to create a category that supported independent artists who weren't

given a chance to be heard.

"The industry was pretty well controlled by the mainstream, which I was a part of. But I saw other stories out there that weren't having a chance to be told and I thought, 'Well, maybe I can commit my energies to giving those people a chance.' As I look back on it, I feel very good about that."

Sundance was even criticized as buyers swarmed in looking for potential hits and celebrities overran the town each winter.

"We have never, ever changed our policies for how we program our festival. It's always been built on diversity," Redford told the AP in 2004. "The fact is that the diversity has become commercial. Because independent films have achieved their own success, Hollywood, being just a business, is going to grab them. So when Hollywood grabs your films, they go, 'Oh, it's gone Hollywood.'"

By 2025, the festival had become so prominent that organizers decided they had outgrown Park City and approved relocating to Boulder, Colorado, starting in 2027. Redford, who had attended the University of Colorado Boulder, issued a statement saying that "change is inevitable, we must always evolve and grow, which has been at the core of our survival."

Redford's affinity for the outdoors was well captured in "A River Runs Through It" and other films and through his decades of advocacy for the environment, inspired in part by witnessing the transformation of Los Angeles into a city of smog and freeways. His activities ranged from lobbying for such legislation as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act to pushing for land conservation in Utah to serving on the board of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Redford was married twice, most recently to Sibylle Szagars. He had four children, two of whom have died - Scott Anthony, who died in infancy, in 1959; and James Redford, an activist and filmmaker who died in 2020.

Final residency concert to spotlight island's pain and pride

Bad Bunny to livestream final Puerto Rico show for global fans

LOS ANGELES, Sept 16, (AP): Bad Bunny's residency in Puerto Rico has boosted the island's economy and stoked conversations about its identity and struggles. Now, fans from around the world will have a chance to tune in.

The Puerto Rican singer's final show of his "No Me Quiero Ir de Aquí" ("I Don't Want to Leave Here") residency on Sept. 20 will be livestreamed by Amazon, "giving fans everywhere front-row access to this historic concert," the company announced Monday.

The show is a surprise addition to Bad Bunny's 30-show residency in Puerto Rico that began in July, nine of which were exclusively for the island's residents. The last concert will also be exclusively for locals and will commemorate the eighth anniversary of Hurricane Maria, which struck the island in 2017 and forced the relocation of more than 100,000 people.

The concert will be streamed for free on the Amazon

Music app, Prime Video and Twitch starting at 8:30 p.m. ET, the streaming service announced.

Bad Bunny's career, and latest album, highlight the centuries of turmoil faced by the island, which has long denounced its territorial status while battling chronic power outages and a fragile economy.

In addition to the concert, Amazon announced further collaborations with Bad Bunny to help strengthen the Puerto Rican community, including a storefront called "comPRa Local" on the Amazon website that will feature Puerto Rican products. Other initiatives center on education and technology for students and teachers and food and agriculture support.

"We are incredibly proud of this multi-year collaboration, which turns the power of music into meaningful and lasting progress for the island," Rocío Guerrero, director of music, Latin-Iberia, Amazon Music wrote in the news release announcing the collaboration.

Thousands have flocked to Puerto Rico for the rest of his residency that was open to tourists living outside of the island. Bad Bunny has been joined by scores of successful Latin American artists, including other Puerto Rican stars like Rauw Alejandro.

The concert is a celebration of Bad Bunny's success, with a particular focus on his most recent album, "DeBí TiRAR Más FOTOS," which translates to "I Should Have Taken More Photos." The singer has long championed the region's traditional music and denounced the island's political status as a US territory and increased vulnerability to gentrification.

The residency will be followed by a world tour starting in November. Bad Bunny will reach cities across Europe, Latin America and Asia, notably skipping the United States. In an interview earlier this month with i-D magazine, the singer said immigration enforcement across the US was a primary concern.



Bad Bunny performs during his first show of his 30-date concert residency at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico José Miguel Agrelot, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 11, 2025. (AP)

Study finds source of blue hue in artist's work

Experts solve color mystery in iconic Pollock painting

NEW YORK, Sept. 16, (AP) — Scientists have identified the origins of the blue color in one of Jackson Pollock's paintings with a little help from chemistry, confirming for the first time that the abstract expressionist used a vibrant, synthetic pigment known as manganese blue.

"Number 1A, 1948," showcases Pollock's classic style: paint has been dripped and splattered across the canvas, creating a vivid, multicolored work. Pollock even gave the piece a personal touch, adding his handprints near the top.

The painting, currently on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, is almost 9 feet (2.7 meters) wide. Scientists had previously characterized the reds and yellows splattered across the canvas, but the source of the rich turquoise blue proved elusive.

In a new study, researchers took scrapings of the blue paint and used lasers to scatter light and measure how the paint's molecules vibrated. That gave them a unique chemical fingerprint for the color, which they pinpointed as manganese blue.

The analysis, published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*,



David Brenneman, director of collections and exhibitions at the High Museum, talks about Jackson Pollock's painting 'Number 1A' on display as part of an exhibit in Atlanta, on Oct. 6, 2011. (AP)

is the first confirmed evidence of Pollock using this specific blue.

"It's really interesting to understand where some striking color comes from on a molecular level," said

study co-author Edward Solomon with Stanford University.

The pigment manganese blue was once used by artists, as well as to color the cement for swimming pools. It was phased out by the 1990s because of environmental concerns.

Previous research had suggested that the turquoise from the painting could indeed be this color, but the new study confirms it using samples from the canvas, said Rutgers University's Gene Hall, who has studied Pollock's paintings and was not involved with the discovery.

"I'm pretty convinced that it could be manganese blue," Hall said.

The researchers also went one step further, inspecting the pigment's chemical structure to understand how it produces such a vibrant shade.

Scientists study the chemical makeup of art supplies to conserve old paintings and catch counterfeits. They can take more specific samples from Pollock's paintings since he often poured directly onto the canvas instead of mixing paints on a palette beforehand.

Fashion



Models walk the runway during the Tory Burch spring/summer 2026 fashion show during New York Fashion Week, Monday, Sept. 15, in New York. (AP)

Latest novel 'The Secret of Secrets' is a mind-bender

Brown talks plot twists and writing rituals

NEW YORK, Sept. 16, (AP) — The plots of Dan Brown's novels have so many turns that even the author has to make sure he can keep it all organized.

"Anybody who writes a thriller needs to have a plan. There's a great saying that the thriller writer who starts a book without knowing where he's going is just lying," he told The Associated Press recently.

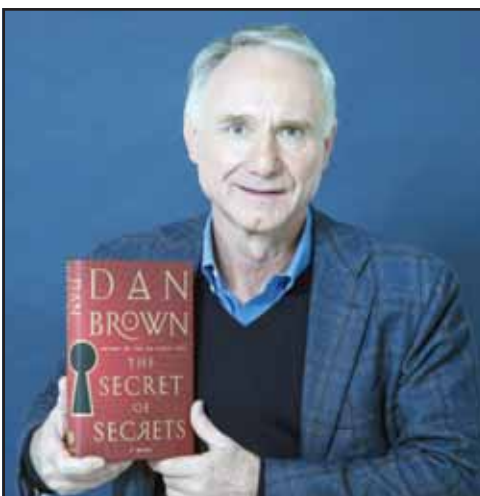
"And certainly these books are very complicated. One way I sort of battle, trying to keep it all straight, is to write every single day, just to keep it fresh. If I go through two sleep cycles (without writing), it starts to evaporate. And, of course, I also have what looks like a detective's chalkboard in a police station. We've got the pictures and the yarn and the notes and the sticky notes, all that on my wall trying to keep it straight as well."

Brown's "The Secret of Secrets" has been published this week, a 650-page thriller and mind-bender from the author known worldwide for "The Da Vinci Code," "Angels & Demons" and other million sellers. Brown again combines suspense, philosophical digressions and travelogues, along with codes and puzzles and secret societies as he dispatches favorite protagonist Robert Langdon to Prague and ensnares him in a deadly, international race for the key to ultimate wisdom - what happens when we die.

Besides Langdon, the Harvard symbologist who has found adventure and trouble everywhere from Paris to Washington, D.C., Brown has brought back love interest/noetic scientist-in-distress Katherine Solomon and a New York-based book editor with a very real-life counterpart. "Jonas Faulkman" is an anagram for Brown's editor at Doubleday Books, Jason Kaufman, who has worked with the author for more than 20 years. Author and editor are good friends, they say, although that didn't keep Brown from subjecting Kaufman to abduction and other un-literary experiences in his latest book.

"I always enjoy getting manuscripts from Dan and seeing where he's going," Kaufman told the AP recently. "I have to ask him not to tell me in advance what he has in mind. He always finds new ways to surprise me." Brown also spoke with the AP about how he decides on his subjects, his evolving thoughts on mortality and why Prague is the perfect setting for a few conspiracies. This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How do you go about deciding what to write



Author Dan Brown poses for a portrait on Tuesday, Sept. 9, in New York. (AP)

about?

Brown: It's no secret that I like to write about big topics and there really is no topic that is bigger than consciousness. It is the lens through which we see ourselves. And so the real challenge was how to make a concrete urgent modern thriller about something that's so ethereal. About eight years ago, my mom passed away about the time that I was thinking of writing about consciousness, and I started asking myself, "What happens when we die?" and if you'd asked me eight years ago, I'd say nothing. It's full stop total blackness. Over the course of the eight years that took me to write this book and all the conversations that I had with philosophers and physicists and noetic scientists, I've come out the other side with a totally different mindset. And in fact, it sounds crazy, I no longer fear death.

AP: Some people talk about the creative process, so to speak, as almost a religious experience, that moment the idea comes to you, whether it's the right phrase or a piece of music.

Brown: It's called flow, a muse. Certainly, we writers have that experience of, "Ah, I've got it. It's just flowing through me." I have certainly felt that. Not every day, unfortunately. There's a lot of trial and error, but that is the feeling that creative people are always looking for. My mom was a professional musician. I was brought up to be a musician. I thought I would be a musician. I still play piano every day. I studied music composition in university, and I've had that experience also with music.

That sort of muse moment when something flows in, it's different between writing and music. Writing sort of feels like finding the right Lego piece to put in. You say, "Ah." It's almost like doing a jigsaw puzzle. You're like, "Got it. It fits." And music is a little bit more fluid. It's like making a big brush stroke. And the melody just sort of flows in and finds its way to your hands, and then it exists.

AP: The cities you set your books in are so important to what you do. Do you have a kind of wish list? Like, "I need to set a book in this city."

Brown: I mean, there are a few of them that I won't mention because I don't want people running out, and they're sort of off the beaten path, kind of like Prague is.

I like to use location as a character. I want to make sure that, whatever book it is, it could only be set there. "The Lost Symbol" could only be set in D.C. because it's about the symbology of D.C. "The Da Vinci Code" could only be set in Paris because it is about the Roseland. "The Secret of Secrets," about human consciousness, could only be set in Prague. It's been the mystical capital of Europe since Emperor Rudolf II (in the late 16th-early 17th centuries) brought all the mystics and scribes and alchemists to Prague. And as a character, Prague is perfect for Langdon. It's full of secret passageways and cathedrals and monasteries and all, that's his world.

AP: Puzzles and mystery and passageways, that's just endlessly fascinating to you? It's as interesting to you now as when you were 10 or 20?

Brown: I don't know what that says about me, but yeah, I still love secret passageways. You talk about that "aha" moment. It's kind of the same thing to say, "Wait, there's something here that you don't see and now you see it." It's the same kind of sensation of "aha."



An iced matcha latte is served at Asha Tea House on Friday, Sept. 5, in San Francisco. (AP)



Teavana barista Riaanna Durham prepares matcha tea at the new Teavana Fine Teas + Tea Bar in Beverly Hills, Calif., March 4, 2015. (AP)

'Powdered tea mania'

Matcha's popularity brews pricing storm

NEW YORK, Sept. 16, (AP) — The world's fondness for matcha is about to be tested by steep price increases.

Global demand for the powdered tea has skyrocketed around the world, fueled by consumer interest in its health benefits and by the bright green matcha lattes bubbling up on social media. In the US, retail sales of matcha are up 86% from three years ago, according to NIQ, a market research firm.

But the matcha market is troubled. In Japan, one of the biggest matcha producers, poor weather reduced this year's harvest. Matcha is still plentiful in China, another major producer, but labor shortages and high demand have also raised prices there.

For Americans, there's the added impact of tariffs. Imports from China are currently subject to a 37.5% tariff, while the US has a 15% tariff on imports from Japan. It's not clear if tea will be exempted from tariffs because it's a natural product that's not grown in significant quantities in the US - an accommodation that the Trump administration has made for cork from the European Union. The Commerce Department and the US Trade Representative didn't respond to messages left by The Associated Press.

Cheaper

Aaron Vick, a senior tea buyer with California-based tea importer G.S. Haly, says he paid 75% more for the highest-grade 2025 crop of Japanese matcha, which will arrive in the U.S. later this fall. He expects lower grades of matcha to cost 30% to 50% more. Chinese matcha - while generally cheaper than Japanese matcha - is also getting more expensive because of high demand, he said.

"People should expect an enormous increase in the price of matcha this year," Vick said. "It's going to be a bit of a tough ride for matcha devotees. They will have to show the depth of their commitment at the cash register."

Even before this year's harvest, growing demand was straining matcha supplies. Making matcha is precise and labor intensive. Farmers grow tencha - a green tea leaf - in the shade. In the spring, the leaves are harvested, steamed, de-stemmed and de-veined and then stone ground into a fine powder.

Tencha can be harvested again

in the summer and fall, but the later harvests are generally of lower quality.

There are ways to cut corners, like using a jet mill, which grinds the leaves with high pressure air. But Japan has other issues, including a rapidly aging workforce and limited tencha production. And despite Japanese agricultural ministry trying to coax tea growers to switch to tencha from regular green tea, many are reluctant to do so, concerned that the matcha boom will fade.

That's giving an opening to China, where matcha originated but fell out of favor in the 14th century. Chinese matcha production has been growing in recent years to meet both domestic and international demand.

Inferior

Chinese matcha has historically been considered inferior to Japanese matcha and used as a flavoring for things like matcha-flavored KitKat bars instead of as a drinking tea. But the quality is improving, according to Jason Walker, the marketing director at First Tea, the New Jersey-based U.S. subsidiary of Zhejiang Tea Group, China's largest tea exporter.

"We are seeing more and more interest in Chinese matcha because of capacity issues and changing perception," Walker said. "It used to be the idea that it has to be Japanese matcha or nothing. But we have a good product too."

Starbucks is among the companies using matcha from China for its lattes. The company said it also sources matcha from Japan and South Korea. Dunkin' and Dutch Bros. didn't respond when asked where they source the matcha.

Josh Mordecai, the supply chain director for London-based tea supplier Good & Proper Tea, said he is approached almost daily by Chinese matcha suppliers.

For now, he only buys matcha from Japan, but the cost to acquire it has risen 40% so he'll have to raise prices, he said.

Mordecai said he saw more demand for matcha in the last year than in the previous nine years combined. If matcha prices continue to rise, he wonders if consumers will switch to other tea varieties like hojicha, a roasted Japanese green tea.

"We'll see if this is a bubble or not. Nothing stays on social media that long," Mordecai said.

'Radical Left' bias

Trump files \$15B defamation suit against New York Times

NEW YORK, Sept. 16, (AP) — President Donald Trump filed a \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against The New York Times and four of its journalists on Monday, according to court documents.

The lawsuit filed in US District Court in Florida names several articles and one book written by two of the publication's journalists and published in the lead up to the 2024 election, saying they are "part of a decades-long pattern by the New York Times of intentional and malicious defamation against President Trump."



Trump

"Defendants published such statements negligently, with knowledge of the falsity of the statements, and/or with reckless disregard of their truth or falsity," the lawsuit says.

The New York Times did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment early Tuesday.

In a Truth Social post announcing the lawsuit, Trump accused the New York Times of lying about him and defaming him, saying it has become "a virtual 'mouthpiece' for the Radical Left Democrat Party."

Trump has gone after other media outlets, including filing a \$10 billion defamation lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal and media mogul Rupert Murdoch in July after the newspaper published a story reporting on his ties to wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein.



Serena Williams, (right), and Venus Williams celebrate during their first-round doubles match against Lucie Hradecká and Linda Nosková, of the Czech Republic, at the US Open tennis championships, Sept. 1, 2022, in New York. (AP)

Serena and Venus Williams serve up new podcast 'Stockton Street'

NEW YORK, Sept. 16, (AP) — Serena and Venus Williams are taking a swing at podcasting.

The two sisters and tennis stars - Serena finished her career at the 2022 U.S. Open; Venus just competed at that tournament in singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles - will launch their podcast on X with a debut episode Wednesday.

The podcast is called "Stockton Street," named for where their home was in Compton, California. It is set

to air every other week on Wednesdays and will be distributed on the social media site formerly known as Twitter.

The first episode was filmed at Arthur Ashe Stadium, the main arena for the U.S. Open, where Serena won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles, and Venus collected two of her seven.

The 45-year-old Venus just became the oldest singles entrant at the U.S. Open since 1981. She returned to the tennis tour in July after a 16-month absence.

'Timely care key to avoiding diabetic foot ulcers'

Dasman Diabetes Institute hosts workshop on diabetic foot care

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), concluded its three-day workshop titled "The Prevention and Management of Diabetic Foot Complications" held September 14-16, 2025 at DDI's premises. The program was organized in collaboration with the Central Administration for Primary Health Care at the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This year's workshop brought together 16 physicians from primary and secondary care. Over three intensive days, participants practiced evidence-based evaluation and treatment techniques for diabetic foot, including risk assessment, screening and classification, ulcer prevention, debridement principles, infection

recognition, off-loading strategies, referral pathways, and patient self-care education.

The Institute emphasized that preventing foot ulcers and avoiding amputations require timely screening, standardized protocols, and a multidisciplinary approach. By building practical skills among frontline clinicians, DDI aims to reduce complications and amputations and improve quality of life for people living with diabetes.

Despite the high prevalence of diabetes in the Middle East and North Africa, many health systems underutilize foot screening and patient education. DDI continues to address this gap by offering hands-on training, clinical guidelines, and public awareness initiatives that help embed best practices across Kuwait's healthcare network.



Medical professionals gain hands-on training in diabetic foot management at DDI workshop.



KUNA photo

Kuwait medical team performs four advanced surgeries to treat sleep apnea.

First-of-its-kind surgeries in Gulf region

Kuwait achieves milestone in treating sleep apnea with 4 advanced surgeries

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16. (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Health announced Tuesday, the success of four advanced operations involving the implantation of dual hypoglossal nerve stimulators, performed by a national medical team at Zain Center under the leadership of Dr. Mutlaq Al-Saihan.

These groundbreaking procedures, the first of their kind in Middle Eastern government hospitals, were successfully conducted on four Kuwaiti citizens aged between 50 and 80, a significant milestone in regional medical advancement.

The innovative technology is designed to treat obstructive sleep apnea, a disorder causing repeated breathing interruptions during sleep, which may result in severe complications such as cardiovascular disease, memory issues, or metabolic dysfunctions if left untreated.

This achievement reflects the Ministry of Health's strong commitment to introducing globally recognized advanced medical solutions, ensuring high-quality healthcare accessibility, and strengthening Kuwait's position in specialized treatment capabilities.

New limits

SAFE for Kids Act advances

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): New York's attorney general on Monday proposed regulations for its crackdown on addictive social media feeds for children, including rules for verifying a user's age.

The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids Act, passed last year, prohibits social media companies from showing feeds personalized by algorithms to users under 18 unless they have a parent's consent. Instead, feeds on apps like TikTok and Instagram would be limited to posts from accounts young users follow.

The law also bars companies from sending notifications to users under 18 between midnight and 6 a.m.

The proposed rules for implementing the provisions include standards for determining a user's age and parental consent.

"Companies may confirm a user's age using a number of existing methods, as long as the methods are shown to be effective and protect users' data," Attorney General Letitia James' office said.

Options for confirming a user is at least 18, for example, include requesting an uploaded image or verifying a user's email address or phone number to check against other information, the office said.

Users under 18 who want to receive algorithmic feeds and nighttime notifications would have to give the companies permission to request consent from a parent.

Supporters of the law said curated feeds built from user data are contributing to a youth mental health crisis by vastly increasing the hours young people spend on social media.

"Children and teenagers are struggling with high rates of anxiety and depression because of addictive features on social media platforms," James said in releasing the rules, which are subject to a 60-day public comment period.

Online age check laws - on the rise in the U.S. - have garnered opposition from groups that advocate for digital privacy and free speech. More than 20 states have passed age verification laws, though many face legal challenges.

The New York attorney general's office noted Instagram and other social media platforms themselves have been implementing various forms of age assurance in recent months.

Food insecurity grows

Conflicts, funding cuts fuel acute hunger: UN

BANGKOK, Sept 16, (AP): A string of natural disasters and global conflicts, combined with drastic cuts to international aid means that some of the world's neediest people are suffering from serious food shortages, and will face further reductions in assistance soon, a United Nations official said Tuesday.

Carl Skau, deputy executive director and chief operating officer of the World Food Program, said that with needs rising and funding dropping, the agency is pushing every efficiency it can find, promoting greater self-reliance in the communities it helps, and looking for new sources of donations to help fill the growing gap.

"We are managing globally a perfect storm... with food security needs going up dramatically," Skau told The Associated Press during a visit to Bangkok, where he was to meet with Thai officials to press for assistance, following a trip to India.

"We've seen a three-fold increase only in the past five years, and this year has been really tough also with conflict increasing, extreme climate events and on top of that we now have a funding crunch where the WFP is losing some 40% of our funding."

In the region, he said recent flooding in Pakistan and a massive earthquake and drought in neighboring Afghanistan have exacerbated already difficult situations in both countries, leaving millions in need.

The decision by US President Donald Trump earlier this year to cut more than 90% of the United States Agency



Carl Skau, deputy executive director and chief operating officer of the World Food Program, talks to The Associated Press during an interview in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Sept. 16. (AP)

for International Development's foreign aid contracts and \$60 billion in overall assistance around the world - coupled with cuts to international aid from several European countries - has meant that the WFP and others have less means to respond, he said.

"In Afghanistan two years ago we were assisting 10 million people, today we are at around 1.5 (million) and we don't have the resources to preposition food in areas that won't be accessible during the winter," Skau said.

Already in Afghanistan, there has been a surge in malnutrition recorded, particularly among young children, over the last few months, he said.

US confirms highly pathogenic avian flu in Nebraska dairy herd

LOS ANGELES, Sept 16, (Xinhua): The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Monday confirmed the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a dairy cattle herd in the state of Nebraska.

In a statement, the USDA said the confirmed strain is H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, genotype B3.13. The case was detected through state-led tracing and investigation following an initial finding from pre-movement surveillance milk samples, which are required under a federal order issued by the USDA in April 2024.

This marks the first known case of HPAI in cattle in Nebraska. Since the outbreak began in March 2024, dairy cattle infections have been reported in

17 states, though the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) noted that cases have remained confined to a small number of states this year.

APHIS said it is working closely with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to conduct additional on-farm investigation, testing and gathering of additional epidemiological information to better understand this detection and prevent further spread of the disease. The agency also urged all dairy farms to strengthen biosecurity measures, especially as the fall migratory bird season approaches.

There is no concern that this circumstance poses a risk to consumer health or that it affects the safety of the commercial milk supply, said the USDA.

'Votes could spark parental doubts'

US vaccine panel plans to vote on COVID-19, Hep B, chickenpox shots

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s new vaccine advisory committee meets this week, with votes expected on whether to change recommendations on shots against COVID-19, hepatitis B and chickenpox.

The exact questions to be voted on Thursday and Friday in Atlanta are unclear. Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services did not immediately respond to questions seeking details to a newly posted agenda, although the department announced five additional appointments to the committee Monday.

Some public health experts are worried that the votes will - at a minimum - raise unwarranted new questions about vaccines in the minds of parents.

Perhaps even more consequential would be a vote that restricts a government program from paying for vaccines for low-income families.

"I'm tightening my seat belt," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccines expert.

The panel, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, makes recommendations to the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how already-approved vaccines should be used. CDC directors have almost always accepted those recommendations, which are widely heeded by doctors and guide vaccination programs.

Kennedy, a leading antivaccine activist before becoming the nation's top health official, fired the entire 17-member panel earlier this year and replaced it with a group that includes several anti-vaccine voices.

Here's a look at the three vaccines being discussed:

Before Kennedy was health secretary, ACIP would typically vote in June to reaffirm recommendations for shots against respiratory viruses that sicken millions of Americans each fall and winter.

This past June, Kennedy's ACIP voted to recommend flu shots for Americans but was silent on COVID-19 shots.

Before that meeting, Kennedy announced he was removing COVID-19 shots from the CDC's recommendations for healthy children and pregnant women. The move was heavily criti-

cized by doctors' groups and public health organizations, and prompted a lawsuit by the American Academy of Pediatrics and other groups.

Days after Kennedy's announcement, CDC officials said families could still get the 2024-2025 version of COVID-19 shots for their kids in consultation with their doctors. That clarification meant shots would still be covered by the federal government's Vaccines For Children program, which pays for shots for families who lack money or adequate health insurance coverage. It's now responsible for roughly half of childhood vaccinations in the U.S. each year.

As with flu shots, however, there are new COVID-19 formulations each fall, to account for changes in which strains are circulating. The committee has not yet voted on whether to recommend this season's COVID-19 shots or whether those shots should be covered by the VFC program.

Complicate

Further complicating the picture: When the FDA last month licensed this fall's COVID-19 shots, the agency took the unusual step of narrowing their use for healthy younger adults and children.

If the ACIP simply follows that, and if there is no additional clarifying language from the CDC, then "that would take away access for roughly half of America's kids," said Dr. Sean O'Leary of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The pediatricians group urges that vaccinations continue for all children ages 6 months to 2 years.

Hepatitis B can cause serious liver infections. In adults, the virus is spread through sex or through sharing needles during use injection-drug use.

But the virus also can be passed to a baby from an infected mother, and as many as 90% of infected infants go on to have chronic infections.

A hepatitis B vaccine was first licensed in the U.S. in 1981. In 2005, the ACIP recommended a dose within 24 hours of birth for all medically stable infants who weigh at least 4.4 pounds (2 kilograms).

Infant vaccinations are stressed for women who have hepatitis B or, cru-

cially, who have not been tested for it. The infant shots are 85% to 95% effective in preventing chronic hepatitis B infections, studies have shown.

Newborn hepatitis B vaccinations are considered a success, and no recent peer-reviewed research shows any safety problem with giving kids the shots on their first day of life, Schaffner said.

But Kennedy's ACIP members suggested in June they wanted to revisit the guidance.

Schaffner noted that health officials used to rely on screening mothers before birth but that many cases were missed.

"There were lots of failures," he said. "And so there were continuing transmissions from mother to child."

Chickenpox was once a common childhood annoyance, causing an itchy skin rash and fever.

But the highly contagious virus can also lead to complications such as skin infections, swelling of the brain and pneumonia. Severe cases are more common among teens and adults who get it for the first time. The virus - called varicella - also can reactivate later in life and cause the painful illness called shingles.

The government first recommended that all children get a chickenpox vaccine in 1995, leading to a dramatic drop in cases and deaths.

In 2005, a combination MMRV shot - measles, mumps, rubella and varicella - was licensed. The CDC initially recommended that doctors and parents use the combo shot over separate MMR and varicella injections.

But within a few years, studies showed children who got the combo shot more often developed a rash, fever and - in rare instances - seizures after vaccination compared with children who got separate shots.

In 2009, the ACIP changed its recommendation, removing the preferential language and saying either the combination shot or separate shots were acceptable for the first dose.

Today, most pediatricians suggest separate doses for the first shot, but give the combined shot for the second dose, pediatric experts say.

Again, there's no new evidence about harms from MMRV shots, said O'Leary, of AAP.

Sunscreen and moisturizer remain essentials

'Keep your skincare routine simple'

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): There always seems to be someone on TikTok, YouTube or Instagram showing you a multistep skincare routine they swear by. They might use expensive products like snail mucin or red-light therapy masks that allegedly hydrate your skin or help reduce fine lines.

Is any of it necessary? Does any of it work?

"Social media is having such a huge influence on what we're using in our skin and every individual is acting like their own clinician and trying to diagnose their own skin type and experiment with different regimens," said Dr. Kathleen Suozzi, a professor of dermatology at Yale School of Medicine. "And really the main overarching thing is that skincare regimens have become way overcomplicated."

Some dermatologists say that many viral skincare products are unnecessary, even if they feel nice, and while some cause little to no harm, other treatments can cause more problems than they fix.

The skin on our face is thinner than the skin on our bodies, and requires a gentler touch than other parts of the body.

Everyone's skin is different, too: The soaps or cleansers that work for someone with oily skin may not satisfy someone with dry skin.

Dermatologists say a skincare routine should start with three things - a gentle cleanser, a moisturizer to hydrate the face and a sunscreen with at least SPF 30. Too many products can irritate sensitive skin and be redundant, since many products share the same ingredients.

In all cases, protecting your face from the sun is key, dermatologists said.

"The truth of the matter is, nine out of 10 skin care concerns on the face that people come to see me for are worsened by UV radiation from the



A woman washes her face as she prepares for work in Chicago, on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. (AP)

sun," said Dr. Oyetewa Asempe, the director of the Skin of Color clinic at Baylor College of Medicine.

Many skin issues, like wrinkles, dark pigmentation after a rash and dark scarring from acne, are made worse by the sun, she said.

Wrinkles happen. And your skin over time can look less plump and glowing.

Retinol creams and chemical exfoliants are sold with the promise of keeping aging at bay. Some are recommended by dermatologists - but there are also some exceptions.

As we get older, our skin slows down its production of collagen, which keeps our skin bouncy and elastic. That leads to wrinkles. Retinoids and retinol creams can help, dermatologists said. But they recommend not using them until you are about 30 or older - any earlier could cause more problems, like skin irritation.

Dark spots and dead skin are also common skincare frustrations.

Exfoliation - removing dead skin - can help. But dermatologists recommend avoiding products that use beads, salts and sugars that exfoliate fragile facial skin by physically removing it. Instead, try chemical exfoliation with

alpha-hydroxy acids or beta-hydroxy acids -- but make sure you're wearing sunscreen if you add either of these ingredients to your skincare regimen.

FDA-approved guidelines say chemical exfoliation is safe if certain ingredients are declared on retail products, but the requirements don't apply to the more intense chemical peels applied by professionals, for example in salons.

Influencers try to get you excited by trendy skincare ideas - and dermatologists want them to go away.

Dr. Asempe points to one currently popular example: beef tallow - also known as cow fat.

"I want you to leave the beef tallow with the cows," she said.

Light therapy masks are also wildly popular - and also wildly over-hyped. Dermatologists say they can be useful in some situations, depending on the color you use and the strength of the masks.

Dr. Suozzi said that while research shows there may be some benefit to red-light therapy masks, which may help with collagen production, they are "not something that's going to be transformative" for the skin.

And to have any hope, you'd need to use them a lot: "You need to be using these devices a few times a week for them to have any benefit, if at all."

Red-light therapy masks, snail mucin - slimy liquid that is touted as hydrating - and other products can be very expensive. But don't let the price fool you, said Dr. Jordan Lim, a dermatology professor at Emory University School of Medicine.

"Price does not equal efficacy, and it does not equal better results," Lim said. "A lot of the ingredients you're seeing in a \$6 cream are also in a \$20 cream, also in that \$300 cream that you see a celebrity using."

Aslam and Nimish shine in 5-wicket victory over Failaika Guardians

Boubyan Warriors win first-ever DP World ILT20 Development Tournament Kuwait trophy



A combo photo of the individual winners.



Boubyan Warriors, champions DP World ILT20 Development Tournament Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The grand finale of the DP World ILT20 Development Tournament Kuwait 2025 delivered a spectacle worthy of history, as the Boubyan Warriors were crowned the first-ever champions, defeating the Failaika Guardians by 5 wickets in a high-scoring thriller.

Batting first, the Guardians set a daunting target of 204/6 in 20 overs, thanks to a blistering middle-order display. Sandaruwan Chinthaka (56 off 33, 6 sixes) and Manjula Prasan (38 off 19) tore into the Warriors' bowling, while Shiraz Khan (24 off 10)* and Parvinder Kumar (13 off 4) provided the late fireworks.

Despite early breakthroughs from Nimesh and Vishal, the Warriors' bowlers struggled to contain the Guardians' assault. In reply, the Warriors came out with intent. Skipper Mohamed Aslam (53 off 34) led from the front, supported by Bilal Tahir (32 off 19) and Mathan Kumar (24 off 17) to keep the chase alive.

The defining moment came from vice-captain Nimish Latheif, who played a sensational unbeaten knock of 57 off just 26 balls at a strike rate of 219, guiding his side to 205/5 in 19.3 overs and sealing the championship in style.

The grand presentation ceremony, hosted by Harman Sahni, was graced by

dignitaries including Haider Farman (President KCC), Zayed Abbas (ECB Board Member), Mahmoud Abdullah, Essa Bahman, Patrick Brown, Asad Khan, Ashley Dsouza, and Sajid Ashraf.

Individual awards capped off the celebrations: Meet Bhavsar (399 runs, 8 wickets) bagged both Best Batter and Best All-Rounder; Aqif (14 wickets) won Best Bowler; and Nimish Latheif's match-winning 57 earned him Player of the final. The Boubyan Warriors etched their name in history as the inaugural champions of the tournament.

UAE gets first points at Asia Cup

Sri Lanka survives scare against Hong Kong

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 16, (AP): Sri Lanka survived a middle-order collapse against a spirited Hong Kong to notch its second successive victory in Asia Cup cricket.

Earlier, the United Arab Emirates beat tournament first-timer Oman by 42 runs.

Sri Lanka's nervy four-wicket win was built on a chase featuring opening batter Pathum Nissanka's second straight half-century and Wanindu Hasaranga's late 20-run cameo. Sri Lanka made 153-6 with seven balls to spare following Hong Kong's 149-4.

Nissanka's 68 followed 50 against Bangladesh but his run out in the 16th over saw Sri Lanka lose four wickets in the space of eight runs.



Sri Lanka's Kamil Mishara plays a shot during the Asia Cup cricket match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

Sri Lanka slumped to 127-6 but Hasaranga deprived Hong Kong of an upset victory with his nine-

ball 20 including two fours and a straight six.

Hong Kong skipper Yasim Murtaza took 2-37.

Hong Kong was led by Nizakat Khan's unbeaten 52 off 38 balls and opener Anshy Rath's 48 off 46 balls.

Rath and Nizakat added 61 runs for the third wicket but Sri Lanka spinners Maheesh Theekshana (0-22) and Hasaranga (1-27) didn't allow them to accelerate in the middle overs.

Dushmantha Chameera (2-29) dismissed Rath in his run spell when he holed out at deep mid-wicket while trying to accelerate.

Half-centuries from the opening batters, captain Muhammad Waseem and Alishan Sharafu, earned UAE its first points and ended Oman's hopes of qualifying for the Super 4.

Sharafu read the slow surface well by charging down the wicket in the powerplay and made 51

while Waseem got two lives before scoring 69 that carried UAE to 172-5.

Oman was bowled out for 130 with eight ball remaining.

Captain Jatinder Singh on 20 dragged UAE fast bowler Junaid Siddique (4-23) onto his stumps as Oman lost three wickets in the space of 14 deliveries.

Siddique grabbed two wickets in the powerplay and spinner Haider Ali (2-22) bagged both of his inside the first six overs as Hong Kong slipped to 50-5.

UAE skipper Waseem became the fourth fastest batter to complete 3000 T20 runs, behind Mohammad Rizwan of Pakistan, Virat Kohli of India and Babar Azam, also from Pakistan.

Waseem was dropped on 27 and 34 and finally run out in the final over. But Muhammad Zohaib (21) and Harshit Kaushik (19) made brisk runs in the death overs to give UAE a defensible total.

New prominence

Kambundji's surprise 100m hurdles gold at worlds stuns winter-sporting Switzerland

BERLIN, Sept 16, (Agencies): Switzerland, better known for winter sports, is celebrating an unprecedented 100m hurdles gold after Ditaji Kambundji's triumph at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

The 23-year-old has electrified her country of nearly nine million people, winning Switzerland's first-ever gold in the event and lifting athletics to new prominence.

"The screams of her sisters must have been heard until the Japanese capital," the Swiss tabloid Blick wrote, calling the victory a sensation.

Kambundji follows in the footsteps of compatriots Andre Bucher, the 800m world champion in 2001, and three-time shot put gold medalist Werner Gunthor (1987, 1991, 1993). Her victory also highlights the remarkable journey of a family long devoted to athletics.

Her father, Safuka, moving from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Switzerland over 40 years ago to study at university, and her mother Ruth as well as aunt Edith Nafzer were in the stands in Tokyo celebrating with tears of joy.

"Other than daddy, I wasn't predicting this would happen," Ruth said. Ditaji herself admitted: "I've never wept that many tears of joy in my life." Raised in Bern, the sisters spent much of their childhood on their aunt's farm, with the three older siblings taking the youngest to competitions. "I was hooked on athletics from the first day," Ditaji said.

Her talent has now surpassed even that of her sister Mujinga, who won 60m gold at the 2022 World Indoor Championships and took European titles in the 100m and 200m. Ditaji also became the first European to win the women's 100m hurdles world title since 1997.



Switzerland's Ditaji Kambundji celebrates winning the women's 100 meters hurdles final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

Gunthor, the shot put great, jokingly suggested she should be crowned Switzerland's first athletics "queen." Her winning time of 12.24 seconds set a new national record and provided a rare golden moment for a nation more accustomed to celebrating skiing champions.

At 23, expectations are high for more to come, though Kambundji says she needs time to absorb the achievement. Back home, her club ST Bern hopes her historic medal will inspire the next generation.

TV broadcasters are preparing extensive coverage for the family's return from Asia, as the nation prepares to welcome home its new star. qqq Long jumper Tara Davis-Woodhall smiled through the tears when

they played the U.S. national anthem to celebrate her gold medal at the world track and field championships.

The newly crowned champion is well aware she represents a country going through a difficult time. She refuses to give up on that country, which helped explain the emotions that poured out Monday night in Tokyo.

"I do believe in my country. I believe we're having a really hard time right now," Davis-Woodhall said. "We just need someone positive out there to give an outlook of 'We're all in this together. We're all human.' We all have one heart, one brain, and if we use this together, we can be unstoppable."

"I do believe we can do this."

The 26-year-old California native jumped 7.13 meters (23 feet, 4 3/4 inches) to stack the world title on top of the Olympic title she won last year.

Both those golds were products of a fire lit two years ago, when she won a silver medal at worlds in Budapest - a medal she called "exciting and fun, but it hurt at the same time."

Both she and her husband, Paralympic gold-medal sprinter Hunter Woodhall, rededicated themselves to better training, better eating, a more intentional approach to everything they did.

After the payoff at the Olympics last year, doors started opening.

It's no exaggeration to say Woodhall-Davis - a vibrant personality with more than 1 million Instagram followers - almost singlehandedly pushed the all-women's track circuit, Athlos, to add her event to its program.

She got a call last year from Athlos founder Alexis Ohanian, who invited her to New York to watch the debut of the series, when it was for track events only.

"I was like, 'I'm not going, unless there's field events and I'm competing,'" Davis-Woodhall said.

Ohanian listened. Next month, Davis-Woodhall and others will be jumping in Times Square.

A thrill, she says, though it will be hard to beat what she experienced half a world from home Monday with the gold medal hanging from her neck.

"With all the things that are going on in the United States, to be able to represent for African-American women and just human beings is an honor for me," she said. "To go out there and wear 'USA' on my chest, it feels so amazing. I'll never, ever take it for granted."

Stewart has MRI on left knee

Golden State's Burton wins WNBA Most Improved Player

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 16, (AP): Golden State guard Veronica Burton won the WNBA Most Improved Player award after helping the Valkyries become the first expansion team to make the playoffs.

Burton received 68 of 72 votes from a national panel of sportswriters and broadcasters that was released on Monday.

Burton set career highs in her fourth season, averaging 11.9 points, 4.4 rebounds, 6.0 assists and 1.1 steals per game. She averaged just 3.1 points, 1.4 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 0.5 steals in 31 games with the Connecticut Sun in 2024.

Burton became the first player in WNBA history to increase her averages by at least five points, two rebounds and two assists per game from one season to the next season with at least 30 games in both seasons.

Burton was originally drafted by Dallas in 2022 and spent her first two seasons with the Wings before playing last season for Connecticut.

Burton helped the Valkyries (23-21) set the WNBA record for victories by an expansion team in its inaugural season. She also led the Valkyries to be the first expansion team to reach the WNBA playoffs in its first season.

□ □ □

Breanna Stewart had an MRI on her left knee, which she injured Sunday, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because no official announcement has been made.

Stewart's status for Game 2 on Wednesday of the best-of-three series with the Phoenix Mercury is unknown. The Liberty won the opener in overtime over Phoenix.

ESPN first reported the MRI. The Liberty's star forward drove baseline and was fouled with 3:01 left in overtime. The knee appeared to



In this file photo, Golden State Valkyries guard Veronica Burton reacts during the first half of a WNBA basketball game against the Indiana Fever, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, in San Francisco. (AP)

buckle and she went down and grabbed it. After a New York timeout, Stewart attempted the free throw, but missed it. She had a knee brace over the injury, but came out a minute later.

New York coach Sandy Brondello said after the game that her star had asked to come out.

Stewart, who had 18 points and six rebounds before leaving the game, missed about a month of the season with a bone bruise on her other knee she suffered in late July.

The Liberty have had a difficult season with injuries. Besides Stewart being out for a month, Jonquel Jones missed significant time early in the year with a sprained ankle and Sabrina Ionescu was out for a few games late with a toe injury she suffered in practice.

If Stewart can't play Wednesday, New York has depth with Emma Meesseman, who they signed in August. Meesseman won a WNBA Finals MVP in 2019 while playing with Washington.

Best of the Rest

Late Gabriel strike for Cruzeiro: Gabriel Barbosa scored late as Cruzeiro recovered from a goal down to secure a 2-1 away victory over Bahia in Brazil's Serie A on Monday.

Jean Lucas gave the hosts the lead with a dipping 30-yard drive into the top-left corner. Colombian winger Luis Sinisterra equalized by jabbing home a first-time effort after Matheus Pereira's shot rebounded off the post.

Gabriel, a 71st-minute replacement for Kaio Jorge, put the visitors ahead four minutes from time with a 25-yard rocket into the far corner.

"We were a bit reactive in the first half but we came out in the second with the idea of having more of the ball and putting pressure on their defenders." The result at Arena Fonte Nova leaves Cruzeiro second in the 20-team standings with 47 points from 23 outings, three points behind leaders Flamengo. Bahia is fifth in the 20-team standings, 11 points further back. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Tite in talks over Venezuela coaching job: Former Brazil manager Tite is in talks with the Venezuelan Football Federation over the Vinotinto's vacant managerial post, Brazilian media reported.

The 64-year-old is due to undergo knee surgery in the coming days before deciding on his next move, Globo Esporte said.

Tite, who led Brazil from 2016 to 2022, has been without a job since leaving Flamengo in September 2024. He has also reportedly drawn interest from at least four Brazilian clubs. The Vinotinto, which has never reached the World Cup finals, was in the qualification places for much of the South American campaign before finishing with three consecutive defeats. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

DeMelo remains hospitalized: Racing Louisville's DeMelo remains hospitalized day after collapsing during game Racing Louisville's Savannah DeMelo remained hospitalized and was undergoing tests one day after she collapsed during a match against the Seattle Reign.

DeMelo was taken from Seattle's Lumen Field by ambulance after a medical emergency late in the first half of Sunday night's game. She was being treated at a local hospital. "I'm lucky to have my family with me while I'm waiting for test results to come back," DeMelo said in a statement released by the team on Monday. (AP)

Change Name

BEEM RAJA.R. (Hindu), S/o. Radhakrishnan Born on 06th October 1989 PASSPORT NUMBER (V 5159463) (District of Birth Sivagangai) residing at No.2/4, Rajarajeswari Nagar, A.Pudur, Karaikkudi Taluk, Sivagangai-630 301, has converted to Islam with name of SHAHID MOHAMMAD on 21st July 2023. BEEM RAJA.R

IOC president Coventry calls Sydney 2000 'spark' of Olympic journey

GENEVA, Sept 16, (Xinhua): Twenty-five years on from her Olympic debut, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Kirsty Coventry recalled her Olympic journey that started with the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

"I was 16 years old when I walked onto the pool deck at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Wide-eyed, nervous and full of dreams. These were my first Olympic Games, and I had no idea what to expect," Coventry said in an IOC statement on Monday as Sydney marked the 25th anniversary of the

opening of the 2000 Olympic Games.

"I remember seeing Susie O'Neill warming up and whispering to my coach, 'That's Susie O'Neill!' He gently asked, 'What do you see?' I was too star-struck to answer.

He said, 'I see another girl, another woman just like you.' That moment helped me realize: this was where I belonged." Although she failed to reach a final in Sydney, the experience fueled her career. Coventry went on to win three medals (one gold, one silver and one bronze) at the Athens 2004 Olymp-

pics, and added two more (one gold and one silver) in Beijing 2008.

"Sydney was more than just my first Olympic Games - it was the spark," she said. "I celebrated my 17th birthday on race day, met Muhammad Ali in the Olympic Village, and fell in love with lamingtons (an Australian cake). But more than anything, I felt the power of the Olympic spirit." Arram Kim, IOC Head of Olympic Games Impact and Legacy, also reflected on the Games last Friday. "Sydney 2000 gave Australians a sense of unity that went far be-

yond sport. It was a moment when the country came together and shared something that is still remembered with pride," Kim said.

Coventry added that the Sydney legacy continues to shape Australia as it prepares for Brisbane 2032. "For me, Sydney laid the foundation for everything that followed - Athens, Beijing, London, Rio. And now, for me as IOC President, it helps guide how I think about Brisbane 2032," she said. "I know what's possible when a country embraces the Olympic Games with heart and purpose."

SPORTS

Al-Ahli extends unbeaten run

Sharjah grabs late win

JEDDAH, Sept 16: Defending champion Al-Ahli Saudi launched its AFC Champions League Elite campaign in thrilling fashion, overturning a deficit to defeat Uzbekistan's Nasaf 4-2 at home.

New Brazilian signing Enzo Melo was the star of the show, scoring twice in the space of three minutes during the second half to ignite the comeback. The victory was sealed deep into stoppage time when Riyad Mahrez struck with a clinical finish, sending the home crowd into celebration.

With this win, Al-Ahli extended its remarkable run in continental competition, remaining the only club unbeaten since last season's edition.

In the UAE, Sharjah kicked off their group-stage campaign with a dramatic 4-3 victory over Al-Gharafa of Qatar at Sharjah Stadium.

The contest was finely balanced until the 86th minute, when Al-Gharafa's Khalifa Babiker was shown a red card, leaving his team vulnerable in the closing stages. Sharjah capitalized on the advantage to secure all three points, while Al-Gharafa were left empty-handed after the opening round.

Elsewhere, Al-Ittihad Jeddah slipped to a 2-1 defeat against Al-Wahda, while Iraq's Al-Shorta was held to a 1-1 draw by Al-Sadd of Qatar.



Al-Ahli Saudi players celebrate with their fans after finding the net during the match.

Late penalty seals Espanyol victory

Vardy's Serie A debut ends in goalless draw

VERONA, Italy, Sept 16, (AP): Jamie Vardy could not rustle up a goal in his Serie A debut and prevent the first scoreless draw between Cremonese and Verona for almost 40 years on Monday. Vardy, one of England's most prolific scorers over the last decade, signed for Cremonese on transfer deadline day and came off the bench to replace Federico Bonazzoli in the 58th minute.

But there was no fairy tale start for the 38-year-old Premier League and FA Cup winner.

Instead, most of the chances were at the other end as Verona pushed for a first win at home since Feb. 23.

Giovane missed a string of chances and Gift Orban was also profligate in a game that nevertheless ended Cremonese's winning start to the season.

The point moved Cremonese up to third place. Verona was 16th with two points from three games.

Genoa scored in stoppage time to take a point in a 1-1 draw at Como.

Nico Paz was named the Serie A rising star of the month for August and the 21-year-old Argentine showed why after 13 minutes when he gave Como the lead with a lovely strike from outside the box.

Como coach Cesc Fabregas looked sure to preserve his 100% record against his old Arsenal teammate Patrick Vieira since they both moved into the dugout but Caleb Ekuban slammed home after a goal-mouth scramble two minutes into stoppage time to give Genoa a much



Como's Anastasios Douvikas, left, fights for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Como and Genoa at the Giuseppe Sinigaglia stadium in Como, Italy. (AP)

needed share of the points. Como's Jacobo Ramon was sent off three minutes earlier.

Pere Milla scored and was sent off as Espanyol surrendered a two-goal lead before roaring back with a late penalty to beat Mallorca 3-2

in a pulsating La Liga encounter on Monday.

The result left Espanyol unbeaten after four games and in joint second place alongside city rival Barcelona. Real Madrid was the only team with maximum points and topped the table.

Milla got two goals in his first two games this season and was on

target again after 20 minutes when his neat flick from a low cross put Espanyol ahead.

Fourteen minutes later, a deep cross from English winger Tyrhys Dolan was completely missed by goalkeeper Leo Román and Roberto Fernández bundled the ball in.

Italian skier Franzoso dies after Chile training crash

MILAN, Sept 16, (AP): Italian skier Matteo Franzoso has died following a crash in pre-season training in Chile, the Italian Winter Sports Federation announced on Monday. He was 25.

He's the second elite Italian skier to die in less than a year, after Matilde Lorenzi in October 2024.

Franzoso suffered "a major head injury" on Saturday and was being treated at a hospital in Santiago. The federation, FIS, said it was informed by medical officials in Chile of the skier's death, adding he did not survive "cranial trauma" and a consequent swelling of his brain.

Franzoso won a super-G race on the second-tier Europa Cup circuit in 2021, having finished fourth in the downhill at the world junior championships in 2020. He competed in 17 World Cup races - 11

super-Gs and six downhill. His best World Cup result was 28th in a super-G in Cortina d'Ampezzo in January 2023.

"It's a tragedy for his family and for our sport," FIS president Flavio Roda said. "It's absolutely necessary to do everything possible so accidents like this don't happen anymore."

Franzoso crashed through two layers of safety fencing on a course at La Parva and slammed into another type of fence positioned six to seven meters (yards) outside the course, FIS said. He was transported by helicopter to the hospital.

Franzoso was training with Italian team standouts Dominik Paris, Christof Innerhofer, Mattia Casse and others. The Azzurri are preparing to race on home snow at the Milan-Cortina Olympics in February.

'I gave everything with passion'

World Cup winner Umtiti retires

PARIS, Sept 16, (AP): Former France defender Samuel Umtiti, a World Cup winner in 2018, has retired from soccer.

The 31-year-old Umtiti, who also helped Barcelona win two La Liga titles and three Copa del Rey trophies, has been without a club since he left Ligue 1 team Lille at the end of last season.

"After having lived an intense career with its highs and lows, the time has come to say goodbye," Umtiti said on his Instagram account. "I gave everything with passion and I regret nothing."

Umtiti played 31 times for France, and took part in the 2016 home European Championship. He scored four goals, including the winner in the 1-0 defeat of Belgium in the 2018 World Cup semifinals.

"Sam, who joined the French national team for Euro 2016, played an important role in our conquest of the World Cup title in Russia," France coach Didier Deschamps said.

"Everyone will remember his headed goal that allowed us to beat Belgium and qualify for the final. I also recall his partnership with Raphaël, his defensive solidity, his fighting spirit. His knee was already causing him pain, yet he held on with exemplary courage until the very end."

He is the fifth 2018 World Cup winner to retire after Blaise Matuidi, Adil Rami, Raphaël Varane and Steve Mandanda.



In this file photo, France's Samuel Umtiti celebrates after scoring his 1st goal of the game during the semifinal match between France and Belgium at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the St. Petersburg Stadium in St. Petersburg, Russia. (AP)

Umtiti started his professional career with boyhood club Lyon, where he won the 2012 French Cup. But in recent years he struggled with injuries and made only a few appearances for Lille.

"I tried everything in Lille to make a comeback," he said. "Few people know how hard I tried, but my body could not keep up."

Best of the Rest

F1 in 2026 to have six sprint events: Six sprint events, including three at new locations, are on next year's Formula 1 calendar.

The total number of sprints stays the same, with the first event of 2026 taking place in Shanghai followed by Miami.

Silverstone, which last hosted a sprint in 2021, returns. Montreal, Zandvoort and Singapore are set to host their first ever sprint weekend, F1 announced on Tuesday.

There will be no sprint weekends in the last six rounds of the championship, a stark contrast with this season which features three sprints in the final six grands prix.

The 2026 F1 calendar features 24 races and was published in June.

Sprints are shorter races covering 100 kilometers, about one-third of a grand prix distance. According to F1 figures, TV viewership during sprint weekends in 2024 averaged 10% higher than on non-sprint weekends. (AP)

Mata swaps Sydney for Melbourne: Ex-Manchester United and Spain midfielder Juan Mata is on the move again in Australia, joining Melbourne Victory for his second stint in the A-League after leaving Western Sydney.

The 37-year-old Mata joined the Victory on a one-season deal, the club announced Tuesday. He had made seven starts in 23 appearances with Western Sydney Wanderers, scoring one goal.

"I am excited to be coming to Melbourne and to be part of one of the most respected clubs in the league and playing in front of the incredible members and fans," Mata said in a statement.

Victory coach Arthur Diles is attempting to go one better after reaching the A-League grand final last year, losing to Melbourne City 1-0 in the championship match.

"We are incredibly fortunate to add someone of Juan's experience and character to the squad," Diles said in a statement.

Mata's career before moving to Australia included winning the 2010 World Cup and 2012 Euros with Spain. He won the Copa del Rey at Valencia in 2008 before moving to Chelsea, where he won the Champions League, FA Cup, Europa League and FA Community Shield between 2011 and 2014.

Mata spent nine years at Man United, where he won the Europa League, FA Cup, League Cup and Community Shield, scoring 51 goals in 285 appearances.

He then had short stints at Galatasaray and Vissel Kobe, winning the Super Lig in Turkey and J1 League respectively before joining the Wanderers last September. (AP)

'We've lost faith in a revival'

Moenchengladbach parts ways with coach Seoane

BERLIN, Sept. 16, (Xinhua): Borussia Moenchengladbach have parted company with head coach Gerardo Seoane with immediate effect after a poor start to the Bundesliga season, the club confirmed.

The 46-year-old Swiss coach departs after a run of 10 league games without a win stretching across two seasons, with Gladbach failing to score in their first three matches of the new campaign. Under-23 coach Eugen Polanski has been appointed caretaker manager while the club searches for a permanent successor.

"After an in-depth review of our season start, we came to the conclusion that a change was necessary," said sporting director Roland Virkus. "We have unfortunately lost faith that a turnaround is possible with Gerardo." Club president Rainer Bonhof added: "Gerardo stabilized the team after a difficult phase and helped drive our development, but the end of last season and the start of this one were far below expectations. We thank him for his work and wish him all the best."

Seoane took charge at Borussia-Park in



Moenchengladbach's head coach Gerardo Seoane during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Moenchengladbach and SV Werder Bremen in Moenchengladbach, Germany. (AP)

the summer of 2023 after previously managing Bayer Leverkusen. His two full seasons in

charge produced mixed results in the Bundesliga, with 14th- and 10th-place finishes, and Gladbach currently sitting 16th early in the new campaign. His overall record with the Foals was 25 wins, 20 draws and 33 defeats in 78 competitive matches, with an average of 1.13 points per Bundesliga game - the weakest return for a Gladbach coach since Michael Frontzeck in 2011.

This season, Gladbach edged past fifth-tier Atlas Delmenhorst in the DFB Cup before starting the league campaign with a draw against Hamburg and defeats to Stuttgart and Werder Bremen. A 4-0 home loss to Bremen ultimately sealed Seoane's fate.

Speculation has already begun over his replacement, with Urs Fischer, Pellegrino Matarazzo, Martin Demichelis and Edin Terzic all mentioned as possible candidates. For now, Polanski will prepare the side for their upcoming derby against Bayer Leverkusen.

Seoane is the second Bundesliga coach dismissed this season, following Erik ten Hag's early exit from Leverkusen.

'I was in need of some support'

A burn victim as a child, Brazilian hurdler Alison explains how track helped save life

TOKYO, Sept 16, (AP): When the pan of scalding oil tipped and splattered across 10-month-old Alison dos Santos, his grandfather scooped him up, barged through the front door and sprinted to the hospital - a burst of speed and quick thinking that played a key role in saving the baby's life.

The scars on his face, forehead, chest and arms from those third-degree burns are the permanent memories of a day 24 years ago that the Brazilian hurdles champion doesn't remember, but one he can never forget.

When dos Santos lines up this week at world championships in the 400-meter hurdles - maybe the single most stacked event over the nine days of racing in Tokyo - he'll be going against Olympic champions, world-record holders and world champions such as himself.

These are the sort of challenges he embraces from a sport he says gave him new life as a teen, when he was vulnerable and insecure about the scars that, until then, felt like they ruled his life.

"It was the environment, the friendship, the love they were able to give to me that helped me get through this," dos Santos explained in a recent interview with Ready,



Brazil's Alison Dos Santos competes with Lebanon's Marc Anthony Ibrahim, British Virgin Islands' Kyrone McMaster and Japan's Daiki Ogawa in a men's 400 meters hurdles heat at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

Set, Go podcast, speaking of the track and field community near his hometown of São Joaquim da Barra that embraced him. "I was in need of some support, but I was never able to ask for it. And they were able to give it without me asking for it."

Dos Santos grew up with the scars and the story, and said he often wondered, "Am I different? Can I fix this? What can I do to solve this

problem?" Adolescence and his teenage years made things worse. Even his friends would sometimes end arguments with some outburst about the scars "because they knew it would hurt me."

"They're just saying what they see. They're not understanding what that could mean to someone," he said in another recent in-

terview with international media. "I had to go through some dark times. But I had to understand that I wouldn't be myself if I didn't have the burns."

His track friends saw him another way. Not the guy with the scars, but nice guy with a good sense of humor, an interest in others, and someone who could really run. That helped dos Santos create a different kind of life.

That life now involves traveling the world, scooping up medals and playing a main role in one of the best and most durable dramas going in his sport.

The 400-meter hurdles are a science of sorts, defined at first by Edwin Moses, who used his math smarts to chart the quickest way across 10 hurdles on a grueling lap around the track.

More than 40 years later, with the help of better training and, in a very big way, better shoes that act like mini-trampolines, dos Santos and his rivals are putting up numbers that felt impossible a generation ago.

And unlike when Moses reigned - he won 122 straight races from 1977 through 1987 - dos Santos, Karsten Warholm and Rai Benjamin are sharing time in the winner's circle.

ARAB TIMES
Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991
51526559





Liverpool's Dominik Szoboszlai and Mohamed Salah, right, during a training session at the AXA Training Centre, Liverpool, England. (AP)

Sports

Qadsia breaks losing streak

Kazma reinforces for championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kazma has strengthened its squad in the 40th Arab Clubs Handball Championship for League and Cup Winners, currently taking place at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex until September 22. The club announced the signing of Qatari side Al-Arabi's player Hami Kakhi on loan, following the Arab Handball Federation's decision to allow teams to add a new professional in the quarterfinal stage.

Kakhi joins the team alongside Tunisian duo Anwar bin Abdullah and Mohamed Farad, in addition to Slovenian professional Labain Ganos, under the guidance of Serbian coach Bozo Rudic.

Kazma expressed gratitude to Qatar's Al-Arabi Club for approving the player's move without conditions.

Before yesterday's matches, "Al-Safeer" sat third in Group A with two points from one win and one defeat, behind leaders Kuwait Club (6 points) and level with Al-Shabab of Syria (also on 2 points but with a better goal difference). They are ahead of Naft Al-Basra (Iraq) and Al-Tali'a (Syria), who both have one point.

The group stage concludes today with Kazma facing Al-Tali'a (Syria) at 2:00 p.m., followed by Al-Shabab (Syria) vs. Naft Al-Janoub (Iraq) at 4:00 p.m., Al-Ahli Bank (Egypt) vs. Al-Hashd (Iraq) at 6:00 p.m., and Qatar SC against Salibikhat at 8:00 p.m. The quarterfinals begin tomorrow, with the final scheduled for next Monday.

In domestic action, Qadsia's handball team secured its first Premier League victory of the season after three straight



Qadsia and Al-Arabi players fighting for the ball.

defeats, defeating Al-Arabi 29-25 at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex in the fourth round.

Elsewhere, Salmiya claimed a 34-28 win over Al-Nasr.

The standings now read: Kuwait Club (6 points), Burgan and Kazma (5 points each), Salmiya (4), Salibikhat and Al-Arabi (3 each), Qadsia (2), and Al-Nasr (0).

Meanwhile, Kuwait's national junior handball team will play its second Group A match at the inaugural Asian Junior Handball Championship in Jordan, which runs until September 25 and qualifies teams for the World Cup in Morocco (October 24-November 2).

The team faces Bahrain today at 1:00 p.m. after making a strong start with a commanding 48-21 win over Hong Kong in its opener, where stand-out player Athbi Yalous was named Best Player of the Match.

Spotlight falls Gnabry as Bayern travels to Chelsea

PSG's injury scare eases ahead of Champions League as defense injuries hit Atletico ahead of opener at Liverpool

PARIS, Sept 16. (Agencies): European champion Paris Saint-Germain won't be as short-handed as initially feared when it begins the defense of its Champions League title.

PSG extended its perfect start in Ligue 1 with a fourth straight win over the weekend, but the victory was overshadowed by injuries to Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Lee Kang-in and Lucas Beraldo, all of whom were forced off the field.

But the club said on Tuesday on the eve of hosting Serie A side Atalanta at Parc des Princes that only Beraldo remained "under treatment" after spraining his left ankle.

The update came as a relief for PSG, which is already without forwards Ousmane Dembélé and Désiré Doué for the encounter.

PSG coach Luis Enrique said Lee was available while Kvaratskhelia's condition will be assessed again. The winger injured a calf on Sunday during the 2-0 win over Lens.

"With Kvara we need to see how he feels after training," Enrique told a press conference.

PSG triumphed in the Champions League in May with the biggest victory in a final, 5-0 over Inter Milan. Injuries aside, PSG has enjoyed a great start to the new season after winning the UEFA Super Cup against Tottenham.

Enrique said winning a second straight Champions League was an achievable goal.

"It will be difficult," he said. "But for me, winning the first one is more difficult than the second, third, and



Chelsea's Reece James, front center, during a training session in London, England ahead of the Champions League soccer match against FC Bayern Munich. (AP)

so on. If we all have this mindset, we will try to win it. We're the holders. We want to continue to make history. It's important that we go for a second Champions League title."

Enrique is among the coaches who have won the league with multiple clubs. His did it with Barcelona in 2015.

Atletico Madrid will be depleted by injuries for its Champions League opener at Liverpool on Wednesday.

Four players won't make the trip to England, including forward Julián Alvarez, the Spanish club said on Tuesday.

Also out for the match at Anfield were defender José María Giménez

and midfielders Álex Baena and Johnny Cardoso, both newcomers to the squad.

Alvarez, Baena and Giménez were hurt in Atletico's 2-0 home win against Villarreal in La Liga on Saturday.

Cardoso was nursing a left ankle sprain from practice on Monday.

Atletico, seeking its first Champions League title, was eliminated by city rival Real Madrid in last season's round of 16.

As Bayern Munich prepares for its 2025-26 UEFA Champions League opener against Chelsea on Wednesday, the spotlight falls on the club's "Mr. London" - Serge Gnabry.

Despite Chelsea's recent signing of striker Nicolas Jackson, much of the pre-match talk has centered on Gnabry, whose record against London clubs is well known. The German international famously scored six goals against Chelsea and Tottenham in the 2019-20 Champions League, earning a reputation as London's tormentor.

Now 30, the 53-cap winger is thriving again, benefiting from Bayern's shortage of attacking options following the departures of Thomas Müller, Kingsley Coman and Leroy Sané. His value to the six-time European champions has risen significantly, even after years marked by inconsistency.

Since 2020, Gnabry has endured 20 injury lay-offs, missing 65 matches and often facing speculation about his future. With his contract due to expire at the end of this season, his resurgence has prompted debate - some see him pushing for a renewal, while others credit his prominent new role.

Alongside England captain Harry Kane, newcomer Luis Díaz and French prospect Michael Olise, Gnabry has rediscovered his best form. "I'm in a flow," he said, noting that recurring injuries in recent years had slowed him down. "For a long time, I haven't felt that well and healthy."

The forward credits new coach Vincent Kompany for restoring his confidence by deploying him centrally as a No. 10. Bayern sporting director Max Eberl praised the change, saying, "He is leaving his footprints as he is skilled enough to deliver exceptional actions in the center."

Kipyegon wins record-tying 4th world 1,500m title

Katzberg claims hammer throw gold

TOKYO, Sept 16, (Agencies): Faith Kipyegon pulled away from the pack for a win everyone expected and a record-tying fourth world championship at 1,500 meters Tuesday.

Kipyegon finished in 3 minutes, 52.15 seconds, nearly three seconds ahead of her Kenyan teammate Dorcus Ewoi but about three seconds behind the world record she set earlier this year.

Running in front throughout the near four-lap journey, Kipyegon coasted into the finish to join Hicham El Guerrouj as only the second runner to win four world titles in the metric mile. She flashed four fingers after crossing the finish line.

"I'm so happy to represent my coun-



Kenya's Faith Kipyegon celebrates after winning gold medal in the women's 1500 meters final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

try and win medals," she said. "I think of breaking barriers every time."

The win puts an exclamation point on a season that began with her coming up short in a much-hyped quest to become the first woman to break the four-minute mile, but includes the world record and, now, title No. 4.

"The challenge was very hard," she said of the four-minute challenge. "But it gave me confidence that coming here I knew I was capable of defending my title and running a beautiful race like I did today."

In all, Kipyegon has four world and three Olympic titles at 1,500 meters, along with the 5,000 title at 2023 worlds and the 2024 Paris Olympics.

She'll be back on the track this week to defend her crown in the 5,000, which should be a fairer fight. It's expected to include Gudaf Tsegay and Beatrice Chebet, who both skipped the 1,500 to focus on the 10,000.

With those two gone, and with Ethiopia's Diribe Welteji missing the worlds due to a ban stemming from missed drug tests, Australia's Jessica Hull was the only other runner in the field with one of the year's top-five marks.

Hull hung around Kipyegon for 3 1/2 laps, but the late move belonged to the Kenyan, who more than doubled her 1.31-second lead over the last 200 meters and looked fresh as she crossed the line.

Perhaps the most telling sign of how Kipyegon dominates came after the race. With Ewoi and Hull writhing on the ground, Kipyegon jogged over, patted Ewoi on the chest, then bent to grab Hull by the arm and pull her up.

Hull took bronze to go with the silver she won in Paris last year. This is the first big-time medal of any color for Ewoi, a 28-year-old Kenyan who



United States' Cordell Tinch, left, Jamaica's Orlando Bennett, Japan's Rachid Muratake, Jamaica's Tyler Mason and Spain's Enrique Llopis compete in the men's 110 meters hurdles final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

trains in the U.S.

Cordell Tinch won the gold medal in the 110-meter hurdles, putting a temporary halt to a less-than-excellent start to the championships for the United States.

Tinch gave the U.S. its sixth gold medal after four days to go with two bronze.

America was shut out in the women's 100-meter hurdles and hammer throw and men's pole vault -- often good medal producers -- and lost a

decent medal chance when Cole Hocker was disqualified in the semifinals of the 1,500.

Nikki Hiltz had a chance in the women's 1,500 that was missing several top challengers but finished fifth.

Canada's Ethan Katzberg captured the men's hammer throw title at the World Athletics Championships on Tuesday, setting a championship record of 84.70 meters.

The 23-year-old delivered his best

throw on his second attempt to secure a decisive victory.

Germany's Merlin Hummel produced a personal best of 82.77 meters to take the silver medal, while Hungary's Bence Halasz claimed bronze with 82.69 meters.

Katzberg's triumph continues his rise on the global stage after winning the world title in 2023.

Olympic champion Hamish Kerr of New Zealand claimed victory in the

men's high jump final.

The 29-year-old cleared a world-leading 2.36 meters to secure his first global outdoor title.

South Korea's Woo Sang-hyeok, the 2022 world indoor champion, cleared 2.34 meters for his second world championship silver after 2022.

Jan Stefela of the Czech Republic earned bronze after clearing 2.31 meters, edging Ukraine's Oleh Doroshchuk on countback.

Hundreds of clubs added to \$355 million FIFA payments plan from 2026 World Cup revenue

ZURICH, Sept 16, (AP): Hundreds more soccer clubs will get shares of a \$355 million FIFA fund from its multi-billion 2026 World Cup revenues for releasing players to men's national teams.

FIFA said on Tuesday the program which has shared a total of hundreds of millions of dollars among clubs whose players were selected for each World Cup finals tournament since 2010 will now include all players who took part in qualifying games.

Eritrea and Russia - which has been suspended from international soccer since 2022 - did not play qualifying games among FIFA's 211 member federations.

"This new approach means that any club that releases a player for a FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier will now be directly compensated," FIFA said in a statement.

FIFA previously agreed on a \$355 million allocation for the 2026 edition in the United States, Canada and

Mexico as part of a renewed working agreement with the European Club Association (ECA).



AC Milan's Ruben Loftus-Cheek, right, and Bologna's Santiago Castro jump for a header during a Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Bologna at San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

That was an increase from \$209 million paid to clubs worldwide from each of the past two editions, played in Qatar in 2022 and Russia in 2018.

FIFA said 440 clubs across 51 member countries got payments from the 2022 program, which were calculated as a daily rate for as long as players were involved with their squads at the tournament. Manchester City got the biggest payment with almost \$4.6 million.

More than 900 clubs across all 55 UEFA member countries got payments from a similar European program that already includes qualifying games for national team competitions played for four years through 2024.

FIFA created its "club benefits program" with \$40 million of revenue from the 2010 World Cup in South Africa as part of a deal with the ECA which was created two years earlier.

Best of the Rest

Kuwaiti Al-Azmi to officiate at worlds: International chess arbiter Khalaf Al-Azmi has been appointed to officiate at the World Youth Chess Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan, taking place from September 18 to October 1, following an invitation from the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Speaking to KUNA ahead of his departure, Al-Azmi voiced pride in the selection, noting that it underscores the strong reputation and competence of Kuwaiti arbiters on the international stage.

He further affirmed his commitment to ensuring the success of the championship and representing Kuwait with honor at the prestigious global event. (KUNA)

Revolution fire Caleb Porter: Caleb Porter was fired as coach of Major League Soccer's New England Revolution on Monday with the team on track to miss the playoffs for the second straight season.

New England has eight wins, 14 losses and eight draws. The club is 11th among 15 teams in the Eastern Conference with four games remaining and 10 points back for the final postseason berth.

Porter was hired in December 2023 to follow Bruce Arena. The Revolution finished 14th in his initial season with nine wins, 21 defeats and four draws.

Assistant coach Pablo Moreira will be interim head coach for the rest of the season.

New England has never won an MLS title, losing in the championship game five times.

Porter, 50, coached Akron from 2006-12, leading the Zips to the 2010 NCAA title. He left to coach the U.S. under-23 team, which failed to qualify for the 2012 Olympics. (AP)