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Kuwait tightens checks on travelers' cash, gold

Airport disclosure rules strengthened to fight money laundering

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: In a move to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, the Ministry of Interior has introduced controls for travelers carrying cash, jewelry, and valuables, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry urged travelers to declare cash amounts of KD 3,000 or more, or the equivalent in foreign currencies, to the Financial Investigation Department at Kuwait International Airport by completing a customs form upon arrival or departure.

In a post on its official X account, the ministry specified the disclosure of gold in its various

forms, including precious watches, bullion, gold jewelry, and precious stones.

It explained that upon departure, a statistical statement of gold bullion will be prepared by the Air Cargo Department near Terminal 4. For precious watches, gold jewelry, and precious stones, a "Seen at Exit" certificate will be issued. Upon returning with these items, a "Seen at Entry" certificate will be provided.

Upon arrival, gold jewelry must be declared during inspection, along with the relevant receipts. This disclosure is a legal measure to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and does not imply a travel ban.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Woman advises scholar, 'Eat whatever you wish but avoid what is forbidden enter your stomach'



I start eating by saying "In the name of Allah", eat with my right hand, and eat from what is closest to me.



I perform ablution, sleep on my right side, and recite my daily prayers.



Many people place great emphasis on their outward appearance, but neglect their inner essence.



Arabs were not impressed by the clothes of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), but by his great morals.



Pizza deliveries are faster than ambulances and police cars.



Loyalty and faithfulness have become old-fashioned.



Money earns you respect, even if gained through corruption.



Breaking hearts is called honesty, and mending them is seen as foolishness.



If you can't laugh at a joke more than once, why cry over the same tragedy repeatedly?

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Former minister Al-Atiqi eulogized

Cabinet lauds Amir Rep speech at Qatar summit

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): The Kuwait Cabinet extolled on Tuesday the speech delivered by the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the emergency Arab-Islamic summit held in Qatar on Monday to discuss the brutal Israeli occupation attack on Doha.

The praise came during the customary Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday at Bayan Palace, under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shareeda Al-Maousherji said in a statement after the meeting.

In the speech, the Amir's Representative renewed Kuwait's condemnation of the Israeli attack on September 9 on Qatar, affirming that Qatar's security is a main pillar in the security of Arab and Muslim nations.

The Amir's Representative reiterated that Qatar is an inter-gated part of the two nations, voicing heartfelt condolences to Qatar, its leadership, government and people over the victims of this brutal aggression.

The Amir's Representative - His Highness the Crown Prince - emphasized that ongoing Israeli occupation violation of Arab and Muslim countries' sovereignty is a continuation of its escalating

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

NDHR stresses accountability, justice

Kuwait hails UN findings confirming Israeli genocide against Palestinians

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed Kuwait's welcome of the UN independent international investigation committee report, which stressed a full genocide crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the brotherly Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Undoubtedly, this report affirmed the Israeli occupation criminal intentions to implement policies aiming to systematically destroy the brotherly people of Palestine, the Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

Kuwait renews its call for the international community and the UN Security Council to immediately take action to halt this genocide and protect innocent civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories, it added.

Kuwait also calls for holding the Israeli occupation accountable for its blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law to ensure that the occupation will not go unpunished, it noted.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg's intent to officially recognize the State of Palestine.

In a press release, the ministry said Kuwait hails the step that contributes to establishing a Palestinian state on the 1967 border with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The statement urged other countries to follow suit in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause.

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Pre-school stage builds capable learners

Ministry of Education ensures smooth start to academic year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: On Tuesday, September 16, various schools in Kuwait welcomed elementary, intermediate, and high school students, amid an atmosphere of enthusiasm and seriousness. Students of various educational zones began arriving at their classrooms early in the morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Education explained that it completed all preparations for school facilities and ensured the provision of teaching staff for a smooth and stable start to the new academic year. Special attention was given to special education schools, with the ministry providing a comprehensive learning environment that meets the needs of students of all age groups.

In this regard, Principal of Maryam Bint Sabah Intermediate School for Girls in the

Hawally Educational Zone Noura Madouh stated that the school has made extensive preparations to receive approximately 300 students. Classrooms have been fully equipped, and awareness and welcome programs have been organized to prepare students for a productive academic year.

She said the new academic year carries high hopes for developing the educational process, implementing updated curricula, and enhancing students' skills in line with national development goals.

Madouh noted that the school's teaching staff consists of 120 teachers and administrators, all fully prepared to cooperate with students and parents to ensure the success of the educational journey and achieve the desired outcomes.

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Security Council endorses envoy for Kuwaiti missing persons and assets

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (KUNA): The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on Wednesday mandating a high-level envoy supporting cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq

on retrieving the remains of Kuwaiti martyrs and missing individuals as well as the return of properties.

The UN Security Council on Wednesday unanimously adopted

Resolution 2792, calling on Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to appoint a high-level representative to support

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Filipino remittances from Kuwait rise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Official data revealed a 4.3 percent increase in remittances from Filipino workers in Kuwait during the first seven months of 2025, reaching \$330.9 million, up from \$317 million in the same period last year, which is an increase of \$13.9 million, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The data also showed a 6.33 percent rise in remittances from Filipinos in Gulf countries during the same period. These remittances accounted for 96.47 percent of total remittances from Filipinos in the Middle East.

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Sheikha Jawaher: Kuwait prioritizes human rights in trafficking response



KUNA photo
Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Duaij Al-Sabah

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Duaij Al-Sabah affirmed on Wednesday that combating human trafficking and protecting victims are a priority that reflects Kuwait's commitment to its humanitarian values and international agreements.

This came in a statement by Sheikha Jawaher to KUNA, following a seminar held by the Human Rights Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry titled "The

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Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs receives the Indian ambassador (left) and the representative of the Sultan of Bohra.

Amiri Diwan Minister receives outgoing Indian envoy

The Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah received on Wednesday India's Ambassador to the country, Dr. Adarsh Swaika, on the end of his tenure.

The minister commended the

ambassador's efforts during his tenure in the country and his outstanding contributions to strengthening the close ties between the two friendly countries and peoples, wishing him continued success in

his future endeavors.

Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali also received the representative of the Sultan of Bohra, Tamim Husamuddin, and the accompanying delegation. (KUNA)



Amiri Diwan photos

Patient's safety first, quality non-negotiable: Health min

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said Wednesday that patient safety is the cornerstone of all health services and that quality of care is non-negotiable, calling health a basic right.

Speaking at a Ministry of Health (MoH) event marking World Patient Safety Day, held this year under the theme "Safe care for every newborn and every child," he cited World Health Organization (WHO) reports showing that stronger safety systems and quality programs have saved millions of lives over the past two decades.

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Day by Day

MAY God grant the Attorney General more patience and forbearance.

Every time he enforces the law, a lawsuit is filed against him. As one Kuwaiti citizen aptly put it, "Anyone held accountable by the law ends up filing a complaint against the Attorney General. We owe him a great deal."

Some people expect rulings to align with their personal interests, but the Attorney General is a man of wisdom and reason.

Though the burdens of the profession have taken their toll, he fully understands its demands.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Zain receives 'Best Corporate Governance in Kuwait' award from World Finance

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Warba launches sixth edition of its 'Rowad 6.0' program to empower Kuwaiti students abroad

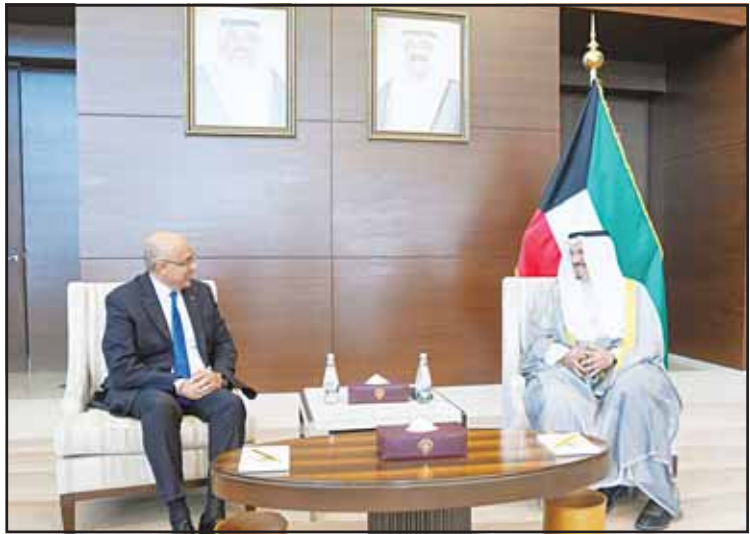
9

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:14	Asr	15:11
Sunrise ..	05:33	Maghrib ..	17:51
Zohr	11:43	Isha	19:09

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot to mild with light variable wind to light

Weather			
to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	44	32	
Kuwait Airport	45	26	
Abdaly	44	26	
Babyan	43	21	
Jahra			46
Failaka Island			42
Salmiyah			41
Ahmadi			41
Nuwaisib			42
Wafra			44
			28
			24
			33
			29
			29
			25



Prime Minister Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister receives the Tunisian Minister of Defense.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince receives the Tunisian Minister of Defense.



MoD photo
The Minister of Defense discusses common issues with his Tunisian counterpart.

Defense relations deepened

Kuwait's Crown Prince, PM host Tunisian Defense Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and in the presence of Defense Minister Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah received on Wednesday Tunisian Defense Minister Khaled Sehli, on the occasion of his official visit to the country.
The meeting was attended by the Head of His Highness the Crown Prince Office Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other senior officials.
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and in the presence of the Minister of Defense Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah received on Wednesday Tunisian Defense Minister Khaled Sehli.
During the meeting, the bilateral ties and enhancing cooperation between the

two sides were touched on.
The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Major General Pilot Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Ambassador of Tunisia to Kuwait Mohamad Karim Boudali.
Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah explored issues of common interest with Tunisian counterpart, Khaled Sehli on Wednesday.
The Ministry mentioned via statement that Minister Al-Sabah received the Tunisian Minister and accompanying delegation on occasion of visit to the country.

The meeting handled various avenues of military cooperation, and latest developments on regional and international fronts.
Minister Al-Sabah commended the depth and sturdiness of relations between the two nations and intent on furthering such ties.
Attending the meeting were Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army Major General Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with several senior military commanders from both sides.
Tunisian Minister of Defense had arrived in Kuwait on Tuesday evening, where he was received by Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.



Dignitaries, diplomats attend resumed Diwan of Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister.

Photos by Samer Shaqir

Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali resumes weekly Diwan gatherings

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali on Tuesday resumed his weekly meetings at his Diwan in Shamiya.
The Diwan hosted the first meeting after the summer vacation, with a notable attendance of sheikhs, ministers, dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, and businesspersons.

The meeting reflected the high social and political standing of Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali, who welcomed his guests with open arms and a handshake.
The guests, in turn, congratulated him on the precious trust bestowed upon him, and posed for commemorative photos.
In a brief statement to the newspaper, Sheikh Ham-

ad said: "The ministerial position is a great responsibility. I ask Almighty Allah to grant me the success to carry it out, and enable me to serve my country, Kuwait, and work for the good of its people under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-

Sabah."
On the other hand, the attendees affirmed that Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali's Diwan will continue to be a weekly meeting place, bringing together officials and the public every Tuesday evening, as well as promoting the values of communication and love among the people of Kuwait.

KISR secures IAEA accreditation

Recognition affirms Kuwait's scientific leadership

VIENNA, Sept 17, (KUNA): Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan announced on Wednesday that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) accredited KISR's radiation measurements laboratory as regional center for environmental radiation monitoring as part of the Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA).
This came in a statement for KUNA during his participation in the 69th IAEA General Conference held in Vienna.
Al-Humaidan said that this accreditation is a culmi-

nation of the laboratory's distinguished technical competencies and its adoption of advanced quality systems, in addition to its outstanding record of cooperation with countries in the region through the IAEA's projects for environmental radiological monitoring.
He noted that the laboratory, through this achievement, will contribute to enhancing regional capabilities in the field of monitoring environmental radioactivity, standardizing measurement and sampling methods, and exchanging data to serve environmental protection and public health in Kuwait and the region.
He pointed out that the laboratory plays a pivotal role in responding to any radiological or nuclear incidents, as it collects environmental samples and analyzes them with high accuracy to provide decision-makers with the data necessary for crisis management in accordance with international standards. It also issues periodic reports confirming the safety of the Kuwaiti environment from the risks of radioactive contamination by monitoring radiation levels in the air, water, and food.
Al-Humaidan emphasized that the radiation measurements laboratory is one of the most advanced in the

region, as it includes the latest specialized devices for measuring gamma, alpha, and beta radiation, and advanced systems for monitoring radon gas in the air, water, and soil, in addition to laboratories for preparing environmental samples according to the highest standards.
He said that the laboratory applies a quality system that complies with the standard specification (ISO/IEC 17025) to ensure the accuracy and reliability of results, and regularly participates in the ALMERA International Comparison Program, which is organized annually by the IAEA, which enhances the reliability of its data and confirms its position as an accredited regional scientific reference.
Al-Humaidan concluded his remarks by saying that through this scientific achievement, Kuwait seeks to serve its country and enhance its regional standing under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince, and His Highness the Prime Minister.



MoFA photo
Deputy Prime Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired the Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting.

Kuwait, Iraq resume talks on maritime border demarcation

BAGHDAD, Sept 17, (KUNA): The Kuwait-Iraq legal and technical committee on maritime borders demarcation beyond marker No. 162 held its 11th meeting on Tuesday in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.
The two sides restressed the need of continued periodical meetings of the committee until demarcating the maritime borders beyond marker No. 162, in line with international law principles and the 1982 the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Woman advises scholar, ‘Eat whatever you wish but avoid what is forbidden enter your stomach’

THERE is a big difference between outward appearance and inner essence. While outward appearances often deceive people with superficial impressions, the inner essence reveals what truly lies beneath. Thus, the path to truth is difficult, yet it is a source of comfort.

The following lines tell a story about discerning the truth and not being misled by appearances.

Once upon a time, a woman passed by a gathering and asked, “Who among you is the jurist?”

They pointed to one of the men, and she asked him, “How do you eat?”

He replied, “I begin by saying ‘In the name of God,’ I eat with my right hand, I eat from what is closest to me, I take small bites, and I chew well.”

She asked him, “How do you sleep?”

He replied, “I perform ablution before going to bed, I sleep on my right side, and I recite my daily prayers.”

The woman responded, “You neither know how to eat nor how to sleep.”

Everyone turned to look at her, and the man who had been identified as the jurist asked in surprise, “Then how do you eat and sleep?”

She replied, “Do not let anything forbidden enter your stomach, and then eat whatever you wish. Do not harbor malice in your heart toward anyone, and then sleep however you like. What you described to me was the method of action, and what I told you was the essence of the act.”

Many people place great emphasis on outward appearance, but neglect the essence, which is far more important. The Arabs were not impressed by the clothing, food, or drink of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) but by his

I start eating by saying “In the name of Allah”, eat with my right hand, and eat from what is closest to me.

I perform ablution, sleep on my right side, and recite my daily prayers.

Many people place great emphasis on their outward appearance, but neglect their inner essence.

Arabs were not impressed by the clothes of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), but by his great morals.

Pizza deliveries are faster than ambulances and police cars.

Loyalty and faithfulness have become old-fashioned.

Money earns you respect, even if gained through corruption.

Breaking hearts is called honesty, and mending them is seen as foolishness.

If you can’t laugh at a joke more than once, why cry over the same tragedy repeatedly?

noble character, his kindness, his humility, and his gentle treatment of others. Through these qualities, he was able to transform the Arabs from a nation of shepherds into a nation that led others.

* * *

Welcome to the 21st century

The late Egyptian writer Ahmed Khaled Tawfik once said, “Welcome to the 21st century, where what is forbidden is freely available, and what is permissible is unaffordable. A pizza delivery arrives faster than an ambulance or the police. Losing a phone feels more painful than losing one’s dignity. Clothes determine a person’s worth. Loyalty and faithfulness have become old-fashioned. Money has become the new symbol of liberty, justice, and equality.

Welcome to this monstrous era, where lying is called genius, betrayal is seen as intelligence, and poverty is a source of shame. Nudity is now considered the height of elegance and freedom, while modesty is seen as backwardness. Superficial beauty is the main standard of attraction. Breaking hearts is called honesty, and mending them is seen as foolishness. Money earns you respect, even if gained through corruption. Commitment to principles and values is labeled as backward. Sectarianism is mistaken for patriotism. And the better someone is at stealing, the more skilled and ‘manly’ they’re thought to be. The more luxurious your car, the more respect you command.

When you distance yourself from people and choose isolation, you are suddenly placed under suspicion – as if solitude itself is a threat to the nation.

Welcome to the most deceptive era in human history, the worst of all ages.”

* * *

Charlie Chaplin’s honesty

Charlie Chaplin once told a joke, and everyone laughed. When he repeated it a second time, only a few laughed. By the third time, no one laughed at all. He then said, “If you can’t laugh at the same joke more than once, why do you keep crying over the same tragedy again and again?”

Chaplin left behind a remarkable legacy, without ever uttering a harsh word or hurting anyone’s feelings.

The most dangerous decisions are those made without considering their consequences. Once such a decision is taken, it often takes thousands more to address the repercussions of that single decision.

•••••

Experts say the bravest decision you can make in life is to walk away from anything that harms your soul, heart, mind, or health.

•••••

In some societies, a reconciliation session is often a means of convincing the wronged party to give up their rights and accept whatever is offered. It is as if the victim is asked to eat their fill while being served an empty plate.

•••••

Some people don’t back down from their mistakes until they are humiliated. Treating others with respect is not suitable for everyone; some people simply don’t deserve it. In fact, some seem to prefer being humiliated.

•••••

We often repeat the same mistakes, sometimes out of forgetfulness, and sometimes because life pushes us back into the same patterns. If you find yourself making the same mistake again, take it as a sign that you haven’t truly learned the lesson yet.

•••••

After the widespread suffering caused by drugs and alcohol, there is an urgent need to establish more psychiatric and healthcare facilities to support those affected.

2 Asians arrested

Afghan held for Jahra hit-and-run

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Al-Mutlaa Investigations Office in Jahra Governorate Investigations Department, which is under the Criminal Security Affairs Sector at the Interior Ministry, uncovered the circumstances leading to the fatal hit-and run accident in Al-Qasr.

Earlier, the newspaper published a report about an unidentified person who died in a run-over accident Al-Qasr, Jahra Governorate last Sunday.

In a press statement, the ministry confirmed the arrest of an Afghan who caused the accident and then fled in his half-lorry truck.

According to the ministry, Al-Qasr Police Station received a report about the hit-and-run accident resulting in death. Security personnel rushed to the scene, where they found that the victim died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle whose driver fled from the scene.

In light of this, security investigations began, leading to the extraction of surveillance cameras in the vicinity of the incident, which revealed the involvement of an unidentified half-lorry truck driver.

The ministry stated that detectives tracked the vehicle through the traffic cameras until they were able to determine details about it and track down the driver -- an Afghan. The truck was found in Al-Firdous as the suspect attempted to hide it, away from his residence. A well-coordinated entrapment led to the arrest of the Afghan. When confronted with the evidence, the suspect admitted to unintentionally causing the accident and fleeing out of fear of legal consequences.

The ministry confirmed that the suspect and the vehicle were seized, pending his referral to the competent authority for legal action.

Meanwhile, two Asians were arrested for the possession of a chemical substance (methamphetamine) for the purpose of trafficking.

This is part of the ongoing efforts of the Criminal Investigation General Department at the Interior Ministry to track down criminals.

Court clears ex-sports chief in funds misuse

Public figures, activists face charges

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Misdeemeanor Court acquitted former Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Hamoud Fulaitah, of charges related to causing damage to public funds.

Lawyer Bashar Al-Nassar stated that the ruling affirms the soundness of Fulaitah’s legal position, noting that the fair and impartial Kuwaiti judiciary acquitted him after a thorough review of the case’s facts.

He added that the documents clearly showed the case lacked any criminal suspicion.

Meanwhile, the courts on Tuesday deliberated on a series of high-profile cases related to violating the National Unity Law and inciting sectarian strife, involving public figures and social media activists.

The Criminal Court decided to postpone until Oct 13 the hearing on the case of Sheikh Salem Al-Tawil, who is accused of violating the National Unity Law based on statements attributed to him in December 2024.

In another case, the same court reviewed cases related to joining Hizb ut-Tahrir and financing its activities.

In one of these cases, the court sentenced a citizen to five years in prison for financing and joining the party, as well as insulting Jordan, Egypt and Syria.

The court is expected to issue its verdict on Sept 29 against the citizen’s brother, who is accused in a similar case -- joining and financing the party, in addition to insulting friendly Arab countries.

The court adjourned until Sept 29 the hearing on the case of Dr. Abdul-Mutalib Behbehani. This case stems from his tweets during the Ashura commemoration, after he denied in court the charge of inciting sectarian strife.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals will issue its ruling on Sept 22 in the case of writer Aisha Al-Rasheed, who appealed a Criminal Court ruling that fined her KD50,000 for inciting sectarian strife and insulting Shiite citizens.

Also, the Court of Appeals established an important judicial principle, stating that “a general warrant does not justify arresting anyone with the accused for whom the search warrant is issued.”

Accordingly, the court overturned the prison sentence imposed on a man accused of drug trafficking and abuse, and acquitted him after he was arrested merely for being in the company of the person subject to the warrant.

The court emphasized in its ruling that the presence of the second accused alongside the first accused – who was the actual target of the search – did not constitute serious evidence of complicity or assistance in possessing the seized items. It clarified that the warrant granted to the officer was broad and vague, and did not permit the arrest and search of anyone accompanying the person authorized to be searched without solid evidence of involvement.

The court pointed out that the first defendant’s statements, which attempted to attribute the seized items to the second defendant, lacked credibility and could not be relied upon, particularly since the latter had consistently maintained his denial from the start of the investigation.

Moreover, the toxicology report confirmed that his sample was free of any prohibited substances, definitively ruling out his connection to the seized items.

The court also observed that his admission to using shabu five days prior to his arrest pertained to a different incident, and therefore, could not be considered evidence of guilt in the present case.

Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, who represented the defendants in court, argued that the arrest and search procedures, as well as the confessions based on them, are invalid. He requested for his clients’ acquittal – a request the court granted in its ruling.

in violation of a ministerial decision, and a salon for women and two building contracting companies that failed to comply with contracts concluded with consumers.

Al-Ansari confirmed that inspection teams in all governorates are conducting continuous inspection of establishments to ensure compliance with laws and ministerial decisions, stressing the need to instill discipline and protect consumer rights.

He indicated that the Ministry continuously conducts inspection campaigns against violators, vowing to take the necessary legal action against shops or companies proven to have committed violations.

Customs foils marijuana smuggling

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): The General Administration of Customs announced Wednesday it had foiled an attempt to smuggle 60 kilograms of marijuana concealed inside animal feed bags on a ship owned by a local company.

In a press release, the Customs Administration said the investigation led to the seizure of the large

quantity of marijuana, confirming that the ship was impounded and the necessary legal measures were taken.

The seized items were referred to the competent authorities to proceed with legal actions.

Customs reaffirmed its commitment to combating all attempts to smuggle prohibited substances into the country.

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KUNA photo
The Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Iraq.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister receives UN Special Representative in Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Iraq and Head

of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ambassador Dr. Mohammad bin Awad Al-Hassan, on the occasion of his official visit to the country.

Stock-Co-op integration on track

New measures to enhance oversight, data accuracy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that linking the strategic stock with cooperative societies is progressing as planned, noting the next phase will complete financial and administrative integration, and enhancing management efficiency.

This came in a press statement following her meeting with the contracted company implementing the project, during which mechanisms for auditing data from cooperative societies and verifying its accuracy before system entry were reviewed to ensure transparency.

She stressed that these measures would significantly raise levels of accuracy and transparency in stock management, enabling the ministry and cooperatives to better coordinate, avoid discrepancies, and strengthen oversight mechanisms across multiple operational and administrative levels nationwide.



KUNA photo
The Minister of Social Affairs during her meeting with the contracting company to discuss the implementation of the strategic stock linking project.

She added that the project falls within the ministry's broader efforts to develop digital systems, enhance monitoring efficiency of strategic stock, serve public interest, and strengthen food security while reinforcing institutional governance between the ministry and cooperatives.

First-ever participation highlights drive to boost exports and global competitiveness

Kuwait showcases national food industry at WorldFood Moscow 2025



KUNA photo
Kuwait Pavilion at the Moscow International Food Exhibition.

MOSCOW, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's participation in the WorldFood Moscow exhibition 2025 shows the state's commitment to supporting and encouraging national industries and enhancing their competitiveness in foreign markets, Deputy Director General of the Export Development Sector at the Public Authority for Industry said on Tuesday.

In statements to KUNA, Mishari Al-Manawer stated that Kuwait is participating for the first time in this international exhibition and it has a pavilion that hosts products of 10 Kuwaiti food factories.

This participation represents an opportunity to promote national products and open new markets in Europe and the world, he said.

He noted that the exhibition is one of the most prominent food events in the world as brings together more than 300 factories from 33 countries.

It provides a platform for exchanging experiences and opening up prospects for commercial

partnerships with major international companies, Al-Manawer added.

He affirmed that the Public Authority for Industry will continue its efforts to support the participation of Kuwaiti factories in specialized international exhibitions to enhance their contribution to the national economy and elevate the status of the Kuwaiti industry on the global level.

The WorldFood Moscow 2025 exhibition is taking place from September 16th to 19th, at the Crocus Expo in Moscow, Russia. This major event serves as a key platform for the global food and beverage industry, connecting manufacturers, buyers, distributors, and industry professionals.

The organizing committee said in a press statement that the event attracts more than 22,000 food industry professionals from around 90 countries each year and is seen as a prominent platform for promoting food products and opening new markets.

Al-Ali to lead Univ Council

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has issued a decision to



Al-Ali as the acting Secretary-General of the Private Universities Council, in addition to his current responsibilities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Committee okays defense amendments

Municipal Council green lights key land and redevelopment requests

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Technical Committee at the Municipal Council, headed by **Munira Al-Amir**, on Tuesday approved the following:

■ Request of the Ministry of Defense to amend the decision of the Council regarding two sites for the Land Forces in the southern region,

■ Request of the Ministry of Finance to amend the decision of the Council regarding the Omariya Zoo site, so that it falls under the responsibility of the State Property Management Department instead of the Public Treasury,

■ Proposal of member Munira Al-Amir to submit all transactions required by the



Al-Amir

Kuwait Municipality from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to the Legal Department to ensure the implementation of Council decisions,

■ Redevelopment and organization of Plots 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Qibla, Kuwait City, Block 13.

Meanwhile, the committee returned to the executive authority the letter of the Ministry of Information about the Media Street plots in Ardiya, and the proposal to convert Block 66 in Farwaniya from private housing to investment, for updated responses.

It also referred to the authority the proposal to allocate parking spaces for public utility vehicles for a detailed study.

The committee informed about the letter of a group of real estate developers regarding proposals related to the building regulations, and the letter of the concerned party regarding the proposed amendment of Decree No. 119/2010 on the system for sorting and merging plots in private residential, investment, commercial, coastal, industrial and craft areas.



Farwaniya Governor photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi honors nurse for life-saving act.

Nurse honored for life-saving act

Farwaniya Governor pushes for health services improvements

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with Director of Farwaniya Health District Dr. Mohammad Al-Rashidi, Director of Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Ali Al-Mutairi, Head of the Healthcare Unit at Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Abeer Al-Essa, acting Supervisor of Farwaniya Health District Falah Al-Daihani, and Head of the Public Relations Department in Farwaniya Hospital Hamoud Al-Azmi at his office in the headquarters of the Governorate on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the Governor discussed the most important developments in Farwaniya Health District and its facilities. He emphasized the need for the coordinated efforts of all concerned parties and to or-

ganize activities that promote health.

He called for the provision of health services on par with the latest international standards, indicating that supporting and advancing the health sector are among the important pillars of achieving comprehensive development in the country.

He also honored Nurse Safaa Hatem Abdel Moneim in appreciation of her humanitarian work when she resuscitated a citizen who had a heart attack in a shopping mall.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the guests thanked the Governor for his warm welcome and commitment to develop the medical system and health services in all areas to better serve the citizens and expatriates residing in the governorate.



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Kuwait's Ambassador to the UAE Jamal Al-Ghunaim delivers his opening speech at the launch of the Kuwaiti Cultural Days event in the UAE.



Assistant Secretary General of the NCCAL for Administrative and Financial Affairs Saad Al-Enezi addresses the attendees.



UAE Deputy Minister of Culture Mubarak Al-Nakhi speaks during the Kuwaiti Cultural Days in UAE launch.

Collaboration sets stage for next wave of Arab creativity

Kuwaiti Cultural Days unveil deep-rooted heritage in UAE

ABU DHABI, Sept 17, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), inaugurated on Tuesday the Kuwaiti Cultural Days in the UAE as part of Kuwait's celebration of its designation as the Capital of Arab Culture and Media in 2025.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Kuwait's ambassador to the UAE Jamal Al-Ghunaim said that this cultural event deepens the strong fraternal bonds between the two countries and their peoples.

Al-Ghunaim added that Kuwaiti-Emirati relations are historic and distinguished, have been witnessing fruitful partnerships in various domains as a result of the wise vision of the leaders of the two brotherly countries.

Culture is a mirror of peoples and a bridge for nations to come together, he said, noting that these cultural days allow the public in the UAE to learn more about various aspects of the Kuwaiti culture.

Al-Ghunaim pointed out that declaring Kuwait as the capital of Arab culture and media for 2025 reflects its leading role in enriching Arab cultural and media activities.

He re-affirmed the commitment of Kuwait's long-standing cultural institutions to continuing this role.

He added that the cultural journey in Kuwait and the UAE embodies the



Left: The Kuwaiti Al-Randi Folk Arts Troupe presents a distinctive heritage show. Right: Part of the guests' tour of the art gallery.

two countries' leadership keenness on supporting culture and arts at the Gulf and Arab levels.

"Kuwait founded a prominent theatrical and literary movement early on, while the UAE embraced major endeavors for knowledge and creativity promotion and has today become a global destination for culture and thought," he boasted.

Ambassador Al-Ghunaim emphasized that these cultural days will be a shining milestone in the distinguished brotherly relations between Kuwait and the UAE.

For his part, UAE Deputy Minister of Culture Mubarak Al-Nakhi said, in his speech, that this cultural initiative

represents an open space for art and identity and reflects the depth of the long-standing relations between the two Arabian Gulf countries.

Al-Nakhi said that Kuwait's designation as the Capital of Arab Culture and Media for 2025 is a well-deserved recognition of its historical role in the development and assimilation of the Arab culture through its pioneering institutions and its intellectual and creative output.

He unveiled that the Kuwaiti Cultural Days features art exhibitions, folk performances, musical evenings, and intellectual seminars.

These activities highlight the authentic and modern features of Kuwaiti



KUNA photos

identity and shed light on the deep cultural ties between the two countries, he elaborated.

He affirmed that this event gives the public, especially young people, the opportunity to interact directly with Kuwaiti cultural production and open up to its experiences.

Al-Nakhi emphasized that the Emirati-Kuwaiti relationship is rooted in history, firmly established in the consciousness of both peoples and is based on a wise political will that believes that the present and future of the nation begins with investment in people, their ideas, identity, and values.

He wished the Kuwaiti Cultural Days every success and hoped that

they would be an effective platform for the exchange of creativity, the consolidation of civilized dialogue, and the strengthening of ties between the two brotherly countries.

He expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Al-Ghunaim, and the Kuwaiti embassy staff, as well as the NCCAL, for their fruitful cooperation and efforts in making this cultural event a success.

In his turn, the head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Assistant Secretary General of the NCCAL for Administrative and Financial Affairs Saad Al-Enezi, said that the Kuwaiti Cultural Days in the Emirati capital will continue until next Thursday.

Continued from Page 1

Cabinet lauds

approach - its repercussions have been warned against - and an explicit threat to international and regional security as well as a direct underestimation of international efforts exerted to prevail peace in the region.

He noted that the Israeli violation also shows non-respect of international system and relevant charters.

His Highness the Amir's Representative renewed his call for the international community and the Security Council to assume their responsibilities and take effective and serious action to stop this systematic aggression against the region's countries, and hold accountable the perpetrators.

He praised sincere efforts made by Qatar since the eruption of the Israeli occupation aggression against Gaza in 2023 to stop the bloodshed of Palestinian people who have been facing a war, a collective genocide and starvation.

His Highness the Amir's Representative urged a ceasefire between all parties, affirming that the blatant Israeli occupation attack on Doha clearly shows Israel's intention to devastate any efforts aiming to reach a truce and a permanent peace in the region.

In addition, he commended Qatar's efforts to support Palestinian rights based on the international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative to establish an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders as East Jerusalem as its capital.

Sheikh Sabah Khaled underlined full backing to all measures taken by Qatar to maintain its security, stability and sovereignty, and the safety of its citizens and expats.

He underlined the necessity of concerted international and regional efforts to halt the escalation in the region and reject any practices, which fuel extremism and hatred, and destabilize the region.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet was briefed on the letters sent to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from some heads of sisterly and friendly countries on boosting relation and activating cooperation aspects with Kuwait in multiple domains.

The Cabinet praised the final communique issued by the extraordinary session of the GCC Supreme Council regarding the Israeli assault on Qatar.

The Council focused on the implications of the Israeli aggression on the sisterly state of Qatar and flagrant violation of its sovereignty during the ongoing negotiations and mediation made by Doha to reach a deal for Gaza.

The Council condemned, in the strongest terms, the Israeli occupation attack and blatant violation of Qatar, stressing it is a rejected hostile act a perilous escalation that runs counter to international law and the UN Charter.

Additionally, the Cabinet was informed about the official visit of His Highness the Amir's Representative to New York to chair Kuwait's delegation to the 80th UN General Assembly session on September 19-26.

Then, the ministers saw a visual presentation by Minister of Education Sayed Al-Tabtabaie on preparations and measures taken for the 2025-2026 academic year that include developing and updating some curricula to be in line with the State's orientation.

They also saw another visual presentation by Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and Acting Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investments Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem on the situation of 141 projects estimated at KD 1.3 billion, in line with the annual plan.

The Cabinet approved a bill on annulling the Law No. 114 of 2014 on medical insurance for the retired nationals as it contained several negative aspects like high cost and the double-standard policy in terms of offering services, referring the bill to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet eulogized former deputy prime minister and oil minister Emad Al-Atiqi who passed away last week after a rich journey of services for his country.

The Cabinet finally reviewed some topics listed on the agenda and approved them, referring some of them to the ministerial and competent committees.

Kuwait hails

In other news, Kuwait's National Diwan for Human Rights (NDHR) joined an emergency General Assembly meeting of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI), held online from Doha under the theme "Israeli aggression on Gaza: toward an inclusive Arab rights response."

NDHR said in a press statement on Wednesday that the meeting reviewed the impact of serious violations and the

military escalation in the Palestinian territories, including direct attacks on civilians and spillover to Qatar, warning of risks to international peace and regional security.

Participants discussed ways to confront the violations and stressed closer coordination, exchange of views and expertise among national rights institutions, and stronger cooperation with regional and international organizations, the statement said.

Representing Kuwait, Minister Plenipotentiary Anas Al-Shaheen - chair of the Diwan's Tripartite Steering Committee - reiterated Kuwait's full solidarity with the Palestinian people and rejection of Israeli violations, calling for legal steps to ensure accountability.

The meeting urged stronger international pressure, systematic documentation of abuses, regular reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and action to enforce justice for violations.

Filipino remittances

Remittances from Filipino workers in the six Gulf countries totaled \$3.40 billion in the first seven months of 2025, compared to \$3.20 billion in the same period of 2024.

According to "Information Direct" statistics based on data from the Central Bank of the Philippines, remittances from Filipino workers in the six Gulf countries accounted for 96.47 percent of total remittances from the Middle East, estimated at \$3.53 billion.

Remittances from Filipino workers in the Gulf countries represented 42.15 percent of total remittances from Asia during the first seven months of 2025, amounting to \$8.07 billion.

The statistics also showed that the total value of remittances from Filipino workers worldwide increased to \$19.93 billion from January to the end of July 2025, with 17.07 percent of that amount coming from the Gulf countries, compared to \$19.33 billion during the same period last year.

It is worth noting that remittances from the six Gulf countries have increased. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recorded the largest remittances, totaling \$1.24 billion, while Bahrain had the lowest, at \$163.55 million. Also, the United Arab Emirates recorded the highest annual growth rate among them, at 8.98 percent, and the Sultanate of Oman had the lowest rate with 1.74 percent.

Patient's safety

The ministry is observing the day with an integrated plan that includes targeted initiatives, guidance, and performance checks, he mentioned.

The "Safety Star Award," now in its 11th year, honors excellence in patient safety, he said.

Al-Awadhi noted Kuwait pushed for safety since the early 2000s through establishing a quality and accreditation directorate, co-drafting the "Nine Patient Safety Solutions," implementing pharmacovigilance, and requiring cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training as well as continuing medical education for health workers.

Law No. 70 of 2020 on medical practice protects the rights of patients and practitioners and ensures safe, comprehensive care aligned with global standards, he added.

He thanked healthcare staff and avowed the ministry's commitment to continuous improvement.

The event honored the 2025 "Safety Star" winners, outstanding primary-care policy committees, and distinguished nursing teams.

Sheikha Jawaher:

Role of the National Permanent Committee for Combatting Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling."

The seminar was attended by representatives from relevant national institutions and Kuwaiti diplomatic missions in labor-exporting countries at the Foreign Ministry headquarters.

She stated that the seminar aims to implement previously mentioned goals aligning with the New Kuwait 2035 plan, which include building a diverse sustainable economy, improving justice and governance, and transforming the country into a global financial and commercial hub.

The seminar also discussed the National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (2025-2028).

The Foreign Ministry confirmed that Kuwaiti diplomacy is the first line of defense in monitoring issues and quickly

referring them to the relevant authorities, while the Interior Ministry highlighted the efforts of investigations and pursuit of criminal networks in coordination with relevant bodies to secure the victims.

Sheikha Jawaher confirmed that Kuwait will continue its commitment to enhancing cooperation, developing national capacities, and working jointly with regional and international partners.

Security Council

efforts related to the return of Kuwaiti missing persons, as well as the repatriation of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

All 15 council members voted in favor of the UK-drafted resolution, which aims to reinforce cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq, with continued support from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The resolution mandates the Council to review the need for continued UN oversight by December 31, 2030, or earlier if significant progress is made.

The resolution also underscores that if the fate of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals remains unresolved by the 2030 deadline, Iraq is obligated to continue its search efforts. This includes excavations at all relevant sites, utilizing technological advancements, and working with UN support.

Resolution 2792 further highlights the valuable international role both Kuwait and Iraq can play by exchanging expertise on missing persons and post-conflict humanitarian efforts, in line with the essence of UN Security Council Resolution 2474 (2019), which enhanced cooperation on humanitarian issues.

Ministry of

She emphasized that students are the focus and foundation of the educational process.

Furthermore, Head of the Mathematics Department at the school Hanadi Fadel Al-Sabagh explained that the administration has prioritized providing all basic requirements and ensuring a high level of readiness through maintenance, cleaning, and proper air conditioning, all to ensure a successful academic year.

In addition, First Lieutenant Bibi Jamal Al-Nasser from the General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior confirmed the continuation of the national back-to-school campaign under the slogan "Our Students Are a Nation's Treasure," which aims to promote values of belonging and respect for the law.

She explained that campaign teams were present Tuesday morning at Maryam Bint Sabah Intermediate School for Girls in Hawalli Governorate, where students were welcomed on the first day of the school year in an atmosphere of warmth and positive engagement.

First Lieutenant Al-Nasser affirmed the Ministry of Interior's commitment to maintaining direct communication with students in schools, as this helps enhance their sense of security and promotes community awareness.

She indicated that the campaign will continue in the coming days, covering various schools in all governorates.

Meanwhile, the pre-school education is the preliminary phase of upbringing, a corner stone for inclusive education to make a balanced and successful generation.

Kindergartens are the foundation for forming the child personality, the environment where children begin to learn and acquire skills, receive basic education on values and good habits that help them develop strong personality.

Fatma Al-Kandari, the kindergartens' general guide, said in an interview with KUNA the preschool stage is fundamental for forming the child personality and sharpening his (her) skills.

The kindergarten class is not merely a care hub, but an inclusive educational environment that provides the child opportunities to learn through playing, experimenting and exploring. Sound education at this phase make the child more capable of coping with the school period requirements and more ready for social interaction.

Dr. Adel Al-Zayed, a psychologist, said the pre-school phase is a sensitive period in the child growth. Psychological and emotion support at this stage boost the child sensing of security and confidence and help him (her) interact positively with relatives and teachers while minimizing effects of phobia and isolation.

Iman Al-Saeed, a kindergarten teacher, said children activities such as painting and group plays are necessary for the child's energy release. Regular contacts with the parents is also needed to follow up on the child psyche.

KFAS-LSE forum explores Kuwait's green transition

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), in collaboration with London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), concluded its annual conference titled, "The Future in Planning: Sustainability and Transformation in Kuwait."

The conference, attended by more than 100 academics, decision-makers, and representatives of government agencies and civil society organizations, cemented its position as a prominent platform for dialogue on sustainability issues and transformation.

In a press statement, KFAS disclosed that the conference opened with a keynote lecture by Professor at the Grantham Institute of the London School of Economics Professor Svenja Surminski entitled, "Green and Resilient Transition: Insights from Global Experiences across Sectors". She presented practical lessons that can be used in Kuwaiti and Gulf contexts.

The conference sessions were divided into three main themes. The first session addressed climate risks and resilience, with Dr. Sarah Mahryar from Grantham Institute delivering a lecture on building resilience to multiple hazards in Kuwait. Dr. Mohammed Al-Sahli -- Professor of Geography at Kuwait University -- talked about vulnerability mapping and enhancing climate resilience. Researcher Batoul Sadihala discussed climate change and the associated challenges.



Photos during the conference.

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Prosecutors already dropped nearly dozen cases from Trump’s DC crime surge: judge

Senate Dems raise concerns over Pentagon plan to use army lawyers as immigration judges

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): Some Democratic senators say they are deeply concerned that a Pentagon plan to allow military lawyers to work as temporary immigration judges will violate a ban on using service members for law enforcement and affect the military justice system.

The letter, sent to the military services and provided to The Associated Press, comes two weeks after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth approved sending up to 600 military lawyers to the Justice Department to serve as temporary immigration judges. It is part of the steps the Trump administration has taken to use the military in broader ways than previously seen, particularly in its immigration crack-down, including sending the National Guard into American cities and deploying active duty troops to the U.S.-Mexico border.

“These military officers would serve under the command and control of the Attorney General and would execute administrative determinations at the direction of the Attorney General,” according to the letter signed by 12 Democrats on the Senate Armed Ser-

vices Committee. It added that “these actions are inherently law enforcement actions that may not be performed by members of the armed forces.”

“We remain extremely disturbed about the impacts on readiness of using military personnel to perform what are traditionally Department of Justice functions,” the letter says.

The nation’s immigration courts - with a backlog of about 3.5 million cases - have become a key focus of President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration enforcement efforts. Since Trump returned to office, dozens of immigration judges have been fired, while others have resigned or taken early retirement.

The senators’ letter, sent to the offices of the top military lawyers for the four services on Monday, is asking the Pentagon to say where the roughly 600 lawyers will be coming from and for insight into what legal analysis the military has conducted into whether the move would violate the Posse Comitatus Act. That law prevents the military from conducting law enforcement outside of extreme emergencies.

A Pentagon memo that described



Tennessee Gov Bill Lee speaks as Sen Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., (from left), Sen Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth listen during a memorandum signing with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House on Sept 15, in Washington. (AP)

the plan said the lawyers should not be detailed for longer than half a year. The memo also showed that Pentagon

officials were cognizant of the possibility for conflict with that law and said the Justice Department would be

responsible for ensuring that the military lawyers do not violate it.

The Democratic senators said they were “deeply concerned” that pulling those lawyers away would have an impact on service members who are going through the military’s judicial system.

“These reassignments come at a time only shortly after Congress completely overhauled how the military investigates and prosecutes serious ‘covered’ criminal offenses ... by establishing the Offices of Special Trial Counsel (OSTCs) in each of the Services,” the letter read.

Those offices were set up by Congress in 2022 as part of an effort to reform the military justice system by moving decisions on the prosecution of serious military crimes, including sexual assault, to independent military attorneys, taking that power away from victims’ commanders.

The offices began taking cases at the end of last year.

Also:
WASHINGTON: More than 50 people have faced federal charges in Wash-

ington, DC, since President Donald Trump’s emergency law-and-order surge began last month. Already, prosecutors have dropped at least 11 of those cases, an unusually high collapse rate that judges say is wasting court resources.

The dismissals highlight the risks of Trump’s emergency surge strategy: an unprecedented flood of arrests that has produced headline-grabbing numbers but faltered under judicial scrutiny, with some of the most serious cases - from assaults on federal agents to gun charges - unraveling before they ever reach trial.

On Tuesday, US Magistrate Judge Matthew Sharbaugh dismissed two felony assault cases at the request of US Attorney Jeanine Pirro’s office. He delivered a blunt warning from the bench as he questioned whether prosecutors are making charging decisions before cases are properly investigated and vetted.

“That’s not the way it’s supposed to work, and it has real-world consequences,” Sharbaugh said. “This is becoming a real concern for the court just given the sheer numbers.”

Tim Walz to seek third term as governor of Minnesota in 2026

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept 17, (AP): Minnesota Gov **Tim Walz** said Tuesday he will seek a third term in the 2026 elections, hoping to beat the odds to become the longest-serving governor in a state where voters have usually said two terms were plenty.

In a campaign video posted on YouTube, Walz said he’s running because his work is not done and he wants to make Minnesota a place where everyone has a chance to succeed.

“I’ve seen how we help each other through the hard times,” he said. “And boy, we’ve seen terrible times this year. I’m heartbroken and angry about the beautiful people we lost to gun violence. But it’s in these moments we have to come together. We can’t lose hope because I’ve seen what we can do when we work together.”

Vice President Kamala Harris picked Walz as her running mate on the 2024 Democratic presidential ticket after his attack line against former President Donald Trump and



Walz

his running mate, then-Ohio Sen. JD Vance - “These guys are just weird” - spread widely.

Walz had been building up his national profile since their defeat in November. He was a sharp critic of Trump as he toured early caucus and primary states. In May, he called on Democrats in South Carolina to stand up to Trump, saying, “Maybe it’s time for us to be a little meaner.”

Also:
MINNEAPOLIS: Democrat Xp Lee won a special election Tuesday to fill the Minnesota House seat of a top Democratic leader who was assassinated, restoring a 67-67 tie and preserving a power-sharing deal that has forced both parties to work together.

Rep. Melissa Hortman, of Brooklyn Park, held the seat until her death in June.

Lee is a former Brooklyn Park City Council member. He defeated Republican real estate agent Ruth Bittner in the heavily Democratic district.

Lee promised he would “work hard every day” to honor Hortman’s legacy.

“We did our best to make her proud: knocking on doors daily, making phone calls, and texting every neighbor we could,” Lee said in a victory statement.

FBI Director Patel clashes with skeptical Dems at Senate hearing

Suspect in Kirk shooting charged with aggravated murder

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 17, (Agencies): Tyler Robinson, the suspect accused of assassinating US political activist Charlie Kirk, has been formally charged with aggravated murder, authorities in the U.S. state of Utah announced Tuesday.

Robinson also faces multiple charges, including obstruction of justice, felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily injury, witness tampering, and commission of a violent offense in the presence of a child, Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray told a press conference.

Gray said prosecutors will seek death penalty for the suspect, adding that the bullet that hit Kirk narrowly missed several other individuals.

Kirk, 31, was shot in the neck as he was speaking to a large crowd at an outdoor “Prove Me Wrong” debate at Utah Valley University around midday last Wednesday.

Roughly 33 hours after the shooting, the 22-year-old suspect was apprehended in Washington County, Utah.

Meanwhile, FBI Director Kash Patel clashed with skeptical Democrats at a contentious Senate oversight hearing Tuesday, defending his record amid criticism that he has politicized the nation’s premier federal law enforcement agency and pursued retribution against perceived adversaries of President



FBI Director Kash Patel appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his first oversight hearing on Sept 16, at the Capitol in Washington. (AP)

Donald Trump.

The appearance Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee represented the first oversight hearing of Patel’s young but tumultuous tenure and provided a high-stakes platform for him to try to demonstrate that he is the right person for the job at a time of internal upheaval and mounting concerns about political violence inside the United States, a threat laid bare by last week’s killing of Kirk at a college

campus in Utah.

The hearing broke along starkly partisan lines, with Republicans rallying support for Patel even as Democrats said he had debased the integrity of the nation’s premier federal law enforcement agency.

Patel, for his part, accused Democrats of grandstanding for cameras and looking to score political points in a series of testy shouting matches that punctuated more sedate testimony

about the criminal and national security threats facing the US.

“You are the biggest fraud to ever sit in the United States Senate, you are a disgrace to this institution and you are an utter coward,” Patel told Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff of California, raising his voice during one particularly combative interaction.

“You can make an internet troll the FBI director, but he will always be an internet troll,” Schiff shot back as Patel continued to shout over him.

Patel sought to keep the focus on what he said was a series of accomplishments in fighting violent crime, protecting children from abuse and disrupting the flow of fentanyl.

He similarly touted the FBI’s work in arresting within 33 hours the man suspected in Kirk’s assassination, but also faced questions over confusion he caused soon after the killing when he posted on social media that “the subject” was in custody.

That person was later released after investigators determined he had no connection. Patel said he had been trying to be transparent with the public and didn’t consider the post a mistake, but acknowledged he could have been clearer.

“Could I have been more careful in my verbiage and included ‘a’ subject instead of subject? Sure,” Patel said.

New French prime minister faces bumpy ride with budget challenges

PARIS, Sept 17, (AP): A ballooning deficit. A fractious Parliament. Unrest on the streets. The challenges facing Sébastien Lecornu, France’s fourth prime minister in a year, are daunting and defeated his immediate predecessors.

So he’s trying a different tack. To ease tensions, Lecornu has scrapped proposals to axe two public holidays and trimmed lifetime benefits for former government ministers. A loyal ally to unpopular centrist President Emmanuel Macron, he began meeting with opposition leaders and trade unions this week.

But pitfalls lie ahead. Opponents aim to turn up the heat yet further on Thursday with nationwide strikes and protests against budget cuts and other complaints targeting Lecornu’s fragile minority government.

French politics have been in turmoil since Macron called early parliamentary elections in June last year which resulted in a deeply fragmented legislature. One major challenge looms: addressing France’s budget crisis, a deeply divisive issue in Parliament.

Lecornu’s first big move has been to dismiss the idea of cutting two public holidays, championed by his immediate predecessor, whose government fell earlier this month. François Bayrou had stirred public anger with his plan to scrap the Easter Monday and Victory Day (May 8) holidays, a



French Defense Minister Sébastien Lecornu leaves the first cabinet meeting of the new government, at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Jan 3. (AP)

move he said was needed to boost the economy.

Lecornu vowed to find “to find other sources of financing” instead.

He also announced this week that lifetime benefits for former government members will be eliminated, starting from Jan. 1st.

For former prime ministers, the benefits include police protection, along with a car and driver paid for by the state. Protection will be capped at three years and only extended for security reasons, while the car will be reduced

to a period of 10 years. This is estimated to save about 4.4 million euros (\$5.21 million) per year.

Trade unions have called for nationwide strikes and protests on Thursday, scheduled before the change of prime minister, to push back on what they see as austerity policies.

Unions reject cuts in social spending, arguing French workers have been deeply affected by rising prices in recent years. They also continue to protest against Macron’s pension reform that raised the minimum retirement age from 62 to 64.

Thursday’s strikes are expected to prompt disruption in sectors like transport, public services, hospitals and schools. They may sound a stark warning for Lecornu.

Last week, thousands of protesters rallied across France last week for a day of nationwide action against Macron’s policies under the slogan “Block Everything.”

Mathieu Gallard, account director at Ipsos France polling institute, says a series of opinion polls show French voters’ main concerns focus on their declining purchasing power and the deterioration of once-generous social benefits, including health care, pensions and public services.

“The political situation gives the French the feeling leaders are not able to remedy the situation due to that instability,” Gallard told The Associated Press.



US President Donald Trump, Britain’s King Charles III, Queen Camilla and Melania Trump, (center), review the Guard of Honour at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, on Sept 17. (AP)

King Charles III greets Trump in Windsor at start of president’s second state visit to UK

WINDSOR, England, Sept 17, (AP): US President Donald Trump was greeted by royalty, military honor guards and mounted troops in red and gold as he arrived at Windsor Castle on Wednesday to begin a two-day state visit to Britain as the guest of King Charles III.

Prince William and his wife Catherine met the president’s Marine One helicopter as it landed in the private Walled Garden on the vast castle estate, walking the president and first lady Melania Trump over to be greeted by the king and Queen Camilla.

The guests traveled to the castle in a procession of horse-drawn carriages, past ranks of soldiers, sailors and aviators, as military bands played the US and British national anthems. The king and president chatted in the Irish State Coach during the short journey to the castle quadrangle, where Trump, accompanied by Charles, inspected an honor guard of soldiers in red tunics and bearskin hats.

The day of royal pageantry is the highlight of the president’s unprecedented second state visit to Britain. And it’s on a scale designed to impress the grandeur-loving president, involving some 120 horses and 1,300 troops, including the largest guard of honor in living memory.

It’s a spectacle with a purpose: to bolster ties with a world leader known



Britain’s Prince William and Kate, Princess of Wales, (left), receive US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, on Sept 17. (AP)

for a love of bling at a time when his America First policies are putting pressure on trade and security arrangements globally.

Trump arrived in London late Tuesday and said he loved being back in the United Kingdom, calling it a “very special place.” Asked if he had a message for Charles, he said the king was a longtime friend of his and well-respected.

The backdrop for day one is Windsor Castle, an almost 1,000-year-old royal residence with gilded interiors,

crenelated towers and priceless artworks. A gigantic royal standard, the flag used for official celebration days, flew from the castle’s Royal Tower as the king and queen prepared for the Trumps to arrive by helicopter from London, where they spent Tuesday night at the U.S. ambassador’s residence.

The prospect of a visit to the castle has seemed to enchant Trump, who ditched his trademark bluster and described the invitation as “a great, great honor.”

Europe

Lab reports show Navalny poisoned – wife: The widow of Alexei Navalny said Wednesday that two independent labs have found that her husband was poisoned shortly before his death in a Russian prison.

Navalny, who crusaded against official corruption and staged massive anti-Kremlin protests as President Vladimir Putin’s fiercest foe, died in the Arctic penal colony in February 2024. He was serving a 19-year sentence that he believed to be politically motivated.

Authorities said that the politician became ill after a walk but have otherwise given few details on his death. He was 47.

In a video released Wednesday, Yulia Navalnaya said that biological samples from Navalny’s body had been taken out of Russia and tested at two laboratories abroad.

She said that both laboratories concluded that Navalny had been poisoned, but had not released their findings due to “political considerations.” She did not provide proof or elaborate on what the alleged poison was. (AP)

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Suspect in McCann disappearance released: A German national who is under investigation in the disappearance of British toddler Madeleine McCann 18 years ago was released from prison Wednesday after serving his sentence in an unrelated case, police said.

The man, who has been identified by media as Christian Brückner, had been serving a seven-year sentence that stemmed from his 2019 conviction for the rape of a



Yulia Navalnaya, widow of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny walks away from his picture after lighting a candle at the end of a service in St. Mary’s Church on the occasion of his birthday, in Berlin, June 4, 2024. (AP)

72-year-old American woman in Portugal.

A car accompanied by several police vans drove out of the prison at Sehnde, near Hannover, in northern Germany, on Wednesday morning. Police confirmed that the man had left.

In June 2020, German prosecutors said the man was being investigated on suspicion of murder in connection with McCann’s disappearance on May 3, 2007, from an apartment complex in the Portuguese resort of Praia da Luz. They said they assumed the girl was dead. (AP)

Asia

S.Korea’s Unification Church leader questioned: The leader of the Unification Church was questioned by investigators on Wednesday over allegations that the church bribed the wife of South Korea’s jailed former president Yoon Suk Yeol and a conservative lawmaker close to him in an effort to secure business favors.

Hak Ja Han, the widow of church founder Sun Myung Moon, appeared before a special prosecutor just hours after a Seoul court issued an arrest warrant for the lawmaker, People Power Party’s Kwon Seong-dong, citing concerns he might destroy evidence.

Han and her church have denied accusations that the church was directly involved in the alleged bribery of Yoon’s now-arrested wife, Kim Keon Hee, who is suspected of receiving luxury gifts from a jailed former church official, saying the official had overstepped his authority and acted on his own. Kwon, a staunch loyalist of Yoon, has also denied receiving money from the church. (AP)

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Philippine House of Representatives elects new speaker: The Philippine House of Representatives on Wednesday elected Deputy Speaker Faustino Dy as its new speaker, following the resignation of Martin Romualdez over a corruption scandal involving infrastructure projects.

Romualdez said he stepped down to allow an independent commission to investigate alleged misuse of government funds in flood control projects without “doubt or interference.” He and several lawmakers were linked to the multibillion-peso scandal.

The leadership change came days after the senate replaced Francis Escudero with Vicente Sotto as president. (Xinhua)

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South Korea’s former first lady Kim Keon Hee, wife of impeached former president Yoon Suk Yeol, arrives at a court to attend a hearing to review her arrest warrant requested by special prosecutors, in Seoul, South Korea, on Aug 12. (AP)

Truck crash leaves 3 dead in central Vietnam: A truck crashed into a market in central Vietnam’s Quang Tri province on Wednesday, leaving at least three people dead and several others injured, the local newspaper Tuoi Tre (Youth) reported.

Among the dead were an eight-month pregnant woman and a Lao national, according to the report.

The incident occurred at around 7:50 a.m. local time, causing heavy damage to small traders as stalls collapsed, the report said.

Local authorities rushed to the scene to direct rescue operations. (Xinhua)

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Four hospitalized in eastern Singapore fire: Four people were taken to the hospital after a fire broke out in a residential building in eastern Singapore on Tuesday evening, authorities said.

Among them, three from the affected unit were assessed for smoke inhalation, one of whom also sustained minor burn injuries. The fourth, from a neighbouring unit, was also assessed for smoke inhalation.

When firefighters arrived, one bedroom in a seventh-floor unit was ablaze, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) said in a Facebook update. The fire, which was confined to the bedroom, was extinguished using a water jet. (Xinhua)

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Man dies in Australia after targeted stabbing: A man has died after being stabbed in a targeted attack in eastern Australia on Wednesday morning.

Emergency services were called to reports of an assault on a street near the rural city of Grafton, 490 km northeast of Sydney in the state of New South Wales (NSW), around 1 a.m. local time on Wednesday.

Police officers arrived and found that a 35-year-old man had been stabbed by unknown assailants while walking along the street.

He was treated by ambulance paramedics, but died at the scene.

NSW Police said in a statement that initial inquiries indicated that the stabbing was a targeted attack.

Local detectives have commenced an investigation with assistance from the state homicide squad and police said the area is expected to remain a crime scene for a considerable amount of time. (Xinhua)

Myanmar invites local, international observers to monitor upcoming poll

YANGON, Sept 17, (Xinhua): Myanmar’s Union Election Commission (UEC) has invited both domestic and international observers to monitor the upcoming general election, the state-owned daily The Global New Light of Myanmar reported on Wednesday.

According to the UEC’s announcement dated Sept 16, domestic election observers may apply for observation permits at the Union Election Commission, as well as at the relevant region and state, district, and township election sub-commissions, from the day of the announcement until Dec 5, 2025.

The commission said domestic observers are required to follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to procedures outlined in Notification 69/2025. These documents can be viewed and downloaded from the commission’s official website, it said.

In addition, the UEC announced that international observers will also be allowed to monitor the election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will also be sent to foreign embassies, consul-



Khin Maung Oo, (center), a member of the Union Election Commission, speaks to journalists during a press conference at the Union Election Commission (UEC) in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on Sept 11. (AP)

ates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with Myanmar, the report said.

The country’s multiparty democratic general election is scheduled to begin in phases on Dec. 28, 2025, it said. Enditem

Meanwhile, Myanmar authorities have seized 4,440 kg of ICE (methamphetamine), 1,100 kg of ketamine, 4 million stimulant tablets, and 14 kg of heroin powder

in Yangon region, the state-owned Myanmar Radio and Television reported.

The narcotics were confiscated, and a total of 16 suspects connected to the case were arrested between Sept. 5 and 7 in Shwepyithar, North Okkalapa, and Thaketa townships in Yangon region, the report said.

The narcotics, which came from Shan state, were intended to be trafficked to Malaysia, it added.

Australia prime minister unable to clinch defense treaty with Papua New Guinea

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 17, (AP): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Wednesday was unable to clinch an ambitious defense treaty with Papua New Guinea during a visit to the country, a week after he failed to land a security pact with another South Pacific island neighbor, Vanuatu, aimed at curbing China’s influence in the region.

The diplomatic setbacks come ahead of his potential first meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump next week where regional security will be on the agenda.

Albanese had announced that the bilateral treaty with Papua New Guinea would be signed during his three-day visit to the country’s capital of Port Moresby that ended Wednesday.

But a Papua New Guinea Cabinet meeting scheduled for Monday to endorse the treaty never took place.

Instead of signing the treaty, Albanese and his Papua New Guinea counterpart James Marape released a communique on Wednesday that said the text had been agreed on and the document would be signed “following Cabinet processes in both countries.”

Albanese had similarly expected to sign a bilateral security and economic treaty during a visit to Vanuatu on Sept. 9, but left the country with an assurance that negotiations would con-



Australia’s Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, (left), and Papua New Guinea’s Prime Minister James Marape attend a flag lowering ceremony in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on Sept 16. (AP)

tinue.

Vanuatu Prime Minister Jotham Napat said last week there were concerns within his government that the treaty could limit Vanuatu’s ability to raise money for critical infrastructure from any third country, such as China.

Albanese on Wednesday rejected a reporter’s suggestion that he was overreaching by trying to persuade countries to sign deals they were not ready

for.

“Democracies aren’t the same as authoritarian regimes. They go through processes. We respect them,” Albanese said.

“Processes are important and sovereignty’s important and we respect it and Papua New Guinea will go through its Cabinet processes, but we have ... agreed on the words in this treaty,” he added.



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum rides through the annual Independence Day military parade, in Mexico City on Sept 16. (AP)

Female prez leads Mexico independence celebrations for first time

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum became the first female leader to preside over Mexico’s independence celebrations in 215 years, with a message that she won’t accept foreign intervention, a significant statement as she negotiates pressure from the United States.

Sheinbaum led a traditional ceremony from the balcony of the National Palace in Mexico City known

as the “grito,” or “shout” in English, Monday night. It’s an annual tradition when on Sept. 15, the president rings a bell marking the call to arms during the 1810-1821 fight to win independence from Spain.

Independence Day is formally celebrated Sept. 16, but the “grito” ceremony has been performed the night before for over a century.

A traditional military parade followed Tuesday, and Sheinbaum

reiterated that “No foreign power makes decisions for us.”

In a speech before her Cabinet and thousands of soldiers, Sheinbaum added that “no interference is possible in our homeland” and although she didn’t mention any particular country, her words came at a moment when the U.S. government has asked Mexico to do more to crack down on drug cartels and strengthen border security. (AP)

Subcontinent

Pakistani security forces kill 5 terrorists: Pakistani security forces killed five terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the country’s southwest Balochistan province, the military said Wednesday.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistani military, said in a statement that the operation was carried out in Khuzdar district on Sunday night after reports about the presence of militants. Pakistan’s prime minister is **Shehbaz Sharif**.

The terrorists were killed in an intense exchange of fire, while weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered from their hideout, the ISPR added.

According to ISPR, the militants were involved in multiple terrorist activities in the area. (Xinhua)

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17 die, 13 missing in India flash floods: Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains and cloudbursts have unleashed a fresh wave of devastation in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, killing 17 and leaving over a dozen others missing, multiple local media reports said Wednesday.

The worst hit is Dehradun, the capital city of Uttarakhand.

According to officials, the rescue operations were underway in and around the affected areas. (Xinhua)

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Afghanistan vehicle accident kills 3: At least three people were killed and two others injured when their vehicle veered off the road and plunged into a deep

ravine in northern Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province, a provincial police spokesman, Ehsanullah Kamgar, reported on Wednesday.

The accident occurred in the Argo district after the vehicle lost control on a steep path, resulting in the immediate deaths of three commuters, including the driver, and injuries to two children, said Ehsanullah Kamgar.

This marks the third such incident in the northern provinces over the past three days. On Monday, a collision between two motorbikes in Badakhshan left one dead and three injured.

Earlier, six commuters were killed and four others sustained injuries in a head-on collision between a passenger car and a truck in northern Faryab province on Sunday.

Deadly road accidents remain a persistent issue in war-torn Afghanistan, often attributed to deteriorating road conditions, reckless driving, and inadequate safety measures amid challenging terrain and limited infrastructure. (Xinhua)

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Afghan police seize illicit drugs: Afghan counter-narcotics police seized 67 kg of illicit drugs, including 21 kg of methamphetamine (Ice), and arrested five suspected smugglers in separate operations across two provinces, the Ministry of Interior Affairs announced Wednesday.

In western Nimroz province, security personnel apprehended four individuals and confiscated 60 kg of narcotics, including 21 kg of methamphetamine. Separately, in northern Badakhshan province, one person was detained with seven kg of opium, said the ministry.

The police will not allow anyone to produce or smuggle illegal drugs in the country, the ministry stated, reaffirming its commitment to combating the narcotics trade.

This follows a similar operation in Kunduz on Tuesday, where police seized 60 kg of opium poppy and arrested two smugglers as part of intensified efforts to eradicate drug trafficking and production nationwide. (Xinhua)

Questions raised over Congo peace deal

Rwanda-backed rebels parade new recruits

LAGOS, Nigeria, Sept 17, (AP): A military parade at the weekend by a rebel group in control of mineral-rich eastern Congo has raised concerns over the future of an impending peace deal between the government and the rebels’ main backers, Rwanda.

The deal will shape the fate of the M23 rebel group in eastern Congo, which launched blitz attacks in January to take over key cities including Goma and Bukavu while the Congolese army swiftly retreated. U.N. experts said the M23 was backed by thousands of troops from neighboring Rwanda.

A central plank of the deal, which is expected to be signed in Washington in a few weeks, is the withdrawal of Rwanda’s support for the group. The deal is also expected to stipulate the concession of territories back to the Congolese authorities.

A Qatar-led mediation between the warring sides led to both sides committing to ending the conflict, but pockets of skirmishes have recently been reported between the M23 and government-aligned groups. Both sides have consistently accused each other of violating the ceasefire agreement.

On Sunday, the rebels paraded more than 7,000 new recruits in Goma, the regional center.

The M23 said the recruits included Congolese soldiers who surrendered



People walk on the road near Kibumba, north of Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, as they flee fighting between Congolese forces and M23 rebels in North Kivu on May 24, 2022. (AP)

when fighting escalated this year and the local militia members who fought with them. Rights groups have raised concerns about soldiers and young residents being pressured to join the rebels.

(The parade) constitutes a form of materialization of an occupation that is taking root and increasingly taking the tacit form of a state within a state,” said Christian Moleka, a Congo-based

political analyst.

The military show of force also sapped hope among residents in rebel-held cities who were looking forward to peace agreements to bring an end to the conflict.

“We’ve just seen thousands of new M23 fighters again. We are losing hope,” Adeline Munene, 34, told The Associated Press.

Colombia’s President Petro lashes out at US over drug war designation

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 17, (AP): Colombian president Gustavo Petro has lashed out at the US government after it added Colombia to a list of nations failing to cooperate in the drug war for the first time in three decades.

In a message on his X account, the leftist leader accused the United States of seeking to “participate” in Colombian politics and looking for a “puppet president” as the country prepares for presidential elections next year.

“The Colombian people will reply if they want a puppet president... or a free and sovereign nation” Petro wrote, adding in another message that he would not let his nation “kneel” to US interests and allow peasants who grow coca to get “beaten up.”

On Monday, the Trump administration designated Colombia as a country that is failing to meet its international commitments to fight drug trafficking and blamed the Colombian government for a lack of progress in the fight against the cocaine trade.

The designation, known as decertification, is a stunning rebuke for a traditional US ally. It comes amid a recent



Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) President, Judge Alejandro Ramelli Arteaga, speaks to the press before the reading of a guilty sentence for war crimes by former leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, in Bogota, Colombia on Sept 16. (AP)

surge in cocaine production and fraying ties between the White House and Colombia’s first leftist president.

Also:

BOGOTA, Colombia: Colombia’s peace tribunal on Tuesday issued its first sentence on war crimes committed during decades of internal conflict, finding seven former leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, guilty of imposing policies that led to the kidnapping of 21,000 people.

The court said that the rebel group kidnapped civilians for ransom to finance its operations, while also depriving soldiers and politicians of their liberty in hopes of exchanging them for imprisoned rebels.

For the next eight years, the former rebel leaders must work on projects to find the bodies of missing people and remove landmines from rural areas. They will also have to engage in symbolic acts of reparation with their victims. To ensure compliance, the seven leaders will follow a strict schedule and have their movements monitored with electronic devices.

Kuwait crude oil drops to \$72.46 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil dropped 62 cents during Tuesday's trading to reach USD 72.46 per barrel compared with USD 73.08 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday. Brent futures rose USD 1.03 to USD 68.47 pb and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) gained USD 1.22 to USD 64.52 pb.

Business

Robust governance framework strengthens compliance across eight markets

Zain receives ‘Best Corporate Governance in Kuwait’ award from World Finance

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Zain, a leading provider of innovative ICT and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa has been recognized with an unprecedented fifth consecutive World Finance ‘Best Corporate Governance 2025’ award. This recognition highlights the company’s compliant and transparent achievements in Investor Relations and Corporate Governance, further underscoring its position as a listed entity on the Bursa Kuwait Premier Market.

London-based World Finance is a highly regarded publication providing comprehensive coverage and analysis of the financial industry, international business, and the global economy.

The diligent Zain team operates a stringent Investor Relations and Corporate Governance Framework, which provides stakeholders, including investors, with the confidence that the company is being run in a compliant and transparent manner. This is a cornerstone of the company’s regional appeal, and has attracted ongoing praise and admiration from shareholders, industry analysts, and regulatory authorities.

Corporate Governance is becoming an increasingly important differentiator for organizations, particularly for Zain. As a leading entity listed on the Premier Market, Zain abides fully to market regulations



issued by all financial regulatory bodies in Kuwait and across our footprint, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), and Bursa Kuwait as well as other regulatory bodies where Zain is listed.

At Zain, strong corporate governance is at the heart of how we operate. Our Board remains accountable and actively engaged in ensuring transparency and responsible practices that build trust with all stakeholders. ESG principles guide our decisions, creating long-term value while supporting communities and the environment. We also uphold high ethical standards, embracing diversity and inclusion as part of our culture. With privacy and data protection as key priorities, we continue to strengthen resilience, safeguard customer trust, and drive sustainable growth.

- Solid corporate governance is the backbone to Zain’s ‘4WARD-Progress with Purpose’ corporate strategy in driving continued growth and success
- Regulatory compliance and transparency play a significant role in providing long-term sustainable value to all stakeholders

A company statement noted, “Solid corporate governance is the backbone to Zain’s ‘4WARD-Progress with Purpose’ corporate strategy in driving continued growth and success. Our brand and reputation stand for reliable services and offerings that uplift the quality of life in the communities in which we operate, and this needs to be translated across all our touchpoints. Partnership occurs at the pace of trust, and the fifth consecutive award of this prestigious accolade reflects the depth and consistency of our ethical, compliant and transparent standards.”

Zain has reinforced its commitment to sound corporate governance through a robust approach to policy management that ensures alignment across the Group and its subsidiaries. By translating Board direction into clear, actionable policies, Zain provides a strong framework that guides everyday decision-making

and safeguards accountability at all levels of the organization. The Board plays a central role in approving Group-wide policies, defining risk appetite, setting ethical standards, and mandating regular reviews. Executive management ensures these policies are implemented effectively, with ownership, training, and controls embedded throughout the business.

The governance framework includes an integrated library of policies covering areas such as conduct, risk, privacy, transparency, anti corruption, stakeholders rights, and ESG, all supported by procedures and records that ensure clarity and consistency. These policies apply across Zain’s operations, reinforcing transparency and responsible practices. By linking policy objectives to strategy, risk management, and performance, Zain fosters ethical behavior, strengthens compliance, and creates sustainable value



Zain headquarters

for stakeholders. Regular benchmarking against international best practices further demonstrates Zain’s commitment to continuous improvement in governance.

The basis of Zain’s Corporate Governance framework is to help the company mitigate risks and facilitate an effective Board oversight over its executive management by monitoring the implementation of policies. Corporate Governance promotes strong internal controls that improve integrity of financials and establishes a culture of compliance. This governance structure has helped Zain to win the confidence of markets and attract global invest-

ors. Zain’s Investor Relations, Sustainability, and Corporate Governance departments remain committed to raising awareness on issues related to the environment, social, and governance (ESG) in response to global trends and best practices. Accordingly, Zain has developed policies and is working to increase transparency in addition to focusing on social responsibility.

Zain’s Annual Report and the ongoing annual publication of its Sustainability Report demonstrate the company’s endeavor to support Meaningful Connectivity leading to equitable systemic change.

All Share Index declines 0.07%

Boursa Kuwait closes lower

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Wednesday’s session slightly lower, with the All Share Index slipping 5.94 points, or 0.07 percent, to close at 8,816.70 points.

A total of 424 million shares exchanged hands in 24,856 transactions, with a trading value of KD 93.5 million (USD 284.2 million).

The Main Market Index dropped 15.73 points, or 0.19 percent, finishing at 8,062.65 points. This came on the back of 274 million shares traded through 15,891 deals, worth KD 42.19 million (USD 128.2 million).

Similarly, the Premier Market Index edged down 3.80 points, or 0.04 percent, ending at 9,440.43 points, with 149.9 million shares traded across 8,965 transactions valued at KD 51.3 million (USD 155.9 million).

The Main 50 Index also saw a noticeable decline, shedding 42.82 points, or 0.52 percent, to settle at 8,246.86 points. Trading volume for this index reached 180 million shares through 9,104 transactions, with a total value of KD 30.9 million (USD 93.9 million).

‘Participation boosts oil, gas knowledge’

Kuwait Oil Company stresses value of ‘global conferences’

MANAMA, Sept 17, (KUNA): Participating in international functions and conferences is important to exchange views and expertise, said Deputy CEO South and East Kuwait at the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Fuad Al-Shaikh on Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of KOC’s engagement in the three-day Middle East Oil, Gas and Geosciences Show (MEOS GEO), Al-Shaikh affirmed that KOC continued to show interest in such regional and international participation, which boosted the company’s knowledge on the latest developments within the oil and natural gas sectors.

He revealed that KOC’s pavilion within MEOS GEO included introductory material on the company’s history, achievements, and grand projects.

Al-Shaikh indicated that the pavilion had focused on the latest KOC endeavors at sea, which resulted in important oil discoveries.

He went on to say the participation also touched on KOC’s efforts for carbon neutrality by 2050 that came in line with Kuwait’s overall efforts to achieve this goal by 2060.

The company’s enhanced oil recovery project through injecting CO2 into the Manaqish oil field east of Kuwait and other major projects were also part of the pavilion, he asserted.

KOC CEO Ahmad Al-Eidan, Al-Shaikh, group leaders, as well as experts and specialists, are taking part in MEOS GEO.

Project seen as strategic boost for urban and economic growth

Al-Ansar United launches ‘Arzaq Al-Harfi’ project

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Al-Ansar United Real Estate Company on Tuesday celebrated the launch of its new economic project, ‘Arzaq Al-Harfi’, which is considered a strategic step towards supporting urban and economic development efforts and to open new investment horizons in the country.

General Manager of the Company Dr. Tahani Al-Adwani explained that the project aims to push for urban and economic development, while opening promising investment horizons for the private sector.

She affirmed that the project is distinguished by its vital location -- in the heart of Fahaheel, where it forms a meeting point between the industrial and commercial areas, making it an integrated center that combines the advantages of modern infrastructure with ambitious development plans which meet the needs of the next phase.

She said the project extends over a total area of 231,800 square meters -- 92,240 square meters of which are distributed to 190 plots whose sizes range from 250 to

5,011 square meters.

She added that the project offers investors unique opportunities through its diverse areas and competitive construction ratios compared to other service and craft areas, hence, providing a fertile environment for growth and sustainable returns.

She stressed that the company is keen on implementing infrastructure works with high precision under the supervision of the relevant government agencies, starting with road, electricity, sewage and fresh water networks, all the way to the finer details, giving investors more flexibility in choosing their activities.

She stated that the vision of the company is based on its belief in the importance of providing an attractive investment environment and localizing craft and service activities in order to give an added value to the national economy, contribute to the diversification of the sources of national income, and push for economic growth in line with the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035.

She asserted that ‘Arzaq Al-Harafi’ is not just a real estate project, as it is an integrated economic platform that will create investment opportunities, support the industrial and craft sectors, and drive growth towards a more prosperous future.

Three housing projects planned across four cities

PAHW opens prequalification for major housing projects

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullahi Al-Mishari announced that the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) will start receiving prequalification applications for the implementation of three housing projects in four locations, in accordance with Law No. 118/2023 and its amendments, on Thursday.

In a press statement, Al-Mishari revealed the PAHW has identified three projects in the cities of Al-Mutlaa, East Saad Al-Abdullah City, West Saad Al-Abdullah City and Jaber Al-Ahmad City, covering a total area of 4.15 million square meters.

Al-Mishari said the ministry is keen on engaging companies specialized in implementing such projects -- local, regional or international -- with at least 10 years of experience in developing residential and mixed-use properties.

He pointed out that the implementation of these projects will be based on the design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance and transfer contract model,

in addition to the sale of residential units. He added that the contract documents for each residential project will be part of multiple agreements, the details of which will be fully clarified during the request for proposals phase.

He disclosed that the housing units in these projects will be sold to citizens eligible for housing support, indicating the contract period for each residential project will be 30 years -- four years construction period and 26 years investment period.

He stated that through these projects, the authority is committed to engage the private sector by contracting with a real estate developer or a consortium of real estate developers to work on one or more of the residential areas offered for development.

Talking about the areas designated for the projects, Al-Mishari said Mutlaa City project covers an area of 2.12 million square meters, 1.02 million square meters in East Saad Al-Abdullah City, and 1.01 million square meters in West Saad Al-Abdullah City and Jaber Al-Ahmad City.



Gulf Bank eStore

ryday purchases. It also reaffirms Gulf Bank’s strategy of providing customer-centric, innovative banking solutions that combine convenience with tangible value.

The Bank emphasized that the customer experience remains central to every innovation it introduces. The Gulf Points program is designed not only to reward spending, but also to

create moments of convenience, savings, and joy for customers.

As part of its wider vision, Gulf Bank continues to encourage a culture of financial responsibility by promoting the use of credit cards over debit cards, enabling customers to maximize rewards on daily spending while enjoying practical and innovative ways to save.

Surplus shrinks to JPY 48.1 bln

Kuwait’s trade surplus with Japan dips 37.5% in August

TOKYO, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait’s trade surplus with Japan narrowed 37.5 percent from a year earlier to JPY 48.1 billion (USD 306 million) in August, down for the seventh month in a row due to sluggish exports, government data showed on Wednesday.

However, Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 17 years and seven months, as exports still offset imports in value, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report. Overall exports from Kuwait to Japan slid 28.5 percent year-on-year to JPY 70.3 billion (USD 458 million) down for the seventh straight month. Imports from Japan grew 3.5 percent to JPY 22.2 billion (USD 141 million), marking the ninth consecutive monthly expansion.

Middle East’s trade surplus with Japan also shrank 28.9 percent to JPY 606.5 billion (USD 4.1 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region fall-

ing 20.3 percent from a year earlier in value.

Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 93.8 percent of the region’s total exports to Japan, plummeted 21.1 percent. The region’s whole imports from Japan increased 5.2 percent on demand for steel. The world’s third-biggest economy logged a global trade deficit of JPY 242.5 billion yen (USD 1.6 billion) in August for the second month. Exports edged down 0.1 percent from the year before, as shipments of automobiles to the US went down amid higher tariffs.

Imports also dropped 5.2 percent on lower bills for crude oil, pharmaceutical products and LNG. China remained Japan’s biggest trade partner, followed by the US. The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors.

Offering customers a wide range of financing solutions

KFH continues Back-to-School campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait Finance House continues its Back-to-School campaign, themed “KFH Auto I Various Financing Solutions” In line with its commitment to offering the best financing solutions for its customers. Running across all KFH showrooms, the campaign will continue until the end of September.

KFH’s Back to School campaign provides customers with a wide array of services and benefits for the new school year. The campaign features diverse financing options for purchasing or leasing new or used cars, in addition to car financing abroad in the USA, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey. It also includes solutions for customers seeking to finance their cars against cash collaterals.

In cooperation with authorized agents, KFH provides several advantages through the campaign to meet customer needs, covering a selected and diversified range of luxury and economy cars, in addition to competitive prices under the Leasing with Maintenance service and on used cars.

Among the main services highlighted in the campaign is the Trust Sale Service, allowing customers to sell their cars at KFH Auto showrooms. Under this service, customers can authorize KFH to sell their cars through its widespread showrooms and various sales channels across Kuwait.

Additionally, KFH provides a car valuation service, one of its core auto services that allows

customers to sell their cars without the need to make a new purchase.

Customers opting for finance against collaterals can enjoy flexible repayment terms extending to 10 years with competitive profits and diverse payment schemes. The financing is offered against a full collateral covering the total indebtedness and secured by booking the customer’s fixed deposits. This product caters to retail customers’ commercial needs, whether for cars, boats, or motorcycles, with a financing limit determined by the deposit value. The service provides other advantages including continuous deposit profits throughout the credit period, expedited processing and competitive rates.



Campaign flyer

Saudi leads in green investments

GCC captures just 2% of global \$1 trillion green FDI 2020–2024

DUBAI, Sept 17: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has a compelling opportunity to emerge as a major destination for climate-aligned foreign direct investment (FDI). A new analysis by Strategy& Middle East reveals that more than US\$1 trillion in global green FDI flowed between 2020 and 2024. However, just US\$24 billion of that total reached Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Oman, even as these countries invested US\$132 billion in green projects abroad.

Between 2020 and 2024, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Oman together accounted for 29 outbound and 10 inbound green FDI deals - representing the bulk of large-scale activity in the GCC - but attracting just 2% of global green FDI. Despite this, the region possesses notable competitive advantages. This includes the lowest production cost for solar energy in the world, with six of the ten lowest-cost solar projects globally being based in the GCC.

The analysis, which examines more than 100 global deals, is based on Strategy& Middle East’s proprietary “Green Seven” taxonomy – which categorizes green FDI into seven sectors including hydrogen and ammonia, renewable power, green industrials and chemicals, batteries, electric and hydrogen vehicles, sustainable construction, and carbon capture. The analysis is based on large-scale global FDI deals exceeding US\$1 billion between 2020 and 2024, mapped using fDi Markets data.

Dr. Yahya Anouti, Partner with Strategy& Middle East and the leader of the firm’s Energy, Resources and Sustainability practice in the Middle East said, “Climate concerns and government incentives have created an investment surge that is reshaping the global economy. The GCC is uniquely positioned to benefit, possessing bold net-zero ambitions and some of the world’s cheapest clean energy sources. Yet, more can be done to fully capture the momentum of global green investment. What’s needed now is a stronger policy shift to transform the region into a thriving hub for domestic investment.”

A trillion-dollar global trend

Between 2020 and 2024, 53 percent of all large-scale global FDI went into green sectors. Hydrogen and ammonia, renewable power, and batteries alone accounted for 80 percent of this green investment. The momentum peaked in 2022–2023, as the world rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic and capital surged toward sustainability-linked projects. While 2024 saw a relative cooling as investment attention shifted toward AI and semiconductors - green FDI continued to remain robust, reaching US\$158 billion - triple the level in 2020.

Most outbound investments from the GCC targeted hydrogen and ammonia projects in Egypt and Mauritania, while inbound deals largely emerged from China, India, and the United States, targeting investments in hydrogen and electric vehicles. Saudi Arabia received the lion’s share of investments at US\$12.6 billion—closely followed by Oman with US\$8.9 billion, including two major Indian-backed projects in green ammonia and green steel.

Devesh Katiyar, Partner at Strategy& Middle East added, “The green transition is redefining how and where industries grow. As climate capital remains a fixture in global markets, the region must play a greater role in not only deploying capital but attracting it. This means embracing a range of tools to strengthen the business climate, from de-risking mechanisms and clearer regulations to incentives that actively shape capital flows.”

The Green Advantage

In the United States, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has driven a sharp rise in climate-aligned investments across sectors like batteries, electric and hydrogen vehicles, renewable power, green industrials, and carbon capture. By comparison, green FDI inflows into the GCC remain modest. When the size of inflows is put in proportion to the size of each country’s GDP, all Middle East countries -except for Oman - trail behind their global peers.

To convert the GCC’s potential into real capital inflows, the report



Dr. Yahya Anouti, Partner with Strategy& Middle East

- 53% of all major cross-border investments went into green projects from 2020-2024
- New Strategy & Middle East report finds that Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Oman attracted US\$24 billion of the US\$1 trillion green FDI wave from 2020-2024
- While these three countries invested US\$132 billion abroad, they captured only 2% of global inflows during the same period

outlines four strategic recommendations:

1. Landmark policy moves: Enact climate-forward manufacturing laws, emissions reporting, and enforceable product standards, mirroring global efforts like the US’ IRA or EU Green Deal.
2. Investment de-risking: Introduce long-term off take agreements, expand green bonds, and create dedicated funds to support clean infrastructure and early-stage technologies that bolster investor confidence.
3. Green industrial development: Empower regional industries like green hydrogen, low-carbon materials, and circular economy ventures with access to low-cost clean energy and skilled talent.
4. Strategic outbound investment: Use outbound investments in global clean-tech ecosystems to bring back capabilities and co-investment into the region.

Transforming GCC to a Green Investment Hub

Several GCC nations have already made promising progress. Saudi Arabia’s Green Financing Framework and US\$1.7 billion sovereign green bond issuance, Oman’s green hydrogen off take agreement, and the UAE’s Sustainable Finance Framework all represent momentum. As international capital increasingly seeks climate-aligned opportunities, unlocking the potential of GCC’s industrial capacity, geographic location, and renewable resources will depend on bold policy choices and regulatory clarity.

While the report identifies tangible actions for the region, progress will not be linear. Shifting capital trends – such as the 2024 pivot toward data center investments – along with tariffs, trade tensions, and geopolitical uncertainty may reshape green FDI flows. Nonetheless, climate risks are certain to keep green investment firmly on the global agenda.

About Strategy&

Strategy& is a global strategy consulting business uniquely positioned to help deliver your best future: one that is built on differentiation from the inside out and tailored exactly to you. As part of PwC, we’re building the winning systems that are at the heart of growth every day. We combine our powerful foresight with this tangible know-how, technology, and scale to help you create a better, more transformative strategy from day one.

As the only at-scale strategy business that’s part of a global professional services network, we embed our strategy capabilities with frontline teams across PwC to show you where you need to go, the choices you’ll need to make to get there, and how to get it right. The result is an authentic strategy process powerful enough to capture possibility while pragmatic enough to ensure effective delivery. It’s the strategy that gets an organization through today’s changes and drives results that redefine tomorrow. It’s the strategy that turns vision into reality. It’s strategy, made real.

In collaboration with Dubai International Financial Centre’s Innovation Hub

Warba launches sixth edition of its ‘Rowad 6.0’ program to empower Kuwaiti students abroad

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Building on its continued success in developing the skills of Kuwaiti students and equipping them with the tools needed to innovate in the fields of technology, Warba Bank has announced the launch of the sixth edition of its “Rowad” program. The program crowns five consecutive years of achievements and has today become a comprehensive innovation platform attracting top Kuwaiti students studying abroad. It equips them with advanced knowledge and technical skills in technology, artificial intelligence and banking innovation, preparing them to lead the region’s digital transformation.

Rowad 6.0 is organized in collaboration with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Innovation Hub, and this year it targets not only Kuwaiti students but also Gulf students studying at European universities, particularly in the United Kingdom. This unique program represents a strategic investment in youth potential and reflects Warba Bank’s firm commitment to supporting education and developing human capital as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

Commenting on the program, Mr. Anwar Bader Al-Ghaith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Support Services and Treasury at Warba Bank, said: “We are delighted to announce the launch of the sixth edition of the Rowad program, which has become a hallmark of Warba Bank’s journey and an integral part of our vision ‘Let’s Own Tomorrow’”. Over the past years, this program has successfully graduated generations of creative youth who today carry the torch of innovation across various sectors. Our investment in youth is not just a social responsibility; it is a long-term strategy to build a prosperous future for our nation and our region.”

Al-Ghaith added: “Today, with the launch of the sixth edition, we reaffirm our commitment to continuing to invest in the minds of our youth, equipping them with the knowledge and tools that enable them to lead change and create sustainable banking solutions that serve our customers and our community. As we expand to include students from the GCC, this reflects our full conviction in the importance of Gulf-wide cooperation in education and innovation. We are confident that GCC youth possess immense potential, and it is our duty to provide them with the tools and knowledge necessary to transform that potential into tangible achievements that serve our societies and contribute to sustainable economic development.”

A Continuous Success Story for Five Years

Since its inception, the Rowad Program has achieved exceptional success and continuous growth in both scope and educational depth. It began in its first edition as an internal initiative to foster innovation among the Bank’s employees, and in subsequent editions expanded to include students from Kuwait University and private universities in Kuwait. By its fifth edition, the program extended to Kuwaiti students studying in the United Kingdom. Today, in its sixth edition, it expands further to include students from GCC countries studying in Europe, reflecting the continuous growth and rising ambition of this pioneering initiative.

Over the past five years, the program has graduated around 100 students who succeeded in developing more than 25 innovative projects across diverse fields, including financial technology, artificial intelligence and digital banking solutions, all of which have contributed to enhancing banking services and improving customer experience.

Program Objectives and Key Pillars

The Rowad 6.0 Program aims to achieve a set of important strategic objectives, most notably empowering youth to acquire advanced knowledge and technical skills in financial technology and artificial intelligence, enhancing their ability to innovate and finding practical solutions to contemporary challenges in the banking sector. The program also seeks to build bridges between students and industry experts, while providing a platform for interactive learning and teamwork.

The program features a diverse set of educational pillars, including training on the latest AI technologies and their applications in the banking sector, learning the fundamentals of programming and application development, understanding technology ethics and cybersecurity, as well as developing entrepreneurial skills and working in collaborative environments. All of these pillars are designed to provide participants with a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the world of financial technology.

Al-Ghaith stressed that the impact of the Rowad Program goes beyond the direct benefits received by participants, stating: “We are witnessing a wide positive impact on the economic and social development of our region by preparing a generation of youth specialized in technology and innovation. We are contributing to building a strong knowledge-based economy capable of competing in global markets, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in our society, and creating an enabling environment that promotes innovation, attracts investment and supports the growth of technology industries in the region.”



Anwar Al-Ghaith, Deputy CEO

He pointed out that the program is based on a philosophy of interactive learning and teamwork, where participants work in multidisciplinary teams to develop comprehensive and integrated solutions. This approach not only equips them with technical knowledge, but also develops their leadership, communication and stress management skills — all of which are essential for their future professional success.

Al-Ghaith also noted that the Bank’s partnership with the DIFC ensures that participants receive the highest levels of training and mentorship from global experts in financial technology. This strategic partnership enables the Bank to deliver advanced educational content that keeps pace with the latest industry developments and provides participants with the practical knowledge needed to develop innovative and applicable solutions.

Program Details and Participation

The Rowad 6.0 Program extends over eight weeks of intensive training, during which participants work in multidisciplinary teams to develop innovative projects under the guidance and mentorship of experts from Warba Bank and the Dubai International Financial Centre. The program includes interactive workshops, lectures from industry leaders, brainstorming sessions, and practical projects designed to transform creative ideas into implementable solutions.

Participants receive specialized training across multiple fields, including applications of artificial intelligence in banking, algorithm and predictive model development, information security and cybersecurity, user experience design in financial applications, as well as principles of entrepreneurship and responsible innovation. The program also provides participants with the opportunity to directly interact with industry leaders and benefit from their practical expertise in developing technological solutions.

Call for Participation and Registration

All Kuwaiti students, as well as students from GCC countries studying at European universities, particularly in the United Kingdom, are invited to apply for the Rowad 6.0 Program and seize this unique opportunity to join a community of young innovators and gain valuable skills that will positively impact their academic and professional journeys. Participants and winners will also receive valuable prizes offered by Warba Bank.

To register, interested students can visit Warba Bank’s website or contact the program team via the dedicated email address Rowad@warba-bank.com. The registration process is simple and requires filling out the application form and submitting a personal statement outlining their motivation for joining and their goals for the program. Applicants are also required to provide a summary of their academic studies and their interests in technology and innovation.

Al-Ghaith emphasized: “We encourage students from all disciplines to apply, as diversity in academic knowledge enriches the learning experience and contributes to developing comprehensive and integrated solutions. Whether the applicant is studying engineering, business administration, computer science, economics, or any other field, the program is designed to embrace this diversity and transform it into creative strength.”

Success Stories from Previous Editions

The five previous editions of the Rowad Program have witnessed inspiring success stories that reflect the immense potential of Gulf youth in innovation and technology. In the fifth edition, the “Warba Web” team, composed of Kuwaiti students Bader Al-Saeed, Mohammed Al-Dihani and Khaled Al-Muzaidi, won first place with their innovative project that presented advanced financial solutions contributing to technological development in the Kuwaiti labor market.

In earlier editions, participants succeeded in developing smart applications for investment portfolio management, intelligent systems for credit risk analysis and innovative solutions to enhance the digital banking customer experi-

- Continuing its mission to refine youth skills and enhance their capabilities in technology and innovation



ROWAD logo

ence. These projects not only earned recognition and awards, but some were further developed and practically implemented in business and financial environments, underscoring the high quality and real-world value of the program’s educational outcomes.

Strategic Partnership with DIFC

The partnership with DIFC Innovation Hub represents a cornerstone of the success of the Rowad Program. This strategic collaboration brings together Warba Bank’s expertise in Islamic banking and the advanced capabilities of DIFC as a global hub for financial innovation. Through this cooperation, participants gain access to the latest technologies and tools, along with mentorship from international experts in financial technology.

DIFC provides an ideal environment for learning and innovation, hosting a diverse community of startups, leading financial institutions and technology experts. This diversity gives participants the opportunity to engage with multiple perspectives and varied experiences, enriching their learning journey and broadening their professional horizons.

Continuous Development and Future Vision

Warba Bank is committed to the continuous development of the Rowad Program to keep pace with the latest advancements in technology and education. Each edition updates its curriculum and adds new topics reflecting recent industry developments, while also enhancing teaching and learning methodologies to be more interactive and effective.

The future vision for the program includes expanding participation to students from other countries, developing specialized tracks in specific technical fields and establishing a strong alumni network to support new generations of participants. The Bank also aims to strengthen the program’s impact through additional partnerships with leading educational and technology institutions.

Achieving the “Let’s Own Tomorrow” Vision

The Rowad Program aligns seamlessly with Warba Bank’s vision “Let’s Own Tomorrow,” which aims to build a prosperous and sustainable future for the coming generations by investing in youth education and training. The program helps prepare future leaders who will drive digital transformation and economic development in the region. This investment in human capital reflects the Bank’s deep belief in the importance of education and innovation as key drivers of sustainable economic growth and reaffirms Warba’s commitment to social responsibility and its role as a leading financial institution in supporting the comprehensive development of society.

Key Dates and Information

Registration for Rowad 6.0 opens on September 16 and continues until October 9. Interested students are encouraged to apply early due to limited seats and the expected high demand. Selection will be based on specific academic and professional criteria, with a focus on applicants’ motivation and creative potential.

The names of the accepted participants will be announced on October 15. The program will officially commence shortly thereafter. For more information about eligibility criteria and important dates, students can visit Warba Bank’s official website.

Warba Bank remains committed to continuously developing its products and services to meet diverse customer needs, maintaining the highest standards of quality and transparency in all its dealings. The bank is recognized as one of the institutions that has achieved significant success in a short period, occupying a pioneering position in Islamic digital banking services. It stands among the local banks with the highest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement reaffirms the bank’s position as a trusted banking partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering the finest financial services and products.

Fed expected to reduce rates by 0.25% to 4.1%

Economists see ‘recalibration’

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): With the Federal Reserve widely expected Wednesday to reduce its key interest rate by a quarter-point to about 4.1%, economists and Wall Street investors will be looking for signals about next steps: How deeply might the Fed cut in the next few months?

There are typically two different approaches the central bank takes to lowering borrowing costs: Either a measured pace that reflects a modest adjustment to its key rate, or a much more rapid set of cuts as the economy deteriorates in an often-doomed effort to stave off recession.

For now, most economists expect it will take the first approach: What many analysts call a “recalibration” of rates to keep the economy growing and businesses hiring. Under this view, the Fed would reduce rates as many as five times by the middle of next year, bringing its rate closer to a level that neither stimulates or slows the economy.

Wall Street traders expect three reductions this year and then two more by next June, according to futures pricing tracked by CME Fedwatch.

A rate cut Wednesday would be the first in nine months. The Fed, led by Chair Jerome Powell, reduced borrowing costs three times last year. But it then put any further cuts on hold to evaluate the impact of President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariffs on the economy.

As recently as their last meeting in late July, Powell described the job market as “solid” and kept rates unchanged as officials sought to take more time to see how the economy evolved.

Since then, however, the government has reported a sharp slowdown in hiring, and previous government data has been revised much lower. Employers actually cut back slightly on their payrolls in June, shedding 13,000 jobs, and added just 22,000 in August.

The government also said last week that its estimate of job gains for the year ended in March 2025 would likely be revised down by 911,000, a sharp reduction in total employment. Powell and other Fed officials had previously pointed to a robust job market as a key reason that they could afford to keep rates unchanged. But with businesses pulling back on hiring, the economic case for a rate cut - which can spur more borrowing and spending - is stronger.

The downward revision of nearly a million jobs is a “huge down-

grade,” said Talley Leger, chief market strategist at the Wealth Consulting Group. “If that doesn’t light a fire under the Fed just from an economic perspective I don’t know what will.”

Still, inflation remains stubbornly elevated, partly because tariffs have lifted the cost of some goods, such as furniture, appliances and food. Prices rose 2.9% in August from a year earlier, the government said last week, up from 2.7% a month earlier.

Persistent inflation could keep the Fed from cutting too rapidly. The central bank will release its quarterly economic projections after the meeting Wednesday, and many economists forecast they will show that officials expect three total reductions this year and at least two more next year.

Five reductions would bring the Fed’s key rate down to just above 3%. Many economists think that is roughly the rate that would neither stimulate nor slow the economy.

If Fed officials began to worry the economy would slip into recession, they would likely cut rates more quickly. But for now, most economists don’t see rapid cuts as necessary.

“We’re not at a break-glass moment,” said Vincent Reinhart, chief economist at BNY Investments. “This is a recalibration.”

Agreement creates \$4.3 trillion free trade zone

South America’s Mercosur bloc signs trade deal with 4 European countries

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 17, (AP): South America’s Mercosur bloc signed a free trade deal Tuesday with the European countries of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, as ties between the two continents deepen amid global uncertainty sparked by sweeping U.S. tariffs.

The agreement was signed in Rio de Janeiro between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay on one hand, and the four European countries - none of which belong to the European Union - on the other. The deal will create a free trade zone of almost 300 million people and a combined gross domestic product of more than \$4.3 trillion, according to a joint statement.

“Even in a world marked by trade tensions and rising protectionism, we remain advocates of international trade based on rules,” Brazil’s Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said at the ceremony on Tuesday.

The reference to tension and protectionism was aimed at tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump on a wide range of countries.

Trump enforced tariffs of 50% on Brazil in response to, among other issues, the coup trial of former President Jair Bolsonaro, which the U.S. president called a “witch hunt.” Last week, a panel of justices ruled that the ex-leader had attempted a coup and sentenced him to 27 years in prison.

Tuesday’s deal covers goods, services, investment and intellectual property rights, among other areas. It could generate a drop in prices of Swiss chocolate and Norwegian cod in the South American nations, and cheaper beef in the European countries.

“Both sides will benefit from improved market access for more than 97% of their exports, which will in-



crease bilateral trade and translate into benefits for businesses and individuals,” the joint statement said.

Each country must ratify the trade deal for it to come into effect. The 14 rounds of negotiations leading up to the deal began in June 2017 in Buenos Aires.

The Mercosur bloc also hopes to soon ratify a much larger free trade deal with the European Union. Last December, the two groups of nations agreed to the deal some 25 years after negotiations were launched, but it still needs to be ratified by both sides.

Tuesday’s agreement shows that Mercosur is willing to adapt to EU standards, said Flavia Loss, an international relations professor at Foundation School of Sociology and Politics in Sao Paulo.

“It’s an important signal to convince the EU of Mercosur’s goodwill,” she said.

Observers say that the EU-Mercosur trade deal increased in importance for Brazil after Trump’s 50% tariff, as it led to an increased push to diversify trading partners.

Brazil’s Foreign Ministry said the country is also committed to “concluding negotiations with the United Arab Emirates soon, resuming negotiations with Canada, and expanding existing agreements with Mexico and India, among other negotiating fronts.”

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said on X that Tuesday’s deal “highlights the importance of multilateralism, the strengthening of our bloc, and our partnerships with European countries.”

Food & drink prices rise for 5th straight month

UK inflation holds steady at 3.8%

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): Inflation in the U.K. held steady at 3.8% in the year to August, official figures showed Wednesday, a day before the Bank of England is widely expected to keep interest rates on hold.

The Office for National Statistics found food and drink prices rose for the fifth month in a row, but fares fell sharply after a big spike in July.

Though inflation remains nearly double the Bank of England’s target rate of 2%, most economists had anticipated a modest increase in August.

Stubbornly high inflation has been one of the reasons why the Labour government’s poll ratings have fallen sharply since it came to power in July 2024.

Treasury chief Rachel Reeves will be hoping inflation starts to drop down towards target, as many forecasters predict, in the year to come as it will relieve some of the cost-of-living pressures that are hurting households and undermining the government’s support.

“I know families are finding it tough and that for many the economy feels stuck,” she said after the figures were released. “That’s why I’m determined to bring costs down and support people who are facing higher bills.”

Reeves’ economic plans will be in the spotlight over the coming weeks ahead of her annual budget on Nov. 26, where she is widely expected to increase taxes again to bolster revenues and simultaneously introduce policies to ease the cost-

of-living pressures.

Many critics blame Reeves personally for the increase inflation this year, saying her decision to increase taxes on businesses to plug a budget hole prompted firms to up prices.

The inflation figures have cemented market expectations that the Bank of England will keep interest rates unchanged on Thursday.

Since it started cutting borrowing rates in August 2024 after the unwinding of the previous spike in inflation in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the bank has done so in a gradual manner every three months. When it cut its main rate to 4% in August, it was largely expected there would be no further reduction at the September meeting.

If the bank were to continue to cut interest rates in the manner it has been doing so, the next meeting in November would see a further reduction. However, economists remain split as to whether another cut is forthcoming since inflation has proven to be stickier than anticipated earlier this year, partly because of relatively high wage increases.

“Several months of disappointing data has highlighted the U.K.’s unwanted position as an international outlier for ‘sticky’ inflation, with the highest headline inflation of any G-7 economy,” said James Smith, research director at the Resolution Foundation think tank.

Hong Kong to accelerate Northern Metropolis project near Shenzhen

HONG KONG, Sept 17, (AP): Hong Kong’s leader announced plans Wednesday to speed up development of an economic powerhouse near its border with mainland China and nurture industries ranging from artificial intelligence to higher education as the city seeks new economic growth engines to maintain its international competitiveness.

Chief Executive John Lee is under pressure to distinguish Hong Kong from regional rivals and mainland Chinese metropolises after a yearslong crackdown on democracy activism and Beijing’s tightening grip tainted the city’s image as a free-wheeling financial center.

“We are now undergoing an economic transition. It is irreversible progress. Transformation is an inevitable process for a stronger economy,” he said.

In his annual policy address, Lee said he will lead a committee on developing the Northern Metropolis, an ongoing project that envisions building a new IT hub and a university town near the Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen. It aims to provide 650,000 jobs and house 2.5 million people. The development proposal was first floated in 2021 by his predecessor Carrie Lam.

The government would devise a range of financing schemes and introduce legislation to empower the government to simplify procedures for issues such as setting up industrial park companies and speeding up building plan approvals, Lee said.

The city’s gross domestic product is estimated to have grown 3.1% in the second quarter of 2025,

supported by strong exports and improved domestic demand. For the first half of this year, Hong Kong ranked first globally in funds raised through initial public offerings as a wave of Chinese companies sought to list in Hong Kong under U.S.-China tensions.

But vacant shops remain in various areas. Retail sales between January and July this year saw a drop. Restaurants have closed. The slump stemmed from tourists spending less and many residents opting to spend weekends on mainland China for cheaper and more diverse offerings. The city’s latest unemployment rate was 3.7%.

A highlight of Lee’s policies was bolstering emerging industries in a city where traditional strengths lie in the financial and legal service sectors.

Developing the artificial intelligence and data science industry was a focus. The government plans to put up for tender a 10-hectare (24.7-acre) site this year for building a data facility cluster and launching an AI research and development institute next year.

Other sectors Lee wants to develop included pharmaceutical and medical products and new energies.

Hong Kong also is vying to become a popular higher education hub. It has been stepping up efforts in recent months, especially after the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump pressed colleges to limit the number of international students and increased student visa scrutiny.

Lee’s administration would further boost enrollment ceilings for international students of government-funded universities beginning in the next academic year and earmark new sites for construction of student hostels, he said.

Separately, the University Grants Committee would earmark 40 million Hong Kong dollars (about \$5 million) to support eight publicly funded universities in enhancing their publicity and recruitment of teachers and students outside Hong Kong.

Lee, a former security chief, fulfilled Beijing’s long-standing imperative to enact a homegrown national security law last year. Officials said the law and a China-imposed security law were necessary for the city’s stability following massive anti-government protests in 2019.

To step up patriotic education, he said the city would work with Shenzhen to promote a “new red educational route” to help Hong Kongers and tourists better understand the city’s history in World War II. Earlier this month, Beijing held a military parade to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

In an effort to integrate with national development, Hong Kong officials will set up a task force to drive mainland companies to use the city in their overseas expansion. Hong Kong Monetary Authority will encourage banks, especially those from mainland China, to set up regional headquarters in the city for tapping markets such as Southeast Asia and the Middle East, Lee said.

Jerry quits Ben & Jerry’s, saying its independence on social issues has been stifled

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): Ben & Jerry’s co-founder Jerry Greenfield is leaving the ice cream brand after 47 years, saying that the independence it once had to speak up on social issues has been stifled by parent company Unilever.

In a letter that co-founder Ben Cohen posted on social media platform X on Greenfield’s behalf, Greenfield said that he felt the independence the brand had to speak on social issues and events was lost to Unilever.

“For more than 20 years under their ownership, Ben & Jerry’s stood up and spoke out in support of peace, justice and human rights, not as abstract concepts, but in relation to real events happening in our world,” he wrote. “That independence existed in no small part because of the unique merger agreement Ben and I negotiated with Unilever, one that enshrined our social mission and values in the company’s governance structure in perpetuity. It’s profoundly disappointing to come to the conclusion that that independence, the very basis of our sale to Unilever, is gone.”

Greenfield said that the loss of independence was coming “at a time when our country’s current administration is attacking civil rights, voting rights, the rights of immigrants, women and the LGBTQ community.”

“Standing up for the values of justice, equity, and our shared humanity has never been more important, and yet Ben & Jerry’s has been more silenced, sidelined for fear of upsetting those in power,” he said. “It’s easy to stand up and speak out when there’s nothing at risk. The real test of values is when times are challenging and you have something to lose.”

Greenfield noted that Ben & Jerry’s, famous for its colorful ice cream containers with flavor names such as Cherry Garcia and Phish Food, “was always about more than just ice cream; it



was a way to spread love and invite others into the fight for equity, justice and a better world.”

Unilever, based in London, is spinning off its ice cream business including Ben & Jerry’s into a stand-alone company called The Magnum Ice Cream Company.

A spokesperson for Magnum said in a statement on Wednesday that it would be forever grateful to Greenfield for his contributions to Ben & Jerry’s and thanked him for his service, but was not aligned with his viewpoint.

“We disagree with his perspective and have sought to engage both co-founders in a constructive conversation on how to strengthen

Ben & Jerry’s powerful values-based position in the world,” the spokesperson said.

Magnum said that it is still committed to Ben & Jerry’s mission and remains “focused on carrying forward the legacy of peace, love, and ice cream of this iconic, much-loved brand.”

Ben & Jerry’s has been at odds with Unilever for a while. In March Ben & Jerry’s said that its CEO was unlawfully removed by Unilever in retaliation for the ice cream maker’s social and political activism.

In a federal court filing, Ben & Jerry’s said that Unilever informed its board on March 3 that it was removing and replacing Ben &

Jerry’s CEO David Stever. Ben & Jerry’s said that violated its merger agreement with Unilever, which states that any decisions regarding a CEO’s removal must come after a consultation with an advisory committee from Ben & Jerry’s board.

Unilever said in a statement at the time that it hoped Ben & Jerry’s board would engage in the agreed-upon process.

Unilever acquired Ben & Jerry’s in 2000 for \$326 million. At the time, Ben & Jerry’s said the partnership would help the progressive Vermont-based ice cream company expand its social mission.

But lately, the marriage hasn’t been a happy one. In 2021, Ben & Jerry’s announced it would stop serving Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and contested east Jerusalem. The following year, Unilever sold its Israeli business to a local company that said it would sell Ben & Jerry’s under its Hebrew and Arabic name throughout Israel and the West Bank.

In March 2024 Unilever announced the spinoff of the ice cream business - including Ben & Jerry’s - by the end of 2025 as part of a larger restructuring. Unilever also owns personal hygiene brands like Dove soap and food brands like Hellmann’s mayonnaise.

But the acrimony continued. In November, Ben & Jerry’s sued Unilever in federal court in New York, accusing it of silencing Ben & Jerry’s statements in support of Palestinians in the Gaza war.

In its complaint, Ben & Jerry’s said Unilever also refused to let the company release a social media post that identified issues it believed would be challenged during President Donald Trump’s second term, including minimum wages, universal health care, abortion and climate change.

Actor-activist advocated for Native voices in media

Redford remembered for his deep legacy in environmental activism

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): Lorie Lee Sekayumtewa, a former administrator with the Navajo Nation Film Office, remembers seeing Robert Redford at traditional cultural dances at the Hopi village of Hotevilla in New Mexico. It was more than 30 years ago and he was serving as executive producer of the 1991 release “The Dark Wind,” a drama about Navajo life.

Redford stood out for his Hollywood looks and for his un-Hollywood behavior, from his earnest desire to learn more about the tribe’s spiritual knowledge to his visits to the Navajo Nation, where Sekayumtewa’s father served as the dean of students at the tribal college and would show Redford’s movies at the student union building.

“Even at home, he would bring that camera and film home to us, put up a sheet and we would invite our neighbors and the kids and we would all be there in our living room, watching these movies,” the 54-year-old Sekayumtewa, who is Navajo, Hopi and Sac and Fox Nation, said of Redford. “We were all fans.”

Redford, who died Tuesday at age 89, was hardly the only liberal activist to emerge out of Hollywood, but few matched his knowledge and focus, his humility and dedication. Fellow actors and leaders of the causes he fought for spoke of his unusually deep legacy, his fight for Native Americans and the environment that began at the height of his stardom.

In the mid-1970s, around the same time he was appearing in such blockbusters as “The Sting” and “The Way We Were,” he immersed himself in the emerging environmental movement. He successfully opposed a power plant being built in his adopted state, Utah, and lobbied for the landmark

bill the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. He also joined the board of the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council, where he remained a guiding force up to his death.

“His legacy was extraordinary,” says NRDC CEO and President Manish Bapna. “One of the things that was most extraordinary about him was that he understood the power of storytelling. He could talk about climate change and the toll it was inflicting on people and communities - the fisherman coping with rising seas, a family fleeing for their lives from a raging wildfire. He would record messages, give talks or speak in front of Congress.”

Bapna last saw Redford a few months ago, when they dined in New York City.

“He chose his words carefully, and every word he said was profound. He said we must continue to find ways to tell stories that reach people,” Bapna said.

Redford had a longtime affinity for the environment. After growing up in Southern California in the 1930s and ‘40s, he was disheartened to see Los Angeles transform after World War II into a mecca of pollution and traffic jams. In the early 1960s, when he came upon Provo Canyon, Utah, during a cross-country motorcycle trip, he was so awed and invigorated by the landscape that he eventually settled in the area.

Entertainers over time have come to identify and, be identified with, a given cause: Harry Belafonte and civil rights, Paul Newman and nuclear disarmament, Jane Fonda and the Vietnam War. Redford, as much as anyone, helped make the environment an issue for the Hollywood elite, whether for Fonda or Julia Louis-Dreyfus or Leonardo DiCaprio, a fellow NRDC board member who called Red-



Robert Redford poses for a portrait during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, on Jan. 21, 2010. (AP)

ford’s death “a huge loss to our community” and cited his legacy an actor and activist.

“More so than anything, he was a staunch environmental leader,” DiCaprio said Monday.

In 2013, Redford joined with then-Gov. Bill Richardson to create the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife to fight efforts by a Roswell, New Mexico, company and oth-

ers to slaughter horses. The following year, the foundation reached an agreement with the Navajo Nation to manage thousands of wild horses on the reservation and keep the animals from being sent to slaughter houses.

For Redford, the wild horse was representative of the American West. His advocacy also was channeled through the nonprofit group Return to Freedom, Wild Horse Conservation. The group posted on social media Tuesday that they were heartbroken.

“We have all lost an irreplaceable artist, activist and environmentalist,” said Neda DeMayo, founder of RTF. “Robert Redford was and is an iconic and inspiring human being forever interwoven with the beauty and majesty of the West. I feel very grateful to have known him and to have had his support.”

Redford’s activism extended to some of his film projects, whether the probes of the political system in “All the President’s Men” and “The Candidate” or the drama “The Milagro Beanfield War,” in which a local resident fights a real estate mogul for control of his land. His final work was “Dark Winds,” an AMC show that premiered in 2022 and is based, like “The Dark Wind,” on the fiction of Tony Hillerman.

John Wirth, the series showrunner, said that “Dark Winds” wouldn’t exist without Redford, who served as an executive producer and appeared in a short cameo that aired earlier this year. The show, Wirth said, gives audiences a look into the Navajo community, with actors and writers largely holding Native identities.

Redford “endeavored to give people a shot at making art, you know, where they maybe hadn’t had the ability to have access to mainstream media.”

Obituary

Monkees’ hitmaker

Songwriter Bobby Hart passes away

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): Songwriter **Bobby Hart**, a key part of the Monkees’ multimedia empire who teamed with Tommy Boyce on such hits as “Last Train to Clarksville” and “I’m Not Your Steppin’ Stone,” has died. He was 86.

Hart died at his home in Los Angeles, according to his friend and co-author, Glenn Ballantyne. He had been in poor health since breaking his hip last year.

Boyce and Hart were a prolific and successful duo in the mid-1960s, especially for the Monkees, the made-for-television group promoted by Don Kirshner. They wrote the Monkees’ theme song, with its opening shot, “Here we come, walkin’ down the street,” and enduring chant, “Hey, hey, we’re the Monkees,” and their first No. 1 hit, “Last Train to Clarksville.” The Monkees’ eponymous, million-selling debut album included six songs from Boyce and Hart, who also served as producers and used their own backing musicians, the Candy Store Prophets, as session players.



Hart

“I always credit them not only with writing many of our biggest hits, but, as producers, being instrumental in creating the unique Monkee sound we all know and love,” the Monkees’ Micky Dolenz wrote in a foreword to Hart’s memoir, “Psychedelic Bubblegum,” published in 2015.

As Boyce and Hart grew in fame and the Monkees took more control of their work, they pursued their own careers, releasing the albums “Test Patterns” and “I Wonder What She’s Doing Tonite” and appearing on such sitcoms as “I Dream of Jeannie” and “Bewitched.” They also were politically active. They campaigned for Robert F. Kennedy when he ran for president in 1968 and wrote the brassy “L.U.V. (Let Us Vote)” in support of the 26th Amendment, which in 1971 lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. Their other songs included the Monkees’ melancholy “I Wanna Be Free” and the theme to the daytime soap opera “Days of Our Lives.”

They were covered by everyone from Dean Martin (“Little Lovely One”) to the Sex Pistols (“I’m Not Your Steppin’ Stone”).

In the 1970s and ‘80s, Hart managed several hits with other collaborators and even contributed material to another TV act, the Partridge Family. He worked with Austin Roberts on “Over You,” an Oscar-nominated ballad performed by Betty Buckley in “Tender Mercies,” and with Dick Eastman on “My Secret (Didja Gitit Yet?)” for New Edition. He and Bryce toured with Dolenz and fellow Monkee Davy Jones in the ‘70s, put out the album “Dolenz, Jones, Boyce & Hart” and received renewed attention when the Monkees enjoyed a comeback in the 1980s.

Stage



This image released by Polk & Co. shows James Corden during a performance of ‘Art’ at the Music Box Theatre in New York. (AP)

A comedy about friends, power, and modern art

Cannavale, Corden, Harris own ‘Art’ stage

LOS ANGELES, Sept 17, (AP): For evidence of how high inflation has gotten, look no further than Broadway. The fancy painting at the heart of the play “Art” cost the equivalent of \$40,000 in 1998. In a crackling new revival, it’s a hefty \$300,000.

The painting in question is a 4-by-5-foot white-on-white work with white lines. Playwright Yasmina Reza puts it at the center of an escalating fight between three male, middle-aged friends that exposes their fault lines, leading to a night in which each are ripped apart by the others and putting a 25-year friendship in jeopardy.

If \$300,000 sounds like a ridiculous price for a monochromatic canvas, you’ll side with Marc, played with pitch-perfect exasperation by Bobby Cannavale. If the painting speaks to you, you’ll be with Serge, a flinty, slightly full-of-himself Neil Patrick Harris. If you just want to hang out and not talk about the painting any more, you’ll identify with James Corden’s hapless Yvan.

Under Scott Ellis’ tight and enthralling direction and with three perfectly cast actors who seem to be having a ball at the Music Box Theatre, “Art” frequently erupts in laughter but still has plenty to say about friendship,

power dynamics and how we get on each others’ nerves. The 90-minute play opened Tuesday night.

This is the first time “Art,” translated from the original French by Christopher Hampton and which won the Tony Award for best play in 1998 starring Alan Alda, Victor Garber and Alfred Molina, has returned to Broadway, and it feels nothing like an antique. Designer David Rockwell puts the latest three lads in an elegant gray, spare living room that reeks of chilly luxury but also has little personality.

Marc believes that Serge - by buying the Modernist painting against the express aesthetic rules followed by Marc - is indicating that he has stepped out of Marc’s shadow. It is for him nothing less than a betrayal. Serge finds a new intolerance and inflexibility in his friend and a hostility to things new. They both lobby Yvan to be on their side, and when he vacillates, he is declared a spineless amoeba.

“It’s just a picture, we don’t have to get bogged down with it, life’s too short,” says Yvan at one point. But it’s precisely because life is short that even small things matter.

Cannavale’s Marc is prone to outbursts and patting his friend’s shoulders, less out of affection than an expression of dominance. Harris’ Serge goes from needy to flinty to icy, and Corden fills his Yvan with the comedian’s gift for physical comedy, literally plunging into a sofa to search for something or looking sheepish as he buttons a jacket.

A highlight is a hysterical scene in which the three men, still festering their grievances, silently eat olives and drop the pits in a bowl with a loud ting. And Corden triggers a mid-show ovation after nailing a 900-word monster of a monologue that smacks of Mark Rylance doing something similar in the same theater in “La Bête.”

“Art” has never been a discussion about Modern art, despite its title. The white painting is merely the playwright’s way to get at microaggressions and competition among friends, and how seemingly small things - like the way one waves away cigarette smoke or the tone of a suggestion - can fester in the other.

Sure, inflation has hit Broadway tickets, too, but this “Art” is a howl. Bring a friend.

Variety

ATLANTA: A suspect has been arrested in a July auto break-in that a dancer and a choreographer touring with Beyoncé said resulted in the theft of the singer’s unreleased music, Atlanta police said Tuesday.

Police identified the suspect as Kelvin Evans and said he was booked into jail on charges of entering a vehicle with the intent to commit theft and a parole violation. Online jail records for metro Atlanta’s Fulton County did not list an attorney for Evans.

Beyoncé’s choreographer, Christopher Grant, and dancer Diandre Blue were traveling with the singer for concerts in Atlanta when they called police on July 8 to report the break-in. They said someone smashed a window in their rental vehicle and stole two suitcases while they were at a restaurant nearby.

Grant told police he had been “carrying some personal sensitive information” for Beyoncé. The police report said the stolen items included two Apple laptops and five thumb drives that included “unreleased music” along with other digital files related to Beyoncé’s tour.

Atlanta police spokesman Anthony Grant said in an email Tuesday that none of the items have been recovered. (AP)

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NEW YORK: It’s that time of year again. The 2026 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival lineup is here.

Sabrina Carpenter, Justin Bieber and Karol G will head-

line in April 2026.

It is a bit of a full-circle moment for Carpenter. At her 2024 Coachella debut, the singer ended her performance of the song “Nonsense” with an interesting outro. “He’s drinking my bath water like it’s red wine,” she sang. “Coachella, see you back here when I headline.” Talk about manifestation.

Also on the lineup: Addison Rae, David Byrne, Iggy Pop, The XX, The Strokes, Young Thug, Sexyy Redd, Teddy Swims, Moby, Kaskade, Major Lazer, FKA Twigs, PinkPantheress, BIG BANG and many more. Global girl group KATSEYE will perform at the festival for the first time ever.

Fans were quick to notice that the bottom of the festival poster also includes a performance by something called “The Bunker Debut of Radiohead Kid A Mnesia.”

The British rock band Radiohead recently announced tour dates across 20 cities in Europe, their first run in seven years.

Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival returns to the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California, for two weekends: April 10-12 and April 17-19, 2026. (AP)

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BISMARCK, N.D.: Marilyn Hagerty, a North Dakota newspaper columnist whose earnest review of her local Olive Gar-



Carpenter

den restaurant became a social media sensation, died Tuesday. She was 99.

Hagerty died at a hospital in Grand Forks from complications related to a stroke, according to her daughter Gail Hagerty. She remembered her mother as a journalist at heart who was more interested in giving readers an honest assessment of what to expect from a restaurant than in being critical.

Her 2012 Olive Garden piece was “unique and authentic, coming from a grandmother in North Dakota,” Gail Hagerty said.

In the review, she famously wrote in praise of the chain’s chicken Alfredo as “warm and comforting on a cold day.”

“As I ate, I noticed the vases and planters with permanent flower displays on the ledges,” she wrote. “There are several dining areas with arched doorways. And there is a fireplace that adds warmth to the decor.”

It spread on social media and drew national media attention to Hagerty.

“She was everywhere and she loved it and it was a wonderful experience, although she had to ask my brother what does it mean if you go viral. She didn’t know that,” Gail Hagerty said. “She used to say that if you were going to have 15 minutes of fame and if you were 86, you had to do it soon. You couldn’t wait.”

The media attention even drew in famed chef and TV host Anthony Bourdain, who defended Hagerty on Twitter from those who ridiculed her embrace of the Olive Garden chain’s food. He met with her and went on to publish a book of her columns, also writing its foreword. (AP)



Chase Infiniti poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film ‘One Battle After Another’ on Tuesday, Sept. 16, in London. (AP)

‘Giant’ explores a complex person’

John Lithgow to return to Broadway in a Roald Dahl play

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): John Lithgow is returning to Broadway in a play that might change the way we read bedtime stories to our kids.

The two-time Tony Award-winner will star as Roald Dahl in “Giant,” which explores accusations of antisemitism against the beloved writer of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” “Matilda” and “James and the Giant Peach.”

“You go back and read his writing after seeing the play and you see dark strains in it, which you knew were there,” says Lithgow. “But you suddenly see it in a different light when you see this play.”

“Giant,” by director-turned-playwright Mark Rosenblatt, won the Olivier Award earlier this year for best new play in London and earned Lithgow his first Olivier. Performances begin in New York on March 11.

Set over a single afternoon at the Dahl family home in the summer of 1983, “Giant” presents the author on the eve of pub-

lication of his book “The Witches.”

He is facing outcry after making antisemitic comments and Dahl is being forced to choose between making a public apology or risking his name and reputation. .

“He was a loved writer for very good reasons, and it was really only after his death that so much of this information about his antisemitisms came into focus. He was sort of spared the era of cancel culture,” says Lithgow.

The play will arrive in New York amid swirling accusations of antisemitism over the war in Gaza, a debate over cancel culture and questions about the place of politics in children’s literature.

“It’s not a play that wants to tell people what to think. It just invites people to think,” says Rosenblatt, who was inspired to write “Giant” after learning of antisemitism in Britain’s Labor Party.

“It’s a play about a complex person, a complex human being who created some of the great treasures of my childhood and whose work I still read to my own kids,” says Rosenblatt. “I

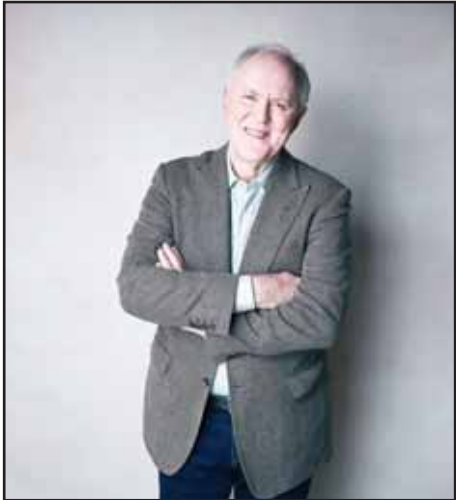
guess it’s asking people in some ways to hold two truths in their heads at the same time.”

The play premiered at the Royal Court Theatre before transferring to the West End. It is directed by Nicholas Hytner and features set designs by Bob Crowley

Variety called it “a powerhouse play whose time has most definitely come.” The Times was equally enthusiastic: “Are we likely to see a more enthralling play in the West End this year? I very much doubt it. In fact, we’ll be lucky to encounter a more thought-provoking piece in the next decade.”

Lithgow - who also is a children’s book author and writes songs for kids - is deep into children’s literature these days. In addition to “Giant,” he’s also signed on to play Albus Dumbledore in HBO’s “Harry Potter” TV series.

“It’s kind of extraordinary that I’ve ended up playing these two characters at such a moment concurrently,” he says. “So here I am doing a variation on a theme.”



John Lithgow poses for a portrait during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, on Jan. 28, 2019. (AP)

Variety

Music

Education

MADRID: Spain joined Tuesday the group of countries threatening not to participate in the Eurovision Song Contest unless Israel is excluded from the competition over the war in the Gaza Strip.

The Netherlands, Ireland and Slovenia had already taken the same stance. Spain’s addition to the list puts more pressure on both Israel and the European Broadcasting Union, which organizes the popular contest.

Spanish public broadcaster RTVE made the decision at a board meeting in Madrid.

The announcement comes as diplomatic ties between Spain and Israel frayed after large protests against the presence of a Israeli-owned cycling team disrupted the Spanish Vuelta race. Spain’s prime minister said Monday that he would like Israel to be banned from sporting events.

The European Broadcasting Union said last week that it was consulting its members on how to “manage participation and geopolitical tensions” around the song contest and would give them until mid-December to decide if they want to participate.

Russia was banned from Eurovision after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, but Israel has continued to compete the past two years despite disputes over its participation.

Eurovision’s finale is scheduled to be held in Vienna in May. (AP)

NEW YORK: Parents whose teenagers killed themselves after interactions with artificial intelligence chatbots testified to Congress on Tuesday about the dangers of the technology.

“What began as a homework helper gradually turned itself into a confidant and then a suicide coach,” said Matthew Raine, whose 16-year-old son Adam died in April.

“Within a few months, ChatGPT became Adam’s closest companion,” the father told senators. “Always available. Always validating and insisting that it knew Adam better than anyone else, including his own brother.”

Raine’s family sued OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman last month alleging that ChatGPT coached the boy in planning to take his own life.

Megan Garcia, the mother of 14-year-old Sewell Setzer III of Florida, sued another AI company, Character Technologies, for wrongful death last year, arguing that before his suicide, Sewell had become increasingly isolated from his real life as he engaged in highly sexualized conversations with the chatbot.

“Instead of preparing for high school milestones, Sewell spent the last months of his life being exploited and sexually groomed by chatbots, designed by an AI company to seem human, to gain his trust, to keep him and other children endlessly engaged,” Garcia told the Senate hearing.

Also testifying was a Texas mother who sued Character last year and was in tears describing how her son’s behavior changed after lengthy interactions with its chatbots. She spoke anonymously, with a placard that introduced her as Ms. Jane Doe, and said the boy is now in a residential treatment facility. (AP)



This cover image released by Interscope Records shows ‘The End Continues’ by Spinal Tap. (AP)

Old rockers almost go to 11

‘The End’ isn’t over for Spinal Tap

LOS ANGELES, Sept 17, (AP): The ostensibly fictitious hard-rock band Spinal Tap has been together, off and on, slightly longer than Katy Perry has been alive, and as of Friday, has released four studio albums and two feature films. Their latest album, “The End Continues,” continues to do what they’ve always done best: delightfully walk the fine line between clever and stupid. Its release coincides with the sequel film, “Spinal Tap II: The End Continues.”

When the mockumentary “This is Spinal Tap” and the accompanying debut album were released in 1984, the idea of a band rocking into middle age still felt mildly ridiculous. Lead vocalist David St. Hubbins (Michael McKean), lead guitarist Nigel Tufnel (Christopher Guest) and bassist Derek Smalls (Harry Shearer) captured the majestic silliness of perpetual rock ‘n’ roll adolescence.

The act has endured through the decades because the core trio remains fiercely committed to the bit. McKean, Guest and Shearer’s lyrics are still ridiculous, but plausibly so, and their musical craft and songwriting skills are legitimate. As Spinal Tap, their earnest belief in the everything-ness of rock ‘n’ roll is at times riotously funny but ultimately endearing.

With members now in their 70s and 80s, the band no longer goes quite all the way to 11, but the album rewards fans with crisp comedic writing, interesting collaborations with rock royalty, and surprisingly direct confrontation with mortality and the ravages of time.

The 13-track release revisits four favorites from the origi-

nal album with a little help from their rock-legend friends. Elton John offers vocals on a straightforward remake of “Stonehenge.” As a pioneer of outrageous rock pageantry, John is the right vehicle to take the song right over the top.

Paul McCartney fittingly takes the lead on the Beatles-inspired remake of “Cups and Cakes.” His chuckle early in the song is a little gift to fans, harking back to a similar laugh on the Beatles’ “Maxwell’s Silver Hammer.”

Husband-wife duo Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood offer the album’s biggest surprise with a raucous country reimaging of their 1984 track “Big Bottom.” Yearwood gamely serves as the butt of half a dozen cheekily offensive couplets. When Brooks calls out, “Talkin’ bout mud flaps,” Yearwood gleefully responds, “Yeah, I got ‘em.”

Age and mortality figure prominently in the nine new songs with titles such as “Rockin’ in the Urn.” The Survivor-inspired synth-rock “Let’s Just Rock Again” opens with the line, “Even though we’re old and gray / This feels like starting over.”

On “The Devil’s Just Not Getting Old,” the band riffs on aging with the relentless energy they once devoted to goofy sexual innuendo. They muse on Satan’s immortality in a few lyrical lines: “He’s not starting to lose his teeth / He’s not starting to eat less beef,” goes one. “He’s not complaining of shooting pains / He’s not having varicose veins,” is another.

Though “The End Continues” lacks some of the raunchy charms of their original release, it will bring joy to many who have laughed and grown older together with the band.



Chef Hilda Baci and her team attempt to cook the world’s largest pot of jollof rice in Lagos, Nigeria, Friday, Sept 12. (AP)

Nigeria sets world record for jollof rice dish

A Nigerian chef has broken the world record for cooking the largest ever pot of jollof rice.

Guinness World Records confirmed the achievement on Monday for the largest jollof rice serving by celebrity chef Hilda Baci.

Baci, who briefly held the world record for the longest cooking marathon in 2023, last Friday prepared a pot of 8,780 kilograms of jollof rice, a popular West African delicacy made from rice cooked in a pepper sauce. The food is a staple across the region.

“It took nine hours of fire, passion, and teamwork,” the chef said after the day-long cooking and serving, which involved a moment of high drama when the huge retrofitted pot collapsed under a crane during weighing.

Guinness World Records said on its official X account that Baci had surpassed the required 4,700 kilograms of rice.

The mountain of rice was distributed to hundreds of onlookers who had come to cheer the chef at upscale Victoria Island. Baci’s marathon cooking challenge in 2023, which spanned 93 hours and 11 minutes, was surpassed in the record books a year later by Irish chef Alan Fisher. (AP)

Meta’s next big leap

Meta expected to unveil new smart glasses at Connect event

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): Meta is expected to show off artificial intelligence-powered smart glasses at its Connect developer conference Wednesday as CEO Mark Zuckerberg continues to evangelize the glasses as the next step in human-computer interactions.

“Last year’s Meta Connect was far less metaverse and far more AI. Expect this year’s event to be virtually dominated by AI, specifically AI glasses and superintelligence,” said Forrester research director Mike Proulx. “While Meta has the head start on AI glasses, competition is chomping at the bit with new entrants.”

The Menlo Park, California-based company teased a prototype for Orion, which Zuckerberg called “the most advanced glasses the world has ever seen,” last year - but these holographic augmented reality glasses are still years away from being on the market.

Instead, analysts expect Meta to show off new smart glasses, likely with a small display controlled by a wristband the user wears.

“While more of an experimentation platform, they should enable consumers to access time, weather, notifications, frame and preview pictures, show captions and translate speeches, allow early integration of Meta’s assets (WhatsApp and Instagram), and display Meta AI responses,”



Mark Zuckerberg wears a pair of Orion AR glasses during the Meta Connect conference on Sept. 25, 2024, in Menlo Park, Calif. (AP)

said Forrester’s Thomas Husson.

Meta is also expected to show off updates to its Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses, which “are likely to have enhanced AI capabilities interpreting the user’s surroundings and context,” the analyst added.

While the company has not disclosed sales figures of the glasses, it said they’ve been more popular than expected, helped by social media creators.

“For more than a decade, Zuckerberg’s long-term vision with Oculus and the Metaverse has been that glasses and headsets will blur the lines between physical and digital worlds,” Husson said. “After many false starts, the momentum to move beyond an early adopter niche is now.”

How teachers can help

Five beliefs that help students learn more

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

By Jerrod Kruse
Drake University

During my years teaching science in middle school, high school and college, some of my students have resisted teaching that educators call higher-order thinking. This includes analysis, creative and critical thinking, and problem-solving.

For example, when I asked them to draw conclusions from data or generate a process for testing an idea, some students replied, “Why don’t you tell us what to do?” or “Isn’t it the teacher’s job to tell us the right answers?”

In other words, my students had developed a strong preconceived notion that knowledge comes from authority. After investigating, my colleagues and I concluded that these beliefs about learning were influencing how they approached our lessons - and thus what they were able to learn.

All students come to class with a range of beliefs about what it means to learn. In the field of education, perhaps the most sought-after belief is what we call having a growth mindset. Students with a growth mindset believe they can improve and continue to learn. In contrast, students with a fixed mindset struggle to believe they can become more knowledgeable about the topic they’re studying. When students say, “I’m bad at math,” they exhibit a fixed mindset.

As teachers, we not only try to help students understand the topic at hand but also aim to instill accurate beliefs about learning so nothing interferes with their ability to take in new information.

Other than the growth mindset, I argue that five other beliefs are particularly important to promote in classrooms to help students become better learners and more prepared for the modern world.

Learning takes time

Some students and teachers equate learning to memorizing.

While memorization has a role in learning, deep learning is about understanding. Students will be well served recognizing that learning is about explaining and connecting concepts to make meaning.

Too much focus on memorizing can hide gaps in learning.

For example, I was once working with a preschool student when they proudly demonstrated their ability to recite the numbers 1 through 20. I then asked the student to count the pencils on the desk. The student did not understand my request. They had not connected these new words to the number concept.

To help students recognize the importance of understanding for learning, teachers and parents might engage students in questions such as, “Why is connecting a new idea to an old idea better than just trying to memorize the answer?” or “Why is an explanation more useful than just an answer?”

Learning is complex and requires challenge

Students’ belief that learning is akin to memorization may reflect a related belief that knowledge is simple and learning should be easy.

Instead, educators want students to embrace complexity and its challenges. Through wrestling with nuance and complexity, students engage in the mental effort required to form and reinforce new connections in their thinking.

When students believe knowledge is simple and learning should be easy, their engagement in higher-order thinking, which is required to embrace complexity and nuance, suffers.

To help students who are struggling grasp a complex idea, teachers and parents might ask questions that help students see why

learning is complex and requires challenge.

When students believe learning is simple and easy, educators should not be surprised they think learning should be fast as well.

Instead, students ought to understand that deep learning takes time. If students believe learning is quick, they are less likely to seek challenge, explore nuance or reflect and make connections among ideas. Unfortunately, many curricula pack so much intended learning into a short amount of time that beliefs in quick learning are subtly reinforced.

While teachers can get creative with curricular materials - and spend more time challenging students to explore complexity and make connections - just spending more time on a concept may not be enough to shift a student’s beliefs about learning.

To help students shift their thinking about the speed of learning, I ask them to discuss questions such as, “Why do you think understanding complex concepts takes so much time?” or “Why would only covering this concept for one lesson not be enough?” With these questions, my colleagues and I have found students start to recognize that deep learning is slow and takes time.

Learning is ongoing

Students should also recognize that learning doesn’t end.

Unfortunately, many students believe learning to be a destination rather than an ongoing process. Yet, because knowledge contains an inherent level of uncertainty, and increased learning often reveals increased complexity, learning must be continuous.

To help students reflect on this belief, teachers and parents might ask their students, “How do you think your knowledge has changed over time?” and “How do you think your learning will change in the future?”

Learning is not only from teachers

I remember one high school student telling me that “teachers are supposed to tell us the answers, so we know what to put on the test.”

This student had apparently figured out the “rules of the game” and was not happy when their teacher was trying to engage them in higher-order thinking. This student was holding onto a transmission model of learning in which learning comes from authority figures.

Instead, students should recognize that learning comes from many sources, including their experiences, their peers and their own thinking, as well as from authority figures.

While teachers and parents may hesitate to undermine their own authority, they do students a disservice when they do not prepare them to question and go beyond authority figures.

To help students shift their thinking, teachers might ask students to consider, “Why might learning from multiple sources help you better understand the complexity and nuance of a concept?”

Building better beliefs about learning

Often, teachers and parents believe opportunities to engage in higher-order thinking are enough to help their students develop better beliefs about learning.

But such beliefs require explicit attention and must be planned for in lessons. This is done by asking reflective questions that target specific beliefs, such as the questions noted in the final sentence of each of the previous sections.

In my experience, the conversations I’ve had with students using the questions noted above are highly engaging. Moreover, helping kids develop more robust beliefs about learning just might be the most important thing teachers can do to prepare students for the future. (AP)

Scientists turn immune defense into ally for cancer drug delivery

How your immune system’s defense could help fight cancer

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



By Tom Anchordoquy

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

When the first cells appeared on Earth approximately 3.8 billion years ago, viruses were already here to greet them. Ever since, viruses have been devising ways to infect cells, and cells have been responding by evolving ways to stop these infections. This evolutionary dance eventually led to the development of your immune system.

A key aspect of your immune system is to distinguish “self” from “nonself” so it can destroy and remove foreign materials from your body. While this immune reaction protects you from viruses, it also has implications for how well foreign materials such as medications work.

I am a researcher studying ways to make drugs work better, including how to get them to the site of disease within the body before being removed or destroyed. One way to do this is to encapsulate drugs in nanoparticles - materials small enough to be taken up by cells. While these materials still trigger an immune response to get them out of the body, scientists like me have found that this reaction could actually be used to improve the effectiveness of cancer treatment.

In addition to detecting pathogens, your immune system also responds to tissue damage. You might observe this reaction as inflammation - such as redness and swelling - when drugs are injected into your body with a needle.

Typically this inflammatory response is minimal. But the potential for a sustained reaction increases when drugs are administered slowly over a prolonged period of time, such as during chemotherapy infusions that can take an hour or more. For this reason, some patients are given anti-inflammatory medications before infusion to reduce the potential for an adverse immune response during treatment.

The most recent breakthroughs in getting drugs into the body is using nanoparticles. These materials - which can be made from lipids, proteins, gold or other components - have the advantage of being very small: The diameter of a typical nanoparticle is about 10-thousandths of a millimeter. Their small size allows diseased cells to easily take them up. So when nanoparticles contain drugs, they can act as a drug delivery system.

Despite being so small, nanoparticles can hold a large number of drug molecules, allowing them to deliver a potent cargo of treatment directly into a cell. They can also deliver drugs made of DNA and RNA. The most well-known example of this technology is the COVID-19 vaccine, which uses nanoparticles made of modified fat molecules to deliver mRNA that teaches the immune system to protect itself against COVID-19 infection.

Your innate immune system also identifies nanoparticles

as foreign invaders when they are injected into your body. As a result, some patients experience an initial inflammatory reaction when the body tries to attack the nanoparticle.

But what if this reaction could actually be used to improve treatment?

For the past 30 years, my laboratory at the University of Colorado has been studying how nanoparticles deliver drugs. More recently, we have focused on understanding how the innate immune system responds to an injection of nanoparticles. While this immune reaction is typically considered a drawback, we wanted to explore whether it could enhance therapy.

In a 2022 study on how nanoparticles affect the immune response in mice, we found that the innate immune response triggered by an initial dose of nanoparticles carrying a drug will also reduce the effects of a second dose if it is injected shortly afterward - typically within days. It does this by clearing the drug out from the body more quickly. This reaction is similar to how an initial viral infection would trigger a short-term protective response against a subsequent infection from another virus.

One critical aspect of this protective effect involves the production of a protein called interferon lambda. This molecule “interferes” with the infection process by restricting viruses from gaining access to different tissues in the body. Researchers have previously tested this protein as a potential antiviral drug to treat COVID-19.

Similarly, the interferon lambda made in response to

the first dose of nanoparticles limits the ability of the second dose to deliver the drug to healthy tissues in the body. However, it did not affect the nanoparticle’s ability to access tumors, possibly because tumors can impair the immune response.

In conventional cancer treatment, chemotherapy drugs are used to kill the tumor. Because these drugs are also toxic to healthy cells, patients often experience side effects such as hair loss, gastrointestinal problems and skin rashes. Using nanoparticles to deliver cancer treatment could help reduce these side effects, and combining them with interferon lambda could allow the nanoparticle-encapsulated drug to stay in the body long enough to have its full effects.

Our team is studying whether directly injecting interferon lambda before chemotherapy with nanoparticles could help limit the amount of drug that ends up in healthy tissues while increasing their concentration in tumors. In an initial test of this strategy in mice with colon cancer, all mice that received interferon lambda saw increased survival time and reduced weight loss. A better understanding of how this effect happens could help researchers eventually test this approach to cancer treatment in human patients.

Scientists have a long way to go in developing nanoparticles that are as efficient as viruses at getting into cells. But our hope is that exploiting an immune response that evolved approximately a billion years ago to prevent viral infections could help reduce the toxic side effects from treatment while improving its effectiveness. (AP)

Authorities warn against misleading drug ads

US FDA takes aim at Hims & Hers and weight loss drugs in advertising blitz

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17, (AP): For the first time, federal health officials are taking aim at telehealth companies promoting unofficial versions of prescription drugs - including popular weight loss medications - as part of the Trump administration’s crackdown on pharmaceutical advertising.



The Food and Drug Administration seal is seen at the Hubert Humphrey Building Auditorium in Washington, April 22, 2025. (AP)

“cease and desist” language. That’s a different approach for the agency, which typically drafts its letters in highly bureaucratic language citing specific FDA regulations.

Hims has been under scrutiny from Washington for some time.

Earlier this year, a Super Bowl ad from the company touted the benefits of its weight-loss medications but didn’t list any of their side effects or potential harms. FDA rules require advertisements to present a balanced picture of drug risks and benefits.

Makary singled out the ad in last week’s Journal of the American Medical Association, calling it a “brazen” example of how advertising is “contributing to America’s culture of overreliance on pharmaceuticals for health.”

Hims and similar companies initially sold cheap generic versions of drugs for hair loss, erectile dysfunction and other health issues. But booming demand for obesity medications opened the door to selling cheaper copies.

The FDA permits so-called compounding, or customized production, when there is a shortage of the official versions of FDA-approved medications.

FDA recently determined that GLP-1 drugs no longer met the criteria for a shortage. That should have ended the compounding, but there is an exception: The practice is still permitted when a prescription is customized for the patient.

Hims and other companies have taken to offering “personalized” dosages and formulations for certain patients, arguing they offer extra benefits.

The FDA also posted separate warning letters to manufacturers of the so-called GLP-1 drugs, taking issue with a 2024 infomercial featuring Oprah Winfrey. Regulators said the 42-minute TV segment from Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk gave a “misleading impression” about the safety of Zepbound, Wegovy and similar “drugs with multiple serious, potentially life-threatening risks.”

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has long been a critic of the pharmaceutical industry, including GLP-1 drugs, and previously suggested Americans can reverse obesity with diet and exercise alone.

A memo signed by President Donald Trump last week directed Kennedy and the FDA to ensure that pharmaceutical ads on TV, social media and other websites are “truthful and non-misleading.”

The new FDA letters each contain



A boy injured in an Israeli attack receives treatment at a hospital in Nabatieh, southern Lebanon, on Sept. 16, 2025. The Israeli military said late on Monday it struck a Hezbollah command site in southern Lebanon, as cross-border tensions persist despite a ceasefire. (Xinhua)

Israel targets hospital

Sick Palestinian kids arrive in UK for medical treatment

LONDON, Sept. 17, (KUNA): The British Foreign Office announced on Wednesday the arrival of the first batch of sick Palestinian children and their families from the Gaza Strip to receive treatment in specialized British hospitals.

In a statement, the office said that the children, who suffer from serious and incurable illnesses, were transferred with their parents from Gaza to Jordan, where security and consular procedures were arranged prior to their arrival in the United Kingdom a few days ago.

It also confirmed that a second batch of sick children and their families will be received in the coming weeks, adding that “no further information regarding these children or their locations in Britain will be disclosed to protect them and their families.”

The statement reiterated the British government’s call on the Israeli occupation to allow Gaza residents to receive essential healthcare, including intensifying medical evacuations and allowing the entry of medicines and supplies into the Strip.

Health authorities in Gaza reported on Wednesday that the Israeli occupation forces struck Al-Rantisi Hospital for Children late Tuesday night.

According to a press statement, the attacks targeted the upper floors of the hospital in three successive strikes,

minutes apart. Authorities condemned the attack, describing it as part of a systematic policy aimed at disabling Gaza’s healthcare system.

Al-Rantisi is Gaza’s only specialized children’s hospital, providing oncology, dialysis, and other critical services such as respiratory and digestive care.

At the time of the strikes, 80 patients were receiving treatment, including four children in intensive care and eight newborns in neonatal care. The bombing forced 40 patients and their families to leave in search of safety, while 40 patients, 12 intensive care cases, and 30 hospital staff remained.

In a separate statement, health authorities said the occupation deliberately blocks the World Health Organization’s (WHO) efforts to deliver fuel to Gaza hospitals.

Palestinian health authorities said that preventing fuel deliveries for hospital generators risks a complete shutdown of services, threatening facilities including Al-Sahaba Medical Complex, the central oxygen station, ambulances, and other hospitals within days.

They stressed that halting the central oxygen station and ambulance services would create a severe health and humanitarian disaster and called on all relevant parties to intervene urgently to ensure safe fuel access for hospitals in Gaza.

Stigma, pain and sleep loss

Eczema linked to higher risk of suicidal thoughts

PARIS, Sept. 17, (AP): A new international study presented today at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress 2025 reveals that adults with atopic eczema (AE) are significantly more likely to experience suicidal thoughts.

As one of the largest global investigations to examine the link between AE and suicidal ideation, the “Scars of Life” study surveyed 30,801 adults across 27 countries in 2024. Among them, 15,223 were adults with physician-confirmed current AE, while 7,968 adults without AE served as controls.

Participants with current AE were grouped by age of AE onset - childhood, adolescence, or adulthood - and completed a detailed online questionnaire capturing sociodemographic information, self-reported suicidal ideation, severity of itch and skin pain, AE severity, and experiences of skin-related stigmatization.

The results showed that 13.2% of adults with AE reported suicidal ideation, compared with 8.5% of adults without AE. All AE subgroups - whether the condition began in childhood, adolescence, or adulthood - had higher odds of suicidal ideation than controls.

Atopic eczema, a chronic inflammatory skin condition affecting more than 200 million people worldwide, is characterized by recurring episodes of dry, itchy and inflamed skin. Beyond the physical symptoms, its impact on mental health is increasingly recognised, with many experiencing anxiety, depression, and social stigma, alongside the daily challenges of managing their condition.

Importantly, the study identified several factors strongly associated with suicidal ideation in adults with AE. Younger adults, particularly those under 30, were more likely to report suicidal thoughts (OR=1.6), as were individuals with obesity (OR=1.29).

Clinical features also played a major role: moderate-to-severe AE doubled the odds of suicidal ideation (OR=2.01), while pruritus (itching), skin pain, and high overall symptom intensity were all significantly associated with increased risk.

Psychosocial and sleep factors further contributed to risk. Adults with suicidal thoughts reported higher levels of stigmatization and more prevalent sleep disorders, with mixed insomnia - difficulty falling and staying asleep - notably linked to suicidal ideation (OR=1.78).

Dr Delphine Kerob, one of the lead researchers, commented, “The results highlight that the effects of atopic eczema are more than skin deep, with suicidal thoughts representing a serious and frequent concern that is often overlooked by healthcare professionals.”

“By identifying the main risk factors behind suicidal ideation in this population, we hope this study will help healthcare professionals better recognise and address these challenges, supporting patients’ overall well-being more effectively.”

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Poultry ban

Pakistan vows to ‘end’ polio

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 17, (Xinhua): Pakistan’s health minister Syed Mustafa Kamal has said that the country was committed to achieving a polio-free nation and protecting children’s health through coordinated and sustained efforts.

“The eradication of polio remains a top national priority, and all available resources are being strategically deployed to achieve this critical objective,” Kamal said at a recent meeting.

Commenting on a polio vaccination campaign during the first week of September, the minister said that a total of 19.8 million children across 81 high-risk districts were vaccinated during the campaign.

Kamal also stressed the importance of strategic communication initiatives to ensure that the campaign message reaches households prior to the arrival of polio vaccination teams, facilitating broader acceptance and coverage.

According to health officials, a total of 74 polio cases were reported in the country in 2024, and 26 new cases have been reported so far this year.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Tuesday warned of an exceptionally high risk of a severe dengue outbreak in the country this season, particularly between Sept. 20 and early December, due to widespread flooding and favorable weather conditions.

In its first dengue alert of the season, the department said dengue risk rises sharply when temperatures stay between 26 and 29 degrees Celsius for several weeks, relative humidity exceeds 60 percent, and rainfall surpasses 27 mm, with effects lasting up to three weeks.

This year, prolonged monsoon rains, river overflows and water releases from reservoirs have inundated large parts of eastern Punjab and southern Sindh provinces, displacing millions and leaving villages submerged. Stagnant water and poor drainage have created highly favorable conditions for mosquito breeding, the department said.

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Bird flu: The Philippines has suspended poultry imports from Argentina following an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the South American country, the Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the ban covered poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen for artificial insemination, citing H5N1 strain’s threat to both animal and public health.

The department directed the Bureau of Animal Industry to immediately halt all applications and the issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances for poultry commodities from Argentina.

The department said bird flu outbreaks have cost the local industry hundreds of millions of pesos and thousands of jobs.

Measles: Namibia’s Ministry of Health and Social Services has declared a measles outbreak in the Opuwo district of northwestern Kunene Region, where 10 out of 20 suspected cases have tested positive, officials said Wednesday.

All patients are in stable condition and no deaths have been reported, Minister of Health and Social Services Esperance Luvindao said in a statement, adding that under Namibia’s national health guidelines, two laboratory-confirmed measles cases out of five suspected are sufficient to trigger an outbreak declaration.

She said the ministry has stepped up its response, which includes strengthened surveillance, intensified public awareness campaigns, and mass vaccination efforts targeting children between six months and 15 years old.

Tools behind Perseverance’s Mars discovery

Mars rovers serve as scientists’ eyes and ears from millions of miles away

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



By Ari Koeppel

Dartmouth College

NASA’s search for evidence of past life on Mars just produced an exciting update. On Sept. 10, 2025, a team of scientists published a paper detailing the Perseverance rover’s investigation of a distinctive rock outcrop called Bright Angel on the edge of Mars’ Jezero Crater. This outcrop is notable for its light-toned rocks with striking mineral nodules and multicolored, leopard print-like splotches.

By combining data from five scientific instruments, the team determined that these nodules formed through processes that could have involved microorganisms. While this finding is not direct evidence of life, it’s a compelling discovery that planetary scientists hope to look into more closely.

To appreciate how discoveries like this one come about, it’s helpful to understand how scientists engage with rover data - that is, how planetary scientists like me use robots like Perseverance on Mars as extensions of our own senses.

When you strap on a virtual reality headset, you suddenly lose your orientation to the immediate surroundings, and your awareness is transported by light and sound to a fabricated environment. For Mars scientists working on rover mission teams, something very similar occurs when rovers send back their daily downlinks of data.

Several developers, including MarsVR, Planetary Visor and Access Mars, have actually worked to build virtual Mars environments for viewing with a virtual reality headset. However, much of Mars scientists’ daily work instead involves analyzing numerical data visualized in graphs and plots. These datasets, produced by state-of-the-art sensors on Mars rovers, extend far beyond human vision and hearing.

Developing an intuition for interpreting these complex datasets takes years, if not entire careers. It is through this “mind-data connection” that sci-



This image provided by NASA shows Perseverance taking a selfie on May 10, 2025. (AP)

entists build mental models of Martian landscapes - models they then communicate to the world through scientific publications.

Five primary instruments on Perseverance, aided by machine learning algorithms, helped describe the unusual rock formations at a site called Beaver Falls and the past they record.

Robotic hands: Mounted on the rover’s robotic arm are tools for blowing dust aside and abrading rock surfaces. These ensure the rover analyzes clean samples.

Cameras: Perseverance hosts 19 cameras for navigation, self-inspection and science. Five science-focused cameras played a key role in this study. These cameras captured details unseeable by human eyes, including magnified mineral textures and light in infrared wavelengths. Their images revealed that Bright Angel is a mudstone, a type of sedimentary rock formed from fine sediments deposited in water.

Spectrometers: Instruments such as SuperCam and SHERLOC - scanning habitable environments with Raman and luminescence for organics and chemicals - analyze how rocks reflect or emit light across a range of wavelengths. Think of this as taking hundreds of flash photographs of the same tiny spot, all in different “colors.” These datasets, called spectra, revealed signs of water integrated into mineral

structures in the rock and traces of organic molecules: the basic building blocks of life.

Subsurface radar: RIMFAX, the radar imager for Mars subsurface experiment, uses radio waves to peer beneath Mars’ surface and map rock layers. At Beaver Falls, this showed the rocks were layered over other ancient terrains, likely due to the activity of a flowing river. Areas with persistently present water are better habitats for microbes than dry or intermittently wet locations.

X-ray chemistry: PIXL, the planetary instrument for X-ray lithochemistry, bombards rock surfaces with X-rays and observes how the rock glows or reflects them. This technique can tell researchers which elements and minerals the rock contains at a fine scale. PIXL revealed that the leopard-like spots found at Beaver Falls differed chemically from the surrounding rock. The spots resembled patterns on Earth formed by chemical reactions that are mediated by microbes underground.

Together, these instruments produce a multifaceted picture of the Martian environment. Some datasets require significant processing, and refined machine learning algorithms help the mission teams turn that information into a more intuitive description of the Jezero Crater’s setting, past and present. (AP)

Storm forces deciding Game 3

Indiana stays alive in playoffs with Game 2 rout of Atlanta

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 17, (AP): Kelsey Mitchell scored 19 points and made four 3-pointers while Aliyah Boston added 15 points to lead the Indiana Fever past third-seeded Atlanta Dream 77-60 to extend their best-of-three series.

Game 3 will be Thursday in Atlanta, which hasn't won a playoff series since 2016. Indiana's last series win came in 2015.

Natasha Howard added 12 points and five rebounds. Mitchell also had four assists and Boston finished with five rebounds and three assists.

Te-Hina Paopao scored 11 points off the bench to lead the Dream, and Rhyne Howard added 10. The Dream fell 25 points short of their regular-season per game average. Allisha Gray added nine points and seven rebounds despite playing through foul trouble and clashing briefly with two fans in the front row midway through the fourth quarter. Both fans were escorted out of the arena by security.

The Fever hosted their first playoff game since 2016 and fed off the energy of another sellout crowd to earn their first postseason win since Oct. 11,



Atlanta Dream guard Rhyne Howard (10) drives in front of Indiana Fever guard Lexie Hull (10) in the first half of a WNBA basketball playoff game in Indianapolis. (AP)

2015, when they beat the Minnesota Lynx 75-69.

It was a stark turnaround from Game 1. As both teams battled serious foul trouble, Atlanta couldn't get the stops it needed - and the Fever took full advantage with its first wire-to-wire playoff win since 2002.

Injury-riddled Indiana started fast, using a 10-2 spurt midway through the first half to take a 30-19 lead, only to see Atlanta cut the halftime deficit to 35-29 courtesy of Gray's 3-pointer to close the second quarter - the Dream's first 3 of the game.

Atlanta continued to rally early in the second half, closing to 40-37 midway through the third quarter.

But behind the tandem of Mitchell and Boston, Indiana answered with seven straight points, closed the quarter on another 7-0 run and opened the fourth quarter on an 8-0 spurt to make it 67-44. The blowout allowed Mitchell and Boston to get some extra rest down the stretch.

Storm 86, Aces 83

In Seattle, Skylar Diggins scored 26 points, including a jumper in the lane with 4.2 seconds left, Nneka Ogwumike had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and the Seattle Storm forced a decid-



Seattle Storm guard Skylar Diggins (4) goes to the basket against Las Vegas Aces forward Cheyenne Parker-Tyus (32) during the first half of Game 2 in the first round of the WNBA basketball playoffs in Seattle. (AP)

ing Game 3 with an 86-83 victory over the Las Vegas Aces.

Seattle won its first playoff game since 2022. The Storm will play at Las Vegas on Thursday for a spot in the WNBA semifinals.

Las Vegas had closed the season on a 16-game winning streak, before winning Game 1 on Sunday.

Bangladesh stays alive in Asia Cup



Bangladesh's Saif Hassan plays a shot during the Asia Cup Cricket match between Bangladesh and Afghanistan at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

Afghanistan needs to beat Sri Lanka

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 17, (AP): Bangladesh notched a thrilling eight-run victory over Afghanistan in a must-win game and stayed alive for the Super 4 stage of Asia Cup.

Afghanistan now needs to beat Group B leader Sri Lanka in its last group game as three teams are still in contention to get the final two spots for the next round.

Bangladesh spinners Nasum Ahmed (2-11) and Rishad Hossain (2-18) stifled Afghanistan's top-order batters before left-arm fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman (3-28) knocked out the tailenders in the death overs to bowl out the opposition for 146 off the final ball.

Earlier, Afghanistan slow bowlers also squeezed Bangladesh in the middle-overs with Noor Ahmad and



Afghanistan's Rashid Khan bowls a delivery during the Asia Cup Cricket match between Bangladesh and Afghanistan at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

captain Rashid Khan sharing four wickets for 49 runs and restricted them to 154-5.

Bangladesh's ploy to field Nasum in place of Mahedi Hasan worked out perfectly as the left-arm spinner trapped Sediqullah Atal leg before wicket off the very first ball with the new ball and went on to bowl a wicket maiden over.

Nasum's three overs in the powerplay pinned down Afghanistan to 27-2 as he also accounted for the wicket of Ibrahim Zadran, who struggled for 12 deliveries and could score only 5.

Top-scorer Rahmanullah Gurbaz (35) held one end up, but Rishad's two quick wickets saw Afghanistan slipping to 62-4 by the halfway stage as Gurbaz swept straight to backward square where Jaker Ali took a well-judged catch.

Afghanistan had lost half of its side for 77 runs in 13 overs when Mohammad Nabi (15) played Mustafizur back onto his stumps. With the run-rate climbing to over 11-an-over Azmatul-

lah Omarzai took 20 run in one over of off-spinner Saif Hasan (0-39).

Azmatullah holed out to Saif after scoring a rapid 30 off 15 balls and Rashid briefly challenged Bangladesh with a quickfire 20 off 11 balls before Mustafizur had him caught at short third in the penultimate over.

With 22 needed off the final over, Noor smashed two straight sixes to Taskin Ahmed (2-34) but holed out at mid-off of the final ball.

Tanzid Hasan's brisk 52 off 31 balls formed the cornerstone of Bangladesh innings.

Saif and Tanzid gave Bangladesh a strong start of 63 runs off 40 balls. Bangladesh was set for a strong finish when it reached 87-1 in 10 overs, but the middle overs of Noor and Ahmad pulled them back.

Saif fell soon after the powerplay when he missed a sweep against Rashid and was clean bowled while Tanzid holed out to Ibrahim at long-off in the 13th over as Afghanistan went on to concede only 30 runs in the death overs.

Hawks trade Bufkin to Nets

‘European Basketball League could tip off in 2027 or 2028’

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): A new basketball league based in Europe that the NBA and FIBA are working together to launch could begin play in 2027 or '28, though no timeline has been finalized, says NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

Speaking at a conference hosted by Front Office Sports, Silver called a 2027 start "ambitious, no doubt about it" given the issues that still need to be addressed but did not rule out that possibility.

He reiterated previous comments that the timeline could be two to three years, pointing out that existing arenas across Europe could be used at the beginning until more modern infrastructure is built up.

"I don't think I'd want to go much longer than '28," Silver said. "The opportunity is now to do something like this."

Silver earlier this year said getting the league off the ground closer to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 might make more sense.

The NBA and FIBA, the sport's global governing body, announced plans in March to pursue a new European league - ending years of speculation about when or if such a move would happen. The process has been moving rapidly and a substantial move was made last month with the NBA brought on JPMorgan Chase and Raine Group to advise on finances and strategy going forward.

Silver said he and Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum had positive meetings with political leaders, teams, media companies, possible investors and other stakeholders across Europe, while work continues in the league office to make the project happen.

"I would say I'm enthusiastic about it," Silver said.

Early plans call for the new league to have 16 teams, though that number could change. Existing European clubs like Real Madrid, Fenerbahce Istanbul and Barcelona are likely to figure into the NBA's plans for the new league, along with other top soccer brands like Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain.

The Brooklyn Nets acquired guard Kobe Bufkin from the Atlanta Hawks for cash considerations, the teams announced Tuesday.

Bufkin played in just 27 games because of injuries since Atlanta drafted him out of Michigan with the No. 15 pick in 2023. He averaged 5.0 points, 2.0 rebounds and 1.6 assists.

Bufkin broke his thumb and appeared in 17 games as a rookie. He made 10 appearances last year before having season-ending shoulder surgery.

He joins a crowded backcourt in Brooklyn. The Nets used three of their five first-round picks to draft guards, taking Russian Egor Demin of BYU at No. 8, Frenchman Nolan Traoré at No. 19 and Israeli Ben Saraf 26th overall.



Ireland's Ruth Campbell, top, wins a line out against France's captain Mane Feleu during a Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 quarterfinal match between France and Ireland, in Exeter, England. (AP)

2 suspended France forwards to miss rugby World Cup semifinal

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): France captain Manu Tuilagi and flanker Axelle Berthoumieu will miss the Women's Rugby World Cup semifinal against England after failing to overturn their suspensions.

The double blow to France's title hopes followed Berthoumieu's nine-match ban for biting and Feleu's three-match ban for a dangerous tackle in their 18-13 quarterfinal win over Ireland on Sunday in Exeter.

Both players appealed their suspensions, and Berthoumieu got hers reduced from 12 weeks to nine because of her admission, clean disciplinary record, remorse and public apology.

Feleu's original ban was upheld.

The French forwards will miss the semifinal on Saturday in Bristol and the rest of the World Cup.

Feleu has been one of France's best at her second World Cup. One of her suspended games will be cut if she completes World Rugby's tackle school.

Berthoumieu admitted to biting the arm of Ireland's Aoife Wafer in a ruck. The initial disciplinary committee said that from video footage "the player appeared to nudge Ireland No. 7's forearm twice before she bit her, suggesting an intention to bite the Ireland player, and two opportunities to stop and not continue with a bite not taken by the player."

While the incident was picked up on video review during the game, Berthoumieu was allowed to play on.

World Cup competition director Yvonne Nolan defended the Television Match Official's failure to rule on the incident at the time.

"These types of incidents are notoriously difficult to deal with in game, so I recognize that people will review screenshots and so on and have their own views but I would caution that these incidents are really rare," Nolan said Tuesday at the tournament's weekly press conference.

"I don't think I've ever seen a biting incident being dealt with in game. They almost always require additional information after the game, so that usually includes interviews with the player," Nolan added. "It includes ruling out things like accidental contact. They also need to establish the force of the contact, so a detailed statement from the player is typically needed."

The process also entails inspection of the wound.

"Sometimes even dental evidence becomes relevant," Nolan said. "So I would just say a word of caution that jumping to a conclusion on removing a player ... unless the evidence is really categoric in game it can be extremely challenging. And that's what the citing process is for. The right process has been gone through."

Team involved in 26 transfers over the summer

Leipzig hopes to recover 'lost DNA' after failing to qualify for Europe since promotion to Bundesliga

BERLIN, Sept 17, (AP): After missing out on European qualification for the first time since its promotion to the Bundesliga, Leipzig has torn up its squad and started again.

The Red Bull-backed club was involved in 26 transfers over the summer after hiring a new head coach and three assistants among 12 changes to the coaching setup.

Players like Xavi Simons, Benjamin Šeško, Mohamed Simakan, and Lois Openda all left the club - reportedly generating almost 200 million euros (\$237 million) - while arrivals including Conrad Harder, Arthur Vermeeren, Johan Bakayoko, Andrija Maksimović, Yan Diomande and Brazilian forward Rômulo among others took the club's spending to 136 million euros (\$161 million), according to Transfermarkt.de.

The man responsible, Leipzig sporting director Marcel Schäfer, acknowledged Tuesday before the Europa League until its seventh-place finish last season.

"It should be a motivation for us to go the extra mile for qualifying next season," Schäfer said in an online media call.

New coach Ole Werner, hired by Leipzig after he was fired by Werder Bremen for refusing to sign a contract extension, has overseen a promising start with three wins from four games including the German Cup, even if the loss was a chastening 6-0 rout at Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga's opening game. Bayern's subsequent performances indicate the defending champion is already



Mainz' Dominik Kohr, right, and Leipzig's Johan Bakayoko, left, challenge for the ball during FSV Mainz 05 and RB Leipzig soccer match between FSV Mainz 05 and RB Leipzig in Mainz, Germany. (AP)

playing at higher level to the rest.

In contrast to previous years, none of Leipzig's signings came from sister clubs, but Red Bull's head of global soccer, Jürgen Klopp, did play a role in convincing players to join.

"To be honest, maybe we lost a little bit of our DNA," Schäfer said of his rebuilding job. "So the profile we looked for was definitely young, hungry and high potential. We're looking for a team who plays high intensity with the ball, but especially a high intensity against the ball. And of course, you need some skills for that, you need profiles, you need the right mentality for that. That for us was the main target. We want to see Red Bull soccer."

While Leipzig's model was previously built on developing promising young talents, Schäfer acknowledged greater competition to sign that player profile from the likes of Eintracht Frankfurt, Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund. The latter notably beat Leipzig for the signature of a young Erling Haaland from Red Bull Salzburg in 2019.

"The competition is hard," Schäfer said. "Five to six years ago, there were just a few clubs who really focused on young, hungry, high potential players and developed them. Now, even the top teams in England, they try to sign the best talents in the world and the best talent in Europe."

Fans eager to see more from foreign signings

Qadsia looks to build momentum against Shabab as Kazma eyes back-to-back wins

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The second round of the Zain Premier League continues today with two key matchups. Kazma meets Tadamon at the Friendship and Peace Stadium at 6:15 p.m., while Qadsia takes on Shabab at 8:30 p.m. in Al-Ahmadi.

Kazma will be aiming for back-to-back victories after edging Salmiya 1-0 in the opening round through a goal from star forward Mishal Al-Shamari. Although Salmiya played with several key absences, the “Oranges” failed to fully exploit the

situation but still secured an important three points. This season, Kazma hopes to avoid the slow starts of previous years and keep their title ambitions alive for a championship they haven’t won in a long time.

Tadamon, meanwhile, looks to recover from a 3-1 defeat to defending champion Kuwait Club in their opener. Despite the setback, the “Farwaniya Blues” impressed with their competitiveness and managed to match the champions for long periods of the game.

In the later clash, Qadsia will seek another strong performance after its 4-0 rout of Al-Nasr, with fans eager to see more from foreign signings Victor Lekhal of Algeria and Neeskens Kebano of Congo.

Lekhal struggled to make an impact in his starting debut, while Kebano came off the bench late and impressed with his flair, though still short of full fitness.

Egyptian star Mahmoud Abdel-Moneim “Kahraba” stole the spotlight in that match, scoring once and assisting twice. However, Qadsia remains without Libyan Mohamed Soula, Abdulaziz Wadi, and Muath Al-Dhafiri through injury, along with suspended Algerian defender Soufiane Bouchar.

Shabab, on the other hand, will try to bounce back from its 2-0 loss to Al-Arabi. The “Sons of Al-Ahmadi” looked flat in its opener, struggling to pose a real threat despite some attacking attempts.



Qadsia players rejoice after finding the net.

Kuwait through to main round



Kuwait player unleashes a powerful shot on goal during the match.

Kuwait Club stays unbeaten with fourth win

AMMAN, Sept 17: Kuwait’s junior handball team advanced to the main round of the inaugural Asian Championship in Jordan after a narrow 30-31 loss to Bahrain in their second Group A match. Despite the defeat, Kuwait’s Naif Al-Ajmi was named the game’s best player.

The team had opened the tournament with a dominant 48-21 win over Hong Kong, securing second place in the group alongside Bahrain and moving on to the next stage.

To prepare for the Asian Championship, the team held an overseas training camp in Croatia and Slovenia, followed by a local preparation period. The squad of 18 play-



Kuwait Club celebrates its victory.

ers includes Hussein Al-Ostadh, Mohammed Jabara, Naif Al-Ajmi, Faisal Al-Anzi, Abdulhadi Mohammed, Ahmed Al-Mudhn, Hussein Awad, Omar Madwa, Mohammed Al-Farhan, Fahad Al-Mahboub, Saqr Al-Obaid, Yasser Dashti, Ali

Al-Hindal, Othbi Yalous, Mohammed Salmeen, Zaid Al-Otaibi, Badr Al-Saleh, and Ahmed Al-Shamari. The team is coached by Ivan Dragic with assistance from Khaled Al-Mulla, while the delegation is headed by Khaled Taleb, Treasurer

of the Handball Federation.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club claimed its fourth victory in the 40th Arab Handball Clubs Championship, defeating Syria’s Al-Shabab 33-19. Saif Al-Adwani earned Player of the Match honors.

Kazma defeated Al-Talee’a (Syria) 39-20, with Saleh Al-Ragheb earning the best player award. The win secured second place for Kazma in Group A, setting up a clash with the likely third-place team from Group B, Al-Sulaibkhat, in what will be the tournament’s second Kuwaiti derby. Kuwait Club will face the fourth-place team from Group B, either Al-Nawaeer or Qatar SC.

Through the preliminary round, 903 goals were scored at a 58.5% success rate. Kazma’s Mohammed Farad ranked third among the top scorers, while Kuwait Club’s foreign player Victor finished fifth. Goalkeeper Hassan Safar of Al-Ameed earned second place in best saves, making 14 crucial stops.

Warriors fall to Stars as Ice Stars make debut

Kuwait IHL begins with five teams



A hockey team presses forward while the opponents scramble to defend.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): The 2025–2026 season of the Kuwait Men’s Ice Hockey League got underway, featuring five teams. The tournament is organized by the Kuwait Winter Games Club and is being held at the club’s rink in Bayan, running through March next year.

Last season’s runners-up, Stars, opened the season with a thrilling 10-8 victory over defending champions Warriors. Both teams delivered strong performances across all three periods, but Stars managed to secure the win in their bid to reclaim the title.

Other participating teams include Mushads, Camels, and Ice Stars, the latter making their debut in the league. Matches are held



Al-Ajmi

twice weekly, and the championship will be awarded to the team that accumulates the most points by the end of the season.

Fahad Al-Ajmi, President of the Winter Games Club, described the league as the official launch of the club’s sporting season, which will include tournaments for other sports under the club’s supervision for men and women across various age groups.

Al-Ajmi also highlighted the participation of professional players in this edition, noting that their presence will help elevate the skill level of Kuwaiti players and provide valuable experience that will benefit the national team in upcoming international competitions.

He added that the club places great importance on local tournaments as they lay the foundation for preparing athletes for international events. All matches are conducted under the rules and regulations of the International Ice Hockey Federation, officiated by certified Kuwaiti referees.

Mourinho touted as next Benfica coach

LISBON, Portugal, Sept 17, (AP): Benfica fired coach Bruno Lage after the team’s home loss to Qarabag in the Champions League, and José Mourinho was quickly touted as the top candidate to replace him.

Benfica president Rui Costa announced the decision to part ways with Lage after the league-phase loss in which Benfica squandered a two-goal lead in front of its fans.

Costa cited the club’s poor results recently. Benfica was coming off a disappointing 1-1 home draw against 10-man Santa Clara in the Portuguese league on Friday.

“We’ve reached an agreement with Bruno Lage and he is not our coach anymore,” Costa said. “We feel it’s time for a change. It was a tough week for all Benfica fans after the games against Santa Clara and Qarabag. We are not out of any competition yet, but we feel it’s time to change.”

Costa said he expected to announce a

new coach in time for the team’s league match in Vila das Aves on Saturday.

Portuguese media said Mourinho was set to take over the club. His time with Fenerbahce ended last month after the Turkish club was eliminated by Benfica in a qualifying playoff of the Champions League.

Mourinho won the Champions League with Porto, Benfica’s main rival, in 2004. He also won the top European club competition with Inter Milan in 2010.

Mourinho has not coached in the main stage of the marquee competition for six seasons, though. He won the third-tier Conference League with Roma in 2022 but his time at the Italian club from 2021-24 was marked by squabbles that resurfaced in his brief and chaotic spell in Turkey.

Mourinho started his coaching career at Benfica but lasted only three months in 2000 before leaving in a contract dispute with the board of directors.

Martinez nets decisive goal for Racing

Messi sparks Inter Miami to victory

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Sept 17, (AP): Lionel Messi had a goal and an assist as Inter Miami beat Seattle 3-1 on Tuesday night just over two weeks after losing to the Sounders in the Leagues Cup final.

The Sounders beat Inter Miami 3-0 in the Leagues Cup on Aug. 31, but Messi assisted a wide open Jordi Alba with an outside-of-the-foot pass in the 12th minute to give the Herons early command on Tuesday.

Messi nearly doubled the score in the 28th minute when he received a ball over the top and once again tried to execute using the outside of his left foot, but the shot hit off the post.

Alba returned the favor in the 41st minute, assisting a darting Messi who got just enough of a touch to make it 2-0.

“I’m always looking for him (Messi), he’s always looking for me. We’ve created a lot of goals and we hope it’s like that until the end of



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (10) runs with the ball as Seattle Sounders midfielder Kim Kee-hee (20) and midfielder Snyder Brunell, right, defend during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

our careers,” Alba said.

Ian Fray headed home Rodrigo De Paul’s corner in the opening minutes of the second half to ex-

tended the Herons’ lead to 3-0.

“It was definitely a little extra motivation. After losing a game like that, you don’t forget it,” Fray said

reflecting on the rematch win.

Obed Vargas found the back of the net for Seattle’s goal in the 69th minute, as the Mexican international scored on his country’s independence day.

Inter Miami was again without Luis Suárez who served the second game of his three-match MLS ban for spitting on a member of the Sounders’ coaching staff in the Leagues Cup Final.

□ □ □

Adrian Martinez’s goal lifts Racing over Velez Sarsfield in Copa Libertadores quarterfinal.

Adrian Martinez scored a second-half goal as Racing edged Velez Sarsfield 1-0 in the first leg of their Copa Libertadores quarterfinal series.

The striker, “Maravilla” Martinez, scored in the 53 minute for Racing, a club that is aiming for its second Copa Libertadores title, and first since 1967.

are progressing in the right way that I want,” he said.

Crystal Palace also needed spot kicks to advance to the fourth round - in its case against second-tier Millwall, which equalized in stoppage time to make it 1-1 and force a penalty shootout.

Palace won 4-2 after two saves from Argentine goalkeeper Walter Benítez.

U.S. international Chris Richards gave Palace the lead in the 72nd and also converted one of the penalties in the shootout.

Palace hasn’t lost any of its last 16 games in all competitions - a run that includes wins in the FA Cup final and the Community Shield.

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): Aston Villa’s miserable start to the season continued with elimination from the English League Cup on Tuesday.

Unai Emery’s team was beaten 4-2 by Brentford in a penalty shootout in the third round, after a 1-1 draw in regulation time.

Villa, which reached the Champions League quarterfinals last season, hasn’t even scored a goal in its first four Premier League games this campaign - one of which was a loss at Brentford last month.

Returning to the Gtech Community Stadium, Villa at least found the net for the first time this

season - through recent signing Harvey Elliott after a defensive error in the 43rd minute - but Aaron Hickey replied with a fierce volley in the 57th to take the match to penalties.

Brentford goalkeeper Håkon Valdimarsson made two saves, from John McGinn and Matty Cash, before Denmark playmaker Mikkel Damsgaard stroked home the clinching penalty.

Villa has lost its first match in the League Cup in four of the last five seasons but Emery was encouraged by this latest display.

“We have some new players and we have some issues getting balance in the squad and now we

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NEWS



United States' Katie Moon celebrates after winning the women's pole vault final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait padel teams claim convincing wins Kuwaiti gymnastics team begins campaign



The men's team pose for a group photo.

DOHA, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's padel teams recorded impressive victories at the 2025 Gulf Padel Championship in Qatar, which features participation from all GCC countries. In the women's category, Kuwait defeated Qatar 3-0, while the junior team secured a 3-0 win over Bahrain. The men's team also dominated Oman with the same 3-0 score line. The winning women's squad included Dalal Al-Qannai, Rahab Behbehani, Noor Hasan, Mariam Al-Sarraj, Zainab Sarakhoo, and Sarah Behbehani. The junior team featured

Ziyad Tifoni, Yaqoub Zainal, Ali Ma'youf, Suleiman Qabazard, Fahad Al-Husian, and Hashem Al-Mazroui. The men's lineup comprised Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi, Mohammed Abdul, Hamoud Al-Jandee, Hussein Shams, Talal Al-Abdullah, and Ahmed Rabie. The championship is contested across three main categories - men, women, and juniors - highlighting the growing popularity of padel in the region. Matches are played in a league format, with each team competing in three games and needing to win at least two to secure the match.



The Kuwaiti artistic gymnastics delegation.

CAIRO, Sept 17: The Kuwaiti artistic gymnastics team is participating in Egypt International Championship, which begins today, and runs through September 22. The delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday, led by Fahad Al-Soula, President of both the Kuwaiti and Arab Gymnastics Federations. The squad includes gymnast Abdullah Behbehani, gymnasts Fareeda Al-Shalfan, Fatima Al-Nama, and Dana Hussein, along with team manager Dhiaa Al-Shammari. Also accompanying the team are referees Bader Al-Kandari and Rabab Al-Hares, as well as coaches Vitaly

Arseniev and Mostafa Al-Shafie. Participation in the Pharaohs Championship is part of the federation's strategy to prepare athletes, enhance their technical skills, and expose them to different levels of competition ahead of upcoming continental and international tournaments. Recognized for its strong reputation and broad participation, the Pharaohs International Championship represents a key milestone in Kuwait's gymnastics calendar, helping develop athletes' abilities and boost their readiness for major future events.

Madrid becomes first club to reach 200 wins in Champions League era



Dortmund's Julian Ryerson, left, fights for the ball with Juventus' Kenan Yildiz during a Champions League soccer match between Juventus and Borussia Dortmund in Turin, Italy. (AP)

Arsenal subs deliver; Dortmund and Juventus play thrilling 4-4 draw

MADRID, Sept 17, (AP): Kylian Mbappé converted two penalties, and 10-man Real Madrid came back to beat visiting Marseille 2-1 on the opening night of the Champions League. The victory meant that 15-time champion Madrid became the first team in competition history, since the rebranding in the early 1990s, to reach 200 wins. And it gave former Madrid playing standout Xabi Alonso a victory in his Champions League debut as the club's coach. Timothy Weah put visiting Marseille ahead early on, but Mbappé struck back from the penalty spot in the 29th and 81st. The first penalty came after a foul on Rodrygo, and the second was for a handball by a defender. Mbappé now has 50 goals in 64 matches with Madrid. "We are happy that he keeps scoring goals and has been feeling more and more comfortable," Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde said of the France star. "Our job is to make sure the ball gets to him and that he can have even more scoring opportunities than he is having now." Madrid captain Dani Carvajal was sent off in the 72nd for headbutting Marseille goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli.

Weah - a United States international and the son of former Ballon d'Or winner George Weah - was set up by Mason Greenwood, who stripped Madrid's Arda Guler near midfield. Trent Alexander-Arnold's Champions League debut for Madrid lasted only five minutes. The England defender was replaced by Carvajal because of an apparent muscle injury. Spanish police clashed with Marseille fans before the match, but the situation was controlled quickly. An early own goal from goalkeeper

Luiz Junior gave Tottenham a 1-0 win over visiting Villarreal. Borussia Dortmund and Juventus drew 4-4 in Turin. Juventus substitute Dusan Vlahovic scored one goal in stoppage time and then set up the equalizer for English defender Lloyd Kelly. Qarabag came from two goals down to win 3-2 at Benfica. In the second season of the new league-phase format, the top eight teams advance to the round of 16. The next 16 teams enter a two-leg playoff,

with eight advancing. Viktor Gyokeres was off target in his Champions League debut for Arsenal. The London club's substitutes were decisive, though, in a 2-0 win for the Gunners at Athletic Bilbao. Gabriel Martinelli scored less than a minute after he came on, and Leandro Trossard - who had replaced Gyokeres - doubled the lead 15 minutes later. Gyokeres - Arsenal's prized signing, who scored six Champions League goals for Sporting Lisbon last season - missed a golden chance shortly after the break. The Sweden international evaded his marker with ease and rose to meet a well-placed free kick from Declan Rice, but his header went well wide of the target. Martinelli and Trossard also provided the assists on each other's goals. Competition newcomer Union Saint-Gilloise made a memorable debut, as the Belgian club won 3-1 at PSV Eindhoven across the border. The first goal of this season's competition was a penalty kick converted by Canada international Promise David. The penalty was awarded when United States international Ricardo Pepi harshly landed his boot into the leg of Union's English center back Christian Burgess. Goalkeeper Matej Kovar then went the wrong way on the spot kick in the ninth minute.

Furlani grabs maiden long jump world title

Portugal's Nader stuns field to win men's 1,500m at worlds

TOKYO, Sept 17, (Agencies): This year's out-of-nowhere winner of the men's 1,500 meters hails from Portugal. It's Isaac Nader, who ran five wide down the stretch Wednesday night to pull what can only be described as a stunner at world championships, even against a field that lost three of its top contenders long before the finish line. Nader took advantage of a leisurely pace and beat 2022 champion Jake Wightman, who also wasn't expected to contend, by .02 seconds. The winning time: 3 minutes, 34.10 seconds. Reynold Cheruiyot finished third while one of the favorites, Niels Laros, faded at the end and wound up fifth. Another top contender, 2023 world champ Josh Kerr, pulled up lame in the third lap and then finished the race nearly 30 seconds off the pace. The 26-year-old Nader came in ranked eighth in the world and had never placed in a major championship. He was a 50-1 longshot. "It's the same story every year in the 15," Wightman said. "Whoever goes in the favorite always seems to have a bit too much of a target. I don't think one person would have expected Nader to win that." Laros, the 20-year-old from the Netherlands, was considered the odds-on favorite. His chances only got better when the reigning Olympic champ, Cole Hocker, got disqualified for jostling in the semi-finals, and the 2021 Olympic gold medalist, Jakob Ingebrigtsen, came to Tokyo out of form and didn't make it out of the opening heats. Then, Kerr started limping at about the 800-meter mark - leaving Wightman and 2019 champion

Timothy Cheruiyot as the only two racers left with winning experience at the highest level. Laros traded the lead with Timothy Cheruiyot over the first three laps but finished only one spot ahead of his placement at the Paris Games last year, where he was a bit player in a drama involving Kerr, Ingebrigtsen, and Hocker. Nader's biggest win up to now was in the Dream Mile in Oslo in June - a race that didn't feature any of the top names in four-lap races. That probably explained his look of pure shock when Nader looked up at the scoreboard and saw he was finishing first, barely ahead of Wightman, who stumbled to the ground at the finish but came up short. Italy's Mattia Furlani clinched the men's long jump title, leaping a personal best of 8.39 meters. The 20-year-old achieved the winning mark on his fifth attempt to edge Jamaica's Tajay Gayle, the 2019 world champion, who took silver with 8.34 meters, equaling his season's best. China's Shi Yuhao produced a season's best of 8.33 meters for the bronze medal, with compatriot Zhang Mingkun finishing sixth. Katie Moon of the United States clinched her third straight women's pole vault title. Moon, 34, who also claimed Olympic gold at the same National Stadium four years ago, delivered a season's best performance with a 4.90-meter clearance to retain her crown. Her compatriot Sandi Morris, a three-time runner-up at the worlds, had to settle for silver once again after failing at 4.95 meters.



Portugal's Isaac Nader celebrates after winning the gold medal ahead of Britain's Jake Wightman in the men's 1,500 meters final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. (AP)

Yamal to miss Barcelona's CL opener

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 17 (AP): Lamine Yamal will not play in Barcelona's Champions League opener at Newcastle on Thursday because of an injury. The Catalan club said Wednesday that Yamal was not in its squad for the trip to England in the league phase of the Champions League. The star forward had already missed the Spanish league game against Valencia on Sunday. Yamal was nursing "discomfort in the pubic area" after playing with Spain's national team during the international break. Barcelona coach Hansi Flick had said he was upset with Spain for having played Yamal for what he considered unnecessary minutes during big wins in two World Cup qualifiers. Flick accused Spain of being aware that Yamal was feeling discomfort and playing him anyway. The federation said in response to Flick's statements that it had not received any notification from Barcelona that Yamal was injured. Barcelona will have midfielder Frenkie de Jong available. He had also missed the game against Valencia after getting injured with the Netherlands national team during the international break. Barcelona reached the semifinals of last season's Champions League, being eliminated by Inter Milan.