



Kuwait Amir congratulates Saudi King on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable on Monday to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz congratulating him on the Kingdom's National Day.

His Highness Amir praised the historical ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, lauded the Kingdom's development under King Salman's leadership and wished him well-being and continued success.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable on Monday to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz congratulating him on the Kingdom's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished him good health and continued success.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable on Monday to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz congratulating him on the kingdom's National Day.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Saudi National Day an Arab and Islamic Day

THE Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has realized 95 years of achievements, marked by numerous services to its citizens and the future of the Gulf and the Arab world.

Riyadh has always been a loyal supporter of Arab capitals, because its leadership embraced a realistic philosophy based on the principle - "God's hand is with the united community."

While one hand of Saudi Arabia was focused on internal development, the other was extended in cooperation with the Arab nations. Saudi Arabia has gone even further by not turning its back on countries that once opposed it. This is not surprising, as the elder brother embraces the younger, and the wise protect others from their ignorance.

That is why the Palestinian cause has always been at the heart of Saudi Arabia's political doctrine. It has always worked on uniting the Arabs, and rejected reckless revolutionary adventures based on empty enthusiasm that does not reflect reality.

Saudi Arabia chose a path that has contributed to the growing international recognition of the State of Palestine, while some Arab governments and Palestinian leaders clung to empty slogans. These leaders exemplified how those who lack genuine influence often resort to flimsy pretexts to mask their shortcomings.

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Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Head of the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receive representatives of Christian churches in the country.

Amiri Diwan Minister, Head of Crown Prince Diwan receive churches delegation

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and the Head of the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday, the Chairman of the Pastoral Evangelical Church of Kuwait (NECK), Pastor Emmanuel Benjamin Gharib, along with representatives of various Christian churches in the country.

The delegation included representatives of the Catholic Church, the Coptic Orthodox Church, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Greek Catholic Church, the Armenian Orthodox Church, and St. Paul's Church, who extended their congratulations on the officials' recent appointments.

During the meeting, both sides affirmed Kuwait's

longstanding commitment to religious tolerance, freedom of faith, and peaceful coexistence, and emphasized that all residents in Kuwait enjoy the right to practice their religious practices in an environment of security, mutual respect, and harmony, which reflects Kuwait's commitment to the values of tolerance, peace and mutual understanding. (KUNA)

Citizen gets 14 years jail for maid murder, garden burial

Trial postponed for husband accused of killing wife on Eid

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: The Criminal Court on Monday sentenced a citizen to 14 years in prison for murdering an Asian domestic worker.

Case files indicate that the citizen beat the domestic worker to death and then buried her in the garden of his home in Saad Al-Abdullah.

The court affirmed the citizen's responsibility for his actions after referring the case to a psychiatric hospital to assess his mental state.

The court also sentenced the father of the citizen, brother and expatriate wife to one year in prison with hard labor for covering up the crime and failing to report it.

Earlier, the Public Prosecution charged the killer's brother and expatriate wife with covering up the crime and ordered the detention of the killer and several other individ-

uals, including an Asian worker, on charges of violating the sanctity of the deceased and failing to report the incident.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court postponed until October 13 the trial of the man accused of killing his wife in the desert on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr, and a new lawyer was appointed for the accused.

The court made this decision after the defense team of the defendants withdrew from the case and left the courtroom following the pleadings of the Public Prosecution.

In her opening statement, Public Prosecutor Hessa Al-Hamoud emphasized the sanctity of the marriage contract. She pointed out that "the marriage contract is a solemn covenant established by Allah from the seven heavens. It is a sacred bond in which Allah commanded good treatment. However, the accused disregarded this covenant when he committed a heinous crime, taking the life of his wife on a day of joy and happiness.

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Kuwaiti, French Air Forces stage 'Swift Falcon' military drill



Kuwait's Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Sabah Jaber Al-Sabah with French Ambassador Olivier Gauvin and senior military officials.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): Kuwaiti and French Air Forces carried out the joint military exercise "Swift Falcon" at Ahmad Al-Jaber Air Base.

The exercise was attended by Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Sabah Jaber Al-Sabah, French Ambassador Olivier Gauvin, and senior military officials.

In a press statement on Monday, the General Staff affirmed that the drill aims to boost military cooperation and exchange operational expertise between Kuwait and France to enhance combat readiness and joint operational efficiency.

The Deputy Chief of the General Staff stressed the General Staff's commitment to advancing training systems and strengthening ties with friendly nations, praising the participants' high

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HH the PM receives the Ambassador of India.

PM receives Indian envoy

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with India's Ambassador Dr. Adarsh Swaika at Bayan Palace to mark the end of the envoy's term in Kuwait. The talks underscored Kuwait's commitment to deepening cooperation and broadening partnership with India to benefit both nations and their peoples. Sheikh Khalid Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Acting Chief of the Prime Minister's Office, was also present at the meeting. (KUNA)

Kuwait and China forge stronger economic, energy 'collaboration'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Acting Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem said the bilateral relations between Kuwait and China have witnessed significant progress, culminating in the signing of several agreements.

Following his meeting on Monday

with a high-level Chinese delegation led by the First Deputy Governor of Shanghai Province Chen Jining, the minister noted that the talks build on the outcomes of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's 2023 visit to Beijing and his broad cooperation agenda with President Xi Jinping.

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Outrage in Kuwait grows as debt firms 'breach' privacy

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: A number of citizens have complained about the practices of some debt collection companies and law firms contracted by telecommunication and electronic companies.

In a growing phenomenon that is sparking societal and legal controversy, these companies called the relatives of debtors and revealed details of their debts.

Citizens talked about practices they

described as "provocative," as some collection companies resorted to repeatedly calling the telephone numbers of relatives, neighbors and even coworkers to inform them of a client's default. Although these companies have the registered telephone numbers of customers, they called others to pressure debtors psychologically and embarrass them in front of their social circles.

These questions remain unanswered: Where do debt collection companies obtain the data of debtors' relatives?

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Outgoing
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PAFN automates 'health licensing'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced the full automation of its health licensing system, enabling the public to complete their transactions easily online through its website.

PAFN explained that the system covers the issuance and renewal of health licenses for food establishments, licenses for refilling products, replacements for lost or damaged health licenses, and licenses for transporting food products.

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Day by Day

WHY don't cooperative societies take care of landscaping and road maintenance, and provide support to students studying abroad who reside within their geographical areas? These activities fall within the investment scope of cooperative societies.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait's governors coordinate to enhance public services, facilities

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): The governors of Kuwait's six provinces held a meeting on Monday to discuss a range of issues related to security, development, economy, environment, and social affairs, with a focus on improving the quality of public services and facilities.

The meeting was hosted by Farwaniya Governor, Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, who welcomed Assima Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Mubarak Al-Kabeer governor and the Hawally Acting Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah

Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Jahra Governor Hamad Al Habbshi, Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Homoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Director General of the General Directorate for Ministerial Committees and Governorates Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

According to a statement issued by the Farwaniya Governorate, the governors emphasized the importance of their role in following up on ongoing and completed development projects, in line with the directives of Kuwait's

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Farwaniya Governorate photo
The six governors of Kuwait pose for a group photo.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:17	Asr	15:08
Sunrise ..	05:36	Maghrib ..	17:45
Zohr	11:41	Isha	19:02

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather			
with light to moderate northwesterly wind to northerly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	39	30	
Kuwait Airport	40	30	
Abdaly	40	24	

Bubyan	38	22
Jahra	41	30
Fallaka Island	37	27
Salmiyah	37	31
Ahmadi	36	28
Nuwaisib	38	29
Wafra	40	28

Kuwait Amir Representative participates in high-level meeting on 80th UN anniversary

Crown Prince highlights UN support at 80th General Assembly

NEW YORK, Sept 22, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, participated on Monday in the high-level meeting marking the 80th anniversary of the United Nations.

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received heads of Kuwait offices accredited in Washington D.C. on Sunday.

The meeting took place at the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nation in New York in the presence of Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya.

He conveyed to the audience the greetings of His Highness the Amir, appreciating the dedication and exemplary role of the bureau chiefs in representing Kuwait.

Also attending the meeting were Director-General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan for Foreign Affairs Mazen Isa Al-Isa, Assistant Foreign Minister Bader Al-Teneib, Ambassador to the United States Sheikhha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Permanent Representative to United Nations Tareq Mohammad Al-Banai.

Kuwait's Amir Representative His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, underlined on Sunday Kuwait's support to UN vital and critical role.

His Highness the Crown Prince made his remarks during a meeting with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 80th session of United Nations General Assembly.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, affirming Kuwait's support for the important and pivotal role played by the United Nations, and all its various agencies, and programs.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah also expressed his appreciation for the Secretary-General's efforts in developing the organization's work.

During the meeting, the main themes of the UN session were discussed, which coincides with the 80th anniversary of the



Representative of His Highness the Amir of the country, His Highness the Crown Prince, during His Highness's participation in the high-level meeting.

organization's founding, with the participation of leaders and heads of state and government.

His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated the Secretary-General on the UN 80th anniversary, emphasizing that it represents a pivotal moment for renewing the international community's commitment to the process of reforming the United Nations and developing its working mechanisms, enhancing its role in confronting multiple challenges and contributing to consolidating international peace and security and achieving sustainable development for all peoples of the world.

The meeting also addressed the session's agenda and its high-level meetings, most notably the meeting on Palestine and the two-state solution, which will be co-chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of France.

The meeting emphasized the importance of this meeting witnessing advanced steps toward the recognition of the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations by a number of major and influential countries.

For his part, the UN chief praised the historic and effective role of the State of Kuwait in supporting the organization's activities and initiatives aimed at achieving international peace and security and promoting sustainable development efforts.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya; Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan, Mazen Issa Al-Isa, the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, Ambassador Tariq Mohammad Al-Bannai; and members of the official delegation.

Kuwait's Amir Representative His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, congratulated on

Sunday the President of the United Nations General Assembly Annalena Baerbock for gaining the confidence of the international community, wishing her success in her new tasks.

His Highness the Crown Prince affirmed Kuwait's support for her efforts to coordinate among member states, and to address the substantive issues that regularly come up during General Assembly meetings.

His Highness the Crown Prince made his remarks during a meeting with the President of the United Nations General Assembly Annalena Baerbock on the sidelines of the 80th session of United Nations General Assembly.

For her part, Baerbock expressed her deep gratitude and appreciation to the State of Kuwait, its leadership and people, for its outstanding contributions and unlimited support for the United Nations and its technical bodies.

The meeting also tackled the latest developments on the regional and international arenas, as well as the role of the United Nations in establishing the foundations for international peace and security, achieving stability in the Middle East and the world, and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya; Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan, Mazen Issa Al-Isa, the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, Ambassador Tariq Mohammad Al-Bannai; and members of the official delegation.

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received at his place of residence in New York City, Deputy US Secretary of State

Christopher Landau.

The meeting focused on means to boost ties on all possible levels and also touched on the latest regional and international developments.

Present at the meeting were Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Al-Issa, Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington Sheikhha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, and Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN Headquarters in New York Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai.

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at his residence in New York City late Sunday the Mayor of Miami, Francis Suarez.

Present at the reception were Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Al-Issa, Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington Sheikhha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, and Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN Headquarters in New York Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai.

Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met late Sunday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Bader Abdulatty on the sidelines of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The two officials discussed during the meeting ways to boost bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, and the latest regional and international developments.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya took part late Sunday in the GCC FM's coordinative meeting held on the sidelines of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.

The meeting discussed inter-GCC cooperation as well as joint preparations for the international blocs' gatherings on the sidelines of the 80th UNGA.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya participated late Sunday in New York in a ministerial working dinner to discuss efforts for peace in the Middle East.

The function was held at the IPI headquarters in New York, at the joint invitation of President and CEO of the International Peace Institute (IPI) Jordan's Prince Zeid bin Raad Al-Hussein, Prime Minister of Qatar and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas.



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir receives the Minister of Education, who presented to His Highness a report on the ministry's preparations for the new academic year.

Kuwait Amir receives Minister of Education

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei who presented to His Highness the Amir a report on the preparations for the new educational year 2025-2026.

His Highness the Amir was also apprised of some new curricula.

He praised the efforts of the leaders and staffers of the Ministry of Education to meet the needs of school students and foster the talents of a creative generation.



KUNA photo
Part of the memorandum signing ceremony.

Kuwait, Egypt ink MoU on diplomacy, peacebuilding

CAIRO, Sept 22, (KUNA): Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute signed on Sunday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding to enhance joint cooperation in the areas of regional security and diplomatic capabilities.

Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute, Ambassador Nasser Al-Subeih, told KUNA, following the signing ceremony, that this "MoU includes a framework for joint cooperation between the two sides, in the areas of training, research, and knowledge exchange, and focuses on cooperation on key issues including mediation, conflict resolution, women, peace, and security."

Al-Subeih noted that this agreement comes within the framework of joint efforts to enhance security and stability in the Arab region through cooperation in the exchange of expertise and knowledge to serve the common interests of both countries.

Other Voices

Appointments, dismissals of officials and advisors

By Ahmad alsarraf

THE Ministry of Health recently approved the implementation of the "Healthy Cities Program", in line with a community initiative launched by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The initiative aims to enhance the quality of life for residents by integrating health into all aspects of urban life. This includes improving living, working, and educational conditions to ensure community well-being, enhancing collaboration among various sectors and communities to achieve a unified vision, and promoting self-reliance and self-financing for the initiative.

The program will be implemented by registering the city as a member of the "WHO Regional Network of Healthy Cities", following the successful completion and application of the criteria set by the organization.

The criteria include important pillars through which New Kuwait 2035 vision for health can be realized. The program offers effective mechanisms to address complex health challenges that go beyond the capacity of traditional healthcare systems in the country.

It is an ambitious and demanding program, and its success will largely depend on the competence and qualifications of those tasked with managing it. Achieving its goals will not be easy, and one important requirement is full proficiency in English, given the project's collaboration with international organizations.

* * *

Previous governments have repeatedly appointed individuals to various roles, including ministerial positions, only to later discover that the selections were flawed. These issues often stem from political controversies, problematic past positions, or judicial rulings, issued or expected to be issued, that could legally prevent the appointees from assuming or continuing in their posts if found guilty. As a result, many are dismissed either before the appointment process is completed or shortly after taking the constitutional oath.

These missteps have sparked widespread criticism and highlight shortcomings in the selection process. They point to a lack of due diligence by many ministers and advisors, underscoring the need for greater care in choosing candidates based on integrity, qualifications, and competence.

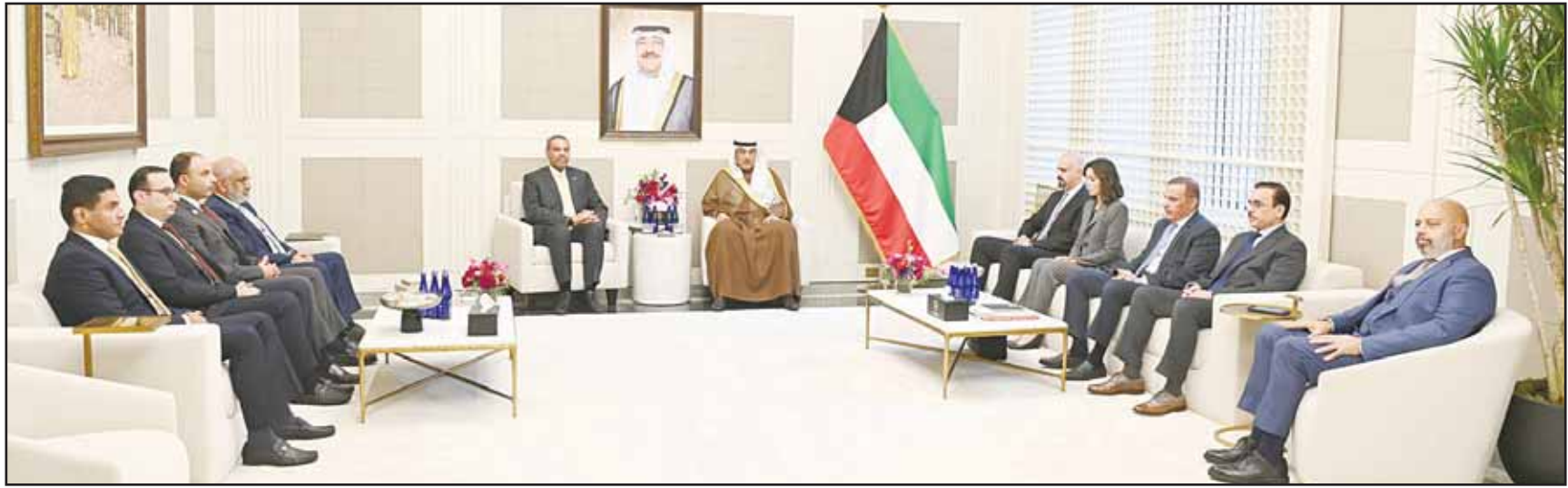
It has been observed that some officials have begun appointing advisors or assistants who not only lack the necessary competence but have also been previously convicted of dishonorable conduct.

This phenomenon recently resurfaced with the appointment of a female doctor to a prominent position. Tweets circulated on social media about some of her political views, which were highly critical of the government. She was subsequently dismissed from her post.

Some supported the dismissal, citing her prior public statements and opinions as offensive to the government. Others saw her Twitter posts as an expression of "freedom of opinion" that did not warrant termination, viewing the ministerial response as an overreaction, especially since it was prompted by demands circulating on WhatsApp.

A third group believed that a minister or government's response to social media posts, if the criticisms are valid, is understandable and not entirely unjustified. This situation highlights the true role of social media, particularly in the absence of oversight bodies such as the National Assembly. What happened underscores the growing influence of public opinion.

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Crown Prince Diwan photos
Representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives in New York the heads of the State of Kuwait's offices accredited to Washington.

Outgoing Indian Ambassador holds farewell 'diwaniya'

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Indian Ambassador Adarsh Swaika held a farewell ceremony at his country's embassy.

Present at the event were a number of dignitaries from various sectors in Kuwait, including Dean of Kuwaiti journalism and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habshi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishaal, and editors-in-chief

of other local newspapers.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the ceremony, Swaika, who will leave on Oct 2 to assume his new position in Kenya, confirmed that he will be taking with him to the African continent the idea of the 'Kuwaiti Diwaniya', which inspired him and which he loves. He made sure to visit the diwanis regularly during his three-year tenure in Kuwait. "We organized a farewell diwaniya for friends to mark my departure from Kuwait. I consider this a beautiful tradition that has always been close to my heart and something I have greatly appreciated over the past three years I spent here," he narrated.

He added "I thought I should say goodbye to Kuwait in a special way by hosting a final farewell party for my Kuwaiti friends in the form of a diwaniya. We did that today. I am very pleased with the diverse attendance from different sectors of Kuwaiti society -- from politics, industry, government, culture and civil society. There were many other figures closely associated with my work. I will take with me the memory of this beautiful diwaniya, as one of the special moments of my tenure in Kuwait. Perhaps, it is nice to organize a similar diwaniya for ambassadors in Kenya. It is a wonderful idea. I will do my best to make it happen."



Top & above: Photos during the outgoing Indian Ambassador's farewell 'diwaniya'.

Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Education on the right track to shape future generations

“FOR the first time, there is a clear action plan for the new academic year, and this deserves recognition and appreciation for the efforts of the Ministry of Education and Minister of Education, Dr. Jalal Al-Tabtabaei,” columnist **Sheikh Eng. Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The plan includes comprehensive reform of curricula and the overall education system, with a focus on enhancing the efficiency of teaching staff in all Kuwaiti schools. This is why the statement of the Council of Ministers during its last session was striking, as it focused on the Minister of Education’s presentation of the education plan.

“Earlier, I was particularly drawn to Dr. Al-Tabtabaei’s statement about the “Horizon Schools” initiative, which aims to establish public schools with innovative international curricula at the kindergarten and elementary levels, and a focus on science, technology, mathematics, and national values.

“Achieving these goals also requires developing students’ professional and vocational skills to prepare them for future participation in the labor market. This includes enhancing a spirit of sportsmanship, discipline, and teamwork among students. True education lies in equipping students with the skills needed to keep pace with the needs of society.

“That is why the foundation must begin in kindergarten and basic education. The “Horizon Schools” initiative, as introduced by the minister, is a core pillar of this vision, which depends on identifying and nurturing student talents from the very first years of schooling.

“When children are prepared to embrace science, technology, and mathematics, supported by strong national values, we have taken a major step forward in shaping future generations.

“Interactive learning has become a cornerstone of modern education systems around the world. For example, Finland’s education system guarantees equal access to education for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background. Its curricula are regularly updated, and innovative teaching methods are continuously introduced to ensure high-quality education and the development of active, engaged citizens.

“Iceland has adopted an educational system that encompasses a wide range of subjects and disciplines, helping students build diverse skills and stay informed about the latest developments in science and technology. The system emphasizes critical and creative thinking, which is still lacking in many Arab countries.

“Personal development is essential for the progress of any society, despite the challenges it may face. Every step toward improving education contributes to shaping individuals who can adapt to changing circumstances.

“Building individual well-being also helps reduce the negative social impacts of inactivity. Identifying and nurturing athletic talent among young students supports both their personal growth and educational advancement.

“What Kuwait needs today is a comprehensive overhaul of the education system to correct the long-standing imbalances that have hindered progress for years.”

□ □ □

“It is time for international action following the end of the mandate of the high-level UN envoy tasked with supporting cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq on the return of the remains of Kuwaiti prisoners of war, missing persons, and Kuwaiti property from Iraq. Accordingly, we must reactivate our national efforts to support the work of the UN envoy and ensure all relevant documents and information, particularly the most recent, are fully prepared and made available,” Kuwaiti writer **Tariq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Kuwait urgently needs to encourage all activists from the families of prisoners and missing persons to step forward by forming a National Affairs Committee in cooperation with relevant authorities, including the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Health. Political and public support must be mobilized to advance the issue of the missing individuals after 34 years of search efforts.

“The UN mandate aims to support cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq and to open a new chapter in this humanitarian mission. Today’s international action can pave the way for meaningful dialogue on related political, legal, social, and economic issues, which must be addressed directly, logically, and to the satisfaction of both parties.

“Indeed, strong international support is urgently needed to strengthen bilateral relations and promote joint cooperation between the two brotherly nations for a better future.

“The involvement of the UN Security Council will be a major step and a driving force toward achieving stability, peace, and security. Diplomatic and political representation on both sides must be enhanced.

“As families of prisoners and missing persons, we seek the honest disclosure that the Security Council is calling for, in order to ensure progress in the return of the remains of our loved ones, as well as the recovery of official and national property lost or looted over the past 35 years.

“Statistics show that the fate of more than 321 Kuwaiti prisoners remains unknown, out of a total of 605 cases. Many missing individuals have been declared deceased through judicial rulings, yet their remains have not been located.

“We urge the Kuwaiti government to immediately begin preparations for this humanitarian mission and move forward to achieve this long-awaited goal.

“We extend our hopes for successful cooperation between the Kuwaiti government, the Iraqi government, and the UN envoy to the UN Security Council.”

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“The role of a doorman is vital in urban societies. Doormen play a major role in maintaining security and order in residential and commercial buildings. However, problems can arise when they are granted excessive and unchecked power,” Kuwaiti writer **Imad Khamis Al-Aqab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This article aims to explore both the positive and negative impacts of the doorman’s role, focusing on their responsibility for maintaining the building and ensuring the well-being of residents, as well as the challenges that occur when they are given too much authority over those residents.

“Among the positive effects is enhanced security. Doormen contribute significantly to strengthening security by controlling access to the building, which helps reduce crimes such as theft and assault.

“They are also responsible for maintaining the building and providing essential services to residents, such as mail delivery and waste management, which help improve the quality of life. Furthermore, they serve as a communication link between residents and building management, fostering social interaction and contributing to a cohesive community environment.

“On the other hand, the negative impacts include the potential for abuse of power. When a doorman is granted extensive authority, this power can be misused for personal gain or to serve specific interests, creating an unfair and opaque environment.

“Privacy violations may occur when doormen excessively monitor residents’ activities, raising ethical and legal concerns.

“Corruption and bribery can also arise, especially when the doorman controls service distribution or makes important decisions.

“Granting doormen more powers often leads to a lack of transparency, abuse of power, and reduced accountability. Decisions may be made without clear or fair criteria.

“Sometimes, instead of enhancing security, granting doormen more powers may actually increase crime, especially if they are involved in illegal activities.

“Conflicts may arise between residents and doormen if residents perceive that they are using their power unfairly or arbitrarily.

“In conclusion, the role of doormen has both positive and negative impacts on society. While they can contribute to security and service delivery, granting them unrestricted powers can lead to abuse of power, violations of privacy, and increased corruption. Therefore, it is essential to establish clear legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure that doormen perform their duties fairly and transparently, maximizing the benefits of this role while minimizing its drawbacks.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Eng. Fahad



Al-Aqab

Organizational shake-up aims to improve decision-making and training

Kuwait National Guard unveils new structure

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah approved on Sunday the new organizational structure of the National Guard, in line with the restructuring of the ministries, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Director of the Moral Guidance Directorate and National Guard Spokesperson Brigadier General Dr. Jadaan Fadhel explained in a press statement that the new organizational structure includes the positions of undersecretary and two assistant undersecretaries for the National Guard.

The organizational structure reflects the National Guard leadership’s vision to fill



Fadhel



Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard

vacancies based on objective criteria, including competence, scientific and technical specialization, compatibility among nominated officers, and cohesion of units. It aims to develop the National Guard, qualify its leaders, and keep pace with ongoing developments within the National Guard.

The organizational structure supports several objectives, including faster decision-making and a focus on combat and technical training to enhance the combat and security capabilities of National Guard forces.

Brigadier General Dr. Fadhel highlighted directives from the National Guard’s senior leadership to establish foundations and standards that ensure justice and equality among officers while developing the National Guard in fulfilling its assigned duties.

Justice Ministry employees freed, court secretary jailed in drug bust

Men acquitted in threat case

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: The detention renewal judge ordered the release of two Ministry of Justice employees who had been arrested for possession of narcotics, while the third employee - a court session secretary - remains in custody pending investigation.

The judge also released the mother and two sisters of one of the defendants on bail of KD 500 each.

The Public Prosecution had previously ordered the detention of the three Ministry of Justice employees, along with the mother and two sisters of one of the defendants, for 21 days pending investigation. They were caught red-handed in Doha area in possession of narcotics with the intent to consume and traffic.

In an earlier statement, the Ministry of Interior confirmed that the Drug Control General Department seized a quantity of marijuana, a sensitive scale, and several empty bags from the suspects. During the search operation, the mother and two sisters of one of the defendants physically assaulted the officers, while another sister slammed a glass door on a drug enforcement officer’s hand, causing a deep wound that required hospital treatment.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court acquitted several individuals of threatening a citizen with an electric shock to force him to sign three promissory notes. Case files indicate that the complainant revealed during investigations that he received a call through Instagram from a person requesting to meet him at his residence to discuss a trade show project. During the meeting in his diwaniya, he was surprised as the caller came with a group of people. All of them allegedly threatened him, while one of the accused took a knife and an electric shock device, and asked those present to close the door of the diwaniya. This prompted the complainant to call a relative to provide KD2,000. After failing to do so, he was forced to sign the promissory notes and surrender his civil identification card.

Attorney Abdullah Al-Alanda, who represented one of the defendants (the caller) in court, argued that the accusation was invalid, and that the material and moral elements of the crime were absent. He asserted that the documents had no conclusive evidence proving his client committed or participated in the threat, and that the complainant’s statements are nothing more than hearsay and are not supported by any evidence.



KUNA photo
The Undersecretary of the National Guard discusses common issues with the Italian Ambassador to the country.

KNG Undersecretary meets Italian envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): Undersecretary of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Lt.-Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas met Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini and Defence Attache Col. Michele Rega on Monday to discuss a range of issues of common concern.

During the meeting, Lt.-Gen. Al-Barjas conveyed to the Italian envoys the regards of the KNG President Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Vice President Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, according to a statement from the KNG moral guidance directorate.

Vehicle accident sends man to hospital on 4th Ring Road

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: A citizen, in his 30s, sustained injuries when a vehicle, driven by an Indian, hit him while crossing the Fourth Ring Road.

As he crossed the road, the citizen had no idea that his steps would lead him to the hospital, as he got injuries in different parts of his body due to the accident.

A security source confirmed that security personnel rushed to the location after receiving information on the accident.



GAC photos
Customs inspectors at the Nuwaiseeb border point thwarted two separate attempts to smuggle 118 cartons of cigarettes.

Mol officer among 6 arrested

Customs foils innovative cigarette smuggling ring

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: As part of the joint cooperation and coordination between the Criminal Security Sector and the General Administration of Customs (GAC), customs inspectors at the Nuwaiseeb border point thwarted two separate attempts to smuggle 118 cartons of cigarettes using innovative methods, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Six individuals were involved in the crime, including an officer and two military personnel from the Ministry of Interior, a teacher, and two Saudis. The cigarettes were hidden inside the fuel tanks of two vehicles and in the back seats, as they attempted to leave Kuwait through the port. GAC explained on its X platform account that Criminal Investigation officers received information about a group of individuals preparing vehicles for customs smuggling by concealing cigarettes in innovative ways.

Nazaha enforces financial disclosure law, sending over 30 to prosecution

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred more than 30 individuals to the Public Prosecution for failing to submit their financial disclosure statements within the legal deadlines, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily. In a statement, Nazaha said the referrals were made in accordance with Law No. 2/2016 on the establishment of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority, and amended by Decree-Law No. 69/2025.

□ □ □

32 Kuwaiti citizenships revoked: Decree No. 185/2025 was published in the official gazette “Kuwait Al-Youm” on the revocation of the Kuwaiti citizenship of 32 individuals, along with those who had acquired it through dependency, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Furthermore, Decision No. 1159/2025 was also issued for withdrawing citizenship certificates from nine individuals and their dependents.

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Capital panel backs Mubarakiya revamp, studies traffic solutions

Road link proposed to ease South Abdullah Al-Mubarak congestion

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Dr. Hassan Kamal, Chairman of the Capital Governorate Committee in the Municipal Council, said the committee approved the following during its meeting on Sunday:

■ Request of Kuwait Municipality (Projects Sector) for shaded and air-conditioned lanes as part of the reconstruction project for the area affected by the Mubarakiya fire in Qibla. The decision was made after the committee reviewed a visual presentation regarding the new air-conditioning system that will cover the area affected by the fire, taking into account the approvals and requirements of other government agencies, such as Kuwait Fire Force (KFF).

■ Reorganization of a plot in Dasman, changing the direction of the plot.

The committee also discussed the maintenance of the surface parking lots adjacent to Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) in Qibla, but decided to keep the issue in its agenda pending the approval of the bank regarding the use of the old building and updating the regulatory information and data for the request.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kamal stressed the need to focus on reviewing traffic studies related to the Capital Governorate and updating them in line with the new developments regarding the building regulations to avoid congestion resulting from the expected population density due to increased commercial and investment uses. He pointed out this is expected in all governorates, but more prominently in the Capital Governorate, which is the commercial and financial center of the country.

Moreover, the committee recommended reconsidering the transaction of a real estate company to include and add the purchase of state-owned land to Plot No. 4 in Qibla by the executive authority.



The Capital Governorate Committee, chaired by Dr. Hassan Kamal, convenes for its meeting.

The committee also retained in its agenda the request to cancel the site of the pumping station belonging to the Ministry of Public Works and allocate the site of the transformer station to the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy in Nuzha.

On the other hand, Council member Walid Al-Dagher submitted a proposal to construct a road linking the Seventh Ring Road and Road 6.5, and to construct two entrances to South Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

Al-Dagher explained his proposal aims to ease traffic flow in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, enhance the speed of response to emergencies, and serve a major public interest in terms of security and community services.

He pointed out the advantages of proposed entrances as follows:

- Serve Blocks 2, 3, 4 and 6.
- Facilitate traffic flow and reduce congestion.
- Facilitate the access of fire trucks, especially in the event of fire requiring support. The current route requires fire trucks to make four detours, enter from the schools, and exit on Route 6.5. This can lead to delays of up to half an hour due to congestion and the large number of roundabouts.
- Serve the cooperative society by facilitating access for beneficiaries.
- Serve Dar Al-Quran Center, helping ensure smooth traffic flow for its visitors.
- Allow those coming from the Seventh Ring Road to directly access Route 6.5 without the need to enter the area, which will keep residential neighborhoods safe and quiet.

Capital Governorate photo

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait Amir congratulates Mali on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to the Interim President of Mali, Assimi Goita, on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the leader and his people further progress and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable on Monday

to the Interim President of Mali, Assimi Goita, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day. His Highness the Crown Prince wished further success and development to the leader and the people of Mali.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable on Monday to the Interim President of Mali, Assimi Goita, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

Kuwait appoints Dr Al-Mudhaf as Permanent UNESCO envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Decree No. 187/2025 was published in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Yaum on Sunday regarding the appointment of former Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf as the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decree stipulates that the Minister of Education shall implement the provisions of the decree, which take



Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf, former Education Minister effect from the date of issuance and publication in the official gazette.

Decision 1377/2025 cancels previous regulations

PAM amends financial guarantees

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: The Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) issued Administrative Decision No. 1377/2025 for amending the financial guarantee requirements in the private sector, reports Al-Anba daily.

The decision stipulates the following:
Article 1 - The following decisions and circulars are hereby repealed:

- Administrative Decision No. 1483/2015 regarding the regulations for financial guarantees in the private sector and the procedures for withdrawing funds from such

guarantees.

- Paragraph 6 of Article 42 of the regulations for granting work permits, and all its amendments.

- Paragraph 4 of Article 43 of the regulations for granting work permits, and all its amendments.

- The provisions of Circular No. 97/2007 are hereby repealed.

Article 2 - This decision shall come into effect from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette. All concerned authorities are obligated to take note of and implement its provisions.

Abdullah Al-Salem University welcomes students for 2025/2026 academic year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Abdullah Al-Salem University (AASU) welcomed its new and continuing students for the 2025/2026 academic year in various colleges on Sunday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The university received its third batch of undergraduate and graduate students, joining their peers from the first and second batches. It has mobilized all its efforts and resources to support both continuing and new students, as well as the academic, research, and teaching staff.

The university administration reaffirmed

its commitment to creating a comprehensive educational environment that supports scientific research and keeps pace with global developments in higher education. It also commended the efforts of the academic and administrative staff in providing the best services to students.

The first day witnessed a strong turnout of new students who enrolled in the university's various colleges. Orientation sessions and guidance services were held ahead of the academic year to assist students as they begin their academic journey.



KUNA photo

Abdullah Al-Salem University receives the third batch of undergraduate students.

PART closes Al-Ghous Street bridge for new roundabout construction

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), in coordination with the General Traffic Department, announced the closure of the road branching from Al-Ghous Street towards Fahaeel, located beneath the Al-Ghous Street bridge at the intersection with Khalifa Al-Jari Street (Street 210), reports Al-Seyassah

daily.

In a statement posted on its official X platform account, PART advised motorists to use the alternative route via the roundabout opposite the fuel station.

It revealed that the closure will take effect Sunday evening to facilitate the construction of a new roundabout beneath Al-Ghous Street.

News in Brief

Power reaches Al-Mutlaa Block 4: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has announced the launch of electricity supply to parts of Block 4 in N1 suburb of Al-Mutlaa Residential City, in cooperation with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry stated that it will begin receiving applications for electricity connection to 455 residential plots, as part of its ongoing efforts to provide the service to all eligible beneficiaries.

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MoSA dissolves Ideal Society: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued Ministerial Decree No. 225/2025 on the dissolution of the Ideal Mother and Distinguished Families Society, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The decree prohibits the board members and staff of the Society from handling its funds and documents.

It mandates them to hand over all assets in their possession to officials appointed by the ministry to oversee the liquidation process.

The decree takes effect from the date of its issuance.

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PADA seeks wheelchair suppliers: The Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) announced its intention to directly contract with suppliers to provide nine types of wheelchairs designed for people with disabilities, reports Al-Jarida daily. These wheelchairs will be available in different models to accommodate a variety of needs.

PADA invited interested companies to submit their technical and financial proposals, together with product catalogues from Sept 21-25, 2025.



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Kuwait University honors researchers for US patent success



Kuwait University photos

Kuwait University honors researchers holding patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): Kuwait University's Research Sector honored researchers who received patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in recognition of their scientific efforts and research achievements that significantly advanced innovation and global knowledge production.

In a press statement issued Sunday, Vice President for Research, Dr. Abdullah Sultan, expressed his deep pride in the distinguished efforts of Kuwait University affiliates, affirming the university has always been a source of cultural and scientific illumination.

He emphasized that since its establishment, Kuwait University has upheld a pioneering role in diverse academic fields, enriching science while addressing vital social, economic, and

technological issues, and serving as a hub where faculty and postgraduate students create innovative, practical solutions.

He further announced that Kuwait University successfully registered several patents during the 2024/2025 academic year, through its Intellectual Property and Patent Office, reflecting researchers' determination to achieve innovation aligned with global scientific standards.

Among the honored innovators, Dr. Khaled Al-Hazza and his mechanical engineering research team from the College of Engineering and Petroleum patented "UBoatl", an automated marine vessel docking system, alongside another invention on vibrational guidance technology.

Continued from Page 1

Saudi National

That is why, at the 1981 Fez Summit, Saudi Arabia adopted a pragmatic policy based on solid facts that reflected the realities of the situation in Palestine at the time. It was during this summit that then-Crown Prince Fahd bin Abdulaziz announced the first Saudi initiative to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Unfortunately, this initiative was met with a lukewarm response from some Arab countries and factions close to Palestinian decision-making circles. Israel seized on this hesitation as a pretext to reject the proposal, using it as a life-jacket. In reality, the interests of certain Palestinian and Arab parties appeared to align with those of Israel, creating the impression of a calculated and deliberate distribution of roles.

Despite this, Riyadh never ceased its efforts. Saudi Arabia has dedicated over two decades to vigorously supporting the Palestinian cause. It played a pivotal role in the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, which laid the groundwork for the establishment of the current Palestinian Authority that was officially declared in 1993.

With all these developments, Riyadh remained committed to a clear approach based on the centrality of the Palestinian issue. So, when things did not go as planned, the initiative of then-Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz at the Beirut Summit in 2002 laid the foundation for a future of peace in the region.

In the years following the announcement of the Beirut Summit initiative, the Palestinian situation worsened due to disputes over the personal interests of some faction leaders. In response, Saudi Arabia hosted these factions in Makkah, where an agreement was reached. However, Hamas sought to nullify the agreement from the moment it was signed.

The recognition of the Palestinian state by 150 countries is, therefore, the result of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's historic efforts in this regard.

Furthermore, no one can deny Saudi Arabia's efforts to end the Lebanese civil war through the Taif Conference, nor its firm stance during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, expressed by the late King Fahd bin Abdulaziz, who said, "Kuwait must be restored, otherwise Saudi Arabia will face the same fate. If Kuwait's dignity is lost, Saudi Arabia's dignity will be completely lost."

No reasonable person can deny Saudi Arabia's pivotal role in Arab affairs.

Saudi Arabia's vast geography and great people are led by a wise and capable leadership. In just ten years, we witnessed the Kingdom transform into a major regional and global economic power. The landmark projects announced by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, under the guidance of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, confirm that Saudi Arabia is on the right and steady path.

These achievements are a proud National Day gift to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Glory.

a remote, dark location where no one would see him. He said, "I was thinking where to go, in a place where there was no one... I followed her and deliberately collided with her."

■ His criminal record: The prosecutor emphasized, "We are dealing with a dangerous individual, capable of planning before and during the execution of crimes. His criminal record, which includes multiple felonies and misdemeanors supported by final judgments, culminated in the cold-blooded murder of his wife, shattering his family and depriving his children of their mother."

Al-Hamoud urged the court to impose the harshest penalty prescribed by law, as retribution for the crime that took an innocent life and violated the most sacred covenant. She concluded with the verse: "Read your record. Sufficient is yourself against you this Day as a reckoner." [Al-Isra: 14]

Meanwhile, Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, representing the victim's heirs, addressed the defendant's claim of intoxication. He refuted it using the following scientific and technical evidence:

■ First, the Criminal Evidence Report – Alcohol and Liquor Section No. 1033K/2025 proved no trace of ethyl or methyl alcohol in the defendant's urine sample.

■ Second, the Criminal Evidence Report – Toxicology Section No. 1167S/2025 confirmed the presence of a benzodiazepine derivative in the urine sample. This does not absolve him, as he denied consuming any psychotropic substance. The law holds anyone who intentionally consumes intoxicants liable for crimes committed under their influence.

■ Third, Article 23 of the Penal Code stipulates that liability from intoxicants arises only if they are ingested involuntarily, causing loss of ability to sense and choose, which was not the case here.

■ Fourth, proving intent to kill subjective and it is deduced from the perpetrator's behavior before and during the commission of crime. It has been proven that the defendant lured the victim to a secluded location, severely beat her, and deliberately ran over her, demonstrating premeditation.

He stressed that medical reports and expert evidence confirmed that the defendant was not mentally ill at the time of the crime, and any intoxicants did not impair his will or criminal responsibility. He said this principle was affirmed in Appeal No. 235/2006 and Appeal No. 28052/2007, in which the Court of Cassation ruled that such claims do not negate liability if there was no genuine loss of consciousness or choice.

He also confirmed the presence of elements of kidnapping, punishable by death under Article 180 of the Penal Code, as well as premeditated murder and intentional acts under Article 149 of the Penal Code. They demanded the maximum penalty be imposed on the accused to protect public and private rights.

contribute to advancing work across all provinces.

Kuwaiti, French

readiness and coordination throughout the exercise.

At the conclusion, the delegation toured parts of the drill, reviewing its outcomes and emphasizing the importance of continued cooperation in promoting regional security and stability.

Outrage in

Is this done through employees who leak information from within the original companies or through databases circulating in the market?

Reliable sources affirmed that some of these companies may have resorted to external intermediaries to collect data, raising concerns about the existence of a "black market for personal data" that requires urgent intervention from regulatory authorities.

Legal experts described this move as a "serious violation of privacy" and a blatant violation of laws regulating the protection of personal data.

Complaints received by the newspaper indicate that some citizens defaulted on paying for devices they purchased in installments, prompting collection companies to repeatedly pursue them by telephone. Despite having the telephone numbers of debtors registered in the purchase contracts, these companies contacted their family members and reveal to them the details of the debts and the amounts owed. Legal experts consider this a "violation of privacy" and data protection laws.

Citizens expressed their astonishment at how these companies obtained their relatives' telephone numbers, wondering whether this was a leak from within the original companies or through intermediaries collecting customer data illegally. They appealed to the Ministry of Commerce, Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), and Privacy Protection Authority to urgently intervene to put an end to these practices.

One of the cases monitored by the newspaper is the divorce of a couple after a debt collection company contacted the husband to inform him that his wife owed money for a mobile phone line he had no knowledge of. This led to a heated argument that ended in divorce, raising questions about the extent of the social damage resulting from such practices.

Attorney Jarrah Mubarak Al-Wawan confirmed these practices fall under criminal and civil liability. He explained that disclosing a customer's financial information to others is a violation of Article 21 of the CITRA Law, which obligates service providers to maintain the confidentiality of customer data and not to disclose it except through a judicial order or official permission from the Public Prosecution.

Al-Wawan pointed out that causing moral or material harm to a customer, whether by disclosing his debt or defaming him before others, could open the door to compensation claims in civil courts based on Article 227 of the Kuwaiti Civil Code, which permits claims for compensation for damages resulting from harmful acts.

Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan called on regulatory authorities and the Kuwaiti legislator to intervene and issue clear legislation requiring collection companies to use only legal means to collect payment for debts and prevent them from overstepping the bounds of privacy or contacting the relatives of debtors. He also stressed the need for the newly established Privacy Protection Authority to activate its oversight role and impose deterrent penalties on violating companies.

Attorney Israa Al-Haddad explained that if it is proven that customers' data are leaked or exploited without their permission, companies or their employees may face criminal penalties, including imprisonment and fine in accordance with Cybercrime Law No. 63/2015, particularly its provisions on hacking or disclosing confidential data.

Al-Haddad added that debt collection requires urgent legislative action to ensure it does not become a tool for social and psychological pressure on individuals and to protect the family from fragmentation due to illegal practices. She asserted that companies must also follow judicial and official channels to collect their rights.

Moreover, if a violation is proven, companies may face the following penalties:

■ Imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to KD5,000 as per the Cybercrime Law.

■ Obligation to pay civil compensation for psychological and social damages suffered by the debtor or his family.

■ Administrative measures, such as revoking the license or suspending the company's activities through a decision issued by the Ministry of Commerce or CITRA.

Peace, justice vital for Palestinians: Al-Jouan



President of the Women's Institute for Development and Peace in Kuwait Kawthar Al-Jouan in a group photo with attendees of the first World Public Assembly held in Moscow.

World Public Assembly kicks off in Moscow

MOSCOW, Sept 22, (KUNA): The President of the Women's Institute for Development and Peace in Kuwait Kawthar Al-Jouan stressed Sunday on the importance of ending the suffering of the Palestinian people and holding the Israeli occupation accountable for its attacks on civilians, as this is a fundamental step towards achieving international peace and security.

In her speech before the World Public Assembly, Al-Jouan emphasized that "targeting women, children, and the elderly in Palestine is a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and all international conventions," asserting that "these practices constitute crimes of genocide, whose perpetrators must be held accountable before the international community, and foremost in the International Criminal Court."

She noted that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has emphasized the need to support regional and international efforts to combat terrorism for the safety and stability of peoples, and that peace is Kuwait's goal and its path to achieving security and stability.

Al-Jouan emphasized that strengthening the role of Arab women in building peace and development is one of the pillars of Kuwait's participation in the global forum.

Al-Jouan added that commemorating the International Day of Peace, recognized by the United Nations on September 21 of each year, "represents an important occasion to renew the global commitment to rejecting violence and establishing a culture of dialogue and coexistence," calling for "an end to the aggression on Gaza and paving the way for peaceful solutions that stop the bloodshed and preserve the legitimate rights of peoples."

Earlier, the first World Public Assembly kicked off in the Russian capital, Moscow, with Kuwaiti and international participation in a dialogue that seeks to promote the values of cooperation, unity, and peace among the peoples of the world.

Valentina Matvienko, Chairwoman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly, said in her opening remarks that "this event constitutes a prestigious platform for developing public diplomacy



President of the Women's Institute for Development and Peace in Kuwait Kawthar Al-Jouan during her participation at the first World Public Assembly in Moscow.



KUNA photos

Section of the audience.

and strengthening dialogue between countries," noting the importance of building a world of mutual respect and understanding.

In a video message to the participants, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized that adhering to spiritual and moral values, such as family, patriotism, and respect for one's roots, is a fundamental factor in confronting current global challenges.

For her part, Kawthar Al-Jouan, President of the Women's Institute for Development and Peace in Kuwait, told KUNA that Kuwaiti participation aims to enhance the role of women and youth in development and global peacebuilding.

She emphasized that dialogue be-

tween cultures and shared human values constitutes a fundamental pillar for achieving stability, international cooperation, and establishing the foundations of a new world based on respect and conscious unity among peoples.

The organizing committee said in a press statement that the participants represent more than 150 countries and bring together thousands of delegates, including prominent public figures, international leaders, politicians, diplomats, experts in the fields of education, culture, and peace, as well as astronauts, representatives of world religions, and representatives of governmental, international, and non-governmental organizations.

‘International cooperation is straining under pressures unseen in our lifetimes’

As world convulses in war and contentiousness, its leaders convene at UN to figure it out

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 22, (AP): World leaders begin convening Monday at one of the most volatile moments in the United Nations’ 80-year history, and the challenges they face are as dire as ever if not more so: unyielding wars in Gaza and Ukraine, escalating changes in the US approach to the world, hungry people everywhere and technologies that are advancing faster than the understanding of how to manage them.

The United Nations itself, which emerged from World War II’s rubble on the premise that nations would work together to tackle political, social and financial issues, is in crisis itself. As Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last week: “International cooperation is straining under pressures unseen in our lifetimes.”

Yet the annual high-level gathering at the UN General Assembly will bring presidents, prime ministers and monarchs from about 150 of the 193 UN member nations to UN headquarters. The secretary-general says it is an opportunity that can’t be missed - even

in the most challenging of moments.

“We are gathering in turbulent - even uncharted - waters,” Guterres said. He pointed to, among other specters, “our planet overheating, new technologies racing ahead without guardrails, inequalities widening by the hour.”

Guterres said he will use the more than 150 one-on-one meetings he has with leaders and ministers to urge that they speak to each other, bridge divides, reduce risks and find solutions - to conflicts, to keep the planet from increased warming, to put guardrails on fast-expanding artificial intelligence, and to find funding for lagging UN goals for 2030 including ending poverty in all countries and ensuring quality education for every child.

He said leaders must make progress, not merely engage in “posturing and promises.”

But UN watchers say that in a deeply polarized world, with no prospects of ceasefires in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, whether the high-level meeting makes any progress remains a big



The UN flag flies on a stormy day at the United Nations during the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 22. (AP)

question mark.

Richard Gowan, UN director for the International Crisis Group, said he is confident three topics will dominate

high-level week - US President Donald Trump’s first appearance in his second term, the horrific situation in Gaza, and what’s next for the United Nations as it

grapples with major funding and staff cuts, mainly due to the cutoff in US payments to its regular and peacekeeping budgets.

Gowan said he expects the nearly two-year war in Gaza to be the central issue, as Israel launches a major offensive in Gaza City forcing thousands to flee and following a report by independent experts commissioned by the UN Human Rights Council that accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Israel rejected the allegation, calling the report “distorted and false.”

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations, has stressed that “Palestine is going to be the huge elephant in this session of the General Assembly.”

It will be front and center on Monday at a high-level meeting co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia on implementing a two-state solution to the nearly eight-decade Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And the spotlight will be even brighter because the Trump administration refused to give a US visa to Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas to speak at that meeting and the General Assembly.

On Friday, the General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution enabling Abbas to speak by video - as it did in 2022 for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy following Russia’s invasion. This year Zelenskyy will be attending in person, and the Security Council is expected to meet on Ukraine on Tuesday.

The assembly voted overwhelmingly earlier this month to support a two-state solution and urge Israel to commit to a Palestinian state. Hours before that vote, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that “there will be no Palestinian state.”

More than 145 countries already recognize Palestine as a state, and Mansour told The Associated Press on Sunday that “it’s going to be 10 more” announcing their recognition at Monday afternoon’s meeting. High-level week is also expected to see a Security Council meeting on Gaza, possibly Tuesday afternoon.

US president praises Kirk as a ‘great American hero’, ‘martyr’ for freedom

GLENDAL, Ariz., Sept 22, (AP): US President Donald Trump praised Charlie Kirk as a “great American hero” and “martyr” for freedom as he and other prominent conservatives gathered Sunday evening to honor the slain conservative political activist whose work they say they must now advance.

The memorial service for Kirk, whom Trump credits with playing a pivotal role in his 2024 election victory, drew tens of thousands of mourners, including Vice President JD Vance, other senior administration officials and young conservatives shaped by the 31-year-old firebrand.

“He’s a martyr now for America’s freedom,” Trump said in his tribute. “I know I speak for everyone here today when I say that none of us will ever forget Charlie. And neither now will history.”

Speakers highlighted Kirk’s profound faith and his strong belief that young conservatives need to get married, have children and pass on their values to keep building their movement. They also repeatedly told conservative activists, sometimes in forceful tones, that the best way to honor Kirk was doubling down on his mission to move American politics further to the right.

“For Charlie, we will remem-



US President Donald Trump, (left), stands on stage with Erika Kirk at a memorial for conservative activist Charlie Kirk on Sept 21, at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. (AP)

ber that it is better to stand on our feet defending the United States of America and defending the truth than it is to die on our knees,” Vance said. “My friends, for Charlie, we must remember that he is a hero to the United States of America. And he is a martyr for the Christian faith.”

Kirk’s assassination at a Sept. 10 appearance on a Utah college campus has set off a fierce debate about violence, decency and free speech in an era of deep political division.

The shooting has stirred fear among some Americans that Trump is trying to harness outrage over the killing as justification to suppress the voices of his critics and political opponents.

Those close to Kirk prayed and the floors at the home of the NFL’s Arizona Cardinals shook from the bass of Christian rock bands, as the memorial started with the feel of a megachurch service before veering into something more akin to a political rally.

Trump ramps up retribution campaign with push for Bondi to pursue cases against foes

WASHINGTON, Sept 22, (AP): Eight months into his second term, President Donald Trump’s long-standing pledge to take on those he perceives as his political enemies has prompted debates over free speech, media censorship and political prosecutions.

From late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel’s suspension to Pentagon restrictions on reporters and an apparent public appeal to Attorney General Pam Bondi to pursue legal cases against his adversaries, Trump has escalated moves to consolidate power in his second administration and root out those who have spoken out against him.

In a post on social media this weekend addressed to Bondi, Trump said “nothing is being done” on investigations into some of his foes.

“We can’t delay any longer, it’s killing our reputation and credibility,” he said. Noting that he was impeached and criminally charged, “JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!”

Criticizing investigations into Trump’s dealings under Democratic President Joe Biden’s Justice Department, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said Sunday that “it is not right for the Trump administration to do the same thing.”

Trump has ratcheted up his discussion of pursuing legal cases against some of his political opponents, part of a vow for retribution that has been a theme of his return to the White House.



Erik Siebert, interim US Attorney for the eastern district of Virginia, speaks as Attorney General Pam Bondi, (right), and Virginia Gov Glenn Youngkin, (left), listen during a news conference at the Manassas FBI Field Office, March 27, in Manassas, Va. (AP)

He publicly pressed Bondi this weekend to move forward with such investigations.

Trump posted somewhat of an open letter on social media Saturday to his top prosecutor to advance such inquiries, including a mortgage fraud probe into New York Attorney General Letitia James and a possible threat case against former FBI Director James Comey.

He posted that he had “reviewed

over 30 statements and posts” that he characterized as criticizing his administration for a lack of action on investigations.

“We have to act fast - one way or the other,” Trump told reporters later that night at the White House. “They’re guilty, they’re not guilty - we have to act fast. If they’re not guilty, that’s fine. If they are guilty or if they should be charged, they should be charged. And we have to do it now.”



People stand near a building destroyed during a Russian strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Sept 22. (AP)

Zelenskyy anticipates intense diplomacy at UN

Russia and Ukraine trade deadly drone strikes

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 22, (AP): Russia and Ukraine swapped accusations of deadly drone strikes on civilian areas of their countries Monday as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy anticipated “a very intense week” of diplomacy at the UN General Assembly in New York, where the Security Council was expected to discuss the more than three-year war.

Zelenskyy has tried to give momentum to a US-led peace effort, offering a ceasefire and a summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Moscow has taken issue with some of the proposals, however, and an end to the bloodshed appears no closer.

Additionally, international concerns have mounted recently that the fighting could spread beyond Ukraine’s borders as European countries rebuked Russia for what they said were provocations. The incidents have included Russian drones landing on Polish soil and Russian fighter aircraft entering Estonian airspace.

Latvian President Edgars Rinkēvics said on social media that Russia was testing NATO’s political and military response and aiming to reduce Western support for Ukraine by compelling countries to redirect resources toward the defense of alliance countries.

Calibrating how to respond to Russia was not easy, Rinkēvics said Sunday. Russia was doing just enough not to cross a red line, but things could still spiral, he added.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters carry a person after a Russian strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Sept 22. (AP)

Russia’s Defense Ministry denied any Estonian airspace violation by its planes, and Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday dismissed Estonia and NATO’s claims as “void, ungrounded and continuing an unbridled policy of inciting tensions and provoking confrontation.”

Zelenskyy was due to attend the annual high-level gathering at the UN General Assembly, where he planned to recruit support for efforts to stop Russia’s invasion.

“The schedule already includes

nearly two dozen meetings with leaders from different countries, from all parts of the world,” Zelenskyy said on Telegram late Sunday.

Zelenskyy said he also planned to meet with US President Donald Trump, whose drive for a peace deal after taking office in January has yielded no progress.

“It is vital that this week strengthen the world’s resolve for robust action - for without strength, peace will not prevail,” Zelenskyy said.

He said that over the past week Russia fired more than 1,500 strike drones, 1,280 glide bombs and 50 missiles of various types at Ukraine. More than 132,000 foreign components were found in those weapons from dozens of countries, he said.

Ukraine has campaigned for tighter sanctions on Russia.

Meanwhile, at least seven Russian aircraft bombarded the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia overnight, killing three people and wounding two others, according to regional administration head Ivan Fedorov.

The attack started around 4:20 am and lasted about 40 minutes, Fedorov said. Residential buildings, shopping malls, a parking lot and “critical infrastructure” were targeted, he said.

“None of the sites had anything to do with military infrastructure,” Fedorov said.

The Ukrainian air force said it stopped 132 out of 141 strike and decoy drones launched by Russian forces overnight.

German, Swedish fighter jets track Russian plane flying over Baltic Sea

BERLIN, Sept 22, (AP): Air force fighter jets from Germany and Sweden were scrambled Sunday to intercept and track a Russian surveillance plane that was flying unidentified over the Baltic Sea, military officials said.

Two Swedish Gripen jets and two German Eurofighter jets deployed in international airspace to monitor and photograph the Russian IL-20 reconnaissance aircraft. It had been flying without providing a flight path or radio contact that could signal its presence, Swedish and German air force officials said.

The monitoring, which ended without incident, came as NATO and European Union member countries have been on heightened alert for Russian military and reconnaissance activities in and around their airspace.

On Friday, three Russian fighter aircraft entered Estonia’s airspace without permission and stayed there for 12 minutes, the Estonian Foreign Ministry said. That happened just over a week after NATO planes downed Russian drones over Poland and heightened fears that the war in Ukraine could spill



A German Eurofighter gets ready for takeoff at Neuburg Air Base in Neuburg An Der Donau, Germany on Aug 15, 2022. (AP)

over.

“Today, (Swedish) JAS 39 Gripens and (German) Eurofighters were scrambled over the South Baltic Sea, identifying and monitoring a Russian IL-20 reconnaissance aircraft in international airspace,” the Swedish air

force said on its X account.

The German Luftwaffe said its jets had initially followed the Russian plane before handing off monitoring to the fighters from NATO ally Sweden, and then returning to Rostock-Laage airfield in northern Germany.

America

Quake jolts San Francisco Bay Area: An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.3 woke up a number of people with a sharp jolt in the San Francisco Bay Area early Monday, according to the United States Geological Survey.

The earthquake was just east-southeast of Berkeley, the survey said. It happened shortly before 3 a.m. PDT.

People posted online that they felt their homes shake.

“Our calls are coming in from San Francisco and the East Bay and all over,” KTVU-TV anchor Dave Clark said in a video from the newsroom. “Things were shaking in our newsroom. ... It caught everyone off guard.”

It wasn’t immediately known if there were any injuries or significant damage. (AP)

☐ ☐ ☐

2 dead in Indianapolis shooting: Two people were killed and another five were injured in a shooting Sunday in northwest Indianapolis, officials said.

At about 2 am, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers responded to a parking lot on Shore Terrace, where they found five people suffering from gunshot wounds, according to a news release. Police said two of those people were declared dead at the scene, while the three others were taken to the hospital.

Police say two other people believed to have been shot in the same incident sought help on their own: one walked into a hospital and the other into a fire station.

An investigation is continuing. (AP)

☐ ☐ ☐

‘Patrons at restaurant acted quickly’: Patrons at a restaurant acted quickly and selflessly to stop a gunman who opened fire while a wedding was taking place at a New Hampshire country club, averting a worse tragedy, authorities said Sunday.

One person was killed and two others were wounded by gunfire Saturday night before a suspect was taken into cus-



The San Francisco skyline and the eastern span of the Bay Bridge are shown from Berkeley, Calif on Dec 22, 2017. (AP)

tody in a nearby neighborhood not long after the shooting, authorities said.

The gunfire killed Robert DeCesare Jr., 59, at Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua, said New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella and Nashua Police Chief Kevin Rourke. They said the suspect was Hunter Nadeau, 23, of Nashua, and that he had been arrested and charged with one count of second-degree murder for knowingly shooting DeCesare.

Nadeau was a former employee of the club, Formella said, adding that Nadeau made a number of statements during the shooting and appeared to be attempting to cause chaos in the moment as opposed to showing a hate-based motivation. Witnesses reported that Nadeau said “Free Palestine” during the confusion.

Some witnesses said someone struck Nadeau with a chair in an attempt to subdue him. Formella cited “selfless acts of courage by the patrons in the restaurant who put aside care for their own safety and worked to intervene and stop the shooter.”

The shooting happened adjacent to a wedding that was taking place at the club. Wedding DJ Michael Homewood credited the chair strike with preventing an even worse shooting. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

North Korean leader recalls ‘good memories’ of Trump, urges United States to drop denuclearization demands

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 22, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un says he still has good memories of US President Donald Trump and urged Washington to drop its demand the North surrender its nukes as a precondition for resuming long-stalled diplomacy.

Speaking to Pyongyang’s rubber-stamp parliament on Sunday, Kim stressed that he has no intention of ever resuming dialogue with rival South Korea, a key U.S. ally that helped broker Kim’s previous summits with Trump during the American president’s first term, according to a speech published by state media on Monday.

Kim suspended virtually all cooperation with the South following the collapse of his second summit with Trump in 2019 over disagreements about U.S.-led sanctions against the North. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have worsened in recent years as Kim has accelerated his weapons buildup and aligned with Russia over the war in Ukraine.

Kim’s comments came as South Korean President Lee Jae Myung departed for New York to attend the UN General Assembly, where he is expected to address nuclear tensions on the



This photo provided by the North Korean government, shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, (center), attending a parliament session at the Supreme People’s Assembly, which was held on on Sept 20-21, 2025 in Pyongyang, North Korea. (AP)

Korean Peninsula and call on North Korea to return to talks.

Trump is also expected to visit South Korea next month to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, prompting media speculation

that he may try to meet Kim at the inter-Korean border, as they did during their third meeting in 2019, which ultimately failed to salvage their nuclear diplomacy.

During his latest speech at the Su-

preme People’s Assembly, Kim reiterated that he would never give up his nuclear weapons program, which experts say he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival and the extension of his family’s dynastic rule.

“The world already knows well what the United States does after forcing other countries to give up their nuclear weapons and disarm,” Kim said. “We will never lay down our nuclear weapons ... There will be no negotiations, now or ever, about trading anything with hostile countries in exchange for lifting sanctions.”

He said he still holds “good personal memories” of Trump from their first meetings and that there is “no reason not to” resume talks with the United States if Washington “abandons its delusional obsession with denuclearization.”

Kim has stepped up testing activities in recent years, demonstrating weapons of various ranges designed to strike U.S. allies in Asia and the U.S. mainland. Analysts say Kim’s nuclear push is aimed at eventually pressuring Washington to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and to negotiate economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

Japanese governing party opens race to choose Ishiba’s successor

TOKYO, Sept 22, (AP): Outgoing Japanese Prime Minister **Shigeru Ishiba**’s ruling party opened official campaigning Monday to find his replacement who can restore political stability and voter support for the beleaguered Liberal Democrats.

Five candidates are vying for the Liberal Democratic Party’s top job ahead of a highly unpredictable vote in early October. The race has a slogan: “Change, LDP.”

The winner must act quickly to address rising prices if the party is to have any chance of winning back support following devastating losses to both the LDP and its junior partner Komeito in the past year that deprived their coalition of a majority in either house of parliament.

All five candidates are incumbent



Ishiba

and former Cabinet ministers.

Shinjiro Koizumi, 44: The son of a popular former prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, makes his second bid after running against Ishiba last year when he campaigned to reform the scandal-laden party.

Sanee Takaichi, 64: A protégée of former prime minister Shinzo Abe, Takaichi lost to Ishiba last year in the runoff.

Yoshimasa Hayashi, 64: Chief Cabinet secretary of Ishiba’s government, Hayashi is a moderate who promises steady wage increases, a strong economy and defense.

Toshimitsu Motegi, 69: Another Harvard graduate, Motegi has served in key posts including foreign and trade ministers and is known as a tough trade negotiator during U.S. President Donald Trump’s first term.

Takayuki Kobayashi, 50: A former economic security minister who promises strong growth, defense and national unity, Kobayashi is ultra-conservative and may split votes with Takaichi. Nicknamed Koba-Hawk, he promises a tougher restrictions on foreign workers and says Japan’s defense spending target of 2% of GDP is insufficient.

China activates emergency response to Ragasa in 3 provinces

Super typhoon blowing by northern Philippines and Taiwan forces evacuations, closures

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 22, (Agencies): Thousands of people were evacuated from northern Philippine villages and schools and offices were closed Monday in the archipelago and neighboring Taiwan as one of this year’s strongest typhoons threatened to cause flooding and landslides on its way to southeastern China.

Super Typhoon Ragasa had sustained winds of 215 kph (134 mph) with gusts of up to 295 kph (183 mph) when it slammed into Panutan island off Cagayan province on mid-afternoon Monday, Philippine forecasters said.

Tropical cyclones with sustained winds of 185 kph (115 mph) or higher are categorized in the Philippines as a super typhoon, a designation adopted years ago to underscore the urgency tied to such extreme weather disturbances.

Ragasa was forecast to remain in the South China Sea at least into Wednesday while passing south of Taiwan and Hong Kong before landfall on the Chinese mainland.

The Philippines’ weather agency warned of coastal inundation, saying “there is a high risk of life-threatening storm surge with peak heights exceeding 3 meters (nearly 10 feet) within the next 24 hours over the low-lying or exposed coastal localities” of the northern provinces of Cagayan, Batanes, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

Power was knocked out on Calayan island and in the entire northern mountain province of Apayao, west of Cagayan, disaster-response officials said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or further damage from Ragasa, which is locally called Nando.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. suspended government work and all classes Monday in the capital and 29 provinces in the main northern Luzon region.

More than 8,200 people were evacuated to safety in Cagayan while 1,220 fled to emergency shelters in Apayao, which is prone to flash floods and landslides. Domestic flights were suspended in northern provinces lashed by the typhoon while fishing boats and inter-island ferries were prohibited from leaving ports due to



People watch as strong waves batter Basco, Batanes province, northern Philippines as Typhoon Ragasa affects the area on Sept 22. (AP)

rough seas.

Ragasa, the 14th weather disturbance to batter the Philippines this year, comes while authorities and both chambers of Congress investigate a corruption scandal involving alleged kickbacks that resulted in substandard or non-existent flood

control projects.

Taiwan’s southern Taitung and Pingtung counties ordered closures in some coastal and mountainous areas as well as on the outlying Orchid and Green islands. Ragasa also forced the cancellation of afternoon flights to outlying islands and suspended various ferry services, the Central News Agency reported.

In Fujian province, on China’s southeast coast, 50 ferry routes were suspended. Officials in Shenzhen, the southern Chinese tech hub, planned to relocate about 400,000 people, including residents living in low-lying and flood-prone areas. Shenzhen’s airport said it will halt flights, starting Tuesday night.

China’s National Meteorological Center forecast the typhoon would make landfall in the coastal area between Huizhou city in Guangdong province and Wenchang city in Hainan province Wednesday.

China’s State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters on Monday activated a Level-IV emergency response in the provinces of Guangdong, Hainan and Fujian as Typhoon Ragasa approaches, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management.

A ministry task force has also been urgently dispatched to Guangdong to guide local flood prevention efforts.

Ragasa is expected to sweep south of Hong Kong and Macao. While Hong Kong’s airport is expected to remain open, the city’s airport authority said flights would be significantly reduced after 6 p.m. Tuesday and most flight operations would be affected on Wednesday.

Hong Kong’s flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways said passenger flights scheduled to depart and arrive in the city after 6 p.m. Tuesday will be suspended, with more than 500 flight cancellations expected.

Other Hong Kong-based airlines announced their flights would be disrupted, including budget airline HK Express, which reported a cancellation of over 100 flights between Tuesday and Thursday.



Demonstrators protest an amnesty bill that could benefit former president Jair Bolsonaro and his allies convicted for a coup attempt, on Copacabana beach, in Rio de Janeiro on Sept 21. (AP)

Brazilians protest against bill that could lead to pardon for Bolsonaro and allies

SAO PAULO, Sept 22, (AP): Thousands of Brazilians protested in all 26 states and the federal district Sunday against a possible pardon for former president Jair Bolsonaro and his allies, who were convicted of attempting a coup.

Calls for demonstrations grew after the lower house Tuesday passed a constitutional amendment that would make it harder to arrest or launch criminal proceedings against lawmakers. The measure now heads to the Senate.

The following day the lower house voted to fast-track a bill backed by right-wing opposition lawmakers that could grant amnesty to Bolsonaro, his closest allies and hundreds of supporters convicted of their roles in the January 2023 uprising.

In São Paulo, 42,400 people joined

the protest, while 41,800 turned out in Rio de Janeiro, according to estimates by the University of São Paulo’s Monitor of Political Debate and the nonprofit More in Common.

Pablo Ortellado, director of the Monitor of Political Debate, told The Associated Press the numbers in Brazil’s two largest cities were the highest for a left-wing demonstration since President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s 2022 electoral victory. Researchers estimated crowd sizes using drone photos.

“Right-wing mobilizations have typically been three times larger than those of the left,” Ortellado said. “In recent months, that pattern has changed. The opposition’s support for (U.S. President Donald) Trump’s tariffs and for the amendment has brought the left back to the streets.”

Bolsonaro was sentenced to 27 years and three months in prison on Sept 11 for attempting to stay in power after losing a 2022 reelection bid. He is the first former president convicted of trying to overturn an election in Latin America’s largest economy. Bolsonaro has denied any wrongdoing.

Ana Paula Brito, a 37-year-old nanny, attended the São Paulo protest mainly to oppose a possible pardon for Bolsonaro. She said she was also outraged by the proposed amendment shielding lawmakers from prosecution.

“They (politicians) are rich, have plenty of money and keep stealing. No funds are ever released for us. That’s one more reason we’re in the streets today,” Brito said.

Some of Brazil’s most prominent artists helped organize and promote Sunday’s demonstrations.

South Sudan suspended VP Machar appears in court on treason charges

JUBA, South Sudan, Sept 22, (AP): The criminal trial of South Sudan’s suspended vice president began in the capital Monday as Riek Machar appeared in a cage alongside his co-defendants.

It was the first time Machar had been seen in public since he was placed under house arrest in March.

President Salva Kiir suspended Machar as his deputy earlier this month after justice authorities filed criminal charges for Machar’s alleged role in an attack on a garrison of government troops earlier this year.

In addition to treason, Machar and seven others face charges of crimes against humanity, murder, conspiracy, terrorism, destruction of public property and military assets.

The trial by a special court in Juba, the capital, was broadcast on national television.

In opening remarks, a lawyer for Machar opposed the trial by what he described as “an incompetent court” that lacks jurisdiction.

The defense argued Machar cannot be criminally charged without hurting the spirit of a 2018 peace deal between Machar and Kiir to end a deadly civil war that caused an estimated 400,000 people. That agreement is the basis for the transitional government in which Machar has been serving as first vice president.

Defense attorneys said the agreement effectively governs South Sudan, which has been on the brink of a return to full-blown war as government



South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir (left), and Vice President Riek Machar (right), shake hands after meetings to discuss outstanding issues to the peace deal on Oct 20, 2019. (AP)

forces battle armed groups believed to be loyal to Machar.

They argued Machar remains the country’s vice president under the provisions of the 2018 agreement, which was negotiated with the help of regional leaders and others in the international community.

The proceedings were then adjourned until Tuesday.

Kiir and Machar were leaders of the rebel movement that secured South Sudan’s independence from Sudan in 2011. They are from rival ethnic groups: Kiir is from the Dinka, the

largest, and Machar is from the Nuer, the second-largest.

Their military rivalry began in the 1990s, when Machar led a breakaway unit that drew accusations he had betrayed the rebel movement. During the split, forces loyal to Machar carried out a massacre in the town of Bor that targeted the Dinka, angering rebel commander Kiir and John Garang, the movement’s now-deceased political figurehead.

Fighting among southerners briefly undermined their struggle for independence, but also sowed lifelong distrust between Kiir and Machar.

Lat/Am

DomRep seizes cocaine from speedboat: Authorities in the Dominican Republic said Sunday they have confiscated some of the cocaine transported by a speedboat that was destroyed recently by the US Navy, as the Trump administration carries out a controversial anti-narcotics mission in the southern Caribbean.

In a press conference, the Dominican Republic’s National Directorate for Drug Control said it recovered 377 packages of cocaine from the boat which was allegedly carrying 1,000 kilograms of the drug.

Officials said the boat was destroyed about 80 nautical miles south of Isla Beata, a small island that belongs to the Dominican Republic. (AP)

□ □ □

Lottery proceeds to support migrants: Mexican authorities said Friday that the proceeds from a special National Lottery draw held on Sept 15 will be used to expand protection programs for vulnerable Mexican migrants, particularly those living in the United States.

National Lottery chief Olivia Salomon said the draw generated sales of 338.5 million pesos (about 18.4 million US dollars), with net proceeds of 115.9 million pesos after prize payouts.

Foreign Minister Juan Ramon de la Fuente said the funds will be used to support six initiatives designed to strengthen Mexico’s consulates and provide better legal, humanitarian and emergency assistance. (Xinhua)



This is a locator map for Pakistan with its capital, Islamabad, and the Kashmir region. (AP)

Militant compound blast kills 24

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Sept 22, (AP): Bomb-making material allegedly stored at a compound by Pakistani Taliban fighters exploded on Monday in the country’s restive northwest, killing at least 24 people, including militants and civilians, police said.

The blast occurred in the Tirah Valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and destroyed several nearby homes.

Local police officer Zafar Khan said at least 10 civilians, including women and children, were killed, along with at least 14 militants.

Khan alleged that two local Pakistani Taliban commanders, Aman Gul and Masood Khan, had established hideouts in the compound, which was being used as a factory for producing roadside bombs.

Afghanistan removes Interpol branch from chart

KABUL, Sept 22, (Xinhua): The Afghan government’s Ministry of Interior Affairs has dissolved the branch of Interpol from its administrative chart, spokesman for the ministry **Abdul Mateen Qani** said.

“The Interpol police structure has been removed from the Ministry of Interior Affairs,” local media outlet Tolonews quoted Qani as saying on Sunday night.

The official did not give details for the decision.

Earlier reports, according to private media outlet Tolonews, suggested that the leader of the Afghan government had dissolved the Interpol police structures in both the Min-

istry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

 Qani

Afghanistan joined Interpol on Oct 21, 2002. At that time, about 120 personnel served in the Interior Ministry and another 30 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The country’s Interpol branch was responsible for coordinating criminal investigations and communication

with other nations.

Also:

KABUL: After nearly one week of internet deactivation, authorities have restored internet for some government departments in Afghanistan’s southern Kandahar province, provincial director for communication Mullah Noorullah Nuri said Monday.

Point-to-point internet has been restored for some government offices, including banks, customs, and the Directorate for National ID Cards, to enable them to run their daily work smoothly, the official said.

Boursa Kuwait ends positive

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Monday's session on a positive note, with the All Share Index adding 14.06 points, or 0.16 percent, to settle at 8,808.80. Trading activity saw 556.6 million shares exchanged in 27,168 transactions, with a total value of KD 100.8 million (USD 306.4 million). The Main Market Index posted the strongest performance, advancing 44.14 points,

or 0.55 percent, to 8,083.58. The market witnessed 421 million shares traded through 18,563 deals, worth KD 57.2 million (USD 173.8 million). The Premier Market Index inched up by 7.24 points, or 0.08 percent, closing at 9,424.94, with 145.5 million shares changing hands in 8,605 transactions, valued at KD 43.5 million (USD 132.2 million).

Business

New CEO to focus on digital transformation and innovation in investment products

ABK Capital appoints Sherif El-Rafie as new Chief Executive Officer

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: ABK Capital, the investment arm of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Group, announced the appointment of Sherif El-Rafie as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective 22 September 2025, following regulatory approvals. This strategic leadership appointment underscores ABK Capital's commitment to strengthening its role in investment management and capital markets across Kuwait and the wider region.

El-Rafie brings over 20 years of experience in investment banking across the GCC, the Middle East & North Africa, and the United States. He has executed transactions exceeding USD 12 billion in capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, private placements, and structured financing. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MBA from the University of Texas, USA, in addition to being a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Over the past five years, El-Rafie has spearheaded more than 14 landmark transactions valued at over USD 2.5 billion, including capital increases for several companies, among them local banks, as well as three successful initial public offerings (IPOs).

Commenting on the appointment, Dr. Abdulaziz Jawad, Chairman of the Board of ABK Capital, said, "We are delighted to welcome Sherif El-Rafie as CEO of ABK Capital. His strong record in investment banking and deep regional expertise uniquely position him to lead the company, strengthen client relationships, and deliver outstanding results."

Dr. Jawad added, "We are confident that under his leadership, ABK



Dr. Abdulaziz Jawad, Chairman



Sherif El-Rafie, CEO

Capital will not only enhance its capital markets and advisory capabilities, but also drive innovation in investment products, enabling us to serve a broader

client base. This will reinforce our leading role in Kuwait and the region while ensuring sustainable growth and long-term value creation."

ABK Capital remains committed to providing innovative capital market solutions, expanding its regional footprint, and supporting sustainable growth for its clients. The company continues to position itself as a leading platform for capital markets activities in Kuwait and beyond.

El-Rafie's appointment comes as ABK Capital undergoes a period of significant growth, including the establishment of its subsidiary at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and the launch of new investment solutions tailored to client needs across Kuwait and the wider region. These offerings include an Equipment Leasing Portfolio, a Global High Income Portfolio, and a Diversified Real Estate Portfolio, among others.

The company continues to keep pace with developments and innovate more solutions that satisfy all customer segments, contributing to strengthening its competitive position in the investment sector, both locally and regionally.

Dr. Jawad concluded, "El-Rafie will play a pivotal role in leading the executive team and delivering on ABK Capital's strategic roadmap. His focus will be on advancing our digital transformation, embracing technological innovation, and forging new strategic partnerships. These efforts will strengthen our ability to deliver cutting-edge investment services, attract a wider client base, and maintain the trust and satisfaction of our investors."

Meeting highlights bilateral ties and investment opportunities

AAW welcomes newly appointed Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Chairman and CEO of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW), Faisal Ali Al Mutawa, welcomed the Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Ghady El Khoury, at the company's headquarters to congratulate him on his appointment as the new ambassador to Kuwait. The meeting covered discussions on AAW's relations with Lebanon and the investment opportunities available.

Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. Chairman and CEO Mr. Faisal Ali Al Mutawa said: "For years, Lebanon and Kuwait have had excellent ties and deep cooperation between the two economies, helping make a positive difference in various fields of interest. I would like to thank H.E. Mr. Ghady El Khoury for his visit, and welcome him anytime at AAW."

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

AAW is the distributor for more than 100 global brands in Kuwait's growing wholesale and retail market, and it has also contributed to several humanitarian and healthcare initiatives in Lebanon.



AAW Chairman Faisal Al Mutawa welcomes new Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait.

'Committed to innovation & education for a sustainable Kuwait'

KIPCO supports global 'NASA Space Apps Challenge' hackathon at AUK

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – announced that it will be the lead sponsor of the 'NASA Space Apps Challenge' on October 4-5. This is the sixth year that the American University of Kuwait (AUK) fosters innovation and collaboration by hosting this prestigious global hackathon.

Organized by AUK's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the event embodies the university's commitment to advancing education, space exploration and interdisciplinary problem-solving. The NASA Space Apps Challenge is the world's largest annual hackathon, held simultaneously in over 200 cities worldwide. It brings together a diverse community of scientists, developers, designers, storytellers, engineers and entrepreneurs to address challenges using open-source data from NASA and its global partners.

On this occasion, Ms Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Senior Vice President – Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, said:



Eman Al Awadhi – Group SVP, CorpComms & IR

"KIPCO is proud to sponsor the NASA Space Apps Challenge hosted by AUK in Kuwait. As a leading investment group committed to supporting

innovation, education and community development, we see this event as a perfect platform to foster creativity, technological advancement and scientific exploration in our youth. Our support aligns with KIPCO's strategic goals of empowering future generations and strengthening social outreach through meaningful initiatives. We believe that nurturing talented young minds is essential for building a sustainable and innovative future for Kuwait."

As the designated local lead, AUK has played a pioneering role in bringing the challenge to Kuwait since 2018. The inaugural event attracted 80 multidisciplinary participants, culminating in a local team being selected as one of the top 25 global finalists out of 400 participating teams.

This year's event will be held at the AUK campus, and more than 200 participants are expected to take part. Registration is open to the public, including high school and university students, faculty and professionals.

Loan worth KD 7.5 mln to support hydropower project

Kuwait Fund signs second loan agreement with Pakistan for Mohmand Dam

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: A Second Loan Agreement was signed today in Kuwait between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, whereby the Kuwait Fund will provide a loan to Pakistan in the amount of Kuwaiti Dinars 7,500,000 (equivalent to about US \$24 million) for the financing of the Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project.

The Loan Agreement was signed by His Excellency Dr. Zafar Iqbal Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to State of Kuwait on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, whereas Mr. Waleed Al-Bahar, Acting Director-General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development signed the Loan Agreement on behalf of the Fund.

The Project aims to support the economic and social development in by enhancing national energy generation from the available hydro resources to meet the increasing electricity demand, improve the region's resilience to flooding, provide sustainable water resources for agriculture and drinking water for the region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KPP), and creating new job opportunities.

The project is expected to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals, including: the first (No Poverty), the second (zero hunger), the sixth (clean water and sanitation), the seventh (affordable and clean energy), the eighth (decent work and economic growth), the ninth (industry, innovation and infrastructure), thirteenth (clean action) and the seventeenth (partnerships for the goals).

The Project aims at enhancing national energy generation from the available hydro resources to meet the increasing electricity demand, improve the region's resilience to flooding, provide sustainable water resources for agriculture and drinking water for the region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KPP), and creating new job opportunities.



Agreement signed by Pakistan's Ambassador and Kuwait Fund DG.

tunkhwa Province (KPP), and creating new job opportunities.

The Project consists of the construction of a hydropower scheme on the Swat River located in the northeast of Pakistan, about 200 km west of Islamabad. It comprises a concrete-faced rockfill dam with a height of about 213 meters and a crescent length of about 717 meters, creat-

ing a reservoir with a total length of about 56 km, an area of about 24 km2, and a volume of about 1.6 billion m3. The scheme will include a powerhouse with 4 electricity-generating units with a total installed capacity of about 800 MW, capable of producing about 2,862 GWh a year.

The project will include flood protection, irrigation infrastructure, and an intake for future drinking water facilities.

The project also includes consultancy and project management services. The project is expected to be completed by 31/12/2028.

The total cost of the Project is estimated at about 322.8 billion Pakistani Rupee, equivalent to approximately 900.6 million Kuwaiti dinars. The second Kuwait fund's loan of 7,500,000 million Kuwaiti dinars covers about 0.83% of the project costs. With both loans, the Kuwaiti Fund's contribution would increase to approximately 1.66% of the project's costs.

In addition to that, the project is financed through contributions from the Islamic Development Bank in an amount equivalent to about 56.3 million Kuwaiti dinars, the OPEC Fund for Development in an amount equivalent to about 22.5 million Kuwaiti dinars, and the Saudi Fund for Development in an amount equivalent to about 75 million Kuwaiti dinars, while the Pakistani government will cover the remaining costs or any other increase that may occur in the project costs.

By consolidating the First and Second Loans, the Loan will have a term of 25 years, including a period of grace of about 5 years, and will be amortized by 40 semi-annual installments, the first of which will be due on the first date on which or any interest or other charges on the loan shall fall due after the elapse of the grace period. Loan will bear interest at 2% per annum in addition to a charge of 0.5% for meeting administrative costs and the expenses of implementation of the Loan Agreement.

The Fund Loan represents the nineteenth loan provided by the Fund to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the Fund had previously provided eighteenth loans to Pakistan, in various sectors, totaling approximately 137.3 million Kuwaiti dinars.

■ GCC: Regional GDP forecast at 4.1% in 2025, rising to 4.6% in 2026, as oil output rebounds and non-oil growth sustains momentum
■ Kuwait: Growth of 4% in 2025, supported by oil gains and new debt law unlocking fiscal flexibility
■ Qatar: Economy projected to expand 2.7% in 2025, accelerating to 4.8% in 2026 on North Field LNG expansion
■ UAE and Saudi Arabia: Non-oil sectors continue to drive diversification, supporting broader regional resilience

economies continue to demonstrate the role of diversification in sustaining resilience. The UAE economy is set to grow 5.1% in 2025, with non-oil GDP rising 4.7%, now accounting for 77% of total GDP. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is forecast to expand 4.2%, with non-oil sectors sustaining annual growth of around 5%, driven by construction, trade, and financial services. Together, these dynamics show how non-oil growth momentum is shaping the GCC's broader economic outlook.

Hanadi Khalife, Head of Middle East, ICAEW, said: "The GCC economies are showing that diversification is more than policy. It is a measurable driver of resilience. With non-oil sectors powering growth momentum in Saudi Arabia and accounting for the majority of GDP in the UAE, alongside fiscal reforms in Kuwait, the region is successfully turning global challenges into opportunities for transformation."

Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor, and Chief Economist and Managing Director, Oxford Economics Middle East, said: "The GCC is not only recovering from oil production cuts; it is reshaping its growth model. While Kuwait's fiscal reforms and Qatar's LNG expansion provide confidence in the medium term, recent geopolitical escalations involving Qatar, and Gulf leaders' recognition of its right to respond, add some uncertainty to the near-term outlook. Even so, the region's mix of reforms, energy growth, and strong non-oil diversification positions it to outperform global peers."

What are fund flows trends & what can they tell us?

By NBK Wealth

Fund flows track the movement of money into (inflows) and out of (outflows) investment vehicles like mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), and hedge funds. Fund flows are measured in dollars or percentages and provide insights into where capital is being allocated or withdrawn.

Why Do Fund Flows Matter?

Fund flows are a real-time indicator of investor behavior, revealing what investors do rather than what they say; equity inflows typically signal bullishness, while inflows to bonds or cash often indicate a shift to safety.

Persistent inflows to specific sectors or themes can precede price rallies, whereas sustained outflows may suggest stress or regulatory headwinds in regions or sectors.

Professionals use flows to identify trends, manage liquidity risk during redemptions, and avoid crowded trades; policymakers gauge financial stability, and companies time capital raises when investor appetite is strong.

Some Contexts:

■ Investor Psychology: Reveal actual investor behavior, for example inflows into stocks signal bullishness, while inflows into bonds signal caution

■ Leading Indicator: Can predict market moves. A sustained inflow into technology

How Are Fund Flows Used?		
Different stakeholders use fund flows for distinct purposes:		
Stakeholders	How They Use Fund Flows	Example
Retail Investors	Gauge market sentiment and follow "smart money" trends.	If large-cap tech funds see inflows, retail investors may buy tech stocks.
Fund Managers	Adjust portfolios based on investor demand and manage liquidity risks.	If a fund sees heavy outflows, managers may sell assets to meet redemptions.
Traders	Identify short-term opportunities (momentum trades) or risks (crowded exits).	Heavy inflows into a sector-specific ETF may trigger a short-term rally.
Policymakers	Monitor financial stability and assess risks of capital outflow.	Sudden outflows from a country's funds may prompt currency interventions.
Companies	Time capital raising (IPOs or bond issuances) when investor appetite is strong.	A biotech firm may launch an IPO during a surge in healthcare fund inflows.
Financial Media	Report on market trends and investor behavior.	Headlines like "Investors Flee US Markets" often cite fund flow data.

ETFs preceded tech stock rallies.

■ Tool for Professionals: Help fund managers, traders, and analysts spot trends, avoid bubbles, and adjust portfolios/positions.

■ Economic Health: Reflect broader economic conditions and outlook. (e.g., outflows from equities may signal recession fears).

Practical Illustrations

During early 2020, as COVID-19 pandemic spread, global equity funds saw roughly \$300billion of outflows in six

weeks while bond and money market funds drew record inflows, signaling panic and a flight to safety.

In 2023, AI-focused ETFs witnessed significant inflows months before mega-cap AI stocks set new highs, showing how flows can lead price action in emerging themes.

Other known trends include the 2013 "Great Rotation" of about \$500 billion from bonds to equities, 2020-2022 ESG inflows of approximately \$300 billion, and roughly \$20 billion of outflows from China



equity funds in a single quarter during 2022 amid regulatory concerns.

Interpreting signals

Magnitude matters because very large, sudden moves often reflect sentiment shifts, while consistent flows over several weeks or months is more informative than one-offs.

Understanding who is moving money (retail vs institutional) and where it's going (sector, region) enhances signal quality, and heavy outflows can force asset sales, amplifying downside through liquidity pressures.

Common Misconceptions

Flows are not perfect timing tools for tops or bottoms, and big inflows can reflect late-stage FOMO ("Fear of Missing Out") that precedes drawdowns in crowded themes.

Outflows do not automatically mean a fund is poor; they may reflect tax-loss harvesting, rebalancing, or transient sentiment



shifts.

What This Means for You?

Fund flows outline market stability, influence interest rates and corporate financing conditions, and ultimately affect retirement portfolios and everyday investing decisions by signaling confidence, liquidity, and macro direction.

Conclusion

Fund flows provide a holistic view of global financial behavior, reflecting investor sentiment, economic momentum, and market positioning. Understanding these trends helps professionals and individuals alike interpret meaningful signals and make informed decisions.

IBPC Kuwait signs MoU with ICC at Global Business Summit in Mumbai

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: The Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) Kuwait participated in the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Global Business Summit held on 18th and 19th September 2025 in Mumbai.

A landmark moment during the Summit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ICC and IBPC Kuwait. The MoU was signed by Mr. Abhyudaya Jindal, President of ICC, and Mr. Kaizar Shakir, Chairman of IBPC Kuwait, in the presence of Mr. S. K. Wadhawan, along with Mr. Suresh K. P., Secretary of IBPC Kuwait, and Mr. Sunit Arora, Joint Secretary of IBPC Kuwait.

The IBPC Kuwait delegation of over 20 members actively engaged with business consortiums and leaders, including Mr. Saqer Yaseen Al-Rashoud, CEO of Public Relations and Marketing for the National Cleaning Company, Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Houti, a lawyer and Managing Partner at Dar Al-Muhamah Law Firm, and Mr. M. A. Asad Khan, CEO of the Kuwaiti Swedish Cleaning Services Company.

The Summit provided an excellent platform for the delegation to network with business leaders, engage with policymakers, and interact with key stakeholders from diverse sectors as well as representatives from



Photos during the Global Business Summit.

various state governments. These exchanges opened new opportunities for collaboration, trade partnerships, and mutual growth.

This MoU sets the stage for stronger cooperation, trade opportunities, and professional collaboration between India and Kuwait. IBPC Kuwait also thanks Mr. Abhyudaya Jin-

dal for his leadership in enabling this milestone, which will further deepen economic and cultural ties.

The participation of IBPC Kuwait at this Summit reflects its mission to foster partnerships, dialogue, and progress, while continuing its role as a bridge between the business communities of India and Kuwait.

Ex-mall turned high-tech tax HQ

Greece revamp tax system with drones, big data, & AI

ATHENS, Sept 22, (AP): With a pristine white exterior, the Greece tax authority's new headquarters looks out of place on a clogged industrial artery outside Athens. A former shopping mall and ice rink, the building has been overhauled into an ultramodern digital center that has led the rescue of the nation's ailing finance and tax sector.

It is teeming with inspectors who chase down tax cheats with the help of drones, big data and live surveillance feeds from as far as Greece's island ports and remote farming villages.

Analysts at the Independent Authority for Public Revenue monitor millions of transactions in real time and order stings on businesses flagged by algorithms for a high potential of illegal activity. The high tech was on full display during a recent visit as The Associated Press was granted rare access to the authority's headquarters.

Greece's tax system - once a byword for inefficiency - has been rewired by technology.

Now, the country that spent nearly a decade as Europe's financial outcast, drowning in debt, has become one of its best budget performers, with bonds restored to investment grade by all major ratings agencies.

"We worked systematically over the years, with dedication," Giorgos Pitsilis, governor of the revenue authority, told the AP. "We started from a situation of no data to a situation with big data."

Greece was one of just six EU member states that recorded a budget surplus in 2024, after running deficits for decades. Momentum carried into this year, with government revenues shooting past targets through August.

Moody's upgraded Greece's bonds to investment grade in March, praising its large-scale push to digitize the tax system. Jason Graffam, senior vice president at ratings agency Morningstar DBRS, noted that Greece's long-term borrowing costs now sit slightly above Spain's - and below Italy's and France's.

"The Greece of today is indeed very different from a decade ago," Graffam said. "There has clearly been durable change to the country's economic model and its fiscal regime."

The reforms have salvaged Greece's

During the crisis years, international creditors imposed punishing austerity measures in exchange for three massive bailout packages. Greece's population felt the pain deeply - wages were slashed, companies shut down and the economy bled jobs.

Sustained pressure from lenders forced successive governments to modernize one of Europe's weakest tax systems.

Out went paper files and fax machines. In came cashless, paperless systems powered by algorithms that scour card payments, tax filings, payroll data, customs declarations and bank records - and flag anomalies for inspectors to pursue.

Repurposed smartphones carried by inspectors in the field stream video and audio back to headquarters. There are panic buttons to use when someone feels threatened.

Back at headquarters, screens map ongoing site inspections and drone surveillance feeds from multiple sites: from restaurants and ports to hidden grain silos and fruit delivery trucks - even live readings from ships' fuel tanks.

Tax and customs officials described how the data translates into raids. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the confidentiality of their work and citing reasons of personal safety.

During a recent nightclub sweep dubbed "Saturday Night Fever," they matched individual table orders against receipts to uncover undeclared sales, mostly of alcoholic drinks.

"We knew the tables were full, but the receipts didn't match," one official said, adding that after inspectors showed up, the nightclub's reported revenues doubled within days.

Fraud can be detected by cross-referencing mobile phone activity with reported sales as recorded by cash registers and card-payment terminals that by law must be connected to the tax authority.

"If we detect signals from 20 phones inside a store, but see almost no receipts, that's a cue to dispatch a team immediately," another inspector explained.

Trump says Murdochs & Dell may join TikTok deal

Congress passed TikTok ban for Jan

WASHINGTON, Sept 22, (AP): President Donald Trump said prominent billionaires - including media mogul Rupert Murdoch and tech founder Michael Dell - could be part of a deal in which the U.S. will take control of the social video platform TikTok.

Trump namedropped the 94-year-old Murdoch and his son Lachlan Murdoch, the head of Fox News and News Corp, as part of a group of possible participants in a deal during an interview recorded Friday and aired Sunday on Fox News.

"I think they're going to be in the group. A couple of others. Really great people, very prominent people," Trump said. "And they're also American patriots, you know, they love this country. I think they're going to do a really good job."

Trump's disclosure of the potential involvement of the Murdochs and Dell, the founder and CEO of Dell Technologies, is the latest twist in a fast-moving potential deal to keep TikTok operating



The TikTok logo is pictured in Tokyo, Sept. 28, 2020. (AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato, File)

in the U.S.

Trump also said Sunday that tech giant Oracle founder and Chairman Larry Ellison was part of the same group. His involvement had been previously disclosed. On Saturday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Oracle would be responsible for the app's data and security and that Americans will control six of the seven seats for a planned board.

Much is still unknown about the actual deal in the works. Trump discussed the TikTok deal with China's Xi Jinping in a lengthy phone call on Friday. Chinese and U.S. officials have until Dec. 16 to hash out the details, following the latest deadline extension by the Trump administration.

TikTok is a hugely popular app currently owned by a Chinese company, ByteDance. American officials have warned the algorithm TikTok uses to shape what users see is vulnerable to manipulation by Chinese authorities, who can use it to push content on the platform in a way that's difficult to detect.

Congress passed legislation calling for a TikTok ban to go into effect in January, but Trump has repeatedly signed orders that have allowed TikTok to keep operating in the United States as his administration tries to reach an agreement for the social media company's parent company to sell its U.S. operations.

On Sunday, Trump said that he was "a little prejudiced" about TikTok because he credited the app for helping him connect with young voters. Trump said slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk encouraged the president to use the app.

Representatives for Ellison, Dell and the Murdochs could not immediately be reached for comment.

Trump filed a lawsuit against Murdoch and one of his newspapers, The Wall Street Journal, in July after it published a story reporting on the president's ties to wealthy financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The Conversation

App likely won't mirror current TikTok exactly

TikTok's algorithm key to user engagement & app's success

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

□ □ □

By Kelley Cotter, Penn State

President Donald Trump announced on Sept. 19, 2025, a preliminary agreement for the sale of a majority stake in TikTok from Chinese tech giant ByteDance to a group of U.S. investors following Trump's negotiation with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

The deal would create a new U.S.-only version of the app, bringing it into compliance with a law signed by former President Joe Biden on April 23, 2024, and upheld by the Supreme Court on Jan. 17, 2025. Specifics of the deal remain to be hammered out, and left unresolved is the fate of the video sharing app's core algorithm - and what that means for TikTok's millions of U.S. users.

The Chinese government has indicated it will not permit ByteDance to sell the algorithm, because it is classified as a controlled technology export, per Chinese law. Meanwhile, U.S. tech industry executives and some lawmakers say compliance with the law requires the algorithm to be under American control. The deal as proposed includes licensing the algorithm so that it remains Chinese intellectual property while the U.S. version of the app continues to use the technology.

TikTok's For You Page algorithm is widely considered the most important part of the app. As one analyst put it: "Buying TikTok without the algorithm would be like buying a Ferrari without the engine."

The algorithm's value lies in its uncanny capacity to anticipate users' content preferences. Many users claim it knows them better than they know themselves - a sentiment that has evolved into a curious mix of spiritual belief and conspiracy theorizing, as my colleagues and I have documented. Other scholars have similarly noted that users feel more intimately seen and known by TikTok's algorithm than those powering other popular platforms.

I have studied social media algorithms for nearly a decade, exploring how our relationships with them have evolved as they become increasingly entwined with daily life. As both a social media scholar and TikTok devotee, I want to shed some light on how the algorithm works and how the app might change in the wake of its sale.

In some ways, the TikTok algorithm does not differ significantly from other social media algorithms. At their core, algorithms are merely a series of steps used to accomplish a specific goal. They perform mathematical

computations to optimize output in service of that goal.

There are two layers to the TikTok algorithm. First, there is the abstract layer that defines the outcome developers wish to accomplish. An internal document shared with The New York Times specified that TikTok's algorithm optimizes for four goals: "user value," "long-term user value," "creator value" and "platform value."

But how do you turn these goals into math? What does an abstract concept like "user value" even mean? It's not practical to ask users whether they value their experience every time they visit the site. Instead, TikTok relies on proxy signals that translate abstract outcomes into quantifiable measures - specifically, likes, comments, shares, follows, time spent on a given video and other user behavior data. These signals then become part of an equation to predict two key concrete outcomes: "retention," or the likelihood that a user will return to the site, and "time spent" on the app.

The TikTok For You Page algorithm relies on machine learning for predicting retention and time spent. Machine learning is a computational process in which an algorithm learns patterns in a dataset, with little or no human guidance, to produce the best equation to predict an outcome. Through learning patterns, the algorithm determines how much individual data signals matter for coming up with a precise prediction.

A Wall Street Journal investigation found that the amount of time users spend watching each video plays a large role in how the algorithm chooses videos it suggests to users. Using the equation it has generated to predict retention and time spent, the algorithm assigns a score to each video and ranks possible videos that could be shown to the user by this score. The higher the score for an individual user, the more likely the video will appear in their feed.

Of course, content characteristics and other users additionally inform recommendations, and there are other subprocesses folded into the equation. This step is where algorithmic moderation usually comes in. If a video looks like engagement bait or has excessive gore, for example, the content's score will be penalized.

The sale has not been finalized, and what happens to the algorithm is unresolved. However, it's fairly certain that TikTok will change. I see two key reasons for change.

First, the proposed app's U.S.-only user population will alter the makeup of the underlying dataset informing algorithmic recommendations on an ongoing basis. As the kinds of content and users come to reflect American cultural preferences, values and behaviors, the algorithm may be slightly different as it "learns" new patterns.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT



Got a birthday or event?
Share your story and snapshots with Arab Times!
Email your write-up and photos to
arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com
We'll feature it on our What's On page!

A first-of-its-kind collaboration with Free Jabriya will allow audiences to stream the show starting Oct 16, 2025

talabat delivers Miami Show 3.0 from The Arena stage to homes via Shasha platform



Miami Show 3.0 performances



Miami Show 3.0 performances



A talabat rider takes part in the show



talabat, the strategic partner of Miami Show 3.0



Miami Show 3.0 performances



talabat's special offer for Miami Band fans



talabat, the strategic partner of Miami Show 3.0



talabat-sponsored Best Dressed award

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, announced a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Free Jabriya Productions and Shasha platform to deliver the "Miami Show 3.0" experience from The Arena stage directly into people's homes. Starting from October 16, 2025, audiences will be able to exclusively watch the recorded performance on Shasha, in a new step that reflects talabat's commitment to expanding the horizons of entertainment and supporting local talent.

The Miami show, sponsored by talabat, was held at The Arena between September 17 and 19, and brought together more than 16,000 attendees across four consecutive live performances. Through this collaboration, Miami Band fans will have the opportunity to relive the magic of the concert, or discover it for the very first time, with greater ease and convenience.

"Our experience collaborating with Free Jabriya and powering 'Miami Show 3.0' was phenomenal, to say the least, not only because it allowed us to be closer to our community and to deliver a different form of joy to them, but also because it enabled us to support Kuwaiti artists who shined with their creativity on-stage and behind the scenes," commented Bader

Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait.

For his part, Ali Al Nusf Executive Producer and Co-Founder at Free Jabriya, said: "We're thrilled to feature the Miami Show 3.0, the final performance under Free Jabriya, on shasha platform, bringing the excitement of the stage beyond the walls of The Arena and directly into the homes of fans across the region. This first-of-its-kind collaboration represents a major step in making live entertainment more accessible for everyone, starting with an iconic band like Miami, cherished across generations. The recorded show is proudly delivered by talabat, who supported the live and streamed event as the main strategic partner."

Through this collaboration, talabat reaffirms its ongoing commitment to delivering a complete lifestyle that meets the daily needs of the community, from groceries and food to artistic and on-demand entertainment experiences. It further cements the company's unwavering support for all homegrown talents and businesses that reflect the authenticity of Kuwaiti culture.

Rhetorics Academy hosts public speaking workshop

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Rhetorics Academy, a division of Bright Planet Educational Hub, organized a unique workshop on Emotions in Public Speaking for its students on Wednesday, 17th September, at the Bright Planet Hub located in Block 5, Salmiya.

The session highlighted the vital role emotions play in public speaking, their power to influence audiences, elevate inspiring speeches, and creating meaningful connections. Students explored a variety of themes, including Defining emotions and their role in communication, Importance of emotions in public speaking, Making emotions come alive through delivery, Using storytelling to express emotions indirectly, and Key emotions that inspire and persuade.

The workshop was led by Mr. Hesham Eissa, a seasoned Toast-

master since 2012 and a three-time winner of the International Speech Contests within Toastmasters representing Kuwait twice, and Egypt and Iraq once, on the international stage. Beyond Toastmasters, Mr. Hesham continues his journey of self-discovery in professional speaking, training, and acting. He holds a certificate in professional training and has undertaken several workshops in acting, voice-over, and radio presentation.

The session captivated an audience of 35 students aged 11 to 17 years. Sharing her thoughts, Ms. Aleena Bano, Academy Head, remarked:

"At Rhetorics, we strive to bring the finest experiences in public speaking to our students. As Kuwait's first academy dedicated to this field, we ensure that workshops like these are conducted regularly for the benefit of all learners."



Photo during the event.

KTMCC Annual Convention set for Oct 1st-3rd, 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: The Kuwait Town Malayali Christian Congregation (KTMCC) will host its Annual Convention on October 1, 2, and 3, 2025 (Wednesday to Friday) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait (NECK) and Parish Hall.

The convention will feature messages from the Word of God delivered by the renowned Bible scholar Rev. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar. Worship will be led by the KTMCC Choir.

Established 72 years ago, KTMCC continues to play a vital role in uniting and supporting the Malayali Christian community in Kuwait, providing a common platform for fellowship and spiritual growth. Today,

KTMCC represents more than 28 churches from denominations including MarThoma, CSI, Evangelical, Brethren, and Pentecostal.

KTMCC also carries the administrative responsibility of NECK, a congregation where over 85 churches from nearly 100 nations worship together.

Convention arrangements are being coordinated under the leadership of Roy K. Yohannan (NECK Secretary), Varughese Mathew (President), Ajosh Mathew (Secretary), Tijo C. Sunny (Treasurer), Saju V. Thomas (NECK Common Council Member), Jeess George Cherian (Joint Treasurer) along with the committee members.

Corporate team Oriental Insurance joins league

Tenth edition of Kuwait Badminton League starts Sept 25, 2025 at IBAK

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: They say that enduring relationships are a testament to the resilience and commitment between the partners and the 10th edition of Kuwait's first and only professional badminton league, "KDD-KUWAIT BADMINTON LEAGUE" which is poised to start from 25th Sep 2025 at IBAK's Salwa gym, exemplifies this. The partnership between KDD, a premier F&B giant in the MENA region and beyond and Kuwait's first and pioneering Badminton association, IBAK that started a decade ago is proof that professionalism begets success. The tournament will be inaugurated on Thursday 25th Sep 2024 Evening at 7 PM. The tournament is scheduled for 4 days (25, 26 Sept & 2, 3 Oct 2025).

Kuwait Badminton League is a team event which will be conducted across 7 categories in which 140+ players from different clubs in Kuwait are expected to participate, grouped under 8 different teams. The fact that the stature of this tournament has grown from strength to strength is measured by the increase in number of teams from 6 to 8. The entry of corporate players into the league is another proof of the successful outreach of IBAK's commitment to the development of the sport of badminton. This is being realized by the participation of Team Oriental sponsored by Oriental Insurance company. IBAK aims to get more corporate groups involved in the future thereby raising the bar higher in the promotion and development of badminton in Kuwait, a feat which it has achieved with benchmarking success right from its inception in 2010.

The tournament will showcase professional badminton at its best across 7 categories namely, 1 Professional Doubles (Men), 1 Open Doubles (Men), 1 Advance Doubles (Men), 1 Higher Intermediate Doubles (Men), 1 Ladies Doubles, 1 Super Combo Doubles (50+ and Intermediate) and 1 Mixed Doubles categories.

The competition was kick started with a two phased auction process for the players to be segregated into the eight different teams. The captains' auction was held at Saad Al Awzi School (IBAK Gym) on 3rd Sep 2025 and the players' auction was held on the 4th of September 2025. In a gruelling auction process which was fiercely contested and extended over eight hours, 140+ players who entered the auction process, were identified into the eight teams which will compete against each other. The teams are, TEAM SCORPIONS led by Mr. Abdul Jabbar, TEAM 5.30 led by Mr. Jabbar Farooqi, TEAM ROYAL STARS led by Mr. Maggeswaran, TEAM USC led by Mr. Aravind, TEAM ISA led by Mr. Manuel, TEAM ORIENTAL led by Mr. Hisham Ezzi, TEAM ELITE BADMINTON CLUB led by Mr. Syed Akhber and TEAM VIKINGS led by Mr. Dhruva.



Photos during the event.

The Owners and Captains of the eight competing teams showed a lot of enthusiasm and were very calculative in selecting their respective team players. Mr. Sreenivas was the auctioneer and the auction was supported by IBAK's KDD-KBL Committee Members. It was a well-coordinated effort by the KDD-KBL committee members who ensured the arrangements were done smoothly. The eight teams were drawn into two pools of 4 teams each. Pool A will have Team Vikings, Team Royal

Stars, Team 5.30 and TEAM Scorpions vying for the top two places to enter the knockouts and Pool B will have Team USC, Team ISA, Team Elite Badminton Club and Team Oriental battling it out to make the play-offs.

We cordially invite you with your family & friends to witness this splendid event. For more enquiries, please feel free to contact Mr. Ajaya Kumar Vasudevan (President- KBL) (99841336) Mr. Subin Varghese (COO-KBL) and Mr. Ramesh Chandra (Secretary- KBL)

oversaw the smooth conduct of the two day auction process and the core committee of KDD-KBL along with its parent body IBAK's dedicated group of office bearers is looking forward to organise the tournament in a grand manner. IBAK is ever grateful to its dedicated team of volunteer members who have made each tournament a grand success year after year and since the list is endless but it's suffice to know that all those who contributed are thought of in the highest possible manner of gratitude.



Bad Bunny performs during the final concert of his summer residency in his homeland at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico Jose Miguel Agrelot, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Saturday, Sept. 20. (AP)

Epic last show

Bad Bunny closes ‘Puerto Rico tour’

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Sept 22, (AP): Bad Bunny fans drowned out memories of Hurricane Maria in one booming voice on the anniversary of the devastating storm.

Saturday was a concert for Puerto Ricans by Puerto Ricans to remind the world about the power of “la isla del encanto” (“the island of enchantment”). “We’re not going to quit. The entire world is watching!” Bad Bunny thundered into his microphone as he looked into a camera streaming his last show in Puerto Rico this year to viewers around the world following a historic 30-concert residency in the US territory.

The crowd roared as thousands watching via Amazon Music, Prime Video and Twitch joined them, marking the first time Bad Bunny was streamed across the globe.

The residency was more than just a series of concerts. Saturday marked the end of an extended love letter that Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio sang to Puerto Rico. He tapped into what it means to be Puerto Rican, to delight in the island’s beauty, defend its land and fight for its people.

“This is for you,” Bad Bunny said from the rooftop of an iconic Puerto Rican house installed at the concert venue as he raised his glass and the crowd raised their glasses in return.

Saturday marked the eighth anniversary of Hurricane Maria, which slammed into Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm on Sept. 20, 2017.

An estimated 2,975 people died in the sweltering aftermath of the storm that razed the island’s electric grid, leaving some communities without power for up to a year. Anger and frustration over the pace of reconstruction continues to simmer as chronic power outages persist.

“Over seven years after Hurricane Maria, FEMA does not know when Puerto Rico’s electrical grid will be completely rebuilt. The grid remains unstable, inadequate, and vulnerable to interruptions,” the report stated.

Imprinted

On Saturday, the number of estimated deaths were imprinted on the back of T-shirts and written on Puerto Rican flags that the crowd waved into the air.

At every concert this summer, Bad Bunny invited new celebrities - among them LeBron James, Penélope Cruz, Darren Aronofsky, DJ Khaled and Kylian Mbappé - and sang with different musicians, including Rubén Blades, Residente, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Rai Nao and Jorge Drexler.

But on Saturday, the noise from the crowd hit new levels as Bad Bunny rapped with Puerto Rico heavyweights Ñengo Flow, Jowell y Randy, Dei V and Arcángel and De la Ghetto. Thousands of fans flexed their knees in unison to thumping rap and reggaetón.

Then, the crowd gasped in disbelief as Marc Anthony appeared on stage after Bad Bunny pleaded with his fans to join him because he was going to sing a song he hadn’t sung in public in some 20 years.

“Yo te quiero, Puerto Rico!” the crowd cried as the two singers embraced at the end of the iconic song, “Preciosa,” whose lyrics say, “I love you, Puerto Rico.”

Thousands gathered outside the concert venue on Saturday hours before the concert, with Puerto Rico’s national flower, the vibrant flor de maga, tucked behind their ear, and the traditional straw hat known as the “pava,” set at a jaunty angle on their head.

But not all were celebrating.

Darlene Mercado milled around, asking strangers if they knew of anyone with tickets she could buy for herself and her daughter, who had flown in from New Jersey.

They were around number 122,000 in a virtual waiting line to buy tickets for Saturday’s sold-out concert and weren’t able to get any after waiting eight hours online.

“This is not only the anniversary of the hurricane, but it’s also the anniversary of me no longer having cancer and it’s my birthday. We wanted to celebrate everything with a bang,” she said.

Saturday’s concert was open only to residents of Puerto Rico, as were the first nine concerts of Bad Bunny’s residency, but the remainder was open to fans around the world.

Overall, the concerts attracted roughly half a million people, generating an estimated \$733 million for Puerto Rico, according to a new study by Gaither International.

Most foreign visitors came from the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Spain, with an average stay of nearly nine nights, the study found. Overall, roughly 70% of concertgoers were female, with an average age of 33, according to the study.

Among those attending was Shamira Oquendo. “It’s going to be an emotional night,” the 25-year-old said, noting that Hurricane Maria was her first hurricane. “It was very sad. A lot of people around me lost their things.”

Puerto Rico’s party with Bad Bunny ended early Sunday, but the superstar who recently clinched 12 Latin Grammy nominations will go on a worldwide tour in December, with concerts planned in countries including Costa Rica, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, Spain, France and Sweden. Notably, he is skipping the US, citing concerns over the arrest of immigrants.

On Saturday, Bad Bunny thanked his fans for their love. “I’m going to miss you a lot. I’m going to miss this energy,” he said as he urged the crowd to embrace love no matter the situation.

Football horror ‘Him’ opens in second place

‘Demon Slayer’ holds steady as box office surge stalls

LOS ANGELES, Sept 22, (AP): Neither a Jordan Peele-produced horror nor a Margot Robbie and Colin Farrell romantic drama were enough to continue the September hot streak at the movies. After back-to-back weekends that had films majorly overperforming, first “The Conjuring: Last Rights” followed by the anime “Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - Infinity Castle,” the North American box office slowed significantly.

Overall ticket sales were down nearly 50% from last weekend, with the holdover champion “Demon Slayer” edging out the newcomer “Him” for first place, according to studio estimates Sunday. Crunchyroll and Sony Pictures’ “Demon Slayer” added \$17.3 million over the weekend, bringing its total to \$104.7 million, which makes it the highest-grossing anime film ever in North America.

The football horror “Him” opened in second place with an estimated \$13.5 million in ticket sales. Universal Pictures opened “Him” in 3,168 North American theaters, where the audience was 52% male and 65% over the age of 25. Internationally, it earned \$400,000.

Produced by Peele’s Monkeypaw and directed by Justin Tipping, “Him” is about a promising young quarterback (Tyriq Withers) who is invited to train with a veteran (Marlon Wayans) at an isolated compound.

“Him” scored with neither critics (it carries a 29% on Rotten Tomatoes) nor audiences, who gave the film a C- CinemaScore. In his review for The Associated Press, film writer Jake Coyle wrote that the film “was made with the potent premise of bringing the kind of dark, satirical perspective that characterizes a Monkeypaw production to our violent national pastime. But that promise gets fumbled in an allegorical chamber play that grows increasingly tedious.”



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

“Him” was also nearly upstaged by another horror, “The Conjuring: Last Rights,” which made an estimated \$13 million in its third weekend. With a global total of \$400 million, it’s now the biggest film in the Conjuring universe.

They are two of three horror movies in this weekend’s top 10, including “Weapons.” According to data firm Comscore, this year that genre alone has generated \$1.1 billion in domestic box office receipts, just several million short of the 2017 record driven by “It” and “Get Out.”

“Horror movies have been on a bit of a hot streak,” said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore’s head of marketplace trends. “It’s going to be a record-breaking year.”

Film



This image released by Republic Pictures shows Kaya Scodelario in a scene from ‘Adulthood.’ (AP)

Gad and Scodelario shine in twisted comedy

Dark humor, family secrets in ‘Adulthood’

LOS ANGELES, Sept 22, (AP): Early on in “Adulthood,” siblings Meg and Noah Robles suddenly - and unhappily - learn why they never got to have a dog growing up.

It’s not because their parents didn’t think they could handle the responsibility or because dogs can be messy. It’s because there was a body walled up in the basement.

“How could our parents act like nothing ever happened?” Noah Robles asks. “That’s worse than the killing. It’s not, but still. They called it the ‘playroom.’”

That 30-year-old corpse will soon unleash a suburban comedy of errors as the bungling brother and sister - raised on TV police procedurals - try to find a way out of this mess without losing their freedom or precarious lifestyles.

“I wrote for two seasons on ‘Blue Bloods.’ I know how cops think,” says Noah Robles, a wonderfully childlike loser played by Josh Gad. His man-boy is a failed screenwriter in an Alamo Drafthouse T-shirt with maxed-out credit cards.

Director Alex Winter and screenwriter Michael M.B. Galvin combine for a pitch-perfect black comedy that has a nifty satirical edge, inverting the movie convention of

discovering that the kids are monsters.

Meg - played with lovely comic timing by a languid Kaya Scodelario - brings her young children to a dangerous payoff meet because she couldn’t get child care and loses her cool when she’s mocked for missing a yoga class. “Have a good day. Make good choices,” she tells her kids even as she clearly doesn’t.

Not long after the body in the basement is found, more bodies start piling up, as does the extortion, sword play, swirling detectives and so-called heavies who look the part even if they’re really lambs. If you liked “ Fargo,” “Adulthood” is for you. It’s all about the noose slowly tightening.

“Once we do this, there’s no going back, Meg. Even years from now you’ll think about it when you’re trying to get to sleep,” the brother tells his sister as they decide what to do about the body. “It’ll pop in your head at random times.”

Winter keeps the tension tight but nicely steps off the gas for some neat touches - like a conversation between the siblings about moving on that’s set against a child’s flag-football game - while both Gad and Scodelario take turns being the strong one.

Paralympic Games. Whitehead, who is on a quest to run 20 marathons this year, posted the photo on Instagram.

Styles’ debut album, “Harry Styles,” topped the album charts in the US, Britain and several other countries, while the second, “Fine Line,” appeared in 2019 and included the Grammy-winning “Watermelon Sugar.” (AP)



LOS ANGELES: Christopher Nolan has been elected to lead the Directors Guild of America, the organization said late Saturday. The Oscar-winning “Oppenheimer” filmmaker said in a statement that it is, “one of the greatest honors of my career.”

The guild represents the interests of some 19,500 film and television directors in the United States and abroad, in addition to hosting the DGA awards annually.

“Our industry is experiencing tremendous change, and I thank the Guild’s membership for entrusting me with this responsibility,” said Nolan, a well-known champion of the theatrical experience and film stock.

The box office success of “Oppenheimer,” which was shot entirely on large-format film (a combination of 70mm and IMAX), and made over \$976 million worldwide made many in the industry reconsider the mass audience appeal of a format that not too long ago was in danger of extinction. Just over a decade ago, facing bankruptcy and

In addition to “Demon Slayer,” Sony had a new film this weekend as well: The original romance “A Big Bold Beautiful Journey,” starring Robbie and Farrell, but that fizzled with audiences, earning only \$3.5 million from 3,300 locations. It also received largely negative reviews and currently has a 37% on Rotten Tomatoes.

“Audiences are selective in what they want to see,” Dergarabedian said. “Negative reviews can create really strong headwinds for original films with no brand recognition.”

In its second weekend, “Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale” added another \$6.3 million, bringing its running total to \$31.6 million. The Stephen King adaptation “The Long Walk” is also estimating \$6.3 million in weekend two, down only 46% from its opening. Its domestic total of \$22.7 million has already exceeded its production budget of \$20 million (though that sum does not account for marketing and promotion).

Ron Howard’s 1995 hit “Apollo 13” played in 200 theaters this weekend for its 30th anniversary as well. It made an estimated \$600,000. The 30th anniversary re-release of “Toy Story,” now in its second weekend, added \$1.4 million.

Next weekend there is excitement surrounding the new Paul Thomas Anderson film “One Battle After Another,” although his biggest hit to date remains the 2007 film “There Will Be Blood,” which made just over \$76 million worldwide, not accounting for inflation.

And right on its heels is a very different kind of cinema experience: AMC Theaters is hosting a release party for Taylor Swift’s 12th studio album, “The Life of a Showgirl.” The 90-minute show, aptly titled “The Official Release Party of a Showgirl,” will play at all 540 AMC theaters in the U.S. from Oct. 3 through Oct. 5.

Variety

BERLIN: English singer and songwriter **Harry Styles** ran the Berlin Marathon in under three hours on Sunday.

Organizers confirmed to news agency dpa that Styles took part. Local newspaper Der Tagesspiegel was the first to report his participation.

The 31-year-old former member of the One Direction boy band was among some 55,000 runners taking part in the race on what is widely regarded as the fastest marathon track in the world.

Styles - reportedly using the pseudonym Sted Sarandos and wearing a headband and sunglasses - completed the route in 2 hours, 59 minutes, 13 seconds. A sub-3 hour marathon is a coveted mark for many marathon runners.

Der Tagesspiegel reported that Styles was already spotted running in Berlin in preparation for Sunday’s race.

Styles was in a photo at the finish with Richard Whitehead, a two-time gold medal winner over 200 meters at the



Styles

an industry that seemed to be migrating to digital, Kodak nearly stopped film production. Filmmakers like Nolan, Martin Scorsese and others rallied to keep it going. Earlier this year, Ryan Coogler’s “Sinners” helped prove the point again.

Nolan will take over for outgoing president Lesli Linka Glatter, who led the group for four years through the Hollywood strikes of 2023. He said he looks forward to collaborating with Glatter and the board “to achieve important creative and economic protections for our members.”

The DGA’s current three-year basic agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which bargains on behalf of studios and streamers about rates and benefits, expires next year. The AMPTP congratulated Nolan in a statement and wrote that they “look forward to partnering with President Nolan to address the issues most important to DGA members while ensuring our member companies remain competitive in a rapidly changing industry.”

Officers elected to serve alongside Nolan include Ron Howard, Gina Prince-Bythewood, Laura Belsey and former president Paris Barclay. Among the board members are Steven Spielberg and Phil Lord.

Nolan’s next film, a starry adaptation of Homer’s “The Odyssey,” opens in theaters July 17. (AP)

4 suspects arrested as officials investigate theft

Anger in Egypt as stolen pharaoh bracelet is melted

CAIRO, Sept 22, (AP): Egyptians reacted with outrage this week after officials said that a 3,000-year-old bracelet that had belonged to an ancient pharaoh was stolen from Cairo’s famed Egyptian Museum and then melted down for gold.

Tourism and Antiquities Minister Sherif Fathy said in televised comments late Saturday that the bracelet was stolen on Sep. 9 while officials at the museum were preparing artifacts for an exhibit in Italy. He blamed “laxity” in implementing procedures at the facility and said that prosecutors were still investigating.

The bracelet, containing a lapis lazuli bead, belonged to Pharaoh Amenemope, who reigned about 3,000 years ago. Authorities said it was taken from a restoration lab at the museum and then funneled through a chain of dealers before being melted down. The minister said the lab didn’t have security cameras.

Four suspects have been arrested, including a restoration specialist at the museum who confessed to giving the bracelet to an acquaintance who owns a silver shop in Cairo’s Sayyeda Zainab district. It was allegedly later sold to the owner of a gold workshop for the equivalent of about

\$3,800. It was eventually sold for around \$4,000 to a worker at another gold workshop, who melted the bracelet down to make other gold jewelry.

The suspects confessed to their crimes and the money was seized, the ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

The ministry also released security camera video showing a shop owner receiving a bracelet, weighing it, and then paying one of the suspects.

Local media reported Sunday that a judge ordered the restoration specialist and her acquaintance to remain in detention for 15 more days pending further investigations. He ordered the release of the two remaining suspects if they posted bail set at 10,000 Egyptian pounds (\$207) each.

The loss of a treasure that had survived for three millennia was painful to many people in Egypt, where there is great esteem for the nation’s ancient heritage.

Some questioned security measures at the museum and called for tightening these measures around the country’s treasures.

Monica Hanna, a prominent Egyptian archaeologist, called for suspending overseas exhibits “until better control”

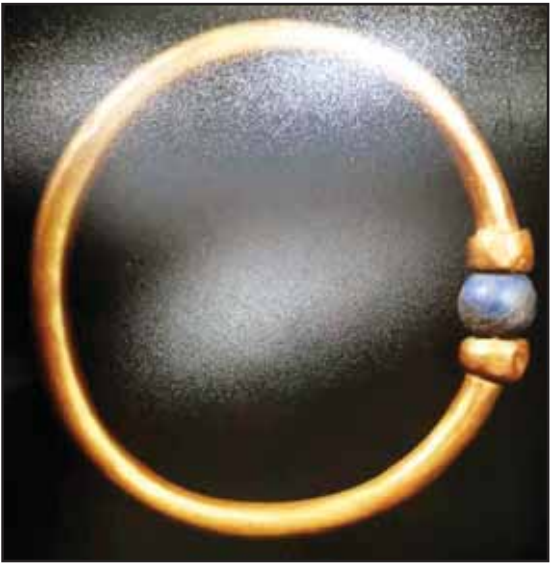
is implemented to secure the artifacts. Hanna is the dean at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, and campaigns for the return of Egyptian artifacts exhibited in museums overseas.

Malek Adly, an Egyptian human rights lawyer, called the theft “an alarm bell” for the government and said better security is needed for antiquities in exhibition halls and those in storage.

Amenemope ruled Egypt from Tanis in the Nile Delta during Egypt’s 21st Dynasty. The Tanis royal necropolis was discovered by the French archaeologist Pierre Montet in 1940, according to the Egyptian Museum.

The necropolis’ collection exhibits about 2,500 ancient artifacts, including golden funerary masks, silver coffins and golden jewels. The collection was restored in 2021 in cooperation with the Louvre Museum in Paris.

The theft reminded some of past cultural losses, including the disappearance of Vincent van Gogh’s “Poppy Flowers” - then valued at \$50 million - from another Cairo museum in 2010. The painting was first stolen in 1977 but was later recovered. However, since its theft in 2010 it has not been found.



This undated photo provided by Egypt’s Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities shows a 3,000-year-old bracelet that belonged to an ancient pharaoh, which was stolen from Cairo’s famed Egyptian Museum and then melted down for gold. (AP)

Theatre



Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre during a play performance.



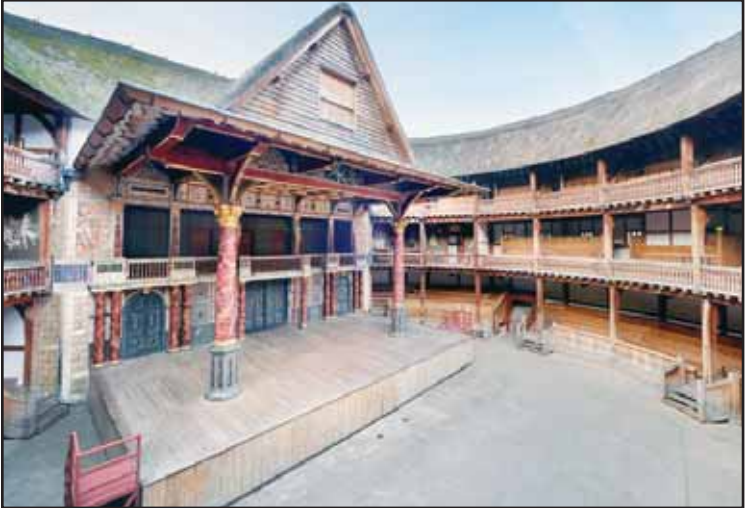
Sam and Wanamaker Playhouse



The open roof at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre.



Sam and Wanamaker Playhouse



Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre.

KUNA photos

Where Shakespeare lives on: The Globe Theatre then and now

Few theatres in the world carry a history as rich as William Shakespeare’s Globe.

The Globe Theatre that stands today in London is the third incarnation of the historic playhouse that was originally opened in 1599.

It is believed that the first play Shakespeare wrote for the original Globe was “Julius Caesar” in the spring of

1599 and later that year, he also wrote “As You Like It” and began work on “Hamlet”.

In 1613, during a performance of Shakespeare’s “Henry VIII” (co-written with Fletcher), a misfired prop cannon caused the thatched roof to catch fire.

The company rebuilt the Globe the following year, this time with a tiled roof. The second Globe continued

to operate until it was closed by Parliamentary decree in 1642. The current Globe Theatre opened in 1997 after many years of campaigning by Sam Wanamaker, founder of Shakespeare’s Globe Trust.

Today, Shakespeare’s Globe includes two performance spaces: the Globe Theatre and the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The theatre accommodates 1,570

people, including 700 standing spaces. Seating is arranged in galleries surrounding the open stage, ensuring constant interaction between performers and spectators.

Looking ahead, Shakespeare’s Globe is developing a new Research and Collections center, which will include London’s first dedicated Shakespeare Library, free and open to all. (KUNA)

‘Kavalier & Clay’ based on novel by Michael Chabon

Met season opens with opera starring Mykkanen

NEW YORK, Sept 22, (AP): Miles Mykkanen grew up wanting to sing and dance on Broadway, but he was turned down by the musical theater programs he applied to for college. So he had to “settle” for studying opera at the Juilliard School at Lincoln Center.

“At 18, when your sights are set on 42nd Street and then you’re getting called to 65th Street, it was weirdly a letdown,” he recalled. “But after a few hours I kind of slapped myself and said ‘Miles, pull yourself together.’”

That was 16 years ago, and he has since pulled himself together to such an extent that at age 34 he’s just opened the Metropolitan Opera season in a leading role in a new opera, “The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay.”

With a libretto by Gene Scheer and score by Mason Bates, the opera is based on the novel by Michael Chabon. Mykkanen portrays Sammy Clay, a kid growing up in World War II-era Brooklyn who teams with his cousin, Czech refugee Joe Kavalier, to create a comic strip hero modeled on Superman.

He’ll also be back at the Met in the spring in another modern opera, Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho’s “Innocence.” He plays the Bridegroom, a part he first sang in 2024 when San Francisco Opera gave the work’s US premiere.

Mykkanen had sung at the Met before, mostly attracting little attention in small parts, though his haunting rendition of the Holy Fool in Mussorgsky’s “Boris Godunov” in 2021 drew critical acclaim.

“But this season is so ideal,” Mykkanen said. “All of a sudden my schedule came together, and I thought, my God, where did this all come from.”

When the Met was casting “Kavalier & Clay,” it was Michael Heaston, the artistic administrator, who thought of Mykkanen for the role of Sammy.

“I first became acquainted with Miles when he was still a student at Juilliard, and he immediately impressed me,” Heaston said. “He is a singer who can straddle genres, that rare artist who can



This image released by The Metropolitan Opera shows Andrzej Filoczyk, (left), and Miles Mykkanen during a rehearsal for ‘The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay,’ in New York on Sept. 10. (AP)

sing a heartfelt operatic aria in one moment and then turn on a dime to a classic tune from the American Songbook.

“When I looked at Mason’s score and considered the vocal and acting demands alike, it seemed tailor-made for Miles.”

Mary Birnbaum, who taught Mykkanen acting at Juilliard, said she’s not surprised at his sudden rise to prominence.

“Honestly it’s what I thought he would do all along,” she said. “He’s got a very American sound, and it’s appealing and it’s lush. But also he’s bold as an actor ... and he makes material look better for being in it.”

By coincidence, both his roles this season are people who have something to hide. “They are characters with two huge secrets that are kind of gnawing away at them,” Mykkanen said.

In Sammy’s case, it’s his sexuality and ambivalence about his attraction to actor Perry Bacon.

“As a gay man myself, it’s been really rewarding for me to be working on this role, thinking back to my coming out process 20 years ago now,” Mykkanen said. “Sammy wants to believe there’s a future for him, but he keeps struggling and wondering if the world will ever get past its prejudice and accept him.”

“Innocence” deals with the lingering effects of a school shooting 10 years later, and as secrets are peeled away, the Bridegroom’s role in the horrific events is gradually exposed.

Mykkanen relishes the very different musical challenges the two roles provide. Saariaho’s score for “Innocence,” he said is composed with a kind of “mathematical” precision. “When I first cracked it open, it was overwhelming because of the time signatures, the key signatures. You’re trying to figure out, what was she thinking, how do you put this all together?”

“Kavalier & Clay,” written in a style

that uses what Bates calls “symphonic electronica,” has been easier to learn.

“I almost feel it’s starting to carve a new genre in opera,” Mykkanen said. “Something American opera has been trying to find in the last decade or so. ... I don’t want to stay to say it’s musical theater, but at times it’s very colloquial.”

Mykkanen grew up in the remote Ironwood region of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, where both his parents were high school band directors. Though he displayed a talent for singing at a young age, it was show music rather than opera that inspired him. When his parents found him a classical voice teacher, “For me it was a means to an end, to develop my voice so I could sing on the Broadway stage.”

Though his career now takes him all over the US and to Europe, Mykkanen still calls the Ironwood region home. In 2019, he launched an arts festival called Emberlight that has grown into a two-month summer program of live performance, film, art shows and talk-backs with visiting artists. When he’s not on site he handles logistics remotely and also relies heavily on volunteers.

“Just being the person who with a lot of other people behind me brings art to this region which is rural and remote ... It’s been one of the big blessings of my life,” he said.

And when he isn’t performing, he returns. “I have a room in my parents’ basement where I store my stuff,” he said. “When I’m between contracts I come back here and stay with my mom and dad. ... I’ll call them from Amsterdam and say ‘OK, what are we having for dinner next Tuesday when I land.’”

“Kavalier & Clay” runs through Oct. 11. Also starring are baritone Andrzej Filoczyk as Joe; soprano Lauren Snouffer as his sister, Sarah; soprano Sun-Ly Pierce as Rosa Saks, and baritone Edward Nelson as Perry Bacon. Met music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts the production directed by Bartlett Sher.



A model on the catwalk at the Edeline Lee show at The Peninsula, London, Sunday Sept. 21, during London Fashion Week. (AP)



A model displays a creation at the Emilia Wickstead show at the Emilia Wickstead store in Sloane Street, London, Sunday Sept. 21, during London Fashion Week. (AP)

Kuwait first in Mideast to offer RSV antibodies to newborns

Kuwait rolls out RSV vaccine and antibodies for at-risk people

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: In a move to enhance preventive efforts and protect the groups most vulnerable to complications, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi issued a ministerial decision approving



Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi

monoclonal antibodies and vaccination to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) as part of the optional preventive vaccination schedule in the country. A statement from the Ministry of Health explained that RSV is seasonal, typically spreading during fall and winter, and can cause respiratory infections that pose a risk to infants, the elderly, and those with risk factors.

The ministry confirmed that studies have proven the effectiveness of the vaccination in reducing hospital admissions and limiting the spread of the virus. It pointed out that Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East to provide monoclonal antibodies to all newborns, following the example

of advanced healthcare systems, such as the United States of America, Europe and Canada. The decision includes providing antibodies to infants and children up to two years old with risk factors, as well as adults with chronic diseases or weak immune system.

The ministry considers the approval of this vaccination an important step toward strengthening community immunity, alleviating the burden on the healthcare system, and keeping pace with the latest international medical recommendations for preventing seasonal diseases.

More Americans now meet high BP criteria

Updated blood pressure guidelines push for more aggressive treatment

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



By William Cornwell

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Nearly half of all Americans have high blood pressure - a condition called hypertension. Hypertension is the No. 1 risk factor for heart disease and stroke. In addition, hypertension increases risk of dementia and cognitive decline. Heart disease, stroke and dementia are the first-, fourth- and sixth-leading causes of death in the US. Unfortunately, only 1 in 4 people with a history of high blood pressure have this condition under control. In August 2025, the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology released new guidelines on prevention and management of hypertension, based on a comprehensive analysis of literature published over the past 10 years. The Conversation US asked cardiologist Dr. William Cornwell of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus to explain what the new guidelines mean and how you can work with your doctor to manage your blood pressure. The most recent guidelines prior to this new statement were in 2017. Since that time, the medical community has learned a lot about hypertension and the best way to control it. The new guidelines provide a great deal of new information. First, the definition of hypertension has changed. The criteria are more strict, and the target blood pressures are lower than in the past. The criteria depend on the values of the “systolic” and the “diastolic” pressure. Systolic blood pressure, the top number, represents the pressure in the blood vessels when the heart is squeezing blood into the body. Diastolic blood pressure, the bottom number, is the pressure in the blood vessels when the heart is relaxing. Both numbers are important when determining the severity of hypertension and how it is most appropriately managed. The new guidelines have removed the category of “pre-hypertension,” which was defined by a systolic pressure of 120-139 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg), or a diastolic pressure of 80-99 mm Hg. Now, patients are categorized as having “elevated blood pressure” if their blood pressure is 120-129 over less than 80 mm Hg, or stage 1 hypertension if they are 130-139/80-89.

Habits

A reading of 140/90 or more is considered stage 2 hypertension, and a reading of 180/120 or greater is a hypertensive crisis. In essence, the bar has been lowered, and this change may impact millions of Americans. People need to ask their doctors if they have hypertension based on these new criteria and whether or not they should be treated. It is also very important for patients to get advice from their doctors about lifestyle habits that they can incorporate into their daily routine, like diet, exercise and healthy sleep habits to help lower blood pressure. In addition, the guidelines encourage providers to use a risk calculator, called PREVENT - short for Predicting Risk of Cardiovascular Disease EVENTS - to determine a patient’s overall risk of cardiovascular disease and heart failure. This tool represents a significant advance in personalizing medical care, since it incorporates risk factors unique to the individual, allowing for a tailored approach to medical care. The guidelines encourage people to limit alcohol intake because alcohol increases blood pressure. A 2023 meta-analysis of seven studies with nearly 20,000 people showed that systolic blood pressure will increase by about 1mmHg for every 10 grams of alcohol consumed. A

Youth climate activists face housing challenges

As UN climate summit looms in Brazil, many fear they can’t afford to attend

BRAZIL, Sept 22, (AP): Pooja Tilwawala knows it’s a gamble to use more than \$46,000 of her own savings to help young people get to the United Nations climate summit in Brazil. But she thinks it’s a necessary one. As national delegations, activists and other attendees struggle to find affordable places to stay by November, with some deciding not to go at all, Tilwawala, who lives in London, has spent hours working from afar to find lodging in Belem, negotiate prices and contracts and put down deposits. She did all that to create a housing portal specifically for young people who want to be part of the international conference. If not enough people sign up for the housing she’s secured, she might lose some of what she’s put down. “There’s always a huge number of fossil fuel company representatives there. And who’s going to be there to combat those voices and those negotiating influences?” said Tilwawala, founder and executive director of the global organization Youth Climate Collaborative. “So I was like, ‘We need to be here.’” With less than two months before this year’s Conference of the Parties, or COP30, only about 36% of the 196 participating countries have confirmed attendance and paid for accommodations, according to a spokesperson for the conference presidency. Activists and poorer nations are feeling the crunch as hotel prices have skyrocketed and even private homes, love motels and other makeshift accommodation options are charging a minimum of several hundred dollars a night. The Brazilian government chose Belem because it’s part of the Amazon and to underscore the problems common to growing cities in the developing world, but some prospective attendees are raising questions about how productive the talks will be if they are overshadowed by a big drop in attendance. The Brazilian government has taken steps to address the problem. Climate Minister Marina Silva said 10 to 20 rooms have been made available “at accessible prices” for vulnerable countries. The government has also brought in two large cruise ships that can house as many as 6,000 people. “Everybody will have access to participate in COP30,” Silva said at a recent press briefing. “Facing climate change must be done by all of us, by all the parties of the convention and especially by those who are already living the consequences of climate change.” But U.N. Climate Change executive secretary Simon Stiell sent a letter on Sept. 9 asking that agencies in the U.N.



Art pieces of Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk with bloody hands carrying globes are marched through Manhattan at the ‘Make Billionaires Pay’ climate protest, Saturday, Sept. 20, in New York. (AP)

system, and related organizations, review how many people they’re sending to COP30 and reduce it where possible. To add to the pressure, a construction workers’ strike started Sept. 15 and includes areas being worked on for COP30. Belem was initially excited to host the conference, said Arnaldo Vaz Neto, a Brazilian financial adviser who has been working with an organization called the Young Scholars Initiative as an intermediary between locals and COP30 visitors seeking housing. “It’s kind of taught in our childhood to have this behavior of hospitality,” he said. But that was followed by the realization that the United Nations had high international standards for its guests. It was difficult to manage expectations on both sides, Vaz Neto said. Belem isn’t the only city hosting a U.N. climate conference where lodging rates have gone far higher than usual. Silva said it’s happened at nearly all such conferences, with prices three or even four times market rates. “A lot of people here are expecting to charge \$1,000 a night but that’s beyond the average,” Hugo Pinheiro, a secretary who works for K Pine Mobile in Belem, and has worked to match delegations with housing and to negotiate on prices. The “accessible” rooms made available by the Brazilian government will rent for between \$200 and \$600 a night, according to a COP30 presidency spokesperson.

Prosthetics help amputees rebuild their lives

At Congo’s front line, a trauma center tells a story of suffering and survival

GOMA, Congo, Sept 22, (AP): In a sunlit rehabilitation room, Jerome Jean Claude Amani offers a faint smile. For the first time since losing his wife and children to a rebel attack in eastern Congo, the 35-year-old is standing again - one leg his own, the other made of plastic. “I feel at peace,” said Amani, who lives on the outskirts of the North Kivu provincial capital of Goma. “I don’t see this leg as plastic, but as a second chance.” Amani’s wife and four children were killed when they came under attack by armed groups in April. Badly wounded and seeking help to start over, he found his way to Shirika la Umoja, an orthopedic center on the front line of eastern Congo’s conflict in Goma, which finds itself overwhelmed by surging numbers of casualties. Congo’s mineral-rich east has long been battered by fighting involving more than 100 armed groups including the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels. The rebels made an unprecedented advance in January and seized two key cities including Goma, further deepening one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises. Some 7 million people had been displaced in the conflict that was already one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises before it escalated this year. While fighting has largely decreased as a result of peace efforts, there are still pockets of clashes and civilians are still being killed.

Demand

Shirika la Umoja has long been producing prosthetics for the wounded in Goma, with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross since 2005. But the escalation in fighting has brought increased demand for artificial limbs for amputees. “Every week, we receive new patients who lost limbs to stray bullets, landmines, or explosion,” said Gisèle Kantu, a physical therapist at the center. Since early 2025, the center has treated more than 800 amputees and other severely injured patients. The number of prosthetic limbs provided by the clinic has soared from 422 in all of 2024 to 326 in just the first half of 2025. There’s no sign of demand easing anytime soon. The center currently runs with nearly three dozen professionals. Unlike in most other places, the prosthetics are made by hand, each one individually carved, molded and assembled. For each patient, there is a story of both horror and survival. Melisa Amuli, 30, survived a bombardment near a checkpoint in the town of Mubambiro in North Kivu province in January. “I was lying among the dead. I started saying my final prayer,” she re-



Jerome Jean-Claude Amani, one of many wounded by fighting in the region, waits for his prosthetic leg at an orthopedic center run by the Catholic church and supported by Red Cross in Goma, eastern Congo, Friday, Aug. 29, 2025. (AP)

called, wiping away tears. Hours later, some motorbike riders pulled her from the rubble. Gravely injured, Hamuli was spared amputations but her legs no longer functioned correctly. Today, with the help of a special orthotic brace supplied by the center, she can stand again. Forced to close her business selling potatoes, she now relies on others for support. But she’s looking forward to returning to work as her recovery continues, one physical therapy session at a time. For the wounded, the consequences of armed conflict endure long beyond the fighting. Violetta Nyirarukundo, 27, saw her life crumble in April when armed men shot her during an attack. The mother of four was adjusting to her new reality when her husband abandoned her and their children. “When my husband learned I had lost a leg, he left me,” said Nyirarukundo. “He didn’t want to live with a woman who was ‘incomplete.’” Violetta tries to remain strong. “I’ve lost everything, but I’m still alive,” she said, adding that she plans to move in with her father to raise her children. **Wound** Faustin Amani, 20, sits silently on a wooden bench at the clinic, his gaze fixed on the courtyard. His right leg, amputated above the knee, is neatly bandaged. Yet the pain seems to extend beyond the physical wound. Last March a speeding military vehicle struck him and his friend when he was selling mobile phone airtime not far from home. It cost him both legs, and killed the friend instantly. Though grateful to have survived, he speaks of feeling trapped in a body he barely recognizes. “I wonder if I’ll ever have a normal life ... Who will want me? Who will pay for my schooling? My fa-

ther pushes carts, my mother carries heavy loads at the market. All my friends have two legs,” he said. In the center’s hallways, Amani crosses paths with other young amputees - victims of mines, bullets, and bombs. He wasn’t a fighter, just a street vendor who dreamed of buying a motorcycle some day to grow his business. “If I could, I’d avenge my leg,” he said, eyes welling with tears. As the injured heal, a workshop offers locals the chance to help build the prosthetics with materials made available by the Red Cross. They’ve gone from crafting just a few to about 10 in a day, pressing ahead to meet the surging need. “We want to give back mobility to those who’ve lost it,” said Julienne Paypay, a 35-year-old prosthetic technician who herself lost a leg as a child. “I know what it means to walk again.” In the workshop, the smell of plaster mixes with the hum of generators and the whirring of saws. Workers carefully carve, mold, and assemble the prosthetic limbs one by one. The challenges are steep. “All materials are imported. With insecurity, the lack of a functioning airport, and new customs regulations, everything is harder,” said Sylvain Kambale, the center’s administrator. “We only have two qualified technicians for hundreds of patients still waiting.” Red Cross says it will continue to work with the center to bring in more professionals to meet the growing need. For Amani, his new prosthetic leg symbolizes a fresh start and new hope. “I will fight for my children. I want to reopen my shop,” he said. “I don’t see my prosthetic as a weakness but as a victory.”

Chikungunya cases

Bangladesh records highest dengue deaths in single day

DHAKA, Sept 22, (Xinhua): A total of 12 people died of dengue fever in Bangladesh, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said here Sunday. This is by far the highest death toll in a single day in the country. According to DGHS figures, the death toll this year reached 179. In the last 24 hours, as of 8:00 a.m. local time Sunday, Bangladesh reported 740 new infections, bringing the total number of dengue cases to 41,831 so far this year, the DGHS said. The fresh infection tally indicates the fast-rising trend of the mosquito-borne disease in parts of the country. The June-September monsoon period is the season of dengue fever in Bangladesh, which is considered a high-risk nation prone to mosquito-borne diseases. **Food poisoning:** A suspected food poisoning incident has occurred in Xishui County in the city of Zunyi, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, resulting in dozens of people, including children, being hospitalized as of 2 p.m. on Sunday. Those hospitalized showed abnormal liver and kidney function after eating sandwiches produced by a local food factory. The factory has

eight stores in the county, and 208 sandwiches of the batch in question had been sold. Twenty-nine were recalled, leaving 179 actually sold. Family members of the patients said that since the incident occurred on Sept. 18, most patients have been treated at a local hospital, while some have been transferred to hospitals outside the county. Local authorities in Xishui stated that the stores involved have been suspended from operating, while patient treatment, epidemiological investigations and sample testing are currently underway. **Chikungunya:** Authorities in Jiangmen, a city in south China’s Guangdong Province, had reported 1,714 cases of Chikungunya fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease, by Friday, prompting the launch of a public health emergency response. The city government on Friday decided to launch a Level III public health emergency response in light of the current Chikungunya situation in Jiangmen. Chikungunya fever is an acute infectious disease caused by the Chikungunya virus -- featuring clinical symptoms including fever, rashes and joint pains. This virus is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes.

LPGA Tour washed out in Arkansas

Kim wins French Open for first title in 7 years, Koepka fades to 4th

PARIS, Sept 22, (AP): Michael Kim holed a 15-foot par putt on the last hole for a one-shot victory in the French Open- his first worldwide title in seven years - while five-time major champion Brooks Koepka faded to a fourth-place finish. Kim found a greenside bunker on the par-3 18th at Saint-Nom-La-Bretèche and came up short from the sand before rolling in the putt for a closing 6-under 65 and a four-day total of 16-under 268. The 32-year-old became the first American to win the French Open since Barry Jaekel in 1972. Other U.S. players to win the title include Walter Hagen and Byron Nelson. "I kind of blacked out when that putt went in," said the 64th-ranked Kim, whose last win came in 2018 - by eight

shots - at the John Deere Classic on the PGA Tour. Jeong weon Ko and Elvis Smylie each shot 65 to finish at 15 under. Koepka, who has not won outside the LIV Golf League since the 2023 PGA Championship, began the day tied for the lead but made eight pars and a bogey on the back nine to shoot 68 and finish two shots back. Koepka was playing a third straight week on the European tour after missing the cut at the Irish Open and the BMW PGA Championship. The Walmart NW Arkansas Championship was shortened to 18 holes on Sunday after heavy rain left the course unplayable. Only scores from Friday's first round were counted, making

the tournament unofficial. Sarah Schmelzel and Minami Katsu shared the lead at 8-under 63 and received the unofficial winner's prize money from a reduced purse. The event does not count toward the season-long Race to the CME Globe. After play was washed out on Saturday at Pinnacle Country Club, the course received 3 1/4 inches of rain Saturday night, the LPGA announced, adding that it was "highly unlikely" the course could be readied to complete 36 holes on Monday or Tuesday and make the event official. Had it been official, the event would have had a \$3 million purse, with \$450,000 to the winner. Under LPGA rules, the payout was reduced to \$1.5 million, but tournament sponsors kicked in another \$500,000 to be divided evenly among

all players in the 144-woman field - \$3,500 each. Doug Barron birdied the last three holes at Pebble Beach for a 6-under 66 while his pursuers faltered down the stretch and won the Pure Insurance Championship by one shot on Sunday for his fourth senior victory. Barron finished at 12-under 204. He trailed Steven Alker by four shots entering the day, and Alker still had a chance to match him with a birdie on the seaside par-5 18th but made bogey for a 72 to finish two shots back with Retief Goosen (65). Vijay Singh was second after he parred the final three holes for a 69. Fred Couples tied for fifth at 8 under, the 65-year-old's best finish since February.

Mitchell drops 34, Fever stuns Aces in Game 1 of semifinals



Phoenix Mercury forward Alyssa Thomas, left, drives past Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier (24) during the first half of Game 1 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series in Minneapolis. (AP)



Indiana Fever guard Kelsey Mitchell, right, shoots against Las Vegas Aces guard Jackie Young, left, in the second half of Game 1 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series in Las Vegas. (AP)

Lynx overcomes Mercury

LAS VEGAS, Sept 22, (AP): Kelsey Mitchell scored a playoff-career high 34 points and the Indiana Fever beat the Las Vegas Aces 89-73 on Sunday in Game 1 of the best-of-five semifinal series. After seeing their double-digit lead shrink to three points with 2:51 left in the third, the Fever closed the quarter on an 11-0 run to extend their advantage to 14 points, seizing control of the game and never looking back. Mitchell, who finished fifth in MVP voting with 93 points, scored 17 points in the first half, setting the tone for the Fever's offense. The veteran guard, who finished the regular season ranked third in scoring with 20.2 points per game,

shot 12 of 23 (52.2%) from the floor, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range in her first-ever semifinal game. "I think what you guys see is just me trying to just be a kid in the playground," said Mitchell, whose scoring tally was the second-highest in franchise history. Odyssey Sims had 17 points, while Natasha Howard finished with a double-double (12 points, 11 rebounds). The Fever finished the game hitting 50% from the floor (34 of 68), while the Aces shot just 29 of 71 (40.8%). "We wanted to come in and be the aggressor right away to make sure that we were dictating on the defensive end, and we were dictating from a pace standpoint," Fever coach Stephanie White said. "We knew that they were going to make runs. They made a big one in the third and we responded with a big one. It's one game, it's a long series. ... But to come in here and to be able to steal this one was big for us."

The victory spoiled A'ja Wilson's celebration for becoming the WNBA's first player to win four MVPs in her career. The 29-year-old, who was also named the AP Player of the Year, finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds. Wilson shot just 27.3% (6 of 22) from the field. Jackie Young led the Aces with 19 points, while Dana Evans came off the bench to score 14 points and Chelsea Gray chipped in with 13. Las Vegas hadn't lost at home since Aug. 2, when the top-seeded Minnesota Lynx handed the Aces the worst home loss in WNBA history, a 53-point beatdown. From that point, the Aces closed the regular season on a 16-game win streak before defeating the Seattle Storm in the opening round. The win was even more impressive, considering the Aces came into the game without a single player on the injured list, while the Fever had six.

Already shorthanded without Chloe Bibby (left knee), Caitlin Clark (right groin), Sydney Colson (left knee), Sophie Cunningham (right knee) and Aari McDonald (right foot), Indiana added Damiris Dantas to the list, as she was in concussion protocol. **Lynx 82, Mercury 69** In Minneapolis, Courtney Williams scored a game-high 23 points, Kayla McBride scored 21, and Napheesa Collier added 18 points and nine rebounds as the top-seeded Minnesota Lynx defeated the Phoenix Mercury 82-69. The Lynx trailed by as many as nine and faced a seven-point deficit at halftime. As Phoenix threatened to even the game down the stretch, it was Williams and McBride making big shots to keep the Mercury at bay. McBride drilled a shot from deep to put the Lynx up 73-67 with under four minutes to play, and Minnesota never looked back.

Unanimous choice

Wilson earns a historic 4th WNBA MVP award



Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson (22) speaks during a press conference on receiving the 2025 WNBA Most Valuable Player award before Game 1 in the semifinals of the WNBA basketball playoffs in Las Vegas.(AP)

LAS VEGAS, Sept 22, (AP): Las Vegas Aces star A'ja Wilson is in a class by herself, winning the WNBA MVP for an unprecedented fourth time. She won the award last season as the unanimous choice and also in 2020 and 2022. Sheryl Swoopes, Lisa Leslie and Lauren Jackson all won the award three times. "It's not going to hit me until the end of the season honestly; it is truly a blessing to be where I am. I don't think I could ever put into words how special this moment is," Wilson said hours before Las Vegas lost Game 1 of the WNBA semifinal series to Indiana. "My name is in the history books forever." Wilson and former Houston Comets star Cynthia Cooper were the only ones to win the award unanimously. Cooper was the only other player to win it in consecutive years, doing so in the first two seasons of the WNBA (1997, 98). The 29-year-old Wilson again led the league in scoring (23.4

points per game) as well as blocked shots (2.3) and helped the Aces win their last 16 regular-season games, earning the No. 2 seed in the playoffs. For the second consecutive season, Wilson averaged at least 20 points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 blocks and a steal per game. She is the only WNBA player to reach these averages in a season while playing at least 15 games. "The fact she's not even 30 yet is crazy," Las Vegas coach Becky Hammon said. "She still has a lot left in the tank. There's still areas that she knows she can improve in and she will. Every year she's coming back and adding something different to her game. Everyone talks about the Mount Rushmore of basketball faces. ... There's no Mount Rushmore, you're the only one, you're Everest." The league surprised Wilson on Friday, with WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert and Wilson's boyfriend, Miami Heat star Bam Adebayo, presenting the trophy to her at the end of practice.

Europe has done it only four times

Ryder Cup is never easy to win on the road

FARMINGDALE, N.Y., Sept 22, (AP): Rory McIlroy, who became only the sixth player in history to complete the career Grand Slam of majors by winning the Masters, now faces another tall order. McIlroy has been saying for the last few years that winning the Ryder Cup away on the road is the biggest accomplishment in golf. He would know. McIlroy was on the last winning road team in this passionate competition. That was 13 years ago and required so much to go right on the final day in the Chicago suburbs that it became known as the "Miracle at Medinah." "We weren't supposed to win in '12," McIlroy once said. "Even since then, the home team has won, each time pretty convincingly." The Americans were coming off a record rout over Europe in 2021 - 19-9 - when they went went to Marco Simone in Italy with hopes of ending 30 years without a road victory. Europe swept the opening session and sailed to a five-point win. After Europe's win at Medinah, the home team has won by the following margins: five points in Scotland, six points in Minnesota, seven points in France, 10 points in Wisconsin and then last time in Rome. Europe returns Luke Donald as captain and 11 of the players who won in Rome. Now it faces a big, loud crowd at Bethpage Black when the matches start Friday. The course will be groomed to favor an American style of golf. That led Donald to say winning a Ryder Cup in New York "is a different animal." But the Europeans have done it before - four times in the last 40 years. Here's a look back on how they did it: Europe was coming off its first Ryder Cup victory since 1957, facing an American team with Jack Nicklaus as the captain on the Muirfield Village course he built. Among the three captain's picks for Europe was Jose Maria Olazabal,

the perfect partner for Seve Ballesteros. They went 3-1 in team play as Europe, behind a 4-0 session in Friday fourballs, and built a five-point lead going into Sunday singles. The American rally came up short, particularly on the 18th hole. Ben Crenshaw, who broke his putter in anger on the sixth hole and used a 1-iron, driver and wedge the rest of the way, drove into the water and lost his match. Dan Pohl lost his match with a double bogey. Ballesteros closed it out by beating Curtis Strange for a 15-13 victory, the first time the Americans lost on home soil since the matches began in 1927. Noteworthy: This was the last Ryder Cup in which the Americans did not have captain's picks. Quoteworthy: "We're not frightened any more. In time, this could change the world of world golf." - European captain Tony Jacklin. American dominance appeared to be restored with wins at Kiawah Island in 1991 and at The Belfry in 1993. And then Corey Pavin chipped

in on the 18th for a fourballs victory Saturday evening at Oak Hill for a 9-7 lead that looked insurmountable given the U.S. edge in singles. An aging European team - this was the last playing appearance by Seve Ballesteros - showed the moxie late and dominated the 18th hole, as it had done in its previous road victory. Five matches went 18 holes, and Europe won a full point from four of them. Nick Faldo got up-and-down for par from 93 yards away on the 18th to rally for a 1-up win over Curtis Strange, who bogeyed the last three holes. Philip Walton clinched it for Europe by holding on to beat Jay Haas in a 14 1/2-13 1/2 victory. Noteworthy: Phil Mickelson went 3-0 in his Ryder Cup debut. It was the first of his record 12 consecutive appearances. Quoteworthy: "It just shows that the strength of golf in Europe is getting bigger and bigger all the time." - Ian Woosnam. Europe recorded its largest margin of victory in the Ryder Cup, 18 1/2-9 1/2, and yet this Ryder Cup will be

best remembered for U.S. captain Hal Sutton pairing Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson for the first time. They lost the opening match to Padraig Harrington and Colin Montgomerie. Sutton sent them out again and they lost to Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke. Europe already had a five-point lead after the first day and won four of the five sessions with Bernhard Langer at the helm. Trailing 11-5 going into Sunday, Sutton decided to send out his players in the order they made the team. By the fifth of 12 matches, Europe already had secured the cup. Noteworthy: For the first since 1981, Europe had no major championships on its team. Quoteworthy: "Believe it or not, there's people that can play golf outside the States." - Sergio Garcia. The Americans were poised to take an 11-5 lead into singles when Ian Poulter finished with five straight birdies to carry him and Rory McIlroy to a stunning point in the final fourballs match. The momentum was enormous. The Americans still had a four-point lead. McIlroy forgot Chicago was in the Central time zone and nearly missed his tee time, arriving at Medinah with 10 minutes to spare. And then the Europeans staged the greatest comeback by a road team in Ryder Cup history. Their top five players in the lineup won, none bigger than Justin Rose making birdie on the last two holes to beat Phil Mickelson. Back and forth it went over the final hour until Martin Kaymer made a 6-foot par putt to beat Steve Stricker. The cup in Europe's hands, Tiger Woods conceded a short par putt to Francesco Molinari for a 14 1/2-13 1/2 victory. Noteworthy: European captain Jose Maria Olazabal had an image of Seve Ballesteros sewn into the sleeves of his team's Sunday shirts. It was the first Ryder Cup since Ballesteros died from a brain tumor in May 2011. Quoteworthy: "'We're all kind of stunned.'" - U.S. captain Davis Love III.



In this file photo, United States captain Keegan Bradley, left, and Europe captain Luke Donald pose for a photo with the Ryder Cup trophy after a press conference in New York. (AP)

The first stop of the Padel League

Zain Edition padel league brings together over 250 players from Kuwait and GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Zain Kuwait announced its sponsorship of the Zain Edition, the first stop of the Padel League. The Zain Edition will see the participation of more than 250 players from Kuwait and the wider GCC competing over 10 days starting 25 September.

The tournament was announced at a press conference held at the El Padel courts at the Regency Hotel, attended by Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Corporate Relations Department Manager, and Abdulrahman Al-Musabahi, General Manager of Tour Events, the tournament's organizer. The draw and competition schedule were also conducted and announced on the sidelines of the conference.

Commenting on the occasion, Hamad Al-Musaibeeh said: "Today we launch the Zain Edition, a new platform that reaffirms Zain's commitment to supporting national sports and empowering Kuwait's youth,



From the tournament's draw.

because we believe that investing in sports is an investment in people." He added: "We are proud of the



Al-Musaibeeh and Al-Musabahi during the press conference.

recent achievements of Kuwait's national padel teams at the Gulf Cup, including the women's and juniors'

championship titles and the men's third place. These results confirm that investing in this sport is paying

off and raising Kuwait's profile on regional and international stages."

During the conference, Abdulrahman Al-Musabahi said: "Padel is among the fastest-growing sports in Kuwait and the region, and its audience is largely youth.

That is why we were keen to build a competitive platform that offers our players a professional experience. We look forward to working with our partners, foremost Zain, to create a professional and well-organized environment that ensures the sport's sustainability and success locally and regionally."

The tournament aims to cement padel's status in Kuwait, empower young athletic talent, and give players the chance to compete through a comprehensive schedule. It also offers a professional experience that helps athletes elevate their performance and hone their skills, responding to the sport's growing popularity among

youth.

Competitions in the Zain Edition will run for 10 days across three main categories: Under-16, Men's Open, and Women's Open. Participation is open to all players from GCC countries, with valuable prizes allocated for each category.

Zain's sponsorship of this distinguished sporting event reflects the company's commitment to supporting emerging sports such as padel, and its keenness to be part of initiatives that enable athletes to showcase their talents and shine on international stages.

This step continues Zain's ongoing support for padel, which has become one of the most popular sports among youth in Kuwait and across the region. Over recent years, the company has supported major local and regional tournaments and organized in-house events for its employees to promote an active lifestyle and a culture of physical well-being.

Kuwait Club shows grit in draw against Al-Arabi



A Kuwait Club player controls the ball as Al Arabi defenders close in.

Tadamon hosts Salmiya, Al-Shabab travels to Ahmadi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Kuwait Club's assistant coach Karim Al-Shadhli expressed satisfaction with his players' performance following an intense 1-1 draw against Al-Arabi. The match was made even more challenging after team captain Sam Morsi was sent off in the first half, leaving the team to play most of the game with ten men.

Al-Shadhli praised the team's effort and commitment, noting that performance data reflected the distances covered by each player and the high energy displayed throughout the match.

He added: "While focus is usually on technical

aspects, when you have players giving 200% effort that is the true meaning of teamwork. Despite being a man down, we pressed forward in the final ten minutes and came very close to scoring the winning goal."

Al-Shadhli concluded that, although the team dropped two points, it gained invaluable character and resilience—hallmarks of a champion in critical moments.

Meanwhile, the third round of the Zain Premier League concludes today with two key matches. Tadamon will face Salmiya at 6:10 PM in Farwaniya, followed by Al-Shabab taking on Al-Nasr at 8:20 PM in Ahmadi.

Salmiya enters today's match aiming to build on its recent revival. After opening the season with a 0-1 loss to Qadsia, the "Sky Blues" bounced back with a 2-0 victory over Al-Nasr under new coach Mohammed Dheililis, who replaced Nasser Al-Shatti following a player registration controversy.

Salmiya hopes to maintain its momentum and climb the league standings despite early-season challenges.

Tadamon, meanwhile, looks to consolidate its improvement. After a 1-3 loss to Kuwait Club and a hard-fought 0-0 draw with Qadsia last round, the team sees today's encounter with a traditional rival as an opportunity to claim its first win of the season.

The upcoming clash sees Al-Shabab take on Al-Nasr in a crucial battle to climb out of the league's lower ranks. Al-Shabab, with just one point from a draw against Qadsia, will be without Brazilian defender Lucas Santos, who was sent off in their previous game. Al-Nasr, sitting at the bottom with zero points after consecutive losses (0-4 to Qadsia and 0-2 to Salmiya), faces growing pressure. Coach Jameel Belkacem views today's match as an opportunity for a fresh start, especially against an evenly matched opponent.

Star faces expulsion from the federation

Ramadan faces legal trouble

CAIRO, Sept 22: Pyramids and Egypt national team star Ramadan Sobhi is in hot water as he faces serious legal allegations that could potentially lead to imprisonment. The player is accused of forgery, bribery, and using falsified documents to secure personal benefits from official authorities.

The Egyptian Public Prosecution has referred Sobhi to the Criminal Court on charges of participating in the falsification of an official document linked to an educational institute. Investigations indicate that Sobhi allegedly arranged to forge a document claiming he was enrolled in the third year at the Pharaonic Higher Institute for Tourism and Hotels.

Legal expert Sid Ali Al-Mohammadi explained that Sobhi "committed multiple acts of forgery, including issuing documents stating his enrollment and falsely claiming he had completed the first and second years, all intended to mislead official authorities."

According to a source within the Egyptian Football Association, if Sobhi is found guilty, he could face expulsion from the federation, permanently barring him from playing for Egyptian clubs. A court ruling confirming the charges would serve as conclusive proof of his involvement.

In domestic league action today, El-Hadoud faces Al-Ahly, while Zamalek takes on El-Gouna.



Ramadan Sobhi in action.

Boca lets two-goal lead slip against Cordoba

Alysson delivers derby winner for Gremio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 22, (Xinhua): Teenager Alysson struck a second-half winner as Gremio twice recovered from a goal down to clinch a 3-2 away win over Porto Alegre rival Internacional in Brazil's Serie A.

Alan Patrick put the hosts ahead from the penalty spot before Carlos Vinicius equalized with a glancing header.

Patrick converted another spot-kick but the visitors again responded through Andre Henrique, who nodded in from a corner on the stroke of halftime.

Alysson, a 62nd-minute replacement for Andre Henrique, scored moments after his introduction by completing a swift counter-attack with a clinical finish past goalkeeper Sergio Rochet.

Both sides finished the match with 10 men after late red cards to Gremio's Arthur and Internacional's Alexandro Bernabei.

The result at Beira-Rio stadium leaves Gremio 12th in the 20-team standings with

28 points, one ahead of 13th-placed Internacional.

Elsewhere in Brazil's Serie A, Sport prevailed 1-0 at home to Corinthians, Flamengo was held to a 1-1 home draw by Vasco da Gama, Mirassol won 2-0 at home to Juventude, Cruzeiro edged to a 2-1 home win over Bragantino and Santos won 1-0 at home to Sao Paulo.

Central Cordoba came from two goals down to salvage a 2-2 away draw with Boca Juniors in Argentina's Primera Division.

Rodrigo Battaglia opened the scoring just before halftime with a close-range header and Miguel Merentiel doubled the hosts' lead with a first-time finish in the 56th minute.

Jose Florentin pulled a goal back with a header from point-blank range and Ivan Gomez equalized by thumping a shot into the top-right corner.

Bouanga scores second hat trick in three games

Myrto's stoppage-time goal helps Austin beat Sounders

AUSTIN, Texas, Sept 22, (AP): Myrto Uzuni scored in stoppage time, Diego Rubio also scored a goal and Austin FC beat the Seattle Sounders 2-1.

Austin (12-10-8) has 44 points this season and moved past Portland (42) into sixth in the Western Conference. Seattle (12-9-9) is fifth with 45 points.

Uzuni's left-foot volley from point-blank range capped the scoring in the sixth minute of injury time. Dani Pereira played an arcing cross from the right side to back post and CJ Fodrey's diving header set up Uzuni for the finish.

Brad Stuver, a 2025 MLS All-Star, made a diving stop to rob Georgi Minoungou of what seemed a certain goal in the 86th minute and finished with five saves.

Rubio redirected a pass played by Seattle's Jackson Ragen near mid-field and outraced the defense to the ball before he beat goalkeeper Andrew Thomas with a shot inside the back post to give Austin a 1-0 lead in the 42nd minute.

Thomas, who started in place of Stefan Frei (illness), had four saves.



Seattle Sounders' Paul Rothrock (14) and Austin FC defender Danilo Boza (3) battle for control of the ball during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Minoungou replaced Snyder Brunell - an 18-year-old who made his second start in MLS - at halftime and scored his first goal of the season 35 seconds later to make it 1-1. Danny Musovski, at the right corner of the 18-yard box, ran onto a ball ahead by Cristian Roldan and played

a first-touch cross to the charging Minoungou for a one-touch finish into the side-net from near the penalty spot. Austin is 12-2-0 this season when scoring first.

The Sounders are 5-2-3 all-time against Austin in the regular season, 3-1-1 at Q2 Stadium.

Denis Bouanga scored three goals, his second hat trick in the last three games, and Los Angeles FC beat Real Salt Lake 4-1.

Bouanga, who has scored in four consecutive games, has 22 goals this season, tied with Lionel Messi for the most in MLS. Bouanga had 20 goals in each of the last two seasons and is the first player in MLS history with at least 20 goals in three consecutive seasons. The 30-year-old Bouanga, who also had three goals in a 4-2 win over San Jose on Sept. 13, has a club-record four career hat tricks in the regular season, one more than Carlos Vela. Son Heung-min added a goal and two assists for Los Angeles (14-7-8).

LAFC, which clinched a spot in the 2025 MLS Cup playoffs when St. Louis beat San Jose 3-1 on Saturday, has 50 points and is fourth in the Western Conference. Third-place Minnesota has 54 points and Seattle is fifth with 45.

Son, who had his first hat trick in MLS to help Los Angeles beat RSL 4-1 on the road Wednesday, has seven goal contributions in the last three games.

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NEWS



The guests led by Ronaldo welcomes Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Sports

Women's participation in sports has soared by more than 150%

Vision 2030 sparks Saudi Arabia's sporting revolution

RIYADH, Sept 22: Saudi Arabia has been making unprecedented strides in developing its sports sector in recent years. Guided by the strategic framework of the Saudi Sports Federation, the Kingdom has built an active and thriving community by encouraging physical activity among adults, with a goal of reducing inactivity rates by 1-10% this year alone.

This rapid growth is driven by the generous support of the Saudi leadership and the close oversight of His Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bins Faisal, Minister of Sports. Since the launch of Vision 2030, sports development has been a national priority - improving quality of life while elevating the Kingdom's presence on both regional and global sports stages.

According to the 2024 Vision report, the Kingdom has witnessed remarkable growth in sports infrastructure. In 2019, there were 16 clubs in the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Professional League, 16 in the First Division, and 20 in the Second Division. By 2024, the total number of clubs had surged

to 128 across the Kingdom. Likewise, the number of Saudi sports federations expanded from 32 in 2015 to 97 by the end of 2024 - reflecting a comprehensive transformation across all sports disciplines.

Since the launch of Vision 2030, women's participation in sports has soared by more than 150%. Today, over 330,000 registered female athletes, supported by thousands of coaches, referees, mentors, and sports physicians, are competing and excelling locally, regionally, and internationally.

The Kingdom now boasts more than 500 women's sports centers and 104 women serving on the boards of sports organizations - 7 of whom lead federations. Saudi Arabia has also established 37 national women's teams and trained nearly 100 female coaches. Grassroots participation is thriving as well, with 15,000 schoolgirls taking up tennis for the first time and more than 70,000 playing football.

Female participation in sports is now just 2% lower than that of men. In 2020, Saudi Arabia celebrated its

first female Paralympian at the Tokyo Games, and in 2024, its first female Olympic swimmer competed in Paris. Women's football has also seen rapid progress, with Al-Nassr's women's team capturing both the league and Super Cup titles, securing a place in international competitions.

Saudi Arabia is increasingly a hub for world-class sporting events under Vision 2030. The Kingdom will host the 2034 FIFA World Cup - the biggest event in global football - as well as the Asian Games in the same year. Other events such as Formula E, Formula 1, the Spanish Super Cup, and the prestigious Saudi Cup horse race further showcase the Kingdom's expanding role on the global sporting stage.

The Saudi Pro League (Roshn) has also risen in international prominence, now regarded among the top 10 leagues worldwide.

The arrival of global stars, most notably Cristiano Ronaldo with Al-Nassr, has transformed the league into a global spectacle. Ronaldo, now a sporting ambassador for Saudi Arabia,



Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcomes Al-Ahli, Asian Champion.

continues to spotlight the Kingdom - most memorably when he appeared in

traditional Saudi attire on Founding Day, capturing worldwide attention and drawing millions of fans to follow Saudi sports.

Barcelona closes in on Real, Atletico drops more points



Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong fights for the ball against Getafe's Mauro Arambarri during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Getafe at the Johan Cruyff stadium in Barcelona. (AP)

Torres scores brace

MADRID, Sept 22, (AP): Dani Olmo scored and set up one of Ferran Torres' two goals with a neat backheel flick as Barcelona beat Getafe 3-0 in the Spanish league.

It was the second straight game for Barcelona at its training facility as the newly renovated Camp Nou Stadium lacks the required permits.

Olmo's clever flick inside the area led to Torres scoring for Barcelona in the 15th minute, and Raphinha's assist to Torres in the 34th allowed the Catalan club to increase its first-half advantage.

Olmo then closed the scoring with a shot from near the penalty spot in the 62nd after a setup by substitute Marcus Rashford. A man carrying a Palestinian flag entered the field just before Olmo scored but did not affect the goal. The man was taken away by security.

"We had to focus on our own performance," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said. "We controlled the match. It's never easy to score three against Getafe."

The victory moved defending champion Barcelona within two points of leader Real Madrid, which defeated Espanyol 2-0.

"It was important to come away with the three points," Torres said.

The match was played at the Estadi Johan Cruyff, which typically hosts the Barcelona women's team and men's reserve and youth squads. The club had already played there in its home opener - a 6-0 rout of Valencia on Sept. 14.

Getafe, which had won three of its first four matches, dropped to eighth place.

Atletico Madrid's early-season struggles continued with a 1-1 draw at Mallorca, giving the club its worst league start under coach Diego Simeone after five matches.

Julian Alvarez missed a first-half penalty kick and Atletico conceded a late equalizer as it failed to win for the fourth time in five league matches.

Atletico's only win so far was 2-0 against Villarreal last weekend. It has six points, its lowest points total after five matches since 2009-10 (three points), just before Simeone took over as coach.

"We are trying to build a new team," Simeone said. "Several players arrived and we knew that something like this could happen. We knew we would have to go through this process."

Atletico had also drawn 1-1 against both Elche and at Alaves after opening with a 2-1 loss at Espanyol. It was coming off a 3-2 loss at Liverpool in its Champions League opener on Wednesday.

Forward Alvarez had his 14th-minute penalty kick saved by Mallorca goalkeeper Leo Roman, and striker Alexander Sorloth was sent off for a hard foul in the 72nd after video review.

Sorloth had replaced Alvarez about 10 minutes before being sent off. Alvarez did not hide his frustration at being substituted but Simeone later downplayed the player's reaction.

Atletico, which has conceded eight goals in six matches across all competitions so far, went ahead with a shot from inside the area by Conor Gallagher in the 79th, but Vedat Muriqi equalized for the hosts with a header in the 85th.

Mallorca remains winless with only two points.

Earlier, Celta Vigo drew 1-1 at Rayo Vallecano, while Elche beat Oviedo 1-0 at home with a ninth-minute goal by Andre Silva in a match between promoted clubs.

Agnelli granted plea bargain that could lead to soccer return

Inter bounces back from consecutive losses in Serie A

MILAN, Sept 22, (AP): Inter Milan bounced back from consecutive losses in Serie A with a 2-1 win over Sassuolo on Sunday.

Federico Dimarco scored early on after being set up by Petar Susic and Carlos Augusto doubled the lead in the 81st with a deflected shot.

Walid Cheddira pulled one back for Sassuolo in the 84th after an exchange with Domenico Berardi.

Inter, which was coming off defeats to Udinese and Juventus but won 2-0 at Ajax in the Champions League on Wednesday, has six points after opening the season with a 5-0 rout of Torino.

Serie B champion Sassuolo remained with three points.

Earlier, Lorenzo Pellegrini scored as Roma beat Lazio 1-0 in the capital derby.

Also, Nikola Krstovic scored twice as Atalanta won 3-0 at Torino; Como rallied to win 2-1 at Fiorentina with a stoppage-time goal from Jayden Addai; and promoted Cremonese remained unbeaten after a 0-0 draw with Parma that newly signed Jamie Vardy sat out.

A plea bargain deal for former Juventus president Andrea Agnelli with a 20-month suspended sentence in a false accounting trial was

granted by a judge Monday - possibly setting up Agnelli's return to soccer after his sports ban expires next month.

The trial, which began after prosecutors started investigating Juventus in 2021, contributed to Agnelli's

downfall at the record 36-time Serie A champion.

Former Juventus vice president Pavel Nedved was granted a deal of 14 months and former Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici got 18 months - with their sentences also



Sassuolo's Ismael Kone, left, and Inter Milan's Francesco Pio Esposito fight for the ball during a Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Sassuolo, at San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

suspended.

Former Juventus CEO Maurizio Arrivabene was cleared of wrongdoing by the court in Rome - where the trial was moved to after starting in Turin.

Juventus, which is listed on the Milan stock exchange, was fined 156,000 euros (\$183,000) and also reached a settlement with about 75 investors who the club will pay slightly more than 1 million euros (about \$1.2 million).

The case prompted Agnelli and Juventus' entire board of directors to resign in 2022. Agnelli was then given two separate bans by sports authorities, the last of which expires in October.

Juventus was hit with a 10-point penalty in the 2022-23 season and then removed by UEFA from the Conference League for financial irregularities.

Juventus and its managers were investigated for cashing in on illegal commissions from transfers and loans of players and illicit handling of players' salaries. The case also explored whether investors were misled with invoices being issued for non-existent transactions to demonstrate income that in turn could be deemed false accounting.

Al-Musallam reviews Los Angeles aquatic facilities ahead of '28 Oly

LOS ANGELES, Sept 22: World Aquatics President Captain Husain Al-Musallam led a delegation visit to Los Angeles and Long Beach, inspecting venues designated for swimming, water polo, diving, artistic swimming, and open-water events in preparation for the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics.

The tour also included a review of updated designs for pools, spectator stands, athlete preparation areas, and planned sports showcases. A stop at the iconic SoFi Stadium was also part of the visit.

Al-Musallam was joined by World Aquatics Treasurer Dale Neuburger, Executive Bureau Member and Olympic champion Daniel Guryta, CEO Brent Nowicki, and Ahmed Al-Saabi, Director of the President's Office.

Representatives from LA28 included CEO General Reynold Hoover, Olympic champion and Chief Athlete Officer Janet Evans, Chief of Sport and Games Shana Ferguson, Vice President of Sport Nicola Campriani, and Sport Director Karli Brashear.



Husain Al-Musallam with Reynold Hoover

Captain Al-Musallam praised the scale of the project and its anticipated impact on aquatic sports, noting that the venue is planned to hold up to 39,000 spectators, with dedicated seating areas for athletes to watch the competitions.