



KUWAIT CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES LEBANESE, SYRIAN PRESIDENTS



Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, delivers a speech during an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on the situation in the Middle East.

Amir Representative highlights Gaza catastrophe before UNSC

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has shed light on the Gaza Strip catastrophe and the brotherly Palestinian people's suffering.

This came in a speech delivered on Tuesday by His Highness on behalf of the GCC states, during an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including Palestinian cause.

His Highness the Crown Prince said that the brotherly Palestinian people have been facing the most grotesque suffering, an unfair suffocating siege, boarder devastation and the loss of over 60,000 martyrs, most of them women and children.

What is going on in the Strip is a genocide and ethnic cleansing, which are a deep wound in human conscience that need immediate action, His Highness noted.

"We have worriedly followed up the last military escalation. We con-

demn in the strongest terms the brutal Israeli attacks on the sisterly State of Qatar," His Highness the Crown Prince told the attendees.

"We clearly affirm that undermining a GCC state's security is an attack of all GCC members. Our security, position and fate are shared," His Highness underlined.

His Highness the Amir's Representative went to say that fair and permanent justice in "our" region could only be achieved through the two-state solution based on the international legitimacy resolutions topped with the Security Council resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

This is the only way to end the Israeli occupation, ensure legitimate Palestinian people's rights and establish an independent Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, His Highness the Crown Prince stressed.

"We warn against undermining this solution through the policies of

Continued on Page 5



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

The wise man said to the worried person, 'Will you carry your problems with you when you leave this world?'



Since you didn't bring it, and it won't go with you, be patient



Keep smiling, for your provision is decreed, and your destiny is defined by God. So forget about your worries



A believer's life moves between ease and hardship. Both are blessings



He expresses gratitude to God during ease and remains patient in difficult times



If you want to live happily, don't over-interpret everything



Not every issue needs to be analyzed. Those who examine diamonds too closely may only see coal



"So, tell me, Socrates, is the bird in my hand alive or dead?"



By responding, "The matter is in your hands," the philosopher revealed his wisdom

3

Filipina to hang over child's washer death

Criminal court confirms 'premeditated murder'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Criminal Court sentenced a Filipina domestic worker to death after convicting her of the premeditated murder of a Kuwaiti toddler in her care.

Investigations revealed that the maid placed the 18-month old child inside a washing machine and turned it on, resulting in the toddler's death.

In its ruling on Tuesday, the court confirmed that both the material and moral elements of the crime were clearly established, deeming it a premeditated murder.

Security authorities apprehended the suspect within two hours of the crime being reported.

'Swift Falcon' showcases advanced Kuwait-France military partnership

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin affirmed that the "Swift Falcon" exercise on air operations, exemplifies the advanced military partnership between France and Kuwait, and reflects a high level of operational harmony between the armed forces of both countries.

He explained that the exercise is the result of long-standing cooperation based on mutual trust and a shared commitment to regional security. It also serves as an opportunity to deepen operational coordination and enhance the forces' speed of response and effectiveness in confronting crises.

The ambassador stated, "In a region marked by ongoing tensions and the rise of unconventional and asymmetric threats, these exercises hold immense strategic significance. They provide us with an opportunity to test and strengthen our joint capabilities for immediate and coordinated action while facilitating the exchange of expertise in confronting both conventional and

hybrid challenges."

He stressed that these exercises directly support the strategic solidarity between France and Kuwait, reinforce Kuwait's security, and contribute to the stability of the Gulf and the wider region.

Ambassador Gauvin said, "The active participation of French forces in these exercises represents a fundamental pillar of our bilateral relations with Kuwait. It reflects our will to strengthen the strong and sustainable defense cooperation, in line with current security challenges. It also sends a clear message of our commitment to Kuwait, particularly in the areas of training, expertise exchange, and capacity building."

He highlighted that the Swift Falcon exercise at Ahmed Al-Jaber Air Base made a strong impression on him, particularly due to the high level of coordination and operational realism, indicating that the excellent cooperation between the French and Kuwaiti forces was evident.

The ambassador said, "What stood out to me most was the spirit of camaraderie, professionalism, and mutual trust between the two sides. This reflects the deep bond that has been built over decades of joint cooperation between our armed forces."

Regarding future plans to increase the number or enhance the quality of

Continued on Page 5



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

Cabinet hails strong economic performance

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (KUNA): The Cabinet, in its customary meeting on Tuesday, reviewed the state financial situation in the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2025, hailing its positive indicators which reflected the resilience of the national economy.

In a statement following the meeting, headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji stated Minister of Electivity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem briefed the Cabinet about the state financial situation in FY 2024/2025.

The Minister emphasized that the State's assets continue to exceed its liabilities, reflecting the strength of Kuwait's financial and economic position and enhancing investor confidence.

The Cabinet reviewed the data on the General Reserve Fund and the Future Generations Fund, which showed positive results compared to the same period in 2024. After the presentation, the Cabinet underlined that these positive indicators reflect the resilience of the national economy and would help attract foreign investment.

They also confirm the success of the State's policy of economic openness and its vision to transform Kuwait into an attractive financial and commercial hub,

while sustaining job creation for future generations, the Cabinet said.

The Cabinet also witnessed a presentation made by Minister Al-Mukhaizeem on the key features of the fiscal balance program and the ongoing economic and financial reforms aimed at enhancing financial stability and diversifying income sources.

The Minister indicated that non-oil revenues are projected to grow significantly during the FY 2025/2026, driven by a series of financial reforms currently being implemented, including the restructuring of government service fees and upgrading public finance management.

He added a new package of economic reforms is in the offing to increase non-oil revenues, attract domestic and foreign investments and raise the contribution of the private sector to the state development and national economy.

He emphasized that these reforms would pave the way for building a more sustainable and competitive economy in the medium and long term.

Minister Al-Mukhaizeem briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his meeting with Director of the International Monetary Fund's Office in the Middle East and North Africa Francisco Parodi during his visit to Kuwait last Wednesday.

Continued on Page 5

Campaign champions delivery drivers rights

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The National Diwan for Human Rights concluded its occupational safety campaign for delivery drivers recently, under the patronage and in the presence of Minister Plenipotentiary Anas Al-Shaheen, Chair of the three-member Committee for the Diwan's Affairs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign aimed at raising awareness about drivers' occupational rights in cooperation with the General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior and the Occupational Health Sector at the Ministry of Health.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait dismantles fake address op

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Financial Crimes Combating Department affiliated with the General Department of Criminal Investigations has apprehended a number of individuals involved in

illegally processing residential address change transactions in exchange for money, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwaiti women prefer citizens over foreign unions: PACI data

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Official statistics issued by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) revealed that the number of Kuwaiti women married to Kuwaiti citizens reached 229,885 as of the end of June 2025, while 19,724 Kuwaiti women were married to nationals of other countries in various continents.

The statistics indicated that Kuwaiti women's marriages to non-Kuwaitis were distributed among Arab, Asian, European, American, African, and Australian nationalities, with marriages to Arab nationals remaining the highest

Continued on Page 5



5

Day by Day

TO be frank, without a metro system, traffic congestion would continue to be a major issue in Kuwait. The roads are designed to accommodate around 800,000 vehicles, yet more than three million cars use these roads.

In Kuwait, there is a bad habit of excessive individual vehicle use. Even domestic workers own private cars. For example, if you are in Faiha and want to buy bread from Hawally, the driver or domestic worker might drive their own car to make that purchase.

In contrast, metros in Saudi Arabia and the UAE have eased traffic congestion to a large extent. There are companies capable of establishing metro networks from start to finish using a Build-Operate-Transfer (B.O.T.) system, which requires little to no government funding, but offers immense benefits in return.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:18	Asr	15:06
Sunrise ..	05:37	Maghrib ..	17:43
Zohr	11:40	Isha	19:00

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-38 km/h.			
By Night: Rather hot to mild and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind, with speeds of 08-22 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	40	31	
Kuwait Airport	39	28	
Abdaly	39	22	

Bubyan	37	19
Jahra	40	25
Failaka Island	38	26
Salmiyah	36	28
Ahmadi	37	27
Nuwasib	39	25
Wafra	39	25

HH Crown Prince strengthens Kuwait's global partnerships

Amir Representative holds key UN meetings with world leaders

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, held a series of high-profile meetings in New York on Tuesday, on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The discussions reflected Kuwait's drive to expand international partnerships, diversify economic opportunities, and enhance cooperation with friendly nations and leading global companies.

The Crown Prince began his engagements with a number of influential figures from the corporate world at Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. He met the President and CEO of Franklin Templeton Investments, senior officials from the US Chamber of Commerce, including First Vice President for International Development Khush Choksy and Vice President for Middle East Affairs, Central Asia and Türkiye Steve Lutes, as well as State Street Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs Cuan Coulter. He also held talks with Teresa Carlson, Founding President of the General Catalyst Institute.

In addition, His Highness met Microsoft Vice Chairman and President Brad Smith, and the President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and Google, Ruth Porat. These discussions centered on the role of technology, finance, and global trade in shaping Kuwait's future.



Left: Kuwait Amir Representative the Crown Prince receives Microsoft Vice Chairman and President. Right: Kuwait Amir Representative the Crown Prince receives Google President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet.

During the meetings, the Crown Prince conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir, while affirming Kuwait's determination to strengthen its ties with leading global corporations. He underscored Kuwait's vision to expand foreign investment, diversify its economy, and foster innovation. He further emphasized the importance of equipping Kuwaiti youth with knowledge, expertise, and modern technological skills that will enable them to play an active role in driving national development and leading future advancements.

Talks also reviewed the activities of

these companies in Kuwait, the broader dynamics of the global economy, and ways to deepen cooperation in support of mutual interests.

Alongside the business leaders, His Highness the Crown Prince also met with several world leaders in New York. In his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, the two sides highlighted the distinguished relations between Kuwait and Japan, reaffirming their shared commitment to building on the strong foundations of partnership. They also discussed the latest regional and international developments, with both leaders underlining



Crown Prince Diwan photos

the importance of closer cooperation in navigating global challenges.

Later, the Crown Prince received Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting focused on the historic ties binding Kuwait and Pakistan, and explored ways to strengthen cooperation across multiple fields to serve the common interests of both countries.

His Highness also held talks with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. Conveying the greetings of His Highness the Amir, the Crown Prince reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to advancing ties with Portugal.

Discussions touched on bilateral cooperation and the potential for broadening collaboration in areas of mutual benefit.

In another meeting, the Crown Prince received Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen. The two leaders reviewed the close relations between Kuwait and Austria and discussed ways to further develop cooperation in political, economic, and cultural fields.

The Crown Prince's diplomatic outreach extended to Norway, where he met Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre. Their talks highlighted the long-standing

ing ties between Kuwait and Norway, reviewing avenues for boosting cooperation and exchanging views on key regional and international developments.

Across these meetings, His Highness the Crown Prince reaffirmed Kuwait's dedication to strengthening its global partnerships, not only on the political front but also through economic, technological, and investment cooperation. The engagements in New York underscored Kuwait's balanced foreign policy, which prioritizes dialogue, development, and mutually beneficial relations with nations and international institutions alike.

The meetings were attended by Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Al-Issa, Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai.

Through his participation at the UN General Assembly and the series of meetings with heads of state, government leaders, and corporate executives, His Highness the Crown Prince projected Kuwait's message of partnership, peace, and progress, reinforcing the country's role as a reliable partner in international cooperation.

PAHW seeks private partners to solve Kuwait housing crisis

New laws set to fast-track homeownership

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Wednesday launched a promotional campaign to qualify companies for real estate development projects.

The campaign includes offering three project packages in four regions, in accordance with Law No. 118/2023, which governs the establishment of companies to develop residential cities or areas (real estate developers).

During the event held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari affirmed the importance of partnerships with the private sector, referring to it as the "true partner in development", to help solve the housing problem.

He explained how work has been ongoing for the past few months to amend some important policies and laws of PAHW, most notably the 'real estate developer' law".

Work is also underway on new, fundamental laws, including the upcoming



Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari during the launching of promotional campaign to qualify companies for real estate development projects.

"real estate financing" law, expected to be finalized within weeks. Meanwhile, comprehensive feasibility studies are being conducted for early housing projects. These studies have guided the careful selection of three distinctive sites - Al-Sabriya, Nawaf Al-Ahmad Residential, and Al-Khairan Residential - where initial designs for areas and homes are being developed to ensure project viability.

PAHW aims primarily to reduce the housing waiting period and increase homeownership rates in Kuwait, addressing current unsatisfactory figures. Ensuring high-quality construction in

modern residential areas is also a top priority. To meet these goals, it is focusing on offering and planning the largest possible amount of land for housing, with an ambitious project targeting around 170,000 housing units or plots. The infrastructure design for these new cities will soon be awarded to three consulting firms.

Minister Al-Mishari highlighted that along with the large-scale housing projects, PAHW is currently offering carefully selected quality projects, with the first underway, a second coming soon, and a third being prepared in coordination with the Council of Ministers for submission to the Housing Ministry.

He said his approach in the Cabinet emphasizes active involvement, stating, "No minister is unconcerned," with a strong commitment to resolving the housing issue as soon as possible.

The minister acknowledged the need for a new governance mechanism within PAHW to better support the real estate development initiatives under Law 118/2023, adding that efforts are underway to restructure PAHW to create a more strong environment that facilitates development and the effective rollout of projects.

Minister Al-Mishari stressed that daily decisions are important to activating these projects and ensuring their successful implementation.

He addressed common questions about real estate developers, emphasizing the importance of learning from

international experiences while tailoring solutions to Kuwait's unique legislative and institutional framework.

He stressed that PAHW's approach must align closely with Kuwait's specific needs, affirming that future adjustments will be necessary as circumstances evolve.

The minister also highlighted the misconception that laws should be permanent, explaining that recent legislation, including Law 118/2023 and the Real Estate Finance Law, are designed for the current phase and will be reviewed and potentially amended after four years to remain relevant.

Al-Mishari outlined an ambitious yet realistic plan to build over 170,000 housing units within the next decade, working closely with his colleagues in the Cabinet to ensure comprehensive support through infrastructure development, utilities, and legislative frameworks.

He praised the unwavering support from the political leadership and highlighted His Highness the Prime Minister's diligent follow-up on all laws and projects.

Minister Al-Mishari said the first three investment opportunities represent part of efforts to solve Kuwait's housing issue.

He emphasized the collaborative role of the Cabinet, and highlighted that the private sector is an important partner in this initiative and will play a central role in realizing the housing dreams of Kuwaitis.

Al-Mishari affirmed his commitment to quality oversight and called for unified teamwork to ensure the success of these initial projects, which could pave the way for future expansions.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Minister Al-Mishari expressed his satisfaction with the launch of the first three investment opportunities for real estate developers.

He stressed that some laws and policies have been amended, with new legislation soon to be implemented, paving the way for the development of essential infrastructure for real estate projects in Kuwait, adding, "PAHW plans to award contracts next year, followed by project implementation."



KUNA photo

The Foreign Minister chairs the joint ministerial meeting between the Gulf Cooperation Council and France.

Kuwait, France lead talks on expanding GCC-French co-op

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (KUNA): The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries and France convened a meeting on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, in his capacity as president of the GCC ministerial council, co-chaired the meeting with Jean-Noel Barrot - the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The meeting, attended by GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Bu-

daiwi, reviewed the progress of the GCC-French partnership in all areas as well as several regional and international issues of common concern.

Both sides expressed a shared desire to strengthen the strategic GCC-French dialogue and the deep-rooted historical friendly relations in the framework of the strategic partnership. They agreed to expand cooperation in such areas as economy, investment culture, energy and development, and work together for addressing the regional challenges and promoting peace.

Kuwait sends 13th aid flight to Gaza with 40 tons of food

CAIRO, Sept 24, (KUNA): The 13th Kuwaiti planeload of humanitarian supplies for Gaza arrived at Al-Arish airport in northern Sinai on Wednesday, carrying 40 tons of food supplies designated for the besieged Palestinian population in Gaza Strip.

Director of Operations of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Zainab Qambar told KUNA in a statement that this flight comes as part of "Fazaa for Gaza" campaign, organized under the supervision of KRCS, with close cooperation from Kuwait's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Social Affairs.

Qambar said that this aid shipment transported by the Kuwaiti Air Force plane consists of basic food baskets provided by the Islamic Heritage Society, indicating that the flight is the

13th of the relief bridge launched by Kuwait in accordance with directives of Kuwait political leadership for the benefit of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

She added that the ongoing relief aid reflects Kuwait's genuine stance in providing support to those in need and confirms Kuwait's pioneering and influential role in charitable work at the regional and international levels.

Qambar expressed her gratitude to the Kuwaiti charitable organizations participating in preparing aid shipments for the people of Gaza, as well as to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Egypt and the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescent Societies for receiving the Kuwaiti aid shipments at Al-Arish Airport.

Ahmadi Governor hosts Spanish envoy to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at the governorate headquarters on Tuesday morning the Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Manuel Hernandez Gamayo.

According to a press release issued by Ahmadi Governorate, Sheikh Hamoud welcomed the ambassador and wished him success in his diplomatic duties, expressing hope for further advancement in relations between Kuwait and Spain in various fields.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged cordial discussions on enhancing bilateral cooperation and strengthening ties between the two friendly nations.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Gamayo expressed his appreciation for the warm reception, and praised the sup-



Ahmadi Governorate photo
Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with the Spanish ambassador.

port and care extended to the Spanish diplomatic mission and citizens at both official and public levels in Kuwait.

'UK recognition of Palestine a diplomatic correction of historical error'

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub emphasized that the United Kingdom's recognition of the State of Palestine, coming from the very capital that issued the Balfour Declaration, holds deep political and diplomatic significance, calling it an implicit correction of a historical error.

He stressed that the British Foreign Secretary acknowledged the Balfour Declaration's stipulation for "the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine, provided that the rights of the indigenous population are not prejudiced" - a condition, Tahboub said, that was never respected.

Ambassador Tahboub described the move as "an implicit apology cloaked in diplomatic language," adding that although it is long overdue, it is "better

late than never." He said, "Recognition of Palestine by major and influential countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Malta, Andorra, Australia, Portugal, and San Marino is a major step forward, but not sufficient on its own.

He insisted that these recognitions must be translated into concrete actions such as by imposing sanctions on Israel, halting arms supplies to it, and banning the import of goods produced in illegal settlements.

Commenting on the outcomes of the recent summit in Qatar, Ambassador Tahboub stated that there is now a unified Arab and Islamic stance following

the aggression against Doha, and that reassessing relations with Israel is a sovereign decision for each individual state.

What matters most to the Palestinian people, he stressed, is the genuine implementation of the two-state solution and the New York Declaration, which must lead to tangible changes on the ground.

Ambassador Tahboub noted that the upcoming meetings in New York will focus primarily on the Palestinian cause, highlighting that the coalition led by Saudi Arabia and France enjoys great Palestinian appreciation.

He affirmed that the State of Palestine is clearly defined under international law, with recognized borders, adding that the Palestinian flag has already been raised in major world capitals prior to official recognition, but with these recent developments, the Palestinian general commissions in those countries will now be upgraded

to full embassies.

Regarding the upcoming meeting between the U.S. President, several Arab countries, and Turkey, Ambassador Tahboub stated that the Arab position is unified, with the Saudi-led coalition enjoying appreciation, while Jordan and Egypt continue to serve as steadfast bulwarks against Israel's forced displacement policies.

He indicated that, for the first time, the U.S. political scene is witnessing a division within Congress, between the House of Representatives and the Senate, on the issue of recognizing the two-state solution.

Ambassador Tahboub stressed that influential media outlets and shifting American public opinion, combined with active Arab and Palestinian diplomacy, are playing a major role in pressuring U.S. institutions, which do not function under the authority of a single individual but operate according to an institutional system.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



The wise man said to the worried person, ‘Will you carry your problems with you when you leave this world?’

THE ability to distinguish between right and wrong is a gift, especially when faced with important choices. Remember, sadness often comes suddenly but fades with time. Every problem has a solution... you just need to know how to find it.

The following lines offer enough wisdom to help you understand the path to solving your problems:

A worried person asked a wise man, “I need your help to find solutions to my worries.”

The wise man said, “I will ask you two questions, and I want your answers immediately.

First, did you come into this world with these problems?”

The man replied, “No.”

The wise man asked the second question, “Will you take your problems with you when you leave this world?”

The man replied, “No, I will not.”

The wise man said, “If you didn’t bring these problems with you, and you won’t take them with you when you leave, then don’t burden yourself with worries. Be patient with worldly matters. Let the sky be your permanent refuge. Pray to Him above, rather than engaging yourself in earthly concerns.

“Keep smiling as long as you have what you need. Your provision is decreed, and your destiny is already defined by God. Therefore, nothing in this world is worth worrying about. Indeed, everything is in the hands of God Almighty, the Ever-Living and Self-Sustaining.

“A believer’s life moves between ease and

- Since you didn't bring it, and it won't go with you, be patient
- Keep smiling, for your provision is decreed, and your destiny is defined by God. So forget about your worries
- A believer's life moves between ease and hardship. Both are blessings
- He expresses gratitude to God during ease and remains patient in difficult times
- If you want to live happily, don't over-interpret everything
- Not every issue needs to be analyzed. Those who examine diamonds too closely may only see coal
- “So, tell me, Socrates, is the bird in my hand alive or dead?”
- By responding, “The matter is in your hands,” the philosopher revealed his wisdom

hardship. Both are blessings, for the believer expresses gratitude to God during ease and remains patient in difficult times. God Almighty has promised that the patient will be

fully rewarded without question.”

A lesson can be drawn from the statement above - If you want to live happily, don’t over-interpret, scrutinize, or analyze everything. Those who examine diamonds too closely may only see coal.

* * *

A young man wanted to test Socrates

One day, a young man decided to test Socrates’ wisdom in his own way. He approached him and said, “Socrates, I have heard that you know everything, so I want to ask you a difficult question.”

Socrates smiled calmly and replied, “Of course. Ask whatever you like.”

The young man held a small bird in his hand, hid it behind his back, and asked, “Tell me, Socrates, is the bird in my hand alive or dead?”

The young man had a plan. If Socrates said the bird was alive, he would crush it to death to prove him wrong. And if he said it was dead, he would release it, again to prove him wrong.

Socrates paused for a moment, then said with a knowing smile, “The matter is in your hands.”

With that simple yet profound answer, Socrates revealed the depth of his wisdom.

The young man realized that the answer was indeed in his own hands. He alone held the power to decide the bird’s fate.

Moved by Socrates’ response, he walked away, having learned a valuable lesson about personal responsibility and true wisdom.

- Government interference in people's businesses greatly upsets them. While the government can share in these profits through taxes or fees, it should avoid interfering in how businesses operate and grow their profits.
- The Houthis in Yemen are currently facing the consequences of their actions against the Yemeni people. They created a lot of trouble between Yemen and the world, acting under the influence and control of the state that exerts power over them.
- O God, protect us from the evil of people and the betrayal of a friend. O God, You know what they plot behind our backs. Shield us with Your power from their deceit, harm, and malice. O God, fill our hearts with love. O God, reconcile hearts. O God, forgive our sins and conceal our faults.
- Most Arab and Islamic summits involve nothing but empty rhetoric and threats, ending with a closing ceremony after a period of loud shouting and hopeless voices.



Deputy Commander of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas, during his attendance at the public draw for the two courses of field officer students and specialized non-commissioned officers.

National Guard selects new officers in transparent draw

Strategic plan 2030 advances

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The National Guard conducted a public draw for admission into two courses for field officers with university degrees and non-commissioned officers with diplomas, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The draw was held on Tuesday, September 23 under the patronage of National Guard Commander Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and in the presence of the Undersecretary of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas.

In a press release, the General Presidency of the National Guard explained that Lieutenant



Part of the public lottery for the National Guard.

General Al-Barjas congratulated those accepted into the two courses and conveyed the congratu-

lations of National Guard Commander Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and his Deputy Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf.

He affirmed the National Guard leadership’s commitment to upholding principles and standards that ensure fairness, equal opportunities, and enhanced transparency throughout all course stages, from admission to the public draw.

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas said the National Guard leadership aims to fulfill the objectives of the 2030 Strategic Plan (Protecting the Nation), which focuses on qualifying personnel both militarily and scientifically, as it is the foundation of any institution’s success.

He wished the accepted candidates every success in their academic journey and encouraged them to work diligently so that, upon graduation, they can support their commanders and colleagues in preserving the National Guard’s distinguished legacy.

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to human rights cooperation with EU

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, Sheikha Jawaher Al-Duaij Al-Sabah affirmed Tuesday Kuwait’s keenness on furthering coordination and cooperation with various member states in international conventions.

This was during her meeting at the Ministry’s headquarters with European Union Ambassador to the country, Anne Koistinen, and

a number of European Union Ambassadors.

The diplomats conversed about cooperation during upcoming session for Human Rights Council with Kuwait’s membership for the period 2024 - 2026, and delved into top priorities and issues of common interest.

Sheikha Jawaher welcomed the EU’s keenness and continuous coordination with Kuwait during Human Rights Council sessions.



KUNA photo Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, during her meeting with the European Union Ambassador to Kuwait and a group of ambassadors from European Union countries.

Kuwait, UAE security officials discuss smart traffic systems

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (KUNA): Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Ali Al-Adwani met with Brigadier Eng. Hussein Al-Harthi, Director General of Electronic Services and Communications at the UAE Ministry of Interior and Chairman of “SAARED” for Traffic Systems, to discuss ways to enhance joint cooperation and exchange expertise.

The meeting, attended by UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi, reviewed the UAE’s experience in handling minor traffic accidents and implementing smart traffic systems that improve response efficiency and road safety.

Nazaha refers officials to prosecution

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred to the Public Prosecution several members of boards of directors of a number of government entities and cooperative societies for submitting inaccurate financial disclosure statements, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement posted on its official X account, Nazaha affirmed the importance of all individuals subject to financial disclosure laws to accurately complete and submit their statements within the legally specified deadlines.

Kuwait partakes in 41st Arab climate talks ahead of COP30

CAIRO, Sept 24, (KUNA): Kuwait is taking part in the 41st meeting of the Arab group on climate change negotiations alongside other Arab nations. The meeting, aiming to coordinate a unified stance ahead of the upcoming COP30 conference, began Wednesday in Cairo.

Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs at the Arab League Dr. Ali Al-Maliki stressed the importance of Arab unity in climate negotiations.

He said the League continues to hold coordination meetings to align priorities among member states and ensure a collective Arab interest is preserved.

Director of Environment and Meteorology at the League Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah highlighted the importance of the agenda, especially issues referred by the Council of Arab Environment Ministers.

Fathallah noted that the outcomes of the recent COP29 in Baku did not meet Arab expectations, making current discussions even more crucial.

He added that today’s meeting marks ten years since the Paris Agreement, in which Arab negotiators played a major role in securing regional interests.

The meeting also coincides with the Arab League’s 80th anniversary, a milestone Fathallah described as a source of pride and motivation for future efforts.

Representatives from Arab environment ministries, climate agencies, and regional organizations are attending the meeting at the League’s headquarters.

The agenda includes discussion of the Arab strategy for climate finance 2030, the proposed Arab center for climate change, and preparations for COP30.

MUGHAL MAHAL
Empowerment's First Choice

مغل محل
الاختيار الأول للجميع
SINCE 1985

BACK to SCHOOL

Celebrate with your Schoolmates & Family

Dine-In Vouchers

BEFORE	AFTER
10 KD	8.250 KD
20 KD	16.000 KD
50 KD	38.900 KD

Download our App to Buy These Voucher

SCAN THE QR TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

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



PAHW greenlights deal to build 21 public buildings in Al-Mutlaa

More schools, mosques on the way

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has announced the signing of a new contract to construct several public buildings in Al-Mutlaa Residential City.

In a press statement, the acting Director General Rashid Al-Enezi explained that the contract covers the construction of 21 public buildings for serving the N1, N2, and N4 residential suburbs.

In N1 suburb, two buildings will be constructed, which are a kindergarten in Block 1 and a middle school for girls in Block 5.

In N2 suburb, nine buildings are being constructed, which are a kindergarten in Block 1, four local mosques, and four residences for the

imam and muezzin in Blocks 1, 2, 3, and 4.

In N4 suburb, ten buildings will be built, which are a kindergarten and a middle school for boys, both in Block 3, four local mosques and four residences for the imams and muezzins in Blocks 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The contract value amounts to KD 20,123,360, with a completion timeline of 900 days.

PAHW is currently overseeing the construction of 131 service buildings, including three congregational mosques and three residences for imams and muezzins in N2, N4, and N7 suburbs. Also, 13 kindergartens are under construction in N1–N6 and N8–N12 suburbs, along with ten primary

schools for boys or girls in N2, N4, N5, N7, N11, and N12 suburbs.

The plans also include six intermediate schools for boys or girls in N2, N7, N8, N11 suburbs, and four secondary schools for boys or girls in N1, N3, N8, N12 suburbs.

Healthcare facilities include a specialized health center in N5 suburb, three public health centers in N2, N4, and N6 suburbs, and three integrated health centers with ambulance services in N7, N9, and N10 suburbs. Also, three gas stations are being built in N2, N4, and N6 suburbs, along with six other buildings.

These buildings are designated for central markets, police stations, citizen service centers, post offices, the municipality, social units, community development centers, Ministry of Commerce and Industry offices, and shops in N2, N4, N6, N7, N9, and N10 suburbs.

Furthermore, 25 shop clusters are planned in N1, N2, N3, N5, N8, N9, and N12 suburbs. The plan also in-

cludes a fire station, a telephone exchange, and a main post office building in the non-residential suburbs.

Al-Enezi went on to explain that the pace of completion is progressing well, in line with the approved timelines for these projects. PAHW has successfully completed the construction of 116 buildings in N5, N6, N7, N8, N9, N10, and N11 suburbs of the city. These include 20 schools serving various educational levels, 24 local mosques, two central mosques, 26 residences for imams and muezzins, three health centers, two ambulance centers, 20 retail clusters, two central markets, four gas stations, and two police stations.

The project also includes two citizen service centers, a fire station, and two dedicated buildings each for the municipality, social unit, community development center, and post office. All buildings have been handed over to the respective government agencies.



MoE photo
Education Ministry officials carried out a field inspection tour of schools in Mutlaa Residential Area.

Three new schools proposed

Education ministry takes action to solve Mutlaa school overcrowding

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Under the directives of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, and the acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial, and Technical Affairs Eng. Mohammed Al-Khalidi, the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad carried out a field inspection tour of a number of schools in Mutlaa Residential Area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad, who was accompanied by Director of the Jahra Educational District Bader Al-Ajmi, visited several schools to closely monitor progress and assess the important needs.

He confirmed that the Ministry of Education is actively following up on observations regarding the rising number of students in some schools in the area with the start of the 2025/2026 academic year.

The ministry is currently studying the possibility of opening three new schools in Mutlaa - two elementary schools, one for boys and one for girls, and a kindergarten, to meet the growing demands of residents.

He said the Mutlaa Residential Area is experiencing a sharp increase in the number of families relocating there, which has directly affected school enrollment rates.



KUNA photo
Participants in the first session of the forum.

Scholars explore women’s rights, belonging at Kuwait forum

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (KUNA): Kuwait University’s Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Center, in cooperation with Kuwaiti Women’s Hopes Society (KWHs), on Wednesday held a forum titled “Women Between Rights and Belonging: Legal, Social, Sharia and Educational Fields,” gathering academics and experts to discuss issues facing Kuwaiti women.

Speaking to KUNA, KWHs Chairwoman Wedad Al-Mashaal said that the forum aims to give

practical proposals by involving specialists from legal, social, religious and educational fields.

She noted recent gains for women although said more joint work is needed for lasting solutions.

KWHs follows up women’s civil, social and legal needs - whether married, widowed, divorced or single - to support family and community stability, she added.

Al-Mashaal underlined partnership with state institutions, civil society and academia to ensure social

justice and to strengthen women’s role in development.

Meanwhile, Acting Director of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Center Dr. Yaqoub Al-Kandari said in a statement to KUNA that the event builds on ongoing cooperation with civil society and feature two sessions: one on constitutional and legal issues and another on social, psychological, and educational themes.

Women’s issues are a core focus of the center’s research, he pointed

out.

The forum will conclude with recommendations to the competent authorities to support relevant policies and bolster women’s standing in society.

KWHs, a developmental Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) established in 2023, works to empower Kuwaiti women, raise awareness of their rights, follow up family and social issues, and advance related laws through cultural and social programs.



SEPTEMBER

Room Promotion



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

Promo period from 1st September to 19th September 2025

Terms & conditions apply*

25th September to 30th September 2025

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351

Email: reservation@albander.com

www.albander.com

Facebook icon @albanderhotelandresort



Farwaniya Governor photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah during his visit to Abdul Aziz Qasim Hamada Elementary School for Boys.

Governor tours Farwaniya schools

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah conducted a field tour of several schools in the Farwaniya Governorate on Tuesday morning to assess their readiness for the new school year.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the governor was accompanied by the Director of the Farwaniya Educational Zone Jassim Bu Hamad, Supervisor of Primary Education Ahoud Al-Saif, and representatives of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, including Senior Social Media Supervisor in the Corporate Communications Sector Ali Baqer, and Public Relations Supervisor Othman Al-Sharidah.

The tour included visits to Abdul Aziz Qasim Hamada Elementary School for Boys and Sabika Al-Khaled Elementary School for Girls in Ardiya.

Governor Sheikh Athbi was welcomed by the principals of both schools - Badria

Muhaizaa Al-Shammari of Sabika Al-Khaled School and Niran Rashid Al-Enezi of Abdul Aziz Qasim Hamada School - along with administrative and teaching staff.

He checked on the readiness of school facilities and the effectiveness of the plans in place to receive students.

As part of the tour, gifts were distributed to students in cooperation with the Commercial Bank, reflecting a spirit of community partnership and the vital role of both the private and public sectors in supporting education and celebrating the start of the school year.

At the conclusion of the tour, Governor Sheikh Athbi praised the efforts of the administrative and teaching staff, reaffirming his commitment to providing a safe and stimulating educational environment for both students and educators.

He wished them continued success in their academic endeavors.

Other proposals referred for further review

Municipal Committee approves reorganization of Jabriya plots

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Municipal Council’s Technical Committee, in its ninth meeting of the fourth session, chaired by Munira Al-Amir, approved a single item, which is the reorganization of two plots in Jabriya.

The committee rejected a proposal to add café activities to investment licenses and referred other proposals to the executive body for further review.

The committee approved the reorganization of plots 337 and 338 in Jabriya Block 8, which was the only item approved out of five on the agenda.

It rejected a proposal by Municipal

Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri to allow café licenses along with restaurant licenses on plots designated for investment use.

The committee also decided to return a proposal, submitted by several members including Saud Al-Kandari, Fahad Al-Abduljader, Nasser Al-Jadaan, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Waleed Al-Dagher, Nassar Rajaan Al-Azmi, and Fahad Al-Khanin, to the executive body. The proposal seeks to amend a previous Municipal Council decision that changed the use of a building from investment housing with commercial facades to purely commercial. The executive body was asked to update its response in line with the committee’s discussions.

In addition, the committee took note of two other items, which are a letter from a real estate company requesting an increase in the area allocated for storage plots in Ardiya, and a proposal submitted through the “Tawasul” platform to enact a new law on environmental conservation.



Al-Amir

Ambassador highlights Saudi-Kuwait historic ties at celebration

Pride and patriotism mark Saudi Arabia’s 95th National Day

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: In the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, along with a number of sheikhs, ministers, officials, members of the diplomatic corps, heads of missions, representatives of accredited regional and international organizations, and a large public gathering, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Kuwait celebrated the Kingdom’s 95th National Day on Tuesday evening. Among the attendees were Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers and Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism, as well as his deputy Suleiman Al-Jarallah.

This year’s celebration was held under the slogan “Our Pride is in Our Nature.”

In his opening remarks, the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Kuwait, Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud, highlighted that Saudi Arabia commemorates the anniversary of its unification by the founding King Abdulaziz Al-Saud (May God have mercy on him). He praised the king and his heroic men for their immortal epics and sacrifices in establishing the foundations of the state and preserving its unity, based on Islamic law and the Sunnah of the Noble Prophet (PBUH).

Prince Sultan bin Saad explained that the righteous sons of the founding king have continued to carry the banner after him, steadfastly adhering to their pure faith and the authenticity and principles of society, and steadily advancing the development and progress of this blessed nation. This national anniversary serves as both an incentive and motivation to continue the journey of construction and giving.

The 95th National Day commemorates the glorious history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and strengthens the resolve of its people to redouble their efforts toward development and progress.

Under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia is moving forward with an ambitious vision to join the ranks of developed countries.

He prayed that God would return this occasion to the Kingdom, its leadership, and its people in continued prosperity and glory, and that He would preserve the blessings of security, stability, and prosperity for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the entire Arab and Islamic nation.

In a press statement issued following the celebration, the Saudi ambassador expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the love he found in Kuwait, describing the joy and celebration as no less vibrant than those in Saudi Arabia, adding that this reflects the deep affection and unity between the two brotherly peoples.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, Saudi Ambassador Prince Sultan bin Saad, Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah, Fahd

He said, “We are one people, sailing in the same boat and united by a common future. We began in Kuwait, and we celebrate in Kuwait.”

Regarding Saudi Arabia’s leadership in international initiatives, the Saudi ambassador affirmed that the world has witnessed its role, and that the halls of the United Nations stand as testimony, adding, “We will let history and events speak for us”.

He noted that Saudi-Kuwait relations dates back to more than two centuries, emphasizing that the close ties between the two ruling families are not recent, but deeply rooted in history, adding, “Anyone who wants to understand the true depth of this relationship must carefully study history”.

The ambassador also highlighted the large turnout at the embassy’s celebration, including Kuwaiti officials, ambassadors, and citizens, which is a reflection of the esteemed place Saudi Arabia has in the hearts of Kuwaitis.

He concluded by affirming that Kuwait holds a special place in the hearts of both the Saudi leadership and its people.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Salah Al-Maliki, expressed his pleasure in participating in the celebration.

He emphasized that Saudi National Day embodies the journey of giving and achievement that began with the founding king and continues under the leadership of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

He explained that Saudi Arabia’s comprehensive renaissance, cultural development, and regional and international leadership are a source of pride for all Gulf nations. They reflect the wisdom of the Saudi leadership and its ambitious vision that places the individual at the heart of the development process.

Furthermore, UAE Ambassador Matar Al-Neyadi congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its leadership and people.

Describing the occasion as a shared joy for all Gulf nations, he affirmed that the achievements realized by Saudi Arabia year after year are a source of pride for the entire region.

In this regard, the Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub extended his congratulations on behalf of the Palestinian community and himself.

He highlighted Saudi Arabia’s ongoing historic role in supporting the Palestinian people and their just cause.

The ambassador said Saudi Arabia’s leadership of the international coalition advocating the two-state solution has recently

led to several countries recognizing the State of Palestine. He described this as a historic step that reflects the Kingdom’s influence and pivotal role in defending Palestinian rights.

Meanwhile, Moroccan Ambassador Ali Ben Issa affirmed that Saudi-Moroccan relations are rooted in strong historical ties based on solidarity, trust, and cooperation in various fields. He wished the Kingdom continued progress and prosperity.

Also, the Jordanian Ambassador Sinan Majali expressed his pride in participating in Saudi Arabia’s National Day celebration.

He affirmed that Saudi Arabia has always been at the forefront of Arab countries in supporting regional causes and promoting joint Arab action.

On his part, the Tunisian Ambassador Mohamed Boudali praised the Kingdom’s remarkable achievements in various fields, emphasizing that Saudi Arabia has become a model for Arab nations in reform, development, and progress.

In addition, the Omani Ambassador Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi extended his heartfelt congratulations, commending the Kingdom’s comprehensive renaissance and rapid advancement.

He conveyed his best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the Saudi people, wishing Saudi Arabia continued prosperity and progress.

Also, Head of the Red Cross Mission to the Gulf States Mamadou Sow expressed pride in the partnership with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in promoting international humanitarian law.

He emphasized the Kingdom’s positive role in conflict resolution, mediation, and its contribution to protecting victims of war.

In addition, Secretary-General of the Asian Dialogue Forum Ambassador Nasser Al-Mutairi extended his warmest congratulations to the Kingdom, noting that Saudi Arabia stands as a pillar of stability and development both regionally and internationally.

Also, the Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Totouji extended his congratulations, praising the progress in bilateral relations over the past two years.

He expressed confidence that continuing on this path will lead to further achievements in cooperation and development, not only between the two countries, but also throughout the Islamic world.

The ceremony, held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, was marked by a joyful and festive atmosphere. Attendees exchanged congratulations and expressed pride in the strong Saudi-Kuwait relations, as well as the fraternal bonds and shared destiny that unite the peoples of the Gulf.

The celebration reflected deep love and loyalty for a country



Bahrain’s Ambassador Salah Al-Maliki, Qatar’s Ali Al-Mahmoud, and UAE’s Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi; Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah and his deputy, Suleiman Al-Jarallah; Major General Faisal Al-Jazzaf; and Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah



The Arts Troupe captivates the audience with its performance.



Dr. Saleh Al Kharousi, Advisor Hamad Al Mansouri, Majed Al Turki and his son Abdul Aziz, and Ahmed Behbehani



The diplomatic corps.



Sheikhs Ali Al-Jaber, Muhammad Al-Khaled, Fawaz Al-Khaled, and Adhbi Al-Adhbi

Continued from Page 1

Amir Representative

settlement, displacement, and imposing the status quo,” His Highness affirmed.

His Highness the Crown Prince urged the international community, mainly the Security Council, to bear its full responsibility to prevent the repetition of these violations, and ensure the perpetrators would not go unpunished and the access of Palestinian people’s inalienable rights to self-determination.

The Amir’s Representative welcomed the countries’ recognition of Palestinian state on Monday during the high-level international conference on the peaceful settlement of Palestine’s issue and the implementation of the two-state solution.

He termed the step as “blessed and courageous” that go in harmony with international law and justice.

In addition, His Highness the Crown Prince said that the GCC reiterated its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people, and that these crimes are not only against Palestinians, as they pose a threat to regional and international security as a whole.

He asked the Security Council to translate its words into practical steps to immediately stop the Israeli aggression and ensure humanitarian aid access, protect civilians and end unfair and illegitimate occupation for the sake of safety and security.

His highness finally thanked the Organization of Islamic Cooperation’s request to hold this emergency session.

Meanwhile, the Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met on Tuesday Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on the sidelines of the high-level 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Lebanese president.

Both sides discussed deep-rooted bilateral relations, and means of boosting and developing them in a manner that achieves common interest of both nations, along with the developments on regional and international arenas.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulah Al-Yahya, Amiri Diwan’s Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Mazen Al-Issa and Kuwait Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai attended the meeting.

His Highness the Crown Prince also met on Tuesday with President of Syria Ahmad Al-Shara on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

At the outset of the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir to the Syrian President.

The meeting reviewed close ties between Kuwait and Syria and discussed ways to enhance and develop them in a manner that serves the mutual interests of both countries.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan for Foreign Affairs Mazen Al-Issa, and Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai.

‘Swift Falcon’

joint military exercises between the two countries, he said, “Yes, several projects are currently being developed to further strengthen military cooperation between France and Kuwait.”

Ambassador Gauvin explained that,

“Work is underway to extend the duration of the Swift Falcon exercise and expand the range of air assets used, including helicopters, with the aim of enhancing the level of harmony and operational understanding between French and Kuwaiti pilots.

The next edition of the “Pearl of the West” exercise, scheduled for 2026, also represents an important milestone, as it will be a large-scale joint exercise bringing together all branches of the French and Kuwaiti armed forces.

We are also working on preparing for other exercises, such as the “Arab Breeze” exercise, which focuses on the maritime aspect, particularly in the field of diving and mine clearance teams.”

Ambassador Gauvin affirmed that military cooperation reflects the strength of the strategic partnership between France and Kuwait.

Defense cooperation between the two countries, he explained, is rooted in historical foundations and deep ties, particularly those forged during the Kuwait Liberation War, when 18,000 French soldiers stood along with their Kuwaiti brothers in the battle for sovereignty and freedom. The 1992 defense agreement, France’s oldest such pact with any Gulf country, embodies this close relationship and stands as a symbol of loyalty and mutual trust.

Regarding the possibility of new cooperation agreements between the two countries in military, security, or other aspects, Ambassador Gauvin said, “We welcome the expansion of cooperation, which includes the integration of Kuwaiti and French officers into each other’s armed forces, the organization of joint exercises, and the continued expansion of military training programs for Kuwaiti personnel in France. These training courses and joint field activities help strengthen what can be described as operational harmony between the two forces.”

Kuwaiti women

among these categories.

The figures below indicate that marriage rates outside the local community remain limited compared to marriages to citizens.

- Citizens: 229,885
- Non-Kuwaitis: 19,724
- Arabs: 18,186
- Asians (non-Arabs): 698
- North America: 418
- Europe: 270
- South America: 64
- Africa: 50
- Australia: 38

Marriages to Arab nationalities ranked second with 18,186, while marriages to non-Arab Asian nationalities ranked third with 698.

Marriages to North Americans ranked fourth with 418, Europe ranked fifth with 270, and marriages to South Americans ranked sixth with 64.

Meanwhile, 50 Kuwaiti women married Africans, ranking eighth. Finally, 38 Kuwaiti women married Australians, ranking ninth.

Kuwait dismantles

In an official statement, the General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior explained that investigations confirmed the accuracy of the information.

It was found that one member of the network had exploited his official position to process address change transactions in return for bribes.

This was done in coordination with other parties who received the transactions from clients for a fee of up to KD 120 per transaction. The forms were then filled with incorrect data and forged signatures without the knowledge or authorization of the individuals concerned, before being entered into the system.

Investigations also revealed the bribes

were collected through indirect channels to avoid suspicion, including the use of bank payment links associated with external parties. In some cases, illegal compensation also included receiving food deliveries without payment.

After obtaining the necessary legal authorization, the involved parties were arrested. Authorities found several pre-filled transactions ready for delivery, along with approximately KD 5,000 in cash believed to be proceeds from the illegal activities.

Campaign champions

The campaign, held for an estimated 40,000 drivers, which is approximately one percent of Kuwait’s population, yielded positive results, including increased driver compliance with safety measures and greater responsiveness from companies.

The ceremony was attended by several ambassadors accredited to Kuwait, representatives of countries with direct ties to the workers and delivery drivers participating in the campaign, as well as officials from the Consular Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Cabinet hails

He unveiled that Parodi spoke about signs of economic recovery in Kuwait, supported by increased oil production and significant growth in non-oil sectors. Parodi also stated that inflation in Kuwait is on a downward trend, contributing to price stability, and that the banking system is stable and robust, thanks to the regulatory and supervisory policies of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Furthermore, Al-Mukhaizeem informed the Cabinet about the outcome

of his meeting on Monday with a high-level delegation from the People’s Republic of China.

He pointed out that the meeting addressed speeding up implementation of the agreements signed this year between China’s State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) and the Kuwait Investment Authority for the execution of Shagaya and Abdali energy projects, which are key pillars of Kuwait’s renewable energy strategy.

The Cabinet approved a draft decree-law to abolish Law No. 115 of 2014 concerning the establishment of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport and referred it to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Cabinet also approved a decision to assign the Ministry of Public Works with task of executing railway projects.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet watched a presentation made by the Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait, outlining the national plan for modernizing the legislative system.

The Minister said that this plan aims to update approximately 25 percent of the current laws (around 250 laws) by December 2026. He noted that the total number of current laws is 983, and that approximately 181 laws (around 18 percent) have already been reviewed during the past nine months.

Furthermore, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah informed the Cabinet that he received a letter from the President of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), apprising him that the international organization would award Kuwait’s Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) the ICAO Council President’s Certificate on Tuesday in recognition its success in establishing an effective aviation security monitoring system and improving the implementation of ICAO standards and recommended practices.

There’s more and more divisions, and that’s plagued the global order: Macron

Many leaders back UN call to address challenges together but Trump says ‘America First’

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 24, (AP): From France to South Korea, South Africa to Suriname, leaders gave strong support Tuesday to the UN chief’s call to work together to address global challenges - war, poverty and climate chaos. But US President Donald Trump had other ideas and touted his “America First” agenda.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the annual meeting of presidents, prime ministers and monarchs at the General Assembly with a plea to choose peace over war, law over lawlessness, and a future where nations come together rather than scramble for self-interests.

France’s President Emmanuel Macron warned that 80 years after the UN was founded on the ashes of World War II, “we’re isolating ourselves.”

“There’s more and more divisions, and that’s plagued the global order,” he said. “The world is breaking down, and that’s halting our collective capacity to resolve the major conflicts of our time and stopping us from addressing global challenges.”

But Macron said a complex world isn’t reason “to throw in the towel” on supporting the UN’s key principles of peace, justice, human rights and nations working together. Only respectful relations and cooperation among peers make it possible to fight against military proliferation, address climate change and have “a successful digital transformation,” he said.

Speaker after speaker made similar appeals to support multilateralism.

Suriname’s President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons called multilateralism “one of humanity’s most important achievements, which needs our protection at this time of change.”

South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa said “our collective membership of the United Nations is our shared humanity in action,” and the UN at 80 compels members to build “an organization that is able to address our common challenges.”

As South Korea’s President Lee Jae Myung put it, “The more difficult the times are, the more we must return to the basic spirit of the UN.” He added, “We today must cooperate more, trust more, and join hands more firmly, in order to build a better future, a better world for future generations.”

The General Assembly meeting continues Wednesday with the leaders of Ukraine, Iran and Syria among the speakers.

Guterres in his remarks noted the world is becoming increasingly multipolar - certainly a nod to rising economic powers China and India but a slap to the US insistence on superpower status. The UN chief said a world of many powers can be more diverse and dynamic, but warned that without international cooperation



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres greets Annalena Baerbock, President of the General Assembly, during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly on Sept 23, at UN headquarters. (AP)

and effective global institutions there can be “chaos.”

But Trump, making the first address to the General Assembly since he was elected to a second term last November, ceded no ground and gave an “America First” speech.

The United States has the strongest borders, military, friendships “and the strongest spirit of any nation on the face of the earth,” he boasted. “This is indeed the golden age of America.”

He portrayed the United Nations as ineffectual and “not even coming close to living up” to its potential, blaming the organization for an escalator that stopped en route to the assembly chamber and for a broken teleprompter. The UN cited a safe-

ty function for the escalator incident and the White House for the teleprompter.

While Trump told the assembly the UN delivers “empty words - and empty words don’t solve war,” his tone shifted at a later meeting with Guterres.

“Our country is behind the United Nations 100%,” the president told Guterres at the start of their first meeting since his reelection. “I may disagree with it sometimes, but I am so behind it because the potential for peace at this institution is great.”

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said in an interview with The Associated Press late Tuesday that their subsequent private meeting was “very good.”

The UN and US leaders talked about ending conflicts around the world, about efficiency, about bringing in the private sector in a bigger way, and humanitarian efforts, Fletcher said. “At least we’ve got a conversation going. This is dialogue. This is diplomacy. And it’s technicolor - and it’s glorious.”

The UN is facing financial cuts as the US, its largest source of revenue, and some other nations have pulled back funding. Guterres said aid cuts are “wreaking havoc,” calling them “a death sentence for many.”

Fletcher said this year’s UN appeal for \$29 billion to help 114 million people around the world is only 19% funded. He said he has been talking with Saudis, Europeans, Americans and others about the funding crisis, calling it “a work in progress.”

Elsewhere at the UN, the Security Council held emergency back-to-back meetings Tuesday on the two major wars - the more than three-year conflict in Ukraine sparked by Russia’s invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, and the nearly two-year war in Gaza that followed Hamas’ surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

In a dramatic shift, Trump posted on social media soon after meeting Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that he believes Ukraine can win back all the territory it lost to Russia. The U.S. leader previously called on Ukraine to make territorial concessions to end the war.

The emergency meeting on Gaza highlighted the isolation of the Trump administration, Israel’s closest ally.

A day after France led other nations in adding significantly to the list of countries recognizing Palestinian statehood, the UN Security Council once again witnessed the deep divide between the veto-wielding United States and most of the rest of the world over how to end the war in the Gaza Strip and resolve the nearly eight-decade Mideast conflict.

White House rehires hundreds of federal employees laid off by DOGE

MIAMI, Sept 24, (AP): Hundreds of federal employees who lost their jobs in Elon Musk’s cost-cutting blitz are being asked to return to work.

The General Services Administration has given the employees - who managed government workspaces - until the end of the week to accept or decline reinstatement, according to an internal memo obtained by The Associated Press. Those who accept must report for duty on Oct. 6 after what amounts to a seven-month paid vacation, during which time the GSA in some cases racked up high costs - passed along to taxpayers - to stay in dozens of properties whose leases it had slated for termination or were allowed to expire.

“Ultimately, the outcome was the agency was left broken and understaffed,” said Chad Becker, a former GSA real estate official. “They didn’t have the people they needed to carry out basic functions.”

Becker, who represents owners with government leases at Arco Real Estate Solutions, said GSA has been in a “triage mode” for months. He said the sudden reversal of the downsizing reflects how Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency had gone too far, too fast.

GSA was established in the 1940s to centralize the acquisition and management of thousands of federal workplaces. Its return to work request mirrors



Elon Musk looks on as US President Donald Trump meets South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in the Oval Office of the White House on May 21, in Washington. (AP)

rehiring efforts at in several agencies targeted by DOGE. Last month, the IRS said it would allow some employees who took a resignation offer to remain on the job. The Labor Department has also brought back some employees who took buyouts, while the National Park Service earlier reinstated a number of purged employees.

Critical to the work of such agencies is the GSA, which manages many of the buildings. Starting in March, thousands of GSA employees left the agency as part of programs that encouraged them to resign or take early retirement. Hundreds of others - those subject to the recall notice - were dismissed as part of an aggressive push to reduce the size of the federal workforce. Though those employees did not show up for work, some continue to get paid.

GSA representatives didn’t respond to detailed questions about the return-to-work notice, which the agency issued Friday. They also declined to discuss the agency’s headcount, staffing decisions or the potential cost overruns generated by reversing its plans to terminate leases.

“GSA’s leadership team has reviewed workforce actions and is making adjustments in the best interest of the customer agencies we serve and the American taxpayers,” an agency spokesman said in an email.

Democrats have assailed the Trump administration’s indiscriminate approach to slashing costs and jobs. Rep. Greg Stanton of Arizona, the top Democrat on the subcommittee overseeing the GSA, told AP there is no evidence that reductions at the agency “delivered any savings.”

“It’s created costly confusion while undermining the very services taxpayers depend on,” he said.



This photo provided by the County of Maui shows a wild fire in Maui, Hawaii on Sept 23. (AP)

Maui officials lift evacuations after wildfire threat to town recedes

Officials on the Hawaiian island of Maui have lifted evacuation orders for residents living near a wildfire that broke out late Tuesday. Police went door-to-door evacuating residents and emergency sirens sounded before firefighters stopped the blaze’s forward progress. Emergency shelters were also closing late Tuesday as residents returned home.

The fire, which grew to about 300 acres (40 hectares), was first reported at 1:30 p.m. near the north shore town of Paia, officials said. There was no containment estimate and no immediate information on what caused the fire.

Paia is a former sugar plantation town that has become popular with windsurfers. It is on the other side of the island from Lahaina, which was destroyed by a deadly wildfire in 2023. Before the situation improved, residents were fearful of another devastating blaze.

Maui County Councilwoman Nohelani U’u-Hodgins said her family, including her 86-year-old grandmother, had to evacuate from Paia to stay with her.

“It’s terrifying,” she said. “We never have to learn the lessons of Lahaina twice; that’s never something we need to learn once again. But from my house I’m watching my hometown burn.” (AP)

America

Democrat Grijalva wins special election: Southern Arizona voters on Tuesday chose Adelita Grijalva to succeed her father, the late U.S. Rep. **Raúl Grijalva**, a progressive Democrat who represented the state for more than two decades in Congress.

She defeated Republican candidate Daniel Butierez in the 7th Congressional District, which hugs almost the entire length of Arizona’s border with Mexico. The decisive win - early returns showed Grijalva with more than double the number of votes as her Republican opponent - will make Grijalva the first Latina to represent Arizona in Congress.

The seat was one of two remaining vacancies in blue districts that Democrats needed to hold to avoid losing more ground to Republicans in the U.S. House.

Grijalva thanked voters late Tuesday on social media, saying they made history together. “Now, let’s get to work.”

Grijalva retired from the Pima County Board of Supervisors and launched her bid for Congress shortly after her father’s death in March. She said Tuesday he was the inspiration for her time in public service and a unifying figure among environmentalists, reproductive and immigrant rights advocates who were seeking justice and equality. (AP)



Grijalva

Georgia Republican wins state senate race: A GOP business owner declared victory in a Georgia state Senate race Tuesday over a Democrat who drew national attention for a better-than-expected showing in a special election last month.

Republican Jason Dickerson competed against Democrat Debra Shigley in the runoff after no candidate in a seven-person field won a majority to take the seat outright in August. Shigley conceded Tuesday’s race.

Dickerson will replace former Republican state Sen. Brandon Beach, who was drafted by President Donald Trump to be U.S. treasurer. Beach won the seat north of Atlanta with more than 70% of the vote in 2024.

Dickerson self-funded his campaign and promised to lower taxes and support stricter immigration policies. (AP)

Camp Mystic plans to reopen next summer: Camp Mystic plans to reopen next summer near the site where 27 girls and counselors died in a July flood.

The campers and counselors were swept to their deaths when fast-rising floodwaters of the Guadalupe River roared through the girls’ summer camp in a low-lying area known as flash flood alley. All told, the destructive flooding in Texas on the Fourth of July killed at least 136 people and washed away homes and vehicles.

In an email sent Monday to the families of the victims, the camp said when it reopens, its planning and procedures will follow the “requirements of the camp safety legislation you bravely championed.” About an hour later, the camp sent an email to the rest of the families announcing the decision. (AP)

EU Parliament rejects Hungary’s bid to lift immunity for main Orbán rival

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Sept 24, (AP): A European Parliament committee rejected on Tuesday a bid by the Hungarian prime minister that would lift the legal immunity from prosecution for one of its lawmakers who is Viktor Orbán’s main political rival.

Péter Magyar, who heads Hungary’s largest opposition party, Tiszza, represents the most serious challenge to Orbán since the right-wing populist leader took power in 2010.

Orbán’s government had requested that Magyar’s immunity be lifted so he could face charges for alleged offenses that include theft of a mobile phone in a Budapest nightclub and defamation against a member of Orbán’s Fidesz party.

Once an insider within Orbán’s political circle, Magyar broke with Fidesz to launch Tiszza. Recent polls suggest it has overtaken Fidesz amid a chronically weak economy and persistent inflation.

Ahead of Hungarian elections next April, Orbán has launched a full-scale communication barrage against his rival, leading some analysts and domestic critics to believe he may be laying the groundwork to try and disqualify Magyar from the vote.

Responding to the committee’s decision to uphold Magyar’s immunity, Orbán wrote on Facebook Tuesday that it was “Shameful, disgraceful.”

“Today in Brussels, it was proven that the leader of the opposition is Brussels’ man,” Orbán said.

In the closed-door vote, the European Parliament’s legal affairs committee also blocked Hungary’s attempt to strip immunity from two other lawmakers, including head of the Hungarian opposition party Democratic Coalition, Klára



Péter Magyar, a rising challenger to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, addresses people at a campaign rally in the rural city of Debrecen, Hungary, on May 5, 2024. (AP)

Dobrev.

It also upheld the immunity of Italian lawmaker Ilaria Salis, who faced prosecution in Hungary for her alleged role in assaults by antifascist activists on far-right demonstrators in Budapest in 2023. Salis was jailed for more than a year in Hungary before winning a seat in the European legislature, granting her immunity. Hungarian authorities sought Salis’s return to Hungary for trial, where prosecutors sought an 11-year prison sentence.

Trump believes Ukraine can win back all territory lost to Russia with NATO’s help

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 24, (AP): Ukrainians were cautious Wednesday in their response to a surprise pivot in US President Donald Trump’s views on their prospects for defeating Russian’s invasion, after he said they could win the three-year war and retake land captured by Russia.

Some expressed hope that Trump’s words would be backed up by concrete support for Ukraine in Washington, while others were wary about the American president’s unpredictability.

“We need such support from America, from Donald Trump, and we hope that this will continue in the future - the same rhetoric, the same attitude toward us, toward Ukraine, and toward the war in Ukraine,” Olha Voronina, a 66-year-old Kyiv resident, said.

Volodymyr Cheslavskyi, a 48-year-old soldier recovering from a war wound, said he considered Trump to be more interested in making money than helping Ukraine, and kept people guessing about his true intentions with contradictory statements.

“He can say different things each time - he supports Ukraine, or he does not support Ukraine,” Cheslavskyi told The Associated Press in St Michael’s Square in the Ukrainian capital.

Anna Khudimova, 43, said she believed her country’s armed forces could prevail on the battlefield against Russia’s bigger army.

“But we cannot do it without the



US President Donald Trump meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 23, in New York. (AP)

help of NATO, without the support of Europe,” she said. “If Trump influences the situation, then perhaps this can be realistic.”

Russia has occupied around 20% of Ukraine since it annexed Crimea in 2014. The all-out invasion began in February 2022.

In comments Tuesday at the United Nations and on social media, Trump took a swipe at Russian President Vladimir Putin’s leadership, made

cutting remarks about Russia’s military prowess and derided the Russian economy’s performance. He also said NATO countries should shoot down Russian warplanes entering their airspace.

Trump’s comments were an anticipated departure from his previous positions on the war, when he has been publicly cool, even at times hostile, toward Ukraine and apparently more amenable to Putin.

Europe

Slovaks hold protests against PM Fico: Thousands of protesters gathered across Slovakia on Tuesday as nationwide protests intensified against the economic policies of pro-Russian populist Prime Minister **Robert Fico**.

They condemned a package of austerity measures recently approved by the government that is currently being debated in Parliament. The rallies took place in 19 major cities and towns, including the capital of Bratislava, up from 16 a week ago.

The government’s austerity measures, which it says will help cut one of the highest budget deficits in the European Union, have united the opposition, businesses, employees, labor unions and many others.

The measures include increases in health and social insurance, income tax rises for higher earners, and higher value added tax on some food products, as well as a possible cancellation of up to three national hol-



Fico

idays. Michal Šimečka, leader of the opposition Progressive Slovakia party, which organized the protests in conjunction with three other political groups - Freedom and Solidarity, the Christian Democrats and the Democrats - said Fico has “lost touch with real Slovakia, and that’s the end.” (AP)

Man arrested in UK over alleged cyberattack: A man in his 40s was arrested in southern England over an alleged cyberattack that disrupted several European airports in recent days, including at London Heathrow, law enforcement officials said Wednesday. The UK’s National Crime Agency said the suspect was held in West Sussex on Tuesday on suspicion of offenses involving the misuse of computers and was released on conditional bail.

“Although this arrest is a positive step, the investigation into this incident is in its early stages and remains ongoing,” said Paul Foster, head of the NCA’s national cybercrime unit. “Cybercrime is a persistent global threat that continues to cause significant disruption to the UK.”

Starting late Friday and lasting through the weekend, airports in Berlin, Brussels and London were hit by disruptions to electronic systems that snarled up check-in and sent airline staffers trying options like handwriting boarding passes or using backup laptops. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

Chinese Premier Li says willing to work with Canada to improve ties

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (Xinhua): Chinese Premier **Li Qiang** on Tuesday said China is willing to make more active and practical efforts with Canada to promote further improvement of bilateral relations.

Li, who is in New York to attend the general debate of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, made the remarks in his meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

He also called on both sides to steadily steer their ties onto a track of healthy, stable and sustainable development.

Li said that recently, China and Canada have been promoting the improvement and development of their bilateral relations in a practical and constructive manner, which has been widely welcomed by all sectors in both countries.

Taking the opportunities of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations be-

tween the two countries and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of their strategic partnership this year, China is willing to work together with Canada in a spirit of responsibility toward our two peoples and the bilateral relationship, Li noted.

China hopes the Canadian side can adopt a correct perception of China, and respect each other's core interests and major concerns to cement the political foundation for the development of bilateral cooperation and ties, said the Chinese premier.

China supports closer exchanges between the two countries' governments, political parties, legislatures and local authorities, as well as people-to-people and youth communication, so as to enhance understanding and increase mutual trust through dialogue and exchanges, he said.

China has long been Canada's second-largest trading partner, and bilateral trade has seen rapid growth since the beginning of this year, noted Li, stressing that China is ready to work with Canada to maintain and develop the positive momentum, while addressing each other's economic and trade concerns through dialogue and consultation.



Li

Flood-control projects made substandard to allow huge kickbacks, Philippine Senate inquiry told



Former DPWH Engineer Brice Ericson Hernandez, (third from left), speaks during investigations on flood-control projects at the Senate Blue Ribbon committee in Pasay City, Philippines on Sept 23. (AP)

10 regional officials and engineers in his department who either have "lavish lifestyles beyond their means," like traveling in private jets, or were implicated in infrastructure anomalies.

"The gravity of the problem is unthinkable," Dizon said.

Under questioning by senators, Hernandez alleged that since 2019, infrastructure projects in Bulacan province have not been built according to

approved specifications. Cheaper and longer-drying cement and low-quality construction materials were used to cover kickbacks, usually about 20% of the project cost or higher, for corrupt legislators and officials, he claimed.

"Not one of the specifications in the plans were followed," Hernandez said. "All of those were not met."

When asked by Sen. Erwin Tulfo if Bulacan schools and hospitals could

crumble in a strong earthquake because of the anomalies, Mendoza said government buildings were built in Bulacan based on approved specifications, but that construction costs were bloated to compensate for the kickbacks.

Manuel Bonoan, whose recent resignation as Public Works secretary was accepted by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., told the inquiry he was unaware of the irregularities.

"This is the first time that I have heard about all these shenanigans," Bonoan said when asked by senators to comment.

Hernandez and Mendoza have been dismissed from the Public Works Department's district office in Bulacan after acknowledging their role in the anomalies. Both have been accused of using huge kickbacks they pocketed to finance expensive lifestyles.

The pair are facing criminal complaints and have sought government protection in exchange for their disclosures against powerful legislators and politicians.

Hernandez and Mendoza also backed a statement by their former superior, engineer Henry Alcantara, who told the inquiry on Tuesday that legislator Rep. Zaldy Co received kickbacks from them through the legislator's representatives in two hotels and in his upscale residence.

Vietnam issues ban on vessels going to sea

Typhoon Ragasa batters HK and south China after killing dozens in Taiwan, Philippines

SHENZHEN, China, Sept 24, (Agencies): Typhoon Ragasa, one of the strongest in years, whipped waves taller than lampposts onto Hong Kong promenades and turned seas rough on the southern Chinese coast on Wednesday after leaving deadly destruction in Taiwan and the Philippines.

In Taiwan, 17 people died in a flooded township, and 10 deaths were reported in the northern Philippines.

Nearly 1.9 million people were relocated across Guangdong province, the southern Chinese economic powerhouse. A weather station in Chuandao town recorded maximum gusts of 241 kph (about 150 mph) at noon, a high in Jiangmen city since record-keeping began. Huge waves battered Zhuhai city's coastline and strong winds buffeted trees under intense rain. Fallen branches were scattered on the streets.

State broadcaster CCTV said the typhoon made landfall along the coast of Hailing Island in Yangjiang city at about 5 pm, packing maximum winds near the center of 144 kph (89 mph). It is forecast to keep moving west. Schools, factories and transportation services were initially suspended in about a dozen cities, but a few of them

distant from the landfall location were preparing to resume work as winds weakened.

The fierce winds, brought by Ragasa, once a super typhoon, woke Hong Kong residents in the early hours, and many went online to describe scenes like a kitchen ventilation fan being blown down and a crane swaying.

Strong winds blew away parts of a pedestrian bridge's roof and knocked down hundreds of trees across the city. A vessel crashed into the shore, shattering a row of glass railings along the waterfront. Areas around some rivers and promenades were flooded, including cycling lanes and playgrounds. At several promenade restaurants, furniture was scattered chaotically by the winds. Over 80 injured people were treated at hospitals.

A video that showed waves of water crashing through the doors of a hotel and flooding its interiors went viral in the financial hub. The hotel has not immediately commented on the incident. But staff were seen cleaning up the lobby, with parts of its exterior damaged.

Hong Kong and Macao, a nearby casino hub, canceled schools and flights,



Staff members from the local customs authority help stranded citizens to evacuate on an inundated street in Macao, south China on Sept. 24. (Xinhua)

with many shops closed. Hundreds of people sought refuge in temporary centers in each city. Streets in Macao turned into streams with debris floating on the water. Rescue crews deployed inflatable boats to save those who were trapped. The gambling city's local

electricity supplier suspended its power supply in some flooded, low-lying areas for safety.

Hong Kong's observatory said Ragasa had maximum sustained winds near the center of about 195 kph (120 mph) and skirted around 100 kilome-

ters (62 miles) to the south of the city. Hong Kong categorizes cyclones with sustained winds 185 kph or stronger as super typhoons to make residents extra vigilant about intense storms.

The observatory said Ragasa is the strongest tropical cyclone in the north-western Pacific and South China Sea region so far this year. Preliminary analysis showed it also ranks as the second-strongest one in the South China Sea region since the observatory's record-keeping began in 1950, tying with typhoons Saola in 2023 and Yagi in 2024, it said.

Ragasa earlier caused deaths and damage in Taiwan and the Philippines after the typhoon took a path between them.

In Taiwan, 17 people died after heavy rain caused a barrier lake in Hualien County to overflow Tuesday and torrents of muddy water destroyed a bridge, turning roads in Guangfu township into churning rivers that carried vehicles and furniture away.

Guangfu has about 8,450 people, more than half of whom sought safety on higher floors of their homes or on higher ground on Wednesday morning.

Rescuers managed to establish con-

tact with more than 100 others who were previously unreachable, and were going door-to-door to check on the remaining 17 residents. A total of 32 people were injured across the self-ruled island.

Also:

HANOI: Several coastal localities in northern and central Vietnam have banned vessels from going to sea as typhoon Ragasa approaches, Vietnam News Agency reported Wednesday.

Authorities in Quang Ninh, Ninh Binh, Hung Yen and Nghe An provinces imposed the ban starting at noon on Wednesday and are urging fishermen to seek safe anchorage.

Quang Ninh suspended permits for sightseeing activities at sea, while Hung Yen required aquaculture workers in low-lying areas along rivers and coastal zones to be relocated before 6 pm local time on Wednesday, the state-owned media reported.

According to the National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting, typhoon Ragasa weakened to level 14 from level 15 and was moving toward the eastern mainland of Quang Ninh province.



Damage is seen after a road collapse near Vajira Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand on Sept 24. (AP)

Bangkok road collapse creates sinkhole disrupting traffic

A part of a road in Bangkok collapsed on Wednesday, leaving a large sinkhole that disrupted traffic, damaged infrastructure and prompted evacuations in the surrounding area.

There were no casualties but three vehicles were damaged by

the collapse, said Bangkok governor Chadchart Sittipunt. He said officials believe the collapse was caused by an ongoing construction of an underground train station.

Videos of the moment of the collapse show the face of the road slowly sinking down, pulling down

several electricity poles and damaging water pipes. Cars tried to back away as the hole grew larger and completely severed the four-lane road. One edge of the hole stopped right in front of a police station, exposing its underground structure. (AP)

Colombia prez calls for criminal probe against Trump over Caribbean strikes

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 24, (AP): Colombian President Gustavo Petro has called for a criminal investigation against US President Donald Trump and other officials involved in this month's deadly strikes on boats in the Caribbean that the White House has said were transporting drugs.

Petro repudiated the three attacks in his speech at the annual meeting of the UN General Assembly during which he also accused Trump of criminalizing poverty and migration.

"Criminal proceedings must be opened against those officials, who are from the US, even if it includes the highest-ranking official who gave the order: President Trump," Petro said of the strikes, adding that boat passengers were not members of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang as claimed by the Trump administration after the first attack.

If the boats were carrying drugs as alleged by the U.S. government, Petro said, their passengers "were not drug traffickers; they were simply poor young people from Latin America who



President of Colombia Gustavo Petro addresses the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 23, at UN headquarters. (AP)

had no other option."

Petro's comments came shortly after Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro

announced that his government is preparing a series of constitutional decrees to defend the country's sovereignty in the event of an "attack" from US forces.

Also:

BOGOTA, Colombia: A collapse at a gold mine in northern Colombia trapped more than 20 miners, and rescuers were working Tuesday to dig them out, government and company officials said.

Canada's Aris Mining Corp., which works with the independently run La Reliquia mine in the Antioquia region, said in a statement that the main shaft collapsed Monday and that five company employees were among the 23 trapped. It said it expected the trapped miners to be brought to the surface on Wednesday, and that rescuers were delivering food and water to them in the meantime.

Colombia's National Mining Agency said in a separate statement that 25 people were trapped in the gold mine, in the municipality of Segovia.

Africa

Malawi's president concedes defeat: Malawi's incumbent president Lazarus Chakwera has conceded defeat in the Sept 16 presidential election in which former president Peter Mutharika is leading by over one million votes.

Speaking in a televised address less than two hours before the Malawi Electoral Commission's scheduled announcement of final results for the election, Chakwera thanked all Malawians for their support over the past five years.

In the last update on the official presidential results Monday, Mutharika had over two million votes against Chakwera's over 700,000 votes. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Uganda's Museveni runs for re-election: Uganda's authoritarian leader, who has been in power since 1986, was confirmed on Tuesday as a candidate in January's presidential vote and urged supporters to back his vision for the future.

Electoral officials formally declared President Yoweri Museveni a candidate at an event just outside of Kampala, the Ugandan capital, after more than 2 million supporters signed on to back his bid, according to his party.

Museveni's ruling National Resistance Movement controls the national assembly, which is widely seen as weak and subservient to the presidency. In 2017 lawmakers removed a constitutional age limit on the presidency, leaving room for Museveni, now 81, to run for as long as he wishes.

Museveni told supporters after he was officially nominated that his goal is "to convince the people of Uganda of what has been achieved in the past and what we are planning to do now."

Attracting more foreign investors into the east African country is a priority, he said. (AP)

□ □ □

UN fact-finding mission condemns attack: The



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni speaks with his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic at the Serbia Palace in Belgrade, Serbia on July 30, 2023. (AP)

UN's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan on Wednesday condemned a deadly drone strike allegedly carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the Al-Safiya Mosque and adjacent homes in El Fasher, North Darfur, on 19 September.

In a statement issued in Geneva the Fact-finding mission called for immediate action to protect civilians and warned that El Fasher remains under siege and at grave risk of further attacks with civilians facing extreme danger.

It stated that the attack which took place during dawn prayers reportedly killed at least 75 worshippers including children and injured many others. It is the latest and the most devastating, in a series of assaults on religious and cultural sites during Sudan's ongoing conflict.

"Killing civilians including children while in prayer in a mosque shows a blatant disregard for the most fundamental principles of international law" said Mohamed Chande Othman Chair of the Fact-Finding Mission stressing "Those responsible must be held accountable." (KUNA)



Reflected in glass, a visitor takes pictures of a T10 LP rifle displayed at the LAAD Defense and Security International Exhibition in Rio de Janeiro on April 11, 2023. The largest defense and security exhibit in Latin America features weapons, security cameras, bullet proof vehicles and accessories. (AP)

Researchers reviewed records of nearly 7,000 seized guns, combining data obtained through freedom of information requests with police records from the region's four states. The data included seizure dates, locations, crime types and weapon details. It showed an 11.4% increase in the seizures of restricted, military-style guns over the five-year period.

The study attributes at least part of the rise in heavy weaponry in criminal hands to looser gun regulations in Brazil under former President Jair Bolsonaro, who authorized many kinds of weapons once restricted to military and police use for civilians, including 9 mm pistols and some semiautomatic rifles.

Kuwait oil price drops to \$70.45 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil dropped by 47 cents to reach \$70.45 per barrel on Tuesday, compared to Monday’s \$70.92 pb, the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said

on Wednesday. The price of Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate also declined in the global markets by \$1.06 and \$1.13 respectively, setting each at \$67.63 pb and \$63.41 pb.

Business

Giving her the opportunity to become a doctor and meet the Minister of Health

NBK’s ‘I Dream to Be’ initiative brings Asrar’s dream to reality

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: In line with its unwavering commitment to bringing the dreams of ill children to reality, National Bank of Kuwait helped Asrar, one of NBK Children’s Hospital patients, make her dream come true. This came as part of the bank’s humanitarian initiative “I Dream to Be”, in its thirteenth consecutive year, which is an embodiment of NBK’s values of supporting children and giving them hope and strength to face the challenges of illness.

Eleven-year-old Asrar has always dreamt of becoming a pediatrician to help children with their treatment journey and meet the inspirational figure in this field Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, the Minister of Health, to which the Public Relations Department at NBK reached out. Minister Al-Awadhi welcomed the idea and offered his full support to make Asrar’s fulfilled.

In an inspiring move, Asrar lived out part of her future dream at the Maternity and Children’s Hospital, where she played the role of a doctor and aided patients, which gave her experience further depth and humanity.

This initiative underscores the importance of psychological and moral support for ill children and highlights NBK’s belief that their dreams are as important as their treatment. The bank is proud of this initiative, which helps put a smile on children’s faces and gives them the strength to continue battling their challenges.

On this occasion, Joanne Al-Abdul Jaleel, Assistant Vice President, Public Relations and Event Management at NBK said: “At NBK, we believe that every child deserves to live their dream, and this initiative is a living embodiment of our social responsibility towards our



11-year-old Asrar experiences medical role at NBK Children’s Hospital.

Al-Abdul Jaleel:

- This initiative is an embodiment of our social responsibility towards children and community
- Seeing the joy of children and their families pushes us further to carry on with this noble initiative.

children and community. Over the past 13 years, we have fulfilled the dreams of many children, and we continue to aspire to fulfill the dreams of even more, because our responsibility towards them is to make them happy and help them live the beautiful life they deserve”.

Al-Abdul Jaleel added: “Seeing Asrar live her dream of becoming a pediatrician amid her family’s joy pushes us further to carry on with this noble initiative. Our contribution is not solely financial, especially in the field of children medical treatment, as we strive to put all our efforts into achieving their dreams and making them happy enough to have hope as they go through this adversity”.

Al-Abdul Jaleel also emphasized that NBK stands as a role model in the field of social responsibility as evident in its constant contributions to medical services, activities, and initiatives aimed at further developing the healthcare system at NBK Children’s Hospital.

It should be noted that NBK is undertaking this initiative in collaboration with specialized childcare institutions in Kuwait, most notably NBK Hospital, Bayt Abdullah, and the Children’s Hospital Care Association (CACH), which specializes in caring for children with chronic illnesses in government hospitals.

NBK is also proud of a long record of pioneering humanitarian and social initiatives, as it seeks to provide various forms of support for children, in addition to regularly arranging visits to humanitarian organizations that care for children, with the aim of fostering a culture of community service and enhancing awareness of social responsibility.

US rate cut impact on oil sector seen limited

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Without a doubt, the US interest rate cut has had positive and negative repercussions on many local sectors.

What are the implications for the Kuwaiti oil sector? Could this whet the appetite of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to borrow to implement mega projects? To what extent will the Kuwaiti currency be affected, compared to the dollar following the interest rate cut? What are the effects of the decision of the Central Bank of Kuwait to reduce the discount rate by 25 basis points, from 4.0 percent to 3.75 percent, on the local market?

The newspaper posed these and other questions to a number of oil and economic experts, who confirmed that the positive effects of the US interest rate cut are reflected only when global demand for oil increases, contributing to increased profits for oil companies. They said the cut will increase sales of products that rely on oil and gas.

Oil analyst and expert Kamel Al-Harami confirmed that the decline in US interest rates had a very weak impact on the price of a barrel of oil, emphasizing that what concerns him is the increase in global demand for oil, as this will inevitably lead to increased profits for oil companies.

He commented on the continued rise in the price of a barrel of oil by KPC despite the global decline. He said “the prices of Kuwaiti, Saudi and Emirati crude oil are slightly higher by one to two dollars because the Gulf countries have the greatest influence on oil production in Asia and Europe.” He explained that this is in accordance with contracts between oil-exporting and producing countries, but the Gulf countries, including KPC, may be forced to reduce the price of a barrel of oil if global demand for oil declines.

He stated that the global price of a barrel of oil is still below \$70, but the inflation that will result from a quarter-point decline in US interest rates should not be overlooked, as this will stimulate sales of all global products, most of which are manufactured with petroleum products. “This will automatically contribute to increased global demand for oil,” he added.

Asked about whetting the appetite of KPC for more borrowing with the decline in US interest rates to implement its current and future projects, Al-Harmi confirmed the possibility, but went on to wonder why the Kuwaiti oil sector is

turning to borrowing. He affirmed that it is better for KPC to privatize some of its subsidiaries that are not part of core production, such as aircraft refueling and gas cylinder distribution. He stressed the importance of re-introducing the idea of privatizing KOTC.

Economic expert Salah Al-Jimaz believes that the reduction in US interest rates is a political decision by the US President, not the Federal Reserve.

He explained that the effects of this rate cut will not become clear quickly due to global discontent with the US decision. “Some will accept the decision, while others will insist on refusing to deal with it. Although oil prices declined slightly following the cut, they were already declining prior to the decision,” he asserted.

Asked about the impact of the Central Bank of Kuwait’s decision to reduce the discount rate by 25 basis points – from 4.0 percent to 3.75 percent – on the Kuwaiti market, Al-Jimaz clarified “the reduction is a blessing for the markets in general, especially since interest rates were high before the decision.” He elaborated that any decision related to the strength of citizens’ pockets will have a positive impact on the movement of local markets.

He also asserted that the US interest rate cut is a limited solution to inflation, so oil prices will only be affected by a small and fragile difference.

An oil sector official, who preferred to remain anonymous, confirmed that the US Federal Reserve’s interest rate cut led to a slight drop in the price of a barrel of oil. “Brent crude futures prices were around \$67.44 per barrel on Sept 15, before the US cut decision. Following the interest rate cut, crude prices fell to \$66.68. This decline is the result of fears of increased oil demand as a result of the interest rate cut,” he added.

He pointed out that KPC and its subsidiaries, like other international oil companies, will reap satisfactory returns from the increased global demand for oil, especially since interest rate cuts are automatically linked to increased demand for oil.

He stated that a quarter-point cut in US interest rates is not an incentive to whet the appetite of the local and global oil sector to secure more loans to implement oil projects. He explained that “major oil companies seize the opportunity when there is a positive rate cut, and as long as there are indications that the US Federal Reserve is planning further cuts over the next year, it is not wise to borrow in light of the modest reduction, because patience is better than rushing to borrow.”

Al-Munifi: GCC economies show resilience and growth potential

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, Aseel Al-Munifi, affirmed on Wednesday the strength of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies and their huge potential to face global challenges and enhance their international economic standing.

She emphasized the importance of financial and economic cooperation among Gulf countries through the expansion of various economic activities.

Al-Munifi noted that the World Bank’s latest report, issued in June, highlighted a global economic slowdown of 2.3 percent, driven by a decline in global trade, ongoing geopolitical tensions, and fluctuations in energy prices.

She explained that the Gulf’s development rate continues to rise due to the expansion of investments and infrastructure, with economic growth in the GCC countries expected to reach 3.2 percent in 2025 and 4.5 percent in 2026. This growth is driven by the expansion

of non-oil activities, support for the private sector, and investments in infrastructure and renewable energy.

While chairing the 74th meeting of the GCC Finance Undersecretaries Committee, hosted by Kuwait, Al-Munifi said, “We look forward to our joint efforts bearing fruit in strengthening Gulf economic cooperation, achieving progress and prosperity for our countries and peoples.”

She extended her welcome and gratitude to the participating delegations at the 74th meeting of the GCC Finance Undersecretaries Committee, conveying the greetings of the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and acting Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem, along with his sincere wishes for success and prosperity in the work of the meeting.

The GCC Finance Undersecretaries reached consensus on all agenda topics, affirming the GCC countries’ commitment to strengthening coordination frameworks for enhancing cooperation, and consolidating integration.

Certification underscores ABK’s operational excellence

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait’s Service Quality Unit secures ISO 9001:2015 certification

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is proud to announce that its Service Quality Unit has been officially assessed and certified as meeting the requirements of ISO 9001:2015, the international benchmark for quality management systems.

The certification was awarded by Amtivo Group Limited, trading as British Assessment Bureau and Certification Europe, in recognition of ABK’s consistent efforts to develop, implement, and monitor world-class service quality systems.

ISO 9001:2015 is the world’s most widely recognized quality management standard, designed to help organizations demonstrate their ability to consistently deliver services that meet customer and regulatory requirements, while driving continuous improvement across all operations.

This achievement highlights ABK’s commitment to enhancing customer satisfaction through effective service quality frameworks. It also demonstrates its ability to strengthen internal processes to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability. All of this contributes to building a culture of continuous improvement across all divisions.

This certification is a proud milestone for the Bank and demonstrates its unwavering dedication to customer-centric excellence. It reflects the robustness of its systems, the professionalism of its teams, and its determination to remain a trusted banking partner.

By aligning with international quality standards, ABK is not only strengthening its service delivery but also ensuring that it continues to exceed customer expectations as the banking landscape evolves.

The certification complements ABK’s ongoing strategy, which emphasizes digital innovation, operational efficiency, and service excellence. As the Bank continues to invest in customer experience initiatives, this recognition further reinforces ABK’s position as one of the leading financial institutions in Kuwait and the wider region.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of lo-



ABK’s Service Quality Unit with the certification.

cal, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt’s network of 46 branches.

This is in addition to ABK’s three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Ku-

wait and Kuwait Banking Association’s ‘Let’s Be Aware’ awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank’s Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank’s branches across Kuwait.

Other Voices

Launch of Japanese ‘Wagyu’ imports in Kuwait: A new milestone in Japan–Kuwait trade relations

By MUKAI Kenichiro

Ambassador of Japan to the State of Kuwait

I am pleased to announce that, after long and successful negotiations between Japanese and Kuwaiti authorities, both sides have reached an agreement that allows the import of Halal Wagyu (Japanese beef) from Japan to Kuwait. And now, food suppliers in Kuwait can introduce this exquisite delicacy to the local market.

Wagyu is very famous as it is the highest caliber of artisan beef, produced in small quantities and closely governed by Japanese guidelines. The unparalleled flavor and sublime tenderness of richly marbled Japanese beef create a dining experience like no other. It’s no surprise that this delicacy has earned a place on the menus of gourmet chefs, fine-dining establishments, and discerning home kitchens worldwide, and has been eagerly awaited by Kuwait’s



MUKAI Kenichiro

culinary community.

Japan-Kuwait Latest Interactions

This achievement is the fruit of the extended history of deep friendship, cooperation, and various levels of interactions between Japan and Kuwait. In May this year, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, paid an official visit to Tokyo, during which he met

with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito and His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino, further deepening the historic friendship between the Japanese Imperial Family and the Kuwaiti Ruling Family. His Highness Sheikh Sabah had also a fruitful meeting with Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru, discussing bilateral cooperation in various fields.

As part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between Japan and Kuwait, Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi visited Kuwait earlier this month to attend the Second Japan-GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting, confirming to enhance the dialogue and cooperation with the GCC countries.

During his visit, Minister IWAYA paid courtesy calls on His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khalid and His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. Moreover, during the recent meeting held between the Japanese Prime Minister ISHIBA and the

Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khalid, in New York, both sides welcomed the agreement that facilitates the importation of Japanese beef from Japan to Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Gourmets Experience

During my tenure in Kuwait and in all my interactions here, I’ve come to appreciate how discerning people are when it comes to food. Kuwaitis truly embody the spirit of gourmets on a daily quest for the finest flavors, and their endorsement of a dish is a clear sign that it stands out in both quality and taste.

I am thrilled by this milestone, which will undoubtedly strengthen Japan–Kuwait trade relations. And I look forward to even deeper and broader cooperation and cultural exchange between our two friendly nations through a new culinary experience with Japanese Wagyu.



Alshaya & Alsagar revealing the All-New 212 (T01) at Kuwait’s biggest Auto Show



Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. (Alshaya & Alsagar) proudly revealed the all-new 212 (T01) 4x4 off-road SUV at Kuwait’s Auto Show, held at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref from September 22–27, 2025.

This launch marks the first-ever introduction of the iconic Chinese 212 brand in Kuwait, a milestone for KAICO and the automotive landscape.

Originally developed for the Chinese military, the 212 is renowned for its rugged durability, reliability, and off-road capability. The newly modernized version combines military-grade toughness with advanced technology, refined comfort, and a sleek design – perfect for both city driving and adventurous terrain.

Key Features of the 212 (T01)

- ENGINE – 2.0L TURBO WITH 248 HP & 410 NM of Torque
- TRANSMISSION – 8 AUTOMATIC SPEED
- APPROACH ANGLE – 36 DEGREE
- DEPARTURE ANGLE – 40 DEGREE
- FOUR WHEEL DRIVE FORM (REAL WHEEL DRIVE)
- 3 DIFFERENTIAL LOCKS
- RIM SPECS – 17 INCH BLACK ALUMINIUM ALLOY WHEELS
- 8 DRIVING MODES: Standard, Economy, Sport, Snowfield, Sand, Rock, Mud floor, Wade into the water
- Available colors – White, Black, Grey, Green

“The unveiling of the 212 in Kuwait for the very first time is a proud moment for KAICO and our customers,” said Mr. Yousef Al Shaya, CEO of KAICO.

“The 212 is not just a vehicle – it is a legend,” added Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager of KAICO.

KAICO invites car enthusiasts, families, and thrill-seekers to visit their stand at the Auto Land Show to experience the 212 firsthand.



Experts call for binding global AI safety agreement by 2026

AI joins list of global challenges on agenda for UN meeting

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (AP): Artificial intelligence is joining the list of big and complex global challenges that world leaders and diplomats will tackle at this week’s annual high-level United Nations meetup.

Since the AI boom kicked off with ChatGPT’s debut about three years ago, the technology’s breathtaking capabilities have amazed the world. Tech companies have raced to develop better AI systems even as experts warn of its risks, including existential threats like engineered pandemics, large-scale misinformation or rogue AIs running out of control, and call for safeguards.

The U.N.’s adoption of a new governance architecture is the latest and biggest effort to rein in AI. Previous multilateral efforts, including three AI summits organized by Britain, South Korea and France, have resulted only in non-binding pledges.

Last month, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to set up two key bodies on AI - a global forum and an independent scientific panel of experts - in a milestone move to shepherd global governance efforts for the technology.

On Wednesday, a U.N. Security Council meeting will convene an open debate on the issue. Among the questions to be addressed: How can the Council help ensure the responsible application of AI to comply with inter-

national law and support peace processes and conflict prevention?

And on Thursday, as part of the body’s annual meeting, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres will hold a meeting to launch the forum, called the Global Dialogue on AI Governance.

It’s a venue for governments and “stakeholders” to discuss international cooperation and share ideas and solutions. It’s scheduled to meet formally in Geneva next year and in New York in 2027.

Meanwhile, recruitment is expected to get underway to find 40 experts for the scientific panel, including two co-chairs, one from a developed country and one from a developing nation. The panel has drawn comparisons with the U.N.’s climate change panel and its flagship annual COP meeting.

The new bodies represent “a symbolic triumph.” They are “by far the world’s most globally inclusive approach to governing AI,” Isabella Wilkinson, a research fellow at the London-based think tank Chatham House, wrote in a blog post.

“But in practice, the new mechanisms look like they will be mostly powerless,” she added. Among the possible issues is whether the U.N.’s lumbering administration is able to regulate a fast-moving technology like AI.

Ahead of the meeting, a group of influential experts called for govern-

ments to agree on so-called red lines for AI to take effect by the end of next year, saying that the technology needs “minimum guardrails” designed to prevent the “most urgent and unacceptable risks.”

The group, including senior employees at ChatGPT maker OpenAI, Google’s AI research lab DeepMind and chatbot maker Anthropic, wants governments to sign an internationally binding agreement on AI. They point out that the world has previously agreed on treaties banning nuclear testing and biological weapons and protecting the high seas.

“The idea is very simple,” said one of the backers, Stuart Russell, a computer science professor and director of University of California, Berkeley’s Center for Human Compatible AI. “As we do with medicines and nuclear power stations, we can require developers to prove safety as a condition of market access.”

Russell suggested that U.N. governance could resemble the workings of another U.N.-affiliated body, the International Civil Aviation Organization, which coordinates with safety regulators across different countries and makes sure they’re all working off the same page.

And rather than laying out a set of rules that are set in stone, diplomats could draw up a “framework convention” that’s flexible enough to be updated to reflect AI’s latest advances, he said.

Powell signals caution on upcoming rate cuts

Trump picks push faster cuts

WASHINGTON, Sept 24, (AP): Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Tuesday signaled a cautious approach to future interest rate cuts, in sharp contrast with other Fed officials this week who have called for a more urgent approach.

In remarks in Providence, Rhode Island, Powell noted that there are risks to both of the Fed’s goals of seeking maximum employment and stable prices. But with the unemployment rate rising, he noted, the Fed agreed to cut its key rate last week. Yet he did not signal any further cuts on the horizon.

If the Fed were to cut rates “too aggressively,” Powell said, “we could leave the inflation job unfinished and need to reverse course later” and raise rates. But if the Fed keeps its rate too high for too long, “the labor market could soften unnecessarily,” he added.

Powell’s remarks echoed the caution he expressed during a news conference last week, after the Fed announced its first rate cut this year. At that time he said, “it’s challenging to know what to do.”

The careful approach he outlined is quite different from that of some other members of the Fed’s rate-setting committee, particularly those who were appointed by President Donald Trump, who are pushing for faster cuts. On Monday, Stephen Miran said the Fed should quickly reduce its rate to as low as 2% to 2.5%, from its current level of about 4.1%. Miran was appointed by Trump this month and rushed through the Senate, taking his seat just hours before the Fed met last Tuesday. He is also a top adviser in the Trump administration and expects to return to the White House after his term expires in January, though Trump could appoint him to a longer term.

And earlier Tuesday, Fed governor Michelle Bowman also said the central bank should cut more quickly. Bowman, who was appointed by Trump in his first term, said inflation appears to be cooling while the job market is stumbling, a combination that would support lower rates.

When the Fed cuts its key rate, it often over

time reduces other borrowing costs for things like mortgages, car loans, and business loans.

“It is time for the (Fed) to act decisively and proactively to address decreasing labor market dynamism and emerging signs of fragility,” Bowman said in a speech in Asheville, North Carolina. “We are at serious risk of already being behind the curve in addressing deteriorating labor market conditions. Should these conditions continue, I am concerned that we will need to adjust policy at a faster pace and to a larger degree going forward.”

Yet Powell’s comments showed little sign of such urgency. Other Fed officials have also expressed caution about cutting rates too fast, reflecting deepening divisions on the rate-setting committee.

On Tuesday, Austan Goolsbee, president of the Federal Reserve’s Chicago branch, said in an interview on CNBC that the Fed should move slowly given that inflation is above its 2% target.

“With inflation having been over the target for 4 1/2 years in a row, and rising, I think we need to be a little careful with getting overly up-front aggressive,” he said.

Last week the Fed cut its key rate for the first time this year to about 4.1%, down from about 4.3%, and policymakers signaled they would likely reduce rates twice more. Fed officials said in a statement that their concerns about slower hiring had risen, though they noted that inflation is still above their 2% target.

In a question and answer session, Powell said that tariffs, so far, have had a fairly limited impact on inflation, though he suggested that could change.

He said U.S. companies are paying most of the tariffs, which contradicts Trump administration claims that overseas companies are shouldering the payments. But he said that the pass-through of tariff costs to consumers “has been later and less than we expected.”

He also said the Fed continues to tune out attacks against it and added that the Fed does not consider politics when making its decisions. Powell and the Fed have been under steady attack from Trump, though Powell did not name him.

“Whenever we make decisions, we’re never, ever thinking about political things,” Powell said. “Truth is, mostly people who are calling us political, it’s just a cheap shot. ... We don’t get into back and forth with external people.”

Economy no longer a strong issue for Trump

WASHINGTON, Sept 24, (AP): President Donald Trump’s second-term strengths look different from his first, according to new polling.

Once strengthened by economic issues, Trump’s approval is now relatively low on the economy - and he’s leaning on his stronger issues of crime, border security and immigration. Concerns about the economy and immigration helped propel him to the White House, but polling over the past year shows that Americans’ faith in the Republican president’s handling of the economy is low - particularly among independents - and his approval on immigration has fallen slightly.

Now, Trump’s strongest issues are border security and crime, but there were signs of potential weakness on crime in the most recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

At the same time, Trump’s overall approval has been fairly steady in AP-NORC polling since the beginning of his second term. This month, 39% of U.S. adults approve of how Trump is handling his job as president, which is back in line with his average approval rating after a slight uptick in August. There was a similar pattern during his first White House term, when his approval stayed within a narrow range.



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump, board Air Force One at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, in New York. (AP)

about half - say Trump has “gone too far” in pursuit of that goal, roughly the same share as held that stance in a poll conducted in April.

His approval on how he’s handling crime is also down slightly to 46%, after reaching 53% in August as he deplored the National Guard to Washington. But that still exceeds his overall job approval, and it’s also an advantage among certain groups, like independents. About 4 in 10 independents approve of Trump’s approach to crime, compared with 25% who approve of his approach to the presidency overall.

The economy is often a fraught point for presidents, and there are indications that Americans continue to be concerned about the country’s economic state.

Just 37% of U.S. adults approve of Trump’s handling of the economy. That’s down slightly from August, when 43% approved, but broadly in line with his overall approval.

The economy is a particularly weak issue for Trump among independents. Only about 2 in 10 independents approve of how Trump is handling the economy, much lower than the share who approve of his handling of border security and crime.

In Trump’s first term, closer to half of U.S. adults approved of his handling of the economy. This height of his success on this issue came at the beginning of 2020, right before the COVID-19 pandemic sparked an economic downturn. His approval on this issue varied throughout the pandemic, and about half of Americans approved of his economic approach just before he lost the 2020 presidential election. At that point, however, more Americans were more worried about the coronavirus pandemic than the economy. His

approval has been consistently lower in his second term - when he came into office, only about 4 in 10 approved of how he handled the economy.

Only about 7 in 10 Republicans approve of Trump’s approach to trade negotiations with other countries and health care - marking the lowest issue ratings among his base.

Americans overall aren’t thrilled about how he’s handling these issues, either. Only about one-third of U.S. adults approve of how Trump is handling either trade negotiations with other countries or health care. These have been steadily low in recent AP-NORC polls but roughly track with Trump’s overall approval. They were also similarly low in his first term.

About 6 in 10 U.S. adults say Trump has “gone too far” when it comes to imposing new tariffs on other countries. That includes about 9 in 10 Democrats but also roughly 6 in 10 independents and 3 in 10 Republicans. Very few Americans, including Republicans, want Trump to go further on imposing tariffs.

About 4 in 10, 37%, of U.S. adults approve of the way Trump is handling the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, down slightly from the 44% who approved in March.

Slightly fewer Republicans approve of how Trump is handling the conflict - 72%, compared with 82% of Republicans who approved of the way Trump was handling the issue in March. Democrats are also slightly less likely to approve: 9% now, down from 14% in March.

Despite this, Trump’s approval on foreign policy has been steady. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults approve, in line with April.



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference following the Federal Open Market Committee meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, at the Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington. (AP)

OpenAI, Oracle, SoftBank announce 5 new US AI data centers

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 24, (Xinhua): OpenAI, Oracle and SoftBank on Tuesday announced five new U.S. artificial intelligence (AI) data center sites under their joint AI infrastructure platform, Stargate.

The combined capacity of these five new sites -- together with the flagship facility in Abilene, Texas, and ongoing projects with Corewave -- will bring Stargate’s planned capacity to nearly 7 gigawatts and push total investment to over 400 billion U.S. dollars within the next three years, according to the announcement.

In July, OpenAI and Oracle reached an agreement to develop three of the new sites, located in Texas, New Mexico, and the Midwest. The other two sites will be developed through a partnership between SoftBank and OpenAI, with locations in Ohio and Texas.

The five new projects were selected through a rigorous nationwide process launched in January. The companies said they reviewed more

than 300 proposals from over 30 states, adding that Tuesday’s announcement represents only the first set of sites, with additional U.S. locations to follow.

OpenAI had announced in January that it was teaming up with SoftBank and Oracle to build multiple AI data centers across the United States under the Stargate venture.

The companies said they expect to commit 100 billion dollars in initial funding, with total investment in Stargate projected to reach 500 billion dollars over the next four years.

“Together with Oracle, SoftBank, and our other partners, we’re turning a 500 billion dollar, 10-gigawatt commitment into large-scale physical infrastructure, jobs in communities across the country, and compute that will unlock the next generation of AI breakthroughs,” OpenAI said on Tuesday.

WTO chief hails China’s move as key to reform

China ends WTO special treatment, backs global trade reform

SHANGHAI, Sept 24, (AP): China has said it would no longer seek the special treatment given to developing countries in World Trade Organization agreements - a change long demanded by the United States.

Commerce Ministry officials said Wednesday the move was an attempt to boost the global trading system at a time when it is under threat from tariff wars and protectionist moves by individual countries to restrict imports.

It was not clear whether the announcement would lead to greater access for foreign goods to China’s vast market. The U.S. and many European countries have long complained about barriers to their exports. The change affects only ongoing and future negotiations, not existing agreements.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced the change in a speech in New York on Tuesday to a China-organized development forum at the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

Chinese officials said Beijing’s decision was voluntary and not meant to suggest that other developing countries should follow suit.

“It’s China’s own decision,” China’s top envoy to the WTO, Li Yihong, told reporters in Geneva.

The WTO’s “special and differential treatment” provisions give some developing countries longer time spans to implement trade agreements, can lead to technical assistance from abroad and offer exceptions to some rules that richer countries abide by.

China is a middle-income country, and government officials emphasized



Chinese Premier Li Qiang, right, shakes hands with Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, in Tianjin, ahead of the annual World Economic Forum New Champions meeting Monday, June 26, 2023. (AP)

that it remains part of the developing world. The U.S. has long argued China should give up the developing-country status because it is the world’s second-largest economy.

China “will always be a developing country,” Li said. “It’s very clear that the issue of developing member status and the special and differential treatment are related but distinct.”

Increasingly, though, China has become a source of loans and technical assistance to other countries seeking to build roads, railways, dams and other major projects, often undertaken by major Chinese state-owned companies.

The WTO says it doesn’t officially distinguish between developed and developing countries, but some nations self-identify as developing.

Chinese officials, in their statements, did not mention the United States by name or President Donald Trump’s imposition of tariffs on many other countries this year, including China.

The WTO, which counts 166 countries as members, provides a forum for global trade talks and enforces agreements but has become less effective, prompting calls for reform.

The head of the Geneva-based organization described the Chinese move as “major news key to WTO reform” and applauded and thanked the country’s leaders in a post on X.

“This is a culmination of many years of hard work,” wrote Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the WTO director-general.

TV host makes tearful late-night comeback after ABC suspension

Kimmel says he never intended to make light of Kirk’s killing

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (AP): Jimmy Kimmel returned to late-night television Tuesday after a nearly weeklong suspension and, in an emotional monologue where he appeared close to tears, said that he wasn’t trying to joke about the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

“I have no illusions about changing anyone’s mind, but I do want to make something clear, because it’s important to me as a human and that is, you understand that it was never my intention to make light of the murder of a young man,” Kimmel said. “I don’t think there’s anything funny about it.”

He added that he wasn’t trying to blame any specific group “for the actions of what ... was obviously a deeply disturbed individual. That was really the opposite of the point I was trying to make.” He said he understood his remarks last week to some “felt either ill-timed or unclear or maybe both.”

But he made no apologies. And he criticized the ABC affiliates who took his show off the air. Two stations groups that represent about a quarter of ABC stations, Sinclair and Nexstar, ordered their outlets not to show Kimmel on Tuesday. “That’s not legal,” Kimmel said. “That’s not American. It’s un-American.”

The incident triggered a national discussion about freedom of speech and President Donald Trump’s ability to police the words of journalists, commentators and even comics. ABC suspended Kimmel’s show last Wednesday following criticism of his remarks about the aftermath of Kirk’s killing. But the network brought him back following a backlash against parent company Disney.

Kimmel thanked many supporters, including fellow late-night hosts past and present and even a former boss at a radio station in Seattle who checked in with him last week. He also singled out people he knows aren’t fans of his comedy but stood up for his right to speak, including Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

“It takes courage for them to speak out against this administration,” he said. “They did and they deserve credit for it.”

Kimmel nearly broke down again in praising Kirk’s widow, Erika, who publicly forgave her husband’s killer.

“That is an example we should follow,” he said. “If you believe in the teachings of Jesus as I do, there it was ... A selfless act of grace, forgiveness from a grieving widow. It touched me deeply. And I hope it touches many. And if there’s anything we should take from this tragedy to carry forward, I hope it can be that. And not this.”



This image released by Disney shows Jimmy Kimmel hosting his late night show ‘Jimmy Kimmel Live!’ in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025. (AP)

Kimmel admitted that he was mad when ABC suspended him, but praised his bosses for putting him back on the air. “Unjustly, this puts them at risk.”

He mocked Trump for criticizing him for bad ratings. “He tried his best to cancel me and instead he forced millions of people to watch this show,” Kimmel said.

The decisions by Sinclair and Nexstar left ABC stations in Washington, D.C.; St. Louis; Nashville, Tennessee, and Richmond, Virginia among the cities airing something else. WJLA-TV, the Sinclair-owned station in Washington, instead aired a newscast and an episode of the chain’s show, “The National Desk.”

Kimmel’s suspension came after an angry reaction to comments he made in

monologues early last week. A relentless Trump critic in his comedy, Kimmel suggested that many Trump supporters were trying to capitalize on Kirk’s death and were “desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them.”

Trump-appointed Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr last week said it appeared that Kimmel was trying to “directly mislead the American public” with his remarks about Tyler Robinson, the 22-year-old Utah man charged with Kirk’s killing, and his motives. Those motives remain unclear. Authorities say Robinson grew up in a conservative family, but his mother told investigators his son had turned left politically in the last year.

“We can do this the easy way or the hard way,” Carr said before ABC announced the suspension. “These companies can find ways to change conduct, to take action, frankly, on Kimmel, or there is going to be additional work for the FCC ahead.”

Those remarks were key to the backlash, with Cruz saying that Carr acted like “a mafioso.” Hundreds of entertainment luminaries, including Tom Hanks, Barbra Streisand and Jennifer Aniston, signed a letter circulated by the American Civil Liberties Union that called ABC’s move “a dark moment for freedom of speech in our nation.”

Podcaster Joe Rogan weighed in Tuesday on Kimmel’s side. “I definitely don’t think that the government should be involved - ever - in dictating what a comedian can or can’t say in a monologue,” Rogan said. “You are crazy for supporting this because this will be used on you.”

Some consumers punished ABC parent Disney by canceling subscriptions to its streaming services.

Trump had hailed Kimmel’s suspension and criticized his return, writing on his Truth Social platform: “I can’t believe ABC Fake News gave Jimmy Kimmel his job back ... Why would they want someone back who does so poorly, who’s not funny, and who puts the Network in jeopardy by playing 99% positive Democrat GARBAGE.”

Actor Robert De Niro appeared on “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” on Tuesday, impersonating Carr being interviewed by Kimmel. De Niro, as Carr, said the FCC had a new motto, “sticks and stones can break your bones.”

Isn’t there more to the saying, Kimmel asked, that words can never hurt you?

Gaming

‘It’s pathetic’

AI voice of Lara Croft sparks fan backlash

PARIS, Sept 24, (AP): A lifelong fan of “Tomb Raider,” French gamer Romain Bos was on tenterhooks when an update of the popular video game went online in August.

But his excitement quickly turned to anger. The gamer’s ears - and those of other “Tomb Raider” fans - picked up something amiss with the French-language voice of Lara Croft, the game’s protagonist.

It sounded robotic, lifeless even - shorn of the warmth, grace and believability that French voice actor Françoise Cadol has given to Croft since she started playing the character in 1996.

Gamers and Cadol herself came to the same conclusion: A machine had cloned her voice and replaced her.

“It’s pathetic,” says Cadol, who straight away called her lawyer. “My voice belongs to me. You have no right to do that.”

“It was absolutely scandalous,” says Bos. “It was artificial intelligence.”

Aspyr, the game developer based in Austin, Texas, didn’t respond to e-mailed questions from The Associated Press. But it acknowledged in a post last week on its website that what it described as “unauthorized AI generated content” had been incorporated into its Aug. 14 update of “Tomb Raider IV-VI Remastered” that angered fans.

Content

“We’ve addressed this issue by removing all AI voiceover content,” Aspyr’s post said. “We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.”

Still, the affair has triggered alarms in the voiceover community, with campaigners saying it’s a sobering example of dangers that AI poses to human workers and their jobs.

“If we can replace actors, we’ll be able to replace accountants, and a whole range of other professions that could also be automated,” says Patrick Kuban, a French-language voice actor who is also a co-president of United Voice Artists, an international federation of voiceover artists.

“So we need to ask ourselves the right questions: How far should we go, and how do we regulate these machines?”

Hollywood has seen similar concerns, with video game performers striking for 11 months for a new contract this year that included AI guardrails.

“This is happening pretty much everywhere. We’re getting alerts from all over the world - from Brazil to Taiwan,” Kuban said in an Associated Press interview.

“Actors’ voices are being captured, either to create voice clones - not perfect ones - but for illicit use on social media by individuals, since there are now many apps for making audio deepfakes,” Kuban said.

“These voices are also being used by content producers who aren’t necessarily in the same country,” he said. “So it’s very difficult for actors to reclaim control over their voices, to block these uses.”

Cadol says that within minutes of the release of the “Tomb Raider” update, her phone began erupting with messages, emails and social media notifications from upset fans.

“I took a look and I saw all this emotion - anger, sadness, confusion. And that’s how I found out that my voice had been cloned,” she said in an AP interview.

Cadol says 12 years of recording French-language voiceovers for Lara Croft - from 1996 to 2008 - built an intimate bond with her fans. She calls them the “guardians” of her work.



Francoise Cadol poses in a dubbing studio, in Saint Denis, outside Paris, France, Monday, Sept. 15, 2025. (AP)

Fashion



Demi Moore arrives for the premiere of the short film ‘The Tiger,’ directed by Spike Jonze and Halina Reijn, featuring the first looks by Gucci’s new creative director, Demna, in Milan, northern Italy, Tuesday, Sept. 23. (AP)

Diesel ditches runway for egg-shaped model display

Gucci debuts Demna’s first looks in film

MILAN, Sept 24, (Agencies): Diesel brought the runway to the streets this season, hiding its collection in plain sight at locations throughout Italy’s fashion capital on the first day of Milan Fashion Week on Tuesday.

Creative director Glenn Martens created a literal Easter egg hunt, with models standing in big transparent plastic eggs to show off the edgy, youthful brand’s denim-centric dressed and treated looks.

“We decided to give the front row to the city of Milan. Instead of having a show with guests, anybody could go and see the collection at the same time,” Martens said.

The 55 co-ed looks for next spring and summer were hidden at 18 locations throughout the city. “Some are hidden in bars, some in clubs, some in churches,” Martens said. For the fashion crowd, a special preview was staged at the brand’s Milan headquarters, sans eggshells.

At one central piazza, a brass band playing Top 40 hits serenaded the crowd as a model in a transparent egg slouched in plaid utility pants and a V-neck T-shirt, and another danced in ruffled knitwear paired with a ruched skirt and floral tights.

Gucci soft launched its new era under artistic director Demna, turning a short film red carpet on Tuesday evening into a preview runway.

Instead of the runway glare, Demna showcased his Gucci premiere looks in a film by Spike Jonze and Halina Reijn starring Demi Moore as a Gucci heiress struggling to find her identity and in a meta moment on the film’s red carpet.

In the 30-minute short called “The Tiger,” Moore goes through multiple on-screen wardrobe changes worthy of a Gucci heiress. She dons a red collared coat adorned with a hand-sized floral brooch as she courts the approval of a magazine writer played by Ed Harris. Then, she wears a baroque floral gown with structured sleeves in a contessa role for a family dinner with her wayward children played by Elliot Page, Keke Palmer and Edward Norton.

Demna called the collection “La Famiglia,” featuring archetypes that showed up both on the red carpet and in the film: Palmer wore a frothy pink gown in her role as the family princess. Page a tuxedo as the hard-driving, approval-seeking son and Norton in a tie-less dark suit and buttoned-up shirt as the ne’er-do-well.

As part of Gucci’s series of reveals, all of the looks were digitally dropped on Instagram on the eve of Milan Fashion Week on Monday, setting the fashion world aflutter. Insiders crooned over references to Gucci’s sexy era of the 1990s under Tom Ford and the more recent eclectic era under Alessandro Michele, with some new Demna notes familiar to his time at Balenciaga.

The red carpet brought the looks to life, with Gwyneth Paltrow as the “VIP” in a Gucci logo pussy-bow blouse,



Halina Reijn arrives for the premiere of her short film ‘The Tiger,’ featuring Demna’s first looks. (AP)

mid-skirt and knee-boot combo, and Serena Williams as the “It Girl” in a sheer black dress with feather finishes.

Demna took over creative direction of the Italian luxury fashion house in July, following Sabato de Sarno’s exit after less than two years.

In a sign of the fashion house’s importance to the Kering Group owner, Kering chairman François-Henri Pinault showed up for the film/collection premier in a purpose-built theater inside Milan’s stock exchange building with the group’s new CEO, Luca de Meo, a former Italian car executive.

One member of the film audience wore a coat from the brief collab uniting Gucci under Michele and Balenciaga under Demna in 2021, which seems prescient now that the switch has been made complete.

The film, the collection and the cast received warm applause. The next test comes on Thursday when the see-now buy-now collection goes on sale in 10 stores worldwide,



Gwyneth Paltrow at ‘The Tiger’ premiere, featuring Gucci’s Demna debut in Milan. (AP)

including Milan, Paris, London, New York City and Los Angeles.

Also:

HELSINKI: Finnish lifestyle design brand Marimekko will open a new flagship store in **China’s Hong Kong** in October, underscoring **Asia** as its key international growth market.

The store, set to open on Oct. 16, will be located in Causeway Bay, a hub for fashion and lifestyle brands, and will relocate and expand Marimekko’s first Hong Kong outlet, which opened in 2012. It will be operated by Sidefame Ltd., the company’s long-standing franchise partner in China.

Founded in 1951, Marimekko has expanded to nearly 20 stores in China and about 170 worldwide, serving customers in 39 countries online. In 2024, the company reported net sales of 183 million euros (215.48 million U.S. dollars). It has identified Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland as key markets for expansion under its 2023-2027 growth strategy.

French President Macron pays tribute to Italian and global star

Claudia Cardinale, star of ‘8½’ and ‘The Leopard,’ dies at 87

ROME, Sept 24, (AP): Acclaimed Italian actor Claudia Cardinale, who starred in some of the most celebrated European films of the 1960s and 1970s, has died in France, her agent said Wednesday. She was 87.

Cardinale died in Nemours, France, surrounded by her children, her agent Laurent Savry told The Associated Press.

Praise for Cardinale’s talent, beauty and impact on the European cinema poured in on Wednesday, with French President Emmanuel Macron saying, “We French will always carry this Italian and global star in our hearts, in the eternity of cinema.”

Cardinale starred in more than 100 films and made-for-television productions, but she was best known for embodying youthful purity in Federico Fellini’s “8½,” in which she co-starred with Marcello Mastroianni in 1963.

Cardinale also won praise for her role as Angelica Sedara in Luchino Visconti’s award-winning screen adaption of the historical novel “The Leopard” that same year and a reformed prostitute in Sergio Leone’s spaghetti western “Once Upon a Time in the West” in 1968.



Italian actress Claudia Cardinale attends a press conference during the 2nd Budapest Classic Film Marathon in Budapest, Hungary on Sept. 6, 2018. (AP)

Italian Culture Minister Alessandro Giuli offered condolences to Cardinale’s family and hailed Cardinale’s beauty and “exceptional talent” that inspired “milestones”

of Italian cinema.

“With the death of Claudia Cardinale, one of the greatest Italian actresses of all time has passed away,” he said in a statement late Tuesday.

Cardinale began her movie-career at the age of 17 after winning a beauty contest in Tunisia, where she was born of Sicilian parents who had emigrated to North Africa. The contest brought her to the Venice Film Festival, where she came to the attention of the Italian movie industry.

Before entering the beauty contest she had expected to become a school teacher.

“The fact I’m making movies is just an accident,” Cardinale recalled while accepting a lifetime achievement award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2002. “When they asked me ‘do you want to be in the movies?’ I said no and they insisted for six months.”

Her success came in the wake of Sophia Loren’s international stardom and she was touted as Italy’s answer to Brigitte Bardot. While never achieving the level of success of the French actor, she nonetheless was considered a star and worked with the leading directors in Europe and Hollywood.

“They gave me everything,” Cardinale said. “It’s marvelous to live so many lives. I’ve been living more than 150 lives, totally different women.”

One of her earliest roles was as a black-clad Sicilian girl in the 1958 comedy classic “Big Deal on Madonna Street.” It was produced by Franco Cristaldi, who managed her early career and to whom she was married from 1966 to 1975.

The sensuous brunette with enormous eyes was often cast as a hot-blooded woman. As she had a deep voice and spoke Italian with a heavy French accent, her voice was dubbed in her early movies.

Her career in Hollywood brought only partial success because she was not interested in giving up European film. Nonetheless, she achieved some fame by teaming with Rock Hudson in the 1965 comedy thriller “Blindfold” and another comedy “Don’t Make Waves” with Tony Curtis two years later.

Cardinale herself considered the 1966 “The Professionals,” directed by Richard Brooks as the best of her Hollywood films, where she starred alongside Burt Lancaster, Jack Palance, Robert Ryan and Lee Marvin.

Heritage



A view of the Ceramics Museum in Talavera de la Reina.



Pieces dating back to the Andalusian Muslim era after the fall of Islamic rule of Mudéjar.



Modern ceramic plate



Traditional Talavera ceramic jars, reflecting centuries of Andalusian craftsmanship.



A view of the Ceramics Museum in Talavera de la Reina.

Talavera de la Reina: Andalusian ceramic art preserved as global cultural heritage

The Spanish city of Talavera de la Reina, located in the province of Toledo, is locally known as the “City of Ceramics.” For centuries, its distinctive pottery and ceramic art have been a defining element of its historical and cultural identity, inseparably tied to the city’s name across generations.

This art form flourished during the Andalusian period, reaching its peak in the 16th century, when it crossed the Atlantic to Mexico and evolved into a shared cultural legacy.

Passed down through generations, the craft has remained deeply rooted in its tradi-

tional techniques. In 2019, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized the artisanal production process of Talavera ceramics in both Spain and Mexico by inscribing it on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The designation highlights its global significance and ensures its preservation as a living bridge between authentic tradition and contemporary culture.

Talavera de la Reina continues to be synonymous with this unique ceramic art that reflects centuries of history and creativity. (KUNA)

Books

US writers

Desai ‘leads’ Booker picks

LONDON, Sept 24, (AP): Booker Prize-winning Indian author **Kiran Desai** is a favorite to win the coveted fiction trophy for a second time with her first novel in two decades.

“The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny” is on a US-dominated six-book shortlist announced Tuesday by a judging panel that includes Irish writer Roddy Doyle and actor Sarah Jessica Parker. The almost 700-page tale of two young Indians making their way in the United States is Desai’s third novel and her first since “The Inheritance of Loss,” which won the Booker Prize in 2006.

Two previous Booker finalists are up for the 50,000 (\$68,000) prize again: U.K. writer Andrew Miller for “The Land in Winter,” set during an early-1960s cold snap, and Hungarian-British writer David Szalay for “Flesh,” which charts one man’s life across decades.

Three novels by Americans complete the list: Susan Choi’s family saga “Flashlight”; Katie Kitamura’s tale of acting and identity, “Audition”; and midlife-crisis road trip “The Rest of Our Lives” by Ben Markovits.



Desai

Doyle - a Booker winner himself in 1993 for “Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha” - said the six books tackle big issues, including migration and class, in a “brilliantly human” way.

“They all follow the human in the stories,” Doyle said. “That might seem a bit trite, but I’ve read novels where I’ve often felt to myself, if there was a little bit less showing off there would be a good story there. And I don’t think any of these books show off.”

Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize has a reputation for transforming writers’ careers. Its winners have included Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, Ian McEwan, Hilary Mantel and Samantha Harvey, who won last year with “Orbital.”

Past winners have included debut novels - from Arundhati Roy’s “The God of Small Things” in 1997 to Douglas Stuart’s “Shuggie Bain” in 2020 - but this year’s list is dominated by veterans. All the finalists are decades into their careers, and all but Desai have published at least five books.

“That’s the best thing about writing books,” said Kiley Reid, author of the novel “Such a Fun Age” and another member of the judging panel. “It’s not gymnastics. You don’t peak at any age. And seeing authors late into their careers have these wonderful moments, it’s really encouraging.”

Originally open to novels from the U.K., Ireland and the Commonwealth, the prize expanded in 2014 to admit American writers.

Spectacular lake festival in Myanmar shines against all odds

INLE LAKE, Myanmar, Sept 24, (AP): Myanmar’s Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival, a major Buddhist celebration and world-class tourist attraction, has seen some of its celebratory spirit diminished, with locals and visitors citing a confluence of challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, political upheaval and natural disasters - including a recent devastating earthquake.

Crowds nonetheless flocked this week to enjoy the festivity, with a spectacular gold-gilded barge at its center and scores of smaller wooden boats manned by fishermen from the Intha ethnic minority who practice a unique style of rowing while standing with one leg wrapped around a single oar. The ornate barge, with a golden image of the mythical Karaweik on its bow, hauls four statues of Buddha to 21 villages around the lake for people to pay homage to them.

The picturesque festival takes place over more than two weeks on mountain-fringed Inle Lake in southern Shan state, a popular tourist hub about 420 kilometers (260 miles) northeast



An ethnic Intha troupe performs during the Phaung Daw Oo pagoda festival in Inle Lake, southern Shan State, Myanmar, Tuesday, Sept. 23. (AP)

of Yangon.

The coronavirus pandemic curbed the celebration in 2020 and the army’s ouster of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021 - resulting

in civil war over much of the country - led to the event being suspended again, to resume only in 2023. Widespread flooding last year again caused its cancellation.

The celebration resumed this year, but it was overshadowed by a 7.7 magnitude quake on March 28 that killed more than 3,800 people and caused widespread destruction.

While central Myanmar bore the brunt of the quake, Inle Lake was also significantly affected. Many houses built on wooden stilts in the water collapsed, leaving up to 90 percent damaged or destroyed in some villages around the lake. Local estimates, none official, put the death toll at between 50 and 90. According to a report by the consultancy E Guard Environmental Services, more than 13,000 people in the area were impacted.

Many or most of the houses have been rebuilt or repaired in the traditional style, but not to the highest standards, Nyi Nyi Zaw, a 42-year-old ethnic Intha from Heyarywama village, told The Associated Press.

He said the scarcity of local craftsmen skilled in traditional construction techniques, coupled with the urgency of repairs, was the problem.

“Not all the houses are standing straight, if you look carefully. To get them back to their original state, they will have to be repaired when the lake dries up in the summer,” said Nyi Nyi Zaw, whose own house was among those damaged.

Rembrandt copied another artist’s canine for ‘Night Watch’

AMSTERDAM, Sept 24, (AP): It didn’t exactly take dogged detective work for an art sleuth in Amsterdam to solve a canine conundrum dating back to the Dutch Golden Age.

Anne Lenders, a curator at the city’s landmark Rijksmuseum, said Tuesday that it was more or less by accident that she discovered that the barking dog in Rembrandt van Rijn’s famous “Night Watch” is a near-identical copy of one that features in a 1619 pen and ink drawing by fellow Dutch artist Adriaen van de Venne.

“I wasn’t looking for this; it was really unexpected,” Lenders said in the glass room where “Night Watch” is undergoing extensive restoration.

She was visiting an exhibition at the Zeeuws Museum in the southern Netherlands when her eye fell on a picture of a dog by Van de Venne that was printed in a book by the poet Jacob Cats. The original

drawing - which turned out to be part of the Rijksmuseum’s own vast collection - was also on display.

“The resemblance is so strong that at the very first moment I thought he (Rembrandt) must have used this,” she added.

That’s when the research started: a comparison of Van de Venne’s and Rembrandt’s dogs; their pose, even the collar they wear.

“The head turns in exactly the same angle with the mouth slightly opened. ... Both dogs have long hair and ears that hang vertical,” said Lenders.

In the “Night Watch,” the dog adds tension to a dark corner of the crowded composition, crouching and apparently barking near a drummer called Jacob Jorisz and just behind one of the iconic 1642 painting’s main characters, Lieutenant Willem van Ruytenburch.

The discovery is the latest in a series of revelations

to emerge during a yearslong project to reexamine the 379.5 by 453.5-centimeter (149.4 by 178.5-inch) canvas using modern techniques. “Operation Night Watch” began in 2019 with an extensive study of the painting and is continuing with restoration work that is likely to take years to complete.

“One tends to think, well, it’s been researched so well, we know everything about it,” Rijksmuseum Director Taco Dibbets said. “But the great thing with great art is that you always keep discovering things.”

One thing the Rijksmuseum couldn’t figure out was exactly what kind of dog it is, with expert opinions divided between a French or a Dutch breed. Most likely, the two artists used a little poetic license.

“We will never have a conclusion on which breed it is,” Dibbets said. “But it’s definitely very much loved.”



Art restorers work on Rembrandt’s Night Watch at Amsterdam’s Rijksmuseum, Netherlands, Tuesday, Sept. 23. (AP)

A joint effort by the Health Ministry, Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, Zain, and KFAS

Kuwait achieves medical milestone with longest-distance robotic surgery to Brazil

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Relying on Zain’s leadership in international connectivity and with the support of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the Ministry of Health, represented by the surgical team at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital led by Dr. Suleiman Al-Mazidi, Dr. Muhannad Al-Haddad, and Dr. Humoud Al-Rashidi, has achieved a new global feat by performing an intercontinental remote robotic surgery from Kuwait on a patient in Brazil, at a distance exceeding 12,000 kilometers.

It is the farthest by distance in history, under review by the Guinness World Records.

His Excellency the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, said: “The wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah is guiding Kuwait with steady steps and an ambitious will toward a sustainable digital future for the health



Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Bader Al-Kharafi, and Dr. Saleh Al-Aqeli with Dr. Suleiman Al-Mazidi and Dr. Muhannad Al-Haddad.

■ **Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi:** “The wise vision of H.H. the Amir is leading Kuwait with steady steps and an ambitious will toward a digitally sustainable future for the health sector.”

■ **Bader Al-Kharafi:** “Following the directives of H.H. the Amir to make Kuwait

a platform for digital medical innovation that the region and the world look to, today we are building the bridges of the future between medicine and technology in service of Kuwait and to open new horizons for health-care.”

■ **Dr. Saleh Al-Aqeli:** “This initiative is a

model harnessing the latest technological advances in the service of humanity, aligning with KFAS’s vision that advancing science, technology, and innovation will cement Kuwait’s position as a center of science and innovation for a prosperous, resilient, and sustainable future.”



Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and Al-Kharafi observing the remote robotic surgery.

sector.”

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO, said: “Following the directives of His Highness the Amir to make Kuwait a platform for digital medical innovation that the region and the world look to, today we are building bridges to the future between medicine and technology to serve Kuwait and open new horizons for health-care.”

Dr. Saleh Al-Aqeli, Deputy Director General for Support Services at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), said: “This initiative represents a model of trials that harness the latest advances in technology in the service of humanity, in line with KFAS’s vision of advancing science, technology, and innovation, and of cementing Kuwait’s position as a center of science and innovation for a prosperous, resilient, and sustainable future.”

‘Particle pollution kills millions annually’

Al Gore’s satellite and AI system is now tracking sources of deadly soot pollution

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (AP): Soon people will be able to use satellite technology and artificial intelligence to track dangerous soot pollution in their neighborhoods - and where it comes from - in a way not so different from monitoring approaching storms under plans by a nonprofit coalition led by former Vice President Al Gore.

Gore, who started Climate TRACE, which uses satellites to monitor the location of heat-trapping methane sources, on Wednesday expanded his system to track the source and plume of pollution from tiny particles, often referred to as soot, on a neighborhood basis for 2,500 cities across the world. Particle pollution kills millions of people worldwide each year - and tens of thousands in the United States - according to scientific studies and reports.

Gore’s coalition uses 300 satellites, 30,000 ground-tracking sensors and artificial intelligence to track 137,095 sources of particle pollution, with 3,937 of them categorized as “super emitters” for how much they spew. Users can look at long-term trends, but in about a year Gore hopes these can become available daily so they can be incorporated into weather apps, like allergy reports.

It’s not just seeing the pollutants. The website shows who is spewing them.

“It’s difficult, before AI, for peo-



The city center of Essen is seen through the fog as German Federal Environment Agency warns about poor air quality in Germany due to fine dust pollution, Essen, Germany, Feb. 12, 2025. (AP)

ple to really see precisely where this conventional air pollution is coming from,” Gore said. “When it’s over in their homes and in their neighborhoods and when people have a very clear idea of this, then I think they’re empowered with the truth of their situation. My faith tradition has always taught me you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free.”

Unlike methane, soot pollution isn’t technically a climate issue because it doesn’t cause the world to

warm, but it does come from the same process: fossil fuel combustion.

“It’s the same combustion process of the same fuels that produce both the greenhouse gas pollution and the particulate pollution that kills almost 9 million people every single year,” Gore said in a video interview Monday. “I’ll give you an example. I recently spent a week in Cancer Alley, the stretch between Baton Rouge and New Orleans where the U.S. petrochemical industry is based.

‘Autism affects 1 in 127 people worldwide’

No proven link between autism and paracetamol use in pregnancy: WHO

GENEVA, Sept 24, (KUNA): The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday emphasized that there is currently no conclusive scientific evidence confirming a possible link between autism and use of acetaminophen (also known as paracetamol) during pregnancy.

This came in a press release issued by the Organization in Geneva just days after statements by United States President Donald Trump claiming that autism is linked to the use of paracetamol during pregnancy.

WHO explained that globally nearly 62 million people (1 in 127) have autism spectrum disorder, a diverse group of conditions related to development of the brain.

Although awareness and diagnosis have improved in recent years, the exact causes of autism have not been established and it is understood there are multiple factors that can be involved.



Extra Strength Tylenol, (also known as paracetamol) as is shown in Carmel, Ind., Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025. (AP)

The Organization stated that extensive research has been undertaken over the past decade including large-scale studies looking into links between acetaminophen use during pregnancy and autism, confirming that at this time no consistent association has been established.

WHO further highlighted that a robust and extensive scientific evidence base confirms that childhood vaccines do not cause autism. Large high-quality studies from many countries have reached the same conclusion.

It explained that original studies suggesting a link were flawed and have been discredited. Since 1999 independent experts advising WHO have repeatedly confirmed that vaccines including those with thiomersal or aluminum do not cause autism or other developmental disorders.

WHO reiterated its recommendation that pregnant women follow the advice of their doctors and health workers regarding the use of medicines stressing the importance of exercising caution particularly during the first trimester.

WHO also noted that childhood immunization schedules carefully developed based on scientific evidence, have saved at least 154 million lives over the past five decades protecting individuals and communities from 30 infectious diseases.

The Organization emphasized that adherence to vaccination schedules is essential for safeguarding health and wellbeing.

The Organization pointed out that autism and neurodevelopmental disorders will be among the priority topics at the 4th UN High-Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases and mental health scheduled for next Thursday in New York.

WHO also reaffirmed its commitment to advancing understanding of the causes of autism and to strengthening care and support for autistic people and their families in collaboration with autistic-led organizations and groups representing persons with lived experience.

Russia starts mRNA cancer vaccine trials

AI trained to identify neurological disorders

MOSCOW, Sept 24, (Agencies): The Russian Ural Federal University (UrFU) announced Tuesday that its scientists have developed an AI algorithm that can detect neurological disorders, offering a faster, cheaper, and more accessible path to early diagnosis.

In a press statement, the UrFU said that the new method could diagnose a wide array of neurological conditions such as autism, ADHD, and Parkinson’s disease from simple, low-cost retinal imaging.

The foundation of the method is the electroretinogram - a test that records the retina’s electrical response to flashes of light, the Russian university clarified, adding that the UrFU’s Artificial Intelligence Center trained the algorithm to recognize subtle patterns in these signals that point to serious brain disorders.

The technology promises a breakthrough in global healthcare by speeding up diagnosis and easing the workload on physicians.

The statement underlined that the new method is an effective tool for large-scale screening - not replacing doctors, but supporting them.

Unlike many opaque AI systems, this technology is built on transparent and explainable models. Instead of a

simple yes-or-no result, physicians can see exactly which parts of the signal triggered the algorithm’s concern. That visibility helps doctors understand the AI’s logic and make informed decisions about further patient care.

■ ■ ■

Melanoma: Russian scientists are ready to launch clinical trials of personalized mRNA cancer vaccines targeting melanoma within the next six weeks, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Alexander Gintsburg, head of the Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology, told TASS news agency that the necessary documents had already been submitted to the Russian Health Ministry pending approval.

The first batches of the vaccine will be produced once approval is granted, Gintsburg said, adding that patient groups have already been selected and their genetic data have been mapped for fully personalized treatment.

Preclinical studies have shown that the vaccine can effectively suppress tumor growth and the possibility of metastases. The next mRNA vaccines will be developed for patients with non-small cell lung cancer, TASS reported.

WHO urges Africa to expand palliative care

South Sudan launches health campaign to protect over 3 million from diseases

JUBA, Sept 24, (Xinhua): South Sudan, in partnership with two United Nations (UN) agencies, on Tuesday launched an integrated health campaign to protect over 2.1 million children and 1.2 million adults from polio and schistosomiasis, two debilitating diseases.

The four-day campaign will see health workers and volunteers moving door-to-door across 40 counties to administer the Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 to children under five years old, while providing preventive measures with Praziquantel tablets to school-aged children and at-risk communities of schistosomiasis in three counties.

South Sudan Minister of Health Sarah Cleto Rial said the dual strategy the ministry is rolling out with the World Health Organization and UN Children’s Fund aims to overcome the challenges of reaching populations in difficult-to-access areas and improving vaccination coverage to stop poliovirus type 2 outbreaks, which have increased due to low immunization rates.

“We are urging parents and our communities to fully join the fight by having their children vaccinated to strengthen their immunity and mobilize support to ensure the successful implementation of the campaign,” Cleto said in a joint statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

She said the integrated approach represents a significant step forward in public health efficiency, enabling the ministry to address two major health priorities with a single, coordinated effort, thereby maximizing resources and outreach.

■ ■ ■

Palliative care: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday called on African countries to prioritize the integration of palliative care into national health systems, making it universally available, accessible, and affordable for all people on the continent.

Fabian Ndenzako, WHO representative to Botswana and the Southern African Development Community, made the remarks at the Fifth African Ministers of Health Session on Palliative Care, held as part of the eighth International African Palliative Care and Allied Services Conference from Tuesday to Friday in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana.

Ndenzako emphasized that Africa continues to bear the highest burden of life-threatening diseases while facing significant legal and logistical barriers to accessing essential pain-relief medications.

He commended the progress made by many governments in the region. “Many governments have included palliative care in their universal health coverage documents, strategies, and guidelines,” he said, also noting advances in training health professionals and supporting community and home-based care models.

Lawrence Ookeditse, Botswana’s acting minister of health, acknowledged the country’s strides, such as the launching of its National Hospice and Palliative Care Policy. However, he cited ongoing challenges, including political prioritization, financing, coverage, and commodity availability.

70% jump between 2019 & 2023

‘Nightmare bacteria’ cases are sharply increasing in the US

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (AP): Infection rates from drug-resistant “nightmare bacteria” rose almost 70% between 2019 and 2023, according to a new report from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientists.

Bacteria that are difficult to treat due to the so-called NDM gene primarily drove the increase, CDC researchers wrote in an article published Monday in the Annals of Internal Medicine. Only two antibiotics work against those infections, and the drugs are expensive and must be administered through an IV, researchers said.

Bacteria with the gene were once considered exotic, linked to a small number of patients who received medical care overseas. Though the numbers are still small, the rate of US cases jumped more than fivefold in recent years, the researchers reported.

“The rise of NDMs in the US is a grave danger and very worrisome,” said David Weiss, an Emory University infectious diseases researcher, in an email.

It’s likely many people are unrecognized carriers of the drug-resistant bacteria, which could lead to community spread, the CDC scientists said.

That may play out in doctors’ offices across the country, as infections long considered routine and easy to treat - like urinary tract infections - could become chronic problems, said Dr. Maroya Walters, one of the report’s authors.

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when germs such as bacteria and fungi gain the power to fight off the drugs designed to kill them. The misuse of antibiotics was a big reason for the rise - unfinished or unnecessary prescriptions that didn’t kill the germs made them stronger.

In recent years, the CDC has drawn attention to “nightmare bacteria” resistant to a wide range of antibiotics. That includes carbapenems, a class of antibiotics considered a last resort for treatment of serious infections.

Researchers drew data from 29



A sign marks the entrance to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters Aug. 27, 2025, in Atlanta. (AP)

states that do the necessary testing and reporting of carbapenem-resistant bacteria.

They counted 4,341 cases of carbapenem-resistant bacterial infections from those states in 2023, with 1,831 of them the NDM variety. The researchers did not say how many of the infected people died.

The rate of carbapenem-resistant infections rose from just under 2 per 100,000 people in 2019 to more than 3 per 100,000 in 2023 - an increase of 69%. But the rate of NDM cases rose from around 0.25 to about 1.35 - an increase of 460%, the authors said.

A researcher not involved in the study said the increase is probably related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We know that there was a huge surge in antibiotic use during the pandemic, so this likely is reflected in increasing drug resistance,” said Dr. Jason Burnham, a Washington University researcher, in an email.

The CDC’s count is only a partial picture.

Many states are not fully testing and reporting cases. Even in states that do, cases tend to be among hospital patients sick enough to warrant special testing. Many hospitals also aren’t able to do the testing needed to detect certain forms of genetic resistance.

The CDC researchers did not have data from some of the most populous states, including California, Florida, New York and Texas, which means the absolute number of U.S. infections “is definitely underestimated,” Burnham said.

New discovery

Experts find way to fight obesity

MELBOURNE, Sept 24, (Xinhua): Researchers have found “switching off” an enzyme called CaMKK2 in immune cells that drive inflammation prevents diet-induced obesity, diabetes and fatty liver disease.

CaMKK2, or calcium-calmodulin-dependent protein kinase kinase 2, regulates energy use in cells and the body, and controls inflammation through macrophages, immune cells found throughout tissues, according to a statement released Wednesday by Australia’s Monash University.

Australian and US scientists found that in mice that were genetically altered, so their macrophages lacked CaMKK2, the mice were protected against the harmful effects of a high-fat diet, including obesity and other metabolic diseases.

The discovery shows CaMKK2 is a key player in how macrophages affect metabolism and inflammation, said John Scott from the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the study’s lead author.

“When the CaMKK2 gene is removed from certain immune cells (in this case, macrophages), fat tissue shifts its activity in a healthier direction. The genes in the fat start working in ways that support better metabolism and reduce harmful inflammation,” Scott said.

The study, published in the journal Molecular Metabolism, identified that CaMKK2 has direct control of regulating immune cell and whole-body metabolism, making it a promising new therapeutic target for treating obesity and related metabolic disorders.

Mercury completes epic comeback to level semifinal series

Aces blow out Fever

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept 24, (AP): Satou Sabally scored 11 of her 24 points in the fourth quarter, and Alys-sa Thomas had 19 points and 13 assists to help the Phoenix Mercury erase a 20-point deficit and beat the Minnesota Lynx 89-83 in overtime, tying the WNBA semifinal series at one game apiece.

“We’re confident in us, and we’ve been battling all season long,” said Sabally, who was 5 of 11 on 3-pointers. “You can’t give up a basketball game if you’re down.”

Sami Whitcomb’s 3 from the wing with 4 seconds left in regulation evened the game at 79 after Thomas kept alive the possession following Whitcomb’s airballed 3 from the top of the key.

“And they still trust me to make that shot,” said Whitcomb, who had 13 points.

Napheesa Collier’s jumper for the win on the other end fell short at the horn to force overtime.

The 20-point comeback by the Mercury was the third-largest in the history of the WNBA playoffs and the franchise’s first postseason win at Minnesota after 10 consecutive losses.

Thomas, who had a triple-double in the decisive Game 3 victory in the first round that ousted defending champion New York, ignited the rally with her intensity after a lackluster first half. Her three-point play with 3:32 left in the fourth quarter ended a stretch of 33:28 during which the top-seeded Lynx had the lead.

“A lot of teams would’ve packed it

in,” Phoenix coach Nate Tibbetts said.

The Mercury, who played its fourth game in seven days, will host Game 3 of the best-of-five series on Friday night.

Collier scored 24 points on her 29th birthday, Kayla McBride had 21 points, and Courtney Williams added 20 points and nine assists for the Lynx, whose bench was outscored 25-3 in their first loss of these playoffs.

After it took a 48-32 deficit into a halftime harangue from Tibbetts, the Mercury emerged with more of an edge. It used a 12-0 run midway through the third quarter to quickly extinguish the Lynx’s 20-point lead and whittled it away to a two-possession game by mid-way through the fourth quarter.

“You have to play like that to get back in the game, and that’s exactly what they did,” said Collier, who went 2 for 8 from 3-point range and made only three shots after halftime.

The Lynx went back up by five after the three-point play by Thomas and still held that lead with under a minute left in regulation, but a costly 5-second call during an inbound play with 46 seconds left gave the Mercury the ball back, and Thomas hit a floater to cut it to 77-76.

“We just could not get that way about us to win the game,” Reeve said.

Aces 90, Fever 68

In Las Vegas, A’ja Wilson bounced back from a rare off game with 25 points and nine rebounds, and the Las Vegas Aces evened its WNBA semifinals play-off series with a convincing 90-68 Game 2 victory over the Indiana Fever.

The best-of-five series heads to Indianapolis, where Game 3 will be played.

Wilson made 10 of 18 shots to go with playoff career-high five steals, two nights after the four-time MVP made just 6 of 22 field goals. Her performance helped the Aces come back strong after losing the series opener 89-73.



Phoenix Mercury forward Alyssa Thomas, right, drives toward the basket as Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier defends during the first half of Game 2 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series in Minneapolis. (AP)

She said her team didn’t overreact to that defeat, referencing the 111-58 loss to Minnesota on Aug. 2 that kick-started a 16-game winning streak to end the regular season.

“I think Game 2, we just decided to

come to work,” Wilson said. “When we do that and we play the right way, good things happen. I don’t necessarily think (Game 1) was a wake-up call. I told my team I was embarrassed less than the 53-point loss. No one panicked.”

Former Indiana player NaLyssa Smith added 18 points on 7-of-9 shooting and Jackie Young scored 13, and Jewell Loyd and Dana Evans each had 10 points. Chelsea Gray finished with 10 assists as the Aces shot 53.8%.

Odyssey Sims led the Fever with 18 points and Lexie Hull, who was questionable with a back injury and wore a brace while on the bench, scored 15. Kelsey Mitchell had 13 points and Aliyah Boston 10.

I don’t like to give charitable dollars for some kind of recognition: Scheffler

Ryder Cup money row resurfaces: Are Americans really being compensated?

FARMINGDALE, N.Y., Sept 24, (AP): The Americans have become an easy target for Europe at this Ryder Cup, and it has nothing to do with how they have been outplayed over the last 30 years. It’s about how much they’re getting paid.

Never mind that no American player has indicated plans to stuff their pockets already full from a PGA Tour schedule that offers \$20 million purses at 10 tournaments, the \$25 million prize fund at The Players Championship, and official money of \$40 million at the Tour Championship. Or that the PGA of America has been “paying” Ryder Cup players since 1999, from the millions of dollars of revenue they generate, by providing \$200,000 for them to direct to a charity of their choosing.

The change this year was \$300,000 for a charity and a \$200,000 stipend to use however the players want. That’s the definition of compensation, even when it becomes charity. U.S. captain Keegan Bradley took credit for that. “The PGA of America came to me; they wanted to bring the Ryder Cup into the present day.

The charity dollars hadn’t changed since 1999, and they asked me to sort of shepherd their way into making it into 2025,” he said. Bradley said he was donating all of it, and his players have said they are doing the same without providing details.

Charity can be personal when the heart is in the right place. “I’ve never been one to announce what we do,” Scottie Scheffler said Tuesday. “I don’t like to give charitable dollars for some kind of recognition. We have



United States’ Scottie Scheffler hits from the bunker on the 11th hole during a practice round for the Ryder Cup golf tournament in Farmingdale, N.Y., at Bethpage State Park’s Black Course. (AP)

something planned for the money that we’ll be receiving. I think it’s a really cool thing that the PGA of America has empowered us to do.” Scheffler has made nearly \$57 million in official money over the last two years. He’s not exactly driven by a whopping \$200,000 stipend.

This was always about principle. David Duval was among the first to raise the notion in 1999 about how much revenue the PGA of America was raking in from the Ryder Cup and why the players didn’t have more input on where it went.

And while Rory McIlroy is fond of saying that the two purest forms of competition - the Ryder Cup and the

Olympics - don’t offer prize money, that would be turning a blind eye to how the organizations running them generate revenue. Yes, there are sponsors. That’s the lifeblood of golf. The Ryder Cup also has a commercial deal with Sugarlands Distilling Company, which has been designated the “Official Moonshine of the 2025 Ryder Cup.”

It’s a long list. Not to be overlooked is the “Ryder Cup Live Ultimate Watch Party Kit” that goes for \$1,081 and provides such items as 100 cocktail napkins, coasters, commemorative cups, and flag toothpicks. Also in the kit are a pair of “Quiet, Please” paddles. Party on. The uncomfortable talk about major golf and minor compensation did not

start this year, or even two years ago in Rome when Patrick Cantlay was the subject of an unfounded report that he didn’t wear a hat to protest not being paid. There is speculation.

There are accusations. But no one has confirmed any player on the U.S. team who asked to be paid, or even asked for an increase in charity. Several U.S. players began to question what percentage of the revenue went to prize funds after the USGA signed a television deal worth close to \$1 billion with Fox Sports. The U.S. Open purse increased by \$1 million.

But it’s still money. Golf is loaded with it at the moment. It’s always a bad look. Europe really doesn’t need an edge - it has won 10 of the last 14 times dating to 1995 - but it looks for any it can find. And the Europeans didn’t have to look too far for this one.

“I personally would pay for the privilege to play in the Ryder Cup,” McIlroy said to BBC Sport last year after hearing early reports of a payment plan for the Americans. It wasn’t long before others chimed in, including the captain as recently as two weeks ago. “If the U.S. players are getting paid, and they aren’t performing, the New Yorkers could make them know about it,” Luke Donald told British reporters.

That’s what happened in 1999 at Brookline when Ryder Cup money first surfaced. The Americans fell behind, and the Boston gallery let them have it, until they staged a stunning comeback on the final day, and it became pandemonium. No telling what will happen at Bethpage Black, except that it will be loud.

Court blocks extradition of former FIFA vice president Warner to US

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Sept 24, (AP): Former FIFA vice president Jack Warner won a decade-long court battle on Tuesday against being extradited to the U.S. to face corruption charges in a bribery scandal involving soccer’s world governing body.

Trinidad and Tobago’s high court permanently stayed extradition proceedings against Warner, who faces racketeering and bribery charges in the United States.

Warner was one of 14 people named in a 47-count indictment by U.S. authorities in May 2015. He had been fighting extradition since.



In this file photo, suspended FIFA executive Jack Warner gestures during a news conference at the airport in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. (AP)

His fight went as far as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, which serves as Trinidad and Tobago’s highest court. In November 2022, the London court dismissed Warner’s appeal against extradition, effectively clearing the way for him to be sent to the U.S.

However, on Sept. 12, Warner’s defense attorneys argued there was no formal extradition agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S. The attorneys said such an agreement was required for Warner’s extradition.

An attorney for the state, who recently took over the case, did not oppose the argument.

On Tuesday, Justice Karen Reid ruled that the extradition proceedings were flawed, due to the absence of an official extradition agreement.

Following the ruling, Warner told The Associated Press that he felt vindicated and that justice had been served.

“I could never get back the lost reputation, which has happened to me,” Warner said. “My life can now begin afresh, but it’s 10 years too late.”

Warner has faced numerous corruption allegations stemming from his time in FIFA. In 2020, a U.S. Department of Justice indictment accused Warner of receiving \$5 million in bribery payments to vote for Russia to host the 2018 World Cup, a bid it won.

Warner was forced out of FIFA in 2011 over a bribery scandal, but he has denied any wrongdoing. He also previously served as a government minister and member of Parliament in Trinidad and Tobago.

Lanus reaches Sudamericana last 4

Solari sends Racing into Copa Libertadores semifinals

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 24, (Xinhua): Santiago Solari struck late as Racing advanced to the Copa Libertadores semifinals on Tuesday with a 1-0 home win over Argentine rivals Velez Sarsfield.

Solari bundled home from point-blank range in the 82nd minute after Gabriel Rojas’ cross from the left flank.

Despite controlling most of the possession, Velez had only one shot on target for the night.

The result at El Cilindro in Buenos Aires gave Racing a 2-0 victory on aggregate and set up a place in the last four against either Flamengo or Estudiantes.

“Our confidence is growing with every match,” Racing manager Gustavo Costas told a post-match news conference.

“I’m very proud of the way the players approached tonight’s game. We should have wrapped it up earlier than we did but the important thing was to win. Now we’re among the best four teams in the competition and we want to go all the way.” Racing is aiming to win South American football’s premier club trophy for a second time, 58 years after its first triumph.

Aquino strike puts Lanus into Sudamericana semifinals.

In Rio de Janeiro, Dylan Aquino scored in the second half as Argentina’s Lanus reached the Copa Sudamericana semifinals with a 1-1 draw at Fluminense.

Agustin Canobbio put the Brazilian side ahead in the 20th minute at the Maracana with a close-range finish after Luciano Acosta’s headed pass.

But Aquino equalized on the night with a low strike following Marcelino Moreno’s pass on the counterattack.

The result gave Lanus a 2-1 win

on aggregate and set up a place in the last four against either Universidad de Chile or Alianza Lima.

“We know that the start of games are always tough at this stadium so our plan was to get through the opening minutes and then take advantage when their intensity dropped,” Lanus manager Mauricio Pellegrino told reporters

after the match.

“We played against a very high level opponent and this result gives us great confidence going forward,” he added.

Lanus is aiming to win the Copa Sudamericana - South America’s equivalent of the Europa League - for the second time, having also lifted the trophy in 2013.



Michael Santos of Argentina’s Velez Sarsfield, left, and Santiago Solari of Argentina’s Racing Club jump for the ball during a Copa Libertadores quarterfinal second leg soccer match at Presidente Peron stadium in Avellaneda, Argentina. (AP)

Change Name

I, SUDHIR, holder of Indian Passport No. R8113435, do hereby change my name to SUDHIR PANDURANGA DEVADIGA for all purposes. I will henceforth be known by the name SUDHIR PANDURANGA DEVADIGA And I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

'It is an honor to celebrate this milestone'

Countdown to Aichi–Nagoya 2026 begins

NAGOYA, Sept 24: The countdown to the Aichi–Nagoya 2026 Asian Games has officially begun. Secretary General of the Olympic Council of Asia, Captain Husain Al-Musallam, attended the ceremony in Nagoya, Japan, marking exactly one year until the Games' opening. The event was held in the presence of Governor Ohmura, the President of the Japanese Olympic Committee, and representatives from national Olympic committees across Asia.

Speaking at the ceremony, Al-Musallam said, "It is an honor to celebrate this milestone, just one year before the Aichi–Nagoya 2026 Asian Games. In 12 months, Nagoya will welcome athletes, officials, and fans from across Asia. These Games will not only showcase sporting excellence but also foster friendship, unity, and cultural exchange among our diverse nations," highlighting the official slogan: "Imagine One Asia."

Al-Musallam also expressed gratitude to the organizing committee, noting that the ceremony reflects the unity and cultural richness of the Asian continent.

He further praised Japan's long-standing support for Asian sports, dating back to 1930, including hosting the Far Eastern Games in Tokyo, the 1958 Asian Games, the 1994 Hiroshima Games, and three editions of the Asian Winter Games in Sapporo and Aomori. The upcoming Nagoya Games will mark the seventh time Japan has hosted the Asian Games, underlining the nation's enduring commitment to the movement.



Al-Musallam alongside Ohmura, the Governor of Nagoya, Japan.

Public Authority for Sports backs

'Your Health Abroad' Marathon

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: **Bashar Abdullah**, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, highlighted the importance of the Authority's support and sponsorship of the "Your Health Abroad" Marathon, which will be held this November in London for Kuwaiti students studying in the United Kingdom. The marathon will cover a distance of 5 kilometers.

In a press statement, Abdullah said that sponsoring events like this is primarily a social responsibility, benefiting all segments of society due to their health and fitness significance. He emphasized that the marathon combines sporting, health, social, and recreational activities, and encouraged everyone to participate.

He added that the importance of supporting the marathon lies in promoting physical activity and its positive impact on health. The event also reflects the Authority's commitment to raising community awareness about



Bashar Abdullah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports.

the importance of sports and encouraging Kuwaiti students in the UK to engage in regular athletic activities.

Liverpool survives Saints

scare as Ekitike sees red



Liverpool's Wataru Endo falls as Southampton's Casper Jander goes for the ball during the English League Cup third round soccer match between Liverpool and Southampton at the Anfield stadium in Liverpool, England. (AP)

Chelsea fights back to advance

LONDON, Sept 24, (AP): **Hugo Ekitike's celebrations were cut short when he was shown a red card after firing Liverpool into the third round of the English League Cup with a late winner against Southampton on Tuesday.**

The striker will now be suspended for the Premier League game against Crystal Palace on Saturday, Liverpool later confirmed.

Ekitike converted from close range in the 85th minute to secure a 2-1 win at Anfield after second-tier Southampton had threatened to force a penalty shootout. But his joy turned to anguish when he was sent off for a second yellow card after taking off his shirt during his celebrations.

Ekitike's latest goal was his fifth in eight games for Liverpool after having joined the Premier League champion this offseason from Eintracht Frankfurt for \$93.5 million.

Liverpool had led through British record signing Alexander Isak's first goal for the club since his British record \$170 million deadline day move from Newcastle. But Southampton - 19th in the Championship - leveled in the 76th through Shea Charles.



Brighton and Hove Albion's Ferdi Kadioglu, right, and Barnsley's Reyes Cleary in action during the English League Cup third round soccer match between Barnsley and Brighton & Hove Albion at Oakwell Stadium, Barnsley, England. (AP)

With thoughts turning to a shootout, Liverpool produced another late rescue act - scoring a winner in the final 10 minutes for the sixth time this season.

"Not the best performance, which you can expect if you play a complete new team," said Slot, who made 11 changes from the lineup that beat Everton on Saturday.

Chelsea avoided becoming the latest giant to crash out of the Cup by beating third-tier Lincoln City 2-1 after a second-half fightback.

After becoming the most expensive player in British soccer history,

Isak began to repay his fee by opening his Liverpool account with a clinically taken close-range effort in 43rd.

It was only his second start after his drawn-out move from Newcastle impacted in offseason preparations.

The Sweden international was withdrawn at halftime, with Slot easing him into the action at the start of the season. But he could be called upon to start against Palace following Ekitike's red.

"It was good to get back out there and score my first goal here, at Anfield," Isak told ITV. "With every

game I play it's very helpful and gets me in better shape. I'm just getting more and more ready."

"It's a mixture of fitness-wise and also football-wise. I feel good, I feel like I'm in a shape to at least make a difference."

Liverpool defender Giovanni Leoni was taken off on a stretcher after appearing to land awkwardly while making a tackle late on.

"Of course, he is down because for him it didn't feel good immediately, but this is something now we have to assess," Slot said.

World champion in July - trailing at third-tier Lincoln in September.

Down 1-0 at halftime, Chelsea turned the game around after the break with quickfire goals from Tyrique George and Facundo Buonanotte.

This season's League Cup has already produced one of the biggest shocks in the history of the tournament when fourth-tier Grimsby eliminated Manchester United in the last round. And when Rob Street fired Lincoln ahead in the 42nd minute against Chelsea, it looked like another upset could be on the cards.

But the Premier League team powered back with George leveling in the 48th and Buonanotte hitting the winner two minutes later.

While Chelsea avoided elimination, it was a different story for another top-flight club in Burnley, which was beaten at home 2-1 by Cardiff.

Afghan women's soccer team

makes int'l debut in Dubai

ZURICH, Sept 24, (AP): The Afghanistan national women's soccer team of refugee players has its first official games next month at a four-team tournament in Dubai, FIFA said Wednesday.

The FIFA-supported team - which cannot yet officially represent Afghanistan in World Cup qualifying - will face the host United Arab Emirates, Chad and Libya in the Oct. 23-29 event.

Afghanistan has not played an official women's competitive game since 2018, and the return to power of the Taliban regime in 2021 shut down women's sport. The

Afghan soccer federation has obligations under FIFA statutes to avoid discrimination though has not been suspended from international soccer.

The tournament "reinforces FIFA's efforts to promote and protect the right of all women and girls to play the sport, pursue their footballing dreams and thrive through the game," the soccer body said.

The women's teams of Chad and Libya do not yet have a FIFA ranking, and the UAE is No. 117. FIFA said all games at the round-robin tournament will be broadcast live on its in-house streaming platform.



In this file photo, members of the Afghan women's football team attend Morocco's practice ahead of the Women's World Cup in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

Porter Jr. embraces bigger role with Nets

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (AP): **Michael Porter Jr.** has a familiar face helping ease his transition from Denver to Brooklyn.

The 6-foot-10 forward felt overwhelmed by the demands that come with playing in New York during the Nuggets' yearly visits to face the city's two NBA clubs.

But his reunion with Nets coach Jordi Fernandez - a former Nuggets assistant coach - has eased the 27-year-old Midwestern sharpshooter's acclimation to the Big Apple.

"I think that has been big for me," Porter said Tuesday. "Just coming to a new city and feeling a little bit of being overwhelmed, just to have a guy as a head coach that I am working with every day, somebody like Jordi."

The Nets acquired Porter and a 2032 first-round pick for forward Cam Johnson in July and already are planning on making him a focal point of a team that will feature five



Michael Porter Jr.

rookies taken in the first round of the NBA draft.

Porter was third behind three-time MVP Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray in scoring in Denver last season, averaging 18.2 points on 50.4% shooting from the field and

39.5% from 3-point range.

"He's an elite shooter ... great rebounder and great cutter," said Fernandez, who was a member of the Denver coaching staff in Porter's first four seasons in the league. "The good thing is I have a previous relationship with him and that makes it a little easier for me. But I am going to ask him to do things he's never done before and for those reasons I think he's up for the challenge." The Brooklyn newcomer recalled stepping up his offensive game while playing pickup in the summer whenever Jokic and Murray were not on the floor and saw how he could flourish in a primary role with the Nets.

And he is willing to share the spotlight with Cam Thomas, who led Brooklyn with 24 points per game while being limited to only 25 games last season due to a left hamstring injury.

As a restricted free agent, the 6-4 guard and his agent were unable to

land the long-term deal they were seeking and settled for a one-year qualifying offer for \$6 million.

"I think he is one guy that has been severely underappreciated in his ability to put a team on his back and score the ball," Porter said. "I experienced it in Denver when we played the Nets. Cam, he's a tough cover."

Nets general manager Sean Marks was impressed with Thomas' offseason work ethic as the team looks to rebound after finishing 26-56 and missing the postseason for the second consecutive year.

"He's approached this in a very mature manner," Marks said of the negotiations with Thomas. "That's part of the business; maybe the ugly part of the business when you can't find a common ground. But at the same time he's developed and the hours he's put in the gym, not in here but on his own speak volumes. So, he's a Net. He knows that."

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



Aston Villa's Matty Cash Ezri Konsa, left, and Evann Guesand, during a training session at Bodmoor Heath Training Ground, Tamworth, England, one day ahead of their UEFA Europa League soccer match against Bologna FC. (AP)

Sports

Madrid's winning wave rolls into derby week

Mastantuono joins Mbappé show in Real's rout of Levante

MADRID, Sept 24, (AP): Kylian Mbappé scored twice in three minutes, and teenager Franco Mastantuono made his scoring debut with Real Madrid in a 4-1 win at Levante in the Spanish league, a result that extended the club's winning start to the season.

Vinicius Júnior also scored for Madrid as it earned its sixth straight league victory this season.

"We played a very complete game," Madrid coach Xabi Alonso said. "We need to keep this momentum. This is just the beginning, and we want to keep competing well."

Mbappé scored Madrid's third goal by converting a 64th-minute penalty kick - Panenka style - after he was fouled inside the area.

The French international added the fourth in the 66th after getting past the goalkeeper and finding the open net. The goals were Mbappé's eighth and ninth in seven matches with Madrid this season. He also scored twice in two matches with France's national team.

The 18-year-old Mastantuono, signed from River Plate in the summer, scored in the 38th with a shot from inside the area into the top corner. The Argentina forward made his fifth start for Madrid.

"I was waiting for this goal," he said. "It helps me gain even more confidence within the squad."

Vinicius Júnior, who had complained about being substituted by Alonso in the team's previous match,



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior, passes the ball for his sides second goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Levante and Real Madrid at the Ciutat de Valencia stadium in Valencia, Spain. (AP)

had put Madrid ahead with a neat strike into the far corner in the 28th. The Brazilian forward hadn't scored in his last three matches.

"He had a decisive performance,"

Alonso said of Vinicius Júnior.

Levante pulled closer with a header from close range by Etta Eyong in the 54th, in what was the team's first attempt on target.

Madrid is the only team to have won all six of its league matches this season. It also won its Champions League opener against Marseille.

The latest victory increased Ma-

drid's lead to five points over defending champion Barcelona, which visits promoted Oviedo on Thursday. Madrid next visits Atletico Madrid in the city derby.

Levante, also promoted to the top division this season, was winless in its first four matches but was coming off a 4-0 victory at Girona in the previous round.

Madrid and Levante wore jerseys printed with their names in the Finger-spelling alphabet to celebrate the International Day of Sign Languages.

Athletic Bilbao and Girona couldn't manage more than a 1-1 draw to extend their winless streaks.

Mikel Jauregizar scored a 48th-minute equalizer for Athletic after Azzedine Ounahi had opened the scoring in the ninth minute for Girona, which is yet to win in six matches this season.

The Catalan club lost four straight to start its campaign, then drew two of its last three games. It has been outscored 16-3 so far.

Athletic started with three straight victories, but then lost three in a row coming into the home match against Girona. One of the losses was against Arsenal in the league phase of the Champions League.

Valencia was on its way to its third win in four league matches when it conceded a goal late in stoppage time in a 2-2 draw at Espanyol.

Javi Puado scored six minutes into added time for Espanyol. Leandro Cabrera had scored the other goal for the hosts in the 59th, while Valencia got on the board with Arnaut Danjuma in the 15th and Hugo Duro in the 62nd.

Valencia was coming off a 2-0 win against Athletic at home. Espanyol had won three of its first four matches but lost 2-0 at Real Madrid in its previous match.

Third-place Villarreal won 2-1 at Sevilla for its second victory in a row. Manor Solomon scored Villarreal's winner in the 86th.

Kuwait falls to Saudi Arabia in Gulf U-17 Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Kuwait's under-17 team suffered a 0-4 defeat to Saudi Arabia at Hamad Al-Kabeer Stadium, in the second round of Group B in the Gulf U-17 Championship.

Saudi Arabia dominated the match, taking the lead in stoppage time of the first half with a goal from Sabri Abdo. Early in the second half, Abdulhadi added a header in the 52nd minute, before scoring again in the 82nd. Abdo completed the 4-0 victory with another goal in the 87th minute.

Meanwhile, Iraq secured a 2-0 win over Bahrain at Suheim Bin Hamad Stadium, with captain Zain Al-Abidin Al-Rubaie scoring both goals.

The results confirmed Saudi Arabia at the top of the group with 6 points, Iraq in second with 4



Kuwaiti player controls the ball under pressure from Saudi defender.

points, and Kuwait in third with 1 point, while Bahrain remains at the bottom with no points.

In the opening round, Kuwait drew 1-1 with Iraq, and Saudi Arabia defeated Bahrain 4-0 to lead the group standings.

Al-Shabab and Al-Salmiya claim key wins in Zain Premier League



Players vying for the ball.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Al-Shabab secured a dramatic 1-0 victory over Al-Nasr in the third round of the Zain Premier League. Despite being reduced to ten men after Mohammed Al-Qabandi was sent off in the 74th minute, the home side held firm defensively and struck on the counterattack. Abdullah Al-Otaibi scored the decisive goal in the 90th minute to give Al-Shabab all three points. The win moved

it to sixth place with four points, while Al-Nasr remains winless at the bottom of the table.

Meanwhile, Al-Salmiya edged past Al-Tadamon 1-0 at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium. Ahmed Hussein netted the lone goal in the 46th minute of added time in the first half, securing a vital victory. Al-Salmiya now sits fourth with six points, while Al-Tadamon stays eighth with just one point.

Udinese and Cagliari advance

Milan routs Lecce to keep trophy dream alive



AC Milan's Koni De Winter, front, jumps for the ball next of Lecce's Francesco Camarda during an Italian Cup qualifying soccer match between AC Milan and Lecce, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Mexico striker Gimenez scored his first goal of the season in the 20th minute with one touch after being set up by Davide Bertesaghi.

Nkunku added another after the break with an acrobatic close-range effort. It was his first score since joining from Chelsea in August.

Pulisic also used one touch to re-

direct a cross from Youssef Fofana minutes after coming off the bench. It was Pulisic's third goal in two matches after a brace and an assist for the United States stand-out in Milan's victory at Udinese on Saturday.

Milan also hit the woodwork three times.

Earlier, Udinese beat Palermo

2-1 with goals from Nicolò Zaniolo and Lennon Miller; and Cagliari beat Frosinone 4-1.

Milan and Inter Milan announced agreements Tuesday with architectural firms Foster + Partners and Manica to design a new stadium if the city council approves the sale of the San Siro to the clubs.

Stuttgart struggles with penalty kicks ahead of Europa opener

BERLIN, Sept 24, (Xinhua): Reigning German Cup winner VfB Stuttgart faces a mysterious penalty problem ahead of its 2025-26 UEFA Europa League opener against Celta Vigo.

Before hosting the Spanish team Thursday evening, coach Sebastian Hoeness indicated he might consider private coaching from Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane to help his players.

"We have to start thinking about how to solve the problem," the 43-year-old said.

Since Hoeness took over in summer 2023, Stuttgart's penalty success rate in the Bundesliga has been only 50%. The team's 2024 league campaign featured just 10 successful penalties out of 20 attempts.

The struggles became apparent when German international Angelo Stiller missed a poorly executed penalty in the latest league match against St. Pauli. He described his shot as "embarrassing."

While only three of the team's eight penalties hit the target last season, the overall success rate of 80% for Bundesliga penalties still makes Stuttgart's performance concerning.

"It is more than just obvious that we desperately need improvement, as the topic follows us like a dark shadow," said Hoeness, son of former Bayern star Dieter Hoeness and nephew of Bayern board member Uli Hoeness.

After narrowly avoiding elimination in the first round of the 2025-26 German Cup by winning 8-7 on penalties against second-division side Braunschweig, memories of the club's legendary penalty takers come to mind.

Bulgarian international Krassimir Balakov had 26 successful shots in 32 attempts over 20 years ago (81%), while Serhou Guirassy made five of six shots when playing for Stuttgart between 2022 and 2024.

Then there's Serbia's Zdravko Kuzmanovic, who made all eight of his attempts between 2009 and 2013.

Midfielder Stiller said he currently is not among the penalty-taking candidates and has encouraged Bosnian-Herzegovinian international Ermedin Demirovic to step up for upcoming challenges.

Hoesen said a clear ranking is necessary to escape the problem. Penalties are not an immediate concern, he added, but "it's a matter of practice."

The coach called England captain Kane a shining example for penalty shots and said competition-level shooting can be trained and must be part of a footballer's daily routine.

Kane's shooting percentage of over 88% led to a record 17 consecutive successful penalties in his first 17 attempts after joining the German league - an unprecedented achievement that Stuttgart's players and coach hope to emulate.