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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 / RABI AL-THANI 6, 1447 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 19012

16 PAGES

150 FILS



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Keep greedy gluttons away from the Palestinian cause

THE tragic scenes of the starving, tortured, and afflicted children of Gaza are a repetition of a tragedy that has been ongoing since 1948, with some horrific additions.

This reality hurts those who benefit from these images, especially those who launched the latest war on October 7, 2023, such as Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, and others, as if they were programmed to serve Israel.

This is clear evidence of how the Arabs have dealt with the Palestinian cause over the past decades, rejecting the language of reason to address the ongoing Nakba. The reason is that this language does not satisfy the ambitions of those who profit from the cause. They never miss an opportunity to praise the Iranian regime and its groups in the Arab world, as it serves their quest for further extortion, even if the price is the blood of their own people.

The leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and some other Palestinian factions deny this reality and continue to fabricate lies, claiming imaginary victories to brainwash ordinary people, and showing no concern for the fate of their people.

They have forgotten what Arab and Gulf states, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, have contributed to the Palestinian cause, particularly the diplomatic efforts that secured the support of approximately 150 countries for the establishment of a Palestinian state. These factions refused to integrate into the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to avoid being bound by its decisions, which are in line with the general Arab viewpoint. Instead,

they chose to serve the interests of the Iranian regime.

Quite frankly, the Arabs do not read history nor study its lessons.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is reported to have said, "Arabs do not read, and if they do read, they do not understand, and if they do understand, they do not apply what they understand."

The Arabs, particularly the Palestinian leaders, failed to understand the clear signals David Ben-Gurion sent before and after declaring the establishment of the State of Israel, especially his insistence on the absence of a specific map to define the borders of his state.

Moreover, the Arabs did not grasp that the outcomes of World War II, along with Europe's desire to ease the suffering of the Jews and atone for its failure to protect them from the Nazis, motivated European countries to support the establishment of Israel and help it become so powerful.

We should not ignore the fact that the greatest winner of that war was the United States, whose renaissance and power were built in large part on immigrant Jewish scientists and Jewish capital.

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Kuwait quashes rumors on family visa 'amnesty'

Interior Ministry urges public to rely on official sources

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Ministry of Interior has clarified that it did not issue any decision or circular allowing family visa violators, as per Article 22 of the residency law, to amend their status, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement posted on its official X account, the ministry confirmed that reports circulating in some media outlets and on social media regarding this matter are completely false.

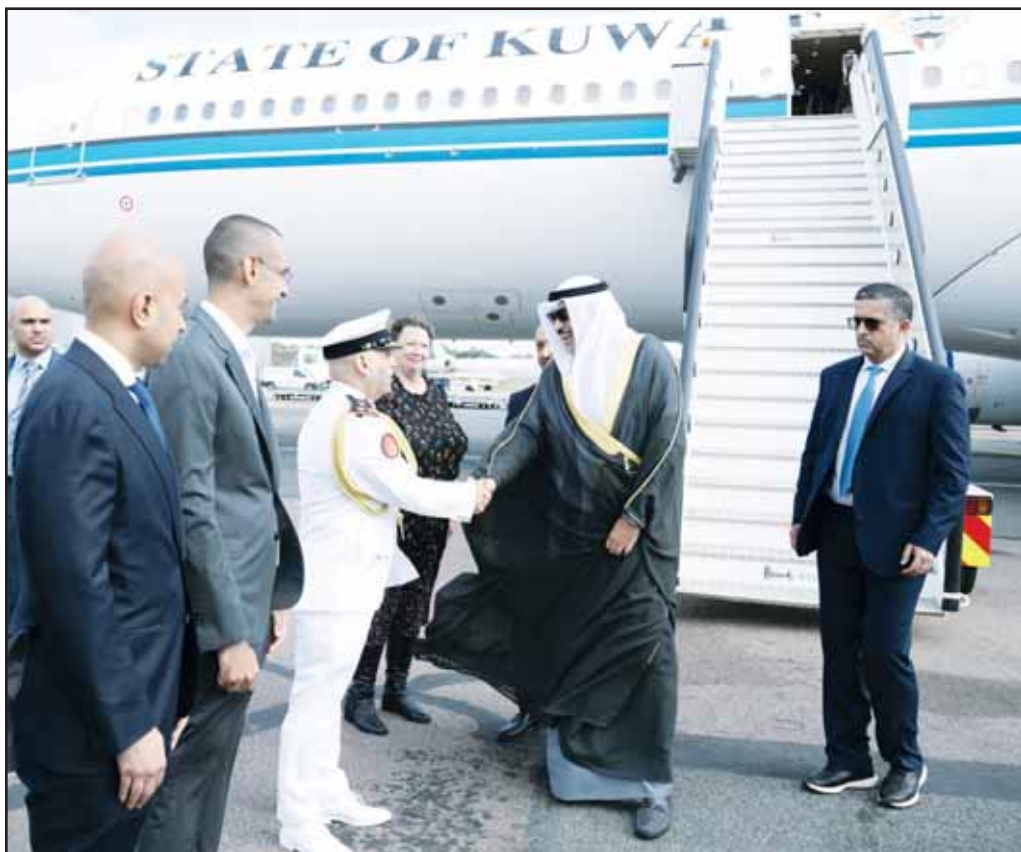
It emphasized that any decisions or circulars related to the Ministry of Interior are announced solely through official channels. It urged everyone to be accurate when publishing and sharing news and to rely only on statements issued by the ministry through its official platforms.

Massive Al-Rai sweep nets 207

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Criminal Investigation Department of Farwaniya Governorate, representing the Ministry of Interior, carried out a large-scale security campaign in Al-Rai that resulted in the arrest of 207 individuals of various nationalities including 11 found to have outstanding arrest warrants, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement published on its official X account, the Ministry of Interior explained that the campaign was led by Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Hamed Manahe Al-Dawas, and was carried out with the

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Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince being received at the airport upon arrival in UK.

Kuwait's Crown Prince in UK on official visit

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived in the United Kingdom on an official visit.

His Highness the Crown Prince was received at the airport by the Special Representative of the UK Minister of State for Foreign, Common-

wealth and Development Affairs, Adele Taylor, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK, Bader Al-Munaikh, the Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority, Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah, and the heads of the Kuwaiti offices accredited to the UK. (KUNA)

UNWTO Sec-Gen praises Kuwait's key role in regional tourism development

Kuwait blends heritage, modernity in tourism push

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait is positioning itself as a leading cultural and family tourism destination in 2025 through innovative national projects and international recognition in the sector, Minister of Information, Culture and Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said on Saturday.

Al-Mutairi told KUNA that Kuwait has strong tourism potential with a steadily developing experience that blends authenticity and modernity.

He highlighted Kuwait's election last February to chair the UN Tourism Regional Commission for the

Middle East, describing it as proof of international confidence in Kuwait's role in developing the sector.

Al-Mutairi stressed that tourism development follows the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He stressed that the focus on enhancing infrastructure and services while showcasing Kuwait's cultural and heritage identity.

The minister announced the launch of the 'Visit Kuwait' platform in November, which will offer integrated electronic services for visitors and investors in partnership with the private sector.

He added that the platform, supported by a smart assistant 'Rashid' will provide access to hospitality, restaurants, transport, sports and entertainment options, while also creating a unified channel for tourism investment and promotion.

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Kuwait bolsters int'l aviation ties at ICAO General Assembly

WASHINGTON, Sept 27, (KUNA): A delegation from Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), headed by President Sheikh Eng. Humoud Mubarak Al-Sabah, continued Friday its participation in the ongoing session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) General Assembly in Montreal, Canada.

The DGCA said in a statement that the delegation joined discussions on civil aviation safety, environmental sustainability, and the development of international aviation policies and regulations.

On the sidelines, Sheikh Humoud held bilateral

meetings with counterparts from the United States, Qatar, Oman, Spain, and Malaysia.

Talks with the U.S. focused on enhancing aviation safety and technical cooperation, while the Qatari meeting addressed joint positions in international forums and sustainable aviation initiatives, it noted.

Meetings with Oman stressed expanding regional air transport cooperation, while discussions with Spain covered digital transformation, innovation, and emissions reduction, according to statement.

In addition, talks with Malaysia highlighted airport management, advanced technologies, and human resource development.

Sheikh Humoud affirmed that these meetings reflect Kuwait's commitment to strengthening international and regional aviation partnerships and supporting ICAO's global efforts to ensure safe, secure, and sustainable civil aviation.

Meanwhile, earlier this week, ICAO honored Kuwait for progress in civil aviation security oversight and effective implementation of its international standards and practices.

NewsWatch

GAZA: At least 48 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, as the Israeli army continues to deepen its military operation in the neighborhoods of Gaza City, according to Gaza's civil defense authority.

Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for the Civil Defense authority in Gaza, told Xinhua that 48 bodies arrived at hospitals across Gaza on Saturday after Israeli attacks struck residential homes and tents sheltering displaced people since dawn.

Basal said that among the dead, three were killed by Israeli gunfire in front of an aid distribution center in the central Netzarim axis. (Xinhua)

BEIRUT: A top Iranian security official called on regional countries on Saturday to put their difference aside and cooperate closely as they face what he called "Israel's conspiracies."

Ali Larjani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, spoke in Beirut where he arrived earlier Saturday to attend the anniversary of Israel's assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon.

Iran has been the main backer of Hezbollah over the past four decades, supplying it with weapons and money that had turned it one of the most powerful militant groups in the region. (AP)



KUNA photo

Kuwait Ambassador to the United States of America, Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, addresses the senior-level meeting of the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly's 80th session.

'Woman empowerment central to Kuwait development vision'

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Ambassador to the United States of America, Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, on Friday, said Kuwait has rendered the woman empowerment a basis for development.

Sheikha Al-Zain was speaking as she chaired the Kuwaiti delegation partaking in the senior-level meeting of the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held on the sidelines of the high-ranking week of the United Nations General Assembly's 80th session.

The year 2025 witnessed eminent

events, such as the Kuwaiti women enrollment in the Army, the Fire Force and the Coast Guard, in addition to the expanding presence in the police and leadership posts, thus mirroring Kuwait's deep advocacy of the woman's role for attaining peace and sustainable development, she said.

These accomplishments came as a translation of the State of Kuwait's deep faith in the basic woman role for building a coherent society and attaining full-fledged development at the regional and international levels, the envoy added.



8 Gulf Bank integrates red Plus card into Gulf Points



9 Burgan Bank wins J.P. Morgan Elite Quality Recognition Award for 2024

Kuwait hands over CTF-152 command to the Qatari Navy

MANAMA, Sept 27, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Naval Force handed over command of the Combined Task Force 152 to the Qatari Amiri Navy during a ceremony held at the central command of the American Naval Forces in Bahrain.

The Kuwait Army Chairmanship of Staff said in a press statement on Saturday that the ceremony was attended by Commander of Kuwait Naval Forces Rear Admiral Saif Al-Hamlan.

The Kuwaiti navy had commanded the Combined Task Force since August 2024 until September 2025, contributing during the mandate to boosting naval security, operational coordination among the engaged states for strengthening navigation via the Arabian Gulf.

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Kuwait, Peru honor 50-yr diplomatic relations with commemorative stamp

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Assistant Foreign Minister for Inter-American Affairs Nawaf Al-Ahmad praised Kuwaiti-Peruvian relations, describing them as "historic, strong, and friendly."

Al-Ahmad said this in his speech at a ceremony held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of

diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the Republic of Peru, which also included the unveiling of a commemorative postage stamp issued by Peru to mark the occasion.

The event was held at the Peruvian Embassy recently in the presence of ambassadors from Latin American countries accredited to Kuwait.

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Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Photos during a ceremony held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the Republic of Peru.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:20	Asr	15:04
Sunrise ..	05:39	Maghrib ..	17:39
Zohr	11:39	Isha	18:56

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northerly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather			
with light to moderate northwest-erly wind, with speeds of 10-38 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	39	28	
Kuwait Airport	39	23	
Abdaly	40	22	

Bubyan	35	20
Jahra	40	25
Fallaka Island	36	23
Salmiyah	34	28
Ahmadi	39	24
Nuwaisib	40	25
Wafra	42	21

Delegation advances bilateral, regional and investment priorities

Kuwait strengthens global ties at 80th UN General Assembly

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (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, and his accompanying delegation departed New York after leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, en route to the UK on an official visit.

His Highness was seen off by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US, Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Tariq Mohammad Al-Bannai. Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya affirmed that Kuwait's participation in the high-level week of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York achieved exceptional success under the chairmanship of the Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince.

In a statement to KUNA on Saturday, the minister said that His Highness the Amir's representative delivered Kuwait's statement before the General Assembly, reiterating Kuwait's commitment to national, Arab, and Islamic principles, foremost among them support for the just Palestinian cause and the call to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions.

The statement also emphasized Kuwait's prioritization of humanitarian issues and its call for the international community to renew its commitment to reforming the United Nations and developing its working mechanisms to enhance its ability to confront multiple challenges, consolidate international peace and security, and achieve sustainable development for all peoples, the minister added.

He noted that His Highness the Amir's representative also addressed key national concerns, including promoting sustainable development, consolidating regional stability,



Kuwait Amir's Representative, the Crown Prince departs US.

and supporting mediation and dialogue efforts. Minister Al-Yahya stated that His Highness the Amir's representative participated in the Security Council emer-

gency session on "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian issue," delivering a speech on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is currently

chaired by Kuwait.

He affirmed the Gulf's principled and unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, as well as its rejection of any attempts to undermine the security of Council member states and their shared unity.

On the bilateral level, Al-Yahya stated that His Highness the Amir's representative held meetings with the heads of state and government of 31 countries to discuss strengthening bilateral relations.

He also met with senior UN officials and held 11 meetings with CEOs of global companies and financial institutions, focusing on opportunities for cooperation and investment in line with Kuwait's development vision.

On the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly, the Amir's representative and the Crown Prince held high-level meetings with leaders and senior officials from Iraq, Bahrain, Trinidad and Tobago, Oman, Yemen, Cyprus, Iran, Paraguay, Turkey, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Senegal, and the African Union.

In each meeting, the Crown Prince conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations, regional cooperation, and investment opportunities.

Key attendees included Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, KDIPA Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Mazen Al-Issa, and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai.

Meetings with Iraq and Bahrain also highlighted enhancing ties with their respective nations' leadership. These meetings emphasized Kuwait's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, promoting regional stability, and advancing cooperation in investment and development.

'European Day of Languages' bridges Kuwait and EU youth

EU showcases unity through diversity

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Ambassador of the European Union to Kuwait Anne Koistinen affirmed that the celebration of the European Day of Languages is a special occasion that embodies EU's identity and values of openness and diversity, adding that the day reflects EU's motto of "United in Diversity."

She said this in a speech she delivered at the event organized by the French Institute in Kuwait and hosted by the American University of Kuwait, with the participation of several embassies of EU member states, as part of the "Team Europe" initiative. Ambassador Koistinen said, "I am pleased to be with you today at this event, which celebrates European languages and highlights cultural diversity, which we consider as a source of strength and richness for us.

We are a union of 27 countries, united not only by 24 official languages, but also by diverse cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles. Yet we all believe that together we are stronger, more prosperous, and more peaceful. The European Union is proud of its global partnerships, including its ties with Kuwait." She stressed that the spirit of cooperation between the two sides is built on shared values and mutual respect.

Ambassador Koistinen encouraged the students participating in the celebration to take advantage of the occasion to learn more about Europe and the wide range of opportunities it offers in various fields,



EU Ambassador Anne Koistinen, center, with a number of ambassadors and attendees during the event.

particularly in higher education. She highlighted that European universities provide an advanced academic environment and a variety of specializations that can open new horizons for Kuwaiti youth.

Ambassador Koistinen concluded by emphasizing that the event reflects the spirit of the European Union, adding that the goal of the celebration is to promote closer ties between peoples through learning new languages and embracing cultural diversity.

In this regard, Director of the French Institute and Cultural Counselor at the French Embassy Soraya Saa said, "Languages are not just words but they represent culture, history, and a way of seeing the world."

She emphasized that learning languages enhances creativity, broadens



Part of the 'Europe Day' activities.

intellectual horizons, and helps build bridges between people. We wanted to give Kuwaitis the chance to travel without leaving the country, by learn-

ing new words and discovering different cultures."

Furthermore, the Belgian Ambassador Christian Doms expressed his country's pride in its linguistic diversity, as Belgium has three official languages - French, Dutch, and German.

He revealed that his deputy's spouse would be giving a Dutch language lesson, highlighting that such events spark curiosity among Kuwaitis and encourage them to explore languages besides English.

In addition, the Hungarian Ambassador András Szabo stressed that the European Day of Languages, celebrated annually on September 26, serves as an important occasion to promote linguistic diversity and inspire younger generations across Europe to learn new languages.

Other Voices

How and why do we sleep?

By Ahmad alsarraf

During sleep, the brain undergoes many important processes and changes. Its cells produce bursts of electrical impulses that form rhythmic waves. These waves indicate increased brain activity, even during restful sleep.

They help clear waste and metabolic byproducts, a process believed to reduce the risk of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's. Sleep consists of multiple stages, each with distinct brain activity.

During non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep, the brain slows its electrical oscillations and muscles relax, supporting vital functions like learning and memory consolidation. Sleep is not a dormant state; rather, it is a period of intense brain activity essential for overall cognitive health.

The amount of sleep a person needs changes over time, and their circadian rhythms also change with age. Leading medical centers provide recommendations on the ideal amount of sleep for each age group.

Understanding your sleep needs at different life stages and addressing any issues can help pave the way for better sleep at night. For those who toss and turn, a helpful tip is to avoid exposure to blue light before bedtime, primarily emitted by screens on smartphones, tablets,



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and televisions.

A short nap of 15 to 30 minutes in the afternoon is generally recommended to boost alertness without interfering with nighttime sleep. Longer naps, lasting one to two hours, can also enhance slow-wave and REM sleep, contributing to overall increased sleep quality.

However, it is best to nap before mid-afternoon, which is before 3:00 pm to avoid disrupting your ability to fall asleep at night. For older adults, naps can be longer and help increase total sleep time without causing daytime sleepiness. In general, naps complement nighttime sleep but do not replace deep sleep.

For decades, scientists have grappled with a fundamental question - how does the human brain eliminate the waste it produces throughout the day? This waste includes excess proteins and molecules that can become toxic if not removed. Some of these proteins are primary contributors to Alzheimer's disease. Researchers at the University of Rochester have discovered a previously unknown circulatory system responsible for clearing toxic waste from the brain.

Studies on mice have shown that cerebrospinal fluid flows through tunnels surrounding blood vessels in the brain, a process that occurs only during deep sleep at night.

This cleansing stops upon waking and is one of the most important benefits of sleep. When we wake feeling refreshed after restful sleep, it is likely because the brain has undergone a reset, similar to a car receiving maintenance.

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PAYS outlines vision at UN meeting

'Kuwait considers youth as active partners, not just future leaders'

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAYS), Nasser Al-Sheikh, affirmed Friday that Kuwait considers youth active partners in its present, not merely future leaders.

Al-Sheikh emphasized the need to invest in young generations for the future of the world, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision and the principles established by the World Program of Action for Youth.

Al-Sheikh made this statement during his participation in a UN meeting to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Program of Action for Youth, held on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Al-Sheikh said that Kuwait has made youth issues a central focus of its national priorities and has translated this commitment through practical policies and initiatives led by the Public Authority for Youth, foremost among which is the National Youth Policy, which focuses on capacity development, creativity, entrepreneurship, volunteerism, and leadership, with a focus on youth sciences and the green, knowledge, and creative economy.

Al-Sheikh said that the Public Authority for Youth has included climate and environmental action among the priorities of its strategy (2025-2030).

Al-Sheikh added that Kuwait has launched qualitative initiatives such as the "Kuwait Award for Youth Excellence and Creativity" and the "Mubadaratna" program to support non-profit youth projects with a developmental focus, in ad-



KUNA photo
Nasser Al-Sheikh, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth.

dition to establishing the Kuwait Youth Council, which reports directly to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs.

Al-Sheikh highlighted the strategic partnerships Kuwait has established with the United Nations, most notably the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), through the "Youth Empowerment" project, to enhance skills and active participation in public life.

Kuwait calls for coordinated efforts to support refugees and detainees

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation, Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, stressed Friday on the need to enhance international coordination to develop sustainable strategies for the reintegration and rehabilitation of persons from refugee camps and detention centers in conflict zones.

In addition, to ensure an international approach aimed at protecting and promoting human rights and a world of security and stability.

Ambassador Al-Mashaan made the remarks during a high-level international conference on the return of persons from camps and detention centers in conflict zones, organized by the Iraqi government and supported by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism here in New York.

The conference was held on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Al-Mashaan stated that the State of Kuwait attaches great importance to maintaining international peace and security and has an honorable record in combating terrorism, in addition to its constant commitment to developing its national capabilities to combat terrorism and aligning



KUNA photo
Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation, Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, during his participation in the high-level international conference.

its efforts with international efforts.

The ambassador pointed out that Kuwait is an active member of the international coalition against the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) through its chairmanship of the coalition's working group to prevent the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

Since 2019, it has secured and facilitated the transfer of more than 500 fighters and their family members, in cooperation with the United States, and continues to receive similar requests from other countries.

Al-Mashaan emphasized that the fate of children is a collective global responsibility, warning that ignoring their suffering will lead to the creation of a new generation of instability, while collective action can give them the opportunity to build a positive future.

diwaniya



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Two-state solution insufficient

"TODAY, 157 countries have recognized the State of Palestine, but with a condition I fear may not be met, which is the end of Hamas's rule in the Gaza Strip," Palestinian writer **Adnan Makkawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The release of Israeli hostages to their families, whether before or after that, is also demanded. Most importantly, world leaders have finally recognized a Palestinian state alongside Israel. But what will its borders be, and when will it be established?"

"I support the international recognition of a state called 'Palestine,' yet my immediate and deepest hope is for liberation from Hamas's rule now. I long to see Hamas transfer responsibility for the Israeli and Palestinian prisoners and hostages to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, who opposes the ruthless Netanyahu government."

"I expected the leaders who have finally embraced the 'two-state solution' slogan to first, and immediately, call for a ceasefire to save what remains of my people in the devastated Gaza Strip. I mean a halt to the Israeli-American aggression, a command to the Israeli-American war machine to stop destroying everything above and below ground in Gaza, and to provide real, not just symbolic, aid to my suffering people."

"This is what we need from world leaders now, not just the 'two-state solution' slogan, no matter how important it may be for us Palestinians in the future."

"Regardless of how long or short the timeline may be, Palestinians and Israelis cannot avoid living on the same land, whether as two neighboring states in a confederation or as one state, because military conflict has failed and ended. The only viable alternative, as proposed by the Arab world, must be peaceful and humanitarian engagement, or so it should be."

"To reiterate, the decision by world leaders who sympathize with us, the oppressed people of Gaza, to stop the war, provide aid, and welcome our wounded, sick, and those seeking refuge in their rich, prosperous, and stable countries is far more beneficial to us than their decision on the two-state solution."

"And before I forget... Those who advocated letting the military conflict with the Israelis run its course, among Palestinians, Arabs, and non-Arabs drawn to war, will claim this as a victory of their reckless aggression."

"My feelings about the 'two-state solution' are mixed, swinging between rejection and acceptance, and I have reasons for this ambivalence. We have already lost nearly 77 years, and throughout, we Palestinians have chanted 'We will return.' Yet, we were forced against our will, and despite those who led us here, to recognize the state of Israel within its 1948 borders. I fear we may waste many more years chanting 'two-state solution' with no real outcome."

"Hear this from me, your brother and your son... As long as there are Israelis and Palestinians driven by religious and historical bigotry, it will be difficult to build two friendly neighboring Palestinian and Israeli states now or in the future. Our salvation depends on removing from power the leaders who incite hatred such as Yahya Sinwar and Benjamin Netanyahu, both of whom seem convinced that killing the other will secure their righteousness."

"I hope I will not leave my children a burden called 'the Palestinian cause'. But time passes, and this intractable problem persists, and in some ways deepens, while too few work sincerely and diligently toward a realistic, fundamental solution. I fear my children will pass this problem to their own children, who will then suffer the same death and destruction we have suffered, while the world looks on."

"The Civil Service Law guarantees several rights and benefits to public employees, including the right to leave, which refers to a period of authorized absence from work with the administration's approval (Article 23 of the law). Article 35 of the regulations outlines the types of leave that may be granted to employees. One of these is bereavement leave, specified in Article 44 of the Civil Service Regulations," legal advisor Dr. **Kazem Bou Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Bereavement leave is granted to employees in the event of the death of their spouse or a first-degree or second-degree relative. The leave lasts for up to four days and is fully paid."

"This leave begins on the date of death if it occurs within Kuwait, or on

the date the body arrives from abroad if the death occurs outside Kuwait (Civil Service Commission's Circular No. 19/1980). It is important to note that the law currently limits this leave to the spouse and first-degree and second-degree relatives."

"First-degree relatives include parents and children, and second-degree relatives refer to siblings and grandparents. Therefore, we suggest that the Civil Service Commission consider recommending an amendment to extend this provision to include third-degree relatives, such as uncles and aunts."

"Regarding the spouse, there is a specific provision. A Muslim wife is entitled to an extended leave period (known as Iddah) of four months and ten days. However, a non-Muslim wife is entitled to only four days of leave, as stated in Article 44 of the Civil Service Regulations. This leave is based on Islamic Sharia law. The difference in treatment of Muslim and non-Muslim wives raises concerns that warrant the legislator's attention, in line with principles of equality, justice, and international conventions."

□ □ □

"Law No. 39/2014 serves as the primary legislative guarantee for protecting consumers from fraud, deception, and exploitation, while also ensuring the quality of goods and services. This law promotes a fair commercial environment by prohibiting monopolistic practices that manipulate prices or compromise product and service quality. It also aims to strike a balance between consumer rights and the responsibilities of merchants and service providers", Kuwaiti lawyer **Abdullah Al-Houti** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"To benefit from these legal protections, consumers must be aware of their rights and how to exercise them through the available legal channels."

"In Kuwait, consumers have fundamental rights, starting with the right to accurate information. The law obligates sellers and service providers to clearly disclose all relevant details about a product or service, including price, specifications, production date, expiration date, and any potential risks. Concealing or falsifying such information constitutes a legal violation."

"Consumers have the right to choose the product or service that suits them without coercion, pressure, or deception, and with access to a variety of alternatives in the market. They are also entitled to return or exchange a product within a specified period if a manufacturing defect is found or if the product does not match the advertised specifications, without bearing any additional costs."

"One of the most common legal questions in this area relates to compensation and when consumers are entitled to claim it."

"If the use of a product or service causes harm, consumers have the right to seek compensation for both material and moral damages, such as in cases involving counterfeit, adulterated, or non-compliant goods."

"If a consumer is subjected to a violation that affects their legal rights, they can file a complaint with the Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, including details of the violation and supporting evidence. If the issue remains unresolved, the consumer may turn to the courts to seek compensation or enforce their rights under Law No. 39/2014 on Consumer Protection."

"It is important to emphasize the importance of proving the sale or service transaction by keeping the invoice, purchase contract, or any documents that confirm the transaction with the merchant or service provider."

"We recommend attempting to resolve disputes amicably before pursuing formal legal action. Legal provisions not only protect consumers but also impose clear obligations on merchants, most notably, the requirement to clearly display prices for goods or services, issue a purchase invoice with full transaction details, and provide maintenance or repairs during the warranty period. Sellers and service providers are also legally accountable for misleading advertisements and false promotional offers."

"The law imposes strict penalties on merchants or service providers who violate these obligations, including fines that can reach thousands of dinars, temporary suspension of commercial activity, and, in severe cases, revocation of commercial licenses. Also, violators are required to repair the damage and compensate the affected consumers."

"Kuwaiti law is clear and firm in protecting consumer rights; however, some consumers still lack sufficient awareness. Therefore, awareness campaigns must be intensified to educate both citizens and residents about their rights when purchasing goods or services, along with stronger market oversight."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Part of the naval parade carried out by the naval forces. Inset: Chief of Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shariaan, during his visit to the Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base.

Kuwait Army Chief visits Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base

Kuwait's Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shariaan on Wednesday went on a visit to Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base. Receiving him were Commander of Naval Force Rear Admiral Saif Al-Hamdan and other top officials.

A press release issued by the Army Staff mentioned that Lt. Gen. Al-Shariaan affirmed intent on enhancing the naval force's combat readiness and reinforce it with state-of-the-art tech.

He commended the pivotal role of the navy in protecting Kuwaiti shores and regional waters, as well as guarding navigation lines.

The Army Chief was briefed on the tasks and duties of the force, and toured the base' facilities.

The force put on a display of its readiness, capabilities and adaptability to various missions, showcasing the exemplary performance of its officers. (KUNA)

Criminal Court fully Kuwaitized, other branches near completion

Judiciary marks significant progress under Amir's directives

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: In line with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad to accelerate the Kuwaitization of the judiciary, President of the Court of Appeals Judge Mohammed Al-Rifai announced significant progress in nationalizing judicial roles in various branches.

Speaking at the court's general assembly, Judge Al-Rifai explained that the criminal judiciary is now 100 percent Kuwaitized, the family judiciary 96 percent, the civil judiciary 93 percent, and the labor judiciary 80 percent, all staffed by qualified Kuwaiti professionals.

The past judicial year witnessed the termination of services for a large number of Egyptian counselors, along with the promotion of several Kuwaiti judges to the Court of Cassation.

To address the resulting vacancies, the Supreme Judicial Council ended the secondment of counselors serving in the Court of First Instance and transferred them to the Court of Appeals. In addition, several deputies from the Court of First Instance were promoted to the rank of counselor to meet the growing demand and caseload at the appeals level.

Judge Al-Rifai praised the judiciary's efforts throughout the judicial year, highlighting a case completion rate of 96.9 percent.

He said a total of 48,273 appeals were filed between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025. During the same period, the court reviewed 53,011 appeals and adjudicated 51,347 of them.

Judge Al-Rifai praised the judiciary's performance, saying, "Today is the harvest time, when we celebrate the fruits of your efforts in fulfilling your duties and protecting rights and freedoms. You can be proud of these efforts, which are a badge of honor on your chest and proof that you are the best qualified to bear this responsibility."

He noted that the work distribution for the new judicial year was aimed to meet the needs of judges as much as possible, taking into account the conditions of the court circuits and the changes in personnel.

Judge Al-Rifai urged judges to maintain the high completion rate and continue striving for even greater achievements.

He stated, "At the end of each judicial year, we bid farewell to some of our esteemed colleagues and welcome new members to our ranks. Let us extend a warm welcome to the judges who have joined us, whether their secondment to the Court of First Instance has ended or they have been promoted to the rank of counselor and transferred to our court. We trust in their enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to upholding the dignity and integrity of the judiciary."

Judge Al-Rifai also expressed his appreciation to the judges whose service or secondment has ended and who have moved to the Court of Cassation or returned to their home countries, recognizing their valuable contributions and efforts.

He emphasized that the state, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime

Minister, continues to provide unwavering material and moral support to the judiciary.

In conclusion, Judge Al-Rifai urged all judges to intensify their efforts, accelerate the resolution of pending appeals, particularly older cases, and adhere to the General Assembly's decisions regarding the work distribution plan.

Meanwhile, the Court of Cassation has set the session of November 13 to issue its ruling in the high-profile case filed by Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad against former Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah and others who are accused of embezzling KD 19 million and possessing eavesdropping devices.

Previously, the Ministers' Court ruled that the defendants could not be prosecuted due to a prior judgment. However, the Public Prosecution appealed that ruling, and the Court of Cassation has since reviewed the case and reserved it for a final ruling.

Also, the Court of Cassation overturned a ruling issued by a lower court on the statute of limitations and ordered an airline to pay compensation worth KD 3,103,840 to a group of passengers after their flight from Istanbul to Kuwait was canceled a day before its scheduled departure in September 2018.

According to case details, the plaintiffs, represented by Lawyer Ahmed Odeh Al-Dousari, had booked tickets with the airline, only for the flight to be abruptly canceled, resulting in material and moral damages. They subsequently filed a compensation claim.

The Court of First Instance dismissed the case due to the statute of limitations, and the Court of Appeal upheld that ruling. However, the passengers appealed to the Court of Cassation, which ruled in their favor, affirming their right to compensation and ordering the airline to cover legal expenses and attorney's fees.

Kuwaiti teen dies in car crash on 7th Ring Road

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: An 18-year-old Kuwaiti citizen tragically lost his life in a traffic accident on the Seventh Ring Road towards King Fahad Expressway, when his vehicle overturned and struck a lamppost.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident, security forces, paramedics, and firefighters rushed to the scene, where they found the vehicle overturned and the young driver inside.

Despite rescue efforts, the teenager was pronounced dead at the scene. His body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department, and a case was registered to investigate the circumstances of the accident.

36 vehicles impounded

Ministry posts results of weeklong security drives

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Traffic Department, has announced the results of its intensive security and traffic campaigns carried out from September 13 to September 20, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a statement, the ministry explained that the campaigns led to the issuance of 168 various traffic violation citations, the referral of 21 individuals to precautionary detention, and the impoundment of 36 vehicles and motorcycles for traffic offenses. Also, 11 individuals were arrested for driving without a license, and 74 were detained for not carrying identification cards. One person was referred to the Environmental Police, while another was arrested on suspicion of criminal activity.

The ministry confirmed that security and traffic campaigns will continue in various governorates to apprehend reckless drivers and violators and to enforce legal measures.

It urged citizens and residents to cooperate by reporting any traffic violations or negligent behavior through the hotline No. 112 of the Operations Room, the WhatsApp No. 99324092 of the General Traffic Department, or by filing a complaint via the "Tawassul" platform.

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MoSA engages directly with charities through field visits

Ministry tightens oversight of charitable work

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi affirmed the importance of monitoring the field performance of charitable organizations, gaining a clear understanding of their operations, and listening to the opinions and suggestions of those in charge.

He affirmed that the ministry is committed to this interactive approach, which helps form an accurate and comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities within this vital sector.

He said this during an inspection visit to the Direct Aid Society, marking the start of a series of upcoming field visits to charitable organizations. It part of the ministry's plan to enhance direct communication with charities and closely follow the development of their work, particularly after the implementation of new oversight mechanisms.

Al-Ajmi explained that the Ministry of Social Affairs aims, through these field visits, to overcome any obstacles that may hinder the progress of charitable associations and to provide the necessary support to help them expand their activities, both within Kuwait and through their inter-



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, during the launch of field visits to charitable societies.

national projects. These foreign initiatives are among the most prominent reflections of Kuwait's global humanitarian leadership.

He stressed the ministry's commitment to regulating charitable work in line with approved laws and guidelines to ensure aid reaches those most in need, while reinforcing growing international trust in Kuwait's charitable efforts.

Al-Ajmi added that opening new avenues for charity associations to carry out international projects further strengthens Kuwait's reputation as a center for humanitarian work and reinforces its role in responding to global crises and disasters.

He concluded by emphasizing that such projects are an extension of Kuwait's long-standing commitment to supporting the needy and advancing sustainable development in allied and friendly nations.

Ahmadi Committee reviews key projects

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Ahmadi Committee of the Municipal Council will hold its third meeting of the fourth session on Sunday, chaired by Nassar Al-Azmi.

The agenda includes the following items:

- The request of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to create an entrance from King Fahad bin Abdulaziz Road to serve South Sabahiya area.
- The request of the Ministry of Public Works to allocate a site for a wastewater treatment plant

in South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

- The proposal of the Ministry of Education to reorganize public schools in Ahmadi Block 4
- The request of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to relocate the fuel station in the southeastern part of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential Area.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Council member Dr. Hassan Kamal submitted a proposal for the creation of surface parking spaces opposite the College of Basic Education campus in Ardiya (west of Al-Jasar Street), as well as allocate a site for a student waiting room nearby and build a shaded pedestrian bridge connecting the new parking area to the college buildings via Road 103.

Dr. Kamal explained that students currently face a severe shortage of parking spaces, and the traffic congestion at the main gates disrupts traffic flow and sometimes leads to accidents. The proposal aims to provide a safer environment and easier access for students, supporting the college's mission to prepare qualified educational personnel.

He urged the executive authorities to coordinate with the Ministry of Interior, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, and other relevant bodies to study the proposal and reach a decision within the legally specified timeframe.

Ambassador eyes fresh cooperation

Kuwait remains engraved in our hearts: Albanian envoy

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Ambassador of Albania to Kuwait Ilir Hosa highlighted the warm partnership between Kuwait and Albania that has lasted for over three decades, stressing that Kuwait was among the first nations to support Albania during its transformation in 1991, something that remains deeply "engraved in the Albanian hearts."

In an interview with the daily, Ambassador Hosa explained that the relationship has evolved beyond traditional ties into continuous political and diplomatic coordination. It now includes active efforts to deepen economic, cultural, and educational cooperation through joint consultation committees, as well as expanding opportunities for investment, tourism, and education.

The bilateral relations are based on mutual respect and deep understanding, evolving from Kuwait's initial support during Albania's political transformation to a growing partnership encompassing politics, economics, and culture today.

The political and diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Albania are currently experiencing significant progress through continuous dialogue and joint coordination on international and regional issues. There is a strong consensus between the two countries in supporting security, stability, and resolving conflicts by peaceful means.

He said the next phase will witness the activation of political consultation mechanisms and the establishment of joint committees involving various ministries and institutions to enhance bilateral cooperation and build a stronger foundation for future partnerships.

Ambassador Hosa also emphasized that Kuwaiti-Albanian relations extend beyond politics to include economic, cultural, educational, and humanitarian fields.

He pointed out the important role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in supporting infrastructure, education, and health projects in Albania.

He highlighted the abundant opportunities for Kuwaiti investors in tourism, renewable energy, agriculture, and real estate, along with growing interest in promoting cultural exchange, organizing mutual cultural weeks, and developing educational and academic exchange programs that empower youth and strengthen the friendship between the two nations.

Below are the details of the interview:

Question: How would you describe the level of political and diplomatic relations between Albania and Kuwait today?

Answer: Relations between Albania and Kuwait have been distinguished and strong, based on mutual respect and deep understanding since the early 1990s.

Kuwait was among the first Gulf states to extend a helping hand to Albania following its political transformation in 1991, providing significant economic and humanitarian support during a critical period in our history. This left a lasting impact on Albanians and gave Kuwait a special place in our hearts.

Today, political and diplomatic relations continue to develop steadily. They go beyond traditional friendship, encompassing diverse cooperation in various fields, with ongoing communication between the two leaderships, alignment on many international issues, and mutual support in global forums.

Q. Are there any plans to hold regular political consultations or joint committees between the two countries?

A. Yes, both sides are increasingly interested in activating political consultation mechanisms and organizing regular meetings at the foreign ministry level. We believe that such consultations deepen mutual understanding and pave the way for coordinated action on various issues.

Efforts are underway to establish a joint committee for bilateral cooperation, including representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy, Education, Culture, and Investment. This committee will serve as a practical platform to map out future cooperation, monitor the implementation of existing agreements, and propose new initiatives.

In addition, there are proposals to enhance people-to-people diplomacy through reciprocal visits at parliamentary and municipal levels, which would expand communication channels between our friendly peoples.

Q. What role can Albania play in regional and international issues important to Kuwait and the Gulf region?

A. As a member of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Albania is committed to contributing to international stability and security. We closely follow developments in the Gulf and recognize Kuwait's pivotal regional role.

From this perspective, Albania can support efforts to promote dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution, while sharing its own experience in democratic transition and institutional reform. Our positions in international forums often align with Kuwait's on key issues such as respect for sovereignty, human rights advocacy, and combating extremism.

Q. How does Albania view Kuwait's humanitarian and diplomatic role globally?

A. Kuwait is widely respected for its global leadership in humanitarian and diplomatic fields. Its recognition as a "Humanitarian Center" and the honorary title of "Humanitarian Leader" awarded to His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad reflect this distinguished status.

In Albania, the impact of Kuwaiti aid through KFAED is evident in the construction of schools, hospitals, mosques, and basic infrastructure. This aid represents a sincere message of friendship to the Albanian people.

Diplomatically, we regard Kuwait as a trusted mediator and moderate voice that always strives to bridge divides and resolve differences through dialogue, which resonates with our commitment to

peace and cooperation.

Q. What is the current volume of trade between Albania and Kuwait, and which sectors could see further growth?

A. Trade remains limited compared to the potential of both countries, although it has been gradually growing in recent years. It currently focuses on agricultural and food products from the Albanian side, and some luxury or technical goods from the Kuwaiti side.

However, there is significant potential for expansion, particularly in organic food and agriculture, renewable energy, tourism, real estate, healthcare, and higher education sectors. Kuwait can serve as a bridge for Albanian products to Gulf markets, while Albania represents a gateway for Kuwaiti products to the Balkans and the European Union.

Q. What are the most prominent investment opportunities that Albania offers Kuwaiti investors?

A. Albania is rich in opportunities, and we warmly welcome Kuwaiti investors. In tourism, the Adriatic and Ionian Sea beaches and mountainous landscapes offer opportunities for the establishment of resorts and hotels, as well as medical and ecotourism ventures.

Q. Are there existing Kuwaiti projects or plans to enhance investment presence in Albania?

A. Yes, KFAED has played a major role since the 1990s to finance development projects in infrastructure, health, and education, which have positively impacted citizens' lives.

There are also some private Kuwaiti investments in tourism and real estate, though these are still emerging. We are actively encouraging more Kuwaiti businessmen to visit Albania and explore opportunities firsthand. Also, the idea of opening an investment office for KFAED in Albania is under discussion to facilitate partnerships and oversee future projects.

Q. How is Albania working to improve the investment environment and provide facilities for foreign investors?

A. In recent years, Albania has made significant strides in improving its investment climate through legislative and procedural reforms aligned with European Union standards, which Albania aims to join.

Today, foreign investors can establish companies quickly through modern electronic platforms and simplified procedures. The government offers special incentives and tax exemptions in strategic sectors such as renewable energy, tourism, and agriculture. It has also established economic and industrial zones equipped with advanced infrastructure and customs facilities.

Q. What distinguishes Albania for tourists from Kuwait and the Gulf region?

A. Albania offers unique natural and cultural diversity, including Adriatic and Ionian beaches, mountains perfect for adventure and climbing, and historic cities like Tirana, Berat, and Gjirokastrë. We provide Gulf tourists with services that meet their expectations, from luxury hotels and resorts to international cuisine restaurants, all at reasonable prices, making Albania an affordable and family-friendly destination.

Q. Is there any interest from the Albanian side in signing labor or vocational training agreements with Kuwait?

A. Certainly, there is growing interest in enhancing cooperation in the labor sector, especially for skilled and semi-skilled workers. We are developing joint training programs to improve the efficiency of the Albanian workforce in line with Kuwait's labor market needs. We are also focusing on agreements related to vocational training and exchanging expertise in sectors such as engineering, healthcare, technology, and services, ensuring sustainable partnerships that benefit both economies and societies.

Q. How does Albania view Kuwait's role in providing humanitarian aid globally?

A. Albania highly values Kuwait's distinguished role in international humanitarian work. Kuwait is a model in providing emergency aid and supporting development programs in countries in need, which reflects a strong commitment to universal humanitarian values. We have witnessed this role directly through projects funded by KFAED in education, infrastructure, and health, which have positively impacted citizens' lives.

For Albania, Kuwait is a reliable and trusted partner in regional and international humanitarian initiatives.

Q. Is there existing cooperation between humanitarian organizations in the two countries?

A. Yes, there is active and fruitful cooperation. Zakat House and several Kuwaiti charitable organizations have supported educational and health projects in Albania, including the construction of schools, mosques, and community facilities.

Joint programs are also underway to enhance the capacity of Albanian charities and exchange expertise in managing relief and humanitarian projects. This cooperation embodies the spirit of solidarity between our peoples and strengthens both countries' roles in international humanitarian efforts.

Q. How can coordination between the two countries be expanded in international forums such as the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?

A. Coordination can be strengthened by adopting common positions on humanitarian issues and sharing expertise in sustainable development, environmental protection, and human rights. Albania and Kuwait can launch joint initiatives, support development projects in developing countries, and bolster the role of civil society organizations.

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Jordan-GCC cultural teamwork convenes

Kuwait envoy hails Jordan as ‘beacon’ of Arab culture, arts

AMMAN, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Meri heaped praise on the Hashemite kingdom for serving as a “beacon” of Arab culture and arts, saying that his country’s ties with Amman were firmly on an upward trajectory.

Bilateral relations have witnessed tangible progress, particularly, in the cultural realm, he said in a statement to the press after attending the opening of a 10-day international book fair in the Jordanian capital, in which Kuwait is represented by its National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

He went on to say that Amman’s “cultural cooperation” with Gulf Arab states continues to be on the rise, at a time where a number of joint initiatives and programs are in the works as part of the “strategic partnership” link-



bin Redha



Left: Kuwait’s Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Meri at the Kuwait pavilion during the 10-day international book fair in Amman. Right: Kuwait pavilion at the international book fair.



KUNA photos

ing the Hashemite Kingdom and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council bloc.

Kuwait’s pavilion at the book fair is putting on display a plethora of publications that encapsulate its “cultural presence” on the international stage, said NCCAL Acting Assistant Secre-

tary General for Antiquities and Museums Mohammad bin Redha, hailing the event as a viable platform for pan-Arab cultural exchange.

Praising the efforts to the book fair’s organizers, he said that such meticulous preparations are instrumental in making sure that the event properly de-

picts the prominence of Arab culture.

Earlier, the seventh meeting of the joint Jordan-GCC cultural teamwork was held to discuss strategic partnership between the two sides.

Co-chaired by Kuwait, the head of GCC current session, and Jordan, the gathering also focused on coordinating

stances in regional and international arenas, Assistant Secretary-General for Antiquities and Museums of Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Mohammad bin Redha told KUNA in a statement.

The meeting reviewed the action of plan, which includes organizing cultural

activities and events, and sharing expertise in a manner that contributes to consolidating Islamic and Arab cultural identity and boosting closeness among nations, bin Redha, the head of Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting, added.

Jordan offered proposals on several key topics like digital transformation, cultural heritage and identity, common initiatives, building potential, and co-operating in industry development and innovation, he stated.

The conferees further reviewed the resolutions of the joint committee on the levels of senior officials at the GCG-Jordan Foreign Ministries, he noted.

They discussed the resolutions issued by GCC cultural ministers during their 28th meeting regarding horizons of joint collaboration with Jordan, he pointed out.

In addition, the meeting focused on the future strategies supporting joint cultural action in a way that boosts integration among the two sides, and helps issue proper recommendations to be discussed by the 29th meeting of GCC Cultural Ministers.

KDIPA chief partakes in P3 summit in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (KUNA): Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah took part in the P3 (Public-Private Partnership) Summit on Thursday.

The summit is co-hosted by Teneo and Richard Attias & Associates on the sidelines of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.

Over 80 global CEOs, heads of

state, and senior government leaders attended the event to highlight integration among public and private sectors’ firms to keep pace with the challenges of the 21st Century.

The summit covered some main topics: modernizing firms to be innovation platforms, competitiveness and accelerating Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies, as well as boosting security of food and energy supply chains.



KUNA photo
KDIPA Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the P3 (Public-Private Partnership) Summit.

Kyrgyzstan endorses Kuwait’s human rights proposals at UN

32 new agreements eyed to bolster ties

GENEVA, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva welcomed on Thursday Kyrgyzstan’s endorsement of some essential recommendations, two of them were submitted by Kuwait, on boosting and protecting human rights.

This came in a speech delivered by Diplomatic Attaché Zeyad Abuhaimeid, Kuwait’s Permanent Mission member, within the framework of approving the results of Kyrgyzstan’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as part of the 60th session of the UN Human Right Council in Geneva.

The Kuwaiti recommendations have urged continuing working on the State’s programs to support women’s leading role until 2030 and implementing the State’s policy to prevent crime during 2022-2028, he added. Abuhaimeid said the Kuwaiti mission hoped success to Kyrgyzstan to implement the recommendations it approved.

The UPR was established by the UN General Assembly in resolution in March, 2006. It is a main tool



KUNA photo
Diplomatic Attaché Zeyad Abuhaimeid, Kuwait’s Permanent Mission member, delivers a speech.

of the Human Rights Council through which situations are evaluated in all member states by submitting recommendations of members and the review of national efforts.

Earlier, Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan’s Foreign Ministries held the fourth round of political consultations, with the participation of Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Hayat and Kyrgyzstan’s Deputy Foreign Minister Temirbek Erkinov.

Both sides discussed cooperation in developmental, economic and political fields, amid continued developed ties, upon the directives of the two countries’ supreme political leadership, Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release.

During the talks, they also focused on the drafts of 32 deals and memoranda of understanding in multiple domains and specialties, and they approved to prepare them for signing by the two governments in the first quarter of 2026, it added.

The deals discussed included means of enhancing economic partnership, and expanding investment and trade cooperation, as well as opening new channels of business in both countries, it noted.

They also covered offering further facilitations and incentives to both exporters and importers at the markets of Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan, in a manner that supports trade and investment initiatives in the next phase.

Both sides focused on sharing expertise in innovation, technology, entrepreneurship and financial services, along providing new programs to small and medium-sized companies growth, it noted.

Kyrgyzstan’s political leadership considers Kuwait as a “key strategic partner,” the statement quoted Erkinov as saying.

Continued from Page 1

Keep greedy

It is undeniable that the Arabs and the leaders of the Palestinian factions have always demonstrated their ignorance of the experiences of other peoples and the influence of the Zionist movement. They failed to grasp the significance of the Soviet Union’s prompt recognition of Israel immediately after its declaration at the United Nations.

However, nearly a quarter of a century later, the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was the only one who understood the message and realized that defeating Israel was not possible given the limited Arab capabilities.

It is worth noting that when Sadat requested weapons from the Soviet Union before the October 1973 War, the Soviet response was, “We will fulfill all your requests on one condition that you do not approach the Israeli borders, because they are internationally protected by the superpowers.”

While the Arabs are sincerely demanding peace with Israel, there are those who continue to serve Tel Aviv, foremost among them being the Palestinian factions linked to Iran. Iran uses these factions as pawns to advance its own interests, just as Jamal Abdel Nasser, Hafez al-Assad, the Iraqi Baath Party, and other forces previously exploited the Palestinian cause.

Therefore, the daily tragic scenes in the Gaza Strip are, in fact, the greatest service to Israel, which seeks to evacuate Gaza of its population, along with displacing residents of the West Bank, which is the very nucleus of the Palestinian state.

Is this how Palestine will be liberated?

Shouldn’t we adopt the language of reason and support the efforts of the moderate Arab states that have given the promised Palestinian state the momentum we see today at the United Nations? Isn’t it time for the faction leaders living in luxury hotels to stop investing in the blood and destiny of their own people?

It is important to view President Mahmoud Abbas’s speech at the United Nations as a roadmap for the international community toward the establishment of a Palestinian state.

This goal is closer today than ever, provided that the faction leaders waging war in Gaza and the West Bank from the comfort of hotel suites are fully rejected. Only then can this ongoing tragedy finally come to an end.

Kuwait hands

The statement said the Kuwaiti navy had also intensified cooperation with regional and international partners, exchanged expertise and information, mirroring Kuwait’s effective role in solidifying global maritime security and stability.

The Kuwaiti navy has affirmed it will pursue joint efforts, as part of the Combined Maritime Force (CMF), to enhance readiness to face challenges at sea.

Kuwait, Peru

Al-Ahmad stated, “I am pleased to highlight the strong relations between our two countries, marked by several significant events and milestones witnessed over the past fifty years. Foremost among them is Peru’s courageous support for Kuwait’s just cause during the brutal Iraqi invasion, as well as the continued cooperation and coordination between our nations in international forums, most notably during our joint tenure as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in 2018 and 2019. Our strong and well-established bilateral relations cover a wide range of areas, including trade, investment, culture, and energy, which provides solid momentum for continued cooperation.”

He emphasized both sides’ commitment to strengthening joint efforts for the mutual benefit of the two friendly nations.

Al-Ahmad also congratulated the successful issuance of the joint commemorative postage stamp between Kuwait and Peru, marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He said, “What we see in this design is not just a postage stamp, but a symbol with deeper meaning. As Kuwait’s Red Palace meets Peru’s Real Felipe Castle, it reflects the convergence of two histories and civilizations, despite the geographical distance.”

Al-Ahmad noted that the stamp marks a new phase of co-operation and friendship, reaffirming both countries’ commitment to building bridges of understanding and working together for the benefit of their peoples.

He concluded his speech by saying, “I am confident that our bilateral relations will continue into the future with the same constructive spirit that has defined them over the past five decades, serving the interests of both countries and their peoples.”

Meanwhile, in a recorded speech, the Non-Resident Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of Peru Talal Al-Mansour said on the occasion of the presentation of the commemorative stamp, “I am pleased to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the government and people of the friendly Republic of Peru for their distinguished initiative in issuing a special postage stamp for the State of Kuwait for marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

The issuance of this stamp represents a high-level diplomatic gesture that reflects the respect and appreciation the State of Kuwait enjoys among its friends, and affirms the mutual desire to strengthen the longstanding ties between our two countries.

Despite its modest size, the postage stamp is a powerful diplomatic tool, conveying an official message that reaches a wide audience. It serves as a roving ambassador, symbolizing bilateral relations and enhancing cultural communication with the international community.”

Furthermore, Director General for African, Middle Eastern, and Gulf Affairs Ambassador Jorge Alejandro Raho Carijal also delivered a recorded speech in which he said, “On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Peru and the State of Kuwait, I am honored to address you on this special occasion, represented by the virtual ceremony to present the commemorative postage stamp.

This postage stamp represents more than just a symbolic gesture. It is a tangible expression of the depth of friendship and dialogue that has united our two countries over half a century. It reflects our shared values of cooperation, mutual respect, and a common vision for the future.

Let this commemorative stamp serve as a symbol of the shared history we have built together, and as a source of inspiration to further strengthen our partnership in the years ahead.”

In addition, the Ambassador of Peru to Kuwait Carlos Enrique Tomas Jiménez said, “This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Peru and Kuwait. This cherished occasion carries profound meaning, demonstrating what shared determination can achieve when it transcends geographical distances to build bridges of cooperation and friendship.

We have issued a commemorative stamp to celebrate this milestone, symbolizing the strength and continuing nature of our bilateral relations over the decades.”

Massive Al-Rai

participation of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

The campaign also resulted in KFF issuing 49 citations for safety violations, MoCI closing a commercial activity due to regulatory violations and filing 59 violation reports,

and PAM recording 22 occupational safety violations and six cases of unauthorized employment, and detaining four undocumented workers.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed that these security campaigns are part of an ongoing series of operations in various governorates, aimed at enforcing the law and preserving public order, in close coordination with the relevant authorities.

Kuwait blends

Al-Mutairi affirmed that the future of tourism in Kuwait is promising, with clear plans to attract foreign investment, expand private sector partnerships, and promote domestic tourism. The minister said Kuwait would promote innovative initiatives and intra-regional tourism cooperation during its tenure.

Since the start of 2025, Kuwait has witnessed renewed momentum in tourism, hosting cultural, artistic, and sports events that reinforce its identity as a hub of heritage and modern hospitality.

The upcoming launch of ‘Visit Kuwait’ is expected to further strengthen its image and open new prospects for the sector.

Regionally, the Gulf States are also witnessing strong tourism growth, with the UN Tourism Middle East office based in Riyadh since 2021 supporting sustainable tourism development.

According to the organization, international arrivals to the Middle East in the first half of 2025 grew 29 percent compared to 2019, with countries such as Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, and Egypt recording major gains.

Globally, UN Tourism reported 690 million international tourists between January and June 2025, surpassing pre-pandemic levels by four percent.

The UN World Tourism Organization said global travel demand expects to grow by 3-5 percent in 2025 despite challenges including high transport and accommodation costs, persistent inflation, geopolitical tensions, customs tariffs and travel restriction.

The UN organization includes 160 member states, six associate members and over 500 affiliate members from the private sector, academia, tourism associations and local authorities worldwide. Its mission is to promote tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability.

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili has praised Kuwait’s key role in advancing regional tourism through strategic cooperation and dialogue among Middle Eastern countries, promoting shared goals and collective ambitions.

In a special interview with KUNA on World Tourism Day, he added that Kuwait’s leadership of the UNWTO Middle East Regional Committee for 2025-2027 represents a strategic responsibility, especially in a region proven as a global tourism transformation driver.

Pololikashvili explained that this chairmanship is not only recognition of Kuwait’s commitment to tourism but also an opportunity to enhance regional collaboration and translate common priorities into tangible, practical, and actionable steps across multiple sectors.

He highlighted that Kuwait has been a founding member of UNWTO since 1975, reflecting its long-standing commitment to tourism development aligned with the strategic axis of the National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035), focusing on international standing.

The Georgian secretary-general expressed confidence in Kuwait’s capacity to lead in shaping and coordinating regional strategies focusing on sustainability, digitalization, innovation, education, and connectivity improvements across tourism and related sectors in the Middle East.

Pololikashvili noted that during the 51st meeting of the Middle East Regional Committee held recently in Doha, UNWTO observed strong political will among member states to enhance cooperation in sports tourism, educational

tourism, and luxury tourism.

He emphasized that Kuwait is qualified to lead this momentum, creating synergy between GCC countries and the wider region, contributing to addressing common challenges such as climate change, economic diversification, specialized training, and high-quality job creation.

Pololikashvili confirmed that UNWTO will provide full support to Kuwait in this new role, including reinforcing regional cooperation, achieving shared priorities, while the Middle East regional office in Riyadh will continue playing a key technical role in facilitating initiatives.

Regarding Gulf presence on the global tourism stage, he said Gulf countries have gained increasing influence and activity within UNWTO, reflected in stronger political representation and the launch of strategic initiatives in priority areas for sector development.

He added that the UNWTO General Assembly will approve in its upcoming meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the appointment of Emirati entrepreneur Sheikh Al-Nuaimi as Secretary-General in early 2026, making her the first woman to lead the organization in fifty years.

Pololikashvili highlighted the Gulf’s serious focus on human capital development, noting that the region has advanced educational and professional initiatives, already demonstrating tangible results across training programs, tourism education, and sector capacity-building projects.

He stated that the UNWTO Online Tourism Academy has registered over 30,000 students, with more than fifty percent women, supported by regional partners, and that secondary school tourism education programs are being implemented in multiple Gulf countries.

Pololikashvili further emphasized that the regions commitment to innovation and digitalization is evident in the continuous improvement of training platforms and integration of tools such as artificial intelligence in UNWTO e-learning programs.

He confirmed that the launch of the Middle East regional office in 2021 enhanced UNWTO operational capacity, enabled smoother collaboration, and facilitated project design aligned with local priorities while strengthening connections to the regional tourism ecosystem.



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‘There’s a lot of fear out there’

Trump’s vast federal cuts create distrust on Capitol Hill as govt shutdown risk grows

WASHINGTON, Sept 27, (AP): The money started drying up quickly, almost as soon as US President Donald Trump began issuing his executive orders.

Head Start funds for early childhood programs. National Institutes of Health grants. Funding for the nation’s public libraries and museums. Money from a landmark bipartisan infrastructure law to help schools renovate classrooms and states build electric vehicle charging stations. Federal Emergency Management Agency food and shelter assistance.

“There’s a lot of fear out there,” said Tommy Sheridan, deputy director of the National Head Start Association, whose organization raised early concerns about funding delays that could impact children and families.

While the money is largely flowing again, he said, thanks in large part to Head Start’s track record - celebrating its 60th anniversary this year - “Obviously, we need to make sure our funding is reliable.”

All told, billions upon billions of dollars have been single-handedly stalled, scrapped or withheld by the Trump administration so far this year - with as much as \$410 billion at risk, by certain congressional estimates - in one of the most brazen affronts to the federal process in 50 years, since the budget laws were overhauled in the Nixon era.

Trump’s willingness to order the government agencies to simply halt spending that’s already been approved by Congress and signed into law is a violation, according to a nonpartisan government watchdog. And it’s creating a crisis on Capitol Hill and beyond, with an undercurrent of deep distrust as lawmakers clash over legislation to prevent a federal government shutdown.

“Every single one of us should be deeply alarmed by the lawless course the administration is charting here,” Sen. Patty Murray, the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said at a summer hearing with Trump’s budget director, Russ Vought, a chief architect of Project 2025.

On the surface, the standoff between Congress and the White House looks like a governmental dispute over federal spending levels, and the Trump administration’s desire to end so-called “woke” and wasteful programs across the nation, and the world.

But from DOGE’s budget-slashing



US Senate Majority Leader John Thune, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington on Sept 19. (AP)

efforts under billionaire Elon Musk to the budget rescission packages Vought has sent to Capitol Hill, what’s unfolding is a deeper debate over the separation of powers - raising stark questions over what happens if the White House moves more aggressively to cut House and Senate lawmakers out of the federal funding process.

Kevin Kosar, a scholar at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute.

While past presidents challenged Congress before - Jimmy Carter simply vetoed dozens of spending bills, and George W. Bush used presidential signing statements to carve out sections of legislation he disagreed with - Kosar said what Trump is doing “really garbles the logic” of the entire budget process.

“The rules don’t really apply much any more,” he said.

And it’s coming to an inflection point next week, Sept. 30, when Congress must pass legislation to keep the government from shutting down.

Vought’s office did not respond to a request for an interview, but he has been vocal about his views - and what’s to come.

Writing in Project 2025, Vought explained that “the great challenge” facing a conservative president “is the existential need for aggressive use of the vast powers of the executive branch.”

Vought said this will require a “boldness to bend or break the bureaucracy to the presidential will.”

Since Trump took office in January, the federal watchdog, the Government Accountability Office, has

issued a flurry of notices of violations in a rare reprimand of instances where the Trump administration has failed to unleash the money in accordance with the appropriation laws from Congress.

Among the dozens of investigations GAO opened this year, the funding uncertainty around Head Start, the NIH, museums and libraries, energy and transportation infrastructure programs and FEMA are among those that rose to become violations. More decisions are expected in the days ahead, before the Sept. 30 deadline for the federal government to get certain funds out the door.

Edda Emmanuelli Perez, the general counsel at GAO, which was created more than 100 years ago as a check on federal spending, said presidents have the ability to roll back spending, so long as it follows the process.

“The president has that authority to make these proposals,” she said in an interview.

“If Congress then decides, yes, we agree, we’re going to pass a law to cancel the funds, then the funds get cancelled,” she said. “If Congress does not pass it, then that means the president has to, again, go back to the terms of the law and release those funds.”

Supreme Court extends White House nearly \$5 billion in foreign aid freeze

WASHINGTON, Sept 27, (AP): The Supreme Court has extended an order that allows US President Donald Trump’s administration to keep frozen nearly \$5 billion in foreign aid, handing him another victory in a dispute over presidential power.

With the three liberal justices in dissent, the court’s conservative majority granted the Republican administration’s emergency appeal in a case involving billions of dollars in congressionally approved aid. Trump said last month that he would not spend the money, invoking disputed authority that was last used by a president roughly 50 years ago.

The Justice Department sought the high court’s intervention after US District Judge Amir Ali ruled that Trump’s action was likely illegal and that Congress would have to approve the decision to withhold the funding.

The federal appeals court in Washington declined to put Ali’s ruling on hold, but Chief Justice John Roberts temporarily blocked it on Sept. 9. The full court indefinitely extended Roberts’ order.

The court has previously cleared the way for the Trump administration to strip legal protections from hundreds of thousands of migrants, fire thousands of federal employees, oust transgender members of the military and remove the heads of independent government agencies.



US President Donald Trump (center), is escorted by Air Force Col. Christopher M. Robinson, commander of the 89th Airlift Wing, (right), as he walks from Marine One to board Air Force One on Sept 26 at Joint Base Andrews, Md. (AP)

The legal victories, while not final rulings, all have come through emergency appeals, used sparingly under previous presidencies, to fast-track cases to the Supreme Court, where decisions are often handed down with no explanation.

Trump told House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., in a letter Aug. 28 that he would not spend \$4.9 billion in congressionally approved foreign aid, effectively cutting the budget without going through the legislative branch.

He used what’s known as a

pocket rescission. That’s a rarely used maneuver when a president submits a request to Congress toward the end of a current budget year to not spend the approved money. The late notice essentially flips the script. Under federal law, Congress has to approve the rescission within 45 days or the money must be spent. But the budget year will end before the 45-day window closes, and in this situation the White House is asserting that congressional inaction allows it to not spend the money.

More federal agents to join fight against crime in Memphis next week, says Lee

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sept 27, (AP): For two weeks, Memphis has been bracing for an influx of National Guard troops after President Donald Trump announced his intention to deploy them to the city. On Friday, residents finally learned more about that plan, and it looks to be very different from the deployments in Los Angeles and Washington, DC.

Tennessee Gov Bill Lee said Friday that the troops will be part of a surge of resources to fight crime in the city that includes 13 federal agencies and state troopers. The National Guard troops will be from Tennessee, and they will be deputized by the US Marshals Service to support local law enforcement in the majority Black city.



Tennessee Gov Bill Lee speaks about the National Guard and federal agencies arriving in Memphis, Tenn., during a news conference on Sept 26. (AP)

The Republican governor said the troops will not make arrests and will not be armed unless local law enforcement officials request it. Lee has previously said he doesn’t think there will be more than 150 Guard members deployed to Memphis, but he later said the number is still in the planning stages.

A post on the city’s website says, “Guardsmen and women will be easily identifiable in their standard uniforms that they wear every day. The guardsmen and women will not be wearing masks.” It continues: “Armored tanks will not be a resource used in this mission.”

“The story of crime in Memphis is about to be a story of the past,” Lee said

at a news conference in Memphis where he stood with city, state and federal officials including the Memphis mayor and police chief.

The “Memphis Safe Task Force” will begin operations next week, Lee said. He could not give an exact timeline for when each agency would start to deploy resources to the city, saying it will occur in phases. He said agents from the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives and the Drug Enforcement Administration will arrive next week.

He said he will not declare a state of emergency.

While the Republican governor has embraced federal intervention, Memphis Mayor Paul Young has taken a pragmatic approach. Young, who is a Democrat, has said he never asked for National Guard troops but recognized they will come regardless of his opinion.

King Charles III to make delayed state visit to Vatican

LONDON, Sept 27, (AP): Britain’s King Charles III and Queen Camilla are set to make a state visit to the Vatican in late October, six months after the trip was postponed due to the illness of the late Pope Francis.

While the king and queen delayed their formal state visit in April, they met privately with Francis during their four-day state visit to Italy. Francis died just two weeks after the meeting, which took place on the occasion of the royal couple’s 20th wedding anniversary.

The rescheduled visit will allow Charles and Camilla to join the new pope, Leo XIV, in celebrating the Catholic Church’s 2025 Jubilee Year, Buckingham Palace said in a statement. The Jubilee is a year of reconciliation and pilgrimage that the church celebrates every 25 years.

The visit to the Vatican is also symbolic of the effort to build closer ties between the Catholic Church and the Church of England, which split from



Britain’s King Charles addresses the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome on April 9. (AP)

Rome in the 16th century during the reign of King Henry VIII. Charles, who is head of the Church of England, has made building bridges between people of all faiths a priority since he ascended the throne 2 1/2 years ago.

Also:

ROME: Pope Leo XIV made his first big Vatican appointment Friday, naming an Italian legal expert to replace him as head of the Holy See’s office that vets bishop nominations around the world.

Leo named Archbishop **Filippo Iannone** as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. Leo, the former Cardinal **Robert Prevost**, had headed the important Vatican office for two years until his election as pope in May.

Iannone, 67, is currently the Holy See’s top legislator, as head of the Vatican’s legal office. His transfer, thus, creates another important position Leo will have to fill.



A general view of Aalborg Airport in Denmark on Sept 25 after drones were observed on the airport on Wednesday evening and the night to Thursday, and the airspace over the airport was closed. (AP)

European defense ministers agree to press on with ‘drone wall’ project

BRUSSELS, Sept 27, (AP): European defense ministers have agreed to develop a “drone wall” along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to better detect, track and intercept drones violating Europe’s airspace.

The decision comes after a spate of incidents in which Europe’s borders and airports have been tested by rogue drones. Russia has been blamed for some of them but denies that anything was done on purpose or that it played a role.

“Russia is testing the EU and NATO, and our response must be firm, united and immediate,” EU Defense Commissioner Andrius Kubilius said after chairing a virtual meeting of 10 countries on Europe’s eastern flank. Ukrainian and NATO officials also took part in the talks.

Kubilius said the drone shield could take a year to build, and that envoys from the countries would meet soon to develop “a detailed conceptual and technical roadmap” on the way ahead. The top priority is an “effective detection system,” he said.



EU Commissioner for Defence and Space, former Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius (right) and Finnish Defence Minister Antti Hakkanen take part in a press conference, at the Ministry of Defence in Helsinki, Finland on Sept 26. (AP)

Also:

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: The Danish defense ministry said Saturday that “drones have been observed at several of Danish defense facilities” overnight Friday into Saturday. The renewed drone

sightings come after there were several drone sightings in the Nordic country earlier this week, with some of them temporarily shutting down Danish airports.

The Danish defense ministry did not say where exactly the drones were seen, but several local media reported that one or more were seen near or above the military Karup Air Base.

Danish public broadcaster DR re-

ported that there were drones in the air both inside and outside the fence of the air base at around 8 p.m., quoting **Simon Skeljaer**, the duty manager at the Central and West Jutland Police.

DR said that for a period of time the airspace was closed to civil air traffic, but that did not have much practical significance as there is currently no civil aviation in Karup.

Europe

Moldova bars 2 pro-Russian parties from poll: Moldova’s electoral commission on Friday barred two pro-Russian parties from participating in this weekend’s tense parliamentary election, which is beleaguered by widespread claims of Russian interference.

The outcome of Sunday’s high-stakes vote could determine whether Moldova, a Soviet republic until 1991 and a candidate for European Union membership since 2022, can continue on a path toward the EU or will be brought back under Russia’s orbit.

The parties barred Friday, the Heart of Moldova and Moldova Mare, face allegations of illegal financing and voter bribery.

The Heart of Moldova was one of four parties in the Russia-friendly Patriotic Electoral Bloc, or BEP, which is viewed as one of the main opponents of the ruling pro-Western Party of Action and Solidarity in Sunday’s election. The Moldova Mare was another opposition party, but was widely expected to present less of a challenge. (AP)

Poland reopens border with Belarus: Poland reopened its border with Belarus at midnight on Thursday, nearly two weeks after closing it ahead of Russian-Belarusian military exercises, local media reported.

Three freight rail crossings, Terespol-Brest, Kuznica-Grodno, and Siemianowka-Svisloch, have been reopened for cargo trains. In addition, the Terespol-Brest crossing is now open to passenger vehicles, and the Kukuryki-Kozlowicz crossing has resumed service for trucks, according to the reports.

The manager of CL Europort’s Malszewicz terminal near Terespol-Brest crossing confirmed that freight trains are arriving and said the terminal is expected to be busy in the coming weeks. (Xinhua)

Lithuanian parliament OKs new govt: Lithuania’s parliament approved the 20th government, a coalition formed by the Social Democrats, Nemunas Dawn, and the political group of the Farmers and Greens Union and the Christian Families Alliance.

Asia

Bualoi kills 10 as it hits Philippines: A tropical storm blew out of the central Philippines on Friday, leaving at least 10 dead, knocking down trees and power and prompting the evacuation of more than 433,000 people from landslide- and flood-prone villages long battered by typhoons.

Bualoi was the latest of back-to-back storms from the Pacific to threaten Asia. Typhoon Ragasa, one of the strongest to hit in years, caused at least 28 deaths in the northern Philippines and Taiwan, mostly drownings, before making landfall in China and dissipating on Thursday over Vietnam.

Bualoi made landfall in the Philippine town of San Policarpo in Eastern Samar province Thursday night with sustained winds of 110 kph (68 mph), knocking out power in east-central provinces after toppling trees and electrical posts, setting off flooding and minor landslides and blowing roofs off houses and a grandstand, the country's disaster-mitigation agency and provincial officials said.

More than 433,000 were evacuated to government emergency shelters as the storm approached, including in Albay province, where villagers on the foothills of Mayon, one of the country's most active volcanoes, were asked to move to safety due to possible volcanic mudflows. **Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV** from the civil defense office told reporters.

Two villagers were killed after being pinned by a fallen tree and a concrete wall that collapsed and a third drowned in the hard-hit central province of Masbate. Seven villagers reportedly died in central Biliran province, mostly due to flash floods, Alejandro said. (AP)



Alejandro IV

Cambodia, Thailand trade accusations: Cambodia said on Saturday that the Thai armed forces have fired mortars at a Cambodian military base in Preah Vihear province. On the same day, Thailand's army said its troops responded under strict protocols after Cambodian forces fired small arms and grenade launchers towards Thai positions.

Cambodian Defense Ministry's Undersecretary of State and Spokesperson Maly Socheata said in a press release that at approximately 11:52 a.m., Thai military forces "initiated an attack on Cambodian military positions by firing many shots of mortar and small arms at the Cambodian base in the An Seh area."

"As of now, the Cambodian armed forces continue to monitor this development with the utmost caution and attention, and are fully prepared to defend territorial integrity," she added.

Thailand's army spokesman Winthai Suwaree said on X that between approximately 12:00 and 12:30, the army received reports from the Second Army Area that Cambodian soldiers fired small arms and grenade launchers towards Thai positions at Chong An Ma in Ubol Ratchathani province. (Xinhua)

Crime in Australia's Victoria rises: The number of criminal incidents reported in the southeast Australian state of Victoria rose by over 18 percent to a record high in 2024-25, according to official figures released.

The data, which was published by Victoria's Crime Statistics Agency (CSA), showed that there were 483,583 criminal incidents recorded in the state in the 12 months to the end of June.

It represents an increase of 18.3 percent from the preceding 12 months and the highest number of reported criminal incidents in Victoria since reporting began in 2004-05.

The CSA data showed that reported incidents of theft from motor vehicles increased by 39.4 percent to 86,351 in the 12 months to June, making it the fastest-growing and most common crime in the state. (Xinhua)



An aerial drone photo taken on Sept 27, 2025 shows tents at Majiaqu Village of Wenfeng Town in Longxi County, Dingxi City, northwest China's Gansu Province. (Xinhua)

5.6-magnitude quake hits NW China's Gansu, injuring 9

A 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck Longxi County in Dingxi City in northwest China's Gansu Province at 5:49 a.m. Saturday, the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC) said.

The epicenter was monitored at 34.91 degrees north latitude and 104.58 degrees east longitude. The earthquake struck at a depth of 10 km, the CENC said.

The quake was strongly felt in Longxi County, Zhangxian County, Weiyuan County and Lintao County in Dingxi City and Wushan County in Tianshui City.

The quake had left nine people injured, 4,328 hous-

es damaged, and 7,812 people relocated as of midday Saturday in Longxi and Zhangxian counties of Dingxi City, according to the quake relief command center of Dingxi.

On the way to Hualin Village in Wenfeng Township, Longxi County, a region that was relatively heavily impacted, some sections of the road were scattered with fallen debris and rocks, but traffic was still flowing. Rescue workers, including firefighters and police officers, could be seen directing traffic and conducting risk assessments. (Xinhua)

Military fires warning shots to repel N.Korean vessel breaching sea boundary

S.Korea's president asks Trump to be 'peacemaker' with North Korea, says top diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27, (AP): South Korea's president has asked President Donald Trump to become "a peacemaker" and use his leadership to get North Korea to talks to reduce military tensions on the Korean Peninsula, the South's top diplomat said Friday.

Trump "welcomed" the request from President Lee Jae Myung and "he expressed his willingness to be engaged with North Korea again," Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said in an interview with The Associated Press. There was no immediate word from the White House.

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met three times as North Korea was building a nuclear weapons stockpile, which Kim views as key to the country's security and his continued rule of the northeast Asian nation.

There were two summits in Singapore in June 2018, and in Vietnam in February 2019, where Trump and Kim disagreed about US-led sanctions against the North. A third meeting that year at the border between the two Koreas failed to salvage their nuclear talks and Kim has since shunned any diplomacy with the US and South Korea.

"It would be fantastic if they met with each other in the near future," Cho said. "And President Lee Jae Myung made it clear to President Trump that he will not be sitting in the driver's seat. He asked president Trump to become a peacemaker, and he relegated himself to become a pacemaker," the foreign minister said. "We don't mind. On the contrary, we want president Trump (to) exercise his leadership to pull North Korea to dialogue table."

Since Trump returned to power in January, he has repeatedly expressed hope of restarting talks with Kim. The North Korean leader said Monday he still has "good memories" of Trump but urged the United States to drop its demand that the North surrender its nuclear arms as a precondition for resuming long-stalled diplomacy.

Trump is expected to visit South Korea next month to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which has prompted media speculation that he might meet Kim again at the border. Trump is also expected to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping during that meeting.

The foreign minister said Lee asked Trump to take the lead because the world has changed and become "much more precarious" since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.



South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun speaks at the Republic of Korea Mission in New York during the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 26. (AP)

"Accordingly, we are equally worried about any possible military skirmish on the Korean Peninsula," Cho said. "So we are compelled to explore dialogues with North Korea to reduce the military tension, and at least we want to have a hotline." He stressed that denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula "is the imperative - we cannot let it go."

Early Friday, South Korea's military said it fired warning shots to drive away a North Korean merchant ship that briefly crossed the disputed western sea boundary between the two countries, amid continuing high tensions.

"I'm not surprised at all," Cho said, "but this incident justifies the policy of the

new government that we need to have a hotline between the militaries, reduce the military tension and build confidence between the two parties."

Lee, who headed the left-leaning Democratic Party, won a snap election in June following the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol after his short-lived imposition of martial law in December. Cho, a career diplomat and former UN ambassador, took office as foreign minister on July 19.

In Lee's speech to the annual meeting of world leaders at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, he said South Korea has come back to the international community as a normal state after the domestic turmoil and has demonstrated its commitment to democracy.

Cho said he felt "a bit uncomfortable" talking about the previous government compared to the current government, since Yoon was elected. But Cho recalled that when Yoon, who had been a prosecutor, was elected, he was convinced "he would become an aberration."

Since becoming foreign minister, Cho said he has been explaining to neighboring countries, including during visits to Japan and China, that the new government "is determined to seek peace on the Korean Peninsula and also in northeast Asia."

He said the government wants to engage China and he had a "very good constructive meeting" with Foreign Minister Wang Yi, "but I made it clear that there are certain things we cannot accept."

Cho referred to China's installation of "something" in the Yellow Sea that infringes on South Korea's sovereignty. "So we made it clear that it be removed. Otherwise, we would think about taking proper measures," he said.

Cho flew to Washington immediately after a massive raid by US immigration officers at a Hyundai plant in southeast Georgia detained 475 people, the majority of them South Koreans. It became a major diplomatic issue between the two countries.

The minister said Trump intervened and wanted them to remain, but they were chained and handcuffed and his primary objective was to get them back home.

Cho said his talks with Secretary of State Marco Rubio ended up having "a silver lining" because obtaining visas for South Korean workers has been a long-standing problem and "we were able to address this issue squarely and we will be able to sort out the problem."

'Latest sign of warming relations'

Trump holds talks with Pakistan's PM

WASHINGTON, Sept 27, (AP): US President Donald Trump hosted Pakistan's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, for talks at the White House in the latest sign of warming relations between the United States and the South Asian nuclear power.

Sharif was among the top officials from eight Arab or Muslim countries who met with Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this week to discuss strategy on ending the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Ties have improved between the US and Pakistan as Trump's relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, one of the Republican president's closest with a world leader during his first term, has become strained over India's increased purchases of discounted Russian oil after Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022. India and Pakistan are neighbors and fierce rivals.

Trump has dramatically raised tariffs on India for those oil purchases in an effort to put indirect economic pressure on Moscow.

Meanwhile, the US and Pakistan reached a trade agreement in July that is expected to allow Washington to help develop Pakistan's largely untapped oil reserves and lower tariffs



Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, left, and Gen. Syed Asim Munir wait for their meeting with President Donald Trump, in the Oval Office at the White House on Sept 25, in Washington. (AP)

for Islamabad.

Sharif arrived at the White House shortly before 5 pm as Trump was signing executive orders and talking with reporters. The meeting between the two leaders was closed to the media, with Pakistan's delegation leaving the White House at 6:18 pm.

According to a statement from Sharif's office, he was accompanied by Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal

Asim Munir. It said Sharif praised Trump as a "man of peace" whose leadership helped avert a catastrophe by facilitating the May ceasefire with India.

Sharif thanked Trump for the US-Pakistan tariff arrangement concluded earlier this year and invited American companies to invest in Pakistan's agriculture, information technology, mining and energy sectors, it said.

World leaders step up efforts behind the scenes at UN to end war in Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27, (AP): Behind the scenes at the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations, key countries and regional organizations have been coordinating efforts to try to end the horrific war in Sudan, which has created the most devastating humanitarian and displacement crisis in the world.

Alan Boswell, the International Crisis Group's project director for the Horn of Africa, said this year's high-level General Assembly meeting, which ends Monday, could be "make-or-break" for stopping the conflict.

"For the first time since the war broke out more than two years ago, Sudan's most influential outside powers agreed this month on a roadmap to end the war," he said in a statement. "Now comes the huge task of trying to convince Sudan's warring parties to stop fighting." Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its rival military and paramilitary commanders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to western Darfur and much of the rest of the country.

At least 40,000 people have been killed, nearly 13 million displaced and many pushed to the brink of famine with over 24 million acutely food insecure, UN agencies say.

In a key development after a summer of discussions, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates issued a joint statement on Sept. 12 calling for a humanitar-

ian truce for an initial three months to deliver desperately needed aid throughout Sudan followed by a permanent ceasefire. Then, the four countries said, "an inclusive and transparent transition process should be launched and concluded within nine months to meet the aspirations of the Sudanese people towards smoothly establishing an independent, civilian-led government with broad-based legitimacy and accountability."

The group, calling themselves the Quad, met Wednesday on the sidelines of the assembly to discuss implementation of their roadmap.

Another meeting also focused on de-escalating the war was convened Wednesday by the African Union, the European Union and the foreign ministers of Germany, France and the United Kingdom. Representatives of the Quad, a dozen other countries, the Arab League, the United Nations and the east Africa regional group IGAD also attended.

A statement issued by the AU, EU, France, Germany, UK, Denmark, Norway and Canada after the meeting urged the warring government and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces to resume direct negotiations to achieve a permanent ceasefire.

It welcomed the Sept. 12 statement by the Quad, and expressed support for efforts by the AU and the EU "to coordinate international and bilateral efforts to pressure all Sudanese parties towards a ceasefire, humanitarian action and political dialogue."

Long lines formed at many polling stations across the country Saturday. Electoral authorities said all stations opened on time and voting was proceeding smoothly. (AP)

Madagascar imposes nighttime curfew: The government of the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar imposed a nighttime curfew following protests, which saw police use rubber bullets and tear gas to quash demonstrations over ongoing water and power cuts.

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets to voice their anger over persistent power cuts, which often leave homes and businesses without electricity for over 12 hours. (AP)

Africa

Seychelles prez seeks second term: The people of Seychelles voted Saturday in an election to choose a new leader and parliament, with President Wavel Ramkalawan seeking a second term in Africa's smallest country.

Ramkalawan's chief political rival, Patrick Herminie of the United Seychelles Party, is a veteran lawmaker and parliamentary speaker from 2007 to 2016.

Polls opened at 7 am in a sign of what was expected to be a strong voter turnout in the tourist haven, where the president is elected for a five-year term.



Relatives and demonstrators march to mark the 11th anniversary of the disappearance of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College, in Mexico City on Sept 26. (AP)

come a symbol for ongoing corruption, cartel violence and the plight of the more than 133,000 disappeared people in Mexico. The number 43 and the faces of the students continue to dot the country's capital in monuments and graffiti as a constant reminder of one the greatest crimes in Mexico's

modern history.

While authorities say investigations are ongoing, families of victims protesting on Friday said they still don't have clarity over what happened to their loved ones, something that infuses their cries for justice with more pain every year.

Kuwait crude oil rises to \$72.74 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil gained one cent during Friday's trading to reach USD 72.74 per barrel compared with USD 72.73 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Saturday.

Brent Futures also rose 71 cents to USD 70.13 pb and West Texas Intermediate 74 cents to reach USD 65.72 pb.

Business

The most rewarding youth card in Kuwait

Gulf Bank integrates red Plus card into Gulf Points



Gulf Bank pavilion at the Assima Mall.



A large number of young people turning to open a red account and benefit from the advantages of red Plus.



Rawan Behbehani paints on glass.



Children's happiness with the Neo account game.



Gulf Bank team, including General Manager of Personal Banking, Bader Al-Ali and Chief Marketing Officer, Najla Al-Essa.



iPhone winner in the first day's draw.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Gulf Bank has taken another bold step toward empowering the next generation by announcing the integration of its red Plus prepaid card into the Gulf Points loyalty program. This milestone positions red Plus as the most rewarding youth card in Kuwait's banking sector and underscores the Bank's commitment to delivering innovative solutions designed around the aspirations of young people.

The addition of red Plus to Gulf Points marks a significant turning point in the way Gulf Bank engages with youth. Beyond its existing benefits, the card now offers students and young customers an immediate reward of 5,000 Gulf Points when transferring their student allowance to the red account. Locally, every Kuwaiti dinar spent earns them five points, while international spending doubles the rewards with ten points per dinar or equivalent in foreign currencies. To top it off, cardholders enjoy daily 50% discounts on up to five cinema tickets; two from VOX Cinemas and three from Cinescape, making entertainment an integral part of the red experience.

These benefits not only redefine the concept of a prepaid youth card, but also reflect a deep understanding of the modern young lifestyle, balancing smart money management with travel, shopping, and social experiences.

Gulf Points – Beyond Cashback

The Gulf Points program itself is one of the most comprehensive loyalty schemes in Kuwait, offering Gulf Bank credit cardholders multiple ways to turn everyday spending into meaningful rewards. From shopping directly through the country's first-of-its-kind points-based eStore, to sharing points with family and friends as digital gifts, to instant cashback conversion on credit cards, and even redeeming them for flights, hotels, and car rentals worldwide, the program creates an ecosystem of choices that align with the fast-paced lives of today's youth.

By weaving red Plus into this framework, Gulf Bank is expanding opportunities for young customers to enjoy tangible value in every interaction with the bank.

The Spirit of "upgrade red'y"

To celebrate this launch, Gulf Bank hosted the "upgrade red'y" Marketing Communications campaign at Assima Mall from September 25 to 27. Over three days, the Bank's booth turned into a vibrant youth hub, drawing in crowds of students eager to explore the benefits of red and red Plus.

- 5,000 instant welcome points for those who transfer their student allowance to the red account, along with 50% daily discounts on 5 cinema tickets.
- The highest earning among Gulf Bank cards, with 5 points for every dinar spent locally and 10 points for every dinar spent abroad.
- Access to the wide range of benefits offered by the Gulf Points program, in addition to cashback.

The campaign blended banking with fun, offering games, giveaways, and live interactions.

The highlight was a prize draw that rewarded lucky winners with the latest iPhone 17 devices, creating a sense of excitement that perfectly mirrored the energy of the youth community Gulf Bank serves.

A Digital Experience Built for Youth

Complementing these initiatives is Gulf Bank's award-winning mobile app, rated the highest in Kuwait. For young customers who live digitally, the app offers seamless account and card management, instant redemption of Gulf Points, full access to the Gulf Points eStore, telco bills payments and even purchasing iTunes vouchers and lots of other features. This is more than just a banking app. It is a lifestyle companion designed to put financial control directly in the hands of the next generation.

Designed by Youth, for Youth

What sets red apart is not only what it offers, but also how it was created. From day one, Gulf Bank ensured that the red account and its products reflected the voice of the very generation they were designed to serve. Even the Bank's latest campaign carries this philosophy, featuring artwork entirely illustrated by Rawan Bahbahani, a talented young Kuwaiti who brought her creativity to life through sketches and doodles that captured the youthful spirit of red. This collaboration reflects Gulf Bank's belief that the best way to speak to youth is through youth themselves.

Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

These initiatives are part of Gulf Bank's long-term strategy to position itself as the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the future. By combining innovative

financial products, a robust rewards program, interactive campaigns, and experiences that go beyond banking, the bank continues to demonstrate its commitment to investing in the leaders of tomorrow.

Gulf Bank firmly believes that the students of today are the decision-makers of tomorrow, and that empowering them with the right tools, knowledge, and experiences is an investment in the future of Kuwait itself. With red and red Plus, Gulf Bank is not only providing banking solutions but also building a culture of empowerment, responsibility, and inspiration for an entire generation.

A Cinema Night to Remember

In addition to the mall activation, Gulf Bank brought over 300 of its red customers together for an exclusive movie night at Cinescope Cinema in Assima Mall, featuring a blockbuster starring Leonardo DiCaprio. The event wasn't just about entertainment; it was about creating shared moments and building stronger connections with young customers by going beyond traditional banking touch points.

Supporting Financial Literacy through "Diraya"

Gulf Bank's efforts extend beyond rewards and entertainment. As a proud supporter of the "Diraya" campaign led by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association, Gulf Bank is committed to promoting financial literacy among youth. The red Plus prepaid card plays a vital role in this mission. With its prepaid nature, it allows young people to set clear boundaries for their monthly spending, practice real-life budgeting, and learn to make thoughtful financial decisions. By linking rewards to responsible spending, the card becomes a practical tool for embedding awareness and discipline in everyday money management—values that align with the goals of Diraya and the future financial stability of Kuwait's youth.

Gifts and Priority Access to Purchase the New iPhone 17

As part of its partnership with Gulf Bank, stc- Kuwait Telecom Company is offering visitors to the Gulf Bank booth at Assima Mall a variety of gifts, especially for the youth. In addition, a number of new red Account customers and new red Plus prepaid cardholders will be granted to purchase the new iPhone 17.

Other Voices

Can OPEC+ add more oil to the market, or has it reached its production capacity limit?

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

ACCORDING to oil analysts, the organization appears to have hit its production limit, as it has consistently failed to meet its targets.

Despite Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer, joining OPEC+, the group still falls short by more than 500,000 barrels per day. The so-called oil glut has not materialized, with prices remaining below \$70 a barrel, despite OPEC+'s inability to increase output.

Among OPEC members, only Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have the capacity to boost production, but no additional barrels have been added. This raises concerns about keeping the oil market tight. If these two countries have spare capacity, why aren't they producing more? Could this be an attempt to keep oil prices firm in the hope of further price increases per barrel?

Has the world reached its limit on oil production? If so, why are oil prices still under \$70 in international markets?

Since April 2023, following an agreement to cut output and support prices, OPEC+ has gradually increased production. There still appears to be around 3.5 million barrels per day of spare capacity, mainly in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. However, this idle capacity remains unused, likely to maintain price stability and prevent further declines.

However, when will OPEC+ ask its members, mainly Iraq and Kazakhstan, to increase oil supply to the market, or will they wait for a

stronger, more sustained rise in oil prices? Another consideration is whether the organization will wait for clearer signs of a tightening oil market before agreeing to push more volumes into the market, aiming to avoid further price weakness.

OPEC+ seeks to maintain order in the oil markets under its umbrella, ideally with full participation and commitment from all members in line with its agreements and responsibilities to the international oil market.

OPEC+ plans to increase production starting next month, October, by adding an additional 137,000 barrels per day. However, oil analysts doubt that the full volume will reach the market, estimating the actual increase closer to 80,000 barrels per day, as the group is likely to fall short of the agreed target of 137,000 barrels.

The main concern is whether OPEC+ will have spare oil capacity exceeding 2.5 million barrels per day by next year. The question is whether oil producers will choose to increase production in search of more oil or hold back to keep the market uncertain and firm up prices.

The American experience is notable, as the U.S. has quietly ramped up crude oil production to nearly 13.6 million barrels per day, making it the world's top producer. This aggressive



Kamel Al-Harami

output aims to protect their oil market, maintain energy independence, and reduce imports. However, this goal remains unmet, as U.S. crude oil demand exceeds 20 million barrels per day, while production is around 13.5 million barrels per day. This leaves a gap of about 6 to 7 million barrels per day that must be imported from various parts of the world.

Although the U.S. market is not the most lucrative for producers, it offers some of the lowest prices compared to global markets. As the largest consumer, the U.S. still represents an important outlet for oil sales, especially when other markets may be limited.

The question is whether OPEC can add more crude oil to the market. Perhaps it can and will. The main issue is whether the netback, or the selling price, is attractive enough to sell to the U.S., or if the U.S. market is used as a last-resort outlet, accepting lower income but still generating some cash in the absence of more rewarding markets.

The U.S. oil market is massive, and it is worth being a player in such a large outlet, if only for the record, despite prices being \$4-\$5 per barrel lower than other crude benchmarks. Can OPEC+ produce more oil? The answer is yes, it can and likely will. The real question is at what price level, and whether additional production is driven by the need to generate cash to balance annual budgets, especially in the absence of new alternatives.

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Expo focuses on food sustainability, innovation

Kuwait praises World Food India '25 as global food partnership platform

NEW DELHI, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to India Mishal Mustafa Al-Shemali said on Friday that the World Food India 2025, which kicked off in New Delhi with the participation of 21 countries and 150 international participants, is a great platform for establishing partnerships with global food markets.

In a statement to KUNA, Ambassador Al-Shemali affirmed that this year's Indian global food expo, held from September 25 to 28, enjoys significant patronage and support from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, given its importance for economic development and investment in the food sector, and considering India's role as a major food production and export hub for the world.

This year's expo will focus on the sustainability of food markets, infrastructure for food production and agriculture, promoting innovations and ideas to maintain a favorable climate for agriculture, and focusing on developing food production technologies.

The Ambassador added that the food expo is a suitable platform for establishing strategic partnerships with global food markets, particularly with the Indian food market, which is one of the world's most important food baskets and contributes to global food security through abundant produc-

tion and diverse exports.

In his remarks at the opening of the expo, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that the event provides an opportunity for all stakeholders in the food sector including farmers, business people, investors, and consumers to network, exchange experiences, and foster innovation.

The expo will highlight India's potential in the food-processing sector, promote food sustainability, and encourage the production of healthy and organic food.

Modi emphasized India's importance as a global investment destination in the food sector, citing its diversity, high demand, and large economy. He stated that India produces all types of grains, fruits, and vegetables, making it unique in the world. Modi stressed that India continuously contributes to global food security amid various challenges facing the world in the 21st century, noting that policies supporting farmers, livestock herders, and fishermen have enabled India to consistently increase its production capacity.

He pointed out that India is the world's largest producer of dairy products, accounting for 25% of global production, and is among the largest producers of millets, ranking second globally in rice and wheat production, while also making significant contributions to fruit, vegetable, and fish production.

KPI and WEX launch joint fuel card in Italy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and the European services company WEX are to launch a joint fuel card (CartissimaQ8 - WEX) in the Italian market, part of a strategic partnership between the two sides.

In a statement to KUNA Friday, KPI said that this step comes to strengthen its presence by opening a new sales channel in cooperation with WEX, a global platform specializing in facilitating business solutions, with the aim of providing more effective services to fleet and corporate customers across Italy.

The statement quoted the Kuwait Petroleum International CEO, Shafi Al-Ajmi, as saying that this agreement represents a strategic step that reflects the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's 2040 vision, which aims to enhance the global expansion of its subsidiaries and adopt innovative and sus-

tainable solutions in the energy sector.

He stated that this agreement represents an additional step towards expanding the reach of the CartissimaQ8 card, which is considered one of the most prominent solutions in the Italian fuel card market. The agreement will give WEX customers access to a network of more than 3,400 service stations, including Q8, Q8easy, and authorized partners, in addition to benefiting from new generation fuels such as Q8 HVO and Q8 Hi Perform, which combine high performance with sustainable mobility, he added.

In turn, Director of the Cards and Digital Payments Sector at Kuwait Petroleum International's branch in Italy, Vincenzo Maniacci affirmed that this partnership is a strategic step that strengthens the company's position in the fuel card market and confirms the value of the CartissimaQ8 card as an integrated solution for corporate fleets.

Cementing its leading position within the banking sector in Kuwait

Burgan Bank wins J.P. Morgan Elite Quality Recognition Award for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: In line with its mission to deliver an excellent customer experience and lead with innovation, Burgan Bank announced receiving the coveted ‘Elite Quality Recognition Award’ for the year 2024 from J.P. Morgan Chase N.A. in recognition of its consistently high-quality performance. The award acknowledges the Bank’s committed adherence to the highest operational standards across the full range of clients’ USD fund transfers by the management and staff.

Burgan Bank received the award in light of achieving 99.87% straight-through processing (STP) in the MT103 category and 100% in the MT202 category of payments, which entitles the Bank to the ‘Elite Quality Recognition Award’ in both categories. Highlighting the best-in-class STP rates, Burgan Bank was among a few banks across the MENA region to receive the Elite category of the award for both its customer and bank-to-bank transfers.

Commenting on the Bank’s accomplishment, Mr. Mohammad Al Zayed, General Manager – Operations at Burgan Bank, said: “As



Mr. Mohammad Al Zayed, General Manager – Operations at Burgan Bank

we have been honored with this prestigious award for achieving a 100% score in STP, this outstanding result reflects our continued commitment to operational excellence, efficiency and innovation in processing transactions seamlessly and accurately. Achieving a perfect score of 100% places Burgan Bank among the top – performing institutions recognized for setting industry benchmarks in



The Burgan Bank team receiving the awards from the JP Morgan Chase team.

automation and service quality. It is a testament to the dedication of our team and our relentless focus on delivering excellence through every step of the transaction process.

Al Zayed added that by scoring 100% in STP, Burgan Bank sets a new standard of quality service within the Bank and Kuwait’s local banking market; thus, confirming its steadfast adherence to its vision for being the most progressive bank in Kuwait, whilst being driven by

its employees, customers, and community to deliver the best-in-class products and services that cater to the customers’ requirements and aspirations.

Divided into two groups, the 2024 Quality Recognition Awards are each designated by a SWIFT message type (MT) within which the awards are presented to those who achieve optimal performance. The MT103 awards are based on a minimum of USD 10,000 MT103 debit transactions, wherein the

Quality Recognition Award applies to 90% to 98.9% STP rates. Meanwhile, the Elite Quality Recognition Award applies to 99.0% and higher STP rates. The MT202 awards are based on a minimum of USD 8,000 MT202 debit transactions, which constitutes the Quality Recognition Award from 98% to 99.69% STP rates. This is followed by the Elite Quality Recognition Award, which applies to a 99.7% STP rate and higher.

It is worth noting that Burgan

Bank received multiple awards in 2024, underscoring the Bank’s commitment to excellence and its outstanding performance on multiple fronts. These include Global Private Banker MEA Awards’ “Best Private Bank for High-Net-Worth Clients”, “Best Private Bank for Credit”, and “Best Private Bank for Fixed Income Securities” accolades, Euromoney’s “Best Domestic Bank in Kuwait” award, and World Business Outlook’s “Best Digital Bank Turkey” award.



The J.P. Morgan Chase Awards.

Kuwait’s economy rebounds on higher oil output, fiscal discipline, and non-oil sector momentum

By National Bank of Kuwait

Recent data releases continue to signal a broadly improving growth climate, from robust domestic credit growth and rising real estate activity to higher project awards and still-solid non-oil PMI readings. Economic growth is also being boosted – for the first time in two years – by increased crude oil production as Kuwait accelerates the unwinding of two previous tranches of the OPEC-mandated production cuts.

Monetary policy remains on a more accommodative path, with the central bank in September cutting its benchmark interest rate. Meanwhile, the government’s fiscal deficit came in smaller than expected in FY24/25, providing a stronger baseline for this year. We have revised down our oil price outlook for 2026 to \$65/bbl (from \$70 previously) and this will likely result in a wider deficit next year, but with sovereign debt issuance now proceeding apace, the liquidity picture looks less constrained. Higher oil production has led us to upgrade our forecast for GDP growth in 2025 and 2026 to 2.4% and 4.1%, respectively, with non-oil growth also improving to 3.2% in 2026 from 2.2% this year helped by refining sector gains.

Latest developments

The price of Kuwait Export Crude stood at around \$72/bbl in mid-September, and has managed to keep its head above the symbolic \$70/bbl level for much of Q3 (averaging \$71.4/bbl) despite oversupply concerns and global macro and oil demand worries due to global trade tariffs. This is likely related to stockpiling in Asia, weaker-than-expected production increases outside the OPEC-8 group and the prospect of further sanctions on Russian and Iranian oil supplies. Nevertheless, amid uncertain oil demand prospects, the decision by the OPEC-8 group to accelerate the unwinding of the second tranche of voluntary supply cuts (1.65 mb/d) from 2023 after completing the first tranche (2.2 mb/d) in September one-year ahead of schedule has intensified the bearish bias to the oil price outlook, with the consensus now seeing the oil market tip into oversupply and stock builds in 2026. Kuwait’s production target for October is 2.56 mb/d (+11 kb/d m/m).

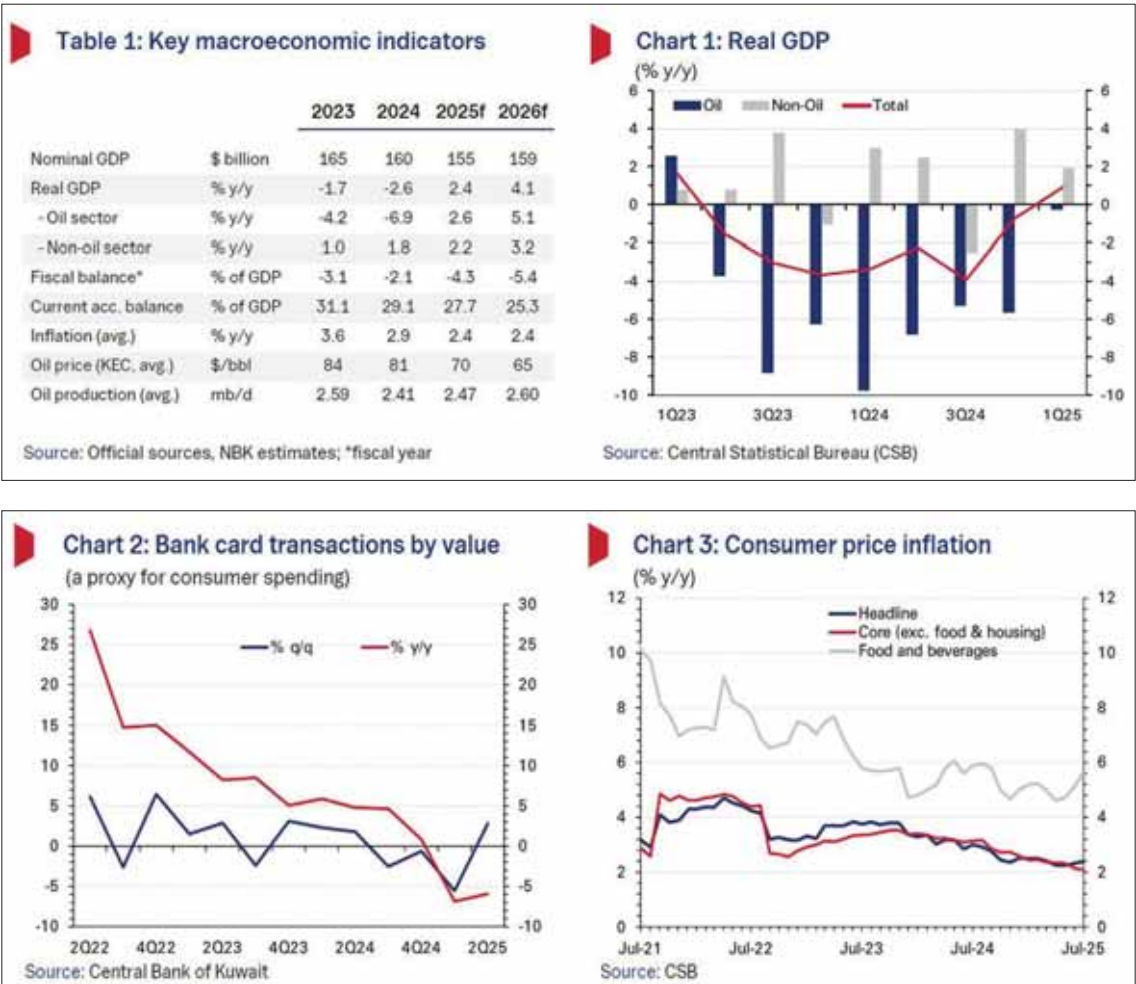
The economy returned to growth in Q1 2025, with total GDP up 1% y/y versus -0.7% in Q4 24 and the first expansion since Q1 2023. This was driven by a much smaller contraction in oil GDP of only 0.3% y/y compared to 5.7% in the previous quarter as the base effects from voluntary production cuts faded. Meanwhile, growth in the non-oil economy eased to 2% y/y from a rapid 4% in Q4 24, with notable slowdowns in the manufacturing (4.3%), real estate (3.2%), and transport (4.5%) sectors. Growth accelerated in the public administration & defense (1%) and financial intermediation (3.2%) sectors, the two largest components of non-oil GDP.

Non-oil private sector activity softened in August, with the PMI retreating to 53, the slowest rate of growth since March albeit well above its historic average of 49. Growth in both output and new orders eased with the former continuing its four-month decelerating trend – though both remained at solid mid-50s levels. Employment grew marginally in both July and August.

Local consumer spending (proxied by card transactions data from the CBK) fell 5.4% y/y in Q2 2025, logging a second straight year-on-year decline. Much of this weakness in our view reflects payback after a period of extremely strong growth in earlier years (especially 2021 and 2022). But in addition, fiscal restraint on the part of the government (especially moves to control the wage bill) and still elevated (if declining) borrowing costs compared to previous years are playing a role.

CPI inflation edged up to 2.4% in July on rising prices in the food & beverages category, which grew 5.6% y/y, its fastest increase in 10 months. Housing services inflation was steady at 1%, though. Most CPI components were unchanged last month, helping keep the core inflation rate steady at only 2.1% and lower than the 3%+ rates recorded most of last year.

Real estate sales in August hit their highest level since mid-2018, continuing the strong overall trend seen through the traditionally slower summer months. Sales in August came in at KD 472 million, almost 84% higher year-on-year and the highest monthly reading in more than seven years. Annual gains were driven by the residential (+51% y/y to KD133m) and especially commercial sectors (+293% to KD240m), the former benefiting from August 2024’s low base, while the investment sector logged a decline (-8% to KD99m) in August. The



real estate sector will welcome the news in September that the draft housing finance law was submitted for final approval and that the Public Authority for Housing Welfare plans to develop three residential zones in partnership with the private sector in Al-Mutlaa City, East Saad Al-Abdullah, and West Saad Al-Abdullah.

Projects awards jumped in August after the signing of the Al-Zour North IWPP project (Phases 2 & 3). Total awards stand at KD2.05 billion YTD, according to MEED Projects (KD2.6bn in full-year 2024). The power & water sector accounts for the bulk of activity this year, followed by transport.

Closing fiscal accounts for FY2024/25 revealed a smaller deficit. The government posted in FY2024/25 (ending March) a deficit of KD1.05 billion (2.2% of GDP), improving on the deficit of KD 1.6 billion in the previous fiscal year and significantly below the KD 5.6 billion deficit projected in the budget. The smaller deficit was driven by reduced current spending, which declined 8.3% y/y to KD23.1 billion amid reduced outlays for goods and services (-30%) and grants (-11%). Capex also fell, to KD1.1 billion, a historical low. Oil revenues, impacted by a decline in both crude oil production and prices, fell 10.8% y/y, pushing total state revenues down by 6.7% y/y. Helping to soften the decrease was robust growth in non-oil revenues of 28% y/y, driven by a rise in collected taxes and fees.

Following the approval of the public debt law in April, the government via the central bank issued KD1.3 billion in public debt from June to mid-September. The dinar-dominated debt has tenors of 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 years. In addition, the government is expected to tap international markets for FX denominated debt, likely from Q4 onwards. These recent issuances will boost liquidity and help in the implementation of vision 2035-related projects. Following recent issues, outstanding public debt stands at 5.6% of GDP, still very low by international standards.

Kuwait’s population edged over 5 million in June 2025 for the first time, according to data from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). The total population rose by 3.7% y/y to 5.1 million, driven by non-Kuwaitis (3.7% y/y). The number of Kuwaitis logged a rare decline (-0.6% to 1.55 million) linked more to government policy than the underlying demographic trend. (Report here). Overall employment grew by a solid 3.2% y/y but Kuwaiti employment dropped by 3.4%.

Domestic credit grew by a solid 0.9% m/m in July, helped by a broad-based increase in lending. This pushed up the year-on-year rate to a more than 2-year high of 7.5%. Credit to households recorded the fastest monthly increase in three years, while lending to businesses rebounded following a weak reading in June. Meanwhile, strong growth in pri-

vate sector deposits lifted overall resident deposits by 4.2% y/y in July.

The Central Bank of Kuwait followed the US Fed in cutting interest rates in September. The bank reduced its key discount rate by 25 bps to 3.75% after the Fed cut its benchmark rate by the same amount. This was only the second CBK cut since the Fed embarked on its monetary easing cycle last September (-50 bps cumulatively versus -125 bps for the US Fed).

Forecast

Economic growth to turn positive in 2025-26

Economic growth will turn positive in 2025 (2.4%) after two years of oil sector-led declines, and accelerate further in 2026 (4.1%). This is an upgrade from our previous forecast of 3.5% in 2026. An increase in oil GDP (by 5.1% in 2026) will be the primary impetus, thanks to higher crude production as OPEC-8 completes the unwinding of one tranche of production cuts (+135 kb/d for Kuwait) and begins the process of tapering the second in 2025-2026 (+128 kb/d) one year ahead of schedule. Kuwait’s crude production should rise to 2.60 mb/d on average in 2026 from 2.47 mb/d in 2025 on a conservative estimation. Meanwhile, a developing supply glut has led us to adjust our average oil price forecast for 2026 down by \$5 to \$65/bbl.

The non-oil sector is forecast to see a further acceleration in growth to 3.2% in 2026 from 2.2% in 2025. Some of this is due to a pick-up in oil refining output, which has underperformed so far in 2025. But it is also due to cyclical forces such as lower interest rates, improved business optimism, solid order books and a potential new capex cycle. Some of this is already visible in the performance of various gauges of non-oil activity such as the PMI, credit growth and real estate activity.

We still see the non-oil growth dynamic being shaped by a combination of government efforts to rein in the fiscal deficit and softness in consumer spending on the one hand, but signs of a pick-up in business and investment spending on the other. Declines in consumer outlays – partly payback from a period of super-strong growth in 2021-22 but also tight control of government wage spending – should fade by next year, but we do not expect a sharp improvement once this adjustment is over. Rising investment is reflected in higher project awards, stronger business credit growth, steadily increasing real estate activity and potential interest rate cuts ahead. Government efforts to speed up execution of key development projects will help, despite a small cut in budgeted capex this year.

One upside risk to growth is the expected passage of the housing finance (‘mortgage’) law over coming months (it was submitted to the cabinet for approval in September), which would trigger higher

household borrowing and related consumer spending. However, the full impact of the law once approved will be felt more over time than right away, given the parallel requirement for a major infrastructure rollout. The law is one part of the government’s plan to promote private sector growth and diversify the economy away from oil under the Vision 2035 agenda.

Ongoing fiscal deficits, consolidation proceeding

The fiscal deficit came in lower than expected in FY24/25 at KD1.05bn (2.2% of GDP, NBK forecast KD1.9bn), providing a stronger baseline for this year and next. The outlook also is helped by various government measures over the past year to address fiscal sustainability such as repricing government fees and services, hiking fines and penalties and the introduction of a 15% minimum top-up tax on multinationals from January 2025 in line with the OECD BEPS program. Moreover, spending in the FY25/26 budget was unchanged from the previous year at KD 24.5 bn (a real terms cut). Despite this restraint, we see the deficit widening to 4.3% of GDP in FY25/26, mostly reflecting lower expected oil receipts. This would be the tenth deficit in the past eleven years.

Improving fiscal sustainability will be a multi-year event, meaning another tight spending round and more revenue-boosting measures in FY26/27. Our forecast assumes the introduction of excise taxes on tobacco and sugary drinks from FY26/27, and VAT at 5% a year later, which together could yield 1-2% of GDP (versus non-oil receipts of 6% this year). We factor in spending growth of only 1% per year this year and next, consistent with the government’s push for efficiencies and savings across the public sector, and potentially some subsidy cuts. However, within the overall total we see scope for higher capex, which was cut by a cumulative 35% in the past four budgets to help address the deficit. Tight fiscal policy would inevitably weigh on demand and spending in the economy but contain the deficit to 5.4% of GDP in FY26/27 given the projected drop in oil prices. Passage of the public debt law in April (following an eight-year hiatus) provides increased flexibility in financing any future deficits and eases pressure on liquid reserve drawdowns at the General Reserve Fund, about which officials have warned in recent years. Most of this year’s forecast KD2.1bn deficit has already been covered by YTD debt issuance of

KD1.3bn, with more debt expected to be issued by year-end. Even if all of this and next year’s projected deficits were debt financed, the government’s debt-to-GDP ratio would rise to 13%, which is still very low by international standards. The debt law and progress on fiscal reforms more generally also helps to address concerns of credit rating agencies who have cut the sovereign rating since the pandemic.

Inflation low and steady, interest rates easing

We see CPI inflation remaining close to current levels (2.4%) for the rest of 2025 and into 2026, amid moderate non-oil growth and subdued consumer spending, though an acceleration in food price inflation over the summer months, likely linked to local factors, will bear watching. There is also some upside price risk in 2026 from possible subsidy cuts or hikes in indirect taxes.

The Central Bank of Kuwait has lowered interest rates (discount rate currently at 3.75%) at a more gradual pace than the US Fed, in line with local macro conditions. Futures markets now expect 50 bps of further US Fed cuts this year and 75 bps in 2026.

Reforms would unlock faster economic growth

Longer term, unlocking sustainably faster rates of non-oil economic growth will require a range of structural reforms (such as to the business climate, the labor market and public sector efficiency) and higher rates of investment – both areas where Kuwait has lagged its Gulf peers in recent years amid political and bureaucratic constraints. The government formed in May 2024 has been more active on laws and economic reforms (especially fiscal policy) than its predecessors, though presentation of its multi-year work agenda was delayed in April 2025, around the time of major global market volatility due to tariffs.

In the oil sector, earlier OPEC-related cuts have left domestic output 15-20% below capacity of 3.0 mb/d, implying strong growth potential if global oil market conditions allow. State oil firm KPC plans to raise capacity to 4.0 mb/d by 2035, having recently completed a big expansion of the refining sector.

Reaffirming its commitment to inspiring Kuwaiti youth and supporting young women in STEM

talabat participates in welcoming the 3rd cohort of CODED’s Academy X with an insightful session

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: In continued efforts to support Kuwaiti youth and inspire the future generation of technology market leaders, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, delivered an insightful session to welcome the third and final cohort of Academy X’s 2025 edition. This session was delivered as part of talabat’s ongoing strategic sponsorship of Academy X – Kuwait’s largest women’s empowerment initiative in the tech and entrepreneurship industry, led by CODED Academy – which reflects the company’s commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development and supports broader national objectives, including the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Designed to meet the needs of the program participants, the session was presented by Salma Hassan, Manager – People Operations at talabat, who shared valuable insights about the technology landscape, the professional opportunities it offers, the new roles expected to emerge in the near future, and how to enter and thrive in this fast-paced, ever-evolving industry. Using her insider perspective, Ms. Salma elaborated on the values and qualities of leading tech companies, such as talabat, highlighting the people-first culture that adopts an innovative and inclusive approach to developing employees professionally and personally.

“At talabat, we believe that the future begins today and that equipping our youth with vital knowledge and skills is essential for driving innovation and contributing to the development of the local digital economy,” said Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait. “We are very proud to have been part of the Academy X experience as strategic sponsors since its launch, and we are eager to continue supporting CODED and all the brilliant young women who participate in the program. Judging by the amount of creative energy and thirst for innovation that the Academy X cohort exhibited during our session, we have no doubt that Kuwait will soon have a generation of female tech leaders who will reshape the industry and influence positive change across their communities.”

On his part, Hashim Behbehani, Co-founder and Chief Operations Officer of CODED Academy, said: “As we welcome the third and final cohort for this year’s edition of Academy X, we cannot but express our sincere gratitude for the talabat team, who continue to enrich participants’ Academy X journey with knowledge, insight, expertise, and inspiration. By collaborating in empowering Kuwait’s young women in STEM, we aim to create a future of inclusive tech innovation where all voices are heard, and different ideas integrate to push the boundaries of tech-powered solutions.”



talabat Academy X Cohort



Following the success of the first two cohorts, this round welcomed more than 150 participants, ages 14-18. Throughout the program, they will be introduced to knowledge and skills that are core to today’s tech industry, including leadership and soft skills, foundations of entrepreneurship, as well as the latest artificial intelligence (AI) tools, app and web development, and user interface and user experience design (UI/UX). At the end of their Academy X journey, participants will be tasked with applying their newly acquired knowledge and skills and presenting an innovative tech solution to a real-life problem of their choosing.

Academy X, sponsored by talabat, has served as a prominent platform and committed enabler for Kuwaiti youth to gain new knowledge and hands-on experience in entrepreneurship and technology. The program allowed students to participate in workshops, competitions, and field visits, as well as engage with partners from various sectors and gain insights into Kuwait’s burgeoning tech industry, broadening their understanding of its growing potential and role in shaping the future.



Group photo during the workshop.

ABK organizes training workshop on sign language

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: In celebration of the International Day of Sign Language, and as part of its continuous support for the ‘Let’s Be Aware’ financial awareness campaign, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) organized a training workshop for its branch employees to enhance their ability to serve customers with special needs, specifically the hearing-impaired community, and to meet their requirements with ease and comfort.

The workshop reflects ABK’s ongoing commitment to supporting the ‘Let’s Be Aware’ campaign in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), in order to achieve financial inclusion and provide banking services to all customer segments in the local market.

This initiative also highlights ABK’s dedication to fulfilling its social responsibility toward all members of society, with special focus on people with disabilities, reaffirming its leading role in corporate social responsibility.

The workshop, attended by a group of the bank’s management and branch employees, shed light on the services provided by ABK to people with special needs. It also included practical training sessions for employees to ensure they can provide seamless and accessible services to customers with disabilities at all times.

ABK continues to serve customers with special needs across six branches in all governorates of Kuwait, in line with CBK directives. The Bank



Diraya logo

provides employees trained in sign language to communicate with hearing-impaired customers, in addition to various facilities to enable them to complete all their banking and financial transactions with ease. Customers with special needs are also given service priority inside branches, while designated parking spaces and ATMs equipped with Braille keypads are available to further facilitate their experience.

The workshop further reflects ABK’s ongoing commitment to equality in serving customers with special needs, ensuring they can manage their banking and financial matters in a way that guarantees their satisfaction and strengthens their trust in ABK as an ideal partner for all their transactions.

At the same time, this initiative is aligned with ABK’s prominent role in supporting the ‘Let’s Be Aware’ campaign, through raising awareness on its topics across branch screens, digital platforms, and the Bank’s website, while maintaining active engagement with customers across the local market.

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 local, 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 Kuwait 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 ahlhi.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank’s branches across Kuwait.

The first of its kind by a Kuwaiti bank

Boubyan Bank launches \$2 bln Sharia-compliant CD program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Boubyan Bank announced the launch of a new program to issue Sharia-compliant certificates of deposit with a total value of USD 2 billion in a pioneering step – the first of its kind by a Kuwaiti bank. This comes as part of the bank’s strategy to diversify liquidity sources, reinforce its financial stability, and tap into global investments.

The program offers short-term deposit certificates to investors, with tenors ranging from one month to one year. This program comes in response to the growing demand from international investors for this type of certificates.

A Strategic Vision and Liquidity Diversification

Abdul-Salam Al-Saleh, CEO of Corporate Banking, Financial Control, Treasury, and Legal Affairs, stated: “The launch of the CDs’ Program reflects Boubyan Bank’s growth-driven approach when it comes to banking products and liquidity diversification. It also reinforces our regional and global presence, particularly in the sukuk market. This issuance reflects investors’ confidence in the bank’s financial strategy, thus reiterating the prestigious reputation of Boubyan, built on its notable achievements over the past years across various domains.”

Mr. Al-Saleh went on to add: “The program will enable the bank to attract a new class of investors, support its risk diversification strategy, and enhance its resilience to market fluctuations, while further strengthening Boubyan’s position in the global financial scene.”

On his part, Mr. Adel Al-Mutairi, Boubyan Bank’s Treasurer, commented: “The launch of this program demonstrates Boubyan Bank’s commitment to offering innovative Sharia-compliant solutions, and reinforces the bank’s presence in regional and global markets – particularly in Asia, where demand for short-term instruments is growing constantly.”

“Certificates of Deposit have gained a significant traction as a reliable investment instrument, which gives the bank a unique opportunity to broaden its international investor base, expand its global presence, secure more diversified and stable funding channels, and support its sustainable long-term growth,” he added.

Al-Mutairi added that the program aligns well with the bank’s strategy for ongoing



Abdul-Salam Al-Saleh



Adel Al-Mutairi

■ **Abdul-Salam Al-Saleh:** CDs Offer High Flexibility and Efficiency in Deploying Short-Term Investments The Program Is an Opportunity to Tap into a New Class of Investors

■ **Adel Al-Mutairi:** A Pioneering Step That Mirrors Boubyan’s Strategy to Diversify Funding Instruments, while Ensuring Stable Liquidity

growth, diversifying funding sources, and ensuring liquidity stability, and he further highlighted the bank’s commitment to compliance with regulatory standards.

He concluded: “In light of the evolving landscape in financial markets, the Program contributes positively to our compliance with CBK’s key liquidity ratios, as well as Basel III requirements.”

A Global Partnership that Reinforces Confidence

Standard Chartered Bank acted as a Sole Arranger on the establishment of the Program, working closely with Boubyan Bank to structure and launch this pioneering initiative.

Strengthening their knowledge of finance, investment, and savings

KFH promotes banking awareness among children under ‘Diraya’ campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) partnered with Hzaya to launch an innovative program aimed at raising awareness and helping children develop essential life skills and a stronger understanding of banking. As part of the Diraya campaign, this initiative focuses on teaching early savings and financial planning to Baiti account customers through hands-on, interactive methods. The program also educates children on crucial safety measures for banking transactions.

The program was designed to teach Baiti account customers about saving and investment using the most effective methods. It clearly explained these concepts, highlighting the benefits of saving for both individuals and society. This approach helps children develop a strong sense of financial responsibility early on, providing them with the necessary skills to manage future financial challenges. The ultimate goal of the program is to foster responsible individuals who can confidently handle daily financial situations.

KFH is committed to supporting these initiatives, as they reflect the bank’s dedication to developing all segments of society. The bank aims to promote positive values and build a sustainable financial future founded on a solid basis of awareness and planning.

This initiative is an extension of several specialized activities that KFH has organized under the Baiti program. These initiatives include a cybersecurity workshop, held in collaboration with the Bank’s strategic partner, CODED Academy, which educates children on the risks of unsafe electronic device usage and promotes secure digital practices.

KFH recently partnered with the Kuwaiti project, Exzootic, to provide a unique recreational experience for its Baiti program customers. This collaboration gave children the chance to explore Kuwait’s first interactive indoor forest, reflecting KFH’s commitment to supporting local initiatives, nurturing young talent, and

boosting their potential for success.

KFH’s Baiti program, for children up to 14, instills saving habits through a Sharia-compliant investment savings account. It offers educational and recreational activities to boost children’s financial and social awareness, while providing parents with an ATM card and e-services for easy account management.

Hzaya Bookstore specializes in books for children and young adults, with a mission to promote a love of reading. The bookstore aims to enrich young minds with meaningful concepts through carefully selected stories that meet high educational standards for parents.

KFH continuously protects its customers and boosts their financial knowledge through various campaigns and initiatives driven by the Diraya banking awareness campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in partnership with the Kuwait Banking Association and local banks.



Photos during the campaign.



Hollywood stardom isn't just for the young

How does Squibb do it at age 95? 'I just gird my loins and go'

TORONTO, Sept. 27, (AP) — There are 70-year-olds who want to be like June Squibb when they grow up.

Squibb, 95, wasn't the lead of a movie until she was 94. Now, a year after she turned action star in "Thelma," Squibb is again the leading lady and face on the poster again, for "Eleanor the Great," Scarlett Johansson's directorial debut. With it, Squibb is proving, again, that Hollywood stardom needn't belong to the young.

"I think a lot of that is because I never stopped," Squibb says with a chuckle. "And it never occurred to me at 90 that I was supposed to say 'No, I can't work anymore!'"

Film festivals can be taxing on people half of Squibb's age. But in an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this month, Squibb was more chipper than most. She had also traveled with the film in May for the film's debut at the Cannes Film Festival. And in a few weeks, she'll begin rehearsals to star in "Marjorie Prime." More than 60 years after making her Broadway debut in "Gypsy," opposite Ethel Merman, Squibb is going back to Broadway.

"I just thought: I really want to do this," says Squibb, who last performed on Broadway in 2018 in "Waitress." "I want to go back."

That such things are possible for an actor in her mid-90s goes against every convention of show business, not to mention most other professions. But since her breakthrough Oscar-nominated performance in Alexander Payne's "Nebraska" (2013), Squibb has enjoyed the richest acting run of her life despite being well past what most consider retirement age. How does she have the energy?



Actor June Squibb poses for a portrait to promote her film 'Eleanor the Great' during the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 8. (AP)

"I don't know, either," she says, laughing and shaking her head. "I just gird my loins and go! If I stopped, I probably wouldn't start again."

After a lifetime of auditions, Squibb hasn't had to try out for a role since "Nebraska." For an Illinois native who didn't act in her first film until age 60 (Woody Allen's "Alice"),

her late-in-life surge has been a long-incoming validation.

"It gives you a sense of: Well, they really know who I am now," says Squibb.

In "Eleanor the Great," which Sony Pictures Classics releases in theaters Friday, that's especially true. She plays Eleanor, a woman who, after the death of her best friend (Rita Zohar), moves in with her daughter (Jessica Hecht) in New York. A little accidentally - but also out of grief and to impress a young friend (Erin Kellyman) - Eleanor adopts her deceased friend's Holocaust survivor history.

The role is a showcase for Squibb's unfiltered, tart-tongued comic talent, as well as her capacity for something more painful and dramatic. For Johansson, giving Squibb the part and seeing the reception for her in Cannes was the main reason for making the movie.

"I will never forget the audience reaction and June's reaction to the audience reaction," Johansson says. "Maybe my way of processing it, too, is through June. It makes it less personal because it's hard for me to absorb it all. But something I'll never forget is holding June in that moment."

Squibb, who converted to Judaism in the 1950s, is especially fond of Eleanor. "She's a pisser," she says. It's a role that casts her back to her own childhood, growing up during World War II. When news began to spread about the concentration camps, she says, "I remember how horrified we were."

Both of Squibb's parents lived to 91. "All my doctors say: 'Oh, your genes,'" says Squibb.

For Squibb, "Eleanor the Great" follows "Thelma," a movie that put her in some unexpected company. In Josh

Margolin's action comedy, she plays a woman who, after being victimized by a phone scam, sets out for justice. It memorably includes a chase sequence on adult scooters.

One awards group named her best female action star. The male winner? Tom Cruise.

"I like to think we have a lot in common," Squibb says, chuckling.

Squibb receives so many scripts for potential roles that she's grown quite picky. Some of that is out of necessity. "Do I have to run across the room? Forget it!" says Squibb. "I have to say no."

But doing anything new is appealing to her. She voices a character in the upcoming Disney animation "Zootopia 2." When Ryan Murphy reached out about a role in an "American Horror Story" episode last year, it meant traveling from Los Angeles to New Jersey for a day. But she couldn't say no.

"It was crazy! I was the grandmother of a coven of leprechauns who drank blood," Squibb says. "And I just thought: Well, I have to do this."

It's enough to make you wonder what challenge is left for Squibb to conquer. She has one idea.

"I was doing an interview with Alexander Payne for 'Thelma' and he said, 'OK, June, what do you want to do next?' And I said a Western," says Squibb. "And he said, 'I'm writing a Western! I'll put you in!' I used to ride when I was a kid. I think if you got me on the horse, I could probably still do it. But maybe not. So it might be like a bordello keep."

Squibb smiles. "I like that idea because it's something I've never done."

Variety

LONDON: Prince William has told "Schitt's Creek" star Eugene Levy that 2024 was the hardest year of his life.

The royal made an appearance on Levy's show "The Reluctant Traveler" and spoke about last year, which saw his wife Kate, the Princess of Wales, and his father King Charles III both undergoing cancer treatment.

"I'd say 2024 was the hardest year I've ever had," William was shown telling Levy in a preview of the Apple TV+ episode. "Life is said to test us as well, and being able to overcome that is what makes us who we are."

The preview of the episode, to be aired on Oct. 3, features William showing Levy around Windsor Castle and the pair chatting over a pint at a pub.

Kate said in January that her cancer was in remission, and she has taken on many more public engagements in recent months. Earlier this month she and William played key roles in the royal welcome for President Donald Trump's UK state visit.

Charles has also returned to public duty after stepping away for months last year to focus on his initial treatment and recovery.

The king and the princess have not revealed what type of cancer they were treated for. (AP)

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MELBOURNE, Australia: The Brisbane Lions have secured consecutive Australian rules football titles with a dominant second-half performance en route to a 47-point win over Geelong on Saturday's Australian Football League grand final championship match.

Charlie Cameron, with four goals, and Will Ashcroft (32 disposals) starred in the Lions' 18.14 (122) to 11.9 (75) victory in front of 100,022 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Snoop Dogg performed a 14-minute halftime show and earlier this week left no illusions as to what the sport means to most Australians, saying the AFL is "part of your DNA."

"I'm expecting the crowd to be crazy, I know what this means," he said this week. "I've been coming to this country for years and I understand what this game is and what it means. I know that it's not just a sport, it's a way of life. I'm here to do my part and to bring what I bring to the table." (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: A portion of filmmaker Guillermo del Toro's prized horror memorabilia collection was auctioned off Friday, with the highest-ticket item selling for \$325,000.

Del Toro, one of the industry's most respected filmmakers and long-time horror buff, auctioned over 100 of the 5,000 items in his collection. The other two parts of the auction series, in partnership with Heritage Auctions in Dallas, are set to go live next year.

The items were part of del Toro's Bleak House - two and a half Santa Monica properties that house thousands of ghoulish creatures, iconic comic drawings and paintings, books and movie props. The filmmaker said he felt compelled to let some of his sprawling collection go following a close brush with the Los Angeles wildfires this year.

"This one hurts. The next one, I'm going to be bleeding," del Toro, 60, said of the auction series. "If you love somebody, you have estate planning, you know, and this is me estate planning for a family that has been with me since I was a kid."

The highest-selling item Friday was a painting by H.R. Giger, part of the concept design created for an unproduced script titled "The Tourist." (AP)

Film

Scorsese documentary headlines star-studded festival

At NY Film Festival, legacies loom large

NEW YORK, Sept. 27, (AP) — Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" isn't part of the New York Film Festival's lineup, but its agitated sense of inheritance and keeping a fighting spirit alive are all over this year's cinematic convergence at Lincoln Center.

The New York Film Festival kicked off on Friday, the same day Anderson's antic American epic landed in theaters. These aren't completely separate events. Lincoln Center, which hosts the festival, screened One Battle After Another in 70mm last weekend. Several of Anderson's most important colleagues — Daniel Day-Lewis and Martin Scorsese — will also be prominent at this year's festival.

But more than that, much of what so energetically animates "One Battle After Another" can be felt across a wide spectrum of the 106 features unspooling across the 18-day festival. A variety of threads can be found in a slate ranging from the opening night film, Luca Guadagnino's "After the Hunt," to the closing film, Bradley Cooper's "Is This Thing On?" But many of the highlights of the festival are, like Anderson's film about a former radical (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his teenage daughter (Chase Chaffin), highly concerned with upholding a legacy, of family or duty or both.

That goes for the festival, itself, which has for 63 years been a standard-bearer for the best in cinema. Coming on the heels of the first barrage of fall festivals, the New York Film Festival, which gathers the best of other festivals while mixing in a handful of its own world premieres, has long been an Upper West Side haven for an aspirational idea of cinema.

"Anyone who cares about film knows that it is an art in need of de-

fending, like many of our core values today," Dennis Lim, the festival's artistic director, said in announcing the main slate.

There's no lack of urgency in this year's lineup. That includes Laura Poitras and Mark O'Brien's "Cover-Up," a portrait of the investigative reporter Seymour Hersh that doubles as a plea for freedom of the press; "Nuestra Tierra (Landmarks)," the first documentary by the great Argentine filmmaker Lucrecia Martel ("Zama," "The Headless Woman"), about the 2009 murder of Indigenous community leader Javier Chocobar; and Kathryn Bigelow's "A House of Dynamite," an intense White House procedural about a nuclear missile bearing down on the Midwest.

"A House of Dynamite," which Netflix will release Oct. 10, is part of a rich but specialized cinematic legacy. Like those twin 1964 movies, "Fail Safe" and "Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," Bigelow's film is a warning shot. It posits that time has dulled our concern for the threat of nuclear fallout, and it makes a convincing, anxiety-producing case that it's time to rekindle a mid-century mindset.

Opening day of the festival will feature the rebirth of a cinematic legacy in his own right. In "Anemone," Day-Lewis returns from an acting retirement he announced in the wake of his second film with Anderson, 2017's "Phantom Thread." He co-wrote "Anemone" with his son, Roman Day-Lewis, who also directs. The movie, fittingly, is a father-son tale. Day-Lewis plays reclusive Irish man whose brother (Sean Bean) comes to his remote cabin to urge him to return to his son.

"Anemone," which Focus Features will release Oct. 3, is an assured direc-



This image released by Apple TV+ shows filmmaker Martin Scorsese from the documentary 'Mr. Scorsese.' (AP)



Julia Roberts attends the premiere of 'After the Hunt' at Alice Tully Hall during the 63rd New York Film Festival on Friday, Sept. 26, in New York. (AP)

torial debut for the young filmmaker that carries with it the very welcome news that Day-Lewis hasn't lost an iota of his intensely magnetic screen presence in the interim.

The last time Day-Lewis appeared publicly in New York was to celebrate Scorsese last year at the National Board of Review Awards. Scorsese, a longtime NYFF regular, will be back at the festival for "Mr. Scorsese," a five-part documentary series on the

82-year-old filmmaker directed by Rebecca Miller (also Day-Lewis' wife, making the festival a true family affair).

The documentary, which Apple TV+ will debut Oct. 17, is a wonderfully up-close look at Scorsese, featuring warmly intimate interviews with him and his collaborators that nearly answers the unanswerable question of how Scorsese does it. Because Scorsese carries with him so much

movie history, Miller's series is both a portrait of a legend and of half a century of cinema.

Living with the legacy of a show business families sets the backdrop of both Joachim Trier's piercing family drama "Sentimental Value" (in theaters Nov. 7) and Ben Stiller's highly personal documentary "Stiller & Meara: Nothing Is Lost" (in theaters Oct. 17, streaming Oct. 24).

In Trier's film, one of the best of the year, Renate Reinsve, the breakout star of Trier's "The Worst Person in the World," plays an acclaimed stage actor estranged from her filmmaker father (Stellan Skarsgård). When he plots a highly autobiographical comeback film, their broken family is brought into uncomfortable proximity, yielding plenty of pain, humor and, maybe, the transcendence of art.

Similar frictions and catharses run through Stiller's documentary, the actor-director's portrait of his comedy duo parents, Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller. Stiller uses the copious amount of letters, recordings and diaries left behind by his parents to find a deeper understanding of their marriage - one where performing together was both a bond and a barrier to a singular love story. It, too, stretches across generations, pondering how Meara and Stiller's relationship with work, fame and each other shaped their children, Ben and Amy.

These films and others give this New York Film Festival a sense of preoccupation with where we've come from and where we're going - a hard-to-grasp divide that "One Battle From Another" tries so hard to straddle and that a festival entry like Oliver Laxe's explosive "Sirt" is likewise so consumed with.

That's true in a different way in Richard Linklater's "Nouvelle Vague." It's one of two films by the director at this year's festival, along with "Blue Moon," starring Ethan Hawke as "Oklahoma!" lyricist Lorenz Hart. "Nouvelle Vague," which Netflix will release Oct. 31, is a time capsule and ode to the French New Wave that dramatizes a seminal movie movement and the making of one of its greatest masterpieces, Jean-Luc Godard's "Breathless."

The movie, light and lovely, adopts much of the style and flavor of "Breathless," shooting in black and white. In reconstructing Godard's first feature, Linklater seeks to honor its unplanned and audacious spirit. Linklater's Godard is resolutely, defiantly fixed on capturing the moment in a way that so many films - though not "One Battle After Another" - fall short of. He barks at his script supervisor: "Reality is not continuity!"

Dayslong TV blackout ends

Nexstar, Sinclair bring Kimmel's show back to local TV stations

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 27, (AP) — Nexstar Media Group and Sinclair Broadcast Group brought Jimmy Kimmel's late-night talk show back to their local TV stations on Friday night, ending a dayslong TV blackout for dozens of cities across the US.

The companies suspended the program on Sept. 17 over remarks the comedian made in the wake of conservative activist Charlie Kirk's killing. Disney-owned ABC suspended Kimmel the same day, following threats of potential repercussions from the Trump-appointed head of the Federal Communications Commission.

The companies' dual moves Friday mean "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" will return to local TV on Nexstar's 28 ABC affiliates, from Topeka, Kansas, to New Orleans, along with Sinclair's 38 local markets, from Seattle to Washington D.C.

Kimmel's suspension lasted less than a week, while the affiliate blackout stood for just over a week.

When the boycott began, Sinclair, which is known for its conservative political content, called on Kimmel to apologize to Kirk's family and asked him to "make a meaningful personal donation" to Turning Point USA, the nonprofit that Kirk founded.

When Kirk was killed, Kimmel called it a "senseless murder" and shared a message of support for his family and other victims of gun violence on social media, which he reiterated during his Tuesday return.

Kimmel's original comments didn't otherwise focus on Kirk. He instead lambasted President Donald Trump and his administra-

tion's response to the killing. On his first show back, the comedian did not apologize, but did say "it was never my intention to make light of the murder of a young man" and acknowledged that to some, his comments "felt either ill-timed or unclear or maybe both."

He also used a blend of humor and pointed messages to emphasize the importance of free speech.

Maryland-based Sinclair and Texas-based Nexstar continued to preempt the show for three days even after ABC and Disney returned it to national airwaves.

New episodes of the show air Monday through Thursday. Friday night's rerun will be of Tuesday's show - so the previously blacked-out stations will air Kimmel's emotional return to the show. Viewers will have to wait until Monday to get the host's take on the new developments.

In its statement Friday, Sinclair pointed to its "responsibility as local broadcasters to provide programming that serves the interests of our communities, while also honoring our obligations to air national network programming."

The company added that it had received "thoughtful feedback from viewers, advertisers and community leaders," and noticed



Kimmel

"troubling acts of violence," referencing the shooting into the lobby of a Sacramento station.

Sinclair said its proposals to Disney to strengthen accountability, feedback and dialogue and appoint an ombudsman had not yet been adopted.

In a similar statement Friday, Nexstar said it appreciated Disney's approach to its concerns and that it "remains committed to protecting the First Amendment" while airing content that is "in the best interest of the communities we serve."

Both companies said their decisions were not affected by influence from government or anyone else.

Disney representatives declined comment.

As a result of the boycott, viewers in cities representing roughly a quarter of ABC's local TV affiliates had been left without the late-night program on local TV. The blackouts inflamed a nationwide uproar around First Amendment protections - particularly as the Trump administration and other conservatives police speech after Kirk's killing. They also cast a spotlight on political influence in the media landscape, with critics lambasting companies that they accuse of censoring content.

Ahead of his suspension, Kimmel took aim at the president and his "MAGA gang" of supporters for their response to Kirk's killing, which Kimmel said included "finger-pointing" and attempts to characterize the alleged shooter as "anything other than one of them."



KUNA photo

A photo of the 'Against Erasure' exhibition in London.

Kuwait sponsors exhibition

‘Against Erasure’ photo exhibition highlights Gaza students’ ordeal

LONDON, Sept 27, (KUNA): An exhibition themed “Against Erasure - Photographs from Gaza” is held in London with the participation of the Kuwaiti embassy and Kuwaiti charities to shed lights on the unbearable suffering of Gaza students amid the Israeli occupation aggression.

“A photo is more telling than a thousand words and is capable of exposing violations against children and teachers in Palestine and other areas of armed conflict,” Director of the Photo Humanity Grant; a Kuwaiti society and one of the organizers, Sami Alramyan told KUNA on Thursday.

He pointed out that the exhibition, held on the occasion of the International Day to Protect Education from Attacks, focused on documenting attacks on educational institutions, educators and students in several parts of the world, mainly the Gaza Strip, Syria, Sudan, and Ukraine.

“Photos show the magnitude of the tragedy that students experience daily amid destroyed schools, torn books, and lost dreams,” he said.

Alramyan indicated that the Photo Humanity Grant has a global network of documentary photographers specializing in humanitarian work, who use their talents to serve human causes.

The PHG not only organizes exhibitions, but also offers training courses for young photographers to use photography tools in the service of humanitarian work so that

they can become “storytellers of truth and partners in spreading a culture of peace and solidarity”, he said.

“A photo may not stop a bullet, but it can awaken the global conscience and mobilize the will for peace,” he said.

“Against Erasure - Photographs from Gaza”, held at Gallery B-21 in Somers Town, northwest London, brings together the extraordinary work of eleven Gaza-based photographers, documenting the realities of life under war and siege.

Through artistic photography, the exhibition resists the erasure of Palestinian lives, presenting intimate stories of survival, resilience, and dignity in Gaza.

This exhibition reframes Gaza not as a spectacle of suffering, but as a landscape of humanity, where creativity itself is an act of survival. Each photograph is a call to action and an invitation to reflect on solidarity, hope, and the ongoing struggle for human rights.

The Kuwait-based Photo Humanity Grant was launched in March 2024 to celebrate the power of visual storytelling in capturing the essence of human experience worldwide. This grant seeks to support photographers who use their craft to document and illuminate the diverse aspects of human life, from cultural richness to societal challenges and personal triumphs.

It aims to foster empathy, understanding, and awareness through compelling visual narratives that resonate on a global scale.

Theme to focus on ‘radio and AI’

Kuwait Radio to lead Gulf broadcasts for World Radio Day ’26

TUNIS, Sept 27, (KUNA): The Permanent Committee for Broadcasting at the Arab States Broadcasting Union announced Friday, that Kuwait Radio will conduct international broadcasting for the Gulf region as part of the activities celebrating World Radio Day 2026.

The Arab States Broadcasting Union stated in a press release that UNESCO organizes this annual celebration, with the 2026 theme focusing on “Radio and Artificial Intelligence,” and Kuwait Radio will broadcast alongside Iraq, Algeria, and Jordan.

Following the committee meeting, the union announced topics for the 2026 broadcasting competitions, including “Through Arab Eyes,” exploring the history of ancient Arab cities, and “Arab Figures,” highlighting prominent personalities protecting the Arabic language across the region.

The union also confirmed ongoing media support for the Palestinian cause, discussed developing the 15th Arab Music and Singing Competition, proposed the Arab Audiobooks Group, and selected “Radio Content Security in the Digital Environment” for the annual 2026 workshop with practical experiences shared.



‘Lush Life’ singer opens up about her evolution

Larsson hopes ‘Midnight Sun’ helps complete her pop superstar puzzle

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (AP): Zara Larsson is no stranger to packing dance floors around the world, boasting a catalog with several songs that have earned more than a billion streams. But despite possessing all the individual pieces a superstar career requires, her jigsaw has yet to be fully completed in the way she’s hoped.

“I feel like it’s been a disconnect between what I’ve released and who I am,” said the 27-year-old. “I feel finally people are starting to piece the puzzle together.”

Larsson is betting that the image becomes more formed with her new album, “Midnight Sun,” out Friday. Serving as love letter to her native Sweden where summer sunlight can extend until midnight, her 10-track, fourth studio project follows up 2024’s “Venus.”

Larsson, who entered the entertainment world when she was just 10, has never been shy about her desire to become the biggest pop star in the world. But her journey has taught her expectations may have to be tempered.

“Maybe my perspectives of life has changed, too, just growing older. And now, I’m at a point where it’s like maybe I want a family. ... That, in a way, feels more important than just being amazing in front of people I don’t know,” said the artist, whose 2017 “Symphony” collaboration with Clean Bandit - already a megahit - recently went viral on TikTok. “It’s maturity, but also actively - like really actively - having to say ... I am good enough as I am.”

The “Lush Life” singer, who recently opened on Tate McRae’s tour, will headline her own dates starting next month in Europe before launching a North American leg in February. Larsson spoke with The Associated Press about “Midnight Sun,” the pressure to create more big hits, and becoming a “better person.” This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.



Zara Larsson poses for a portrait on Thursday, Sept. 4, in New York. (AP)

AP: You wrote on every song and said you’re most proud of this album. Why is it special?

Larsson: The older I get, I just wanna make what I put out, and just make it feel like it’s coming from me. Because I’ve had great songs and great projects and really real and heartfelt stuff, but it’s different when it’s my words.

AP: Is there pressure to create another huge hit like “Lush Life”?

Larsson: What was so fun about making this album is that, this time around, I felt no pressure. And it was kind of like coming back to when I first started making music, like my first EPs that I released only in Scandinavia. We were just having fun and trying things.

I felt a lot of pressure after my first album, “So Good,” just to keep that huge mainstream success going, which led to me kind of like not be able to do anything for four years.

AP: You’ve made no secret of your desire to become the biggest pop star in the world. How do you respond when your goals aren’t reached?

Larsson: I’ve just had to actively work on how I view myself and life because I do still want to be the best, but I think life’s about the journey. ... Even though I’ve been doing it for a long time, I just really, really feel like I am just at the beginning.

AP: It takes courage to put out a song like “The Ambition.” Why were you willing to openly express your personal insecurities?

Larsson: A lot of people that I play that song to, they’re like, “I feel that.” And especially in an industry where ... it’s like how other people are seeing you and how much they like you. And you’re chasing this thing that you will never really reach. ... A lot of my success that I had so early on, it’s sad that I can’t go back and really enjoy what I got to experience.

I romanticized just moving out to the countryside and not caring about any of this, and just maybe record some music on my laptop. But then, it’s like I know I don’t want that.

AP: “Saturn’s Return” sticks out as one of the more introspective songs. How was that idea sparked?

Larsson: People say “Saturn’s return” is when the planet Saturn returns to where it was when you were born, which is approximately 27 years. And that’s when you enter real adulthood. And I really felt that shift. I felt like, “Oh, I’ve always been quite reckless, irresponsible - done weird decisions.” And now I can look back and be like - not hard on myself - but I’d be like “What happened there?” I just grew so much.

I have more empathy. ... I feel I’m a better person now than I was when I was younger, which hopefully is the evolution of life.

Collection channels ’80s-’90s energy

Dario Vitale debuts as Versace creative director with bold looks

MILAN, Sept 27, (AP): Versace’s “intimate event” to launch Dario Vitale as the new creative director during Milan Fashion Week on Friday sprawled over two floors of a 17th-century palazzo and attracted hundreds of screaming Chinese pop star fans outside waving bunches of green and light blue balloons.

Vitale’s debut collection was a full-throttle return to the overtly sexualized Versace of the 1980s and 1990s - seen in the snug high-waisted jeans cinched as tightly as possible, the revealing open-sided T-shirts, the dresses left carelessly open in the back, and the joyous bursts of primary color.

The flamboyant energy of that decade was echoed in the show soundtrack of George Michael, Prince and Eurythmics.

Vitale’s ascension at Versace marks a dramatic turn for the fashion house: He is only the third creative director after Gianni Versace, who was killed in 1997, and his sister Donatella Versace, who assumed the role after his death until Vitale took over April 1. Donatella Versace remains on as brand ambassador and welcomed the 41-year-old as a champion of young designers.

The change in creative leadership comes as the Prada Group is completing the purchase of Versace in a deal expected to be completed by the year’s end. Conveniently for the transition, Vitale most recently worked in the design house of Prada’s little sister brand, Miu Miu.

If he was nervous about being the first nonfamily member to have creative reign at Versace, he didn’t show it as he held court with a gaggle of journalists backstage after the show.

Growing up in Italy, he said, made him intimate with the Versace codes, “that kind of a bold attitude, very Italian.”

“It’s something that belongs to culture. It’s something that you know by heart,” he said. “That’s the beauty of this brand, everyone has a soft spot for this brand because it is really like Coca-Cola.”

Because of that familiarity, when he went to the archives, it was less about picking out pieces to reinterpret and more to find “the spirit” of the founder, Gianni Versace, he said.

As he began to rework Versace for this season, Vitale said he looked for ways to express sexiness, like the dress left completely open in the back expressing the moment just before it drops to the floor, or reinterpreting that everyday Italian uniform of an undershirt, shirt and sweater in a sexy way.

h Korean coed group AllDay Project. Meanwhile, Chartreuse accessories popped against Maximilian Davis’ latest Ferragamo collection, previewed on Saturday during Milan Fashion Week in the same courtyard of the brand’s Portrait Hotel where he made his debut as creative director three years ago.

The co-ed collection featured slinky, seductive and sheer womenswear, complemented by men’s speakeasy suiting with broad shoulders and long jackets. Dresses alternated between sheer chifons and clingy knits, slightly illicit in their reveal.

Silken scarves tied around the rear ends of the men’s suits created an unexpectedly sexy silhouette. The same styling trick on dresses and a generous dose of fringe recalled flappers.

Vinyl overcoats were a hedge against the rain that threatened the outdoor runway show. Pointed mules with a reverse sculptural heel were the footwear of choice, while mini pouches and clutches finished the looks - often providing a pop of color.



A model wears a creation as part of the Stella Jean’s Spring/Summer 2026 collection presented in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 27. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: iHeartRadio has unveiled its star-studded 2025 Jingle Ball lineup, including performances by **Ed Sheeran**, **Monsta X**, Alex Warren, BigXthaP-lug, Jelly Roll, Jessie Murph, Laufey, mgk (formerly Machine Gun Kelly), The Kid Laroi, Olivia Dean and more.

The 10-city tour will hit the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Atlanta and Miami in December.

“The iHeartRadio Jingle Ball ... brings together the year’s biggest pop stars and the most passionate fans for a celebration that launches the holidays in an unforgettable way,” said Tom Poleman, chief

Sheeran

programming officer for iHeartMedia, in a statement to The Associated Press. (AP)

NEW YORK: Aaron Sorkin is diving back into the world of Facebook with a “Social Network” follow-up featuring Jeremy Strong as Mark Zuckerberg and a newly minted Oscar winner as a whistleblower.

Sony Pictures said Friday that “The Social Reckoning” will star Mikee Madison (“Anora”) as Facebook engineer Frances Haugen and Jeremy Allen White as then-Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz. Haugen leaked thousands of pages of internal Facebook records to the Journal, yielding a 2021 investigation known as the “Facebook Files.” The series of stories alleged the social media giant was prioritizing profits over safety and hiding its own research from investors and the public.

Sorkin is writing and directing the “The Social Reckoning” which is being described not as a sequel to “The Social Network” but a “companion piece.” The studio plans to release the film in theaters in October 2026. Bill Burr has also been cast in an unspecified role. (AP)

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‘Disease prevention, mental wellness top priorities’

GCC vision against diseases based on protection: Kuwait

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Thursday said the GCC vision for anti-diseases protection and boosting psychological health is based on the Concept that protection is “the best investment in the human capital on the path of sustainable development.”

Minister Al-Awadhi was speaking on behalf of the GCC states at the Fourth High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental health -- held during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 80).

Average spending on health in the GCC countries has reached 4.5 percent of the gross domestic product last year, he said, adding that establishment of the Gulf Center for Disease Protection and Control (Gulf CDC) in 2022 was a regional inclusive complex concerned with “governance of the communicable and non-communicable diseases.”

The GCC states had adopted the unified treaty for selective taxes 2016, aimed at cutting consumption of com-

modities that are harmful to humans and the environment such as tobacco, electronic cigarettes and some sweetened beverages, he said.

The GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), a regional authority that had been established according to a decision by the GCC Supreme Council during its 22nd session, had endorsed systems to cut consumption of fats and hydrogenated oils in line with the GCC approach to improve public health, the Kuwaiti minister of health added.

The Gulf countries place mental health in the center of the national strategies, adopting plans to secure qualified medical cadres in tandem with integrated psychological care, including the combat against stereotypes.

All GCC countries have boosted their medical systems with specialized centers that serve everybody particularly the weakest segments, minister Al-Awadhi said, citing other achievements such as Sheikh Shakhboub medical facility in the UAE, Bahrain’s success in treating the sickle cell anemia and Saudi Arabia’s virtual medical services.

He also noted in this respect that Oman had established Al-Masarra Hospital for psychological care and Qatar built Renad Academy for treating autism among children.

Citing other accomplishments in the Gulf, the minister mentioned that Kuwait had set up the Genetic Center to boost early diagnosis, noting that it serves 12,000 families per year.

He applauded, on behalf of the GCC states, the political declaration released by the meeting, affirming adherence to its content and care for people afflicted with rare diseases, estimated globally at 300 million.

Minister Al-Awadhi called for altering the medical systems to meet needs of the weakest segments of peoples and concluded by affirming the GCC states’ adherence to boost health and welfare for all in line with the goals and the sustainable development plans, adopted by the UN in 2015.

He also expressed aspiration to broaden partnerships with all stakeholders for preserving human dignity and right to live in an honorable manner across the world.



KUNA photo
Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi during a speech he delivered on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries before the fourth high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

Gaza clinics destroyed, hospitals shut down

Medical facilities in Gaza under siege as staff struggle to care for patients

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Sept 27, (AP): As Israeli troops bear down, the health care system in Gaza City is coming under fire and being pushed toward collapse.

Nearly two weeks into Israel’s latest ground offensive on Gaza’s largest city, two clinics were destroyed by airstrikes, two hospitals shut down after being damaged and others are barely functioning, with medicine, equipment, food and fuel in short supply.

Many patients and staff have been forced to flee hospitals, leaving behind only a few doctors and nurses to tend to children in incubators or other patients too ill to move. Bombardment outside shakes hospitals’ walls and Israeli drones buzz around, often firing nearby, making it dangerous to come and go, according to health workers.



This photo provided by American nurse Andee Vaughan, shows Vaughan attending to a wounded child at the Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City on Aug. 10, 2025. (AP)

tire population to leave and go south, saying it is for their safety.

On Thursday, Nebal Farsakh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Red Crescent, which administers al-Quds, said Israeli vehicles had surrounded it, “completely restricting” the movement of remaining staff and patients, while drones fired upon the hospital and nearby buildings.

Israel accuses Hamas of using health facilities as command centers and for military purposes, putting civilians in harm’s way, though it has presented little evidence. Hamas security personnel have been seen in hospitals and have kept some areas inaccessible.

Israel did not immediately respond to a query about the situation at al-Quds.

Vaughan was evacuated Tuesday with another doctor and headed south. “I am getting messages from my coworkers there asking me why I left,” said Vaughan, speaking from a guesthouse in Deir al-Balah after she was evacuated. “They are telling me they are going to die.”

Despite Israeli orders to leave, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain in Gaza City, which had close to 1 million residents before the ongoing offensive. International experts say the city is in a famine.

Israel has closed the border crossing into northern Gaza since Sept. 12, preventing direct aid shipments to the city. Aid groups have scrambled to deliver supplies from the south, traversing dangerous roads as Israel increasingly

Malnutrition kills 23 in Darfur’s El-Fasher

Pakistan vaccinates 9 mln girls against cervical cancer despite online backlash

KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 27, (AP): Pakistan has vaccinated about 9 million adolescent girls against the virus that causes cervical cancer, as part of a continuing national campaign that has overcome early setbacks fueled by skeptics online, the health minister said Friday.

Health Minister Mustafa Kamal said the campaign that began Sept. 15 is aiming to vaccinate 13 million girls aged 9 to 14 against the human papillomavirus, or HPV, which causes most cervical cancers. He said the program so far achieved 70% of its goal.

The program has overcome what Kamal said were baseless rumors spread by some parents that the vaccine could cause infertility. He gave the vaccine to his own daughter live on stage at an event in Karachi this week to build confidence.

“By the grace of God, administering the vaccine to my daughter publicly had a huge impact,” Kamal told The Associated Press. “From the fifth day of the campaign, refusal rates began dropping and acceptance climbed to 70-80% in some districts.”

However, many parents are still reluctant.

“I have heard that the vaccination is being used to make women infertile and reduce the population of Muslims,” said Ali Sheikh, a mother of two in Karachi, the capital of Sindh province.

She said that “social media is full of such claims,” and that she was advised by relatives not to allow health workers to vaccinate her daughters.

Health worker Shamim Anwar, 52, said the job of administering the vaccines has been exhausting.

“It is very difficult work. Many parents refuse because of rumors and hesitate to let us vaccinate their daughters,” she said.

“Sometimes we even face humiliation, but we tolerate it because we have to complete the vaccination target,” she said, as she went door-to-door for the campaign in Karachi.

Cervical cancer is the third most com-



A health worker gives an injection of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to a girl during a campaign aiming to protect girls from cervical cancer, at a school in Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, Sept. 22. (AP)

mon cancer among Pakistani women after breast and ovarian cancers. Globally, it is the fourth most common. Each year, between 18,000 and 20,000 women in Pakistan die of the disease, according to health authorities.

Experts promoted the campaign under the slogan “one jab will do the job.” Authorities set up vaccination centers and deployed teams to schools nationwide to reach as many girls as possible.

Kamal acknowledged that during the first days of the drive, refusals outnumbered acceptances, fueled by false claims that the vaccine campaign is a Western plot to cause infertility.

Officials say the vaccine, offered free of charge, typically causes only minor side effects.

The 13 million girls targeted in the initial campaign were in Punjab and Sindh provinces and in Pakistan-held Kashmir. The country plans to expand the coverage to additional areas by 2027, hoping to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem by 2030. It became the

149th country to add the HPV vaccine to its immunization schedule.

☐ ☐ ☐

Malnutrition: A Sudanese medical group has warned of a “full-blown humanitarian disaster” in the besieged city of el-Fasher after 23 people died of malnutrition in September, as fighting between the army and rival paramilitaries continues to exacerbate the crisis in Darfur.

Sudan Doctors Network said in a statement late Thursday that children and five pregnant women were among those who died from severe malnutrition, but didn’t provide a specific count of dead children.

El-Fasher is the military’s last stronghold in the sprawling Darfur region. Fighting has intensified in recent months and hundreds of civilians have been killed in attacks by Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, since April, according to a report last week by the U.N. Human Rights Office.

Alarm raised over long-term brain trauma

CTE again linked to violence, mental illness

BOSTON, Sept 27, (AP): The degenerative brain disease that has besieged the National Football League for two decades with a billion-dollar lawsuit, congressional hearings, an A-list movie and an unrelenting cortege of ex-players’ obituaries intruded on America’s favorite sport in the most violent manner yet when a gunman who turned out to have the disease killed four people earlier this year.

At the time of the July 28 attack, Shane Tamura, the Las Vegas casino worker who targeted the New York City skyscraper that is home to the NFL’s headquarters, carried a note blaming the league for his mental health problems.

Tamura, 27, who played football in high school, said in a three-page note found in his wallet that he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy - diagnosable only after death - and implored those who found him: “Study my brain.” Among his grievances against the NFL was a claim that the league put its profits ahead of player safety by concealing the harm CTE, and football, can cause.

On Friday, a New York City medical examiner reported that Tamura, who fatally shot himself in the chest after the rampage, had “unambiguous diagnostic evidence” of low-stage CTE.

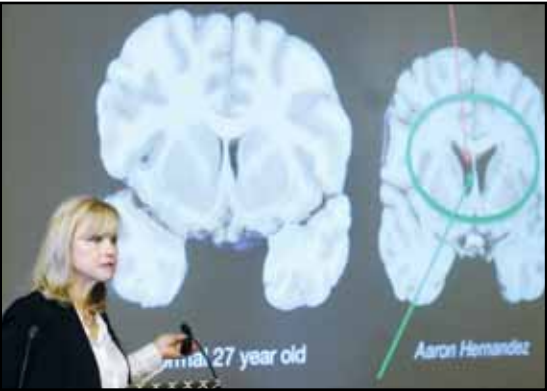
A degenerative brain disease that has been linked to concussions and other head trauma common in military combat and contact sports, CTE has been diagnosed in more than 100 former NFL players and arisen as an existential threat to the United States’ most powerful pro sports league.

Here is what we know and don’t know about the connection between CTE, the NFL and the shooter.

Chronic traumatic encephalopathy can affect regions of the brain involved with regulating behavior and emotions. This can lead to memory loss, depression, violent mood swings and other cognitive and behavioral issues, though researchers note that these symptoms can also be linked to other illnesses.

Experts say symptoms can arise years or decades after the last brain trauma. Evidence of the disease has been found not just in those with long professional careers but in high school athletes as well.

Its dangers have led some states to consider banning youth football, prompted leagues at most levels to limit contact drills in practice and spawned a series of concussion protocols and other rule changes designed to take the most violent



Ann McKee, director Boston University’s center for research into the degenerative brain disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, addresses an audience on the school’s campus Nov. 9, 2017 about the study of NFL football player Aaron Hernandez’s brain, projected on a screen, behind right, in Boston. (AP)

edges off the hard-hitting sport.

Researchers have established a connection between CTE and contact sports, military combat and other activities with repeated blows to the head. After more than a decade of denial, the NFL conceded the link between football and CTE in 2016 testimony before Congress, and has so far paid more than \$1.4 billion to retired players to settle concussion-related claims.

The 2015 Will Smith film “Concussion” detailed the pioneering efforts of forensic pathologist Bennet Omalu, whose diagnosis of CTE in Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Fame center Mike Webster was the first in a former NFL player. Hall of Famers Ken Stabler, Frank Gifford and Junior Seau have also been diagnosed with CTE, as has Aaron Hernandez; in a 2017 paper, evidence of the disease was found 110 of the 111 former NFL players’ brains studied.

CTE can only be diagnosed definitively by examining the brain posthumously through an autopsy.

The medical examiner’s report determined that Tamura suffered from the degenerative brain disease but did not reach a conclusion on the cause of the disease.

Mouth taping risks outweigh benefits

‘Mouth taping for better sleep is unsafe’

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (AP): Having your mouth taped shut is the stuff of nightmares - but some people are doing just that to themselves. And in an attempt to sleep better, no less.

Doctors say don’t do it.

Some on social media say it’s a hack for getting more and better sleep and to reduce snoring. The claims - which are not backed by science - are taking off on places like TikTok, sometimes pushed by people working for companies selling related products.

“The studies behind mouth tape are small, the benefits are modest and the potential risks are there,” said Dr. Kimberly Hutchison, a neurologist and sleep medicine expert at Oregon Health & Science University. Some of those risks include making sleep disorders like sleep apnea worse, or even causing suffocation.

Mouth breathing in adults is not a major health problem, but it is better to breathe through your nose, experts say. Your nose is a natural filtering system, trapping dust and other allergens before they can get to your lungs.

If you’re breathing with your mouth open at night, you could wake up with a dry mouth and irritated throat, which can contribute to bad breath and oral health problems. Mouth breathing is also associated with more snoring.

But even though breathing through your nose is better than breathing through your mouth, taping your mouth shut isn’t the best way to fix the issue.

There’s no strong evidence it helps improve sleep. A few studies have been conducted, most of which showed little or

no impact, but they were so small experts say conclusions should not be drawn from them.

And meanwhile, there are the potential dangers to be avoided.

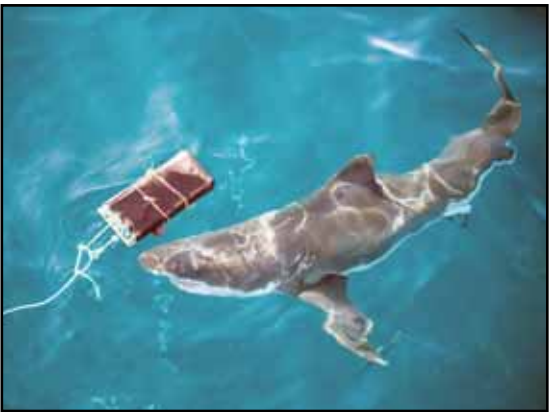
Dr. David Schulman, a sleep doctor at Emory University, said there are other things to try, like prescription mouth pieces that can open up your airway, or a CPAP machine. If you’re a smoker or are overweight, for example, quitting smoking and losing weight can help.

The safest approach is to figure out why exactly you are breathing with your mouth, because there could be something else going on.

You may be breathing through your mouth because you have obstructive sleep apnea, a sleep disorder where breathing repeatedly stops and starts during sleep because of a blocked airway. The disorder is linked to both open mouth breathing and snoring, and is typically treated with a CPAP machine.

“The reason sleep apnea can be bad is that any decrease in the quality of sleep can affect you day to day or over the course of your life,” said Dr. Brian Chen, a sleep doctor at the Cleveland Clinic. “Depending on how bad the sleep is, you may just feel sleep deprived or require more sleep.”

The best thing to do, Emory’s Schulman says, is get a sleep test, some of which can be done at home. “It’s always better to know than not know,” he said. “And if you know that something’s going on and you choose not to pursue therapy, at least you know you’re making an educated decision.”



This Nov. 2019 photo provided by Predapix/Sam Cahir shows a White shark investigating testing board with bite-resistant neoprene at Neptune Island Group Marine Park in Australia. (AP)

PORTLAND, Maine, Sept 27, (AP): Australian scientists tested the strength of bite-resistant wetsuits by allowing sharks to chomp the materials at sea and found that the suits can help keep swimmers safe.

Fatal shark bites are vanishingly rare, with less than 50 unprovoked shark bites on humans worldwide in 2024, according to the International Shark Attack File at the Florida Museum of Natural History. But increased sightings of large sharks in some parts of the world have swimmers, surfers and divers looking for new ways to stay safe.

Scientists with Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, tested four bite-resistant materials and found they all reduced the amount of damage from shark bites. They performed the work by dragging samples of the materials behind boats and allowing white and tiger sharks to bite the samples.

The bites from such large sharks can still cause internal

and crushing injuries, but the materials showed effectiveness beyond a standard neoprene wetsuit, the scientists said. The research found that the bite-resistant materials “can reduce injuries sustained from shark encounters,” said Flinders professor Charlie Huveneers, a member of the Southern Shark Ecology Group at Flinders and a study co-author.

“Bite-resistant material do not prevent shark bites, but can reduce injuries from shark bites and can be worn by surfers and divers,” Huveneers said.

There were small differences between the four tested materials, but they all “reduced the amount of substantial and critical damage, which would typically be associated with severe hemorrhaging and tissue or limb loss,” said Tom Clarke, a researcher with the science and engineering college at Flinders and a study co-author.

Chainmail suits to resist shark bites have existed for decades, but lack in flexibility for aquatic activities like surfing

and diving, the scientists said in research published in the journal Wildlife Research on Thursday. Newer wetsuits can be designed to provide flexibility as well as protection.

The scientists tested the efficacy of wetsuit materials Aqua Armour, Shark Stop, ActionTX-S and Brewster. The scientists said in their paper that they found that all of the materials “offer an improved level of protection that can reduce severe wounds and blood loss, and should be considered as part of the toolbox and measures available to reduce shark-bite risk and resulting injuries.”

The promise of effective shark resistant wetsuits is encouraging for people who spend a lot of time in areas where there are large sharks, said Nick Whitney, a senior scientist and chair of the Fisheries Science and Emerging Technologies Program at the New England Aquarium’s Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life in Boston. That includes surfers and spearfishers, he said.

Toyota extends manufacturers’ championship lead to 125 points

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing breaks WRC win record with one-two finish at Rally Chile

SANTIAGO, Sept 27: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team (TGR-WRT) celebrated a record-breaking victory at Rally Chile, where Sébastien Ogier and Vincent Landais in the No. 17 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 led teammates Elfyn Evans and Scott Martin in the No. 33 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 to another commanding one-two finish.

The triumph marks Toyota’s 103rd victory in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), the most by any manufacturer in the history of the series, as well as are cord-equaling 30th one-two finish. With this result, Toyota extends its manufacturers’ championship lead to 125 points with three rounds remaining.

Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented: “Congratulations Seb, Vincent on your victory at Rally Chile! Heading into the final stages of the season I have just one wish: With three rallies remaining, I simply want the drivers to be able to enjoy their driving to the fullest – that’s all. To all the team members: Please continue preparing the cars



Drivers in action.

with care so that the drivers can enjoy them to the max. I’m counting on you. And to all the drivers and co-drivers: Please give it your all and enjoy these last three rallies! I’m really looking forward to seeing you all in action!”

The rally in Chile’s Biobío region provided a roller coaster battle with constantly changing grip levels and weather conditions. Rain ahead of the opening

stages neutralized the road-cleaning effect, allowing Evans to seize the early lead before drying roads dropped him down the order. Ogier capitalized to close in, while further rainfall later on helped Evans fight back before Ogier responded with three consecutive stage wins to reclaim momentum.

Just 6.3 seconds separated the two crews heading into the closing stages.



Sébastien Ogier and Vincent Landais celebrate.

Both split the early tests before Ogier surged clear on the penultimate run and delivered a decisive push in the Power Stage. With his 66th career win, and second consecutive South American triumph, Ogier also claimed maximum points by topping both Super Sunday and the Power Stage. The result puts him at the top of the drivers’ championship with 224 points.

Evans and Martin secured second overall after a measured performance across the rally, finishing only 11 seconds adrift. Their strong showing also earned second place in Super Sunday, keeping them just two points behind Ogier in the drivers’ championship standings.

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of

motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota’s participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established TGR, to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota’s belief that ‘the roads build the people and the people build the cars,’ TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota’s commitment to making ‘ever-better’ cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

Round 12 of the 2025 FIA WRC is the Central European Rally (October 16-19), marking a return to asphalt after seven gravel events. First held in 2023, this cross-border rally takes place on challenging roads across Germany, the Czech Republic, and Austria.

NZ rebounds from South Africa shocker to beat Australia, retain Bledisloe Cup



The All Blacks celebrate after defeating Australia in their Bledisloe Rugby test at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

Roigard scores two tries

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Sept 27, (AP): Scrum-half Cam Roigard scored two tries including the match-winner in the 76th minute as New Zealand rebounded from its worst-ever test defeat to beat Australia 33-24 Saturday and to retain the Bledisloe Cup for the 23rd year.

Roigard returned from injury to help energize the All Blacks attack as New Zealand extended its winning streak at Eden Park to 52 test matches. Australia’s losing streak at the Auckland stadium now enters its 40th year.

Smarting from its 43-10 loss to South Africa two weeks ago and from a barrage of criticism, New Zealand started strongly and led 20-3 after 25 minutes. Wingers Caleb Clarke and Leroy Carter and Roigard scored tries as New Zealand dominated possession in the first quarter and took advantage of an Australian defensive line which was too deep.

“There was a lot of hurt from the South Africa match,” Roigard said. “We knew that standard wasn’t good enough and we knew we had to put out a performance defending the fortress (Eden Park).”

“To get the job done we knew it was going to take the whole 80 minutes.”



Australia’s Tom Hooper runs at the defence during the Bledisloe Rugby test between the All Blacks and the Wallabies at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

The tide of the match turned several times, dictated mainly by penalties and field position. Australia came back strongly in the second quarter, scoring tries through hooker Billy Pollard and winger Harry Potter to cut New Zealand’s lead to 20-17 at halftime.

New Zealand edged ahead 26-17 with penalties at the start of the second half before a try to Carlo Tizzano left Australia only two points behind. Roigard scored again to seal New Zealand’s win, taking it back to the top of the Rugby Championship table ahead of the match between South Africa and

Argentina in Durban later Saturday.

“Discipline early cost us and gave them momentum. On the back of that momentum they scored some good tries,” Australia coach Joe Schmidt said. “ I’m disappointed, the players are disappointed but I’m also proud of the effort they put in.”

The All Blacks scored after only four minutes through Clarke who was playing his first test of the year. He touched down in the left corner at the end of a long backline with fullback Will Jordan up as the extra man.

Clarke had tears in his eyes when his

father, former All Black Eroni Clarke, unexpectedly sang the New Zealand national anthem before the match.

“I had my eyes closed and halfway through the English version I thought ‘that voice sounds familiar’,” Clarke said. The New Zealand anthem is sung in English and Te Reo, the indigenous Maori language.

In the 14th minute right winger Carter touched down for his second try in two tests after the All Blacks carried the ball through 12 phases against tentative Wallabies defense. New Zealand had 71% of possession in the first quarter and made 364 meters in 55 carries as the Australian defense was both too narrow and too deep, giving the All Blacks the gain line.

Roigard injected pace and penetration into the All Blacks’ attack and scored in the 25th minute as New Zealand used the width of the park before pressing the Wallabies in the center. New Zealand led 20-3.

Australia had to replace 50-test scrumhalf Tate McDermott in the 18th minute with Ryan Lonergan on debut. New Zealand made a change at flyhalf where Damian McKenzie replaced Beauden Barrett.

The Wallabies began to turn the tide, gaining field position from numerous All Blacks penalties and carrying with more purpose. Hooker Proctor scored in the 30th minute to cut New Zealand’s lead to 10 points then Potter scored and Australia went to halftime only three points down.

Parsons re-elected IPC president

International Paralympic Committee lifts partial suspensions of Russia and Belarus

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 27, (Agencies): The International Paralympic Committee has lifted the partial suspensions of Russia and Belarus.

The IPC general assembly in Seoul, South Korea on Saturday first voted against a full suspension for Russia by 111 to 55, with 11 abstentions, and then voted against a partial suspension by 91-77 (with eight abstentions).

It also voted against a full suspension for Belarus by 119 to 48, with nine abstentions, and against a partial suspension by 103-63 (10 abstentions).

The decisions raise the possibility of a clash with each sport’s governing body ahead of the Milan-Cortina Paralympics in Italy from March 6-15 next year.

The IPC said “this decision means NPC Belarus and NPC Russia now regain their full rights and privileges of IPC membership, in accordance with the IPC Constitution.

The IPC will work with the two members involved to put practical arrangements in place for this as soon as

reasonably possible.” Russia and ally Belarus have been banned from inter-

national sporting events after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.



In this file photo, President of the International Paralympic Committee Andrew Parsons passes the Paralympic flag to Mayor of Los Angeles Karen Bass, not in photo, after receiving it from Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, not in photo, during the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France. (AP)

In a statement posted on its website, the Russian Paralympic Committee’s press service said the organization welcomed what it called the “fair decision” of the IPC to “fully reinstate” the Russian Paralympic Committee.

There was no immediate reaction from the Ukraine Paralympic or Olympic committees but state broadcaster Suspilne said that “In Ukraine, it is legally prohibited to delegate national teams to competitions where aggressor countries are represented without observing the principles of neutrality, under state symbols.”

The Russian Olympic Committee has been suspended since 2023 by the International Olympic Committee for breaking the Olympic charter by using an administrative land grab to incorporate regional sports bodies in occupied eastern Ukraine.

Andrew Parsons was re-elected as president of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for a third term on Saturday at the 2025 IPC General Assembly in Seoul, South Korea.



Minnesota Lynx guard Courtney Williams, left, battles with Phoenix Mercury guard Kahleah Copper for a loose ball during the first half of Game 3 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series game in Phoenix. (AP)

Best of the Rest

FIFA sanctions Malaysia: FIFA has sanctioned the Football Association of Malaysia after finding documents submitted to naturalize seven foreign-born players were doctored.

The players - Gabriel Felipe Arrocha, Jon Irazábal Iraurgui, Facundo Tomás Garcés, Rodrigo Julián Holgado, Imanol Javier Machuca, João Vitor Brandão Figueiredo and Hector Alejandro Hevel Serrano - were all born abroad and featured in Malaysia’s 4-0 win over Vietnam in a 2027 Asian Cup qualifier in June.

The players breached regulations concerning forgery and falsification, FIFA said on Friday. (AP)

Tigre tops Central Cordoba: Elias Cabrera scored in the second half as Tigre rose to third in Argentina’s Primera División Group A standings with a 1-0 away win over Central Cordoba.

Cabrera broke the deadlock on the hour when his long-range effort took a deflection, leaving goalkeeper Alan Aguerre stranded as the ball flew into the back of the net.

The hosts had almost two-thirds of possession but could only manage two shots on goal for the night. (Xinhua)

Kuwait set for Asian Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD, India, Sept 27: Kuwait will take part in the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships, which open today in Ahmedabad, India, and run through early October.

The delegation includes national coach Sultan Al-Otaibi alongside swimmers Saud Al-Shamroukh, Mohammed Al-Otaibi, and Khalid Al-Otaibi.

The participation reflects Kuwait's commitment to showcasing its sporting talent on the continental stage and raising the national flag at one of Asia's biggest aquatic events.

The Asian Aquatics Federation, during its executive meeting held last May in Kuwait, confirmed India as host of this year's championships, which feature swimming, water polo, diving, and artistic swimming with teams from across the continent.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah, President of both the Kuwait and Asian Swimming Federations, described the championship as a significant platform for Asian athletes to demonstrate their abilities. He stressed the importance of regularly organizing such events to advance aquatics in Asia and strengthen ties among the continent's athletes.



Kuwait Aquatics team poses for a group photo before heading out.

Kuwait Club falls to Ahli Tripoli

Kazma makes strong start in Arab basketball Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Sept 27: Kazma made a strong start in Group 3 of the 37th Arab Basketball Championship at Rashid bin Hamdan Hall in Dubai, UAE, which runs until October 7. The team defeated Oman's Al-Seeb 82-73.

In other Group 3 matches, Syria's Al-Wahda edged past Oman's Al-Bashaer 79-74, while Qatar's Al-Rayyan overcame Lebanon's Al-Hekmeh 86-81. The clash between Qatar's Al-Arabi and Yemen's Al-Mina'a was postponed due to the latter's delayed arrival.

The tournament began on Thursday with Kuwait Club falling 72-76 to Libya's Ahli Tripoli in Group 2, which also saw Lebanon's Al-An-twan defeat Bahrain's Al-Manama 79-73. In Group 1, Al-Qadsia secured a solid 88-77 win over Syria's Homs Al-Fidaa, while UAE's Al-Nasr beat Yemen's Shabab Hadram-



Kazma player scrambles to prevent an opponent from scoring.

out 90-67.

The championship follows a round-robin format in the first round. All teams advance to the round of 16, where the top team in each group faces the fourth-placed team from the paired group, and the second-placed team faces the third. Winning teams then move on to the quarter-finals.

New Zealand storms to bronze in Women's Rugby World Cup

LONDON, Sept 27, (AP): New Zealand bowed out of the Women's Rugby World Cup in style after slamming six tries against France to win the bronze medal at Twickenham on Saturday.

Rebounding from their semifinal defeat to Canada, their first loss in a knockout match in 34 years, the world champion Black Ferns won 42-26 in the curtain-raiser to the England-Canada final.

Winger Braxton Sorensen-McGee, the 18-year-old sensation at her first World Cup, scored her 10th and 11th tournament tries, the second highest tally in World Cup history. Only retiring teammate Portia Woodman-Wickliffe scored more; 13 in 2017.

Renee Holmes was the player of the match for a 17-point haul, including five goalkicks from eight off the tee.

New Zealand led 39-7 after an hour then suddenly dropped off tackles and France scored three tries in 10 minutes to flanker Lea Champon and backs Gaby Vernier and Emilie Boulard.

France also scored the opening try by scrumhalf Pauline Bourdon Sansus from an inside pass

by retiring co-captain Marine Menager.

But the lead lasted only four minutes as New Zealand co-captain Ruahei Demant ran onto an inside pass from Sylvia Brunt and angled to the posts.

Risi Pouri-Lane had to make a try-saving tackle on Bourdon Sansus then New Zealand scored three tries in the last eight minutes before halftime.

Brunt crashed over then played give-and-go for Holmes to cap a brilliant string of running passes; and right on the interval lock Laura Bayfield supported some superb stepping by Jorja Miller for 26-7.

Sevens superstar Miller and Sorensen-McGee are up for the breakthrough player of the year award, and the latter showed off her credentials in the second half.

Following a dummy and left-foot step, she glided 30 meters to the try-line. Then moments after Woodman-Wickliffe was replaced to huge acclaim, Sorensen-McGee took an offload from center Stacey Waaka and dived in beside the right corner flag.



New Zealand's Braxton Sorensen-McGee scores a try during the Women's Rugby World Cup bronze match between New Zealand and France at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, London. (AP)

Kane hits 100 goals in record time



Bayern's Harry Kane scores his side's second goal from a penalty during the Bundesliga soccer match between Bayern Munich and Werder Bremen at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)

Bayern beat Bremen 4-0

MUNICH, Sept 27, (AP): Harry Kane scored his 99th and 100th goals for Bayern Munich in his 104th game for the German champion as Bayern won 4-0 against Werder Bremen on Friday.

Kane reached 100 goals in all competitions for Bayern one game sooner than two of modern soccer's most prolific scorers.

Cristiano Ronaldo needed 105 games to score 100 for Real Madrid in 2011 and Erling Haaland's 100th for Manchester City last year also came in his 105th game.

"It's crazy even for me, to be honest. Obviously it's an honor to reach 100 goals for this great club," Kane told broadcaster Sky.

"A big thanks to all the staff, the players, everyone who helped me get to where I am. But 100 goals, to do it that quickly, is something I'm really proud of. But as I always say, it's on to the next one now and hopefully I can reach another hundred as soon as possible."

After Jonathan Tah's backheel gave Bayern the lead, Kane scored his first of the night from the penalty spot in the 45th minute after being fouled by Marco Friedl and his second off a pass from Luis Diaz in the 65th for a 3-0 lead. Kane was smiling broadly as he celebrated the landmark goal.

Even by Kane's standards, it's been a prolific start to the new season. Including Friday's goals, Kane has 15 in eight games so far in 2025-26 for Bayern, along with one goal for England against Serbia.

His hopes of a third hat trick of the season ended when he was substituted for Nicolas Jackson in the 78th. Konrad Laimer made it 4-0 in the 87th.

Kane is under contract with Bayern until the end of next season and coach Vincent Kompany dismissed a question speculating whether the England captain might seek a return to the Premier League next year.

"I honestly have to say that isn't a topic for us. We don't discuss that, we don't need to discuss that," Kompany told Sky. "What he's showing now is how he feels, I believe, and that was another nice moment for him today."

Bayern stretched its lead at the top of the Bundesliga with a fifth win in as many games as it prepares to visit Pafos of Cyprus in the Champions League on Tuesday. Bremen is 14th in the 18-team league and could drop into the relegation zone depending on other teams' results on Saturday and Sunday.

Bayern played in a grey and green special edition shirt to commemorate Munich's Oktoberfest but it prompted protests in the stadium. A large banner raised at one end of the arena called for Bayern to play in its traditional red and white instead.

Swiatek makes WTA history with dominant win

Alcaraz powers past Bergs at Japan Open

TOKYO, Sept 27, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the quarterfinals of the Japan Open with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Zizou Bergs on Saturday and then paid tribute to his physiotherapist following an ankle injury scare.

The top-ranked Alcaraz landed awkwardly on his left ankle during his opening match on Thursday and was unsure how he would feel against Bergs.

He held up well, saying he "could play normally," and set up a last-eight meeting with Brandon Nakashima of the United States.

"It was tough and it was a really important day and a half I had to recover as good as I could," Alcaraz said when asked about his ankle. "I have said it before and I will say it again, I have the best physio in the world, who I trust 100%."

"The work he has done for the ankle has been great. I could play normally, which is great. Sometimes I was worried about some movements, when I could feel the ankle, but in general I played some great tennis, a great match."

Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek defeated Yuan Yue 6-0, 6-3 on Saturday to advance to the third round at the China Open and create some WTA Tour history.

The WTA said Swiatek, with Saturday's win, became the first player to register 25 or more wins at WTA-1000 events for three consecutive



Iga Swiatek, of Poland, tosses the ball to serve against Yuan Yue, of China during the women's singles match for the China Open tennis tournament, at the National Tennis Center, in Beijing, Saturday. (AP)

seasons.

Top-seeded Swiatek, who won last week's Korea Open in Seoul, has also won the French Open four times and the U.S. Open once among her six Grand Slam singles titles.

In earlier matches Saturday in Beijing, fourth-seeded Mirra Andreeva beat Zhu Lin 6-2, 6-2 and American Emma Navarro defeated Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-3, 7-6 (0).

Naomi Osaka won the opening set of her second-round match before Aliaksandra Sasnovich rallied

to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, and Emma Raducanu beat Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-3.

The tournament is being held concurrently with an ATP 500 men's tournament.

Jannik Sinner beat Frenchman Terence Atmane 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 to advance to the quarterfinals.

Sinner, who lost the U.S. Open final to Carlos Alcaraz three weeks ago, dropped only four games in his first-round match against Croatian veteran Marin Cilic.

Lorenzo Musetti has become the latest tennis star to apologize to Chinese fans.

"I am truly sorry. I respect you deeply. I feel at home here, and I value the warmth and kindness I have always received from you," the 23-year-old Italian said in a message he posted Saturday on social media.

Musetti was annoyed by coughing in the crowd during his round-of-32 win on Friday against Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard at the China Open in Beijing, where he shouted "these (expletive) Chinese are always coughing."

That outburst prompted a flurry of outrage on social media, with people commenting on one of his previous Instagram posts to accuse Musetti of being a racist, along with insults and slurs against the Italian culture.

"I would like to sincerely apologize for what I said in frustration yesterday during my match," Musetti continued in Saturday's post. "My words were directed only at a few individuals in the crowd who were coughing repeatedly and disturbing the play. They were never, in any way, meant for the Chinese people. It happened in a moment of stress and tension in the second tiebreak, but still, this is no excuse at all."

He added: "I realize that the way I expressed myself was wrong and inappropriate, and it hurt many Chinese fans' feelings."

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NEWS



Manchester City's Savinho falls by Burnley's Maxime Esteve during the Premier League soccer match between Burnley and Manchester City in Manchester, England. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait shooters light up Arab Shooting Championship



Kuwaiti shooters celebrate on the podium.

TANGIER, Morocco, Sept 27: The Kuwait national shooting team continued its impressive run at the Arab Shooting Championship in Tangier, Morocco, adding five medals to raise its overall tally to nine in the tournament.

Team manager Mishfi Al-Mutairi praised the shooters' performances, highlighting the men's trap team of Nasser Al-Muqled, Talal Al-Rashidi, and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan, who clinched the gold medal.

Veteran shooter Khaled Al-Mudhaf secured silver in the men's individual trap,

while Talal Al-Rashidi added a bronze in the same event. On the women's side, Shahad Al-Hawal, Sarah Al-Hawal, and Reem Al-Zaman captured silver in the team trap competition, with Sarah Al-Hawal also winning bronze in the individual trap.

Al-Mutairi expressed pride in what he described as "honorable" results, affirming his confidence that Kuwait's shooters will continue to build on their medal count as the championship progresses.



Players fighting for the ball during a league match between Kuwait Club and Qadsia.

KFA vows action as brawl mars Kuwait Club win over Al-Qadsia

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Kuwait Football Association has condemned the incidents during Kuwait Club vs. Al-Qadsia in Round 4 of the Zain Premier League at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. The FA confirmed that all individuals involved in the post-match brawl will face the Disciplinary Committee for strict sanctions under league regulations.

Kuwait Club secured a 2-1 victory, with Mohamed Marhoon opening the scoring with a thunderous strike in the 29th minute and Taha Al-Khnisi adding a second in stoppage time. Al-Qadsia's Bader Al-Mutawa reduced the deficit in the 85th minute, but a confrontation between team officials erupted before the final whistle, requiring intervention from Special Stadium Security Forces.

Round 4 Fixtures: Al-Salmiya vs. Al-Jahra, Al-Nasr vs. Al-Tadamon

To close Round 4, Al-Salmiya will host Al-Jahra at Thamer Stadium at 8:20 PM, while Al-Nasr faces Al-Tadamon at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 6:05 PM.

Al-Salmiya has recovered from a challenging start that led to the resignation of coach Nasser Al-Shatti. Under Mohammed Dhailis, the team has recorded wins over Al-Nasr (2-0) and Al-Tadamon (1-0) and aims to continue their momentum.

Al-Jahra comes off a 2-2 draw with Kazma, narrowly missing a win due to a late goal. Al-Salmiya leads the mini-table with 6 points, while Al-Jahra and Al-Tadamon sit with 1 point each. Al-Tadamon seeks their first win, and Al-Nasr remains at the bottom with zero points after three straight losses under coach Jamel Belkacem.

Derby delight as Atletico stuns Real with Álvarez brace

Espanyol's momentum checked in draw

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 27, (Agencies): Julián Álvarez scored twice and Atletico Madrid routed fierce rival Real Madrid 5-2 in a thrilling Spanish league derby on Saturday.

Álvarez's performance was sweet redemption after his controversial double-kick penalty contributed to Atletico losing to Madrid in last season's Champions League.

The Argentina striker stole the show from Kylian Mbappé, who scored as Madrid built a 2-1 lead. Álvarez converted a penalty to put the hosts ahead 3-2 early in the second half before he added a second goal with a curling free kick.

Diego Simeone's Atletico dealt Xabi Alonso his first loss of the season after Madrid had won all six La Liga games and its Champions League opener. Alonso's only other loss since taking over as Madrid's coach in the summer was against Paris Saint-Germain in the Club World Cup semi-finals in July.

Barcelona can overtake leader Madrid with a win at Real Sociedad on Sunday. Atletico moved into fourth place.

Robin Le Normand and Alexander Sorloth scored for Atletico in the first half, while Antoine Griezmann went on as a late substitute to round off the big win.

Arda Guler set up Mbappé for his early goal before the

Turkey midfielder scored to put Madrid momentarily in front.

Espanyol's strong early season form in La Liga hit a snag when Girona goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga earned his struggling team a point in a 0-0 draw.

Espanyol came into the game fourth and could have gone to third with a win, behind only Real Madrid and Barcelona. Espanyol racked up 20 shots against winless Girona but couldn't find a way past Argentine goalkeeper Gazzaniga in the first goalless draw in the league this season.

Girona, which was playing in the Champions League a year ago, moved off the foot of the table above Mallorca to 19th with its third point from seven league games. It was the first time since May 13 that Girona did not concede a goal in a competitive game.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick has an ever-increasing injury crisis to deal with ahead of his side's game at home to Real Sociedad on Sunday night.

Goalkeeper Joan Garcia and forward Raphinha were added to the injury list on Thursday with Garcia out for around six weeks after damaging the meniscus ligament in his left knee, while Raphinha will be sidelined for around three weeks after straining a hamstring in Wednesday's win in Oviedo.

Flick already has midfielder Gavi out for around five months after a knee operation, with Fermin Lopez also out for around three weeks.



Atletico Madrid players celebrate at the end of the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid at Metropolitano stadium, in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

United beaten 3-1 at Brentford

Palace hands Liverpool first defeat of the season

LONDON, Sept 27, (AP): Liverpool's perfect start to its Premier League title defense ended with a late 2-1 defeat at Crystal Palace on Saturday and Bruno Fernandes failed to score a penalty for the second time this season in Manchester United's latest lackluster loss.

Eddie Nketiah lashed home the winner for Palace in the seventh minute of stoppage time, just when it seemed Federico Chiesa's 87th-minute goal would earn the champions a point with their latest late goal this season.

Liverpool won its first five league games despite not being entirely convincing and Arne Slot's team was undone again by Palace, which beat the Reds in a penalty shootout to win the Community Shield before the English season began.

Palace is now Liverpool's closest rival, moving up to second and just three points adrift after six rounds.

United was beaten 3-1 at Brentford for a third defeat from six matches in the league - but it could have been so different had Fernandes' spot kick not been saved by Brentford goalkeeper Caoimhín Kelleher in the 76th minute. That would have made it 2-2.

The Portugal midfielder also missed a penalty at Fulham last month.

United fell behind to an early double by Brazilian striker Igor Thiago by the 20th minute before Benjamin Sesko reduced the deficit for United

in the 26th with his first goal in English soccer. Fernandes then made his penalty blunder after Bryan Mbeumo - the winger signed by United from Brentford - was pulled back in the area.

Mathias Jensen powered in a shot from the edge of the area for Brentford's third goal in stoppage time.

The latest loss for United came after previous league defeats to Arsenal

and Manchester City, with a humbling English League Cup exit at the hands of fourth-tier Grimsby Town also thrown in so far this season.

United failed to build on a win at Chelsea last week and still hasn't recorded back-to-back victories under Amorim since his first match in charge in November last year.

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland is already well clear in the

league's scoring chart after netting in the 90th minute and again in stoppage time to wrap up a 5-1 thrashing of Burnley. That moved the Norway star onto eight goals, four more than anyone else.

Before that, City's goals came from unusual sources.

There was an own-goal in each half by Burnley center back Maxime Esteve, either side of a rare strike by right back Matheus Nunes.

City has won three of its six games and moved five points behind Liverpool.

Burnley's goal came from Jaidon Anthony, who has four already this campaign.

Chelsea had a man sent off for the second straight league match and it cost the team dearly in a 3-1 loss to Brighton.

Chelsea was leading 1-0 thanks to Enzo Fernandez's first-half header when Trevoh Chalobah was shown a straight red card in the 53rd for denying Brighton a clear goalscoring opportunity.

Brighton dominated after that, with Danny Welbeck equalizing in the 77th and both Maxim De Cuyper and Welbeck scoring in stoppage time.

Last weekend, Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez was sent off in the fifth minute of the 2-1 loss at Man United.

In another match, Bournemouth scored in stoppage time to draw 2-2 at Leeds.



Chelsea's Andrey Santos, left, and Brighton and Hove Albion's Ferdi Kadoglu in action during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Brighton & Hove Albion at Stamford Bridge, London. (AP)

West Ham fires Potter, hires Espirito Santo after 5 games

LONDON, Sept 27, (AP): West Ham fired manager Graham Potter and hired Nuno Espirito Santo as his replacement on Saturday, just five games into the new Premier League season and two days before the struggling London team's next match at Everton.

Potter paid the price for West Ham slumping to next-to-last place after losing four of its league games so far. The team is already out of the English League Cup, too.

Nuno left Nottingham Forest on Sept. 9 after a deterioration in his working relationship with the club's hierarchy but has secured a rapid return for his fourth stint in England's top division, having previously coached Wolverhampton and Tottenham.

"My objective is to work hard to get the very best from the team and ensure that we are as competitive as we possibly can be," Nuno said. "The work has already started and I am looking forward to the challenge that is ahead."

Potter took charge in January and led the club to a 14th-placed finish last season.

"Results and performances over the course of the second half of last season and the start of the 2025-26 season have not matched expectations," West Ham said, "and the board of directors believe that a change is necessary in order to help improve the team's position in the Premier League as soon as possible."

Potter said he was "incredibly disappointed" to be leaving West Ham "without being able to achieve what we set out to achieve."

"I do however fully acknowledge that the results have just not been good enough up to now," Potter said in a statement via the League Managers Association.

West Ham added that the "process of appointing a replacement is underway."

Potter's backroom staff also have left. West Ham turned to Potter at the start of 2025 after Julen Lopetegui - the successor of long-serving boss David Moyes - lasted only 22 matches.

Potter had turned down multiple job proposals during a nearly two-year spell out of management following his dismissal by Chelsea, where he lasted seven months in the 2022-23 season. Before that, he built a strong reputation with stints at Ostersund in Sweden, Swansea and Brighton.

West Ham finished last season with only two wins from its final 11 league matches and lost key attacker Mohammed Kudus in the offseason.

The unrest of the West Ham supporters failed to ease after a flurry of signings during the final weeks of the transfer window coincided with heavy defeats to Sunderland (3-0) and Chelsea (5-1) in August.