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Opinion

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FEARS of the possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz are not new. Since the Carter Doctrine was announced on Jan 23, 1980, and about four months later, Al-Seyassah daily published a report posing the question: Would the Strait of Hormuz closure mean the start of World War III?

The general context of this investigative-analysis report was based on several factors, most importantly the fact that Kuwait has no other outlet for exporting its oil, which is the primary source of national

income, except through this waterway. The question was necessary at the time, prompting action to find alternatives to this vital artery.

This was during the Iran-Iraq War, and the 'Tanker War' was just beginning (similar to what is happening today).

Therefore, it was essential to propose ideas that were in line with the strategic direction of the country, both economically and financially.

This task is supposed to be the mission of experts and senior officials in this sensitive sector, in addition to the ministers of Oil and Finance, who are in charge of developing sustainable strategies and outlining a vision for the future.

Oil-producing countries have had contingency plans in place for years, and such plans are being developed from time to time.

Saudi Arabia planned the Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) in 1946, which opened in 1950, as an alternative to the Strait of Hormuz. Although this pipeline ceased operation after the 1967 War, it was a vision for the future.

In recent decades, Saudi Arabia constructed the East-West pipeline to the Red Sea. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) built the Habshan-Fujairah pipeline, so it was not severely affected when the Strait of Hormuz was closed in the last few months.

The risks associated with the closure of the Strait

of Hormuz have been known for some time, and preparing for them must be a priority for the relevant officials. It is not enough to simply maintain the status quo as long as the situation is stable.

Executive officials consistently reiterate reassuring statements, urging citizens not to worry and emphasizing that everything is under control.

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KUNA photos

Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States, Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah, visits the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond to view the "Great Mughals of India" exhibition, which includes rare pieces on loan from the Al-Sabah Collection showcasing the artistic and cultural heritage of the Mughal Empire.

DAI takes Islamic arts global through Al-Sabah Collection

WASHINGTON, Sept 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah affirmed Saturday the pivotal role of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (DAI) and its Al-Sabah Artifacts Collection in showcasing key historical epochs of Islamic art and civilization globally.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during her visit to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Sheikh Al-Zain inspected the "Great Mughals of India" exhibition, which features rare items on loan from the Al-Sabah Collection highlighting the artistic and cultural legacy of the Mughal Empire.

The Ambassador emphasized that

participating in major international exhibitions reflects Kuwait's enduring commitment to preserving and disseminating Islamic cultural heritage on the world stage.

She added that displaying these rare artifacts serves as a vital bridge for cross-cultural communication, fostering dialogue and strengthening artistic and historical ties between the State of Kuwait and the United States.

The inclusion of the Al-Sabah Collection items underscores the international prestige of Kuwait's cultural holdings, which encompass numerous artifacts representing the progression of Islamic civilization across diverse geographic regions.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait said that juvenile crimes in Kuwait fell by 48 percent during the first half of 2026 compared to the same period of 2025, dropping from 1,523 to 795 cases.

In a statement to KUNA on Saturday, Al-Sumait said juvenile crimes continued to decline for the second consecutive year, noting that the decrease reached 52 percent compared to the first half of 2024, when 1,665 cases were recorded.

He noted that the decline covered several major cases registered with the Juvenile Prosecution, most notably traffic-related cases, which fell by 63 percent from 1,048 cases in the first half of 2025 to 383 during the same period of 2026. Assault cases also declined by 32 percent.

Al-Sumait said the decline coincided with legislative measures adopted by the government to strengthen deterrence and prevention of crimes involving juveniles through a

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Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait



Photo by Samer Shqair

Despite scorching temperatures of 41-43°C, Kuwait City came alive on Friday as residents seek out waterfront shades, savoring the summer's intensity with conversation and sunset views.

Schools shift gears with flexible hours

Iran attacks enter Kuwait's history books

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Ministry of Education has incorporated the Iranian attacks on Kuwait in 2026 into the Grade 10 history curriculum.

The material is included in the textbook "The State of Kuwait: Its Journey and Entity," which is prescribed for Grade 10 students.

Pages 56 and 57 are dedicated to documenting the Iranian attacks, their repercussions, and Kuwait's official stance. The text highlights the unity between the leadership and the people, as well as the readiness of state institutions to protect the country's security and sovereignty.

The lesson does not merely narrate the events of the attacks but presents them within a historical and political context, familiarizing students with the nature of the challenges Kuwait faced while emphasizing the principles of its foreign policy and its position on regional and international conflicts.

The added lesson reviews attacks carried out by Iran and

its militias in the region using missiles and drones, targeting vital and government facilities, residential areas, power generation and desalination plants, Kuwait International Airport, the Public Institution for Social Security headquarters, and the government ministries complex.

The Ministry of Education included a photograph in the lesson documenting the aftermath of the Iranian bombing of Kuwait International Airport, providing students with a visual representation of the event.

The lesson explains that Kuwait affirmed its rejection of the Iranian attacks and its commitment to defending its territory, while pursuing extensive diplomatic efforts to maintain regional security and stability.

The lesson highlights the leadership role of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during the crisis, including directing state institutions, enhancing their preparedness, and emphasizing Kuwait's firm position that it is not a party to the war between the United States and Israel on one side and Iran on the other.

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41 nabbed in Kuwait

Diesel thieves get tanked

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The General Department of Criminal Investigation, represented by the Capital Investigation Department, dismantled a network involved in stealing diesel fuel from vehicles belonging to government agencies and private sector companies and reselling it to projects throughout Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Investigations revealed that several drivers had been stealing quantities of diesel fuel from vehicles entrusted to them as

part of their jobs without their employers' knowledge. They transported the fuel to a location in Amghara, where it was stored in designated tankers before being resold.

The investigation also revealed that a citizen had provided the tankers used to siphon and collect the diesel fuel for KD 1,600 per month under a lease agreement. He was aware that the tankers were being used for illegal activities.

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Iran draws Arab League ire as session opens

CAIRO, Sept 5, (KUNA): The Arab League condemned the continued blatant Iranian attacks against the State of Kuwait, the latest being Thursday's missile and drone attack, stressing its

complete rejection of any continued violation of the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of an Arab state.

In a statement on Friday, the Arab League affirmed its full solidarity

with Kuwait and support for measures it takes to protect its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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Experts back fund borrowing, urge restraint and discipline

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: In a decisive move to protect national economic security and ensure financial stability of the country, the government approved a decree-law authorizing regulated borrowing from the Future Generations Fund.

Economic experts interviewed by the newspaper agreed on the feasibility of this new



Dr. Al-Bassam



Al-Jazzaf

lic debt.

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140 Kuwaiti graduates join healthcare next generation

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The ceremony for graduating Kuwaiti students at the Faculty of Dentistry and Medicine at Alexandria University in Egypt was held recently in the presence of official spokesperson of

the Ministry of Health Dr. Abdulah Al-Sanad, Director of the Dental Department at the ministry Dr. Jaber Taqi, President of the General Practitioners Association Dr. Faisal Ishaq Al-Kandari and families of the graduates.

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Photo by Samer Shqair

Photo during a ceremony for graduating Kuwaiti students at the Faculty of Dentistry and Medicine at Alexandria University in Egypt.



From Samarkand to Failaka -
When the earth speaks the
language of civilization

NBK ranks among the
region's 10 leading banks
in The Banker's Top Arab
Banks 2026



Burgan Bank rights issue:
capital boost for
core franchise and
selective growth

8



PM congratulates Italian counterpart on longest-serving gov't in Republic history

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has congratulated Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni after her government became the longest-serving in the history of the Italian Republic.

In a cable, His Highness commended Her Excellency's role in strengthening the historic relations between the



HH the PM



Giorgia Meloni

State of Kuwait and the friendly Italian Republic, as well as the shared commitment of both nations to enhance and develop these ties across all fields.

His Highness wished Premier Meloni continued good health and well-being, along with every success in serving her country, wishing the Italian Republic and its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

'Bolstering partnerships to expand public reach'

Humanitarian action mainstay of Kuwait diplomacy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): When Kuwaiti aid crosses borders, it carries more than food, medicine and relief supplies. It carries a humanitarian message shaped by decades of standing alongside peoples in times of hardship and crisis.

Across regions of the world, Kuwaiti humanitarian initiatives have become a diplomatic avenue that strengthens ties among peoples and opens doors for cooperation with governments and international organizations.

Kuwait's presence in areas affected by crises and disasters has helped build partnerships that go beyond emergency relief to support recovery, stability, and development, while strengthening trust and joint action.

On the International Day of Charity, observed annually on September 5, Kuwaiti humanitarian diplomacy stands out as the product of integrated official and charitable efforts that have helped open new avenues for humanitarian action, strengthen international partnerships and consolidate Kuwait's humanitarian standing and message worldwide.

On this occasion, Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Counselor Reham Hamad Al-Ghanem told KUNA that Kuwaiti humanitarian diplomacy contributes to enhancing Kuwait's regional and global presence and standing through an established approach based on supporting affected populations, responding to humanitarian needs and cooperating with the international community in addressing crises and disasters.

Al-Ghanem said the approach reflects Kuwait's commitment to humanitarian principles and values and strengthens its role as an active partner in international efforts aimed at achieving stability, alleviating the impact of crises and disasters, and supporting affected communities.

She added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a coordinating role in supporting Kuwaiti humanitarian efforts and communicating with regional and international states and organizations, contributing to organizing cooperation channels and facilitating the implementation of humanitarian initiatives and programs.

The ministry, she noted, works in coordination with official bodies and Kuwaiti charitable institutions and associations to strengthen partnerships and integrate efforts in line with Kuwait's humanitarian priorities and international commitments, thereby enhancing the efficiency of responses to humanitarian needs.

Al-Ghanem affirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs views humanitarian diplomacy as one of the avenues supporting Kuwait's foreign policy, in line with the country's approach based on cooperation, dialogue and multilateral action.

In turn, Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Khaled Al-Mughamis said that Kuwaiti humanitarian action has opened broad avenues for cooperation with countries and humanitarian organizations and enabled access to affected communities.

He stressed that integrating official and charitable efforts strengthens Kuwait's humanitarian diplomacy and reflects the country's approach of building bridges of cooperation and solidarity with peoples.

Al-Mughamis added that the society's efforts have extended to Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Lebanon, as well as several countries in Asia and Africa.

They have included food, medical and shelter assistance, in addition to water, education and health projects, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, national societies and regional and international humanitarian orga-



Dr. Al-Mughamis



Saad Al-Otaibi

nizations, helping unify efforts and expand the reach of Kuwaiti aid to those in need.

He affirmed that the society implemented around 27 projects in Yemen during 2022 and 2023 and performed 200 surgeries.

In 2024, it implemented around 15 projects, performed 300 surgeries and treated 1,247 patients.

In Syria, its efforts included the "Bread" project benefiting around 3,500 families and the "Warm Winter" campaign benefiting around 30,000 displaced Syrians in Lebanon, in addition to its response to the 2023 earthquake and allocation of USD two million to support relief efforts.

He pointed out that air and sea bridges to Sudan, support for the health sector, recovery projects, rehabilitation of schools and health centers, and assistance to Rohingya refugees demonstrate the ability of Kuwaiti humanitarian action to open new avenues extending beyond emergency relief to recovery and development.

Such partnerships, he affirmed, strengthen Kuwait's presence and support its role in humanitarian diplomacy.

For his part, Chairman of Direct Aid Society Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Muhailan said that Kuwaiti humanitarian and charitable work has become a pillar of sustainable development and an avenue for strengthening humanitarian diplomacy and building bridges of cooperation among peoples through initiatives that go beyond responding to emergency needs to empowering people and creating lasting development impact.

Efforts

Al-Muhailan said growing humanitarian challenges require unifying efforts and strengthening partnerships between the charitable sector, government agencies and international organizations.

This would open new avenues for humanitarian action, expand the scope of response and reach the communities most in need efficiently and transparently, based on institutional frameworks and clear governance standards.

He added that Direct Aid Society focuses on sustainable projects that empower communities.

Educational programs accounted for the largest share of its field project expenditures in 2025, at 23 percent and KD 9.8 million, followed by construction and water projects at 21 percent and KD 8.9 million, alongside health, awareness and development programs.

He noted that the diversity of fields of work and the development of humanitarian partnerships enhance Kuwaiti charitable institutions' ability to reach those most in need and open broader development prospects.

Joint institutional action, he stressed, helps highlight Kuwait's role and consolidate its presence abroad as an active partner in supporting people and communities.

Chairman of the Union of Charitable Societies and Foundations Saad Al-Otaibi pointed out that the charitable sector represents an important pillar of Kuwait's humanitarian diplomacy.

Through its longstanding experience, it has helped enhance the country's presence and build bridges of trust and communication with

peoples through initiatives based on solidarity, cooperation and support for needy and affected communities.

Al-Otaibi said Kuwaiti charitable societies and foundations operate in coordination with official authorities and in partnership with international humanitarian organizations and entities, helping unify efforts, open new avenues for cooperation and enhance the effectiveness of Kuwaiti initiatives and their ability to reach beneficiaries within regulated frameworks.

He added that the diversity of Kuwaiti projects in relief, education, health, water and development has expanded Kuwait's humanitarian reach and transformed charitable work from simply assisting in building sustainable humanitarian partnerships and relations that promote closer ties and cooperation with different communities.

He noted that the next phase requires continued integration between official authorities and the charitable sector, development of international partnerships and coordination of initiatives to strengthen unified humanitarian efforts, preserve Kuwait's standing and expand the impact of its humanitarian diplomacy in serving people and supporting communities most in need.

Meanwhile, Director General of Al-Najat Charity Society Dr. Jaber Al-Wanda told KUNA that the international reach of Kuwait's charitable sector has contributed to supporting humanitarian diplomacy, opening new avenues for charitable work and reaching communities most in need, enhancing Kuwait's presence and reflecting its approach of aiding and supporting people without discrimination.

Al-Wanda added that the number of beneficiaries from the society's projects in 2025 exceeded five million through cooperation with 57 partners accredited by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He stressed that expanding partnerships and coordination with relevant authorities enhance the ability of Kuwaiti charitable work to unify efforts and reach broader groups and areas.

He pointed out that the society sponsors more than 8,200 orphans in over 12 countries and 1,311 students. In recent years, it has also completed 24 residential villages in Yemen comprising more than 850 homes, in addition to 11 schools and 17 mosques, reflecting the diversity of Kuwaiti efforts across relief, development, education and social care.

He noted that the society's efforts in Gaza included establishing charitable kitchens, providing prosthetic limbs and insulin for diabetic patients, and sponsoring orphans and families.

The diversity and continuity of these interventions, he affirmed, demonstrate the ability of Kuwait's charitable sector to respond to various needs and open humanitarian avenues that strengthen Kuwait's presence and build bridges of solidarity with peoples.

These efforts, across their various avenues, reflect a model of Kuwaiti humanitarian diplomacy that combines emergency response, sustainable development and partnership building. Coordination among official bodies, charitable institutions and their partners abroad has helped unify humanitarian efforts, expand the scope of initiatives and reach more communities and groups in need.

The diversity and geographical reach of these projects also highlight the Kuwaiti charitable sector's ability to open new horizons for humanitarian action and transform giving into bridges of cooperation and closer ties among peoples, strengthening Kuwait's pioneering role, preserving its humanitarian legacy and consolidating its presence as an active partner in efforts to alleviate suffering and support stability and development.

Minister revokes private clinic license over illegal subletting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi revoked the license of a private-sector clinic after it was found that the facility's license had been sublet and the clinic was being operated by a third party, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision was based on the findings of an inspection and audit conducted by the Health Licensing Department and a report submitted to the minister confirming that the contracting parties had exploited the medical license and mismanaged the facility.

The report documented several related violations. A review of the investment



Dr. Al-Awadhi

contract submitted by the license holder revealed clauses allowing a third party to operate the healthcare facility, in violation of Article 15 of Ministerial Resolution No. 36/2024, which prohibits subletting or allowing a third party to operate the facility in any manner.

The decision was based on Paragraph 4 of Article 63 of Law No. 70/2020 concerning the practice of medicine and related professions, as well as the rights of patients and healthcare facilities. The provision stipulates the revocation of a healthcare facility's license if it is proven that its owner or manager has sublet the facility or allowed it to be operated by a third party.

The ministry stressed that its specialized teams will continue to monitor, supervise, and inspect private-sector healthcare facilities and will take the prescribed legal measures against anyone found to have committed violations.

Reckless driver arrested, faces heavy fine, prison

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Officers from the Security Control Unit at the General Traffic Department in the Ministry of Interior apprehended an individual for reckless driving and endangering not only his life but also that of other road users and their properties, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrest happened after a video showing the incident went viral on social media.

Investigations led to the identification and arrest of the suspect, and legal measures were taken against him before his transfer to the Central Prison. The vehicle used in the incident was impounded after the completion of the necessary legal procedures for its confiscation by the ministry.

Article 33bis of the Traffic Law states that whoever commits certain acts like reckless driving that endanger the lives or properties of the concerned motorist or others shall be punished by imprisonment for a period ranging from one to three years or a fine ranging from KD600 to KD1,000.

According to the aforementioned article, the court may, on its own or at the request of the ministry, order the confiscation of the vehicle if a defendant is convicted of any of the acts stipulated in this article.

The relevant department at the ministry has the authority to dispose of the vehicle.

Other Voices

Charity begins with justice

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb
Managing Partner, Taher Group
Law Firm Legal Strategist & Executive Educator

As the world marks the International Day of Charity, we naturally think of donations, food, medicine and financial assistance. These acts matter and can relieve hardship and, sometimes, transform lives. But charity is larger than what we give. It can be a kind



Fawaz Alkhateeb

word, time given to someone who needs help, a smile that lifts another person's spirit, or a simple gesture that preserves dignity. For those entrusted with knowledge, influence or professional power, there is another question worth asking: How can what we know and what we are capable of doing be used to make another person's burden lighter?

For lawyers, this question carries particular significance. A person may not always need money; he may need someone to explain a right he does not understand. A worker may need help recovering what is lawfully owed to him, a family may need guidance through a legal problem they cannot navigate alone, or someone facing an injustice may simply need a professional willing to listen and point him in the right direction. Helping people understand, protect and exercise their rights can therefore be one of the most meaningful ways in which legal knowledge serves society.

There is something particularly meaningful in Kuwait's constitutional philosophy in this regard. Article 7 of the Constitution places justice, liberty and equality among the pillars of society, while describing cooperation and compassion as bonds between citizens. The connection is important: justice and compassion need not exist in separate worlds. Kuwait's legal framework also recognises mechanisms intended to facilitate access to justice for those unable to bear its cost, including legal assistance and, subject to statutory conditions, relief from judicial fees. The broader principle deserves reflection on this day: justice is a right, but helping another person reach justice can be an important form of service to society.

There is, however, an important distinction between charity and professional duty. Refusing to misuse the law is not an act of generosity; it is an obligation. Kuwait's Civil Code recognises that the exercise of a right may become unlawful when it is diverted from its purpose or social function, including where the sole intention is to harm another. Procedural law likewise allows compensation where a claim or defence is pursued merely for vexation. These principles

remind us that possessing a legal right, professional skill or position of strength does not justify using it simply to inflict unnecessary harm.

This does not mean that lawyers should be less determined in defending their clients. Quite the opposite. Strong advocacy and humanity are entirely compatible. A lawyer may defend a client's interests vigorously, pursue every legitimate legal remedy and take a firm position where necessary, while remaining conscious of fairness, proportionality and the consequences of professional decisions. Professional strength is not measured only by how forcefully power can be exercised, but also by how responsibly it is used.

Our legal profession provides an even more direct expression of service. Kuwaiti law provides a mechanism under which, at the request of the competent legal aid committee or a court, the Kuwait Lawyers Association appoints a lawyer to defend a person unable to afford representation. This is significant because rights written in legislation have limited meaning if a person has no practical ability to understand or defend them. A few minutes of legal guidance, assistance with a document or representation for someone without the means to obtain it may have consequences far greater than the time given.

Knowledge

The principle extends well beyond lawyers. Executives, business owners, doctors, educators, public officials and professionals all possess something that another person may need: knowledge, authority, access, influence, experience or simply time. Charity therefore invites us to ask not only, "What can I give?" but also, "What can I do with what I have?" A decision not to exploit another person's vulnerability, a few minutes spent guiding someone in difficulty, or an intervention that helps restore a person's legitimate right may never appear in a charity report, yet its impact can be profound.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught us not to consider any good deed insignificant, even meeting another person with a cheerful face. It is a simple teaching with enduring meaning: no act of goodness should be dismissed merely because it appears small. A kind word may change someone's day, professional guidance may prevent months of hardship, and using one's knowledge to stand beside someone facing injustice may alter the course of a life.

On the International Day of Charity, perhaps the most important reminder is that generosity does not always require wealth. Sometimes it requires knowledge, sometimes time, sometimes courage and sometimes the responsible use of the influence we already possess. Justice itself is not charity; it is a right. But helping another person reach justice, preserve dignity and secure what is already rightfully theirs may be among the most meaningful forms of service we can offer.



Photo by Samer Shqair
Pediatric Hematology Association President Dr. Sundus Al-Shuraideh and senior officials inaugurating the forum.

Multiple workshops in forum

'Pediatric hematology, oncology witnessing rapid developments'

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Pediatric Hematology Association President Dr. Sundus Al-Shuraideh stated that the field of pediatric hematology and oncology is witnessing rapid and unprecedented developments due to the diversification of treatment options and advancements in diagnostic techniques, therapies, stem cell transplantation, immunotherapies, cellular therapies and gene therapy.

Al-Shuraideh made the statement on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Third Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Forum, during which he confirmed the diversity and comprehensiveness of the scientific agenda of the forum, depicting the complete journey of a patient -- from diagnosis to treatment, recovery and long-term follow up.

She disclosed that the forum combines scientific lectures with practical training through a variety of workshops, such as managing pain in children, and methods for assessing and controlling it.

She indicated that the forum agenda includes bleeding and coagulation disorders, hemophilia, physical therapy for hemophilia patients, peripheral catheterization train-

ing, and Port-A-Cath care.

The forum participants stressed the need to support scientific research, establish national databases and registries, strengthen Gulf and international cooperation, develop stem cell transplantation programs and cellular and gene therapies, and invest in the training of Kuwaiti specialists.

On the other hand, President of the Saudi Hemophilia Society and Saudi Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anemia Society Dr. Mohammad Al-Shahrani considers the forum a vital step towards building stronger bridges of medical cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Al-Shahrani explained that childhood hematological and oncological diseases have no geographical boundaries, and that the challenges transcend national and institutional borders, hence, the shared responsibility to strengthen coordination.

Professor Muslim Al-Saidi, President of the Saudi Pediatric Society, stated that the gathering of experts and specialists from the Gulf countries and other countries around the world affirms the importance of cooperation and the exchange of expertise in developing healthcare services for children, particularly the hematological and oncological diseases.

Straits of dominance ... the conflict of strategic island

“THE small, scattered islands of the western Pacific Ocean are no longer mere geographical points of interest but have become strategic pillars in a heated geopolitical chess game between Washington and Tokyo on one side and Beijing on the other.” Kuwaiti writer Dr. **Nasser Hussein Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This conflict represents an attempt to reshape the balance of power in a region that is the lifeblood of the global economy. The First Island Chain stretches in a vast geographical arc, approximately five thousand kilometers long, off the continental coast of East Asia, separating China’s marginal seas from the open Pacific Ocean. This chain begins in the north with the Japanese archipelago and the Kuril Islands and extends south through the Ryukyu Islands, passing through Taiwan, which represents the cornerstone and sensitive link at its center. The chain then extends south through the northern parts of the Philippines, reaching Borneo and Indonesia.



Nasser H. Abbas

“This strategic location represents a natural barrier that encircles the Chinese fleet, subjecting any maritime foray into the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean to close intelligence and military monitoring. The chain forms a natural wall that confines the Chinese fleet within the East China Sea. Recent US-Japanese moves have sought to bolster the military presence there, equipping it with advanced radar systems and missile capabilities aimed at creating a strategic balance with China. This means that any attempt by Beijing to expand its influence will be met with an integrated defense network that makes any naval maneuver extremely costly.

“The battle here is not limited to hard power; it has extended to a war of information and underwater surveillance, with submarines competing to establish silent dominance. On an economic level, this conflict cannot be separated from energy security and the movement of supply chains, as more than a third of global maritime trade passes through these waters. Any military confrontation, or even the threat of a blockade, could immediately disrupt energy markets, increase shipping costs, and threaten the flow of semiconductors, the lifeblood of modern technology.

“Japan recognizes the vulnerability of its energy security and considers these islands its first line of defense for protecting its maritime supply lines, understanding that severing this vital artery could lead to complete domestic economic paralysis. In this complex landscape, Washington seeks to strengthen “burden-sharing,” based on the premise that the alliance with Tokyo is essential for maintaining Western influence in Asia.

“On the other hand, China views these developments as an extension of its “containment of the dragon” policy, prompting it to bolster its naval and air capabilities to an unprecedented degree. Amid this escalating competition, Southeast Asian countries find themselves in a precarious position, forced to constantly balance their security partner in Washington with their larger economic partner in Beijing. The data confirms that military escalation is not the optimal solution.

A realistic approach requires the following:

1. Activating direct communication channels by establishing hotlines between military leaders to avoid miscalculations.
2. Joint management of resources by transforming areas of tension into arenas for scientific and environmental cooperation.
3. Economic diplomacy and strengthening regional frameworks that guarantee freedom of navigation while moving away from policies that impose a fait accompli.

“The ongoing battle in the depths of the seas is merely a reflection of a new international reality characterized by a precarious multipolarity. Political wisdom dictates transforming these islands from “points of friction” into “bridges of equilibrium. In an economically interconnected world, there are no winners in a war that disrupts supply chains and places humanity at risk of an unpredictable confrontation.”

Also:

“National awards are no longer mere occasions for honoring winners or annual celebrations. Rather, they can serve as a strategic tool for improving the state’s performance, raising the quality of government services, and fostering positive competition among institutions,” columnist **Mohammad Nasser Al-Aleem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“When the state adopts a national award for government excellence based on clear and fair criteria, it sends a message to all ministries, agencies, and institutions that quality is mandatory, citizen satisfaction is a priority, and every institution has the opportunity to become a role model. A national award creates a unified national standard for excellence. Government entities may differ in their specializations and sizes, but they can compete in management quality, service delivery speed, digital transformation, innovation, spending efficiency, human resource develop-

ment, and beneficiary satisfaction.

“Most importantly, the results of the awards should not remain confined to the awards ceremony. When a ministry or agency achieves a successful outcome, its experience should be transformed into shared national knowledge that benefits the rest of the state’s institutions. Here, the award evolves from recognizing a single entity to developing the entire government apparatus. National awards highlight outstanding examples of leadership, employees, and teams, while providing a platform for creative initiatives to shine and receive recognition.

“When people know that achievement is measured, innovation is valued, and outstanding performance is recognized, they become more willing to contribute. However, the success of any national award requires that it not devolve into a race to produce files, reports, and impressive presentations. The citizen must be the ultimate judge. What is the value of an entity winning an award while the beneficiary still has to wait a long time to complete a transaction? What is the value of high performance indicators if people do not feel an improvement in the quality of service?

“Therefore, national awards must be linked to tangible results, such as reducing service waiting times, simplifying procedures, increasing productivity, improving the beneficiary experience, increasing spending efficiency, and enhancing trust in institutions. We need to view awards as part of a larger project titled “A State of Excellence,” where institutions compete to serve the people, learn from best practices, continuously measure their performance, and refuse to settle for mere achievement, instead always striving for excellence. True awards do not create just one winner. When state institutions raise their performance, the winner is the citizen... and the biggest winner is the nation.”



“It is not unusual to read in a published media report that a government agency has managed to increase its completion rate, reduce transaction processing times, and achieve better figures than the previous year,” Kuwaiti writer **Sami Abdulmohsen Al-Ruwaished** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The results may seem reassuring and perhaps even praiseworthy. However, numbers, no matter how impressive, do not always tell us what happened in other areas beyond what was measured. If an employee’s performance is evaluated solely based on the number of transactions completed, speed of completion may become more important than quality. If a school’s success is measured only by its pass rate, the indicator may improve without a corresponding improvement in the quality of learning.

“When a service is measured solely by the speed of completion, transaction processing times may decrease while errors increase, or transactions may be returned. This is known in measurement literature as Goodhart’s Law. When a metric becomes a goal, behavior begins to adapt to it until the metric loses some of its ability to accurately describe reality. People don’t need to fabricate misleading numbers. They simply need to learn how to succeed according to what

is being measured, even if the most important aspects remain unevaluated.

“The indicator may indeed improve while performance quietly deviates from the goal for which the indicator was designed. Therefore, individual

indicators, no matter how impressive they may seem, are insufficient. A good metric needs a complementary measure to monitor its impact from another perspective. This is where the value of what is known as a “balancing measure” comes in. If we measure speed, we should also measure the error rate or the need for reprocessing. If we measure quantity, we must consider the quality of the result. If we celebrate achievement, we should also ask whether the desired impact has actually been achieved.

“A balancing measure does not hinder achievement; rather, it protects its meaning by preventing us from gaining a minute at the expense of quality, increasing a percentage at the expense of value, or reaching a numerical target while straying from the desired goal. A balancing measure adds a second dimension to success, ensuring that excellence in one metric does not distort the overall picture. The Quran expresses this principle in Surah Ar-Rahman: “And establish weight with justice.” “And do not give a false balance.” A balance does not rest on a single pan, and fairness in measurement is not achieved merely by having a number, but by having something that prevents the number from deceiving us.

“Therefore, the most dangerous reports in practical life are those that appear complete, because they may give us a false sense of security and cause us to overlook the rest of the picture. The goal is not simply to improve an indicator’s results, but to ensure that it accurately reflects reality. When a number becomes the end goal, we may gain the indicator but lose what the indicator was designed to protect.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

PAFN seizes food unfit to eat in multiple raids

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), represented by the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Inspection Department, conducted a joint security and inspection campaign in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of nine violation reports, including violations related to the sale of adulterated food and breaches of health requirements, licensing regulations, and health certificate requirements.

In an official statement, PAFN revealed that 12.299 kilograms of adulterated food of unknown origin were seized and destroyed.

In Hawalli Governorate, PAFN, represented by Hawalli Inspection Department, conducted an inspection tour of several food establishments. The tour resulted in the issuance of 32 violation reports, four destruction reports for unfit food, and two written pledges. The seized quantities were destroyed, and legal action was taken against the violators.

PAFN affirmed its commitment to continuing its inspection and monitoring campaigns to ensure food safety and protect consumer health.



Registration opens: The Ministry of Interior announced the opening of registration for the 97th cohort of police officers specializing in the Coast Guard, starting at 12:00 noon next Sunday until September 17, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a statement issued Friday, the Ministry of Interior said applications can be submitted online through the Sahel application or its official website, in accordance with the approved terms and conditions.

The ministry urged interested applicants to review the registration requirements and ensure they meet all eligibility criteria.



Rescue operation in progress.

KFF photo

KFF rescues worker fallen in pit at construction site

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced Friday evening that firefighting teams responded to an incident involving a worker who fell from a height into a basement pit at a building under construction in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Teams from the Shuwaikh Industrial and Search and Rescue centers attended the scene and rescued the injured worker.

The worker sustained injuries in the fall and was subsequently handed over to paramedics for medical care.



The General Traffic Department announced the opening of the slow and middle lanes on King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Road.

Two traffic lanes opposite Jabriya reopen, says GTD

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The General Traffic Department announced the opening of the slow and middle lanes on King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Road, opposite Jabriya, towards Kuwait City, starting at dawn on Saturday, following the completion of road improvement works, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The department also clarified that the side exit leading to the Fourth Ring Road in the same direction has also been reopened.

Meanwhile, the General Traffic Department announced the complete closure of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz Road in the section between Bayan and Mubarak Al-Abdullah suburbs, including the entrances from Kuwait City and Ahmadi towards Al-Aqsa Mosque Street, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The closure will remain in effect until dawn on Sunday, September 6, 2026, to facilitate maintenance work.

578 citations issued for not using ‘turn signals’

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry conducted another series of traffic campaigns in the governorates, resulting in the issuance of 578 traffic violation tickets for not using turn signals within 24 hours.

According to a security source, the department started issuing traffic violation tickets two days ago to those who did not use turn signals when changing lanes. The source urged motorists to strictly comply with the traffic rules and regulations to avoid violations.

No casualties reported in livestock pen ‘blaze’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Firefighters from the Kabd, Al-Ishtialq, Al-Qairawan, and Support fire stations extinguished a fire that broke out in a warehouse inside a livestock pen in Kabad on Friday evening, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) stated that firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control and that no casualties were reported.



Jahra Governorate photo
Governor of Jahra and acting Governor of Farwaniya Hamad Al-Habashi and senior Ministry of Interior officers at the meeting.

How to control traffic chaos near schools in peak hours?

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Jahra Governorate recently held a coordination meeting chaired by Governor of Jahra and acting Governor of Farwaniya Hamad Al-Habashi, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Director General of Jahra Security Directorate Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Assistant Director General for Traffic Planning and Traffic Engineering Brigadier General Mishal Al-Shahman, and a number of other concerned officials attended the meeting.

They discussed arrangements for securing the areas surrounding schools, regulating vehicle movement at entrances and exits, and reducing traffic congestion during peak hours in order to ensure a safe and organized start of the academic year.

The meeting also focused on the condition of roads and intersections in Jahra and Mutlaa City, appropriate solutions to improve traffic flow, and following up observations and proposals that the governorate submitted earlier.

Work in Europe call turns false

Asians lose thousands in fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Criminal Investigation Department, specifically the Capital Governorate Police, arrested the owner of a recruitment agency on charges of fraud and deception, reports Al-Anba daily.

He allegedly lured expatriates with promises of securing job opportunities and employment contracts in European countries, as well as obtaining work visas for them.

According to security sources, approximately 25 expatriates, mostly Asians, reported to a police station in the Capital Governorate that they had seen an advertisement published by a company claiming to offer job opportunities in European countries.

They explained that they met with the company owner, who told them he could secure jobs and obtain visas for them in exchange for fees ranging from KD 2,000 to KD 2,500, depending on their qualifications.

They had signed contracts promising these opportunities, with assurances that their paperwork would be completed

within a few months.

They contacted the company multiple times but received no clear answers to their inquiries. They were instructed not to visit the company again and were told they would be contacted once the contracts were ready.

When they requested refunds, they were told the money had already been spent on visa processing.

Detectives conducted the necessary investigations, which confirmed the complainants’ statements and established that they had been subjected to fraud. The company owner was contacted and summoned for questioning, but he refused to respond.

The Public Prosecution was then contacted and issued the necessary arrest warrant.

The sources explained that the accused was interrogated and he confessed to receiving money from the expatriates, claiming that he was taking the necessary steps to secure job opportunities for them. He said he needed more time to complete the process and claimed that it would be difficult to refund the money to the complainants.

The sources did not clarify whether the accused held an official permit to operate an employment agency.



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‘Kuwait’s charitable work firmly rooted nat’l legacy’

Projects spread far and wide: Dr. Al-Huwailah

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed Saturday that charitable work in Kuwait is a firmly rooted national legacy passed down through generations.

In a statement to KUNA marking the International Day of Charity, observed annually on September 5, Al-Huwailah said the attention and



Dr. Al-Huwailah

support given to charitable and humanitarian work by the political leadership reflects the firmly established position of this approach in Kuwait’s policy and reinforces its humanitarian mission locally and internationally.

Kuwaiti charitable work has evolved from deeply rooted community initiatives into an institutional system carrying a humanitarian message based on supporting those in need and safeguarding human dignity wherever they may be, she added.

Al-Huwailah noted that the Ministry of Social Affairs has worked to develop the charitable sector by updating regulatory frameworks and bylaws and enhancing electronic systems. A draft decree-law regulating charitable and humanitarian work comes as a continuation of these efforts and aims to

strengthen governance and institutional practices.

She pointed out that regulation and oversight contribute to protecting charitable work, enhancing confidence in it and ensuring aid reaches its intended beneficiaries.

She affirmed the ministry’s continued efforts to strengthen cooperation with charitable societies and foundations and utilize modern technologies to improve efficiency and sustainability.

“Those working in the field of charity do not merely carry assistance, but a humanitarian trust and responsibility toward a person waiting for a helping hand,” she said, expressing appreciation to all workers and volunteers who have contributed to sustaining Kuwait’s tradition of giving across generations.

GCC forum eyes cut in carbon emissions

Call for efficient, sustainable transport systems

MUSCAT, Sept 5, (KUNA): The Gulf Green Mobility Forum is an opportunity to exchange expertise and gain insight into modern experiences and projects that support the development, efficiency, and sustainability of transport systems, said Kuwait’s Public Works Minister Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan on Friday.

She told KUNA after wrapping up that the event aligns with efforts of the State of Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members to achieve “more efficient and sustainable” transport solutions, which would



Dr. Al-Mashaan

result in “lower carbon emissions.”

The second Gulf Green Mobility Forum, organized by Oman’s Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, kicked off Wednesday, to strengthen GCC cooperation in green mobility and showcase Gulf initiatives in sustainable transport.

The two-day forum, hosted in Salalah, Oman, included the participation of government officials, industry leaders and representatives from leading Gulf companies specializing in green solutions.

The first day featured a workshop titled “The Gulf Green Mobility System Lab” and the launch of a project to transport medical supplies from Salalah to the Hallaniyat Islands using the “Sahm” drone.

The second day included a workshop on

“Green Corridors for Ports among GCC Countries” and the “Wasl” program, which focused on organizing and developing express delivery services.

According to Oman’s Ministry of Transport, this year’s forum highlights pioneering experiences in the Gulf region, in addition to showcasing Oman’s efforts and national projects in supporting innovation and achieving sustainability in the transport sector through diverse events.

The forum serves as a platform for cooperation in green mobility, exchanging expertise in sustainability within the transport sector, developing joint projects and contributing to raising public awareness and engaging the community in this transformation.



KUNA photo
Maj. Gen. Hamad Al-Munaifi, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, Counselor Ahmad Al-Buaian and Roman Kuryrin, Deputy Minister of the Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.

Focus on security, protecting critical facilities, structures

MOSCOW, Sept 5, (KUNA): Kuwait and Russia discussed on Saturday enhancing cooperation and exchanging expertise in security, emergency management, and the protection of critical facilities and infrastructure.

Discussions also covered the use of robotics, drones, artificial intelligence applications, early warning systems, and emergency response mechanisms.

These discussions took place during a meeting between Maj. Gen. Hamad Al-Munaifi, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, and Roman Kuryrin, Deputy Minister of the Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 16th International Exhibition of Means of Ensuring Security (Integrated Security Salon) in the Russian city of Kazan.

During the meeting, Kuryrin emphasized the importance of Kuwait’s participation in the exhibition, noting that such international forums provide a valuable opportunity to foster cooperation and exchange expertise among specialists from around the world.

The Russian official outlined several proposed areas of cooperation, particularly regarding the training of Kuwaiti personnel at educational institutions affiliated with the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations, highlighting the specialized expertise and advanced technical and material capabilities of these institutions.

Kuryrin also invited Kuwaiti experts and specialists to visit the new training facility in

Kazan; equipped with state-of-the-art simulators and technologies for training emergency and rescue personnel to gain insight into the Russian experience and leverage its capabilities.

The meeting addressed the Russian side’s interest in Kuwait’s experience regarding the protection of critical infrastructure against modern threats. Kuryrin proposed drafting a memorandum of understanding between the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, exploring the possibility of signing it during a planned visit by a Russian delegation to Kuwait in 2027.

For his part, Maj. Gen. Al-Munaifi affirmed Kuwait’s readiness to continue developing cooperation and exchanging expertise with the Russian side in the fields of security and emergency management, thereby enhancing the capabilities of relevant agencies and supporting the mutual interests of both nations and their peoples.

The event is witnessing Gulf participation alongside Kuwait, with delegations and representatives attending from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain, reflecting the event’s significance as an international platform for exchanging experiences and expertise in security, safety, emergency management, and the protection of critical facilities.

The Kuwaiti delegation includes Director General of the General Department of Civil Defence, Brig. Gen. Mansour Al-Hashash, and Counselor Ahmad Al-Buaian from the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Moscow.

‘Tampering with impoundment device will lead to legal action’

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry starts the implementation of the home vehicle impoundment system on Sunday, in accordance with Ministerial Resolution No. 1090 and the regulations covering certain traffic violations.

Assistant Director General for Violations and Licensing Brigadier General Khaled Al-Adwani explained in a previous press statement that home vehicle impoundment applies to certain traffic violations and does not cover serious

violations, such as reckless driving and violations that entail referral of the vehicle to the impoundment lot like extremely loud exhaust noise.

He indicated that the impoundment period varies depending on the type of violation and it could reach up to 60 days. He clarified that a vehicle impounded at home may not be moved except in urgent or emergency cases, supported by an official report.

He warned that tampering with or damaging the impoundment device will subject the violator to legal accountability and the vehicle will be taken to the impoundment lot.

Continued from Page 1

140 Kuwaiti

In his speech at the graduation ceremony, Al-Sanad asserted that “as Kuwaitis, we are proud of the graduation of 140 Kuwaiti students, after a journey of hard work and dedication at the prestigious Alexandria University, whose academic history spans decades and is known for the graduation of doctors, scientists and innovators.”

Al-Sanad congratulated the graduates and their families on this achievement, stressing that they are a promising addition to the healthcare system in the State of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, President of the Kuwaiti Students Union at the Faculty of Dentistry in Alexandria University Abdulaziz Al-Hashash, who spoke on behalf of his classmates, dedicated their success to Kuwait, and thanked the parents and teaching staff for their efforts and assistance.

Iran draws

It warned of the danger posed by continued targeting of Arab states, which could further escalate tensions and undermine efforts to contain the escalation in the region.

The Arab League renewed its rejection of transferring conflicts and military confrontations to Arab territories or exposing the security of their peoples, facilities and resources to danger.

It called for an immediate halt to such attacks and urged respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Arab states, as well as international law and the UN Charter.

Meanwhile, the 166th session of the Arab League Council at the level of permanent representatives began Saturday with Kuwait participating, as the agenda includes several key issues, foremost Iranian attacks on Arab states, the Palestinian cause and developments in Syria, Sudan, Lebanon, Yemen and Libya.

The opening session saw Tunisia assume the presidency of the current session from Bahrain, represented by its Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Fawzia Zainal.

In her opening remarks, Zainal said the deliberate Iranian attacks targeting GCC states and Jordan constitute a blatant violation of international law and undermine peace and security throughout the region, particularly attacks on civilians and civilian objects, which constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law.

She warned of the danger posed by such attacks, stressing the steadfast Arab position rejecting threats to the sovereignty of Arab states and the security of their citizens.

Zainal affirmed that the Palestinian cause remains the Arab world’s foremost central

issue, noting the intensive diplomatic activity during the council’s 165th session to confront continued Israeli violations and aggression against the Gaza Strip.

She renewed calls to consolidate the ceasefire, ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and uphold the Palestinian people’s right to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

She also stressed the importance of completing implementation of the second phase of the Gaza agreement.

Zainal highlighted Bahrain’s active role in supporting the Palestinian cause during its UN Security Council membership, including efforts to highlight the humanitarian suffering in Gaza, push for resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian aid, and support international efforts for Palestine to obtain full UN membership.

She said Bahrain had continued efforts to support its brothers in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Iraq and Somalia, standing alongside their national institutions to preserve unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and resolve their crises through political solutions.

Zainal stressed that the previous session was held at a highly sensitive stage amid conflicts, crises and major challenges across the region, requiring stronger Arab joint action, coordination of positions and support for just Arab causes based on the principle that Arab national security is an indivisible whole.

The permanent representatives are discussing the draft agenda, which includes political, economic, social, cultural, legal and security issues, foremost the Palestinian cause, Iranian attacks on Arab states and Iran’s obligations under international law.

The agenda also covers developments concerning the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, solidarity with and support for Lebanon, and developments in Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Comoros, as well as Iran’s occupation of the UAE’s three islands, safeguarding Arab national security, combating terrorism and developing the Arab counterterrorism system.

The representatives will also hold elections to appoint heads of several council committees, including the Human Rights Committee, Meteorology Committee, Permanent Media Committee and International Humanitarian Law Committee, in addition to appointing judges to the Arab League Administrative Tribunal.

Kuwait is participating in the meeting with a delegation headed by Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Adwani.



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Continued from Page 1

Strait of

These officials have the authority to anticipate future challenges, learn from their counterparts in other oil-producing countries, and review their plans. Moreover, they must utilize all available resources to ensure sustainability and excellence. Reports indicate that Kuwait has been unable to export sufficient quantities of oil over the past six months, which affected the overall situation of the country.

In the recent crisis, Iran appeared to be the sole controller of the main energy artery of the world – the Strait of Hormuz. From the beginning of the crisis, countries started to activate alternative plans, while Kuwait fell into the trap of lacking an alternative to the Strait of Hormuz despite relying on oil for 90 percent of its revenues.

Today, the entire world is searching for alternatives to oil, such as solar energy, nuclear power and others. Countries are striving to build alternative oil pipelines. Kuwait has been facing this problem for more than five decades and it persists till today.

If we had alternatives, at least by establishing strategic oil storage facilities located in countries near those that import Kuwaiti oil, the country would have saved a lot of money.

Relying on a single source of income is a major obstacle to the future of nations, because any crisis causes enormous losses, as it happened in the Republic of Nauru, which used to depend entirely on its phosphate revenues. When phosphate prices collapsed in the early 1990s, Nauru fell into a major crisis, from which it still suffers today.

If we had readily available alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz, the situation would have been very different, and we would not have the need to borrow from the Future Generations Fund or other sources.

Kuwaiti and foreign experts should have had comprehensive contingency plans in place, given the privileges, luxuries, bonuses and exorbitant salaries they receive.

Back to what Al-Seyassah daily published on April 20, 1980, the reader realized that someone had been sounding the alarm a long time ago. However, it seems that no one paid attention at the time, and officials did not take the warning seriously. The experts did not study the experience of other concerned countries. So, we need an answer to this question: Where is the experts' vision for the future in this regard?

According to recent reports, experts believe that Kuwait has oil reserves exceeding one hundred billion barrels, in addition to gas. The world will still need oil and gas for about a hundred years more. So, is it not worth creating alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz in order to avoid risks?

Kuwait records

package of amendments targeting the most dangerous behaviors affecting individuals and society.

The reforms included the enactment of the new Traffic Law and tougher penalties for serious traffic violations, as well as stricter penalties for manslaughter and accidental injury.

They also included a new law combating narcotics and psychotropic substances, criminalizing possession or carrying of bladed weapons without legitimate justification in public places, and imposing harsher penalties when such weapons are used to assault or intimidate others.

He noted that the legislative factor is an important element in assessing the decline in juvenile crime, alongside other preventive and social factors.

Al-Sumait praised the efforts of the Ministry of Interior in preventing and combating juvenile crime and the Ministry of Social Affairs in caring for and rehabilitating juveniles.

He also commended the roles of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and the Ministry of Health in protecting children from violence and abuse and providing them with care and support.

He affirmed continued coordination among relevant authorities to strengthen preventive and awareness efforts and develop protection, care and rehabilitation programs, stressing that protecting young people and safeguarding their rights is a shared responsibility.

The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Public Prosecution, continues to monitor statistical indicators, analyze the causes of juvenile delinquency and assess the impact of relevant legislative developments, he said, with the aim of reducing juvenile crime, protecting young people, preserving families and safeguarding society's security and stability.

Iran attacks

The lesson also addresses His Highness the Amir's communications with brotherly and friendly countries and international organizations, reaffirming Kuwait's position calling for respect for the sovereignty of states and adherence to international law, while stressing that Kuwait will not allow its land, airspace, or territorial waters to be used to attack any country.

The lesson links the crisis to the concepts of loyalty, patriotism, national unity, and the protection of national sovereignty, thereby enhancing students' ability to understand contemporary events within their historical and national context.

The educational material emphasizes that the crisis demonstrated the importance of unity between the leadership and the people, the readiness of

state institutions, and Kuwait's ability to address security challenges.

The Department of Guidance, Research, and Curricula intends to include a lesson in the Grade 11 history curriculum during its revision for the 2027/2028 academic year, addressing the Iranian attacks on Kuwait, along with the heroic role of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

In other news, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Dr. Khaled Al-Rashid, issued a decision specifying official working hours and flexible hours for all teaching and administrative staff in schools across all educational levels for the 2026/2027 academic year.

The decision applies to public-sector schools, private-sector schools, including Arabic schools, religious schools, and special education schools.

According to the decision, kindergarten working hours will be from 6:45 am to 12:05 pm, elementary school from 6:45 am to 1:15 pm, and preparatory school from 7:00 am to 1:40 pm.

High school working hours will begin at 7:15 a.m. and end at 1:55 pm.

The decision also specifies flexible working hours for teaching and administrative staff in public education, with kindergarten and elementary school hours starting between 6:45 am and 7:30 am.

For kindergarten students, dismissal times will range from 11:35 am to 12:20 pm, while elementary school students will be dismissed between 12:45 pm and 1:30 pm.

For preparatory school students, flexible start times will range from 6:55 am to 7:40 am, with dismissal between 1:05 pm and 1:50 pm.

For high school students, flexible start times will range from 7:10 am to 7:55 am, with dismissal between 1:20 pm and 2:05 pm.

For religious education institutes, official working hours for elementary school students will be from 6:45 am to 1:15 pm, while preparatory and high school students will attend from 7:00 am to 1:40 pm.

For religious education institutes, flexible hours for elementary school students are from 6:45 am to 7:30 am, with dismissal between 12:45 pm and 1:30 pm. For preparatory and high school students, school hours begin between 6:55 am and 7:40 am, with dismissal between 1:05 pm and 1:50 pm.

For special education schools, kindergarten hours are from 6:45 am to 12:05 pm. Elementary, preparatory, and high school students attend from 6:45 am to 1:15 pm.

Flexible hours for special education schools are from 6:45 am to 7:30 am for kindergarten students, with dismissal between 11:35 am and 12:20 pm.

For elementary, preparatory, and high school students, flexible hours

begin between 6:45 am and 7:30 am, with dismissal between 12:45 pm and 1:30 pm.

The decision clarified that the flexible school hours system aims to provide teaching and administrative staff with flexibility in choosing their start and end times while ensuring full attendance for all classes.

The school administration, represented by the principal, assistant principal, and department head, is responsible for monitoring compliance with official working hours in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The decision stipulates that lateness will be calculated after the grace periods have ended and that the applicable regulations will be enforced in cases of incomplete working hours.

Employees are required to register their attendance using the fingerprint scanner within 60 minutes of the start of the workday. Failure to do so will be considered an unauthorized absence from work.

This period will be counted toward monthly lateness allowances, in accordance with Article 18 of Civil Service Council Resolution No. 6/2024.

The decision permits reduced working hours, provided that daily working hours do not fall below five hours, in accordance with Law No. 21/2015 concerning the Rights of the Child.

The decision prohibits combining reduced working hours with flexible working hours and grace periods. Employees are subject to the provisions of Law No. 8/2010 concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its supplementary resolutions, including regulations governing sick leave and assignments outside the workplace.

The decision emphasizes the school administration's obligation to ensure that a principal or assistant principal is present while students are on school premises and until the end of the official school day.

The supervisor of each stage is responsible for monitoring compliance, and in the event of any violation, a report will be submitted to the relevant authorities to take the necessary action in accordance with Civil Service Council Resolution No. 41/2006.

The resolution also regulates the working hours of employees holding technical guidance positions, namely the Director of the Technical Guidance Department, Technical Guidance Supervisors, and Technical Advisors.

These positions are subject to the flexible working hours system and require attendance and departure to be recorded using fingerprint scanning. They are also required to submit monthly reports on their school visit and follow-up plans. Furthermore, they are permitted to benefit from the provisions of Administrative Resolution No. 340/2022 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

Diesel thieves

After completing search and investigation procedures and monitoring the site, the main suspects were apprehended while siphoning diesel fuel from a vehicle.

The other suspects were arrested while purchasing the collected diesel. The operation resulted in the arrest of 41 individuals, including those involved in stealing, selling, and purchasing the fuel, as well as others who were present at the site. Authorities also seized 38 vehicles belonging to government agencies and private sector companies.

Experts back

He explained that this measure is a double-edged sword, as the positive aspect is the provision of the necessary liquidity to cover budget deficits and finance major development projects without resorting to international markets, while the negative aspect is the potential damage resulting from liquidating essential investment assets with strategic future implications.

He cautioned against excessive borrowing from the fund in order to avoid wasting investment opportunities in international markets and to preserve the financial solvency of the sovereign wealth.

Kuwaiti economic expert Sultan Al-Jazzaf, a member of Kuwait Economic Society, believes that the primary objective of the government in borrowing from the fund is to maintain domestic financial stability, especially given that the hostilities between the US and Israel against Iran could cause financial deficits. He also cited the negative impact of halting oil exports on state revenues.

He indicated that relying on sovereign wealth resources strengthens economic sovereignty and gives decision-makers more flexibility in managing public debt and directing returns towards development projects with an investment philosophy that serves higher national goals and ensures the future financial sustainability of the state.

He thinks this is a vital step in terms of protecting the financial sovereignty of the country, and shielding it from the unfair conditions and high risks associated with external loans.

He added that this measure provides immediate and urgent cash flow, enabling the government to effectively address the crippling economic crises.

He said one of the financial advantages of this approach is achieving substantial savings by avoiding the payment of high compound interest to foreign lenders, in addition to developing and revitalizing national assets by directing funds into domestic invest-

ments with rewarding and sustainable returns.

He emphasized that this approach is in line with efforts to diversify national income sources by financing major infrastructure development projects that stimulate the economy and generate job opportunities for citizens.

He stated that the legislative and economic dimensions of modern financial policies under the new law are based on structural pillars, which ensure the sustainable cash of the state and address imbalances in the public budget through well-defined and carefully considered financing channels.

He also pointed out that this step addresses the financing gaps that the general budget of the state faces during certain periods, including severe financial pressure.

He confirmed that the new legislative intervention provides a fundamental legal solution that allows the opening of a domestic financing channel, granting the government the authority to borrow from the fund in a regulated manner to support the public reserve whenever necessary.

He considers the five conditions set by the legislator to be mandatory for regulating the loan and protecting the assets of the fund. The first condition is the precise determination of the loan amount, second is a statement of the loan purpose and the applicable interest, and fifth is the specification of the loan term and payment schedule (for the loan itself, installments and interest) fourth consists of the clear controls for restructuring or rescheduling the loan, and fifth is the inclusion of any other data and provisions necessary for regulating and utilizing the loan.

Former Secretary of Kuwait Transparency Association Dr. Manal Al-Kandari stated that withdrawing from the fund is not a bad decision per se, just as borrowing is not always a good decision.

She clarified that the optimal decision depends on the cost of capital, expected interest on the assets of the fund, size of the withdrawal, sustainability of public finances, and impact of this decision on the wealth of future generations.

She emphasized that withdrawal from the fund must be within reasonable limits to preserve the rights of the future generations and maintain the leading position of the fund.

She is hoping that withdrawals from fund will be done along with increased spending on development projects that generate revenue to diversify income sources.

She pointed out that the assets of the fund are not idle cash, especially since the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) invests these funds globally in stocks, bonds, real estate and infrastructure according to a long-term strategy. She added that the returns of the fund are automatically reinvested as per the law.

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Missouri asks Supreme Court to allow use of new congressional districts

Judge extends block on Trump order seeking to limit mail voting in midterms

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5, (AP): A federal judge on Friday extended her prohibition against the U.S. Postal Service implementing President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to limit mail voting during the midterms, putting another major obstacle in the way of the administration as the first states begin sending out mail ballots.

The preliminary injunction from US District Court Judge Indira Talwani replaces a temporary order she granted blocking the Postal Service's plan.

The Trump administration had already asked the Supreme Court to lift Talwani's temporary order, and on Friday it informed her that it would appeal her latest decision to the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals.

The administration is running out of time to make big changes in voting procedures, though. North Carolina began sending out its first mail ballots Friday and more states will

swiftly follow.

The legal battle could have major ramifications for this year's elections, when control of Congress is at stake. Nearly one-third of voters in the US cast mail ballots and election officials contend there isn't enough time to revise their systems to comply with the new Postal Service directives.

Talwani, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, pointed to the tight timeline in her ruling.

"Plaintiff States are required under state law to mail millions of ballots to voters on a prescribed timeframe. As detailed below, they are unable to pivot this late in the election cycle, nearly guaranteeing significant disenfranchisement for eligible voters," she wrote.

The White House did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The order allows states to voluntarily use the new Postal Service sys-



Wake County Board of Elections employees prepare absentee ballots to be mailed on Sept. 3, in Raleigh, NC. (AP)

tem. To date, not a single state has announced that it will do so.

Trump has long sought to limit

mail voting, even though he himself often uses that method to cast his own ballot. He has falsely blamed

mail balloting for his 2020 election loss, spreading baseless claims of fraud, but has so far been unable to change the longstanding voting procedure.

An initial executive order Trump issued last year to change election rules, including a requirement for people to show documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote, was halted by federal judges. They ruled that the Constitution gives states and, in some cases, Congress the power to set voting procedures, not the president.

After Trump issued his mail voting executive order in March, Democrats and voting rights groups filed several lawsuits. Two ended up before Talwani, who placed an initial hold on the order in June, prohibiting its implementation until after November.

But the Supreme Court late last month overturned that order. Its conservative majority pointedly did not say Trump's move was legal

but found the lawsuits were filed prematurely before the Postal Service issued its rule on how it would implement the order. The rule came out just before the Supreme Court released its ruling, and the plaintiffs re-filed their suits.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Missouri appealed to the US Supreme Court on Friday to allow the use of new congressional districts backed by President **Donald Trump** in the fast-approaching midterm election.

The appeal comes after Missouri's highest court blocked the new map and ordered a statewide vote in November on whether to keep or reject it.

It's part of a national redistricting battle that Trump launched last year. Missouri's new congressional boundaries were drawn to help Republicans win an additional seat and hold onto their slim House majority in November's midterm elections.

America

Mistrial declared in Clancy's case: A judge in the **Lindsay Clancy** murder trial declared a mistrial Friday after jurors failed to reach a verdict in a case that sharply divided many Americans over whether the Massachusetts woman should be criminally responsible for killing her three young children.

The trial generated intense interest for weeks, drawing attention to maternal mental health after childbirth.

Clancy, a 36-year-old former labor and delivery nurse, never disputed that she killed the children. But her attorney said she had a rare condition called postpartum psychosis when she strangled her kids - the youngest just 8 months old - then tried to take her own life in 2023. Prosecutors said Clancy knew what she was doing.

Friday's mistrial, on the seventh day of deliberations, leaves the case unresolved. In the end, the decision seemed to surprise no one in the courtroom. Neither Clancy nor her family showed emotion as the judge announced the trial was ending without a resolution. (AP)



Clancy

Police kills knife-wielding man in NY: Police fatally shot a knife-wielding man walking on the cables of New York City's Brooklyn Bridge after he ignored orders to drop the weapon, authorities said Friday. The shooting happened when he moved within feet of an officer trying to help him climb down.

The shooting at one of the city's most famous landmarks closed the bridge and tied up traffic for part of the morning. It happened four days after a woman randomly stabbed two people in Times Square, killing one, and then was fatally shot by officers.

The man told the police rescue team that he wanted them to kill him and that he had a bomb, Gerard Dowling, commanding officer of the city's Emergency Services Unit, said at a news conference.

The officers had used a safety harness to attach themselves to the bridge and spoke to the man for about an hour, saying they wanted to help him and bring him to safety, Dowling said. They told him to drop the knife multiple times.

At one point, the man began to climb down a cable quickly. The officers were in a line below him on the same cable, Dowling said. (AP)

ICE officer released on bond: A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer was released from federal custody Friday after appearing in court on charges of lying to investigators about the circumstances that led to the shooting of a Venezuelan man during the Minnesota immigration crackdown last winter.

A federal indictment accuses Christian Castro of falsely telling investigators that he was attacked with a broom and shovel before he opened fire, injuring Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis in January.

Castro was shackled at his wrists, waist and feet during a brief hearing in the federal court in McAllen after he had turned himself into authorities Thursday evening. The judge ordered him released on a \$75,000 unsecured bond and with a GPS ankle monitor.

Defense attorneys David A. Lindenmuth and Rolando Cantu said Castro intends to plead not guilty in the case. He was ordered to next appear in federal court in Minnesota on Sept. 18.

It's the first Justice Department prosecution of a federal officer for actions taken during this year's massive Operation Metro Surge, which brought thousands of agents to the Twin Cities and led to sweeping protests, arrests and the fatal shootings of two US citizens by federal officers. (AP)

Rhode Island governor faces rematch with Foulkes amid turmoil over bridge

PROVIDENCE, RI, Sept. 5, (AP): Four years ago, Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee was celebrating his narrow victory in the Democratic primary surrounded by supporters, when someone handed him phone - it was his opponent simply calling to concede.

"That's not going to happen," he said, waving the phone away. "Hang up on them."

Now, the woman he dismissed, Helena Foulkes, is challenging him to a rematch. And McKee is desperate to avoid not only becoming the first U.S. governor to lose a primary since 2018 but also the first Rhode Island governor to lose a primary in more than 30 years.

Foulkes, a former executive at CVS Health, has outraised the incumbent and flooded the airwaves with campaign ads.

And unlike four years ago, Democratic voters this election year have increasingly shown a willingness to oust incumbents. McKee, 75, will also have to overcome simmering anger over a bridge repair project that has dragged on longer than expected.

"I think that what I've really learned in the last four years, in a



Candidate for Rhode Island governor Helena Buonanno Foulkes speaks during a Get Out the Vote event on Aug. 30 in Providence, RI. (AP)

deeper way, is how much people feel like state government just works with a powerful few," Foulkes, 62, said in an interview. "They also hear the leader of the state saying 'everything's great' and they're saying, 'I really worry about a good paying job.'"

The winner of the Sept. 9 primary in Democratic-leaning Rhode Island will be the heavy favorite to win the general election.

Beside Foulkes, McKee's other nemesis in the campaign is a critical bridge in Providence, Rhode Island - New England's third-largest city.

Farage party suspends top officials following foreign funding exposé

LONDON, Sept. 5, (AP): Anti-immigration party Reform UK suspended two senior officials on Friday after they were filmed appearing to discuss accepting funds from a foreign donor in potential breach of British electoral law.

Leader Nigel Farage downplayed the aides' conversations as "loose pub talk," but the party said Dan Jukes, a longtime Farage adviser, and policy chief James Orr "have stepped down from their respective positions" pending the outcome of an internal investigation.

On Thursday, broadcaster Channel 4 aired footage of Jukes and Farage having lunch with two men purporting to be a U.S. financier and his U.K.-based son. Farage listens to the others discussing how a 500,000 pound (\$675,000) donation could be channeled to the party through the son, and thanks the men for their support. The "son" was actually a reporter from investigative group Verbatim, and the "father" an actor.

In separate footage, Orr, a Cambridge University theologian, appears to discuss getting the U.S. donor to pay for opinion polls commissioned by Reform UK. Orr tells



French politician Jordan Bardella, President of National Rally, and Reform Party Leader Nigel Farage, (right), hold a poster during the Reform party's annual conference at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, England on Sept. 4. (AP)

the undercover reporter that "we just don't have British-resident donors, British entities, that would support us."

U.K. electoral law says parties can only accept donations from British voters or U.K.-registered businesses. The allegations overshadowed Reform's annual conference, being held Friday and Saturday in Birmingham, central England.

In a keynote address that was interrupted several times by protesters, Farage said Reform UK was being targeted "because they're scared of us."

US envoys visit Moscow in new push for peace between Russia and Ukraine

KYIV, Sept. 5, (AP): US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Moscow on Saturday to try to revive a stalled push to end Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian state news outlets reported.

The visit came as both sides escalated their aerial attacks. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Ukraine would halt airstrikes during the envoys' trip and urged Moscow to do the same. Moscow did not publicly respond to the proposal.

Washington's push to end the fighting, now in its fifth year, has lost momentum as U.S. attention has been focused for the last six months on its war with Iran.

The envoys were met at the airport by Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev, Russia's state news agency Tass said.

The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, was in January, when they met Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin. They have never visited



Firefighters walk among debris at a destroyed pharmaceutical warehouse after Russian drone attacks on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept. 3. (AP)

Kyiv, but Zelenskyy said he was expecting them in the Ukrainian capital on Sunday.

With peace efforts stalled, Russia intensified its attacks on Kyiv and other cities with relentless bombardments recently stretching into daylight hours, taking advantage of Ukraine's shortage of air defensive systems.



Supporters of the Brothers of Italy party attend a rally with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni celebrating the longest-serving government of the Italian Republic, in Bari, Italy, on Sept. 4. (AP)

PM celebrates Italian govt longevity during party rally

Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni celebrated her government's milestone longevity at a rally Friday of supporters in the southern city of Bari, arguing that four years of political stability have strengthened Italy at home and abroad.

Her administration has become the longest-serving single government of Italy's republican

era, reaching 1,414 consecutive days in office and surpassing the 1,412-day record set by Silvio Berlusconi's second government from 2001 to 2005.

Speaking to supporters, Meloni cast the record as evidence of the strength and cohesion of her right-wing coalition.

"It is no coincidence that the three longest-serving govern-

ments in the history of the Italian Republic are all center-right governments," she said.

"Stability is our first great reform," Meloni added, arguing that political continuity enabled her government to pursue economic and foreign policy goals that might have proved difficult under Italy's traditionally short-lived administrations. (AP)

Europe

Masked men block traffic to UK's port: A group of masked men blocked roads leading to Britain's busiest ferry port on Saturday in what officials said appeared to be an anti-immigration protest.

The Port of Dover said all traffic in and out was "stopped due to an ongoing public order incident," and police said they were "engaging with the protesters."

Video posted on social media showed several dozen men in black, their faces covered, standing across a major road near the port. One clip showed demonstrators linking arms across a main road and shouting "stop the boats."

Chris Vinson, a Conservative Party local councillor, said the protest appeared to be "illegal migration-related." (AP)



A general view of the port of Dover, with the coast-guard station, top left, in Dover, England on Feb. 26, 2025. (AP)

Spain's Maritime Rescue Service said Thursday that one of its planes had spotted a "precarious" boat drifting about 120 kilometers (70 miles) south of the island of Gran Canaria on Wednesday afternoon.

Three survivors were evacuated by helicopter to a hospital on the island. The remaining 41 migrants were brought to safety by boat and disembarked early Thursday in the port of Arguineguín, where they were being cared for by the Red Cross. (AP)

Canary Islands boat tragedy kills 5: A boat carrying West African migrants went adrift in the Atlantic Ocean and left at least five people dead and dozens more feared dead before the vessel was spotted and assisted, Spanish rescuers said Thursday. Forty-four people were brought to safety in the Canary Islands.



Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing, center, and Vietnam President and General Secretary of Communist Party To Lam inspect honor guards during a welcome ceremony for Min's official visit in Hanoi, Vietnam on Sept 5. (AP)

Head of Myanmar’s govt visits Vietnam in bid to normalize ties

The leader of Myanmar’s military-backed government arrived Friday in Vietnam for talks with Vietnamese leaders in his latest effort to normalize relations with other Southeast Asian countries and attract foreign investment.

Min Aung Hlaing has stepped up his diplomatic engagements since he was sworn in as president in April following an election that critics say was designed to cement the military’s hold on power.

The outreach is part of an attempt to rebuild regional ties that deteriorated after Min Aung Hlaing ousted Aung San Suu Kyi’s government in February 2021 while serving as army chief. (AP)

Rescuers in Nepal pull 2 alive from debris

China mudslide kills one, 11 missing

BEIJING, Sept 5, (AP): A mudslide on Saturday killed one person and left 11 others missing in eastern China, damaging a dozen houses following days of torrential rain brought by tropical cyclone Saudel, authorities said.

The mudslide hit part of a village in Suichuan County in Jiangxi province in the early hours, prompting rescuers to rush to the scene and relocate residents to safer ground to prevent further danger, authorities said in a statement. One person pulled out was found dead, while two others were rescued alive and in good condition, it said.

Typhoon Saudel made two landfalls in Zhejiang Province on Aug. 28 and made a third landfall as a tropical storm in Fujian Province Thursday, Chinese official news agency Xinhua reported. Both provinces neighbor Jiangxi.

In Fujian, local authorities said Friday that multiple residents were left unaccounted for after days of heavy rain, Xinhua reported. The exact number is unclear, but more than 100 houses collapsed in Huating Town in Putian city, it said. A dike overtopped and breached Thursday afternoon, flooding villages and trapping residents, it added.

About 600,000 residents have been evacuated from risky offshore



In this photo provided by the Nepal Army, a Chinese national is seen drinking water after being rescued by soldiers during an ongoing operation at the Trishuli-3A hydropower project in Nepal's Rasuwa district on Sept 5. (AP)

and onshore areas in Fujian as of Friday night, Xinhua reported.

Images from state broadcaster CCTV showed that some streets were turned into rivers, while rescuers deployed inflatable boats in their efforts.

Also:

KATHMANDU: Rescuers in Nepal pulled out a Chinese man and a woman in separate operations Saturday, 10 days after devastating floods hit the country, as teams continued searching for thousands of people still missing.

The man was rescued from a hydropower tunnel, according to a social media post by the country’s prime minister’s office, bringing the total to three workers pulled alive from the Trishuli hydropower project. Two Nepalese workers were rescued on Friday.

Nepal’s army said a joint rescue team of Nepalese military personnel and South Korean disaster experts rescued the man from a 225-meter (about 740-foot) tunnel and that he was undergoing a health assessment. Images showed him being evacuated by helicopter, with an army medic checking on him during the flight.

A photo released by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV showed two rescuers carrying the man out of the tunnel.

Rescue efforts have increasingly focused on 12 hydropower projects across Nepal, where about 900 workers are missing and roughly 500 are believed to be trapped in various tunnels, authorities said. Specialized rescue teams from India, China, South Korea and the United States have been searching through debris, damaged structures and tunnels at the projects, hoping to find survivors.

Duterte denies allegations

Philippines VP posts bail after arrest order for alleged threats against Marcos

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 5, (AP): Philippines Vice President Sara Duterte posted bail Saturday after an order was issued for her arrest the previous day on charges that she publicly threatened to arrange the assassination of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and two other people.

Emerging in a black outfit from Quezon City Regional Trial Court in Metro Manila, Duterte consoled her supporters, hugging a woman who was sobbing as supporters chanted “Duterte! Duterte!”

The vice president, who has denied the allegations, showed a court order lifting the arrest warrant issued by the court Friday and said her lawyers instructed her to keep a copy on hand. She urged journalists to surround her on the way to her car because she did not feel safe.

“If possible please go with me, because I do not feel safe with all these police personnel who are harassing those at my home, harassing me since 2023,” Duterte said. “What does this administration really want

to do with me?”

Paul Lawrence Lim, one of her attorneys, said court staff took Duterte’s fingerprints and she posted 360,000 pesos bail (\$5,740) for three counts of grave threats.

After the arrest order was issued Friday, he said Duterte would fight the charges.

“She has no intention of evading the law and will continue to exercise all her legal remedies,” he said in a statement.

The case is seen as part of a high-stakes political showdown pitting Duterte against Marcos. A conviction may permanently disqualify her from holding public office and prohibit her from seeking the presidency in 2028, when Marcos’s six-year term ends.

The charges stem from an alleged threat Duterte, 48, made during a 2024 online news conference. She said she would have Marcos, his wife and then-House of Representatives Speaker Martin Romualdez killed by an assassin if she herself



Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte shows a document after posting bail at the Quezon city justice hall, Philippines on Sept 5, 2026 after a warrant of arrest on charges that she publicly threatened to arrange the assassination of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and two other people. (AP)

was killed as their political disputes escalated.

The vice president warned during the event that her threat was not a

marks set off a criminal investigation and national security concerns.

The House of Representatives, which is dominated by Marcos’ allies, voted overwhelmingly in May to impeach Duterte over allegations of unexplained wealth, misuse of confidential state funds and the online news conference threats. The Philippine Senate, acting as an impeachment court, opened her televised trial in July.

Marcos and Duterte were running mates in the 2022 elections in an alliance that combined two of the country’s most formidable political dynasties.

Marcos is the son of former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., who held the office from the 1960s to the 1980s, including a period of repression and martial law. The vice president is the daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, the predecessor to the current President Marcos.

Rodrigo Duterte was arrested in 2025 on orders of the International Criminal Court and detained in The

Hague, where he is scheduled to face a trial beginning in late November over alleged crimes against humanity connected to a brutal anti-drugs crackdown that left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead. He has denied authorizing extrajudicial killings but repeatedly threatened suspects with death while in office.

Sara Duterte previously criticized the Marcos administration for surrendering her father to a foreign court, which currently has no jurisdiction over the Philippines.

Marcos and Sara Duterte also have contrasting geopolitical leanings.

Marcos has expanded defense engagements with the United States, a treaty ally of the Philippines, as his administration stood up to China’s increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea.

The vice president has come under fire for not condemning China’s assaults, including with the use of powerful water cannons, against Filipino forces and fishermen in the disputed waters.

Africa

Clashes in southern Sudan kill 21: Clashes in southern Sudan have killed at least 21 people, including women and children, a doctors’ group said Friday.

Sudan Doctors Network, which tracks violence throughout the war in Sudan, said that the rebel group Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North, or SPLM-N, launched an attack on Thursday in the areas of Debi and Luweri in the town of Kauda in South Kordofan.

Rebel leader **Abdel Aziz al-Hilu** has aligned his fighters with the Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which has been battling the Sudanese military since 2023. The war killed at least 59,000 people, displaced some 13 million and pushed parts of the country into famine.

Al-Hilu’s group has been active in South Kordofan and joined a local government set up by the RSF. The group is a breakaway faction of the SPLM, the ruling party of neighboring South Sudan.

Thursday’s attack was part of clashes that erupted between SPLM-N and the Otoro tribe, a minority group in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan.



Al-Hilu

The fighting came despite a ceasefire initiative backed by the RSF last month. The medical group said the attacks by al-Hilu’s forces “constitute a clear violation of the agreement, a resumption of hostilities, and the targeting of civilians on an ethnic basis.” (AP)



Dozens die in Nigeria oil theft attempt: An attempt to steal oil from a loading vessel in Nigeria’s oil-producing Rivers state left at least 37 people dead, most of them from inhaling toxic fumes, an advocacy group said Friday.

The Youths and Environmental Advocacy Center said the victims were simultaneously siphoning crude products into their boats from an “illegal tapping point” on Thursday. It caused them to inhale toxic fumes at high pressure, it said. Many are still missing, according to the report, quoting a network of volunteers.

The Nigerian police confirmed the incident on Friday but gave no death toll and said an investigation was underway.

“The Rivers State Police Command can confirm the deaths. The victims were allegedly attempting to steal crude oil,” Blessing Agabe, Rivers State police spokesperson, said.

Oil theft is common in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, Africa’s biggest oil producer, where decades of oil exploration have led to high levels of poverty and environmental degradation. (AP)

Brazil’s top court justices at odds as election, probe into failed bank loom

SAO PAULO, Sept 5, (AP): Brazil’s Supreme Court plunged further into an institutional crisis on Friday, with two of its best known justices now requesting major sanctions against each other.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes, 57, became a household name after leading the case that put former President Jair Bolsonaro in prison last year for an attempted coup. His colleague Andre Mendonca, 53, is the court’s first evangelical member, appointed by Bolsonaro.

Their recent animosity stems from a sprawling federal investigation into the financial fraud surrounding the collapsed Banco Master and its disgraced owner, Daniel Vorcaro, a topic that has also ensnared some politicians ahead of October’s elections.

Mendonca reportedly wants de Moraes suspended while the court decides whether he should be investigated in a potential graft case. De Moraes wants Mendonca investigated by the court and potentially



Supreme Court President Justice Edson Fachin, (front), arrives to preside over a plenary session of the court in Brasilia, Brazil on Sept 2. (AP)

impeached by the Senate for investigating him in an unauthorized proceeding.

They sit next to each other in the court, whose benches align according to who was named first.

Mendonca on Tuesday unsealed a part of the federal police investigation revealing dozens of intercepted messages from Vorcaro showing he often sought advice from de Moraes.

Pakistan military kills 48 militants in restive southwest’s series of raids

ISLAMABAD, Sept 5, (AP): Pakistani security forces killed 48 militants in a series of raids on hideouts in the country’s restive southwest over the past 72 hours, the military said Friday.

The military said in a statement the raids were carried out based on intelligence in the Balochistan districts of Mastung, Sibi, Quetta and Kalat. Security forces also recovered a cache of weapons during the operations.

The military described those killed as “Khawarij,” a term the Pakistani government uses for members of outlawed militant groups, including the Baloch Liberation Army and Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan, or TTP. It said security forces were searching the area for any remaining militants. It also described the killed militants as “Indian-sponsored terrorists,” without providing evidence or further details.

Balochistan is Pakistan’s largest but least populous province and has long faced a separatist insurgency led by the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army. The BLA has carried out numerous attacks in recent years.

The latest development came a day after the military said security forces



Residents and rescue workers inspect the site of a late-Monday airstrike at a drug rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan on March 17. (AP)

killed 15 militants who were attempting to cross into northwestern Pakistan from Afghanistan.

Militant violence has surged in Pakistan in recent months, much of it blamed on the TTP, which is separate from but closely allied with the Afghan Taliban. Pakistan says many TTP leaders and insurgents have found sanctuary in Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power there

in 2021, an allegation Kabul denies.

Militant violence has surged in Pakistan in recent months, with much of it blamed on the TTP, which is separate from but closely allied with the Afghan Taliban. Pakistan says many TTP leaders and insurgents have found sanctuary in Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power there in 2021, an allegation Kabul denies.

Sri Lankan opp’n rallies against govt’s proposed judicial reform

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Sept 5, (AP): Hundreds of opposition lawmakers and activists protested in Sri Lanka’s capital to demand that the government withdraw legislation that would add top judges and allow them longer terms, calling it an attempt to control the judiciary.

The demonstration comes nearly two weeks after the government of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake submitted the proposed constitutional amendment on judicial reform to Parliament, which has been dominated by his National People’s Power party since 2024.

The measure would increase the retirement age of the country’s top judges by two years and increase the number of judges on top courts.

Opposition lawmakers, lawyers, trade unions and rights activists have expressed concerns that the reform would undermine the independence of judges.

The government has rejected the criticism, saying the measure is part



Sri Lanka's opposition leader Sajith Premadasa holds a placard reading "Hands off independence of judiciary" during a protest in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Sept 3. (AP)

of reforms aimed at reducing court delays and that it would not hamper the independence of the judiciary.

Opponents of the bill gathered Thursday at Colombo’s main rail-

road station to protest the measure, displaying banners and placards with messages such as “Don’t touch the judiciary” and “Stop reforms that tarnish judicial independence.”

Oil price down 17 cents to \$98.10 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5, (KUNA): Kuwait oil price went down by 17 cents to reach USD 98.10 per barrel (pb) in Friday's trading, compared with USD 98.27 in the previous day, according to the Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC) on Saturday. In global markets, Brent crude went down by USD 2.84 to reach USD 92.68 pb, and US West Texas Intermediate crude increased by 18 cents to stand at USD 91.48 pb.

Other Voices

Venezuela oil challenge

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

THE American oil industry faces a tough challenge in investing again in Venezuela's oil sector, as companies will have to deal with the country's heavy, thick, and toxic sludge crude oil. In addition, it will be difficult to help the country emerge from its financial crisis.



Kamel Al-Harami

However, with more than 65 billion barrels of oil reserves underground, the scale of these resources could attract oil companies to invest, but only under tough and carefully defined conditions. Perhaps some companies would be willing to return under certain conditions and guarantees, potentially involving the US government, both today and in the future.

The challenge lies in increasing Venezuela's oil production from no more than 1.5 million barrels per day. With only one major US oil company currently taking on the challenge of doing so, the rest appear to be stepping aside. They are unsure of the outcome and unwilling to risk becoming involved, concerned about any future change in government and the possibility of facing various court cases and, worse, having to pay compensation. Most importantly, they risk damaging their reputation and names globally.

With the country facing more than \$250 billion in unpaid bills and debt, new investors or companies considering returning to Venezuela will want to see guar-

antees that the country can restore and sustain its oil production. They will need assurance that Venezuela can attract the heavy investment required to increase its current oil output and generate sufficient revenues from oil sales to pay its debts.

The challenge, however, is to ensure smooth and reliable crude oil production, with consistent and increasing output over the months ahead. Another challenge is ensuring that oil companies receive payments for their investments, or what could be described as a guarantee of barrels of oil in return for their investment.

While the challenge is huge, particularly given the more than \$150 billion in investment needed to double the country's crude oil production, a stable government is essential to safeguard foreign oil companies' investments in the country.

At the same time, the Venezuelan people want to ensure that any crude oil deal is fair and protects the country's interests, ensuring adequate financial returns and rewards for allowing oil companies to invest in their wealth and its development.

Certainly, this is good news for this OPEC founding member, as it seeks to attract investors back to the country to develop and expand its oil production to previous levels, serving both its people and global energy demand for oil.

Today's Venezuelan oil production is far below the levels recorded in 1970, when the country produced more than 3.8 million barrels per day. Certainly, restoring and increasing production from the current weak level of 1.5 million barrels per day will be a huge challenge.



Email: nafikuwaiti@yahoo.com

Profit rate of 5.502% per annum

KIB's \$500 mln sukuk draws strong demand



KIB Chairman, Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah



KIB Vice Chairman and CEO, Raed Bukhamseen

- **Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah:** The successful issuance reflects the confidence of regional and international investors in KIB Group's financial position and strategic vision.
- **Raed Jawad Bukhamseen:** The issuance strengthens KIB's long-term funding profile and supports its sustainable growth plans.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the successful pricing of its inaugural USD 500 million senior unsecured Sukuk issuance, with a five-year tenor, under its USD1.5 billion Sukuk Program. This strategic issuance supports the diversification of the Bank's funding sources and strengthens its long-term funding base. It also reflects investors' confidence in KIB's solid financial standing and its growing presence in regional and international capital markets.

The issuance was successfully priced against a backdrop of evolving global market conditions. Strong investor demand enabled KIB to tighten the pricing spread by 30 basis points from the initial price thoughts, resulting in a final spread of 95 basis points over the yield on five-year U.S. Treasury securities and a profit rate of 5.502% per annum.

The issuance attracted strong investor demand from the outset, with the order book reaching approximately USD 1.2 billion, equivalent to 2.4 times the issuance size and reflecting the depth of investor demand for the transaction.

Investor Confidence and Strategic Positioning

Commenting on the successful issuance, KIB Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah said: "The success of this issuance reflects the confidence of regional and international investors in KIB Group's strong financial position and clear strategic vision."

He added that the issuance represents a significant milestone in strengthening KIB's presence in international capital markets and broadening its investor base. It is the Bank's

inaugural senior unsecured Sukuk issuance under its USD 1.5 billion Sukuk Program.

The issuance was assigned a final rating of 'A' by Fitch Ratings, in line with the Bank's 'A' Long-Term Issuer Default Rating, with a Stable Outlook.

For his part, KIB Vice Chairman and CEO, Mr. Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, said: "The issuance represents a strategic step towards diversifying the Bank's funding sources and strengthening its long-term funding base. It supports the Bank's sustainable growth plans while maintaining a strong and balanced liquidity position and effective liability management, in line with banking best practices."

Bukhamseen added: "The issuance was structured under Wakala/Murabaha profile with a five-year tenor, reflecting the growing importance of Sharia-compliant funding instruments among financial institutions and investors."

The issuance is scheduled to settle on 10 September 2026, and the Sukuk will be listed on the International Securities Market of the London Stock Exchange. The Sukuk will mature on 10 September 2031.

He also highlighted the key contribution made by the partners to the success of the issuance. Citigroup Global Markets Limited and Standard Chartered acted as Global Coordinators, while ASB Capital, Boubyan Bank, Citi Bank, Emirates NBD Capital, KfH Capital, KIB Invest, Sharjah Islamic Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Warba Bank, Arab Banking Corporation, Arab Bank, and QNB Capital acted as Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners for the issuance.

Business

Bank taps shareholders for up to KWD 50 mln

Burgan Bank rights issue: capital boost for core franchise and selective growth



Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Chairman



Tony Daher, Group Chief Executive Officer

- Subscription continues until 1:00 PM Kuwait Time on 14 September 2026, providing eligible shareholders and holders of Pre-emption Rights the opportunity to participate
- Capital increase strengthens Burgan Bank's capital base and financial flexibility to support its strategic priorities
- **Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah:** Burgan Bank continues to strengthen the foundations for growth, reinforcing investor and shareholder confidence
- **Tony Daher:** Capital increase enhances Burgan Bank's ability to execute its strategy and invest in sustainable growth

The offering is managed by Kamco Invest, the investment arm of Burgan Bank, acting as Issuance Advisor and Subscription Agent.

Capital to Support Burgan Bank's Strategic Priorities

The additional capital will support the continued execution of Burgan Bank's strategic agenda, advancing its growth strategy and accelerating digital transformation.

Strengthening the Bank's Kuwait business remains central to its strategy, with continued investment focused on enhancing its competitive position, enriching customer relationships and building on the strength of its core franchise.

The Bank's asset re-allocation strategy focuses on directing capital toward areas that offer attractive risk-adjusted returns and support a more efficient and sustainable balance sheet.

At the same time, digital transformation will continue to enhance the Bank's operating model, customer experience and ability to deliver innovative, digitally-enabled banking solutions.

Together, these priorities are intended to position Burgan Bank for sustainable growth, while ensuring

that capital is deployed selectively, with a continued focus on financial discipline and prudent risk management.

Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Chairman of Burgan Bank, said: "Shareholders' participation in the capital increase represents a renewed partnership in the Bank's future journey and reflects the importance of aligning our growth ambitions with investors' long-term interests. We have structured the rights issue to give eligible shareholders the opportunity to maintain their participation in the Bank's ownership and contribute to its next phase of development."

He added: "We view this step as an important foundation for the Bank's future, underpinned by a clear vision for creating sustainable long-term value for shareholders, while maintaining the highest standards of governance and discipline in capital management."

Further noting: "The transaction draws on Burgan Bank's long-standing banking experience, complemented by KAMCO Invest's extensive investment banking and capital markets expertise. Together, these capabilities provide greater depth and scale to support disciplined capital de-

ployment, pursue strategic opportunities and create sustainable long-term value."

Tony Daher, Group Chief Executive Officer of Burgan Bank, said: "This capital increase is a proactive step that will enable us to execute our strategy from a position of financial strength. It provides us with additional capacity to invest in our core business, advance our strategic priorities and selectively pursue opportunities that support sustainable, long-term growth."

He added: "Our focus remains on disciplined growth and prudent risk management. We will continue to allocate capital toward areas where we see the greatest potential to strengthen our franchise, enhance our customer proposition and create lasting value for our shareholders."

Subscription Continues Through 14 September 2026

The Pre-emption Right Subscription Period is currently underway and will close at 1:00 PM Kuwait Time on 14 September 2026. The Pre-emption Rights Trading Period runs from 31 August to 7 September 2026, inclusive, during Boursa Kuwait trading hours.

Eligible shareholders and holders of Pre-emption Rights can complete their subscription through the subscription platform operated by Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) via www.ipo.com.kw or through the IPO Kuwait mobile application.

For full details on the rights issue, including the Prospectus and Frequently Asked Questions, investors are encouraged to visit the Investor Relations section of Burgan Bank's website or download the Burgan Investor Relations application, as well as visit the relevant sections of the Kamco Invest and Kuwait Clearing Company websites.

For Investor Relations enquiries, shareholders and investors may contact Burgan Bank Investor Relations at IR@burgan.com or by telephone at +965 2298 8654 or +965 2298 8479.

For enquiries relating specifically to the capital increase, investors may contact Kamco Invest at burganci@kamcoinvest.com or by telephone at +965 2233 6791 or +965 2233 6968.

Investors should carefully review the Prospectus and the risk factors contained therein before making any investment decision. The Prospectus contains the full terms and conditions of the offering and should be relied upon for complete information relating to the rights issue.

For subscription-related technical support, investors may contact Kuwait Clearing Company through the contact details provided on the subscription platform.

GCC leads global AI adoption with 93% of frontline employees using AI weekly: BCG

ABU DHABI, Sept 5: The GCC has emerged as a global frontrunner in workplace AI adoption, with 93% of frontline employees and 95% of managers and leaders using AI at least several times per week, according to Boston Consulting Group's (BCG) fourth annual AI at Work report, titled "Strategy Matters More than Tools." The study by BCG X, which includes data from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar, underscores the region's rapid embrace of AI technologies while highlighting the organizational shifts required to translate adoption into sustained business value.

The report reveals that GCC workforce is experiencing significant productivity gains, with 58% of frontline employees and 67% of managers and leaders saving at least eight hours per week through AI tools. These findings position the region alongside India as a leader in AI integration, surpassing the global average of 74% adoption among frontline workers.

Beyond productivity gains, the research indicates that AI adoption is reshaping the nature of work itself across the GCC. In fact, 85% of frontline employees and 92% of managers and leaders believe that AI has fundamentally changed the skills expected of them in their roles.

The integration of AI into daily workflows appears to be enhancing workplace satisfaction across the region. Among GCC respondents, 69% of frontline employees and 77% of managers and leaders report experiencing increased joy at work since adopting AI technologies. Organizations that capture the most business value from AI are also where employees find greater fulfillment.

"The GCC's exceptional AI adoption rates reflect a workforce that has moved decisively beyond experimentation into real integration," said Robert Xu, Managing Director and Partner at BCGX. "What distinguishes the highest-performing organizations in this region is not simply their deployment of AI tools, but their deep investment in their people. Compared to other organizations in their cohort, GCC organizations that lead with AI have leaders personally invested in build-



Robert Xu, Managing Director and Partner at BCGX



Rami Mourtada, Partner and Director at BCG

- BCG X's AI at Work report reveals region's workforce is embracing AI at record rates, but strategic guidance remains critical to unlocking full value.
- 95% of managers & leaders and 93% of frontline employees in the GCC use AI at least several times per week
- 92% of managers & leaders and 85% of frontline employees in the GCC believe AI has changed skills expectations
- 60% frontline employees in the GCC think AI agents can perform at least half their job in the next three years

ing their teams' AI fluency, resulting in tangible productivity gains and turning technological advantage into competitive edge. While this year's GCC findings demonstrate AI's ability to reduce toil and increase joy at work, leaders must anticipate the organizational shifts ahead by embedding comprehensive change management and redesigning workflows to fully harness AI's potential."

AI Agents Poised to Transform Half of Job Functions

The BCG report reveals striking expectations about AI's evolving capabilities. Across the GCC, 60%

of frontline employees and 66% of managers and leaders believe that AI agents could perform at least half of their current job responsibilities within the next three years. Globally, integration of AI agents into workflows has more than doubled since 2025, though governance frameworks have not kept pace with technological advancement.

Despite the enthusiasm surrounding AI, concerns about job displacement remain relatively measured in the region. Only 28% of frontline employees and 29% of managers and leaders express fear of losing their positions to AI, suggesting a workforce that views

the technology as constructive rather than threatening.

The report emphasizes that capturing AI's full potential requires more than adoption. Globally, 42% of frontline employees who regularly use AI save a full working day or more each week, while 66% still receive limited or no guidance on how to redirect that recovered time. More than half fail to channel saved hours toward strategic work, representing a significant missed opportunity for organizations. The findings cement the report's defining insight: AI's true potential is unlocked not by adoption alone, but by the strategic architecture organizations build around it.

"The promisingly rapid initial phase of AI adoption will only be sustained with deliberate leadership action," said Rami Mourtada, Partner and Director at BCG. "Our research demonstrates that lasting workplace satisfaction, and related business impact, emerge when leaders provide strategic guidance and ensure alignment between organizational messages on AI and actual day-to-day employee responsibilities. In the GCC, where adoption has notably accelerated, it's imperative to build the proper core operating models and governance structures to transform individual productivity gains from AI into organization-wide benefits."

BCG's AI at Work 2026 report analyzes how AI is reshaping the modern workplace and what distinguishes organizations that successfully capture value from those that merely deploy tools. The report underlines that training remains a critical gap globally, with only 36% of respondents feeling they have received sufficient preparation despite 72% of regular AI users acknowledging that skill expectations have shifted significantly. Similarly, only 33% of frontline employees globally report that leadership communicates clearly about AI, and just 28% perceive strong alignment between leadership statements and organizational action.

For the GCC, the data delivers a decisive verdict: adoption leadership has been achieved. The winners going forward will be those who recognize that in the next chapter of AI, strategy matters more than tools.

In a ranking reaffirming the strength of NBK's brand & solid financial position

NBK ranks among the region’s 10 leading banks in The Banker’s Top Arab Banks 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: In a further affirmation of the strength of its brand and solid financial position, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) secured first place among Kuwaiti banks in The Banker’s Top 100 Arab Banks 2026 list, while retaining its ninth-place ranking across the region.

The Banker’s annual Top 100 Arab Banks ranking is based on several key criteria, including total core capital, assets, profitability, asset quality, return on capital, return on assets, and operational efficiency.

Backed by its solid financial position and strong financial performance, NBK ranked first in Kuwait in terms of total assets, which reached \$147.13 billion. Return on assets stood at 1.35%, while return on capital reached approximately 13.42%.

NBK also ranked first among Kuwaiti banks in terms of Tier 1 capital, which reached \$14.8 billion at the end of 2025, representing year-on-year growth of 9.9%. The Bank also led all Kuwaiti banks in asset quality and liquidity levels.

NBK’s inclusion in the ranking further reinforces its leadership across regional and global markets,



NBK headquarters.

underscoring the strength of its balance sheet and its superior performance relative to regional peers across key financial indicators.

The Bank’s recognition among the region’s leading banks also reflects the quality of its earnings, underpinned by solid fundamentals across all of its core business segments, as well as its distinctive geographic footprint spanning four continents and 13 countries worldwide.

Top 100 Arab banks					
Rank	Prev rank	Bank	Date	Country	Tier 1 capital \$m
1	1	Saudi National Bank	12/25	Saudi Arabia	43,789
2	2	Al Rajhi Bank	12/25	Saudi Arabia	36,815
3	3	Emirates NBD	12/25	UAE	34,884
4	4	Qatar National Bank	12/25	Qatar	31,702
5	5	First Abu Dhabi Bank	12/25	UAE	30,530
6	7	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	12/25	UAE	20,216
7	6	Riyad Bank	12/25	Saudi Arabia	20,118
8	8	Saudi Awwal Bank	12/25	Saudi Arabia	18,165
9	9	National Bank of Kuwait	12/25	Kuwait	14,801
10	10	Banque Saudi Fransi	12/25	Saudi Arabia	13,521

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the three leading global rating agencies, Moody’s, Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings.This is supported by NBK’s strong capitalization, prudent lending policies and disciplined approach to risk management, as well as the extensive experience and stability of its management and executive teams.

In 2025, NBK reported net profit of KD 575.6 million (\$1.9 billion), while net operating income grew by 3.6% to reach KD 1.3 billion(\$4.2 billion) in 2025.

The Banker, one of the world’s most prestigious financial publications and part of the Financial Times, was founded in 1926. Its annual surveys span around 120 countries, recognizing leading and distinguished institutions across the global banking community.

For more information on The Banker’s Top 100 Arab Banks ranking, please visit:
<https://www.thebanker.com/Awards>

Card offers up to 8% rewards

NBK enhances banking with ‘Aura’ partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to offer innovative banking solutions that deliver added value to its customers, most prominent of which is its NBK-Aura Cards, launched in exclusive partnership with Alshaya Group to provide an exceptional shopping experience combining seamless payment, rewarding benefits, and exclusive benefits.This partnership reflects a successful integration between leading banking services and a prominent loyalty program, enriching the customer experience and delivering greater value with every purchase.



These cards are part of NBK’s strategy to develop a comprehensive banking system that meets customer aspirations and keeps pace with their evolving lifestyles. By offering genuine added value that extends beyond traditional banking services, the Bank provides distinctive rewards and shopping experiences with renowned global brands.

NBK-Aura Credit and Prepaid Cards offer customers the opportunity to earn Aura loyalty points of up to 8% of their purchase value upon using the cards, which allows them to enjoy ongoing, rewarding benefits and maximize the value of their daily spending. Customers can also easily track and manage their point balances via the Aura app, which provides a seamless digital experience for viewing available balances and various redemption options.This attractive earn rate enables customers to make the most of their everyday spending by transforming routine purchases into meaningful and continuously growing rewards.

Moreover, cardholders benefit from an extensive network of over 50 global brands under the Aura program, allowing them to redeem earned points or use them directly to pay for purchases at participating stores and outlets. These brands span the fashion, beauty, dining, hospitality, and lifestyle sectors, offering customers a wide range of choices to suit their diverse needs and interests. This wide variety reflects NBK’s commitment to offering a comprehensive rewards ecosystem that caters to different lifestyles and meets the expectations of a broad customer base.

The list of participating brands includes prestigious global names as well as brands managed and operated by Alshaya Group across its markets of operation.

Additionally, the Aura App offers customers great flexibility in utilizing their earned points, allowing them to choose how to

redeem them based on personal preference, whether by using them partially or in full while shopping. This adds a new dimension to the customer’s experience and enhances the value of the rewards earned with every purchase.

The benefits of NBK’s Aura cards can also extend beyond shopping-related rewards to include a range of global privileges from Mastercard, designed to provide cardholders with a more comfortable and premium experienceboth within Kuwait and abroad. These benefits include complimentary access to numerous airport lounges worldwide, free travel insurance, and exclusive offers and discounts on travel services and bookings, alongside a variety of benefits tailored to meet customers’ needs during their travels and journeys.

Through this partnership, NBK reaffirms its ongoing commitment to delivering innovative products and services that meet diverse customer needs and offer exclusive competitive advantages, further reinforcing its leadership in Kuwait’s banking sector and one of the region’s pioneering financial institutions.

The NBK Aura cards align with the Bank’s vision of expanding strategic partnerships with major companies and leading institutions, contributing to the provision of advanced, comprehensive banking experiences for customers while enhancing the utilization of modern digital solutions and sophisticated loyalty programs.

Through these benefits, NBK’s Aura cards reflect the growing trend toward developing smart payment solutions that are strongly and directly aligned with customers’ lifestyles. They offer tangible rewards and enhanced shopping experiences, reinforcing the Bank’s position as a leading innovator in delivering banking products that combine flexibility, excellence, and rewarding returns.

- The recognition reaffirms NBK’s regional leadership and excellence
- The ranking demonstrates NBK’s strong balance sheet and outperformance across key financial metrics
- A reflection of the quality of NBK’s earnings, underpinned by solid fundamentals across all business segments
- The Bank maintains ninth place among banks across the region

US issues sanctions on Turkish bank that it calls a ‘critical financial lifeline’ for Iran

WASHINGTON, Sept 5, (AP): The Trump administration announced Friday that it has imposed sanctions on a Turkish financial institution as part of its latest effort to sever “critical financial lifelines” for the Iranian government.

The actions against Golden Global Yatirim Bankasi Anonim Sirketi come after Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent last week launched “Operation Economic Outcast,” Washington’s new effort to isolate already heavily sanctioned Iran from its remaining trading partners to try to get it to capitulate to U.S. demands after more than six months of war.

The Treasury Department accused the Turkish bank and its entities of being established to enable Iran’s efforts to transfer oil revenues from China to Turkey, where they could then be converted to cash and gold. It also said the institution “knowingly offered” banking services to Iranian financial entities, including those already sanctioned by the U.S. government in 2022 for funneling Tehran’s oil sales.

Bessent, who had told The Associated Press earlier this week that another bank would face economic penalties, said financial institutions with ties to Iran will “continue to find out the hard way that we are serious about Operation Economic Outcast.”

“While we hope no more banks will need to be

sanctioned, that ultimately depends on how quickly the international community comes to its senses and ceases support of the murderous Iranian regime,” he said in a press release Friday. “We know who you are, we know where you are, and we will continue to take action together with our allies and partners until we have buried the head of the Iranian snake.”

But so far, the goal to force those that still do business with Iran to cut off financial ties or face U.S. retaliation has fallen flat, with promises of an “economic D-Day” for a group of countries that could include China and India quickly turning into warnings and negotiations with Iran’s trading partners.

Bessent had previously told reporters that he wanted countries to have an opportunity to shift away from Iran before it was too late in a bid to avoid upending the global financial system.

The Trump administration’s reluctance to penalize major trading partners that still do business with Iran was on display last week when the U.S. took steps to limit an Egyptian bank’s operations in the United Arab Emirates but stopped short of imposing sanctions.

The U.S. also has resumed military strikes in recent days, prompting Iranian retaliation in the region. It’s unclear what the outcome of the two-pronged strategy will be for President Donald

Trump, who has struggled to end an unpopular war with an intransigent Iranian government as energy prices rise and pose problems for Republicans before November’s midterm congressional elections.

Targeted in the latest U.S. sanctions is Golden Global Investment Bank, which was founded in 2019 as Turkey’s first investment bank to offer “banking services and alternative financing methods” to foreign companies, according to its website.

The Istanbul-based bank, which is largely unfamiliar to most Turks, says it aims to increase Turkey’s foreign trade through target markets in neighboring countries.

The Treasury announcement came a day after Turkey’s state-run Halkbank declared it had reached a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department in a nine-year case focused on violating sanctions with Iran.

In that case, senior officials at Halkbank were said to have illegally moved about \$20 billion worth of Iranian oil revenues. U.S. prosecutors claimed high-ranking Turkish government officials received millions of dollars in bribes to protect the scheme.

The Halkbank case caused a rift in U.S.-Turkey relations, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan personally lobbying the White House to have the case dropped.

US debt tops \$40 tln as Trump blames rates, not policy

Trump fumes as strong jobs data stoke inflation fears

WASHINGTON, Sept 5, (AP): President Donald Trump has spent 20 months promising that America was on the cusp of an economic boom. But Friday’s surprisingly positive jobs report ultimately provoked frustration from Trump.

The August job numbers might have been a welcome break from after months of sluggish hiring and concerns about inflation that have been weighing on Trump and his party two months from Election Day. But speaking from the Oval Office, Trump instead launched into a grievance session about inflation and interest rates. His anger was aimed at the financial markets, the Federal Reserve and U.S. trade partners. He objected to the commonly accepted notion in economics that the surprise gain of 162,000 jobs in August could contribute to inflationary pressures.

“Success does not cause inflation. Stupidity causes inflation,” Trump vented in the Oval Office, as he declared it “crazy” that the stock markets fell Friday on inflation concerns.

The combination over his second term of a drop-off in hiring and higher prices has dogged Trump and his pledge to instantly unleash historic levels of growth. “When I win the election, we will immediately begin a brand new Trump economic boom,” Trump said at an August 2024 rally in North Carolina. But so far, the economy has grown at roughly 2% annually, slower than the gains during the Biden administration.

Trump blamed his inability to deliver stronger growth on higher interest rates for U.S. government debt, saying on social media that America could retaliate by stopping trade with foreign countries. Rates

have been climbing in response to persistently high inflation fueled by Trump’s tariffs and oil shortages from the Iran war. The national debt has now crossed the daunting threshold of \$40 trillion and rates on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note on Friday rose to 4.79%.

As the promised growth has yet to materialize, the president has lost some of the public’s trust in his ability to steer the world’s largest economy. His own policies have enabled, in part, the inflation and high interest rates that he wishes to blame on others.

“The administration’s credibility on growth, inflation, rates, debt and deficit dynamics have taken a hit given the outsized predictions that are not aligned with economic reality,” said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM US.

If the Fed did as Trump wanted and cut its benchmark rate so that more money could flow into the U.S. economy, the potential influx of cash could make inflation even worse and only add to his political and economic headaches.

But the president disputed this foundational concept in monetary policy. He said Friday that gross domestic product would grow at “12, 13, 14, 15%” if the rates were lower as he seemed to shrug off the inflation risks.

“We could have a GDP that would break every single record,” Trump said.

The president’s approval rating on the economy was a lowly 32% in the middle of the summer, according to polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. When Republicans were last facing midterm voters in 2018 under Trump, his economic approval rating

was 50%.

Trump’s threat to cut off foreign trade could endanger growth, further hurting his ratings. His recent levying of tariffs against Canada have become problems for Republicans in the Maine and Michigan Senate races.

Trump officials say their policies are working as intended. They say the development of artificial intelligence will lead to more productivity to boost growth. They say that last year’s tariffs should ultimately bring more factory work to America, while Trump’s tax cuts will create more business investment and his administration’s efforts to identify fraud will create savings for taxpayers.

“I expect higher growth,” said Christopher Phelan, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. “We’re doing stuff to make good things happen.”

Phelan said recent job gains have been about two times larger than what’s needed to match population growth. He considers it as entirely possible that productivity gains could push up overall growth for the next several years, even as he acknowledged that growth alone might not be enough to solve all of the country’s financial challenges.

Because the costs of Social Security and Medicare are rising faster than revenues, growth alone is unlikely to meaningfully reduce budget deficits.

If U.S. economic growth could exceed 3% growth annually for the next decade, that would only be enough to stabilize the government’s already high debt load, according to an analysis by Ernie Tedeschi, head of economic insights and research at Stripe, the financial technology company.

Tedeschi said he would be “thrilled” if AI could help to deliver those kinds of gains for 10 straight years, but history shows that growth that large due to advancements in computers were likely “wildly optimistic.”

“We should absolutely not be planning for the optimistic scenario,” Tedeschi said.

Up until the president’s comments about interest rates on Friday, the Trump administration has spent the past week trying to make voters feel more confident about the economy.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent specifically promoted the benefits of stronger growth at the G20 summit for finance ministers in North Carolina. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick did so as well as part of G20 meetings about innovation.

Still, Bessent told AP in an interview that he’s also working with White House budget director Russ Vought to announce a plan to “bring down the level of the debt, deficit.”

There is political risk in trying to meaningfully reduce a year budget deficit of roughly \$2 trillion that is slated to exceed \$3 trillion a decade from now. Lowering the path of budget deficits would likely help with interest rates, but there could be political pain points in the form of spending cuts and tax hikes.

Brusuelas, the chief economist at RSM US, stressed that Trump would likely need to make sacrifices to meaningfully address the debt and reassure financial markets.

“We need a period of slower growth in government spending - that includes outright reduction in spending in addition to tax increases that all would reduce deficits and interest rates,” he said.

US diesel prices hit a record high, pushing up transportation costs for a long list of goods

CHICAGO, Sept 5, (AP): Diesel hit a record price in the U.S. on Friday, soaring to an average of \$5.85 a gallon for the first time as the six-month war with Iran disrupts the world’s flow of fuel.

Because diesel is used for many freight and delivery networks, higher diesel prices mean higher transportation costs for a long list of everyday goods. Some businesses have already passed on costs to consumers in the form of added fees on online orders and packages in the mail. And shoppers may see more and more sticker shock trickle down to store shelves.

One of the most immediate strains is being felt in the grocery aisle, particularly with produce, meat and other perishable foods that need to be hauled in and restocked frequently - or even harvested using diesel-powered farm equipment. It can take time for all of those costs to trickle down.

Still, experts warn that price hikes could mount the longer diesel remains expensive. A range of other products are also transported by diesel trucks, trains and boats, including clothing, cosmetics and furniture.

This could add to Republicans’ political challenges ahead of November’s midterm elections, with many voters already sour on President Donald

Trump’s management of the economy and fallout of the war he launched. AP-NORC polling this summer showed 2 out of 3 U.S. adults disapproved of how Trump is handling the economy.

The price for regular gasoline has also been going up, although not as fast as the price of diesel. The average price was \$4.15 a gallon, compared with \$3.20 at this time last year, according to motor club AAA, which says gas has never been above \$4 a gallon on Labor Day.

American diesel prices are now nearly 56% more expensive than they were before the U.S. and Israel launched their war against Iran in late February, when the national average sat at about \$3.76 per gallon per AAA. Prices quickly climbed as the cost of crude oil - the main ingredient in diesel, as well as gasoline - soared amid supply chain disruptions across the Middle East, notably with most tanker traffic bottlenecked in the key Strait of Hormuz.

Despite prices cooling some during hopes for peace earlier in the summer, oil has now renewed its climb as fighting once more escalates between the U.S. and Iran. Brent crude, the international standard, was trading at more

than \$95 a barrel Friday, up from roughly \$70 before the war. Prices at the pump always follow closely behind.

The last time businesses and drivers saw sky-high fuel prices was in June 2022, when diesel reached nearly \$5.82 a gallon on average months after the Ukraine war began and world leaders imposed sanctions against Russia, a leading oil producer.

When adjusted for inflation, however, prices have been higher in the past. Ahead of the 2008 financial crisis, for example, diesel hit about \$4.74 a gallon - equivalent to \$7.20 in 2026, according to the government’s latest data. And 2022’s record of nearly \$5.82 would be about \$6.56 this year when accounting for inflation.

That doesn’t take the pain away from today’s steep prices, which are already bringing ripple effects for the economy and wider costs of living. Drivers are feeling the pain with gasoline, too.

The average \$4.15 for a gallon of regular unleaded is up from \$2.98 before the Iran war (an over 39% jump), although still well below the 2022 peak of nearly \$5.02 a gallon nationwide.

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120 students developed innovative projects during the sustainability camp

KFH fosters a culture of environmental sustainability among younger generation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded its strategic participation in the “Sustainability Camp”, one of the leading educational and awareness initiatives aimed at spreading a culture of sustainability and fostering environmental awareness among the younger generation.

More than 120 students participated in the one-month program, which provided them with comprehensive, practical, and educational experiences that combined knowledge, practice, and innovation across key areas of sustainability.

Executive Manager Corporate Relations and CSR at KFH, Faisal Alsurayye, said: “This participation confirms the bank’s commitment to supporting environmental and developmental initiatives. It further reinforces its role in building a generation that is more aware of environmental issues and better equipped to create effective solutions for sustainability challenges, aligning with its social responsibility strategy and its dedication to empowering youth to build a more sustainable future.”

He added that the four-week camp featured a rich program of educational and practical activities. Participants explored concepts of environmental sustainability, the circular economy, resource management, and conserva-



Faisal Alsurayye with KFH officials honoring the winners.

tion, while also developing their creative thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Working in specialized teams, students developed practical projects to address

environmental challenges and proposed innovative, applicable solutions, reinforcing their understanding of sustainable innovation.

Alsurayye stated that at the camp’s end, KFH presented an award for the best project under its “Keep it Green” environmental campaign. This award recognized the students’ outstanding efforts, encouraged their innovative solutions, and aimed to motivate ongoing initiative development while fostering a culture of innovation and sustainability to empower them in addressing future environmental challenges.

He emphasized KFH’s commitment to supporting these impactful initiatives, believing youth empowerment and engagement in sustainable development are essential. This commitment is realized by equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience required to understand environmental challenges and create effective solutions. Additionally, these programs identify and nurture young talents, directing them toward fields that positively affect society and the environment.

He pointed out that KFH, through its “Keep it Green” campaign, continues to support environmental initiatives that promote sustainable practices and environmental awareness. This aligns with KFH’s leading role in sustainability, its commitment to society and the environment, and its drive to build a better future for next generations.

Fostering innovation, leadership in youth

ABK concludes summer programs, training & job rotation program for employees’ children

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) concluded its summer programs, as well as its training and job rotation program dedicated to employees’ children, as part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of employees and their families, strengthening engagement with them, and meeting their aspirations. These efforts contribute to fostering employee loyalty and increasing productivity, while reinforcing the Bank’s position as one of the preferred employers in the banking sector.

This year, ABK expanded the scope of its summer programs for employees’ children by increasing the number and variety of programs to cater to different age groups. The programs were designed to provide educational and recreational experiences that combine skills development with talent discovery in a stimulating and interactive environment.

The programs included the Young Innovators Camp, organized in collaboration with Australian University for children aged 8 to 12. The camp was designed to inspire children and develop their abilities in innovation, design and problem-solving. It featured interactive innovation labs, design challenges, creative projects and competitions that enabled participants to transform their ideas into practical solutions in an engaging and enjoyable manner.

The programs also featured the Public Speaking and Future Skills Camp, also organized in collaboration with Australian University, for participants aged 12 to 16. The camp aimed to develop public speaking, communication, leadership and teamwork skills within a supportive and motivating learning environment. Participants took part in a range of interactive activities and exercises, including storytelling, acting, presentations, debates and group projects.

The summer programs also included a number of outings and recreational activities at various destinations, attracting strong participation and engagement from employees’ children, who benefited from the diverse events and activities organized throughout the program period.

As part of the Bank’s efforts to provide older employees’ children with practical experience, young people aged 16 and 17 were given the opportunity to participate in a training and job rotation program across several of the Bank’s divisions. The program aimed to familiarize them with the banking work environment, enhance their skills, and develop their practical and personal capabilities.

The program featured interactive sessions and daily workshops with a number of ABK officials, providing participants with insights into the nature of work in the banking sector and the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of specialists. They also acquired a range of skills designed to help prepare them for their future careers.

The program concluded with a special ceremony attended by Afrah



Honoring one of the participants in the job rotation program.



A glimpse of the training workshops.



Al-Arbash with participants in the closing ceremony of the job training program.



Children in the summer programs.

Alarbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, along with a number of Bank officials. During the ceremony, participants presented the key experiences and skills they had gained throughout the training period, in addition to sharing a number of ideas and proposals for services and solutions that the Bank could potentially develop and introduce to customers in the future.

The trainees were commended for the outstanding level they demonstrated and for the ideas they presented, which reflected their ability to think creatively, analyze customer needs and propose innovative solutions aligned with developments in the banking sector.

On this occasion, Alarbash said, “Our employees’ children are an integral part of our family, and investing in developing their skills and capabilities is an extension of our commitment to providing a stimulating work environment that contributes to enhancing productivity among our employees.”

She added, “We witnessed great enthusiasm and promising talent among participants across our various programs. Our objective was not simply to fill their free time, but rather to help shape their personalities and equip them with future-ready skills, including the use of smart tools, critical thinking and teamwork. Seeing this passion in the eyes of our children and the smiles on the faces of our team members reinforces our belief that investing in the wellbeing of employees and their families is one of the key drivers of loyalty within the Bank.”

Alarbash explained that the Training and Job Rotation Program enabled participants to gain practical experience across a number of ABK departments over a three-week period and become familiar with the mechanisms and requirements of working in the banking sector. This, she noted, contributes to building their confidence and character, broadening their experience and

helping prepare them for their future professional journeys.

She continued, “Our message through this initiative is to reaffirm our ongoing commitment to our employees by providing genuine added value to their families. This reflects Human Resources’ dedication to striking a balance between enhancing employee wellbeing, supporting family stability and providing advanced content aligned with the latest practices in the banking sector, while underscoring the Bank’s continued commitment to innovation in talent management and effective employee care.”

Alarbash concluded, “These initiatives are not merely temporary training programs; rather, they represent a genuine investment in our human capital. We firmly believe that stability and professional success begin with caring for employees and their families and supporting their wellbeing, creating a tangible and sustainable positive impact on everyone’s lives.”

Argentine president moves to halt Falklands oil project

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 5, (AP): Argentine President Javier Milei escalated his country’s dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands on Thursday, vowing new measures to halt an oil project near the British-controlled archipelago and praising U.S. President Donald Trump for saying Washington could reconsider its neutral stance on the islands’ sovereignty.

Milei said Trump’s comments as proof that his close relationship with the U.S. president - criticized by political opponents as overly deferential - was paying dividends.

“The United States is considering this change in position because it knows that Argentina has a reliable partner, aligned with Western values, in a strategically important position that can be a valuable ally in the decades to come,” Milei said in a nationally televised speech.

The Argentine leader then announced sweeping actions aimed at stopping the development of the deep-sea Sea Lion oil project, about 220 kilometers (140 miles) north of the islands, where British company Rockhopper Exploration and Israel’s Navitas Petroleum plan to begin drilling in the coming months and start pumping oil in 2028. Argentina considers the project an illegal exploitation of resources in waters it claims as its own.

He threatened tougher sanctions against companies involved in the offshore drilling and announced new funding for a naval base in Argentina’s southernmost province of Tierra del Fuego to bolster the country’s military presence near the islands, known in Argentina as the Malvinas.

“Argentina will not stand idly by,” Milei said. “Any further advance on the Malvinas Islands will be considered a violation of our national security.”

U.K. Defense Secretary Wes Streeting said Britain’s commitment to the Falkland Islands was “unshakeable.”

“Milei’s statement overnight tells us more about domestic politics in Argentina than it does about the Falkland Islands,” Streeting wrote on X.

Milei’s effort to refocus attention on the Falklands are a striking turn for a leader who has faced criticism at home for warming ties with Britain and professing admiration for Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister detested in Argentina for leading the campaign to retake the archipelago during the 1982 Falklands War.

The two-month conflict, which killed 649 Argentine troops, 255 British service members and three islanders, remains a sore point in Argentina over four decades later.

The sovereignty claim is enshrined in Argentina’s constitution and frequently invoked as an expression of national identity, from banknotes to World Cup soccer chants. It is also one of the few causes that cuts across the country’s stark political divides, giving Milei, who is up for reelection next year, a welcome political opening as his approval ratings slip and the economy sputters.

“We can argue about my style. We can disagree over fiscal or exchange-rate policy,” Milei said. “But there are causes that rise above any political difference. The Malvinas is one of them.”

Some were skeptical.

“He wants to use the legitimate sovereignty claim over the Malvinas Islands to regain ground ahead of the election year and serve U.S. interests in its dispute with Britain,” said Nicolás del Caño, a leftist opposition lawmaker.

Argentina maintains that it inherited sovereignty over the is-

lands from its former colonizer, Spain, and that Britain has illegally occupied them since 1833. Britain rejects that claim, citing the islanders’ desire to remain a British overseas territory.

For decades, successive U.S. administrations have remained neutral on the competing claims while recognizing Britain’s de facto administration of the islands. Any departure from that position would be a major diplomatic affront and inflame already high trans-Atlantic tensions.

On Monday, Trump stirred concern in Britain when asked whether his administration was reviewing its stance on the decades-old dispute. “I always review every position,” he replied. “That’s just one of many.”

Then, in an interview aired Thursday with British broadcaster GB News, Trump dodged directly answering a question about whether the U.S. would “come to the aid” of Britain in another conflict over the Falklands. Instead, he repeated past complaints that Britain had not provided sufficient support for the U.S.-led bombing campaign against Iran.

“Your country was not there to help me,” Trump said, recalling Britain’s former prime minister, Keir Starmer, telling him the country did not have ships to contribute to the campaign. “It was pretty sad, the whole thing.”

The Trump administration has floated the Falklands as leverage before: An internal Pentagon email leaked in April first raised the prospect of Washington reconsidering its position on the islands as one possible way to punish NATO allies that declined to join the U.S. war on Iran.

His comments forced Downing Street to insist that Britain would not yield sovereignty over the Falklands.

“Sovereignty rests with the U.K., and the islanders’ right to self-determination is paramount,” British Prime Minister Andy Burnham’s spokesman, Tom Wells, said earlier this week, pointing to a 2013 referendum in which the roughly 4,000 people living in the Falkland Islands voted overwhelmingly in favor of remaining a British overseas territory.

Under pressure from Argentina’s populist opposition, which accuses him of neglecting Argentina’s sovereignty claim, Milei has grown more vocal on the Falklands as plans for large-scale oil production around the islands raise the economic stakes of the dispute.

In his speech, Milei warned that the Sea Lion project could usher in a broader Falklands oil boom, enriching the islands with resources Argentina claims as its own and further entrenching Britain’s presence.

“If we allow it, we will be creating an incentive for the British government to deepen the occupation of the islands and the exploitation of our resources,” Milei said.

He vowed to fast-track sanctions against companies involved in oil projects around the islands and extend penalties to suppliers, shareholders and directors. His proposed legislation could also bar companies tied to such projects from operating or signing contracts in Argentina.

Despite slashing public spending elsewhere as part of his austerity drive, Milei also pledged more money to build a naval base in Tierra del Fuego and upgrade Argentina’s telecommunications capabilities there to strengthen the country’s presence in the South Atlantic.

“A poor country without armed forces can hardly make effective progress on its sovereignty claims,” he said.

Brazil Senate approves landmark rare-earths mining bill

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 5, (AP): Brazil’s Senate Wednesday night approved a landmark bill to regulate the exploration of critical and strategic minerals in the South American country, a step toward increased exploitation of its vast reserves of rare earths that are second only to China.

The Senate’s backing of the bill comes after the lower house overwhelmingly voted in favor on May 6. It now heads to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is expected to sign the measure into law.

The proposed legislation creates a basic legal framework for rare earths and other critical minerals and a fund to provide credit to mining projects. It also provides for tax incentives for domestic processing.

Brazil has the world’s second-largest reserves of rare earth elements, used in a wide range of products, including smartphones, electric vehicles, solar panels and jet engines.

While China continues to dominate critical minerals in global supply chains, Brazil is positioning itself as an alternative by leveraging its vast reserves. Countries around the world have shown interest as they seek to diversify partnerships and reduce reliance on the Asian powerhouse.

A joint analysis by the AP and Reporter Brazil identified a wave of U.S. investment after China last year restricted rare earth exports in response to U.S. tariffs, including the purchase of Brazil’s only commercial rare earth producer, Serra Verde, by a firm in which the U.S. government has a stake.

In April, USA Rare Earth said it had agreed to pay approximately \$2.8 billion for Serra Verde, owner of the Pela Ema rare earth mine and processing plant in Brazil’s Goiás state.

Lula has repeatedly said that the South American nation should seek to capitalize on interest in the minerals to develop a national industry, rather than simply export the raw materials.

“We’re not going to repeat what happened with silver and gold in Latin America,” Lula told journalists in Washington on May 7, after his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump. “With rare earths, we’re going to change our behavior. We want Brazil to be the big winner of these riches.”

The bill establishes the Mineral Activity Guarantee Fund with a contribution of 2 billion reais (about \$391 million) from the federal government to guarantee projects and activities linked to the production of critical and strategic minerals.

The legislation also includes a specific program to encourage processing and transforming the minerals in Brazil, with federal incentives of 5 billion reais (\$978 million) in tax credits over five years.

In addition, the bill creates the National Council for the Industrialization of Critical and Strategic Minerals, which will indicate priority projects to receive support from the fund.



This image released by Sony Pictures shows a scene from “Spider-Man: Brand New Day.” (AP)



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Matt Damon as Odysseus, left, in a scene from “The Odyssey.” (AP)



This image released by Disney shows Smarty Pants, voiced by Conan O'Brien, and Jessie, voiced by Joan Cusack, right, in a scene from “Toy Story 5.” (AP)

Filmmakers, Gen Z and IMAX fuel summer surge

Hollywood’s mojo makes a \$4.6 bln comeback

NEW YORK, Sept 5, (AP): Hollywood has just wrapped up its best summer in a decade and its biggest vibe shift since the pandemic.

After years of new-normal ticket sales and regular spells of unease, the summer box office rallied to \$4.61 billion in domestic ticket sales between May 1 and Aug. 31, according to Rentrak.

That’s not just miles ahead of last year (a 26.1% increase from 2025), but better than every summer other than 2013. Accounting for inflation and higher ticket prices, it’s less of a record season. Admissions are still way down from pre-pandemic levels. But 2026 was still the summer Hollywood got its mojo back.

While that is partly thanks to some usual suspects - Spider-Man, “Toy Story” and others - much of what’s driven the resurgence has been refreshingly new. Gen-Z audiences have filled theaters. Low-budget films such as “Obsession” have turned into blockbusters. But it’s been filmmakers, even more than intellectual property, that have lured moviegoers. Even once-dead movies have come back to life.

“We’re seeing audiences show up for things they really care about, and those might not be the same things we saw a summer or two summers ago,” says Dave Green, director of the previously canned “Coyote vs. Acme.” “I’m really encouraged by the resilience of the movie business and that it can bounce back and morph and change all the

time.”

Such optimism had for years been hard to find in a Hollywood ravaged by the pandemic, wildfires, labor strife, contraction and technological upheaval. There are still seismic changes afoot, including Paramount’s proposed acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery and the continuing effects of generative AI.

But for the first time in a while, the movie business is running at a high gear, with reason to expect the good times might continue to roll. Fall releases like “Avengers: Doomsday” and “Dune: Part III” (both due out in December) should add to the momentum, and maybe more record returns.

Here’s what fueled Hollywood’s summer comeback:

There’s not a lot that movies like “The Odyssey,” “Obsession” and “Disclosure Day” have in common. But each drew audiences largely because of the filmmaker behind them.

Christopher Nolan’s box-office drawing power has never been more apparent. That he could transform one of the oldest works in literature into a summer blockbuster that will soon hit \$1.6 billion is a triumph even for him. It goes to show just how much a studio having the right stable of filmmakers can be a boon to them. Universal Pictures famously scooped up Nolan after his acrimonious departure from Warner Bros. over its pandemic detour to streaming.

Universal is also home to Spielberg, whose “Disclosure Day” (\$241.3 million worldwide) made a more minor splash in theaters. But everyone who came to see it came for Spielberg. The same, maybe, could be said for “Obsession,” by 26-year-old YouTuber-turned-filmmaker Curry Barker. Made for less than \$1 million, it’s surpassed \$500 million worldwide for Focus Features, making it among the most profitable movies ever made.

The seminal moment of the season, and a possible sea change in 21st century Hollywood, was when “Obsession” blew past “Star Wars,” a franchise that helped define the summer blockbuster. “Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu” tapped out with a disappointing \$345.4 million globally.

It wasn’t the only sign that some of Hollywood’s most dependable franchises don’t necessarily have the same power they once did. The Walt Disney Co.’s latest live-action remake, “Moana” (\$315.4 million), also stumbled, as did Warner Bros. and DC Studios’ big summer release, “Supergirl” (\$126.4 million).

Of course, other long-running franchises are doing just fine. Sony Pictures’ “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” is still atop the box office but it’s already accrued \$2.34 billion, making it the second highest grossing film ever, not accounting for inflation.

While that success points to a few things - Spider-Man’s supremacy among superhe-

roes, the inconsistency of any “superhero fatigue” - it was hard to miss how, for two months, Tom Holland and Zendaya (stars in “Brand New Day,” co-stars in “The Odyssey”) presided over summer moviegoing.

The 30-year-old stars, and their obvious drawing power, reflect the considerable influence Gen Z has on the box office. Those aged 14 to 29 were already ranking as the demographic going most often to theaters. According to Cinema United, the exhibitor trade group, Gen Z in 2025 averaged a leading 6.1 visits, up from 4.9 the year prior.

That was most evident in the twin successes of “Obsession” and “Backrooms” earlier in the summer. A24’s “Backrooms,” directed by 21-year-old Kane Parsons, grossed \$394.1 million worldwide on a \$10 million budget. That a pair of 20-something former YouTubers outperformed Spielberg and “Supergirl” suggests shifting tides in American moviegoing.

“I think we’re a little tired of being at home. Our generation is the COVID generation a little bit,” Barker said in an earlier interview while basking in the grosses for “Obsession.” “I was fortunate enough to have all four years of high school experience. My brother Riley lost two years of that. We’re sick of the phones.”

According to S&P Global, the number of overall ticket sales is still well behind where they were in 2019. Through mid-August in 2019, cinemas sold 795.9 million tickets.

Over that same period this year, the number is 547.1 million.

What’s making up the difference is ticket prices, particularly for large-format showings. Business has been best on the biggest screens. In July, “The Odyssey” led IMAX to its best month ever, with \$257 million in worldwide sales.

IMAX, more differentiated from home TVs than your average movie screen, never saw the same downturn that broader exhibition did.

“IMAX had a record in 2025. We beat the number from pre-pandemic and we expect to beat last year’s number this year,” says Richard Gelfond, IMAX chief executive. “So we’ve been back.”

Still, the craze over seeing “The Odyssey” in 70 mm IMAX isn’t likely to be forgotten. Film format increasingly drives moviegoing. The chance to see this year’s best-picture winner “One Battle After Another” in VistaVision was part of its pull on cinephiles.

It’s also one reason why the looming matchup of “Avengers: Doomsday” and “Dune: Part III” will be so fascinating. In December, “Dune: Part III” will have IMAX exclusivity while Disney is promoting “Infinity Vision” - a designation for premium large format screens - for “Doomsday.” But in a similar situation, things worked out just fine for “The Odyssey” and “Spider-Man: Brand New Day.”



This image released by A24 shows Robert Pattinson, left, in a scene from the film “Primetime.” (AP)



Liam Gallagher, left, and Noel Gallagher of Oasis perform on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

Pattinson, Oasis bring star power to Venice Film Fest

VENICE, Sept 5, (AP): The worlds of rock and movie stardom are colliding at the Venice Film Festival, as both Robert Pattinson and Oasis frontmen Noel and Liam Gallagher arrive on the Lido for world premieres on Saturday.

Pattinson’s film, “Primetime,” is about the reality series “To Catch a Predator” and host Chris Hansen at the height of its success on Dateline NBC, while the Gallaghers are coming in support of a documentary about their 2025 reunion tour. Both films will be in U.S. theaters in September.

With many movie star moments already in the rearview, from George Clooney’s lifetime achievement award to the emotional ovation for John Malkovich’s performance in “Wild Horse Nine,” the combination of Pattinson and Oasis on the same day could be a high-wattage pinnacle for this year’s festival.

“Primetime,” which was written by Ajon Singh and directed by Lance Oppenheim, has already inspired discourse and headlines with just its trailer and subject matter. It’s based on journalist Luke Dit-

trich’s “Esquire” article “Tonight on Dateline This Man Will Die,” which explores a 2006 sting operation on Texas assistant district attorney Bill Conradt. He died by suicide as police officers descended on his home with the show’s television cameras outside.

Oppenheim, in his director’s statement, said that he “wanted to trace the disparate ambitions of people who existed inside this apparatus - a journalistic crusader, a mercenary TV producer and a wide-eyed Hollywood dreamer - converging into a moment of crisis.”

Hansen was not involved in the making of the movie and has made several public comments about it, including that he had always thought Denis Leary should have played him and questioning the motives of the filmmakers. He was invited to see the movie before the festival, but took issue with the NDA he was asked to sign beforehand.

Last year, the series was also the subject of an acclaimed documentary, “Predators,” from filmmaker David Osit. It’s currently streaming on Paramount+.

NEW YORK, Sept 5, (AP): Fall movie season also means Oscar season.

It might be only just September, but the jockeying for next March’s Academy Awards is well underway. Movies first started revving up their Oscar campaigns at the Cannes Film Festival in May. But now that the fall festivals, in Venice, Telluride and soon Toronto, are in full swing, so is the prognosticating about what’s in the mix for awards.

There is much still to come. Sandworms! (“Dune: Part III”) Old Tom Cruise! (“Digger”) Oh my! But here’s an early survey of the Oscar landscape, with a few predictions mixed in.

At this point, Christopher Nolan’s epic deserves to be considered the movie to beat. His previous film, “Oppenheimer,” steamrolled its way to best picture and Nolan’s first Oscar, for best director. His singular stature is such that back-to-back wins might sound good to academy members. But “The Odyssey” isn’t quite as well-loved as “Oppenheimer,” and, fun fact, no movie that Homer translators have come out against has ever won best picture. OK, so that’s a small subset. But being the front-runner for more than half a year is hard, and the academy has largely favored smaller films in recent years. This prediction could come back to bite me, but, right now, I’d take the field.

It’s going to be a good fall for NYC. A number of the season’s standouts derive a lot of their texture and grit from the Big Apple. That includes Jordan Firstman’s hysterical and surprisingly tender “Club Kid” (Nov. 6), in which he stars as a clubgoer who finds out he has a child; “Paper Tiger” (Nov. 13), James Gray’s engrossing Queens-set drama about family and 1980s mafia corruption; “The Only Living Pickpocket” (Oct. 23), starring John Turturro as an aging pickpocket in a much-changed New York; “Once Upon a Time in Harlem” (Oct. 16), a long-incoming documentary chronicling a 1972 gathering of Harlem Renaissance luminaries; and “The History of Concrete” (Sept. 18), John Wilson’s delightfully meandering documentary about concrete and creativity.

Get ready to be reminded of this fact: John Malkovich has never won an Oscar. The twice-nominated actor (for “Places in the Heart” and “In the Line of Fire”) may have his best shot yet with his performance in Martin McDonagh’s “Wild Horse Nine.” In it, he stars alongside Sam Rockwell as an aging CIA agent who’s grown tired of keeping secrets on a trip to Easter Island in the early 1970s. Like Malkovich’s best roles, his performance is full of wit, soulfulness and profanity.

Curry Barker’s “One Wild Willow” horror movie has already set plenty of records, including being one of the most profitable movies ever made. But Focus Features is also preparing an awards campaign for the low-budget hit that could have “Obsession” competing in many of the top Oscar categories, including best picture and best ac-



This image released by Searchlight Pictures shows John Malkovich in a scene from “Wild Horse Nine.” (AP)



This image released by Netflix shows, from left, Sul Kyung-gu as Ho-seok, Jeon Do-yeon as Mi-ok, Cho Yeonyoung as Ye-ji, and Zo In-sung as Sang-woo in a scene from “Possible Love.” (AP)

triss for Inde Navarrette. It won’t be the only early 2026 release to factor in the mix, though. Expect to hear more from Christopher Miller and Phil Lord’s “Project Hail Mary” and Olivia Wilde’s “The Invite,” among others.

As in recent years, many of the top Academy Awards contenders are sure to hail from overseas. The makeup of the academy has grown more international in recent years, and global nominees have increasingly reflected that.

Some of this year’s standouts include:

- “All of a Sudden” (Nov. 25), an expansively tender Paris-set drama from Japanese filmmaker Ryusuke Hamaguchi (“Drive My Car”)
- “Fjord” (Oct. 9), Cristian Mungiu’s Palme d’Or-winning Norway-set drama about political polarization
- “La Bola Negra” (Oct. 16), an epic that spans the interconnected lives of three gay men in Spain
- “Minotaur” (Nov. 20), Russian filmmaker Andrey Zvyagintsev’s dra-

ma about betrayal and murder in Putin’s Russia

- “Possible Love” (Oct. 23), Lee Chang-dong’s awaited follow-up to 2018’s acclaimed “Burning,” about two couples making a documentary
- “Fatherland” (Oct. 23), Pawel Pawlikowski’s exquisite black-and-white drama about postwar Germany
- “Clarissa” (Dec. 11), Arie and Chuko Esiri’s shimmering Nigeria-set reinterpretation of Virginia Woolf’s “Mrs. Dalloway”

Other Voices

From Samarkand to Failaka – When the earth speaks the language of civilization

By Tareq Yousef Alshumaimry

I participated in the international media forum “Islamic Civilization: A New Perspective – New Discoveries,” which gathered around 300 experts and media outlets from nearly 50 countries in August 2026.

Between the forum’s sessions and its visits, something else imposed itself: a history still very much present in the place.

I delivered a speech at the forum in which I stated that the real challenge for media today is not just to preserve the memory of Islamic civilization, but to reintroduce it to new generations in a language that makes them feel this history is part of their own story and heritage, not merely pages in an old book. The idea of cultural and civilizational similarities in Tashkent and Samarkand is not far-fetched; I find it in the buildings, markets, mosques, roads, and even in the way people receive guests. From there, my comparison with Kuwait began.

I looked at the land of Kuwait in the same way I looked at Samarkand, and discovered in many sites that Kuwait’s story also has a similar history of civilization.

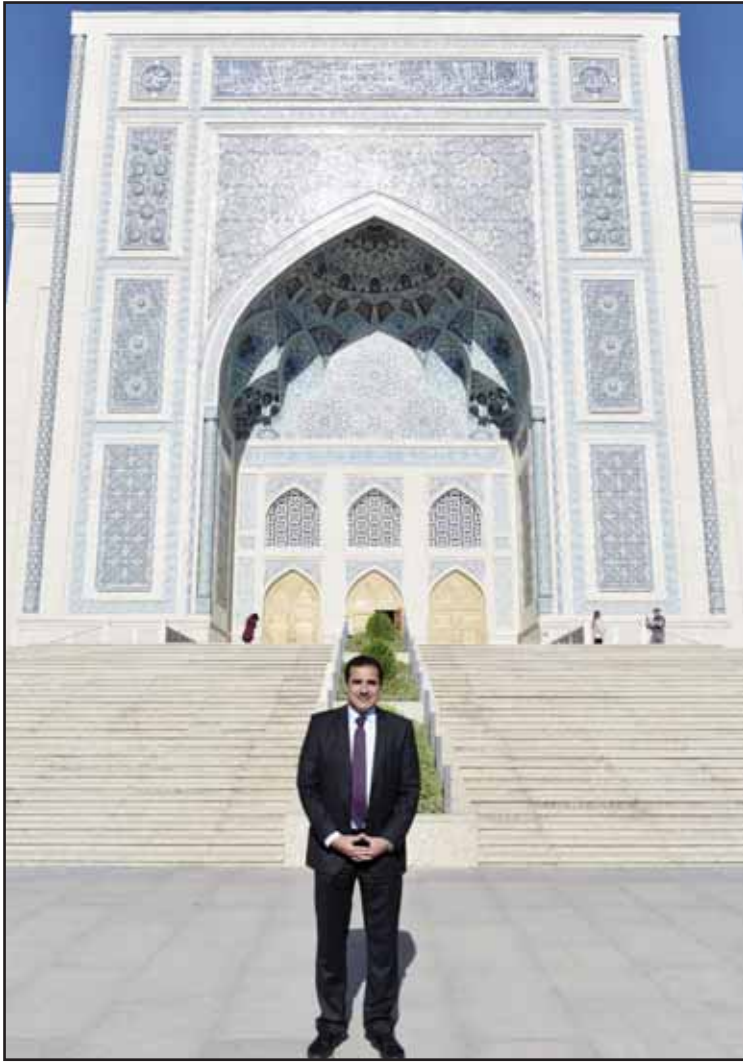
Samarkand - When Age Exceeds Two Thousand Years

Today, Samarkand stands as one of the oldest historical cities in Central Asia. UNESCO indicates that evidence of settlement in the region dates back to around 1500 BCE, while the city of Afrasiab (historical Samarkand) was founded in the 7th century BCE. Samarkand did not become great merely due to its antiquity; the secret of its greatness lay in its location. It was at the crossroads of caravan routes that carried goods, ideas, and cultures between China, Central Asia, Persia, and the Middle East. By the early centuries CE, it had become a major center on the Silk Roads, reaching the peak of its glory during the Timurid era in the 14th and 15th centuries CE. This is why UNESCO described it as a “cradle of cultures.”

When I stand before the history of Samarkand, its scholars, jurists, mosques, and architecture, it is hard to see these figures and structures merely as monuments; rather, they are remnants of an era when architecture, science, astronomy, trade, and politics were all part of a single civilizational project.



A view of the Center of Islamic Civilization of Uzbekistan in Tashkent.



Tareq Yousef Alshumaimry

Tashkent - Another Story Began Before the Name We Know Today

In Tashkent, the narrative leads me to the Chach region and the ancient city of Kanka. UNESCO indicates that Kanka was the first capital of Chach, a vast fortified city through which the Silk Road network passed. In the same region, agriculture developed from the pre-Christian centuries, with water, agriculture, and trade becoming key factors in the growth of urban settlements.

Here, a point worthy of reflection emerges for us in the Gulf: ancient civilizations did not wait for conditions to be perfect; they turned geography into an opportunity. Uzbekistan did not have a sea, but it was at the heart of Asia, so it made caravan routes its lifeline. Kuwait was not at the heart of the continent, but it was at the head of the Gulf, so it made the sea its route to the world.

Kuwait - A Story That Began More Than 7,000 Years Ago

The Kuwait we know today, with its modern cities, ports, roads, and markets, conceals beneath its soil a history dating back to the end of the 6th millennium BCE, i.e., more than

7,000 years ago. Specifically, in the Subiya area north of Kuwait, excavations revealed settlements linked to the Ubaid culture and workshops for manufacturing shell beads, along with evidence of maritime activity, including a clay model of the earliest known seagoing boat.

When we learn that Greek-era artifacts were discovered on Failaka Island dating back to the 3rd century BCE, the picture becomes even more fascinating. Among the most significant of these evidences is the Ikaros Greek inscription, approximately dated between 246 and 226 BCE, which UNESCO inscribed on the Memory of the World Register in 2025. It becomes clear that the land of Kuwait was not a distant margin of major civilizations but was part of their communication network.

The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters in the State of Kuwait indicates that the results of archaeological surveys and excavations in Kuwait show that human settlement on the land of Kuwait began in the late 6th millennium BCE. Excavation work in Subiya has documented sites belonging to the Ubaid culture and workshops for shell bead manufacturing, alongside evidence of maritime activity and a clay model of a boat. The Council also explains that the end of the 3rd millennium and the beginning of the 2nd millennium BCE witnessed the emergence of Bronze Age villages, with features of this period appearing in several Kuwaiti sites and islands, including Failaka, Umm al-Namal, Shuwaikh, and northern Kuwait Bay.

Samarkand and Kuwait - Caravans and Trading Ships

I have not found evidence of a direct ancient route linking Samarkand and Kuwait, but the similarity lies in the role each place played. Samarkand was a station for caravans; Failaka and Kuwait were stations for ships.



Tareq Yousef Alshumaimry in a group photo with some of the forum attendees.



Forum participants gather for a group photograph at the Center of Islamic Civilization of Uzbekistan.

Samarkand opened its doors to those coming from the East and West; Kuwait opened its shores to those coming from the north, east, and south of the Gulf. Both made trade something larger than money, creating communities that knew the ‘other,’ dealt with them, and benefited from their differences.

The Guest Comes First.. A Parallel We See in the Kuwaiti and Uzbek Homes Before Books

In Kuwait and the Gulf, one does not need a history book to understand the meaning of hospitality. The majlis, coffee, dates, food, inquiring about the guest, and the host’s insistence on honoring them are all details a Kuwaiti and a Gulf Arab know instinctively.

In Uzbekistan, I felt something similar. Generosity through offering tea, bread, shared family meals, and welcoming the guest are not just tourist customs but are part of a deeply rooted social culture in the Uzbek people.

Even the market has a similar presence. The ancient markets of Samarkand and Tashkent were not merely places for buying and selling, just as the old Kuwaiti markets were not just shops; they were places for meeting, exchanging news, making acquaintances, and introducing new cultures into society.

The same applies to respect for knowledge. If Samarkand was associated with scholars of astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and religious studies, Kuwait was known early on for its kuttabs (Quranic schools), religious education, and scholarly circles, before transitioning to modern formal education. The details may differ, but the value of knowledge and the status of learning appear familiar in both experiences.

The Modern Story of Kuwait and Uzbekistan

The most beautiful aspect of

Kuwait and other countries. Established in 1961, the Fund was not merely a financing tool but one of the faces through which the State of Kuwait became known in the developing world. The Fund financed development projects in Uzbekistan, including a rural housing infrastructure project with a loan amounting to 9 million Kuwaiti Dinars (approx. 30 million USD), and also contributed to a project to equip specialized medical institutions for urology, kidney diseases, dialysis, and kidney transplantation.

Today, with the progress and development vision of modern Uzbekistan, I see talks moving towards broader areas including infrastructure, logistics, agriculture, green energy, health, industry, services, and investment. This is the way through which political relations can be transformed into civilizational development partnership projects.

From Civilizational Memory to a Future of Cooperation

Perhaps what has stayed with me most from the forum in Tashkent is that talking about civilization should not remain confined to museums and books. The true civilization is one that can move from memory to the future. This is why, now, when I think of Samarkand, I do not see it as a different, distant city in Central Asia; rather, I see it as a city resembling Kuwait in that both recognized early that openness to the world can be a source of strength, not a threat to identity. Samarkand’s caravans carried silk and ideas; here, Kuwaiti ships carried pearls, goods, and news.

Today, certainly, airplanes, investments, universities, media, and culture can carry something greater: partnership between the two peoples. Each has a deep history, and both peoples look to the future. The goal is not to live in the past, but to understand it well so we do not build a future without roots.

From Samarkand to Failaka, and from the Silk Roads to the Gulf routes, times and means change, but humanity remains in search of communication, learning, and trade, discovering the other, then returning to its home and land richer for what it has learned from the world. Here, there may not be one single ancient road between Kuwait and Samarkand that we can trace on a map, but between them lies a very old idea: that civilization begins when geography turns from boundaries into bridges of cooperation and partnership.



Participants during the forum at the Center of Islamic Civilization of Uzbekistan.



Visitors attend the Baghdad International Book Fair in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Sept. 4, 2026. (AP)

Dr. Mansouri emphasizes importance of strengthening integration between public health policies, field practice

MoH boosts winter preparedness with training program for nursing staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: The Ministry of Health strengthened its early preparations for the winter season and the accompanying increase in seasonal respiratory illnesses and viruses through a specialized training program aimed at enhancing the readiness of nursing staff, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry, represented by the Public Health Services Department in the Hawally Health Zone, conducted the program with broad participation from nursing staff across various public-sector and private-sector healthcare institutions.

The program addressed the most prominent health challenges associated with winter, updates on respiratory disease prevention, and the importance of early preparation and adherence to preventive measures.

The program also focused on strengthening the role of nursing staff in health education for individuals and families. The experience of the previous season and the lessons learned were reviewed,



Some of the participants in the training program designed to enhance the competence of nursing staff in preparation for the winter season and seasonal respiratory diseases.

with emphasis on the pivotal role of nursing staff in implementing prevention programs and raising health awareness.

The program discussed respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), one of the most prominent seasonal respiratory viruses, particularly among children who are more susceptible to complications.



The experience gained from using the monoclonal antibody nirsevimab during the previous season was reviewed, and its results were used to develop operational mechanisms and prepare for the 2026–2027 season.

Dr. Mariam Mansouri, Head of Public Health Services at the Hawally Health District, emphasized the importance of strengthening integration between public health policies and field practice, while continuing to enhance the capabilities of healthcare personnel and the readiness of the health system for winter.

Scientists studying cockroach milk, nose-blowing win Ig Nobel prizes

WASHINGTON, Sept 5, (AP): Ten research teams were honored Thursday at a satirical science awards ceremony that was hosted outside the US for the first time due to travel concerns.

Researchers who studied milk from cockroaches and analyzed soil health using underwear received Ig Nobel prizes celebrating unusual and imaginative contributions to science.

The awards organized by a digital magazine called the Annals of Improbable Research shifted to Europe after 35 years in the United States over concerns about attendees being able to get visas.

At a convention center in Zurich, Switzerland, research teams received a custom trophy resembling a cross between a mushroom and a human foot. Among them were Matilda Brindle and Stuart West from the University of Oxford and the Florida Institute of Technology's Catherine F. Talbot, who reconstructed the evolutionary history of kissing, and the late Dr. Tokuji Unno who investigated the science of blowing one's nose.

Another research team buried 1,000 pairs of underwear in more than 25 countries to study how critters in the soil helped them decompose.



Nobel Prize winners, from left, Esther Duflo, Abhijit Banerjee, Michel Mayor and Tim Hunt are presented on stage during the Ig Nobel Prize ceremony held in the Zurich Convention Center in Zurich, Switzerland, on Sept 3. (AP)

As per tradition, audience members fashioned paper airplanes and hurled them toward the stage to kick off the show.

For future ceremonies, organizers plan to alternate between Zurich and other European countries. The 2027 ceremony will be held in the Belgian city of Antwerp. Previous iterations took place at Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University,

but there are no immediate plans to return to the US.

"During the past year, it has become unsafe for our guests to visit the country," Marc Abrahams, master of ceremonies and editor of the magazine, told The Associated Press in an email in March.

The Nobel Prizes, which have no relation to their cheekily named counterpart, will be announced at the start of October.

Malaysia declares emergency in Sarawak town as haze reaches critical level

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Sept 5, (AP): Malaysia declared an emergency Friday in a town in Sarawak state on Borneo Island after air pollution breached the country's emergency-level threshold linked to fires in neighboring Indonesia.

The Air Pollutant Index in Serian, a small agricultural town of just under 90,000 near the border of Indonesia's Kalimantan province, surged to 521 on Friday, according to Malaysia's environment department.

Sarawak's much-larger capital, Kuching, also showed a hazardous reading of 311.

Malaysia's King Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar has consented to the declaration of an emergency in Serian, which would allow more effective measures to be taken, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's office said in a statement. It didn't provide details but officials have said a reading above 500 could provide for non-essential work and outdoor activities to be halted. Schools are already shut if the index is above 200.

Sarawak has been the worst-hit Malaysian state by the haze, with several areas having hazardous air levels in the past few days.

Haze is a recurring seasonal problem in Southeast Asia, where smoke from forest and peat fires in Indonesia can travel across national borders and affect neighboring Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore.

The haze this year has been particularly severe, with elevated fire activity in several provinces in Indonesia, including Kalimantan, and prolonged dry conditions contributing to worsening pollution that has spread across the region.

It has also hit the Philippines, where President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the suspension of classes in all levels in the capital region, metropolitan Manila, and more than a dozen northern provinces on Friday, a government statement said.

The Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources has also advised people to minimize prolonged outdoor activities and wear protective masks in visibly affected areas.

Satellite data from Indonesia's Forestry Ministry on Friday detected 717 hot spots nationwide likely caused by forest fires since Aug. 1. The data showed 103 active hot spots in the past 24 hours alone.

Indonesian authorities have deployed firefighting resources and at-



The Sarawak Government Administrative Centre in Serian is shrouded in thick haze on Sept 4. (AP)

Nearly 2,000 fall ill in suspected food poisoning tied to Indonesia's free meals

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Sept 5, (AP): Nearly 2,000 people, most of them students, fell ill in suspected food poisoning outbreaks linked to President Prabowo Subianto's flagship Free Nutritious Meals program this week, raising fresh concerns about food safety as the government rapidly expands the multibillion-dollar initiative nationwide, officials said Saturday.

The incidents, reported between Tuesday and Thursday in East Java, Central Java, West Sumatra, Aceh and South Sulawesi, affected about 1,950 students, teachers and Islamic boarding school pupils who became sick after consuming meals distributed under the government program, known by its Indonesian acronym MBG.

The outbreaks are the latest setback for Prabowo's signature free meals program, which has been rolled out across the archipelago despite repeated food poisoning incidents and corruption allegations.

The largest outbreak was reported in Central Java's Rembang regency, where 752 students and 25 teachers at State Senior High School 1 Lasem, suffered diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and stomach pain after eating meals provided through the program, according to Rembang Health Office head Ali Syofi'i.

In Sidoarjo, East Java, 730 people, most of them students at the Manbaul Hikam Islamic boarding school, were affected in another suspected food poisoning incident linked to the program. Sidoarjo health office chief Lakhsmie Herawati Yuwantina said 706 victims had been discharged and were recovering at home.

Authorities also reported 276 suspected cases involving students and teachers in Agam regency, West Sumatra, where food distribution from the local nutrition service center was suspended pending an investigation. In Aceh's Bener Meriah regency, 15 elementary school students and a school principal were treated after experiencing dizziness, nausea and other symptoms following a school meal.

Another 152 students from two junior high schools in Tana Toraja, South Sulawesi, were treated at three hospitals after developing symptoms consistent with food poisoning. Regent Zadrak Tombeq ordered hospitals and health centers to prioritize treatment for the victims.

No deaths have been reported, and authorities are investigating the causes of the outbreaks.



Students who fell ill allegedly due to food poisoning after consuming free meals at their school receive medical treatment at a hospital in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia, on Sept 2. (AP)



This photo provided by Katalyst Space shows a solar panel on Katalyst Space Technologies' Link robotic servicing spacecraft in orbit on Aug 24. (AP)

Rescue satellite gets close to NASA telescope, even if it can't save it

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 5, (AP): A private spacecraft that was supposed to provide a lifeline to NASA's Swift Observatory managed to get close to the sinking telescope and even snap photos two weeks after the rescue was abandoned.

But the three-armed robotic salvager had to turn away because it was low on fuel, according to Katalyst Space Technologies, which attempted the daring operation.

"We got so close, but so far," Katalyst CEO Ghonhee Lee told The Associated Press this week.

Katalyst's Link spacecraft got within 15 kilometers (9 miles) of Swift on Tuesday, using its sensors to gather data on the doomed telescope for NASA. The rescue effort had already been called off in August because of Link's own troubles in orbit, but the company wanted the practice for future satellite-servicing missions.

Link went into an uncontrollable spin soon after rocketing to Swift's rescue in July. Flight controllers managed to slow the tumble and stabilize the spacecraft, using up precious fuel. In the end, there was not enough fuel remaining to boost the aging Swift into a higher, longer-lasting orbit so it could continue observing the cosmos.

Lee blamed Link's problems on the rush to get it flying. The mission was put together in just nine months, and engineers often had to use whatever was available instead of waiting for the preferred parts, he said.

NASA paid the company \$30 million to carry out the attempt, which was always going to be rushed. Both sides viewed it as an experiment with little to lose, although no one wanted a collision that would unleash clouds of space debris.

"Unfortunately, it wasn't the outcome that we were expecting," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said following Sunday's launch of the Roman Space Telescope. "But that's exactly the type of missions that we should be flying at NASA. We will learn from that."

Isaacman said it makes sense to extend the life of a valuable spacecraft, especially if salvaging it costs less than replacing it. That is why the Roman telescope was designed to be refueled even though it is headed toward an observation point 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away.

It is unlikely that Link has enough fuel left to attempt another close approach to Swift, according to Lee. But it can continue exercising its three 3-foot (1-meter) arms and providing important data before it reenters the atmosphere and burns up in the next few weeks, he said.

Launched in 2004, Swift has a little more time remaining in orbit, depending on how active the sun is. Intense solar storms in recent years are responsible for bringing the telescope down much sooner than expected. As of Friday, its orbit had dropped to 208 miles (335 kilometers), barely half as high as when it set out to scan some of the biggest explosions in the universe.

SPORTS

Mali edges Spain in Women's World Cup stunner

Clark records double-double as USA defeats China

BERLIN, Sept 5, (AP): Mali pulled off the first stunner of the Women's Basketball World Cup by shocking Spain 82-73 on Saturday.

It was only the second win ever in tournament history for the African country, which beat Senegal in overtime in 2010.

Mali was down two at the half, but outscored Spain 31-19 in the third quarter to take the lead. Mali went on a 16-4 run in that period after it was down 45-44 to take command. Sika Kone, who finished with 19 points, had two 3-pointers during that game-changing run. Kone, who plays for the Atlanta Dream in the WNBA, also had 10 rebounds.

Mali (1-1) scored the first five points of the fourth quarter, including another 3-pointer by Kone, to put the game away as Spain could get no closer than nine the rest of the way.

Djeneba N'Diaye also had 19 points for Mali, which is 2-10 in its World Cup history.

Iyana Martin scored 20 points for Spain (1-1), which was one of the top teams in the world.

Dorka Juhasz had 19 points and 16 rebounds to help Hungary edge Nigeria 71-67.

Nigeria (0-2) was down 66-52 with 3:57 left before getting within two with 3 seconds left on Elizabeth Balogun's basket. Nigeria fouled Reka Lelik with just over a second left and she calmly knocked down both free throws to seal the win.

It was Hungary's first victory since 1998 when the team topped China in the quarterfinals. Now they'll play



China's Chen Yujie guards United States' Paige Bueckers during the Women's Basketball World Cup match between China and the United States in Berlin. (AP)

Korea next to close out pool play. Virag Takacs-Kiss added 17 points

for Hungary (1-1). Juhasz, who plays for the Minnesota Lynx, had

13 points and 11 rebounds in the first half.

Amy Okonkwo scored 17 points to lead Nigeria, which finishes off

pool play against France.

Caitlin Clark also starred on her tournament debut for the United States.

Clark had 14 points and 11 assists to help the U.S. beat China, which was led by 7-foot-3 Zhang Ziyu, 94-61 in its opener at the Max-Schmeling-Halle. It was the same Berlin venue where the U.S. defeated Russia in the final for the 1998 title, the country's sixth.

Rhyn Howard also scored 14 points and Jackie Young added 12 for the Americans, who have won 31 consecutive World Cup games dating to a loss in the 2006 semifinals.

Steph Talbot scored 19 points as Australia defeated Puerto Rico 70-54.

Australia lost its opening games at the last World Cup and at the Olympics, so the victory takes the pressure off coach Sandy Bron-dello's team with the four group winners in the expanded 16-team tournament progressing straight to the quarterfinals.

Australia next faces Turkey on Sunday.

Emma Meesseman had 27 points, nine rebounds and five assists to lead European champion Belgium to the 89-75 victory. She scored nine of those points in the final two minutes of the third quarter as Belgium outscored Turkey 27-9 in the third period. Turkey held a 45-44 lead at the end of the first half.

Kennedy Burke scored 15 points to lead Turkey.

Cecilia Zandalasini led Italy to its first World Cup win upon its return to the tournament after 32 years, 63-54 over the Czech Republic.

Boss seeking balance

Coach Hesson says Pakistan players are more used to 'chaos' than he is

BIRMINGHAM, England, Sept 5, (AP): Pakistan interim red-ball cricket coach Mike Hesson believes his players are more used to the "chaos" than him after the Pakistan Cricket Board dropped seven players for next week's dead rubber against England.

"The last couple of days have been challenging for being in a hotel with some players coming, some players going and then the arrival of everyone," Hesson told reporters.

"The guys are probably more used to a little bit of chaos than I am," he said. "There's no doubt they have been disappointed, incredibly disappointed. We've had to park that and go 'righto, where to from here?' They've been really good over the past couple of days."

Pakistan made sweeping changes in a knee-jerk reaction to its two brutal defeats at Lord's and Headingley in the first two tests of the three-match series. The PCB not only summoned back seven players, it also replaced test coach Sarfaraz Ahmed with Hesson and brought in bowling coach Ashley Nofke to take over from Umar Gul.

One of the four selectors Ahsan Javed and chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi have defended the changes midway through the series, which have drawn criticism from the likes of former Pakistan cricketers Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik.

Hesson, Pakistan's white-ball head coach, was recently in Japan preparing for the Asian Games and was only due to come to UK for last Wednesday's team audience with King Charles, but was told that he will be taking over for the third test, starting in Birmingham next Wednesday.

Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad



Pakistan's Saud Shakeel bats on day four of the second cricket test match between England and Pakistan in London. (AP)

Rizwan, opening batter Imam-ul-Haq and Salman Ali Agha, who captained the team in the first test, were among the first batch of the seven players who left the team before Hesson had joined the squad in the UK.

Fast bowler Khurram Shahzad and left-arm spinner Ali Usman both played in the first two tests before being released while all-rounder Aamir Jamal and Mohammad Awaiz were sent home without getting a chance at either Lord's or at Headingley.

"When I took over, three players had already left the squad, Rizwan, Imam and Salman Ali Agha," Hesson said. "I don't think anyone wants these to happen in the middle of a series, clearly not."

"From my perspective, it's about putting a balanced squad together, not only for this test, so we actually have some variety in our attack. Pakistan is known for the pace, unusual

actions, mystery spin - we haven't really been able to present any of that."

The selectors have included five uncapped players - spin all-rounder Arafat Minhas, left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Imran Jr., wicketkeeper Saad Baig, all-rounder Mohammad Imran and fast bowler Razaullah.

Saim Ayub and Abdullah Fazal are the other two being flown to the UK to join the squad and have a combined experience of only 10 test matches.

"From a bowling point of view, we have got to find some variety," Hesson said. "We need a little bit of an X-Factor in there as well to try and create some opportunities ... to support Mohammed Abbas who's done incredibly well. I know all the players that are here now. Some I've worked with a bit, some I've said hello to a handful of times and watched them play."

5-time Tour winner Pogacar ends season after crash

SIERRA DE LA PANDERA, Spain, Sept 5, (AP): Tadej Pogacar has confirmed his season is over after his heavy crash in the Spanish Vuelta and that he extended his contract with UAE Team Emirates-XRG for another two years through 2032.

The five-time Tour de France winner's decision to end his season rules out a defense of the world championship title he won in 2024 and 2025.

"Of course, this isn't the way I wanted my season to finish. Right now, the most important thing is to recover properly and give my body the time it needs," Pogacar said in a statement issued by his team.

"It has been a season with many special moments and I'm proud of what we achieved together. Now I'll focus on getting healthy, supporting the guys from home, and coming back next year ready for what's ahead."

The team said its medical director concluded there

would be no benefit in Pogacar rushing back to competition as he works on a rehabilitation program.

Pogacar underwent surgery on his left collarbone Monday, two days after his crash on the eighth stage of the Vuelta.

Until then, he had a big lead and was favorite to complete a hat trick of cycling's three Grand Tours. The team said at the time he had a concussion and two fractures and Pogacar posted a picture from the hospital showing himself in a neck brace.

Pogacar's contract extension could see him spend 13 years with the team he joined in 2019.

"There is still a lot I want to achieve in this sport and I believe this is the right place to do it," he said. "I'm very grateful for the trust the team has shown in me and excited about what we can continue to build together."



Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's red jersey, celebrates on the podium after winning the first stage of the La Vuelta cycling race, a time trial with start and finish in Monaco. (AP)

Barcelona gets rematch with Arsenal in Women's Champions League draw

NYON, Switzerland, Sept 5, (AP): Title holder Barcelona's defense of the Women's Champions League will include hosting Arsenal in a rematch of the 2025 final won by the London club after the 18-team draw was made.

Barcelona faces a season of transition after two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas and other storied Spain players left in the off-

season, though got a favorable slate of six opponents that starts later this month.

Also hosted in Barcelona are Paris FC and Servette, while there are trips to play at Bayern Munich, Roma and HB Køge of Denmark.

Arsenal will host eight-time champion OL Lyonnes, Benfica and Køge, and also visit Paris FC and Inter Milan.

OL Lyonnes, which was the beaten finalist in May, goes to Arsenal, Juventus and Servette, and will host Chelsea, Europa Cup winner Häcken and Inter Milan.

English champion Manchester City will host Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid and Austria Vienna, while traveling to face Bayern, Häcken and Inter.

Real Madrid hosts both Paris clubs

plus Inter, with away games at Bayern, Roma and Man City.

The six rounds of the league phase start Sept. 22 and are played through Dec. 16.

The top four in the 18-team standings in December will go direct to the quarterfinals starting in March. Fifth to 12th in the standings enter the knockout playoffs in February.

The final is played in Poland's na-

tional stadium in Warsaw in late May.

The 18 Champions League clubs will share a UEFA prize money fund of 18.2 million euros (\$21.2 million), with each guaranteed 505,000 euros (\$587,000).

There is 5.6 million euros (\$6.5 million) on offer in the Women's Europa Cup, the second-tier competition which debuted last year won by Häcken.

Tenure boosted salaries, media and values

Engelbert to step down after transforming WNBA

WASHINGTON, Sept 5, (AP): WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert is retiring at the end of the year, bringing to a close her seven-plus years at the helm of the league and a stewardship that has been transformative and at times tumultuous.

Engelbert is the second-longest tenured WNBA president or commissioner, and she helped negotiate a lucrative collective bargaining agreement this past spring that resulted in the league's first set of million-dollar player salaries.

That growth has been accompanied by a series of headline-grabbing distractions for the league under her leadership, especially in the last year. She had a strained relationship with the players during the contract negotiations, and the 2026 season has been dominated by controversies surrounding officiating and the transgender debate along with a large amounts of social media backlash against WNBA participants.

Engelbert told The Associated Press that the decision to leave was solely her own and that she did not feel any pressure to step down from NBA or WNBA stakeholders before Friday's announcement. She insists she has a good relationship with players.

While talks between the commissioner and players have been complicated, New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart, vice president of the WNBA players' union executive committee, said Friday that she is happy for Engelbert.

"What she's done for the league is incredible," Stewart said. "Obviously, the CBA negotiation was a tough one, but the way that both sides continue to have a huge win is really important. So really happy for her and hope that she continues to remember that and reflect on that."

Stewart had said before July's All-Star Game that there was a respect for Engelbert among the players but



In this file photo, WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert speaks during a news conference before the WNBA All-Star basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

not much of a relationship.

Engelbert, who turns 62 in November, told AP she has been thinking about retiring for months.

"When I first came to the league I intended to do this for 3 1/2 years," she said in a phone interview. "The 7 1/2 years exceeded that time. This is a really good time given the financial transformation journey we've been on. Getting the collective bargaining agreement done, getting a long-term media rights deal done, getting expansion done."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver praised Engelbert in the announcement.

"Cathy has presided over the WNBA through the most significant period of growth in the league's 30-year history," he said. "We are grateful for Cathy's leadership and unwavering commitment to the advancement of women's basketball."

The WNBA commissioner said she has been working on a succes-

sion plan over the last few years. While she didn't give any specifics on who might be considered for the position, Engelbert did say there are both internal and external potential candidates on the league's radar.

"It's a good time to hand it off to the next leader to take the 'W' into a better phase," she said. "I'm proud of the team we built and everything we accomplished. A leader knows when it's time to drop the mic and move on after building a powerhouse team in the league office."

Engelbert added that she has mixed emotions about leaving.

"I love women's basketball and am not going anywhere yet. We'll run a real succession process in the remaining four months. If we don't find someone I'll stay on," she said. "I had no transition. I walked in the door and I was by myself as no one transitioned me into this role."

"Hopefully I can help this next leader transition in especially considering the elevation of this league."

The WNBA has grown at an exponential rate during Engelbert's tenure as commissioner, with record television ratings, strong attendance, a new long-term media rights deal and expansion to 18 teams by the end of the decade.

"I was brought in as a business leader to transform the business," she said. "I look at revenue and merchandise, viewership and attendance," she said, noting how they've all improved. "A great leader senses when it's time for someone else to come in. When I came in, this league was facing questions about our long-term viability and sustainability."

Engelbert said the growth of the league has "blown away her expectations" since she stepped into her role after leaving her previous position as president of Deloitte in 2019.

Best of the Rest

Neymar slams Santos pitch after cup exit: Santos is struggling through a difficult season; with the Brazilian club sitting 14th in the league, just four points above the relegation zone with 14 matches remaining.

Its Brazilian Cup campaign also ended in disappointment after it was eliminated by Palmeiras in the quarterfinals. Santos lost the first leg 3-0 before being held to a goalless draw at home in the return match.

The result angered Neymar, who took aim at the condition of the pitch at Santos' Vila Belmiro stadium in a post on Instagram.

□ □ □

Alaves loses midfielder Rodriguez: Deportivo Alaves on Friday confirmed that midfielder Mikel Rodriguez is set to miss the rest of the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

Rodriguez, who joined Alaves from Real Sociedad in the summer, suffered the injury during Thursday's training session.

"The player will have surgical treatment in the coming days and the evolution of the injury will determine when he recovers," the club said, noting that torn knee ligaments typically require at least nine months to heal. (Xinhua)

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Burgan completes Arar signing

Al-Harbi retires from handball after 25-year career

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Kuwait Club and national team handball star Meshaal Abbas Al-Harbi has officially announced his retirement after a distinguished career spanning nearly 25 years.

Al-Harbi revealed his decision on social media, saying he will begin a new chapter by taking up an administrative role in Kuwait Club's youth sector.

The veteran thanked Kuwait Club's board, headed by Khaled Al-Ghanem, for its support throughout his career. He also expressed his appreciation to his teammates, coaches, administrative and medical staff, and everyone who stood by him over the years.

Al-Harbi began his handball career in 2001 with Al-Sulaibikhat, progressing through the club's youth ranks before reaching the first team. He joined Kuwait Club in 2007 and spent the following 19 years with the club.

During his career with Kuwait Club, Al-Harbi collected 14 Premier League titles, 13 Federation Cup trophies and three Super Cups. He also helped the club win an Asian Club Championship, a Gulf title and three

Arab Club Championships.

Meanwhile, Burgan has completed the signing of Tunisian handball player Jihad Arar as the club prepares for the FIFA Club World Championship and the new Premier League season.

Arar's arrival completes Burgan's foreign-player roster for the upcoming campaign and adds further strength to the Asian champions' squad.

Burgan is currently holding a training camp in Bosnia ahead of the Club World Championship in Cairo later this month. The camp runs until Sept. 20, during which the team will play four friendly matches as the coaching staff works to improve the players' technical and physical condition.

The team will return to Kuwait on Sept. 20 before traveling to Cairo three days later for its final preparations.

Burgan has been drawn in Group B alongside German side Fuchse Berlin, host Al Ahly of Egypt and the winner of the preliminary-round match between Hungarian club Veszprém and Sydney of Australia.

Group A features Barcelona of Spain, Morocco's Montada Derb Sultan and Brazil's Pinheiros, as well as the winner of the preliminary-round clash between Zamalek of Egypt and Los Angeles of the United States.



Meshaal Abbas Al-Harbi fires a shot against Kazma.

Serena and Venus fall in US Open doubles thriller



Ben Shelton, of the United States, serves to Denis Shapovalov, of Canada, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Alcaraz, Sabalenka reach round of 16

NEW YORK, Sept 5, (AP): Serena and Venus Williams were once again the main attraction at the U.S. Open. Carlos Alcaraz sure wasn't going to miss it.

"I think there is no better plan (than) to watch the doubles, the Williamses once again, while getting a treatment," the defending men's champion said after winning his match. "I'm going to be ready for that."

The match was a thriller, with the sisters battling back to force a 10-point match tiebreaker, but then blowing a 5-0 lead and losing 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (10-7) to Hao-Ching Chan and Maya Joint.

It was the first U.S. Open match since 2022 at the Grand Slam tournament the sisters won twice. They battled back from 4-1 down in the third set to tie it, but then faltered late in front of disappointed fans desperately rooting them on.

"I think the crowd is pretty much what we expected. We expected a full stadium, everyone cheering for them, which, pretty much was that," Joint said. "But the atmosphere is something that, yeah, it's super special. Not really going to get again with many other players."

Serena came back to tennis this year at 44. Venus has continued to play on tour at 46.

Perhaps it was their ages, could have been Serena's long layoff, or maybe it was nerves. But both double-faulted during the tie-breaker after they had played so brilliantly late in the third set and



Venus Williams, left, and Serena Williams, of the United States, look on as they play against Hao-Ching Chan, of Taiwan, and Maya Joint, of Australia, during a women's doubles match at the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

then in the first few points.

The U.S. Tennis Association said the sisters would not be available for comment.

Serena lost to Joint for the second time this summer. She fell to the Australian in three sets at Wimbledon in her return to singles play, and she and Venus then had to pull out of their doubles match after Serena hurt her knee.

That delayed their return to the Grand Slam stage until New York, where they won in 1999 and 2009 and are now 27-8 in their 10 appearances.

The match got a spot in the night session in Arthur Ashe Stadium - practically unheard of for first-round doubles.

The sisters were once dominant in women's doubles, teaming to

win 14 Grand Slam titles along with Olympic gold medals in 2000, 2008 and 2012. They shared the No. 1 ranking in women's doubles for eight weeks.

It appeared a first-round loss in 2022 was their last time together, with Serena stepping away from tennis that year after winning 23 Grand Slam singles titles. She came back this summer and now has two heartbreaking defeats with her older sister. They also lost in a match tiebreaker at the Cincinnati Open.

Venus Williams also lost in the first round of singles.

Alcaraz won easily but two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka was finally challenged - by her opponent and by the smell of marijuana - in her victory.

Sabalenka beat Kamilla Rakhimova 6-3, 6-4. The No. 1 seed was pushed in a second set that lasted 54 minutes - a minute longer than her entire previous match.

Trying to become the first player to win three straight U.S. Open titles since Serena Williams from 2012-14, Sabalenka will face Taylor Townsend in the round of 16.

Alcaraz returned to the round of 16 by beating Wu Yibing 6-3, 6-4, 6-1. Back for this tournament after missing four months because of a right wrist injury, the two-time champion will face No. 20 seed Tommy Paul, who edged No. 15 Alexander Bublik in five sets.

"To be honest I'm better than I thought," Alcaraz said.

Sabalenka was serving in the third game of her match in Louis Armstrong Stadium when she tossed the ball but then let it fall to the court. She did the same thing on the next point, with something clearly bothering her.

She then approached the chair umpire to ask for help because she smelled marijuana.

"I was like, guys, you can do whatever, you can smoke whatever, you can relax as much as you can, but please, do not do it around the tennis courts," Sabalenka said, when asked what she was thinking at the time. "It's a bit tricky to handle that smell while you're trying to compete at your best."

Pegula, the No. 3 seed, fought back to beat 2021 runner-up Leylah Fernandez 1-6, 6-4, 6-3. Pegula, who lost to Sabalenka in the 2024 final and again last year in the semifinals, had a dismal start in which she put only 5 of 16 first serves in during the first set.

Martinelli signing pushes Al Hilal market value above 1 billion riyals

RIYADH, Sept 5: Al Hilal has strengthened its position as Saudi Arabia's most valuable club following the signing of Brazilian forward Gabriel Martinelli from Arsenal on a four-year deal.

The move, the most expensive transfer in the Saudi Pro League this summer, came only days after Al Hilal secured another high-profile signing in English striker Ollie Watkins from Aston Villa.

Martinelli's arrival has lifted Al Hilal's total squad market value to €239.8 million — more than one billion Saudi riyals — according to Transfermarkt.

The Brazilian is now among the club's most valuable players, with a market value of €45 million, matching Dutch winger Crysenio Summerville.

Al Hilal leads the Saudi market-value rankings ahead of Al Ahli (€199.6 million), Al Qadsiah (€162 million), Al

Ittihad (€147.6 million) and Al Nassr (€136.9 million).

On the pitch, Al Hilal maintained its perfect start to the Roshn Saudi Pro League with a 2-0 victory away to Al Shabab. Sergej Milinkovic-Savic broke the deadlock early in the second half before Ruben Neves sealed the win from the penalty spot late on.

The match marked Martinelli's debut following his move from Arsenal earlier this week. Al Hilal remains top of the table with 15 points from five victories, while Al Shabab sits 13th with three points from three draws.

Al Ahli also bounced back from consecutive defeats with a commanding 5-0 win over Al Riyadh. The result moved Al Ahli into fourth place with nine points, while Al Riyadh remains 12th on four points.



In this file photo, Sunderland's Reinildo Mandava, left, and Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli fight for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Sunderland in London, England. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Guendouzi banned for 2 Champions League games: Mattéo Guendouzi was banned by UEFA from Fenerbahce's first two Champions League games for provocations and insults in a heated playoff win at Lyon in his native France.

Guendouzi, a former player at Lyon's great rival Marseille, was at the heart of incidents before and after Fenerbahce's 2-1 win on Aug. 26 including a mass brawl. The result sent the Turkish club into the Champions League for the first time in 18 years.

The 27-year-old Guendouzi will miss Fenerbahce hosting Roma next Thursday and a visit to Aston Villa on Oct. 14.

Fenerbahce forward Mason Greenwood had a one-game ban deferred for one year of probation for his involvement, UEFA said in disciplinary verdicts announced. (AP)

■ ■ ■

Red Star Belgrade fined by UEFA for fan chants: Serbian soccer club Red Star Belgrade was fined by UEFA for fans chanting in honor of convicted war criminal Ratko Mladic, who died on the day of a Europa League game last week.

Red Star fans chanted the name of Mladic, saluted him and showed a banner thanking and praising him at a 5-1 loss at Czech club Viktoria Plzeň on Aug. 27.

Mladic was the Bosnian Serb commander who oversaw the massacre of more than 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995 and other war crimes. (AP)

Infantino makes appearance at U20 Women's World Cup

KATOWICE, Poland, Sept 5, (AP): FIFA President Gianni Infantino has arrived at the opening of the Under-20 Women's World Cup as he faces continuing pressure since abandoning his plan to sell off World Cup profits.

Infantino was seen in the stands speaking with Polish soccer federation president Cezary Kulesza as host nation Poland faced Argentina on the opening day of the tournament Saturday.

Infantino had mostly kept out of the spotlight in the weeks since his World Cup sell-off plan fell apart amid opposition from many FIFA member nations and some of his own officials.

The European nations - a quarter of the 24-

team field - backed down on a boycott threat last week, citing assurances from FIFA that the plan would not be revived.

Legal action over the original attempt rumbles on and Europe has a leading role in efforts to oust Infantino ahead of next year's FIFA election.

A court filing by FIFA on Thursday accused UEFA of running a "smear campaign against FIFA and its leadership" as the European soccer body seeks discovery of evidence related to the FIFA Forward Enterprise plan.

Infantino infuriated soccer leaders worldwide in July, shortly after the World Cup ended, when his plan for a \$20 billion subsidiary con-

trolling FIFA commercial rights including the World Cup was revealed by British daily The Times.

The spinoff was to be 20% owned by investors led by a New York fund created by Joshua Kushner, whose initial money was to pay offers of \$20 million to each of FIFA's 211 member federations. They were given a mid-September deadline to accept.

The FIFA president dropped his proposal within four days. UEFA had support from the Asian Football Confederation and North American soccer body CONCACAF, and there was criticism of the plan and of Infantino from senior FIFA officials.

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NEWS



Brighton's Charalampos Kostoulas, center, battles for the ball with Leeds United's Ao Tanaka, left, and Nico Elvedi during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Leeds United in Brighton, England. (AP)

Sports

Al-Salmiya and Kazma face Al-Sahel and Al-Shabab in Zain Premier League

Al-Qadsia ends Al-Nasr's winning run as Al-Sulaibikhat holds Al-Arabi

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Al-Qadsia ended Al-Nasr's winning run and handed the team its first defeat of the season with a 3-0 victory at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in the third round of the Zain Premier League two days ago.

Ayoub Lakhdar opened the scoring for Al-Qadsia in the 15th minute, while Abdulrahman Al-Mus-haifri added two more goals in the 26th and 63rd minutes.

The Yellow side achieved several objectives with the victory. It returned to winning ways after losing 1-0 to Kuwait Club in the previous round, temporarily moved to the top of the standings with six points, ended Al-Nasr's winning streak and knocked the team off the summit.

Al-Qadsia produced an impressive performance throughout the match and secured a deserved victory. The game also marked the first appearance of Moroccan striker Hamza Khaba, who had missed the opening two rounds through suspension. He impressed on his return and made a strong case for a regular place in the starting lineup.

In another third-round match, Al-Arabi continued to drop points after the team rescued a 3-3 draw against visiting Al-Sulaibikhat at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.

Al-Sulaibikhat stunned the host with an early goal from Wilfres Santos in the sixth minute. Kenan



Qadsia players celebrate after beating Al Nasr in the Zain Premier League match.

Malikov equalized in the 13th minute before Al-Arabi took the lead through Bandar Al-Salama in the fifth minute of stoppage time in the first half.

Al-Sulaibikhat drew level through Abdulaziz Al-Bashar in the 56th minute and regained the lead when Lucas Chalon converted a penalty in the seventh minute of stoppage time.

Al-Arabi, however, rescued a point when Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi equalized one minute later.

The result left Al-Arabi ninth with two points, level with Al-Sulaibikhat in 10th.

The third round concludes today with two matches. Al-Salmiya hosts Al-Sahel at Thamer Stadium at 6:35 p.m., while Kazma visits Al-Shabab at 8:50 p.m.

Al-Salmiya has three points and will be looking for a second victory, but the task will not be easy against Al-Sahel, who has four points after beating Al-Sulaibikhat 1-0 in the opening round and drawing 0-0 with Kazma in the second.

In the other match, Kazma, also on four points, will seek to return to winning ways and remain among the leaders, while Al-Shabab, who has the same tally, will be targeting a similar result.

The league will then go on a break until early October due to Kuwait's participation in the 27th Gulf Cup, which begins in Saudi Arabia on Sept. 23.

Kuwait aims for 'strong' finish against Cambodia in U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Sept 5: Kuwait's U-20 national team will wrap up its campaign in Group G of the AFC U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers today when it takes on Cambodia at 3:00 p.m. at the National Sports Complex Stadium in Phnom Penh.

Japan will face Yemen at the same time in the group's other final-round fixture.

Kuwait began its campaign with a 4-0 defeat to Japan before suffering a 3-1 loss to Yemen, leaving the Blue side without a point from its opening two matches.

Japan currently tops the group with six points, while Cambodia and Yemen have three points each. Kuwait sits at the bottom with zero points.

The group winners will qualify automatically for next year's finals in China, along with the seven best second-placed teams from the eight qualifying groups.

Kuwait's hopes of finishing among the best runners-up are extremely slim. The Blue must beat Cambodia by more than one goal and hope Yemen suffers a six-goal defeat against Japan.

Kuwait currently has a goal difference of -6, compared with +1 for Yemen and -7 for Cambodia.



Players challenge for the ball during Kuwait-Yemen match.

Gasly stuns at Monza again with first-ever pole position

MONZA, Italy, Sept 5, (AP): Alpine's Pierre Gasly claimed his first-ever pole position in qualifying for the Italian Grand Prix on Saturday.

The F1 driver seemed as surprised as everyone when he was informed on the team radio immediately after the session.

"Let's go! Been waiting for that one!" exclaimed Gasly, who took his only Formula 1 win at Monza in 2020.

Gasly looked strong throughout the session and finished 0.060 seconds ahead of Mercedes driver George Russell, with Oscar Piastri qualifying in third.

"In the end it felt like a very good lap but I am so happy, it has been nine years, trying to chase and get the opportunity to get pole position," Gasly said. "To win my first race in Monza, get my first pole position on this track, it is something special around here."

Piastri could face a grid penalty as he has been called before the stewards, who are investigating whether he impeded Red Bull's Liam Lawson in Q2.

There was a scare for Ferrari at its home race as Lewis Hamilton only just sneaked into Q3 by one thousandth of a second but he will start Sunday's race in fifth, just behind teammate Charles Leclerc.

Max Verstappen was sixth while championship leader Kimi Antonelli qualified seventh-fastest but a grid penalty due to a planned engine change means he will start at the back.

Franco Colapinto moves up to seventh, with defending champion Lando Norris, Arvid Lindblad and Gabriel Bortoleto now rounding out the top 10 on the grid.

Antonelli is bidding to become F1's youngest champion. The 20-year-old Italian leads Russell and Hamilton by 59 points, with Norris 24 points further back.

Earlier, Pierre Gasly was stripped of his third place at the Monaco Grand Prix and Isack Hadjar reinstated to third position, the FIA's International Court of Appeal has ruled.

Man City maintains perfect start as Madrid, PSG stumble to first losses

Tottenham picks up first point of season with 0-0 draw at Nottingham Forest

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 5, (AP): Erling Haaland scored his third goal of the season as Manchester City beat Coventry 1-0 to stay at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Tottenham picked up its first point of the season with a 0-0 draw at Nottingham Forest, and Newcastle remains unbeaten under new coach Matthias Jaissle thanks to a late equalizer from Jacob Ramsey in a 2-2 draw with Bournemouth.

Crystal Palace twice came back against Fulham to eventually win 3-2 at Craven Cottage for its first points of the campaign while Brighton drew 1-1 with Leeds.

Brentford and Sunderland also drew 1-1.

Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain were dealt their first losses in their domestic leagues on Friday when Kylian Mbappé had an injury-time penalty saved in La Liga and PSG coughed up a lead in Ligue 1.

Madrid fell at Real Betis 1-0 for its first defeat since the return of coach Jose Mourinho.

PSG fell at home to Monaco 2-1 on the same day that coach Luis Enrique agreed to stay at the European champion through 2030.

Betis stunned Madrid when newcomer Troy Parrott, an Irish striker, knocked in a ball that Thibaut Courtois did well to save from a header by a Betis teammate.

Madrid best chance to reply wasn't until Vinicius Júnior earned a penalty when he was cut down by Natan in the box in injury time. But Betis goalkeeper Alvaro Valles smothered Mbappé's spot kick, adding to his great performance on the night.

Madrid had won its first three games in La Liga. Betis was coming off a shock 5-2 loss to Levante, after it had won twice.

Mbappé scored four goals in his previous two games but the France star was off at La Cartuja Stadium. Besides wasting the penalty, he also squandered a great setup by Vinicius in the first half when he sent back-to-back shots into the bodies of Betis defenders.

Next up for Madrid is a home game against Inter Milan in the opening round of the Champions League on Tuesday.



Coventry City's Caleb Yirenkyi, right, challenges for the ball with Manchester City's Phil Foden during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Coventry City in Manchester, England. (AP)

PSG looked to be on its way to its first win when Marquinhos put the host ahead in the 31st, but Monaco rallied with goals by Flavio Nazinho in the 58th and Stanis Idumbo in the 72nd.

Monaco leads Ligue 1 as the only team to win its first three games.

PSG had already drawn 2-2 with Rennes and Lille in its first two games. It also lost the French Super Cup to Lens 1-0 last month.

Its first league defeat came hours after the French powerhouse announced contract extensions for coach Luis Enrique and several players.

João Neves, Lucas Beraldo, Senny Mayulu and Willian Pachó all got new deals through 2031, while Fabian Ruiz had his contract extended through 2028.

U.S. striker Folarin Balogun was left out of Monaco's squad after the collapse of his proposed transfer to Everton this week.

Alexander Isak scored twice and Bradley Barcola debuted as Liver-

pool got its first win in the Premier League under its new coach after beating Ipswich 2-0 away.

Liverpool had been held to a pair



Real Madrid's Arda Guler, front, dribbles the ball past Betis' Pablo Fornals during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Betis and Real Madrid in Seville, Spain. (AP)

of 2-2s against Newcastle and Nottingham Forest in Andoni Iraola's first games in charge.

But Liverpool got clicking right from kickoff at Ipswich as Isak struck twice in the sixth and ninth minutes from a pair of assists by Cody Gakpo.

Barcola went on for his first action in a Liverpool shirt as a 63rd-minute substitution. He joined from PSG on Monday in a deal worth 123 million pounds (\$166 million).

Assane Diao scored a brace as Como rolled to a 4-1 win at Genoa in Serie A. Nico Paz and Martin Baturina also added goals.

Cesc Fabregas' side leads the Italian standings by one point ahead of a pack of six teams that have yet to play this round.

Como will make its Champions League debut against Leipzig on Sept. 10, with Manchester United to visit in October and PSG in January.

In Germany, Stuttgart stomped Koln 4-1 in the Bundesliga.