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Al-Jarallah lauds Capital Gov. for solving issues of citizens
Page 2

MORE RESIDENTS EXEMPT FROM SIX-MONTH RULE



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

O Government, make cooperative societies a giant corporation

FROM time to time, reports on corruption in co-operative societies are revealed. Consequently, the Ministry of Social Affairs issues decisions to dissolve their boards of directors and refer some members to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of embezzlement and numerous other violations.

First and foremost, we must consider the history of these cooperative societies and how they became institutions with a vital role in the Kuwaiti society. The idea behind establishing co-operative societies is based on the 'owner-consumer' principle, meaning that the consumer is a shareholder and receives his share of the profits.

HH the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, may God have mercy on him, was inspired by the cooperative societies idea when he visited Beijing, if I remember it right, accompanied by Minister Abdulrahman Al-Ateeqi, may God have mercy on him, who enacted the Cooperative Societies Law in 1979.

Since then, cooperative societies have become institutions serving the people in the area where they are located. The law defined the responsibilities of cooperative societies as providing social, cultural and health services to the residents in the area who are shareholders, such as supporting schools, organizing summer activities, distributing annual profits to shareholders, and contributing to the cleanliness and beautification of the area. This is why cooperative societies initially performed their role without any illegal practices. This is why they thrived for years.

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Kuwait grants former citizens 10-year residency, 'zero fees'

- Family residency set at KD 10, extended family KD 300
- Gulf nationals get residency route
- New category comes with work rights
- Four-month clock for domestic workers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, issued Ministerial Decree No. 1410/2026, amending certain provisions of Ministerial Decree No. 2249/2025 concerning the executive regulations of the Law on the Residence of Foreigners, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decree, published on Sunday in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-youm",

includes amendments related to ordinary residency for individuals whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked, as well as those who acquired Kuwaiti citizenship through dependency and have since regained their original citizenship or obtained another nationality.

The decision includes the following articles:

Article 1 - A new article, numbered 7-bis, has been added to Ministerial Decision No. 2249/2025, stipulating:

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Photo by Samer Shqair

Kuwait sweats under a blanket of humidity as motorists navigate the highway, with the Liberation Tower looming through the hazy Sunday air.

Seven sky shows light up September

Kuwait's summer grip loosens as autumn beckons

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Al-Ojeiri Scientific Center announced that the Al-Jabha season, the first phase of autumn and the second phase of the Suhail star, began in Kuwait on Sunday, September 6, and lasts for 13 days, until September 18, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The center explained that one of the most prominent features of the Al-Jabha season is the feeling of cooler temperatures at night, while daytime temperatures remain moderate and nighttime hours gradually increase.

Kuwait will then enter the Al-Sufri season, which coincides with the beginning of autumn and lasts for 26 days during the last third of September.

The Al-Sufri season is characterized by fluctuating temperatures, with the possibility of sandstorms and dust

storms when winds become active, causing the sky to take on a yellowish hue.

Migratory birds are active during this season.

The arrival of Al-Sufri heralds the coming of winter, as noticeable changes in the weather begin to emerge, especially at night and dawn, with continued high humidity and the formation of fog during the early morning hours.

The center went on to explain that this September will witness seven notable astronomical phenomena, beginning on September 6 with the conjunction of the Moon and Mars, as the Moon passes 3 degrees north of Mars.

The pair will be visible in the dawn sky over Kuwait City starting at 1:00 am, before disappearing with sun-

rise.

On September 9, the Moon will be in conjunction with Jupiter, passing 50 arcminutes north of Jupiter.

The pair will be visible in the dawn sky over Kuwait City starting at 3:00 am.

The new moon of Rabi' al-Thani 1448 will occur on September 11.

On September 14, the Moon will be in conjunction with Venus, passing 31 arcminutes north of Venus.

The pair will appear in the sky over Kuwait City around 6:00 pm, at an altitude of 15 degrees above the southwestern horizon.

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Kuwait opens AFL route for eligible Arab students

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Minister of Education, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, issued a ministerial decree regulating the conditions and procedures for transferring Arab students to non-Arabic-speaking (AFL) classes in schools with a foreign curriculum.

In a statement, the Ministry of Education explained that the decree specifies several cases in which an Arab student may be transferred to non-Arabic-speaking classes. These include children of diplomats, Arab students with non-Arab mothers, and students who have spent at least three years outside Kuwait and have not previously attended Arabic schools.

The decree also covers students with a learning disability report approved by the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), along with a report from the relevant committee assessing their language level, as well as students who have previously received approval to join these classes.

The transfer application and its follow-up are conducted online through the Ministry of Education's AFL platform.

The process begins with the parent or guardian submitting the student's transfer request and attaching the required documents and certificates. The request is then referred online to the General Directorate of Private Education for review, verification of eligibility, and issuance of the necessary approvals.

Continued on Page 5

Three stripped of Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The official gazette, "Kuwait Al-Youm," published Decree No. 137/2026, withdrawing Kuwaiti citizenship certificates from three individuals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Article 1 of the decree stipulates the withdrawal of Kuwaiti citizenship certificates from the three individuals, as well as the withdrawal of Kuwaiti

citizenship from those who acquired it through dependency on the citizenship certificate holders.

Article 2 stipulates that the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior shall implement this decree, which shall take effect from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Kuwait restores power after substation glitch

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy announced that several substations went out of service due to a technical issue on Sunday morning, resulting in power outage in various parts of Hawally and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates.

In a press statement, official spokesperson of the ministry Eng. Fatima Hayat revealed that one of the main substations went out of service following the sudden electrical discharge in a major transformer. She explained that as a precautionary measure to guarantee the safety of the electrical grid components, the protection systems were activated, causing total shutdown at the substation. She said several substations connected to the main station at 132 kV and 33 kV went out of service, affecting 414 megawatts of electrical load.

Continued on Page 5

PACI deletes 555 addresses

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced Sunday in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm', that the residential addresses of 555 individuals were deleted based on the declaration of the homeowners or due to the demolition of buildings.

These individuals must register the new address by visiting the authority or through the Sahel application, along with the submission of the supporting documents, within 30 days.

Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982 stipulates that a fine of KD100 multiplied by the number of people will be imposed if these individuals fail to register their new address within the specified period.

Other Voices

Promoting common security: Middle East's aspiration, China's endeavor

By H.E. Yang Xin
Ambassador of China to Kuwait

A few days earlier Chinese President Xi Jinping successfully concluded his state visit to Egypt, marking an important diplomatic mission by China towards the Middle East. During his visit, President Xi Jinping made a four-point proposal on improving the common security of the Middle East. First, unleashing the internal momentum of regional common security. The people in the Middle East should be the masters of their own affairs. Regional countries should be supported in strengthening dialogue on peace and security. Second, advancing the comprehensive governance of regional

common security. The many highly inter-related hotspot issues in the Middle East require comprehensive solutions. Third, cementing the development foundation of regional common security. Lasting stability and security in the Middle East relies fundamentally on development. Fourth, enhancing international coordination on regional common security. The UN Charter and international law serve as the basic guidelines for handling Middle East affairs. The UN should be supported in playing a tangible role in regional affairs. Standing firmly on the side of peace and dialogue, and on the right side of history, China has worked actively to play a constructive role in safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. The latest four-point proposal made by President Xi Jinping, following his earlier four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and four principles on advancing the settlement of the Palestinian question, once again offers a Chinese solution for securing lasting stability and security in the overall situation in the Middle East. All these important proposals announced by President Xi Jinping place the fundamental interests of the people of the region at the core, strike the right balance between security and development, and give due weight to the legitimate security concerns of all countries, charting feasible



H.E. Yang Xin
Ambassador of China to Kuwait

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8 Gulf Bank unveils modern branch at Al Joun Complex



9 NBK delegation visits Al-Nuwiseeb border to assess rehabilitation plans



10 Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait sponsors LOYAC's back-to-school initiative for third consecutive year



Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:08	Asr	15:18
Sunrise ..	05:28	Maghrib ..	18:04
Zohr	11:46	Isha	19:24



His Highness the Amir



HH the Crown Prince

Amir receives Crown Prince, Acting PM, senior ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Crown Prince audiences

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received Sunday Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Left: Sharifa Sikandar, Fahad Al-Saqabi are honored after winning many medals. Right: Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma honors Jamal Al-Hajri for winning the silver medal.



KUNA photos

Athletes, students representing Kuwait honored

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma honored Sunday a group of athletes and students who represented Kuwait successfully at international events, in the presence of their families and supervisors.

He affirmed that the Public Authority for Youth and Sports will continue supporting Kuwaiti youth in sports and scientific fields to achieve further success.

Al-Jalahma stressed the importance of providing a suitable environment to develop their

skills and motivate them to achieve further accomplishments that reflect Kuwait's positive image internationally.

He said the reception reflects the authority's commitment to supporting national talents and encouraging continued excellence, while highlighting the family's role in supporting Kuwaiti youth toward further achievements.

The honors included Kuwait's table tennis team, which won several medals at the Women's West Asia Championship in Jordan, as well as the national powerlifting team, which won a

silver medal at the World Powerlifting Championships in South Africa.

The Kuwait bowling team was also honored for its strong performances in Asian competitions, where it won various medals and further strengthened Kuwait's standing in the sport.

Students from the Ministry of Education were also honored for their participation in the International Earth Sciences Olympiad in Turin, Italy, where they won eight medals, enhancing Kuwait's standing in international academic competitions.

Teachers, admin staff join schools for new AY '26/'27

Principals heap praise on MoE for return efforts

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Teachers and the administrative staff started their work for the new academic year (2026-2027) on Sunday.

As the school day began, members of the teaching and administrative staff went to their schools and registered their attendance using the fingerprint system.

The areas surrounding several schools experienced limited traffic congestion on the first day of the academic year.

Preparations continue in Ministry of Education schools, amidst intensive efforts to ensure school readiness and provide the students with a suitable learning environment.

Abdullah Al-Kandari, Principal of Abdullatif Al-Nisf Intermediate School for Boys, expressed his satisfaction with the early preparations made by the ministry to welcome the new academic year.

He confirmed that these preparations are in compliance with the directives of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaie and in line with the commitment of the ministry to create a suitable and safe learning environment for the students.

He pointed out that the start of the work of teachers is significant, given the central role

they play in the educational process.

He said this phase includes finalizing the organizational, technical and academic arrangements, as well as reviewing various preparations to ensure the smooth and successful start of the academic year.

He commended the tremendous efforts exerted by the sectors and departments at the ministry, along with the educational districts, school administrations, technical and engineering teams, and all concerned parties that worked together to guarantee the readiness of schools and their facilities and to provide the needs for the commencement of classes.

Faisal Al-Mutairi, Principal of Abdullatif Al-Nisf Intermediate School for Boys, confirmed that the school completed its preparations to welcome the new academic year, coinciding with the start of the work of the teaching, thus, ensuring a suitable and stimulating school environment for both the teaching and administrative staff.

He stressed that the school administration has been diligently monitoring the maintenance and equipment works, ensuring the

readiness of air conditioning units, providing school furniture, and preparing classrooms and school facilities in a way that meets the needs of the students and creates the appropriate atmosphere for a successful academic year.

He said the school administration prioritizes providing a safe and organized learning environment and fostering cooperation and communication among all the staff to achieve the desired educational goals.

He expressed his sincere wish for continuous success to all members of the teaching and administrative staff, hoping the new academic year will be full of achievements. He wished everyone a successful start and distinguished educational journey.

It is worth mentioning that the ministry implemented organizational measures and decisions before the start of the academic year, including assigning work locations for transferred employees through the government application 'Sahel', based on the needs of the schools for educational and administrative specializations.

This step aims to organize the distribution of educational and administrative staff in order to meet the manpower needs of schools and guarantee the smooth flow of the educational process at the start of the new academic year.



Al-Seyassah photo

Governor of the Capital Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Ahmad Al-Aqab and colleague Mohammad Al-Farhan.

Al-Jarallah lauds Capital Gov. for solving issues of citizens

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah visited the Governor of the Capital Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, accompanied by Ahmad Al-Aqab and colleague Mohammad Al-Farhan.

During the visit, a number of service-related issues were discussed, along with ongoing efforts to address these issues.

They also talked about the role of the media in highlighting these issues to realize the aspiration of citizens to expedite the completion of service projects.

The Governor affirmed his commitment to follow up all matters concerning the governorate and the needs of its district, as well as his constant communication with the concerned authorities to identify and address various requirements and observations, thereby, contributing to the improvement of services and realization of the ambitions of citizens.

He commended the responsiveness of the concerned government agencies to the needs of the governorate, particularly the cooperation of officials regarding the observations and needs presented by the governorate, and their commitment to address these needs promptly using the available resources.

He also confirmed that security and

traffic matters are at the forefront of topics, with ongoing follow up and coordination through meetings and communication with the security and traffic authorities in order to guarantee security and safety, while addressing traffic issues and improving traffic flow in the governorate.

He stressed the importance of fieldwork and communication with relevant authorities, indicating that coordination among state institutions are essential for expediting the resolution of service-related issues and raising the level of services provided to the residents of the governorate.

Meanwhile, Al-Jarallah commended the efforts of the Governor and his commitment to follow up issues concerning citizens, while underscoring the importance of continuous communication between officials and the media. He said this communication contributes to determining the needs of the community and highlighting the efforts exerted by official bodies to better serve the citizens.

He affirmed the vital role of the media in shedding light on local issues and keeping pace with service and development initiatives, thereby, strengthening communication between state institutions and the community and supporting efforts aimed at improving services.

Kuwaiti supervisors interviews in co-ops start from Sept 23-24

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Ministry of Social Affairs announced the commencement of personal interviews for 200 citizens who qualified for the financial controller and administrative controller positions in the cooperative sector.

The interviews are scheduled for Sept 23-24, as a preliminary step toward selecting qualified nationals for 90 supervisory positions -- 30 financial controllers and 60 administrative controllers.

In a press statement on Sunday, the ministry confirmed that the necessary funding for these positions has been secured, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

It disclosed that the list of candidates scheduled for interview consists of 55 candidates for the financial controller position and 145 candidates for the administrative controller position.

It explained that this stage is a continuation of the tests conducted earlier to select competent and deserving individuals to occupy supervisory posts in the cooperative sector.

It stated that personal interviews will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 am on the abovementioned dates in the meeting room at the Office of the Undersecretary.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

Candidates will receive emails about their interview time to ensure a smooth and organized process.

The interview committee will be chaired by Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, and will include several specialists from the ministry.

The interviews will be conducted according to the regulations and standards, ensuring that all candidates are subject to a unified and objective evaluation.

The personal interview will constitute 10 percent of the final evaluation, while the written exam will account for 85 percent or more of the total evaluation.

The ministry indicated that there will be audio-visual recording of the personal interviews to guarantee transparency, integrity in the selection process, equal opportunities for all candidates, and a clear and standardized evaluation process.

It added that the final results will be announced on the official website and social media accounts of the ministry, ensuring that all concerned parties are informed only through official channels.

It stressed that this phase is crucial to the Kuwaitization of supervisory posts in the cooperative sector, and that it opens the door for national talent to perform administrative and financial oversight duties in cooperative societies.

It added this will improve work efficiency and raise the level of oversight and supervision in line with the recommendations and directives of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah to expedite the Kuwaitization process in the cooperatives.

Other Voices

Where did the self-made man's wealth come from?

By Ahmad alsarraf

I recently read the Public Prosecution's statement regarding the referral of 71 defendants to the Criminal Court in the agricultural plot manipulation case. I recalled dozens of similar statements and decisions issued during the "new era," and my heart was filled with joy.

All the effort I have put in throughout my life to protect my reputation and keep my word, while distancing myself from illicit greed and illegal acts, has not been in vain. I see the fruits of that effort every day in the peace of mind and comfort I feel.

Undoubtedly, there are those who have manipulated their nationalities, altered their personal information, exploited their positions, and amassed wealth through illicit means. These individuals are now waiting for someone to knock on their door and hand them a Public Prosecution arrest warrant.

The profound peace of mind that I, as well as many others, feel did not come about by chance. It stems from distancing myself from everything that is morally, humanly, and legally wrong, and from an experience that dates back to 1965.

As a banker, merchant, contractor, board member of a bank and various companies both inside and outside Kuwait, and as the founder and president of a unique charitable

organization, I have encountered countless experiences and heard many stories. I have witnessed events characterized by the bizarre and the frightening, the despicable and the thieving, as well as the chivalrous, compassionate, and kind.

One such story, despite its strangeness, is one I have deliberately avoided mentioning in my articles for years. It is a classic example of how some people amassed enormous fortunes that others like them could never have achieved through legitimate means.

The story of the "Three Musketeers" illustrates how they successfully laid the foundations for their vast wealth.

The first was a banker whose job involved facilitating loans, especially those backed by sound collateral. The second was an employee at the Ministry of Finance, while the third, the "dynamo" or mastermind behind the scheme, was the least wealthy and least reputable of the three, yet the most intelligent, energetic, and knowledgeable.

The story, or rather the "diabolical plan," unfolded as follows:

The third proposed purchasing a specific

"investment" plot of land on a well-known street, with the second agreeing to pay the down payment. The two then approached the third, the manager, and requested a loan equal to the remaining cost of the land, using the property as collateral. Everything proceeded smoothly because banking transactions at the time often followed this practice.

After the land was purchased, an agreement was reached for the bank to finance the construction through another loan.

The building plans and permits were completed in record time through well-known methods. Once the building reached a certain stage, the third approached the relevant government agency and offered to lease the building to the state at a rent far exceeding the prevailing market rate.

Thanks to the building's location in a well-known investment and commercial area, its existing lease with a government entity, and the exceptionally lucrative rent, the building was sold at a price far exceeding its market value. The three partners then divided the profits among themselves.

This process was repeated several times, enabling them to build substantial fortunes that eventually became enormous. Ironically, these same individuals speak proudly of honor and morality.



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Editing economic news, statements taught

SAB, Nazaha participate in news editing course



The KUNA Center for Development of Media launched its advanced-level training program on news editing.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): The KUNA Center for Development of Media launched its advanced-level training program on news editing, with the participation of several KUNA staff members, the State Audit Bureau (SAB), and the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha).

The program, which runs until September 10, presented by KUNA's senior editor Taha Sharif, covers the concept of beyond the news, how to move from superficial coverage to in-depth analysis, and techniques for creating unique and unconventional journalistic angles for a single event, a process known as "corner-making".

It also addresses the modern dynamics of differentiating and overlapping journalistic genres, advanced storytelling techniques, transforming news material into a human-interest story, data journalism, and how to extract indicators to support stories.

The program, which combines theoretical and practical approaches, includes several modules, such as employing generative AI tools in research and analysis, structuring large news stories, verifying breaking news, combating misinformation and managing communication crises and conflicting narratives.



KUNA photos
Assistant Dean of the College of Business Administration at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Dr. Osama Al-Fallah.

Established in 1995, the KUNA Center for Development of Media is considered one of the most important media training centers and has offered hundreds of training programs in various media fields, with the aim of developing media capabilities and advancing professional media work.

Meanwhile, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Media Capacity Development Center also launched Sunday its training pro-

gram, "Editing Economic News and Statements," with the participation of employees from KUNA, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority(KDIPA), and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

The program, presented by Assistant Dean of the College of Business Administration at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Dr. Osama Al-Fallah, runs through September

8 and focuses on understanding economic data and key indicators, including fiscal and monetary policy, inflation, interest rates, unemployment, GDP, economic sectors, and the stock market.

It also covers how to turn economic data into professional news stories and cover major economic events, as well as government economic data.

The program combines theoretical and practical training on economic sector performance and data sources, Kuwait Stock Exchange closing data and key indices, and the fundamentals of economic news writing.

Participants also learn how to simplify economic terminology without compromising accuracy, interpret central bank decisions and data tables, turn technical reports such as the public budget into journalistic content, and identify news angles in economic figures.

Established in December 1995, the KUNA Media Capacity Development Center is among the leading media training centers that has delivered hundreds of programs in various media fields, aiming to develop media professionals' capabilities and enhance professional media work.

E-transfers to define 'needs'

MoE enforces new system

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Ministry of Education issued electronic transfer orders for teaching and administrative staff working in schools, in implementation of the directives of Minister of Education Engineer Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, based on the actual needs of schools and available vacancies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Tabtabaei

The ministry clarified that teaching and administrative staff whose transfer requests have been approved will receive a message through the Sahel application confirming the acceptance of their requests and directing them to the Ministry of Education's website under "Administrative Services - My Data."

The concerned staff members can access the Ministry of Education's application to view their transfer decisions in PDF format in the coming days.

The Ministry of Education emphasized that the new transfer mechanism is based on meeting the actual needs of each school

while taking into account the preferences of teachers and administrators. It ensures fair distribution based on available vacancies and minimizes human intervention in the transfer process.

The ministry reported that a total of 16,182 transfer requests were submitted online by teaching and administrative staff working in schools, of which 6,117 were approved and implemented, representing approximately 37.8 percent of the total requests.

The decisions included 5,142 teachers out of 13,968 requests, representing 36.8 percent, and 975 administrative staff members out of 2,214 requests, representing 44 percent.

The ministry pointed out that priority was given to the oldest applicant, and if the tie persisted, preference was given to the applicant with the highest performance rating.

The Ministry of Education stated that decisions regarding the transfer of supervisory positions will be issued later, after the completion of the relevant procedures. These positions include school principals, assistant principals, heads of departments, technical supervisors, technical advisors, and senior technical advisors.

The ministry announced that appeals against the transfer results can be submitted online through its official website for three days, from Sunday, September 6, to Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Appeals can be tracked online without the need to visit the ministry headquarters.

E-platform eyed to manage all co-op sector operations

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6 : Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa said the ministry is working hard to complete the unified electronic platform for managing all co-operative sector operations within the six-month deadline.

In a press statement, Issa disclosed that the platform includes administrative and financial details of the work of cooperative societies, with the aim of enhancing governance and oversight, standardizing procedures and data, improving performance and



Dr. Sayed Issa

expediting transactions.

He stated that the platform will eliminate paper transactions, as procedures will be completed online. He enumerated these procedures as follows: supplier registration, payment of fees, issuing a username, communicating with cooperative societies, uploading and approving products, issuing supply orders, and receiving goods through the system.

He added that the system will minimize human intervention in the supply and receipt of goods, and prevent the alteration of invoice data, seals, dates and quantities. "This will ensure that the quantities listed in supply orders match those received in cooperative warehouses and markets," he elaborated.

He indicated that the platform allows the supplier to track his goods from the moment they enter the cooperative, as well as determine the quantities received, quantities sold and remaining quantities.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait grants

"A regular residency permit may be granted for a period not exceeding ten years to individuals whose Kuwaiti citizenship has been revoked, as well as to those who acquired Kuwaiti citizenship through dependency on them, in accordance with the provisions of Clause 4 of Article 13 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959, and who have regained their original foreign citizenship or obtained any other citizenship.

The Director General of the General Department of Residency Affairs shall determine the conditions and regulations required for granting and renewing such residency permits. They are also authorized to work in the State of Kuwait in accordance with the applicable regulations."

Article 2 - Article 37 of Ministerial Decision No. 2249/2025 is amended to read as follows:

"A foreigner granted a residency permit may not remain outside the State of Kuwait for a period exceeding six consecutive months."

This provision excludes foreigners who are children of Kuwaiti mothers and do not hold Kuwaiti citizenship through marriage to a Kuwaiti citizen, property owners, and individuals who obtained residency as investors subject to the provisions of Law No. 116/2013 and who meet the criteria specified by the Council of Ministers, as well as those who obtained residency under Article 7-bis of this decision.

A foreigner with a valid residency permit may be granted permission to remain outside the State of Kuwait for a period exceeding the aforementioned six months, subject to the terms and conditions set by the General Directorate of Residency Affairs, provided that their residency permit remains valid.

A domestic worker with a valid residency permit may not remain outside the State of Kuwait for a period exceeding four months unless they obtain permission from the General Directorate of Residency Affairs to remain abroad before the expiry of this period. Otherwise, their residency permit will be forfeited.

Article 3 -

First: Paragraph 12 is added to Section "Second: Residency Fees" of Article 39 of Ministerial Resolution No. 2249/2025, with the following text:

Type of Residency: Those who ob-

tained residency in accordance with Article 7-bis of this resolution.

Fee per year: Exempt.

Second: Paragraphs 9 and 10 are added to Section "Third: Family Joining Fees" of Article 39 of Ministerial Resolution No. 2249/2025, with the following text:

9 - Type of Family Residency: "Husband, Wife, Children, Mother, Father" for the following categories:

Those who obtained residency in accordance with Article 7 bis of this resolution.

Gulf nationals against whom a decree was issued withdrawing Kuwaiti citizenship, and those who acquired it through dependency in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of Article 13 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959, and who have returned to their original nationality.

Residency fee per person per year is KD 10.

10 - Type of Family Residency: Other relatives besides "spouse, children, mother, and father" for the following categories:

Those who obtained residency in accordance with Article 7-bis of this decision.

Gulf nationals against whom a decree was issued revoking Kuwaiti citizenship, and those who acquired it through dependency in accordance with the provisions of Clause 4 of Article 13 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959, and who have returned to their original nationality.

Annual residency fee: KD 300 per individual.

Third: A new paragraph is added to Clause 5:

Fees for domestic workers and those in similar categories, Article 20 of Article 39 of Ministerial Resolution No. 2249/2025, are amended to read as follows:

"The same fees applied to domestic workers sponsored by Kuwaiti families shall also apply to domestic workers sponsored by Kuwaiti families who obtained residency in accordance with Article 7-bis of this resolution, as well as to Gulf nationals against whom a decree has been issued withdrawing Kuwaiti citizenship and to those who acquired citizenship through dependency in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of Article 13 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 and who have returned to their original nationality."

Article 4 - The Undersecretary of the Ministry shall implement this resolution, which shall come into effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

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Continued from Page 1

0 Government,

However, when personal interests took hold, the cooperative societies changed direction. Instead of serving the shareholders, they started serving the personal interests of certain board members. Board elections became a means of creating political figures and influential individuals.

Then, corruption became rampant in cooperative societies, as it is in most government institutions, due to weak oversight and lack of ethical considerations, especially after the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion and the resulting erosion of national trust.

The efforts being exerted by Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah to combat corruption in cooperative societies are clear, commendable, and can be considered a legal correction.

Nevertheless, there are several important questions. Is it enough to hold the board members accountable? Up to what extent can the Ministry of Social Affairs continue dissolving the boards of directors of cooperatives and then appoint new ones? Will the replacement be better?

Answering these questions requires thinking outside the box, so that these institutions can continue to play their vital role and serve the people, and until corruption is eradicated and cooperatives are developed.

I believe there is a good example -- a privatized cooperative society.

Why not transform cooperative societies into large joint-stock companies? They could become one giant corporation covering the entire of Kuwait, while ensuring continuous service provision, making the citizen both the owner and shareholder.

Historically, the so-called 'socialism' had been proven a failure and encouraged widespread corruption. Membership in the boards of directors of cooperatives has become so attractive for whoever is seeking illicit and rapid enrichment.

The annual income of cooperative societies is estimated at KD1.5 billion, with profits of about 25 percent, according to reports from the Union of Cooperative Societies.

These substantial profits tempt those who are willing to break the law to exploit loopholes in regulations and abuse their authority to amass wealth through fraudulent means.

Amending the law alone is not enough, as per the legislative rule that no matter how comprehensive a law may seem, it will always contain loopholes, which can be exploited by thieves, corrupt individuals and criminals.

Thus, if the cooperative societies are transformed into a joint-stock company covering the entire Kuwait or several such companies, oversight will be more rigorous, while they continue to serve the residents in their respective areas.

This could also lead to more profits, as a result of eliminating corruption and corrupt individuals.

Promoting common

pathways and pointing the direction for resolving the Middle East security predicament.

As hostilities continue to flare in the Middle East, the regional situation has plunged into the quagmire of conflicts. Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has been working tirelessly for the end of fighting and for peace. China believes in dialogue and negotiation as the way to address regional hotspot issues and differences among parties, and opposes the threat or use of force.

China stresses that the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of Kuwait and other Gulf states should be fully respected, civilians and non-military assets should be protected, and the safety and security of shipping lanes and energy infrastructure should also be safeguarded. Not long ago, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said during his meeting with Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in Beijing that the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region has once again reached a critical juncture, adding that the old script of recurring conflict must not be replayed, and a new chapter of stability and prosperity should be opened as soon as possible.

China has always maintained that, no matter how serious the differences, a way forward should be found at the negotiating table rather than through the force of arms. Since steps have already been taken toward a ceasefire and an end to hostilities, there should be no turning back.

China calls on the parties concerned to respond positively to the international community's desire for peace, prioritize the well-being of people across the region and return to dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible. The top priority is to de-escalate the situation.

As an Arab saying goes, "The best words are those backed by actions." China will remain committed to implementing President Xi Jinping's important proposals on the Middle East situation, and join hands with Kuwait and other countries in the region and beyond in sincere efforts to achieve lasting stability and security in the Middle East. In this way, China will contribute its share to promoting peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region.

Kuwait restores

She added this led to a power outage in certain parts of Salwa, Rumaihiya, Bidaa, Mishref, Bayan, Mubarak Al-Abdullah suburb and Sabah Al-Salem.

She confirmed that the technical and

emergency teams at the ministry responded immediately to isolate the fault site, inspect the components of the station, and resume operations at the affected substations. She said the technical teams were able to fully restore electricity to all affected areas, thanks to their rapid response and efficient handling of the outage.

She stressed that the technical teams are currently monitoring the condition of the station and are conducting inspections to determine the cause of the malfunction, while taking preventive measures to guarantee the safety and stability of the electrical grid.

Kuwait opens

The application status will be displayed to the parent online through the system once the review, approval, and authorization processes have been completed. An online approval certificate will then be sent to the relevant school to finalize the student's transfer and registration procedures in the non-Arabic language classes.

The ministry indicated that streamlining these procedures online is part of its efforts to facilitate services for parents and save them time and effort.

It explained that parents must attach copies of both parents' passports, a copy of the student's civil ID, the student's two most recent academic transcripts, and a letter of recommendation from the student's current school. Parents must also submit a pledge accepting responsibility for any consequences arising from their child's failure to study the Arabic language curriculum.

The ministry confirmed that the decision specifies a timeframe for submitting transfer applications. Students who meet one of the specified criteria are eligible to apply for transfer to non-Arabic language classes within one academic year only, starting from the date of their enrollment in a foreign school in Kuwait.

Transfers to these classes are limited to students from Grade 4 of elementary school onward.

The decision also stipulates the cancellation of all decisions and publications that conflict with its provisions and shall take effect from the date of its issuance.

Kuwait's summer

Venus will reach its greatest brightness of 2026 on September 22. It will be prominent in the Kuwaiti sky, reaching an altitude of 32 degrees above the horizon at sunset.

On September 23, the autumnal equinox will occur, when the Sun's rays are almost perpendicular to the equator and the lengths of day and night are nearly equal, marking the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.



Group photo during the 12th meeting of the Committee of Health Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states held in Manama on Sunday, with the participation of GCC health ministers, including Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

Kuwait joins GCC push for health preparedness

Bahrain Crown Prince calls for deeper Gulf integration

MANAMA, Sept 6, (KUNA): The 12th meeting of the Committee of Health Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states was held in Manama on Sunday, with the participation of GCC health ministers, including Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

Bahraini Health Minister Dr. Jalila bint Al-Sayed Jawad Hassan, who chaired the meeting, stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen health cooperation and integration among GCC states, as well as developing mechanisms for coordination and exchanging expertise and information.

She said such efforts would support the preparedness of health systems, ensure the sustainability of services and supply chains, and enhance their ability to address rapidly evolving health challenges.

In her address, Hassan also touched on current security and regional developments and their repercussions on the countries of the region, expressing Bahrain's condemnation of what she described as "heinous Iranian attacks" against Bahrain, GCC states and Jordan.

She said the attacks constituted violations of international law, the UN Charter and UN Security Council Resolution 2817, resulting in repercussions for lives and infrastructure, transportation and supply chains, including essential and medical supplies.

She also highlighted the repercussions of threats to the safety and security of maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and their potential impact on energy security, international trade, food and medicine supplies, and humanitarian aid.

In this context, she underscored the importance of enhancing preparedness and joint GCC coordination, as well as ensuring the sustainability of supply chains and health services.

Hassan further stressed the need to continue joint GCC ef-

forts and integrate initiatives across various health sectors in line with regional and international developments, enhancing the efficiency and preparedness of health systems in GCC states and their ability to ensure continuity of healthcare services for the health and safety of citizens and residents.

The meeting discussed several agenda items, foremost among them follow-up on the implementation of Supreme Council decisions in the health sector, strategic stocks of food, medicines and medical supplies, the GCC Strategy to Combat Drugs (2025-2028), and the examination of expatriate workers, in addition to a number of priority issues related to joint GCC health action.

Earlier, Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa said Sunday that the strong ties and shared aspirations among GCC states provide a solid foundation for advancing joint Gulf cooperation.

He said these bonds would build on achievements made in the GCC's joint efforts and advance cooperation to higher levels across various fields, in line with the aspirations of GCC leaders.

Prince Salman made the remarks while receiving heads of delegations participating in the 12th meeting of GCC health ministers, including Kuwait's Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

The meeting is hosted by Bahrain as part of its presidency of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The delegation heads conveyed greetings from GCC leaders to Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and Crown Prince Salman, who in turn conveyed the King's and his own greetings to the GCC leaders.

Prince Salman stressed Bahrain's continued commitment, under King Hamad's leadership, to supporting initiatives that advance the GCC states' shared aspirations for greater cooperation and integration.

He expressed hope that the meeting would succeed in strengthening coordination and cooperation to develop healthcare systems and improve the quality and efficiency of health services across GCC states.

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California Gov Gavin Newsom speaks to supporters during a campaign event at the Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center on Sept 4, in West Columbia, SC. (AP)

Will it drag down '28 presidential ambitions?

California made Gavin Newsom famous

SUMMERVILLE, SC, Sept 6, (AP): Gavin Newsom's secret is no secret here in South Carolina.

They were selling "Gavin 2028" buttons outside his events this past week as he trekked across the state that will hold Democrats' first presidential primary. His allies, the state party chair, college presidents and pro-Newsom activists all openly hinted at his national aspirations. And people close to him privately referred to a White House campaign as "the next thing."

Still, California's Democratic governor has barely begun to address what may be his biggest political liability as he stakes a claim as an early front-runner in the Democratic Party's 2028 shadow primary. That liability, South Carolina voters acknowledged this past week, is something he cannot change - his home state, California, is a symbol of modern-day liberalism that people across the political spectrum love to hate.

Vera DeVito, a 78-year-old Democrat who packed into one of Newsom's eight public events across South Carolina, said she didn't know much about him or his policies - except that he's from the Golden State. On that basis alone, she suggested that supporting Newsom could be "risky."

"It's going to be hard for him to appeal to the whole country," she said in the town of Summerville. "Everybody thinks California is different - especially in the South. They're not crazy about California."

Newsom's home state stands in stark contrast with likely primary competitors who hail from battlegrounds like Michigan's Pete Buttigieg and Pennsylvania's Gov. Josh Shapiro. Should they run, which is likely, all could make credible claims that they are in a better position to win over the moderate and independent voters ultimately needed to win the presidency.

Newsom's team acknowledges that "California derangement syndrome" is real. In the almost half-century since former California Gov. Ronald Reagan first won the presidency, the state has produced a long list of failed White House contenders, including Gov. Pete Wilson, Gov. Jerry Brown, businessman Tom Steyer, and most recently Vice President Kamala Harris.

Despite such daunting history, Newsom is not hiding his interest in the presidency. In an interview, he left open the possibility of announcing his decision before the end of the year.

"It's the right question. Honestly, I don't know," Newsom told The Associated Press. "I think this thing's happening. I mean, you already feel it, right? There are folks out here - they're saying they're already starting to interview state directors. So this thing is going to happen very, very quickly."

Democrats hope to gain control of House

Trump's first major midterm money move: A \$10 mln Texas Senate ad blitz

BRIDGEWATER, NJ, Sept 6, (AP): The political group associated with US President Donald Trump is spending \$10 million on television and digital advertisements in the Texas Senate race, according to a Saturday filing with the Federal Election Commission.

This is the first significant spending in a premier general election contest by MAGA, Inc., and reflects how a once-safe Republican seat in Texas may be viable for Democrats with the candidacy of James Talarico, a 37-year-old state representative.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is the Republican nominee in the race. Trump's endorsement helped Paxton to defeat the incumbent, Sen. John Cornyn, in a May primary runoff election.

Public disapproval of Trump over the economy and the Iran war has been a headwind for many Republican candidates. Voters generally go against the party in control of the White House in midterm elections and Democrats are hoping to gain control of the House and Senate - with Texas being a symbolically powerful indication of how the political map might be expanding this year.

The ads seek to highlight taxes as a dominant issue at a time when many voters have expressed concerns about continued inflation. Talarico has favored higher taxes on wealthier households and the two ads seek to portray him as seeking tax hikes more broadly while claiming that Paxton would give tax breaks to first-time homebuyers and families with children.

The key piece of legislation signed into law by Trump last year enhanced and extended many of his expiring tax breaks from his 2017 overhaul. But that measure also increased budget deficits, which has contributed to higher interest rates on the national debt. Trump has also hiked tariffs, which are taxes on imports, to try to raise revenue.

"High Tax Talarico wants to take money out of Texans' pockets. MAGA Inc. is going to ensure Texas knows about Talarico's radical policies and elects



US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters in the Oval Office of the White House during a meeting with travel executives on Sept 2, in Washington. (AP)

Ken Paxton to the U.S. Senate," Alex Pfeiffer, a spokesman for MAGA, Inc., said in a statement Saturday.

Talarico campaign spokesperson JT Ennis pushed back against the ads' claims that the Democrat seeks broad tax hikes.

Serbia's ruling populists propose Vucic switch to PM after election

BELGRADE, Serbia, Sept 6, (AP): Serbia's governing party on Saturday formally proposed that President Aleksandar Vucic become prime minister if they win an upcoming early parliamentary election that is seen as a major test for the populists after more than a year of street protests.

Vucic is yet to formally dissolve Parliament and call the ballot that is expected to be held on Oct. 25.

Voting will be held nearly two years after a train station canopy collapse in northern Serbia killed 16 people, triggering youth-led demonstrations that blamed government corruption and incompetence for the tragedy. The election will take place in an atmosphere of heightened political tensions as the populists seek to retain power despite widespread popular discontent.

Scores of anti-government protesters on Saturday marched in the city of Nis while Vucic's party held their meeting there. Police surrounded the National Theater building to prevent the protesters from reaching the meeting venue.

Vucic told party officials that he will call the vote in the coming days. He said he will then resign the presidency so he could officially join the campaign. The presidential election will be held later, he said.



Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic addresses a rally of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) in Belgrade, Serbia on June 27. (AP)

More than a year of demonstrations, sometimes drawing hundreds of thousands of people, shook Vucic more than ever during his 14 years in power. The protesters demanded accountability for the Nov. 1, 2024, concrete canopy collapse in Novi Sad and an end to corruption they believed was the cause for bad renovation work.

Vucic has pushed hard against the protesters as the government faced international criticism over police violence and arbitrary detentions of demonstrators. He has repeatedly ac-

cused without evidence the Serbian university students and professors behind the protests of an intention to "destroy the state."

The Serbian president reiterated such claims on Saturday, alleging that the protests have been orchestrated by unspecified foreign powers. "This evil," Vucic said, "is not coming from the inside, it is coming from the outside."

The SNS party will face a student-backed election list that is expected to include university professors and experts, though their names have not been made public. Also in the race will be both right-wing and center-left opposition parties, and several smaller groups.

A group of university students said earlier this week they were among at least 14 people targeted with spyware earlier this year in what the Serbian Share Foundation group described as the biggest such incident so far. Vucic's authorities have dismissed the reports.

Serbia is formally seeking European Union entry but the effort has been stalled under Vucic due to democratic backsliding, including election irregularities in previous votes. Vucic has refused to join EU sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and has maintained close relations with China.



Thousands of people rally in downtown Zagreb, Croatia, in protest over the discovery of illegally imported and disposed waste, including hazardous and toxic materials, in the central town of Gospic. (AP)

Thousands rally in Croatia demanding cleanup of toxic waste

Tens of thousands of people rallied on Saturday in Croatia, furious that authorities for months haven't cleared a huge amount of illegally dumped hazardous waste that has triggered fears of major environmental damage in the European Union country.

The illegal waste scandal in the central town of Gospic has fueled criticism of conservative Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and his government, which has faced mounting public an-

ger in recent weeks.

The issue first surfaced last February when Croatian police and Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency, arrested 13 people suspected of illegally importing and disposing of hazardous waste. Europol said at the time that the suspects made at least 4 million euros (\$4.2 million) in illegal profit.

More than a year later, Gospic residents fear that about 37,000 metric tons (40,000 U.S. tons) of waste that is still at an aban-

doned industrial site - mostly buried underground - was endangering their health. It includes remains of electronic equipment, plastics, construction materials and medical waste.

An expert report published last month by Croatian anti-corruption agency USKOK says that the soil at the site contained elevated metal concentration and that PFAS compounds, known as the "forever chemicals," have also been detected in groundwater. (AP)

US envoys Witkoff, Kushner arrive in Kyiv after talks with Putin in Moscow

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 6, (AP): US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Kyiv on Sunday in their first official visit to Ukraine as part of a renewed push for peace after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Their trip follows a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Saturday, seeking to revive peace talks during escalating aerial attacks by both sides.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Kyiv is ready for a "constructive" discussion with US representatives.

"We are interested in bringing the end of the war closer. Peace is needed. Security guarantees are needed. A just and sustainable post-war peace is needed. Our proposals are prepared," he said in a post on Telegram.

Washington's push to end the fighting has lost momentum, with the United States focused for the past six months on the Iran war. The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner, US President Donald



US President Donald Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff, (center), and Jared Kushner, (right), arrive in Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept 6. (AP)

Trump's son-in-law, was in January when they also held talks with Putin at the Kremlin.

Saturday's meeting in Moscow lasted more than three hours behind closed doors and ended with-

out announcements of any breakthroughs. Putin's foreign policy adviser, Yuri Ushakov, described them afterward as constructive, frank, and useful but didn't discuss specific outcomes.

Europe

German region votes: An eastern German region was voting Sunday in an election that could bring to power the first far-right state government in the nation's post-World War II history.

The vote for the state legislature in Saxony-Anhalt, a region of 2.1 million people west of Berlin, has gained outsized prominence because it represents the best chance yet of a governor's post for the far-right, anti-migration Alternative for Germany, or AfD.

That would be the biggest prize in the party's 13-year history, at a time of widespread discontent with an unpopular national government that has yet to persuade voters it can get the country's sluggish economy moving. It would be at least a symbolic blow to Chancellor **Friedrich Merz**, whose center-right party has led Saxony-Anhalt for 24 years.

AFD is the biggest opposition party in Germany's national parliament and is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, where Saxony-Anhalt is located. Its candidate for governor, Ulrich



Merz

Siegmund, declares that "we will write history here."

Despite consistently strong support, though, its chances of taking power are uncertain even if it finishes well ahead of its opponents. (AP)

□ □ □

Greek air force jet crash kills 2: A Greek air force jet crashed at an air show north of Athens on Saturday, killing the two pilots, officials said, as thousands of people were in attendance at the event.

The crash of the twin-seat Phantom F4 jet occurred during a low-altitude maneuver. A fire after the crash sent up large plumes of black smoke. There were no injuries among the spectators.

"The sense of grief is widespread, and our thoughts are with the families of the two pilots we lost," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said. "It is a reminder of the daily danger faced by Greece's aviators, who remain on constant standby to protect Greece's skies."

Air force officials in Greece said the bodies of the two pilots were located during a rescue operation, hampered in the early stages by the fire on the grounds of Tanagra air force base, 60 kilometers (about 40 miles) north of Athens.

Eleven water-dropping planes and helicopters assisted 85 firefighters to contain the blaze, which remained at some distance from the viewing area at Athens Flying Week, an annual air show. (AP)

No casualties reported, no evacuation order

Indonesia cancels flights at Jakarta airport as Anak Krakatau volcano erupts

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Sept 6, (AP): Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted early Sunday, prompting the cancellation of all flights at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport and disrupting other domestic airports as volcanic ash drifted across parts of western Indonesia.

Indonesia's Geological Agency said the volcanic island located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands had showed signs of activity since Friday before erupting for 30 seconds at 3:53 a.m. Sunday. Closed-circuit camera footage showed lava flares from the volcano.

No casualties were reported and no evacuation order was issued. The nearest settlement is more than 16 kilometers (10 miles) away, but authorities warned residents and visitors to stay at least 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the active crater.

Volcanic ash spread across parts of Jakarta and Lampung province on Sumatra's southern tip, Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said.

AirNav Indonesia closed airspace around Soekarno-Hatta and Halim Perdanakusuma airports in Jakarta, as well as four other airports, including Radin Inten II Airport in Lampung, because of volcanic ash.

By mid-afternoon, the closure had affected 516 flight movements, with 202 in Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta airport alone that affected about 22,800 passengers, on Sunday. The airport was ordered closed until at least 5:30 p.m.

Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation said it was closely monitoring the eruption's impact on air travel and coordinating with airlines, airport operators, air navigation services and the meteorology agency.

"Safety remains our top priority in every operational decision," Lukman F. Laiza, Ministry of Transportation director general of civil aviation, said in a statement.

He warned flight schedules could



In this drone photo released by the Geological Agency (Badan Geologi) of Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mount Anak Krakatau spews volcanic smoke in Sunda Strait, Indonesia on Sept 5. (AP)

face cascading disruptions affecting aircraft rotations, fleet availability and terminal capacity as airlines

work to restore operations.

The eruption also disrupted services at Bali's I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport and at Medan.

Indonesia's volcanology agency and the Darwin Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre identified two ash clouds using satellite imagery. One plume rose to 20,000 feet (6,100 meters) and drifted northeast over Jakarta, Banten, West Java and nearby waters. A second cloud reached 50,000 feet (15,200 meters) and spread over parts of Banten, Lampung and Bengkulu provinces, the southern Sunda Strait and sections of the Indian Ocean west of Sumatra.

Lana Saria, head of Indonesia's Geological Agency, said activity at Anak Krakatau has intensified since July, with Sunday's eruption the strongest during the current period of unrest.

The repeated eruptions indicate a continued supply of magma and volcanic gases beneath the volcano, she said, though officials cannot predict whether a larger eruption will occur.

"We continue to evaluate the volcano's development based on all monitoring data, not solely on the number of eruptions or the height of the ash column," Saria said in a video briefing.

She said the main hazards include volcanic ash, high concentrations of gas and the ejection of hot rocks and other material around the crater area.

Anak Krakatau, which means "child of Krakatau," is the offspring of the famous Krakatau, whose monumental 1883 eruption triggered a period of global cooling.

The eruption caused a tsunami in 2018 that killed at least 430 people in Sumatra and Java. Researchers believe volcanic activity triggered an underwater landslide and caused a large chunk of Anak Krakatau's southwest slope to collapse and displace a large volume of water. Scientists said Anak Krakatau island was only about a quarter of its original size after that eruption.

Cambodia's army to resume joint military exercises with US next year

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Sept 6, (AP): Cambodia's army announced Friday that it will resume joint military exercises with the United States early next year after they had been suspended for almost a decade.

The announcement on the Facebook page of the Royal Cambodian Army came after several recent meetings of the countries' top defense and other officials intended to patch up rocky relations. Cambodia halted such exercises with the US in 2017.

The army's statement said the two countries have agreed to hold a joint drill, "Exercise Angkor Sentinel 2027," in February. The news suggested the two sides made progress in overcoming their differences, including Washington's concerns about Cambodia's close economic and political ties with China.

The exercise aims to strengthen "interoperability and disaster-response capabilities, reflecting renewed momentum in Cambodia-US military cooperation and a shared commitment to strengthening defense cooperation," said Friday's statement.

Washington has been especially concerned about China's military presence at a Cambodian navy base on the Gulf of Thailand. Beijing assisted with a major upgrade of the base, and the United States has voiced its suspicions that China was granted special but secret privileges there. Cambodian officials have repeatedly rejected that.

The US has also been critical of Cambodia's human rights record, including continuing clampdowns on political dissidents and critics, often through legal action by courts that rights groups say are under the influence of the ruling Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Manet.

Hun Manet held talks on Aug. 14 with Elbridge A. Colby, Under Secretary for Policy at the US Department of War, on bilateral relations, especially on defense matters, and the resumption of military exercises. Colby is the third-ranking official in the War Department.

Hun Manet said at the time he was satisfied with the "positive momentum in Cambodia-US relations" and the progress in preparing for renewing the Angkor Sentinel exercise, as well as the continued cooperation in capacity-building for the Cambodian Armed Forces.

He stressed that "the joint exercises and training not only build military capability but also serve as a vital bridge to foster close friendship between the armed forces of both countries."

US Navy Adm Steve Koehler, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, also met with Cambodian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Vong Pisen in August. The men said there were plans to resume a bilateral maritime exercise that had also been suspended in 2017.



The US warship USS Cincinnati docks upon arrival at Ream Naval Base in Sihanoukville, Cambodia on Jan 24. (AP)

TOKYO, Sept 6, (AP): Prince Hisahito turned 20 on Sunday as he faces growing attention as a future monarch in Japan following the government's unpopular revision to the Imperial House Law that reinforces male-only succession rules.

Hisahito, the nephew of Emperor Naruhito, is second in line to Japan's 1,500-year-old Chrysanthemum Throne and the youngest of 16 members of the rapidly shrinking and aging imperial family.

The child who loved animals and bugs, especially dragonflies, is now a sophomore majoring in biology at the University of Tsukuba near Tokyo. He has been often spotted on campus with friends, sometimes carrying a bug-catching net or on his bicycle.

While he mostly concentrates on his studies, Hisahito started taking on some official duties. He attended a palace banquet for Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in May, prayed for the atomic bombing victims in Hiroshima and joined a teenagers' camp in the southwestern Japanese city in August.

Hisahito is often compared to his hugely popular cousin, 24-year-old



In this photo provided by the Imperial Household Agency of Japan, Japan's Prince Hisahito, (right), visits the Science Museum of Map and Survey in Tsukuba, Ibaraki prefecture, Japan, on Aug 13, 2026, ahead of his 20th birthday on Sept. 6, 2026. (AP)

Princess Aiko, who has impressed everyone with her ability to interact with people and make them smile. She is the emperor's daughter and most Japanese want her to be his successor, even though as a woman she is ineligible.

The revised succession law enacted by Japan's Parliament in July lifts a ban on the adoption of male offspring from extremely distant former royal families. It lets female royals keep their status after marrying a commoner, so they can continue to undertake official duties, but their future partners and offspring won't be royals.

Lat/Am

Drone attack kills 3 soldiers in Colombia: An attack involving explosives dropped from drones followed by a clash inside a military compound in northeastern Colombia has killed at least three soldiers and wounded four, Colombia's army said Saturday.

Local authorities blamed the attack late Friday on the rebel National Liberation Army (ELN). It targeted a military unit in the municipality of Ocaña, in the Norte de Santander department, which borders Venezuela. Two soldiers died at the site and a third after receiving medical attention, Colombia's military said on X.

President **Abelardo de la Espriella** condemned the attack. "For every police officer or soldier murdered, we will bring the full weight and legitimate force of the State down upon the criminals," Espriella said.

Much of ELN, an armed group active since 1964, is based in the Catatumbo region, which includes parts of the Norte de Santander and Cesar departments. ELN also harbors dissident factions of the now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that did not join the peace agreement a decade ago.

Both groups are vying for control of the strategic region, which connects to the porous border with Venezuela and is one of Colombia's primary coca-producing areas.

In August, an explosion outside a police station in Cucuta injured 11 police officers and killed a police dog. Officials also blamed that attack on the ELN. Earlier this week, at least one civilian was killed and 11 other people were injured after a car bomb exploded outside a police station in northeastern Colombia. (AP)



De la Espriella

Deportees from US arrive in Guyana: Guyana's government said Saturday it has received the first of six deportees from the United States under the Trump administration's third-country deportation program.

Guyana's Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud said the six nationals from Cuba and Afghanistan arrived in the South American country Friday after being vetted by his administration and found to have no criminal background. He added the group was kicked out of the U.S. primarily because of immigration issues.

Persaud said his administration reached an agreement to host the deportees after months of negotiations. He also told The Associated Press that "the U.S. has not made any further requests." The arrangement will run for a year and does not constitute permanent resettlement, he said.

Those relocated to Guyana under the Assisted Voluntary Return Program will await the outcome of their immigration status determination while in Guyana. They could ultimately return to their country of origin or be relocated somewhere else. (AP)

21 dead in Cabo Verde bus accident

Congo wedding party fire kills 22

KINSHASA, Sept 6, (Agencies): A fire at a wedding party in Congo's capital Kinshasa left at least 22 people dead, the regional mayor said Saturday. Several others were injured.

The fire started Friday night and continued into early Saturday in a building in Lingwala in northern Kinshasa. The building's narrow hallways were constricted by people trying to escape the fire.

Several people - some alive and some dead - were laid by the roadside as attendees tried to help those who were still alive.

The mayor of Lingwala, Norbert Mushinga, told the Congolese Press Agency that the provisional death toll was 22. He said the toll could rise further.

The exact cause of the fire was unconfirmed. "It is a tragedy," Jacquesmin Shabani, Congo's deputy prime minister and interior minister, said. The minister visited the site Saturday morning.

Deadly fires are common in densely populated areas of Kinshasa where urban development is often implemented without provisions such as fire services. Fires are common during the dry season and several have taken place this year, according to local media.



Forensic officials stand outside a party hall in the aftermath of a fire that broke out in the building hosting a wedding party in Lingwala, Congo on Sept 5. (AP)

Also:

PRAIA: At least 21 people were killed and several others injured after a bus veered off a road and plunged down a steep slope on Cabo Verde's **Fogo Island** late Saturday, a local official said.

Cabo Verdean President **Jose Maria Neves** initially reported at least 10 deaths before later updating the toll to 21 on social media. He expressed condolences to the victims' families.

According to local news agency Inforpress, the accident occurred on the road between **Cha das Caldeiras** and **Campanas de Cima**, in the northern highlands of the municipality of Sao Filipe, when the bus veered off the road and plunged about 30 meters down a steep slope.

Most of those aboard were reportedly young people, mainly secondary school students from Curral Grande and Ponta Verde.



Soldiers look at a world map as they wait to board a flight in Manas, Kyrgyzstan, on the way home after completing a deployment in Afghanistan on Aug 11, 2011. (AP)

UN General Assembly endorses new world map

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 6, (AP): The United Nations General Assembly on Friday endorsed a new world map that represents Africa more accurately in its larger size, a culmination of a recent campaign led by African countries and advocacy groups.

Friday's resolution, which was sponsored by Togo and backed by members of the African Union, was passed with 164 member states voting in favor. Only the U.S. voted against it while six other countries - Serbia, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine - abstained.

The vote encourages governments and institutions around the world to replace the traditional Mercator map, commonly used since the 16th Century, with the Equal Earth projection that advocates and geographers say shows locations more accurately.

The Mercator projection shows Greenland and Africa as appearing to be about the same size whereas in the Equal Earth projection that shows continents in their true proportions, Africa is 14 times larger than Greenland.

Friday's resolution does not ban the Mercator projection or impose a replacement, but only encourages the use of the Equal Earth projection, the U.N. said in its report.

"Maps shape our understanding of the world," the global body quoted Togo's Foreign Minister Robert Dussey as saying before the vote. "They guide education, nourish the imagination, and influence collective perceptions."

Africa No Filter, one of the lead campaigners for the adoption of the new map, hailed the resolution, adding: "We want to see accurate maps in schools, textbooks, newsrooms, businesses and on the digital platforms billions of people use every day."

Several countries hailed the adoption and urged the adoption of the Equal Earth map. "Changing the map obviously doesn't change the world. But correcting a representation that distorts it is already an act of truth," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said on X after the vote.

The Mercator map was designed by Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator to help European navigators at sea, but advocates say it distorted landmasses by enlarging regions near the poles such as North America and Greenland while shrinking Africa and South America.

The 2018 Equal Earth projection, on the other hand, follows the Earth's curvature and shows continents in their true proportions.

Geographers say the traditional map is only useful for navigation.

"Outside of that very narrow navigation application, there is no point in using it," according to Mark Monmonier, a Syracuse University professor of geography.

OPEC+ maintains Sept oil output for Oct

VIENNA, Sept 6, (KUNA): The seven OPEC+ countries participating in the additional voluntary production cuts, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman, decided Sunday to maintain September 2026 production levels for October without change.

In a statement following their videoconference meeting, the seven countries reviewed global oil market conditions and prospects, reaffirming their collective commitment to full compliance with the OPEC+ Declaration of Cooperation.

Sector transactions reached KD 574.2 million in six months

KIB: Investment sector drives real estate activity in H1 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: A new report by Kuwait International Bank (KIB) found that Kuwait's investment property sector continued to lead real estate activity in the first half of 2026. The sector was supported by regulatory reforms introduced by the government, which helped redirect capital toward investment properties, regarded as the most stable segment and the best positioned to deliver sustainable operating returns.

The report highlighted that the real estate market has recently undergone significant changes following government measures aimed at regulating the residential and industrial sectors. These measures have prompted a broad segment of investors to focus on investment properties, amid rising demand for income-generating real estate assets and continued improvement in rental rates across several investment areas.

The report added that recent decisions by Kuwait Municipality have helped enhance the quality of the investment property sector through more effective regulatory requirements. These include the provision of parking spaces, improved services and compliance with modern planning standards, all of which strengthen the quality of real estate assets and increase their long-term value.

In this context, Fahad Al-Mansour, Senior Real Estate Analyst at KIB, said that transactions in the investment property sector amounted to approximately KD 574.2 million across 655 deals in the first half of 2026, compared with KD 828.1 million across 687 deals during the same period in 2025.

Al-Mansour noted that these figures should be viewed in the context of the conditions prevailing across the region during the first half of the year. Markets were affected by heightened uncertainty stemming from geopolitical developments, prompting some investors to postpone major transactions and weighing on the overall value of real estate trading.

He also stressed that the decline does not reflect a weakening of the investment property sector, but was primarily driven by the lower value of completed transactions. Overall real estate activity remained at healthy levels, as reflected in the figures, with the number of deals declining by only 4.7% compared with the same period last year, while the decline was concentrated in higher-value transactions.

He added that the completion of 655 transactions within six months, despite regional challenges, reflects the sector's resilience and continued investor confidence. It also underscores sustained underlying demand for investment properties, which remain among the most stable segments of the real estate market.

Shift in investor preferences

Al-Mansour noted that the market is witnessing a noticeable shift in



KIB's Fahad Al-Mansour, Senior Real Estate Analyst

investor behavior, with a growing preference for acquiring mid-age investment properties and redeveloping and upgrading them, rather than purchasing newly built assets. This model offers greater potential for value creation and higher returns.

He explained that redeveloping real estate assets helps improve building quality, enhance operational efficiency and increase rental income. These improvements, in turn, can raise the property's market value upon resale, making this strategy increasingly attractive to investors.

Positive outlook for H2

Al-Mansour concluded by reaffirming that the investment property sector is well positioned to continue leading the market in the coming period, supported by sustained demand for investment housing units, rising rental values, ongoing regulatory reforms and continued improvements in the quality of new developments.

He added that greater geopolitical stability is expected to gradually bring major transactions back to the market, positively affecting the total value of real estate trading. He expects activity to strengthen in the second half of the year, further reinforcing the investment property sector's position as a key contributor to the national economy.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

Strong US labor data sends gold lower

Gold closes at \$4,430 as robust payrolls pressure bullion

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Gold prices fell for a second straight week, closing at USD 4,430 an ounce, as stronger-than-expected US jobs data boosted expectations of tighter Federal Reserve policy.

Gold ended last week under pressure after failing to hold above USD 4,500, with the surprise strength in US non-farm payrolls the key catalyst, according to a Sunday report by Kuwait's Dar Al-Sabaik Company. The US economy added 162,000 jobs in August, far ahead of forecasts for about 56,000, while July's figure was revised up by 21,000 jobs. The unemployment rate held steady at 4.1%, and annual wage growth slowed to 3.1%, though less than markets had anticipated.

The robust labor data reinforced views that the Fed has more room to keep rates elevated—or raise them further if inflation persists—given a strong jobs market lowers the risk of economic damage

from monetary tightening. As a result, market-implied odds of a rate hike at the September meeting climbed to 58–61%, up from before the report. US Treasury yields initially jumped, with the 10-year touching 4.81% before easing back to around 4.77%, adding to the headwind for bullion.

Despite the near-term squeeze, Dar Al-Sabaik highlighted medium- and long-term supports for gold, including geopolitical risks, concerns over US debt and the fiscal deficit, and ongoing investment demand for bullion as a safe-haven asset. Developments in the Middle East—particularly around Iran and the Strait of Hormuz—remain in focus given potential disruptions to oil tanker traffic and energy supplies. Higher oil prices could feed into inflation expectations and, in turn, influence the Fed's policy path, while escalating regional risks could lift demand for gold.

Technically, gold finished the week near USD 4,430, leaving USD 4,400 as the critical pivot.

A hold above that level and a move back toward USD 4,450 could open the door to retesting USD 4,500, then the USD 4,520–4,534 resistance zone. Conversely, a sustained break below USD 4,400 would raise the risk of a deeper correction toward USD 4,354 and then USD 4,322, with USD 4,282 seen as key support in a more pronounced downtrend.

Locally, gold prices track global moves alongside dollar fluctuations and shifts in US policy expectations, the report said. In Kuwait, 24-karat gold was quoted at about KD 44 per gram (around USD 143), 22-karat at KD 40.370 (about USD 131), and 21-karat at KD 38.530 (roughly USD 125). Silver was recorded at approximately KD 715 per kilogram (around USD 3,328). Local prices this week are expected to mirror global moves, especially ahead of US inflation data that could reshape rate, dollar, and yield expectations.

Main Market gains 0.46%

Boursa Kuwait All-Share slips 0.09%

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday with its All-Share Index edging lower, falling 7.95 points, or 0.09%, to 8,839.98. Trading activity amounted to 571 million shares changing hands in 32,058 cash transactions, for a total value of KD 125.4 million (approximately USD 383.7 million).

The Main Market Index bucked the broader

trend, gaining 41.57 points, or 0.46%, to finish at 9,176.35. Turnover on the main market reached 441.2 million shares via 23,880 cash deals, valued at KD 82 million (about USD 251 million).

In contrast, the Premier Market Index slipped 18.89 points, or 0.20%, to 9,227.19, on volume of 129.7 million shares across 8,178 transactions

worth KD 43.3 million (roughly USD 132.4 million).

The Main 50 Index also came under pressure, dropping 82.39 points, or 0.75%, to 10,918.46. Trading in the blue-chip gauge totaled 267.6 million shares in 13,681 cash transactions, with a value of KD 45.3 million (approximately USD 138.6 million).



Group photo of the branch staff.

New location reflects Gulf Bank's continued investment in customer experience

Gulf Bank unveils modern branch at Al Joun Complex

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Gulf Bank has announced the opening of its new Fahad Al Salem Street Branch at Al Joun Complex, replacing its previous branch located on the same street.

The new branch reflects Gulf Bank's ongoing commitment to enhancing its branch network and delivering a more seamless, comfortable, and customer-focused banking experience. Designed in line with modern banking concepts, the branch offers customers an upgraded environment that combines accessibility, privacy, convenience, and high-quality service.

The new location has been thoughtfully designed to better serve customers and respond to their evolving banking needs. Its contemporary layout provides greater comfort and privacy, while enabling branch teams to engage more effectively with customers and provide



A distinctive banking experience for Gulf Bank customers.

personalized support across a wide range of banking services.

The branch forms part of Gulf Bank's broader approach to creat-

ing an integrated banking experience across both physical and digital channels, giving customers the flexibility to interact with the Bank

through the channel that best suits their needs.

In developing its branch network, Gulf Bank continues to incorporate modern design principles, operational efficiency, and sustainability considerations, while maintaining a strong focus on accessibility and customer convenience.

The opening of the new Fahad Al Salem Street Branch at Al Joun Complex further demonstrates Gulf Bank's commitment to continuously investing in its service network and strengthening its presence in key locations across Kuwait.

Through the continued development of its branches, digital platforms, and customer service capabilities, Gulf Bank remains focused on providing customers with a banking experience that is convenient, responsive, and aligned with their changing lifestyles and expectations.

Flexibility key to stability, says Kuwait Oil Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): It is imperative to maintain a high level of "flexibility" to deal with any changes in the global oil market, Kuwait's Oil Minister Tariq Al-Roumi said on Sunday, citing output tweaks among oil producers as another effective measure.

Developments in the global oil market are assessed on a monthly basis, including supply and demand and other economic indicators that help form a "clear vision" on where the market currently stands, the minister told a virtual gathering of the seven OPEC Plus member countries that have agreed to roll back on voluntary output cuts.

The Kuwaiti minister praised the decision of the seven OPEC Plus member states to maintain production levels assigned for this month through October as well, saying that Kuwait's output for this period

would remain at 2.676 million barrels per day.

He went on to highlight the importance of maintaining the "security and sustainability" of energy supplies and ensuring the unimpeded transit of oil tankers through strategic waterways in a bid to prop up the global market with steady supply, added the minister.

Kuwait would continue to work closely with its partners within the OPEC Plus group as part of its "commitment" to collective action and coordination to serve the interests of consumers and producers alike, he underlined.

OPEC Plus members Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman decided to keep their required oil production levels for October of 2026 unchanged from September, as part of efforts to support global market stability.

Bond yields are rising and why everyone should care

WASHINGTON, Sept 6, (AP): Interest rates on government bonds are rising again around the world, making borrowing more expensive for consumers and businesses and heightening concerns about whether governments are issuing more debt than financial markets can handle.

Rising bond yields are one of the few forces in the world strong enough to get politicians to snap to attention. They can also have a big impact on Americans' personal finances and on the broader economy. The bond market can dictate how much ordinary people have to pay on their mortgages and car loans, as well as how much they earn from their savings accounts and 401(k) plans.

Fighting has flared up again in the Middle East, causing oil prices to jump and renewing inflation worries. Investors typically demand higher interest rates, or yields, on government bonds when inflation is high or they think it may get worse.

On Tuesday, the yield on the 10-year Treasury, which strongly influences mortgage rates, reached 4.80%, the highest since early 2025. The 5-year Treasury, which is a benchmark for auto loans, touched its highest level since October 2025 at 4.55%.

Here's a look at what's going on and how it affects everyone:

In addition to inflation concerns, several other factors are also pushing bond yields higher: Annual U.S. government budget deficits remain higher than they were before the pandemic, forcing the government to borrow more to pay all its bills. Large tech firms are also borrowing heavily to build out the data centers powering AI. And last Friday, Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh signaled that the central bank may still have to lift its short-term rate in the coming months if inflation stays stubbornly elevated.

Rising yields have caught the attention of policymakers around the world, including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who last month announced an unusual intervention in the bond market to restrain rising yields.

Robin Brooks, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, said Bessent's moves and Warsh's promise to corral inflation have likely kept longer-term rates lower than they would otherwise be and betray a rising concern about where yields are headed.

"You should care because this stuff under the surface is really bubbling," Brooks said. "And you can tell it is because policymakers are starting to get pretty agitated."

Yet Bessent downplayed the overall rise in U.S. yields in a conversation Tuesday with Fox Business host Larry Kudlow on the sidelines of the G20 finance ministers' meeting in Asheville, N.C.

"I don't think we are in any kind of a dire situation," Bessent said. He argued that other countries' bonds have seen bigger yield increases.

When governments and big companies borrow money, they don't ask a bank for a loan. Instead, they sell IOUs to investors and promise to repay the money with a certain interest rate. If those IOUs are set to be repaid many years from now, they're called bonds. (IOUs the U.S. government will repay more quickly - within a few months or a few years - are called bills or notes.)

Investors in the bond market often buy and sell these bonds after they're issued, and they continue to pay the same interest rate. But if the bond starts to look less attractive, a buyer can get bonds that were earlier worth \$100 for less than that. Such a drop in price means the new buyer will get a bigger return, percentage-wise, on their money than the interest rate the bond pays on its face value.

Those payments are called the bond's yield.

When investors sell bonds, or buy far fewer of them than they did in the recent past, that pushes down bond prices, just like a stock market sell-off causes stock prices to plunge. But when bond prices fall, that lifts bond yields, which move in the opposite direction.

In the 21-nation euro zone, inflation jumped in August to 3.3%, the highest in three years, the European Union's statistical agency said Tuesday. As a result, investors expect the European Central Bank will boost its short-term rate when it meets next week. Ten-year German bonds have already reached 3.35%, the highest in more than 15 years.

And 10-year U.K. bonds are now paying 5.14%, approaching levels not seen since the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. Rates in Japan are also rising.

Most nations ramped up their spending during the pandemic to support laid-off workers and idled businesses, but haven't cut back since. Investors may be increasingly worried about how sustainable all the borrowing is, Brooks said, and are demanding higher yields as compensation for taking on what they see as greater risk.

Rising global instability, with ongoing wars in Ukraine and Iran, haven't helped, Brooks added.

"You're dealing with a global sell-off which goes back to this kind of global stimulus that we had during COVID," Brooks said. "The chickens for that are now coming home to roost."

The easiest example is mortgage rates. Rates for these loans tend to follow the path of 10-year Treasury yields. The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage is near its highest level in a year, discouraging people already worried the price of homeownership may be too high.

Generally, higher yields and rates benefit people who are savers. It means they are earning more from lending money to the U.S. government or sticking their cash in a high-yield savings account.

Higher yields and rates, meanwhile, tend to hurt people who are borrowing money. They also drag on prices for stocks, gold and even cryptocurrencies. The thought is: Why should anyone pay high prices for riskier investments when U.S. Treasuries, which are supposed to be safer, are paying more than before?

It's no secret that the U.S. government has a lot of debt. Officials at the Federal Reserve, economists, investors and many other voices have been saying for years that the U.S. government is on an unsustainable path with how much it spends versus what it brings in.

Last month, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the federal government's budget deficit would top \$2 trillion this year, equal to about 6% of the U.S. economy, an unusually high figure outside recessions and wars. The government also said last month that its total debt - the cumulative total of all the deficits - has reached a gargantuan \$40 trillion.

The unknown has always been when or if a tipping point would arrive that turns the worries about the U.S. government's debt into a panic. That would cause investors to quickly dump their Treasuries, which would sent yields surging.

And while yields have climbed, they haven't done so at such a pace to suggest a tipping point is here.

Importantly, a measure in the bond market that shows how worried bond investors are about potential bond defaults by several big economies' governments has not risen excessively, according to strategists at Macquarie.

Strengthening public-private ties with Al-Nuwiseeb border visit

NBK delegation visits Al-Nuwiseeb border to assess rehabilitation plans

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: As part of its unwavering commitment to supporting national projects and strengthening partnerships with government entities, a delegation from the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) conducted a field visit to Al-Nuwiseeb border to assess the needs and review development and rehabilitation plans, building upon the Bank’s national initiative and its contribution of KD one million to support the rehabilitation of the country’s land borders.

The visit reflects the Bank’s commitment to conducting field follow-ups on the projects it supports and assessing the development needs of vital facilities that serve as strategic gateways for the country. During the visit, the delegation reviewed the facility’s key operational and technical requirements, as well as the planned development phases and ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency and elevate the quality of services provided to travelers and facility users.

This visit follows the initiative recently announced by NBK for the



NBK delegation visits Al-Nuwiseeb border to oversee development & renovation.

rehabilitation of land borders, including Al-Abdali, Al-Salmi, and Al-Nuwiseeb, in support of government efforts to upgrade these vital facilities and enhance their operational readiness to meet current and future requirements.

The Bank’s delegation received a detailed briefing on key development priorities at Al-Nuwiseeb border and the mechanisms for implementing the planned works, in addition to discussing challenges that could be addressed through rehabilitation and development projects, further contributing to an improved user experience and enhanced operational efficiency at the facility.

NBK emphasized that this move reflects its approach of directing contributions toward projects of national priority and sustainable impact, stemming from its national responsibility and role as an active partner in supporting development plans, and noting that upgrading borders represents an investment in enhancing the efficiency of the country’s strategic facilities and bolstering their readiness to serve various sectors.

Moreover, the Bank added that field monitoring of the projects it supports is a fundamental part of its approach to ensuring the realization of the intended goals of its social and national contributions, which creates added value for society and enhances the initiatives’ positive impact.

NBK continues to solidify its leading position in national and social responsibility by supporting strategic initiatives that foster sustainable development. Its contribution to upgrading land borders is part of a track record of initiatives aimed at supporting local institutions and enhancing the efficiency of vital facilities. This reflects the Bank’s strong commitment to supporting the development process and strengthening effective public-private partnerships for the benefit of Kuwait and its people.

Saudi leads GCC rally with 5.1% gain; Oman, Kuwait up 4.5%, 1.6%

GCC equities rebound in August as MSCI GCC index jumps 3.9%

By National Bank of Kuwait

GCC equity markets witnessed steady recovery during August-2026 led by stabilizing geopolitical situation in the Middle East region. The rally was also supported by a broadbased gain in global equity markets after posting a healthy earnings season. The MSCI GCC index broke a three-month losing streak and gained 3.9% during August-2026, the biggest monthly gain in seven months backed by gains recorded by most of the exchanges in the region. Saudi Arabia was the best performing market in the region during the month with a gain of 5.1%, also the biggest monthly gain since January-2026, followed by Oman and Kuwait with gains of 4.5% and 1.6%, respectively. On the other hand, Qatar and Bahrain benchmarks witnessed declines of 1.1% and 1.0%, respectively, during the month.

The monthly sector performance chart also reflected the broad-based gains with almost all the GCC sectors registering gains during the month. The Hotels & Leisure sector gained almost 10% followed by Materials and Insurance sectors with gains of 8.2% and 7.5%, respectively. Large-cap sectors like Telecom and Banks showed gains of 5.0% and 4.7%, respectively while the Energy sector showed relatively smaller gain of 1.2%.

Global equities also finished August-2026 with gains across most major equity markets resulting in a 2.6% gain in the MSCI World Index. After two consecutive months of declines, the S&P 500 index touched a record high by mid-month but receded partially month end on profit booking and closed with a gain of 2.6%. However, the latest comments from the Fed Chair on a possible rate hike by September-2026 sent global bond yields to the highest since 2008 by month end while equity markets declined. In the commodities space, crude oil prices stayed volatile led by geopolitics. Brent futures slid below the USD 80/b level at the start of the month on peace talks but regained the USD 90/b level on intermittent attacks and growing uncertainty.

Boursa Kuwait

Kuwait’s stock market remained resilient in August-2026, with the Boursa Kuwait All-Share Index gaining 1.6% and closing at 8,897.4 points. The gains were broad based across market segments as all the four benchmark indices posted gains during the month, although mid and small-cap stocks witnessed much stronger gains during the month. The Main 50 Index delivered a notable 9.3% gain, its second-highest monthly return of the year, followed by the Main Market Index, which advanced 5.7%. Meanwhile, the large-cap Premier Market Index posted a more moderate gain of 0.8%. On a YTD-2026 basis, the Premier Market Index declined 2.2%, while the All-Share Index edged down 0.1%. Conversely, the Main 50 Index and Main Market Index recorded strong gains of 26.6% and 11.2%, respectively.

The monthly sector performance chart favored gainers with the Technology Index topped the list with a 127.8% increase, followed by the Basic Materials and Consumer Staples indices, which gained 14.0% and 9.5%, respectively. On the other hand, the Health Care Index recorded the steepest decline, falling 5.2%, followed by the Utilities Index, which declined 3.4%. The gains in the Technology index were led by an equivalent gain in the sole constituent stock in the index, Automated Systems Co. Gains in the Basic Materials sector were primarily driven by a 17.7% increase in shares of Boubyan Petrochemical. During the month, the company reported Q1-2026/27 net profit of KWD 4.2 Mn, compared with KWD 4.0 Mn in the previous year, representing a 5% increase mainly driven by stronger performance in the education sector. Meanwhile, the Banking sector saw mixed performance amid cautious investor sentiment. Large-cap banks such as NBK gained 1.9%, while KFH declined 1.9%. The Telecom sector recorded gains in three out of four listed stocks during the month. Digtus Group led the sector with a 16.1% gain, followed by Ooredoo, whose shares increased by 8.4%.

In terms of monthly stock performance, Automated Systems Co. topped the chart with a gain of 127.8% followed by Livestock Transport & Trading Co., Kuwait Hotels Co. with gains of 53.7% and 53.5%, respectively. On the decliners side, Tijara Real Estate & Investment Co. topped with a fall of 32.4% followed by Future Kid Entertainment Co. and Kuwait Foundry Co. with the declines of 12.0% and 9.2%, respectively. In terms of trading activity, volume traded during the month surged by 4.2% to reach 6.6 Bn shares in August-2026 as compared to 6.3 Bn shares in July-2026. The aggregate value of shares traded also increased by 11.0% to reach KWD 1.8 Bn as compared to KWD 1.6 Bn during July-2026. On the monthly value traded chart, Kuwait Finance House topped with KWD 152.4 Mn traded shares followed by NBK and Privatization Holding Co. at KWD 89.9 Mn and KWD 60.6Mn worth of traded shares, respectively.

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

After four consecutive months of declines, Saudi Arabia’s TASI recorded the biggest monthly return in the GCC in August-2026. The benchmark breached the psychological mark of 11,000 points and reached a closing high of 11,259.9 points on 26 August, 2026. The index eased slightly toward month-end but closed with a gain of 5.1% at 11,127.1 points, marking its highest monthly close in four months. The index performance was supported by a combination of factors, including stabilizing geopolitical situation in the region, volatile but elevated oil prices due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz as well as the Q2 earnings season. Brent crude briefly rose above USD 94/bbl during the month and remained above USD 90/bbl at month-end following renewed tensions. The monthly gain pushed TASI’s YTD-2026 return further into positive territory to 6.1%, making it the second-highest performer in the GCC.

Gains during the month were broad-based, with 15 of the 21 indices closing the month in positive territory. The Financial Services Index led the gainers with a 9.0% increase, closely followed by the Consumer Services and Capital Goods indices, which both gained 8.9%. On the decliners’ side, the Commercial & Professional Services Index recorded the steepest decline at 2.9%, followed by the Consumer Staples, Distribution & Retail, and REITs indices, which registered more moderate declines of 2.0%.

Large-cap sectors, such as Banking and Telecom, also recorded monthly gains of 7.5% and 4.8%, respectively. Within the Banking sector, all listed banks except Bank Aljazira recorded gains during the month. Banque Saudi Fransi, Saudi National Bank and Alinma Bank led the sector, rising 10.9%, 10.5% and 10.1%, respectively. Within the Telecom sector, most constituent stocks posted gains during the month. In contrast, the Energy sector declined, with Saudi Aramco shares falling 1.2% during August 2026 despite a late month recovery in crude oil prices.

The monthly stock performance chart was topped by Cenomi Retail (AFG International) with a gain of 43.1% after the company reported smaller losses in Q2. Wataniya Insurance and Allied Cooperative Insurance were next with gains of 33.5% and 31.7%, respectively. On the decliners chart, Arabian Contracting Services Co. topped with a decline of 23.0% followed by Methanol Chemicals Co. and Tabuk Agricultural Development Co. with declines of 15.7% and 12.1%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange strengthened in August-2026 with heathy growth in both value and volume traded during the month. Total value traded surged 29.3% to reach SAR 112.0 Bn in August-2026 compared to 86.7 Bn in July-2026. The total volume also improved 23.9% to reach 5.7 Bn shares compared to 4.6 Bn in July-2026. Americana Restaurants topped the monthly volume chart with 523.3 Mn shares followed by Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co. and Saudi Aramco at 212.3 Mn shares and 201.4 Mn shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Al Rajhi Bank topped with SAR 10.0 Bn worth of shares traded during the month followed by Saudi Arabian

Oil Co. and Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co. at SAR 5.4 Bn and SAR 3.7 Bn, respectively.

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The FTSE ADX advanced by 0.9% during August-2026, recording its third consecutive monthly growth after registering a 1.1% gain in July-2026, and closed the month at 10,007.4 points. Sectoral performance over the month was moderately skewed to the gainers, with six out of the ten sector indices on the exchange posting gains, which underpinned the overall upward movement of the broader benchmark, while the remaining four registered declines during the same period. The overall positive index performance was driven by heavily weighted sectors like the Real Sector (+3.5%) and Telecom (+5.3%). The Real Estate sector indices improvement during the month was mainly attributed to 23.4% jump in share price of Eshraq Investments during the month while the Telecom indices monthly was underpinned by 5.1% share price growth of Emirates Telecommunication Group during the similar period. On the other hand, the Financials Sector recorded a marginal decline of 0.5% during August-2026 as significant number of the constituent companies recorded share price declines, including Investcorp Capital (-5.6%). Meanwhile, the Health Care Index recorded the largest monthly growth among the indices with 14.2% gain to close the month at 1,913.6 points mainly as a result of 17.7% jump in shares of PureHealth during August-2026.

In terms of stock performance, Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development Co topped the monthly gainers chart, with its share price surging by 32.1% after the company reported almost 40% y-o-y increase in revenues and almost 80% y-o-y increase in net income during Q2-2026. It was followed by Abu Dhabi Ports and Fujairah Cement Industries, which recorded gains of 23.9% and 23.6%, respectively. During the month, ADQ made a conditional cash offer of AED 6.25 per share to acquire the remaining 24.58% of Abu Dhabi Ports Company that it does not already own. On the decliners’ side, Al Khaleej Investment Company registered the largest drop, with its share price declining by 12.9%. Oman & Emirates Investment Holding and Al Buhaira National Insurance Co were next on the decliners table with declines of 12.6% and 8.2%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange improved during August-2026, following a decline in the previous month. The total volume of shares increased by 13.3% to 4.7 Bn as compared to 4.2 Bn shares in July-2026. Concurrently, the total value of shares traded improved by 1.3% to AED 22.2 Bn, up from AED 21.9 Bn in the prior month. ADNOC Gas was the most active stock by volume, with 902.6 Mn shares traded, followed by Eshraq Investments and Al Dar Properties, which recorded 582.9 Mn and 267.8 Mn shares, respectively. In terms of value traded during the month, ADNOC Gas led the market with AED 3.0 Bn worth of shares exchanged, followed closely by Al Dar Properties and Alpha Dhabi Holding with AED 2.1 Bn and USD 1.8 Bn, respectively.

In economic news, the UAE economy expanded 3% y-o-y during Q1-2026 to reach AED 485 Bn (USD 132 Bn) mainly driven by growth in the country’s Energy sector. Non-oil GDP increased by 4.8% y-o-y raising its contribution to 79.4% of the nation’s economy underlining the country’s continued growth of non-oil economic activities. The Financial and Insurance sector led the key growth sectors of the economy during Q1-2026 increasing at 17.3% y-o-y followed by the Construction sector with 8.1% yoy expansion during the period and the Social Work activities with 7.7% y-o-y growth. Furthermore, the Information and Communication sector activities increased by 5.9% y-o-y during Q1-2026. Meanwhile, the Emirates non-oil exports increased by 23.9% y-o-y during 1H-2026 to reach AED 452.8 Bn, according to official governmental data.

Dubai Financial Market

The DFM General Index returned to growth with a marginal gain of 0.7% during August-2026 after witnessing a decline of 2.7% in July-2026, to close the month at 5,836.0 points. Sectoral performance was skewed towards gainers during the month as five out of the eight sectors registered gains during August-2026, while the remaining three indices posted declines. The Materials Index posted the biggest gain during August-2026 at 10.9%, followed by the Consumer Discretionary sector with a growth of 9.9%. The only constituent company in the Materials sector, National Cement Company, recorded 10.9% share price gain during August-2026. Meanwhile, the 14.3% share price jump of Talabat Holding led to the overall growth of the Consumer Discretionary Index during the month. On the other hand, the Communications Services Index recorded the biggest fall among the indices with 6.6% decline to close the month at 1,917.5 points followed by the Real Estate and the Utilities indices with declines of 2.2% and 1.2%, respectively. The Communications Index monthly decline reflected 6.6% fall in shares of Emirates Integrated Telecom during the month.

In terms of monthly stock performance data from Bloomberg showed Islamic Arab Insurance Com topping the gainers’ table in August-2026 with its share price rising 41.6%. It was followed by Mashreq Bank and Agility, which recorded gains of 28.4% and 18.4%, respectively. Gain in shares of Islamic Arab Insurance came after the company reported more than three-fold increase in net profits that reached AED 28.3 Mn during 1H-2026. On the decliners’ side, Dubai Refreshments Company led with a share price decline of 10.7%, followed by Union Properties and Al Salam Bank Sudan, with share price declines of 10.5% and 9.3%, respectively.

Trading activity improved marginally during the month. Total volume increased by 5.7% to 3.4 Bn shares in August-2026 vs. 3.2 Bn shares in July-2026. Similarly, the total value of shares traded increased at a relatively faster pace of 10.0%, reaching AED 12.2 Bn in August-2026 as compared to AED 11.1 Bn in July-2026. Talabat Holding topped the monthly volume chart with 528 Mn shares traded, followed by Emaar Properties and Union Properties, which recorded 378.0 Mn and 305.3 Mn shares changing hands, respectively. In terms of value traded, Emaar Properties led the market with AED 4.2 Bn worth of shares exchanged during the month, followed by Emirates Integrated Telecom and Emirates NBD at AED 2.1 Bn and AED 943.9 Mn, respectively.

In economic news, Dubai’s Real Estate sector witnessed strong growth during 1H-2026, with 104 projects worth more than AED 111 Bn completed across the emirate vs. 75 completed projects during 1H-2025, according to new data from the Dubai Land Department. The number of real estate projects in the emirate jumped 38.7% while the total value of projects in the city increased 52% during the same period. The growth in the sector was mainly driven by a 36% y-o-y increase in new residential units, which reached 24,537 during 1H-2026 as compared to 18,043 units in 1H-2025. Moreover, the value of land allocated to completed projects improved 135% to AED 19.5 Bn as compared to AED 8.3 Bn in 1H-2025.

Qatar Exchange

The Qatar Stock Exchange declined for the third consecutive month in August 2026. The headline DSM Index climbed early in the month to 10,181.8 points, supported by foreign institutional buying, before declining over the remainder of the month to close at 9,806.9 points, registering a monthly decline of 1.1%. Investor sentiment was weighed by the ongoing U.S.–Iran conflict and uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, while fluctuations in oil and gas prices added to market volatility. The broader Qatar All Share Index also declined 0.9% during the month, closing at 3,849.99 points. On a YTD-2026 basis, the QE 20 Index declined 8.9%, marking the largest decline among GCC markets, while the All Share Index fell 5.1%.

The monthly sector performance chart favored gainers during the month. Among the gainers, the Transportation, Insurance and Telecoms indices led the market, registering gains of 5.1%, 1.8% and 1.1%, respectively. On the declines side, the Consumer Goods & Services Index recorded the steepest decline, falling 7.2%, followed by the Industrials Index, which declined 4.2% to close the month at 3,776.60.

Gains for the Industrial index were mainly led by shares of Mannai Corp and Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. which were up by 5.7% and 3.3%, respectively, during the month, while shares of Nebras Energy declined by 7.9%. During the month, both the constituents in Telecoms sector Ooredoo and Vodafone Qatar reported gains of 1.2% and 0.9%, respectively. In the Banks & Financial Services sector, most of the listed Qatari banks witnessed gains during the month with Commercial Bank reporting a gain of 1.9% followed by Qatar International Islamic Bank and Lesha Bank LLC with gains of 1.6% and 1.2%, respectively. Gains in the Insurance sector were primarily driven by shares Damaan Islamic Insurance Co. and Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co., which rose by 16.2% and 12.1%, respectively. In the Transportation sector, most of the constituent stocks reported gains with shares of Qatar Navigation leading with a gain of 5.9% during August-2026. In the Industrial Sector Index, seven out of the eleven companies that constitute the sector recorded declines during August-2026.

The monthly gainer’s chart was topped by Damaan Islamic Insurance Co. with a gain of 16.2% followed by Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co. and Aljirah Holding Co. with gains of 12.1% and 7.2%, respectively. In terms of decliners, Qatar Fuel QSC led with a monthly stock price decline of over 13.3% followed by Doha Bank QPSC and QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. with declines of 9.2% and 8.6%, respectively.

Trading activity improved during the month as compared to the previous month. Total volume traded increased by 44.2% to 3.2 Bn shares in August-2026 vs. 2.2 Bn shares in July-2026. Value traded during the month also increased by 60.9% to reach QAR 8.5 Bn as compared to QAR 5.3 Bn during July-2026. Baladna topped the monthly volume chart 401.7 Mn traded shares followed by Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. and Gulf International Services at 272.5 Mn shares and 225.4 Mn traded shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, QNB topped with shares worth QAR 780.3 Mn traded during the month followed by Qatar Fuel and Ooredoo QPSC with value traded at QAR 741.3 Mn and QAR 716.5 Mn, respectively.

Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain Bourse All Share Index witnessed a decline of 1% during August-2026 recording its second consecutive monthly drop after a 4.2% drop in July-2026 closing the month at 1,936.0 points. In terms of sectoral performance, the overall trend was predominantly negative, with six out of the seven sectors recording declines during August-2026. This included declines in heavily weighted indices such as the Materials and the Consumer Discretionary sectors. The Materials Sector registered the largest decline among all sectors during the period, falling by 6.0% to close at 3,951.0 points, followed by the Industrial Sector (-4.4%) and the Consumer Discretionary Sector (-3.1%). On the other hand, the Financial sector was the only index that witnessed growth during the month improving by a marginal 0.4% to close the month at 7,662.5 points mainly due to the share price growth of heavily weighted constituent banks such as Al Salam Bank-Bahrain (+7.8%).

In terms of share price performance, according to Bloomberg data, Al Salam Bank-Bahrain topped the monthly gainers list with a 7.8% increase in its share price during the month, followed by Bahrain National Holding and Seef Properties, which registered 2.6% and 2.5% share price gains, respectively. Al Salam Bank Bahrain recently announced the signing and deployment of a USD 50 Mn Line of Finance facility with the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). The facility is designed to expand access to Shari’a-compliant financing for private sector enterprises across key sectors of the Bahraini economy. On the decliners’ side, Aluminum Bahrain led the list with an 6.0% share price decline during the month, followed by APM Terminals Bahrain and National Hotels Co, which posted monthly share price declines of 5.4% and 3.8%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange witnessed an increase during August-2026. The total volume of shares traded during the month increased by 52.3% to 46 Mn shares, compared to 30.5 Mn shares in July-2026. Total value traded on the exchange also experienced a growth of 53.5% to reach BHD 14.8 Mn in August-2026, up from BHD 9.6 Mn during the previous month. Al Salam Bank-Bahrain BSC topped the monthly volumes chart with 14.3 Mn shares traded, followed by GFH FINANCIAL GROUP BSC and National Bank of Bahrain with 12.2 Mn and 5.4 Mn shares exchanged, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, GFH Financial Group led with BHD 6.6 Mn worth of shares exchanged, followed by Al Salam Bank-Bahrain BSC and National Bank of Bahrain BSC, which recorded BHD 3.1 Mn and BHD 2.8 Mn in value traded, respectively.

In economic news, Bahrain’s GDP contracted by 3.8% y-o-y during Q1-2026 mainly instigated by disruptions and restrictions on maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz which severely disrupted the Kingdom’s energy sector and export capacity, according to governmental data. Bahrain’s oil sector activities fell by 37.2% y-o-y due to the impact on the Kingdom’s export capacity. Despite the overall contraction of the economy, Bahrain’s non-oil economic sector witnessed 2.2% y-o-y growth representing over 90% of the real GDP. The Financial and Insurance sector represented 19.7% of the GDP and recorded 8.6% y-o-y growth while the Manufacturing sector represented 14.6% of the GDP and registered 7.0% growth during the quarter.

Muscat Stock Exchange

The MSX 30 Index bounced back to growth during August-2026 with 4.5% increase to close the month at 7,604.01 points. The monthly growth increased the YTD-2026 performance to 29.6% the highest among the GCC markets. In terms of sectoral performance, the overall gain was comprehensive as all three indices recorded increases during August-2026. The Services Index registered the biggest growth at (+5.9%) to close the month at 3,060.38 points, followed by the Financial Index with (+3.6%) and the Industrial Index with (+1.6%). In terms of company performance, Al Batinah Development & Investment Holding Company topped the gainers list with a share price jump of 23.3%. Abraj Energy Services and Oman Chromite Co. were next on the gainers chart with monthly gains of 16.5% and 15.2%, respectively. On the decliners’ side, National Aluminium Products Co led the chart with a 50% share price decline, followed by Salalah Mills and Salalah Port Services Co. which witnessed share price drops of 10.6% and 9.8%, respectively. Abraj Energy Services recently reported an expansion in its Kuwait operations with stable first half of 2026 net income, utilization rate with record backlog record.

Trading activity on the exchange increased during August-2026 as compared to the previous month. The total volume of shares traded increased by 3.5% to 3.5 Bn shares in August-2026, compared to 3.3 Bn shares in July-2026. The total value traded on the exchange also increased by 6.1% to OMR 0.98 Bn, up from OMR 0.92 Bn in the previous month. Sohar International Bank topped the monthly value traded chart with transactions totaling OMR 173.8 Mn, followed by OQ Base Industries and Bank Muscat, with total values traded of OMR 167.4 Mn and OMR 164.3 Mn, respectively. In terms of monthly volume traded, Sohar International Bank again led the list with 951 Mn shares, followed by OQ Base Industries and OQ Gas Networks with volumes of 663.9 Mn shares and 482.6 Mn shares, respectively.

Easy and secure 24/7 e-banking services

KFH: Growing customer demand for banking services via WhatsApp

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is seeing growing demand and strong customer engagement with its WhatsApp banking services. The channel improves the overall customer experience by offering simple, secure and convenient digital banking anytime, anywhere.

The service is the first of its kind in the Kuwaiti banking sector and was developed in partnership with Infobip, a leading global provider of cloud communications and interactive services.

KFH customers can complete a wide range of banking transactions quickly and securely through an intuitive interactive interface, without visiting a branch or calling the Contact Center. This makes banking more convenient and better aligned with today's digital lifestyle.

Services available via WhatsApp include transfers between personal accounts, payment of credit and prepaid card balances, account balance inquiries, and generation of six-month account statements. Customers can also retrieve their IBAN after authenticating through the Kuwait Mobile ID app, apply for financing, find the nearest branch, and connect directly with a customer service representative.

The services are available 24/7 and meet the highest security standards to protect data confidentiality and transaction safety.



To use the service, customers should install WhatsApp and save KFH's number (1803333) in their contacts. Once saved, they can start using the service immediately.

The initiative reinforces KFH's position in digital banking and forms part of its broader digital transformation. It delivers secure, reliable banking through one of the most widely used social media platforms.

It also strengthens KFH's digital ecosystem, which includes the KF-Honline app, KFH Go smart branches, ATMs, phone banking, and digital payment solutions such as WAMD, KFH PAY and Western Union transfers.

KFH continues to lead digital transformation in the banking sector through advanced infrastructure and integrated platforms that provide a secure, seamless 24/7 banking experience. This is reflected in the more than 600 million digital banking transactions customers completed across the Bank's channels in 2025, underscoring both customer trust and operational efficiency.

KFH remains a pioneer in innovative digital banking, having introduced several market-first solutions including instant card printing, fully digital account opening, virtual cards, online gold trading, and seamless local and international transfers, alongside specialized applications for retail and corporate customers.

Reinforcing education-focused CSR through partnership

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait sponsors LOYAC's back-to-school initiative for third consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its sponsorship of the Back-to-School initiative for the third consecutive year in collaboration with LOYAC, aimed at preparing and distributing school bags and stationery to children from underprivileged families across Kuwait. The initiative coincides with preparations for the start of the new academic year.

The initiative, which was carried out with the participation of volunteers from ABK and LOYAC, falls within the Bank's comprehensive CSR program, which places education and the support of future generations among its key priorities, while seeking to provide students with an encouraging and supportive learning environment.



Sager Albenali

On this occasion, Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer at ABK, said, "Our sponsorship reflects our longstanding commitment to social responsibility and our belief that education is a fundamental right for every child. Through this initiative, we aim to provide students with essential school supplies while bringing joy to their lives, strengthening their self-confidence, and creating the right conditions for academic achievement and excellence."

He added that the initiative reflects



Group photo of the team from ABK and LOYAC.

ABK's belief that education is the cornerstone of a sustainable society and a strong economy. Accordingly, the Bank remains committed to developing innovative solutions and effective partnerships that promote equal educational opportunities for students across Kuwait.

Albenali further explained that ABK's role extends beyond providing financial and banking services to creating a tangible and positive impact on all segments of society. He noted that the Bank will continue to reinforce the concept of meaningful social responsibility and collaborate with various partners to help build a qualified generation capable of leading Kuwait's development journey.

He stated that this initiative adds to ABK's strong track record of supporting education, which includes organizing a series of financial and banking literacy workshops in collaboration with schools across Kuwait.

He concluded by commending the efforts of ABK and LOYAC volunteers and emphasized ABK's endeavors to continue to participate in impactful initiatives to support and empower young national talent.

On her part, Lulwa AlSharrah, Community Empowerment Programs Specialist at LOYAC said: "We are proud of our partnership

with ABK in the Back to School initiative for the third consecutive year. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to supporting students from underprivileged families and providing them with an encouraging educational environment.

She added "Beyond distributing school bags and stationery, this initiative delivers a message of hope and equips children with the confidence and tools they need to succeed. At LOYAC, we believe that investing in education is the most vital investment for Kuwait's future, and we will continue working with our partners to promote generosity and empower youth".

Canadian trips to US fall 25%

US tourism push fails to woo Canadians amid trade war

LAS VEGAS, Sept 6, (AP): Appeals from American tourism organizations seemed to be everywhere Josh Loewen looked over the last year. Billboards and banners proclaimed a state or city's love for Canada. Online and social media ads offered special deals for travelers from north of the border.

As a Vancouver resident and marketing executive himself, Loewen said he understands the conciliatory overtures. The number of Canadians traveling to the United States plunged after President Donald Trump returned to office with remarks about making Canada the 51st state. An acrimonious trade war between the two countries now is threatening to reinforce the informal boycott just as it appeared to be easing slightly.

"It's such a big ask right now," Loewen, 45, said of the U.S. tourism industry's attempts to woo Canadians like him back before a new president occupies the White House. "It's just a wasted effort."

Relations between the U.S. and Canadian governments have deteriorated sharply since their trade negotiations collapsed last month. Trump imposed import taxes of up to 50% on a range of Canadian products. Canada's government responded in kind. Trump ordered the U.S. government to change the name of border-spanning Lake Ontario to "Lake America." Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney dismissed insults from members of Trump's Cabinet as childish and undignified.

The bilateral rift has not stopped state and local tourism officials and popular destinations like Graceland from trying to persuade Canadian visitors to return.

New York state launched a "NY Loves Canada" promotion this summer, offering discounts at hotels, restaurants and attractions. Some downtown Las Vegas hotels are treating the Canadian dollar as equivalent to the U.S. dollar to give Canadian visitors more value for their money. Las Vegas tourism officials went to Canada last month to meet with travel advisers, tour operators and airline representatives.

"We're here to make sure you know that we care about Canada," Steve Hill, president of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, said while in Vancouver. The outreach is happening at the



City Councillor Renaldo Agostino looks at the Detroit skyline across the Detroit River Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, in Windsor, Ontario. (AP Photo/Mike Householder)

national level, too. Brand USA, the U.S. tourism industry's marketing organization, is bringing its Travel Week trade-event series to Canada for the first time in October, expanding and rebranding an earlier program known as Canada Connect.

Canada traditionally sent more overnight international visitors to the United States than any other country. Amid last year's consumer-led backlash, both same-day trips and longer stays nosedived. Canadian residents made 25% fewer return border crossings and spent about \$2.4 billion (CAD\$3.3 billion) less on travel to the U.S. in 2025 than they had the year before, according to Canada's national statistical agency, Statistics Canada.

The retreat coincided with other headwinds, including a weaker Canadian dollar that made traveling to the U.S. more expensive and rising prices for airfares and hotels. Canadian air travel to the U.S. started declining in September 2023, Statistics Canada data shows.

But the abrupt pullback in state-side travel that accompanied Trump's second presidency and extended into this year signaled "a persistent shift away from the United States by Canadian residents in their travel preferences," agency analysts said in a July report.

Tentative signs of improvement emerged in May, June and July, when border crossings picked up slightly, the agency reported. The latter two months coincided with the 2026 World Cup, which the U.S.,

Canada and Mexico cohosted. Canada's national soccer team competed during the tournament's early weeks, giving some Canadians a reason to head south. Carney attended the final match in New Jersey alongside Trump.

Trips by car accounted for most of the uptick in cross-border traffic, while air travel to the U.S. fell from year-earlier levels in every month through June, Statistics Canada said. The U.S. National Travel and Tourism Office estimates that during the first six months of 2026, Canadians made even fewer overnight visits, which typically generate more tourism spending, than they did during the same period last year.

A day after the World Cup ended, Trump announced that tariffs on \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods would take effect in 30 days. The White House said the tariffs were intended to address U.S. complaints over Canadian barriers to American-made automobiles, alcohol and dairy.

"You went from this really high, exciting moment for the U.S. in terms of international attention, to the next week, it's negative again," said Deborah Friedland, a hospitality consultant at financial services firm Eisner Advisory Group. "It's one step forward and two steps back."

With the summer now winding down, some of the U.S. destinations most dependent on Canadian visitors are heading into their most important season. Large numbers of Canadian snowbirds typically flock to

warm-weather locations in Florida, Arizona and California when temperatures drop at home, making the coming months a test of whether the grassroots boycott will extend into another winter.

"I'd be surprised if we're talking a year from now and all of a sudden you see this huge uptick in Canadian travel over the winter months," Friedland said.

Not all tourism officials are worried. Jennifer Adams, tourism director for the Destin-Fort Walton Beach area in Florida's Panhandle, said she never panicked when headlines about Canadians shunning travel to the U.S. first appeared last year.

"I felt our message was strong," she said, adding that, "the thing for us is to let the Canadian family know that they are welcomed here and we are committed to giving them a great experience when they get here."

Florida saw a 7% decline in Canadian visitors in 2025 compared to the previous year, according to state marketing organization Visit Florida. Sister organization Visit California, citing data from global research and consulting company Tourism Economics, estimated that Canadian visitation to the Golden State fell 20%.

Loewen, the Vancouver marketing executive, said his family loved visiting the United States. He, his wife and their two children often traveled to San Diego, Portland and Seattle. This year, they chose Mexico instead.

The reluctance, Loewen said, has little to do with whether the U.S. can offer a good vacation. It's about whether Canadians want to spend their money there while tensions between their country and the U.S. remain so high. Loewen said his family hasn't stepped foot in the U.S. since Trump's inauguration and doesn't plan to until there's a new president.

Eileen March, a life coach from Calgary, said she made a similar decision. Trump's threats to make Canada the 51st state and his trade policies were part of it, as was a broader sense of no longer feeling safe or welcome in the United States, March said.

"As time has worn on, I was beginning to waver," she said. The latest round of tariffs "reinforced my initial decision to not travel in the U.S. at all while he is in office." She refuses even to book flights with layovers in the U.S.

Unions rally over soaring prices

Greece pledges tax cuts, pay rises ahead of 2027 election

THESSALONIKI, Sept 6, (AP): Greece's conservative government promised sweeping tax breaks and pay hikes before a general election next year, as thousands gathered in protest late Saturday over the high cost of living.

"Our country has overcome stagnation and is now ready to taste the fruits of its efforts," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said. "As the country stabilizes, there will be relief from heavy taxes, higher incomes and bold reforms."

He spoke at an annual speech on the state of the nation's economy in the northern city of Thessaloniki, where more than 25,000 people took part in union-led protests, according to police estimates.

Labor unions and multiple protest groups staged rallies across the city, with farmers driving tractors into the downtown area. More than 3,000 police officers were on duty, closing streets and subway stations near the venue where the prime minister spoke.

Greece delivered a budget surplus and economic growth of 2.1% last year, while continuing to reduce its

high public debt, but its workers had the lowest purchasing power in the European Union.

"Wages are low and prices are soaring, so affordability is the most serious problem," said Yiannis Panagopoulos, head of Greece's largest labor union, the GSEE.

The support measures, worth more than 2 billion euros (\$2.3 billion) over the next year, include tax breaks for self-employed professionals, farmers and residents of villages, as well as salary and benefit increases for retirees and public sector workers.

Mitsotakis, the 58-year-old son of late conservative Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, has served as prime minister since 2019, as Greece emerged from a major financial crisis.

He's seeking a third term in an election expected next April. But polls suggest that support for his center-right New Democracy party wouldn't give it a governing majority in parliament.

Saturday's event was overshadowed by a fighter jet crash several hours earlier at an air show near Athens that killed two air force pilots.



Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis delivers a speech during Thessaloniki's international trade fair, in the northern city of Thessaloniki, Greece, Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026. (AP Photo/Giannis Papanikos)

EU move deals blow to Brazilian meat exporters

SAO PAULO, Sept 6, (AP): Brazilian exporters of meat, poultry, eggs, honey and other animal products were scrambling Thursday after a European Union deadline passed for suspending imports over concerns about the use of antibiotics and antimicrobial drugs in livestock.

The EU announced the suspension Tuesday. Brazil, the world's largest beef exporter, shipped about 108,000 tons of beef worth about \$1 billion to the EU in 2025, according to government figures.

The bloc announced in May that Brazil would be removed from its list of countries authorized to export certain animal products to the bloc, arguing that Brazil had failed to provide sufficient guarantees that its livestock production met EU standards against antibiotic growth promoters and other restricted drugs.

The Brazilian Association of Meat Exporting Industries, ABIEC, which provides technical support to the government in negotiations with the EU, said the move was concerning for local producers and failed to recognize what it described as the quality of Brazilian beef exports to 170 countries.

"Brazilian beef will continue to be sold in the markets for which it is authorized, but there is no automatic substitute for the European market, since different destinations require distinct products and cuts," said ABIEC in a statement.

The Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil sent a document late Wednesday signed by its chairman to Brazil's foreign ministry saying that the EU suspension "results in the clear nullification and impairment of trade benefits legitimately expected by Brazil."

The Brazilian confederation added that the EU failed to consider the rigor of Brazil's health inspection system and needed to make amends for such a trade imbalance.

Brazil's government and the EU did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

European Commission spokesperson Eva Hrnčirova said on Tuesday that a new list of countries that comply with EU rules on antimicrobials would take effect Sept. 3, which triggered the case against Brazil.

Meat imports have been a major source of European opposition to the free trade agreement signed in January between the EU and Mercosur, a trade bloc comprising Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Brazil is the only Mercosur member affected by the EU suspension.

Robson Gonçalves, an economist and professor at Fundacao Getulio Vargas, said he expects the EU to enforce additional measures against Brazil until the EU-Mercosur agreement comes fully into force.

The deal is provisional, pending a decision by the European Court of Justice.



Cattle eat at a feedlot operated by the Otavio Lage group in Goianesia, Goias state, Brazil, June 13, 2025. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres, File)

Drama, rock, and a little slashing

‘The Paper,’ ‘Halloween’ game lead this week’s stream

The second season of “The Paper” and a new album from Bloc Party are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: a new “Call My Agent!” movie, a new season of “The Real Housewives of New York” and a multiplayer game based on the “Halloween” slasher films.

The clever French series “Call My Agent!” has been revived as a movie that starts streaming on Netflix on Sept. 10. Camille Cottin’s Andréa Martel is no longer an agent but a film director overseeing a disastrous production. Guy Lodge, in his review for Variety, wrote that, “Fleet and fast-talking and packed, as ever, with Gallic industry in-jokes and celebrity cameos, Émilie Noblet’s film can hardly fail to please longtime fans.”

Henry Cavill, Jake Gyllenhaal and Eiza González star in the Guy Ritchie action pic “In the Grey,” about a lawyer and some mercenaries on an impossible mission to retrieve \$1 billion. It received mostly mixed reviews and had the misfortune of opening around the same time as the box office phenomenon “Obsession,” but like many Ritchie joints it has its defenders too: An easy bit of action entertainment, coming to Starz and its streaming service on Sept. 12.

- AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

In certain corners of the internet, there appears to be a revival of ‘00s rock bands. The Strokes are back; Wolf Parade’s “I’ll Believe in Anything” from their 2005 debut album “Apologies to the Queen Mary” got a huge streaming bump due to



This combination of images shows promotional art for the docuseries “A Killer Story,” left, the film “Call My Agent! The Movie,” and the series “The Paper.” (AP)

its placement in “Heated Rivalry.” Heck, new generations of listeners are discovering TV on the Radio’s “Wolf Like Me” because of its use in “Spider-Man: Brand New Day.” Hopefully love for the era will extend to the English band Bloc Party, whose new album “Anatomy of a Brief Romance” arrives Friday. It’s the kind of dance-y post-punk the band has long hung its hat on, made modern.

The Tubs first graced this weekly fixture in 2025, ahead of the London-based Welsh band’s sophomore album “Cotton Crown.” That release, a messy mosaic of jangly

indiepop and ‘80s college rock that was full of gorgeous songs about grief, was great. Its latest, “Hard Life,” may be even greater. At the very least, it confirms The Tubs’ position as one of the principal indie rock bands of the moment. These are impatient pop songs that span a range of emotions, somewhere between empathy and feeling pathetic. Delicious!

- AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Carole Radziwill reclaims her “The Real Housewives of New York City” apple full-time for Season 16, eight years after her exit. Sai De

Silva, Erin Lichy and Jessel Taank return as well, mixing it up with newcomers Hailey Glassman, Erika Hammond, and Daisy Toye. Expect Radziwill’s Epstein files mentions to come up. The new season begins streaming Wednesday, Sept. 9, on Peacock.

Also on Peacock, we reunite with the staff of the Toledo Truth Teller celebrating their dominance at the Ohio Journalism Awards on “The Paper.” The full season of “The Office” spinoff, which stars Domhnall Gleeson as the newspaper’s editor-in-chief, drops Wednesday.

Season 5 of “The Secret Lives

of Mormon Wives” premieres Thursday, Sept. 10, months after production halted amid a domestic violence investigation involving the face of #MomTok, Taylor Frankie Paul, and her ex Dakota Mortensen. The allegations also caused Disney and ABC to cancel her “Bachelorette” season. In a new condensed season of five episodes, Paul deals with the fallout. And we see Whitney Leavitt fresh off a hit run as Roxie Hart in Broadway’s “Chicago.” Jen Afleck (who also anchors the show’s upcoming Orange County spinoff), Jessi Draper, Layla Taylor, Mayci

Neeley, Mikayla Matthews and Miranda Hope also return.

Some recent successful young adult dramas have been set at beaches, lakes, and hockey rinks. A new one called “Crew Girl” takes us to boathouses. The eight-episode show follows rower Teagan Tao (played by Miku Martineau), who joins an elite prep school’s all-boys crew team after her life is upended by a family scandal. Naturally, a love triangle develops. It debuts on Thursday on Netflix. Jessica Paré (“Mad Men”) also stars.

A three-part HBO docuseries digs into the two-decade Dana Chandler case. Chandler was convicted of murdering her ex-husband and his girlfriend in a 2002 shooting. A journalist became convinced of her innocence after spending six years covering the saga, which spanned three trials and included prosecutorial misconduct. “A Killer Story” premieres Thursday on HBO Max, with new episodes dropping weekly through Sept. 24.

- AP Writer Alicia Rancilio

Looking to get an early jump on trick-or-treating? “Halloween: The Game,” an asymmetrical 1-vs.-4 thriller, is ready to make you scream. One player takes the role of Michael Myers, the relentless slasher from the classic 1978 movie. The other four are residents of Haddonfield, and they join forces to try to stop Mike before he splashes too much blood around their Midwestern suburb. “Halloween” comes from Colorado studio IllFonic, which has built its reputation with multiplayer games based on “Predator,” “Ghostbusters” and, well, “Killer Klowns from Outer Space.” The knives come out Tuesday, Sept. 8, on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S and PC.

- Lou Kesten (AP)

Variety

PARIS: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched on Friday, a “Youth Appeal for a new culture of peace in the minds of women and men for the 21st century.”



Barrot

The event, hosted by UNESCO HQ in Paris, was attended by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs **Jean-Noel Barrot**. “This event advocates a new culture of peace and reconciliation, adapted to the challenges of the century,” according to a statement from the French foreign ministry.

“Developed by 145 young people from 135 member countries of the UNESCO Youth Forum, the text was delivered the day before to the organization’s headquarters during an event co-chaired by Jean-Noel Barrot and the Director General of UNESCO **Khaled El Enany**,” the statement noted.

The minister also recalled the attachment of France, host State of UNESCO, to multilateralism and the central role of the Organization in promoting education, science, culture and information on a global scale, including in crisis contexts.

In the context of the 80th anniversary of UNESCO, the Minister welcomed the continuation of the work undertaken by the Director General to reform the Organization and to strengthen its action as close as possible to the populations. (KUNA)

□ □ □

WASHINGTON: A federal judge refused Friday to block the Pentagon from firing three Stars and Stripes staff members who claim they were illegally disciplined for speaking out about the Pentagon’s need to maintain its editorial independence.

U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden, who was nominated to the bench by Republican President Donald Trump ruled that the journalists are unlikely to successfully prove that the Pentagon violated their First Amendment free speech rights. He said Stars and Stripes’ editorial independence “is not at stake here.”

“Plaintiffs argue that their termination will chill the protected expression of themselves and others at Stripes,” McFadden wrote. “Plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate a chill here.”

Stars and Stripes publisher Max Lederer, editor-in-chief Erik Slavin and Middle East reporter Lara Korte sued last Thursday in Washington, D.C., to challenge their firings by the Pentagon, which partially funds the news outlet.

Slavin says he was dismissed for insubordination after giving an interview to CBS News in which he objected to potential censorship by the U.S. military. (AP)

Emmys

‘The Pitt,’ ‘Hacks’ and ‘Pluribus’ eye Emmy haul

LOS ANGELES, Sept 6, (AP): Top nominees “The Pitt,” “Hacks,” “Pluribus” and “Widow’s Bay” will have chances to stock up on Emmys Sunday at an early ceremony eight days before the main awards show and telecast.

The Television Academy hands out well over 100 primetime Emmys, and most of them will be presented this weekend in a pair of ceremonies at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. They were previously known as the Creative Arts Emmys but have now been rebranded as simply the first two nights of the 78th Emmy Awards.

The two nights will be edited together to air Sept. 12 on FXX and stream on Hulu the following day. The primetime Sept. 14 ceremony, also at the Peacock Theater and hosted by Mariska Hargitay, will air live on NBC and stream live on Peacock.

Bad Bunny won his first career Emmy Award Saturday for his Super Bowl halftime show, which was awarded home seven trophies.

“The Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show Starring Bad Bunny” won the Emmy for outstanding variety special, beating out the telecasts for the Oscars, the Grammys and the Tonys. Bad Bunny, nominated under his birth name Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, gets an Emmy as a producer-performer. It was his first nomination.

“The Pitt,” HBO Max’s day-in-the-life medical series, won best drama for its first season and is this year’s top overall contender with 25 nominations. It could win as many as nine on Sunday. “Hacks,” also from HBO Max, got a record-tying 24 comedy nominations for its fifth and final season and could win as many as a dozen Sunday.

Most of the awards presented this weekend are for behind-the-scenes crew, but big names may also have big moments, especially in the guest acting categories.

Rob Reiner, who was killed along with his wife Michele Singer Reiner in December, could win a posthumous Emmy. He was nominated for guest actor in a comedy for “The Bear,” about 50 years after winning two Emmy Awards for his acting on “All in the Family.”

Five-time Emmy winner Michael J. Fox is also nominated in the same category for playing a patient on “Shrinking” who has Parkinson’s disease, which the actor was diagnosed with in the 1990s.

The evening’s star power will be increased by the academy moving five categories from the Sept. 14 telecast to Sunday. They include best supporting actor and actress in a limited series, with nominees such as Jason Bateman, Charles Melton, Dakota Fanning and Laurie Metcalf.

“The Pitt” dominated the drama acting nominations and has two performers up for best guest actor in a drama along with three up for best guest actress. They include Tal Anderson, an autistic actor and an advocate for neurodivergent performers and portrayals. She got her first Emmy nomination for playing Becca King, the younger sister of Taylor Dearden’s Dr. Mel King.

Dearden, one of four women from “The Pitt” nominated for best supporting actress this year, will be among the presenters Sunday as will Noah Wyle, the star of “The Pitt” who is nominated for four Emmys at the main ceremony.



The main stage is shown during the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 18, 2016. (AP)



Miguel Gandelman poses in the press room with the award for outstanding music direction for “The Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show Starring Bad Bunny” during night one of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP)



Ben Archard poses in the press room with the award for outstanding directing for a reality program for “The Traitors” during night one of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP)



Seth Rogen from “The Muppet Show” accepts the Emmy for Outstanding Variety Special (Pre-Recorded) during night one of the Television Academy’s 78th Emmy Awards at the Peacock Theater at L.A. LIVE on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026. (AP)



Mariska Hargitay poses in the press room with the awards for outstanding documentary or nonfiction special and outstanding directing for a documentary/nonfiction program for “My Mom Jayne” during night one of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026. (AP)

Experts warn fans against suspicious online ticket offers

Celine Dion fans face ticket scams ahead of Paris concerts

PARIS, Sept 6, (AP): Based on their experience of hosting Taylor Swift, the management team at the Paris venue for Celine Dion’s grand concert comeback is bracing to deliver devastating news to hundreds of her fans: ‘Sorry, you appear to have been scammed, your tickets are fake.’

The Grammy-winning star’s long-awaited return to the concert stage after years away from touring has unleashed massive pent-up demand for tickets. It’s a perfect storm for scammers who have wormed their way into fans’ online communities and set up fraudulent ticketing websites to manipulate and rob fans of both their money and hopes of being able to say, “I was there.”

“Where there is massive demand and widespread excitement, fraudsters see a golden opportunity,” says Group-IB, a Singapore-based cybersecurity firm that works with the international police agency Interpol and others.

The first of the 26 shows is Saturday.

Here are some tips to avoid the

traps:

For the few tickets left, use only authorized sites

The Plenitude Arena, hosting Dion for 16 dates in September and October and another 10 in May, says the highest risk of scams is when tickets first go on sale — which was April for the upcoming concerts and June for the 2027 series — and in the shows’ immediate build-up.

“That’s when the public will be very exposed to these scammers,” Céline Trioux, the arena’s marketing director, said in an Associated Press interview.

“People are going to wake up and think, ‘Oh, right, I didn’t get a ticket, everyone is going, I want to go,’ or ‘I’ve seen the first show all over social media, it looks amazing, I’m going to find a ticket by any means possible.’ And that’s also when the scammers will be out in force.”

The shows sold out immediately, although a few VIP packages with Champagne and other perks are still available for between 1,099 euros and 2,990 euros (US\$1,276 and \$3,473) on the arena’s website.



Singer Celine Dion performs during her first World Tour called Courage in Quebec City, Montreal, Canada on Sept. 19, 2019. (AP)

One other possibility is to buy tickets from people who no longer want theirs. But the only way to do that safely is on three sites that are authorized for resales: AXS France, Ticketmaster France and Fnac Spectacles, Trioux said.

There are unlikely to be many of those. Generally, just 4% to 8% of people who buy tickets for the arena end up not wanting or not being able to use them.

“I strongly advise against buying a ticket from an individual or from someone advertising it on social media, because there’s no way to know

whether it’s genuine or whether the same ticket will also be sold to other people,” Trioux said.

Check URLs to avoid fraudulent sites

Group-IB says it found an array of fraudulent websites that impersonated official ticketing platforms as well as the official sites for Dion and for the arena.

Some URL web addresses were close to the real thing, like celine-dion.co (instead of celine-dion.com), ticketmaster-celinedion.fr (instead of ticketmaster.fr) or axs-billetterie.com (instead of axs.com).

“The first reflex should always be to check the website’s URL,” Trioux said.

She said lawyers identified nearly 200 fraudulent Dion-related sites and social media accounts that offered tickets but that “when we shut down one copycat website, another one opens.”

“It’s a constant battle,” Trioux added. “It’s impossible to close them all because technology is advancing faster than legal authorities can act.”

The Paris concert section of Dion’s site has clickable links to all of the authorized ticket sellers.

The arena says it will help fraud victims.

Group-IB says fraudsters appear to have reused scamming tools that were also deployed to target Oasis fans when the Britpop band reunited for a tour in 2025 and during Swift’s 2023-2024 Eras tour.

When Swift played four Paris shows in 2024, the Plenitude Arena had to turn away about “400 to 500 people who had been duped,” Trioux said.

She said that for Dion, the arena is expecting possibly hundreds of fraud victims each night.

The concert series is a major milestone for the 58-year-old Quebec-born singer, her first since she revealed in 2022 her diagnosis with stiff-person syndrome, a rare neurological disorder. She last performed briefly in Paris at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in 2024, wowing with “Hymne à l’amour” (Hymn to love) from atop the Eiffel Tower in the rain.

Obituary

A defining voice of the women’s movement

Gloria Steinem, iconic feminist voice & co-founder of Ms. Magazine, dies at 92

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (AP): Gloria Steinem, the celebrated author and activist who became one of the most visible symbols and potent voices of the U.S. women’s movement and a fierce advocate for feminist causes throughout her life, has died. She was 92.

With her trademark streaked hair parted down the middle and large aviator glasses, Steinem, a co-founder of Ms. Magazine, was a hugely recognizable presence wherever she went. And she went everywhere: Much of her life as an advocate was spent on the road, speaking at college campuses and community centers, at rallies and marches.

She died Wednesday at her home in New York City, according to her and her foundation’s social media pages.

“Gloria’s greatest gift was her ability to listen to others, to make others feel seen and heard,” the posts said. “Her words, actions, and example gave people permission to be their truest selves. Gloria lived true to her independent spirit, always with curiosity and a great sense of humor.”

Steinem enjoyed writing and spending time in the community in recent years, the posts said. She also



Feminist Gloria Steinem appears in New York on Feb. 17, 1970. (AP)

hosted talking circles for hundreds of people in her home. She died just before a planned memoir was to be released this fall.

“You can’t do it on the phone or on the web,” she told The Associated Press in a 2015 interview. “You have to be there with all five senses. It should be obvious that people can’t empathize with each other unless we’re in the same room.”

She began her career as a jour-

nalist, notably one who reported, in 1963, on degrading conditions in Hugh Hefner’s Playboy empire, an undercover assignment she came to later regret. She credits a meeting six years later, where women spoke out boldly in favor of abortion rights, with changing her career path.

“That speak-out was the beginning of activism for me,” Steinem, who had undergone a secret illegal

abortion herself at age 22, told the AP in an email in 2022, reflecting on the reversal of Roe v Wade. “Either our control over our own bodies is equal, regardless of sex or race, or we’re not living in a democracy.”

Though she soon became a known activist, those who watched Steinem denounce discrimination for so many years likely never suspected that she’d had to overcome a deep fear of public speaking. She would have simply stuck to writing, she said, if only editors at the time had been willing to let her write about the women’s movement.

But they weren’t interested, she told the AP in 2015. “So I ended up going out and speaking, which was my nightmare,” she said. “I mean, I was terrified. But I’m grateful, even though I still get scared even now.”

Time hardly slowed Steinem down; well into her 80s she was traveling the globe and speaking out on issues of importance to her. These included everything from genital mutilation to Korean reconciliation, but it was equality for women that took precedence. “Being a feminist means that you see the world as whole instead of half,” she once said. “It shouldn’t need a name, and one day it won’t.”

Met’s snake audition

Princess ‘Boa’ constrictor wins role in Met Opera production



Performance artist Zoe Ziegfeld who plays the part of a snake charmer poses for a portrait with a snake during auditions to select a snake for a part in an adaptation of Mozart’s “Così fan tutte,” at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. (AP)

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (AP): Pretty much everyone on stage at the Metropolitan Opera in New York must audition - even the snake who will briefly take center stage in an upcoming adaptation of a Mozart classic.

In charge of deciding who gets the s-s-s-s-starring reptilian role is Zoe Ziegfeld, a carnival performer-turned-opera actor cast as the snake handler in the Met’s version of “Così fan tutte,” inspired by Coney Island in the 1950s.

Ziegfeld takes each snake, lets it slither and wrap around, then hoists the animal over their head, rehearsing what they will do under the bright lights at center stage for each performance. Ziegfeld looks each one in the eye, almost face-to-face as they evaluate the snake’s demeanor.

“I need to know that the animal is comfortable with people and with what we are doing,” Ziegfeld said.

In the cold-blooded competition, a boa constrictor named Princess won. She is a larger snake with a better visual presence on stage.

“We will be moving forward with Princess (the big sun-glow boa constrictor who is yellow-peach) in rehearsals on a trial basis! She is a wonderful snake, and the trial is not about her, but rather about me and my strength,” Ziegfeld wrote in an email after the auditions were over.

A slightly smaller brown boa constrictor named Nala from a second audition will be Princess’ understudy.

This is the third time Ziegfeld has played the role of the snake charmer in the Met’s adaptation of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s 1790 opera.

In Mozart’s original, two Italian soldiers decide to test their lovers’ fidelity by pretending to head off to war. They then disguise themselves

and try to seduce each other’s girlfriends. In this version, the plot remains mostly the same, but the setting is a 1950s Coney Island carnival complete with vibrant scenery and sideshow performers.

Ziegfeld came to the role honestly. They spent a couple of seasons on Coney Island doing eight snake-charming shows a day.

When they tried out several years ago, live snakes weren’t allowed in the audition space. So instead, Ziegfeld brought video of their snake-charming act, then hammered home their carnival sideshow bona fides by knocking a nail into their own nasal cavity in what was called the Human Blockhead act.

“The music’s different. The money is different. It’s a pleasure to entertain. And with snakes, it’s a delight to know that there are people watching who are in awe and people who are terrified. And those things happen at the Met and at Coney - so I would say they are more alike than different, to be honest,” Ziegfeld said.

The snakes came to their audition thanks to Nancy Novograd and her company All Tame Animals.

She got into the business when her horse appeared onstage at the Met in a production of “Carmen,” and now she provides the opera house with everything from elephants to insects.

The first two snakes to audition were a bit small. One might have clashed with Ziegfeld’s top. But the key is personality, Novograd said.

“Animals have to perform as do human talent. Sometimes they have a set type of behaviors that they have to demonstrate. And sometimes they just have to get along with the talent,” Novograd said. “So in this case, they have to be the right color, size, and Zoe has to like them.”

Clicker turns 76

How the TV remote took control of television

CROTON-ON-HUDSON, N.Y., Sept 6, (AP): If the TV remote hadn’t been invented, channel surfers and couch potatoes would have to argue about something else. Come to think of it, those surfers and potatoes might not even exist.

It may be difficult for anyone under 40 to understand, but there was a time when changing a channel meant getting up, walking over to the “television set” and turning a “dial.”

Scientists at Zenith Electronics recognized a problem that needed to be solved fairly quickly. The first TV remote, called “Lazy Bone,” was put on the market in 1950. It wasn’t wireless. People tripped.

The first wireless remote, the “Flash-Matic,” five years later, looked disturbingly like a gun and used light signals. The TV wasn’t discriminating, and on sunny days false signals could cause spontaneous channel changes. The next year, Zenith’s “Space Command” was introduced using sound waves. On those early models, the press of a button produced a clicking noise - hence the term “clicker.”

Remotes using infrared signals emerged in the 1980s when, with the dawn of cable’s multichannel universe, the device became indispensable.

“Losing the remote in the couch cushions be-



Assorted remote controls are displayed in Phoenix, April 13, 2026. (AP)

came as frantic an event as losing a phone is today,” says David Bianculli, TV critic for NPR’s “Fresh Air” and a professor at Rowan University in New Jersey.

Remotes influenced how TV was programmed and consumed. The flow of a network’s schedule was essential: How do you prevent a viewer from changing channels? CBS’ Saturday night schedule in the 1970s, from “All in the Family” through to “The Carol Burnett Show,” was a masterpiece in program flow. NBC once considered Thursday

nights “must-see TV.”

The early days of cable produced the surfer, who aimlessly pressed the remote to scan channels. That put a premium on flashy; you had to catch the eye.

Remotes have downsides. They amplify selfishness. They reproduce uncontrollably until you don’t know which to use. Batteries die at inopportune moments.

Now that appliances can listen, maybe remotes fade away. Until then, it’s back to searching for wherever you left the clicker. In the refrigerator while you were getting a snack? In the bathroom?

We’ll pause, as it were, until you find it. In the meantime, we’ll leave you with this:

“The flush toilet may have been the most civilized invention ever devised, but the remote control is the next most important. It’s almost as important as sex.”

That’s from the late Zenith scientist Eugene Polley, who together with colleague Robert Adler was considered the pioneer of wireless remote technology.

Polley may have been feeling pride of ownership. Then again, there’s no firmer upper hand in a relationship than who has control of the clicker.

Robotaxis hit London streets as Europe weighs self-driving vehicles

LONDON, Sept 6, (AP): Uber and British tech company Wayve are launching London’s first self-driving taxi service on Thursday, giving residents a chance to use technology that’s already available in many U.S. cities and other parts of the world.

The two companies said they’re starting with a small rollout of Ford Mustang Mach-E electric vehicles outfitted with Wayve’s autonomous vehicle technology.

Compared with the U.S. and China - countries where robotaxis operate autonomously in several cities, with no human driver - Europe has been taking a more cautious approach on self-driving cabs.

In London, there will still be a person behind the wheel overseeing the trip who can grab the wheel or tap the brakes if there’s a problem.

Under the U.K. government’s pilot



An Uber driver has his hands ready for intervention as he sits in an autonomous car in London, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026 as Uber officially launches the first hailable autonomous cabs in London.(AP)



A client orders an autonomous car on his mobile phone in London, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026 as Uber officially launches the first hailable autonomous cabs in London. (AP)

framework, self-driving taxi operators like Uber and Wayve still need approval to operate without a human safety driver. “That process is still playing out,” and it’s not clear how long it will take, said Sarfraz Maredia, Uber’s head of autonomous mobility.

Robotaxi companies have been testing their vehicles on London streets as Britain moves to adopt national regulations. Waymo and Chinese tech company Baidu are also gearing up to offer commercial passenger service in London, which poses unique challenges to robotaxis because its narrow and famously convoluted roads are frequently congested with cars, buses, bicycles and electric rental bikes.

Pedestrians also pose a bigger challenge in London because jaywalking is not against the law.

Many countries in Europe are still in the testing phase. Uber said last month it launched its first European commercial robotaxi service in Zagreb, Croatia, in partnership with a local operator and China’s Pony.ai, but human safety drivers are still required.

Meanwhile in the United States,

Waymo, owned by Google parent Alphabet, now operates fully autonomous taxi service in 14 cities, while Amazon’s Zoox and Tesla are catching up.

In China, Baidu, WeRide and Pony.AI operate robotaxi services in multiple cities. They’ve also been expanding into the Middle East in partnerships with Uber or local fleet operators in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia.

The deployment in London will start with under 20 vehicles and expand from there, Maredia said.

Uber customers won’t be able to specifically request a robotaxi, but they could be matched with a Wayve vehicle when they hail a ride on the app, which they can accept or reject. Prices won’t be any different from a regular Uber ride. Passengers won’t be prompted to tip at the end of a robotaxi trip, the company said.

Chimpanzees once used for vaccine research get health checks as part of long-term care

ABUJA, Nigeria, Sept 6, (Agencies): A group of chimpanzees once used in laboratory hepatitis B vaccine experiments has received health checks at their new home in Liberia, in hopes of giving them a second chance at a normal life.

The West African chimpanzees received checks ranging from teeth cleaning to X-rays and pedicures at the Humane World for Animals' Second Chance Chimpanzee Refuge in central Liberia, Liliana Pacheco Ricote, director of the sanctuary, told The Associated Press.

More than 400 of the chimpanzees had been used by American researchers in Liberia in the hepatitis B vaccine experiments from the 1970s until the early 2000s, Ricote said, many of them captured in the wild as infants.

Liberia has the second-highest number of chimpanzees in West Africa, after Guinea. The West African chimpanzees are classified as a critically endangered species because of their rapidly declining numbers.

"They were used in very invasive research ... (and) went through a lot of experiments and pain," Ricote said.

Humane World for Animals said that in 2015, it assumed permanent responsibility for 60 of the chimpanzees that were remaining at the end of the research program. The chimps now mostly live at the sanctuary on a series of mangrove forest-covered islands.

The checks carried out under anesthetic gave the chimpanzees head-to-toe exams to assess their long-term health, detect any early signs of disease and tailor care plans as they age, Humane World for Animals said in a statement to the AP.

The tests included dental examinations, the heart, lungs, and nervous system, as well as blood tests. They get booster vaccinations and fingernail trims, it said, adding that plans are in place to carry out the checks on the remaining ones.

"The health checks are a vital part of caring for these chimpanzees who have been through so much," said Belen Perez Hernando, the sanctuary's veterinarian.

The chimpanzees' experiences in the labs illustrate the broader risks animals face, according to Dr. Mark Ofua, a veterinarian and West Africa representative for the Wild Africa

conservation group. "Animals used in research are rarely the intended beneficiaries, suffering confinement, social disruption, and lasting psychological and physical harm," he said.

Ofua called for strict regulations on animals used for experimental research, adding that reviews have found most chimpanzee experiments "made no significant contribution to developing treatments for human diseases."

The extent of the experiments' impact on the West African chimps, whose average age is 30 to 35, is unclear, as findings from the assessments are yet to be concluded. However, "for those who were under experiments, you could still feel the hurt and the pain that they went through," Ricote said.

"Seeing how much they hurt about what we've done, it gives me a lot of pleasure ... to give them this second chance to live with dignity the life that they deserve," she added.

Also:

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to support Pakistan's livestock industry, the Chinese government has donated 300,000 high-quality doses of vet-

erinary vaccines to Pakistan.

Addressing a handover ceremony held on Wednesday at the National Agricultural Research Center in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, Pakistan's Minister for National Food Security and Research **Rana Tanveer Hussain** said that the veterinary vaccines donated by **China** once again demonstrate the profound friendship between Pakistan and China and the close cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural field.

"Agriculture is the cornerstone of Pakistan's economic development and an important component of the upgraded Version 2.0 of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while livestock farming is an indispensable part of Pakistan's agricultural system," he said.

Speaking highly of China's experience in livestock development, the minister said that Chinese expertise in veterinary services, agricultural research, biotechnology, and animal disease prevention and control is remarkable, while hoping to benefit from it through strengthened bilateral cooperation.



In this handout photo released by Humane World for Animals, a chimpanzee formerly used in research receives a comprehensive health check at a retirement sanctuary for chimpanzees, in Bapakwali, Liberia on Aug 25. (AP)

Medical artificial intelligence field is at a crossroads

AI skin cancer detection tools getting better – but only for people with light skin

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



By Mohamed Akrouit
University of Tennessee

Imagine you're getting out of the shower one morning and you notice a mole on your thigh that you've never seen before. It's reddish brown, bumpy and surprisingly large. Is it a benign mole, or is it melanoma?

A slew of new artificial intelligence tools claim they can help you figure it out. Some are smartphone apps that anyone can download to scan their skin at home, while others are software programs designed to be used directly by clinicians in a doctor's office.

As a computer engineer studying how tools like these perform in real-world clinical settings, I know that finding a way to accurately use AI in dermatology would be immensely valuable to patients around the world. It could offer broad access to medical expertise, providing lifesaving screenings to remote areas or underresourced communities where dermatologists are scarce.

But at the moment, these tools have a crucial shortcoming that researchers will have to resolve: They are increasingly accurate for people with light skin - but they have a massive blind spot when it comes to analyzing darker skin.

The central myth of AI is that it functions objectively. In reality, an AI model is simply a pattern-matching engine. It learns to associate certain visual features with certain diseases.

But it can easily be thrown off by the background color of a person's skin. In other words, the AI model doesn't learn to look at the lesion itself. Instead, it picks up on the color of the surrounding skin as a clue. This means that the model's ability to make accurate predictions essentially degrades to guesses based on skin color.

My colleagues and I found that the ability of these tools to accurately diagnose skin conditions dropped significantly when we simply darkened the surrounding skin on patients' images. We trained an AI model on photographs of known skin conditions in light-skinned patients, then digitally manipulated the images to resemble darker skin tones. The clinical con-

dition in the photo had not changed, but the AI's ability to recognize it deteriorated sharply.

For example, consider a condition such as atopic dermatitis - a chronic, itchy and inflammatory skin disease. It causes a skin discoloration that appears pink on light skin but gray or violet on darker skin. Our research and that of other groups shows that AI models would reliably classify the pink marks but might not identify the darker colors as signs of atopic dermatitis.

This AI classification blind spot means that patients with darker skin would receive measurably worse care. The disparity has critical consequences because skin cancers such as melanoma are visually harder to spot on pigmented skin. Patients of color are already more likely to be diagnosed at a more advanced stage, which leads to significantly lower survival rates. A diagnostic tool that works better for people with lighter skin only widens this gap.

This bias extends beyond tools used by clinicians to more widely used AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT or Claude. The stakes can become higher when people turn to these tools for medical answers without a clinician to double-check the output, making accuracy across all skin tones a matter of patient safety.

In a 2024 study, we presented OpenAI's model, GPT-4, with an image of a completely benign mole. When we digitally darkened the skin around the mole while keeping the mole itself exactly the same, GPT-4 classified the spot as malignant melanoma. Because the skin color is the more prominent feature, the AI became so focused on the dark pigment of the skin that it ignored the standard medical rules used to identify cancer, such as checking whether the mole's borders are irregular.

If a person uses these tools at home, a harmless dark spot might trigger unnecessary panic, while a life-threatening cancer on dark skin could be overlooked.

Why does this bias exist? The answer lies in the images used to train AI models.

Researchers build these AI models by feeding them hundreds of thousands of images pulled from public online libraries of medical photos shared by universities and hospitals.

Historically, these medical databases - as well as dermatology textbooks - have been dominated by images of lighter skin tones. Darker skin images

are relatively rare, in part because clinical norms were developed primarily around white patients. If an AI model is never taught what melanoma looks like on dark skin, it simply won't know how to find it.

To achieve the same accuracy on darker skin as on lighter skin, these models need a more diverse set of images for training. However, while there are millions of photos of light-skinned patients already available in historical databases, gathering a massive new database of real photos from patients of color raises challenging ethical and patient privacy issues.

One way around this privacy hurdle may be to use generative AI - the same technology powering chatbots, which can also be used to make deepfake videos - to artificially generate thousands of synthetic medical images.

Using just text prompts, researchers can create realistic, high-quality images of conditions such as melanoma on darker skin tones. My colleagues and I showed that an AI trained entirely on these synthetic images can learn to correctly categorize data using those images just as well as one trained on real ones.

However, this approach carries a hidden risk: Generative AI models can create high-quality images, but they may not map cleanly onto the characteristics of skin conditions that patients actually experience. This would be like using an inaccurate map to teach someone how to navigate.

If researchers train a diagnostic AI tool on these flawed synthetic images, the data might look perfectly diverse on a spreadsheet, but the tool will remain functionally blind to how these diseases actually appear on real patients of color.

At the moment, there is no shortcut around this problem. The only viable path forward is to build more inclusive and representative collections of images, particularly from people with darker skin tones.

Today, the medical AI field is at a crossroads. While some of these AI skin-scanning tools are already making their way into clinics and app stores for use in the U.S. and around the world, researchers and regulators are already pushing for stricter testing across all skin tones before these tools are widely deployed.

Ultimately, eliminating color-based bias in AI isn't just about fairness, but rather the absolute baseline required to ensure these tools actually work for the people who need them most. (AP)

Florida shows how to adapt as coastal cities face growing threats from sea level rise, storms

WASHINGTON, Sept 6, (AP): One day there was a roof. The next morning it was gone.

Jeffrey Huber still remembers the day some 34 years ago when Hurricane Andrew blew off the roof of his childhood home, one of tens of thousands damaged and destroyed across southern Florida. For days, first responders couldn't get to them. For a month and a half, they relied on food donations. For more than a year, he lived with his family in a trailer.

"It wasn't just about the storm itself, but it was about the aftermath of that storm and how we begin to design for those aspects," said Huber, a landscape architect and professor who was 12 in 1992 when the Category 5 hurricane hit. "We are seeing extreme storms, extreme scenarios like this that are becoming much more common."

Some 129 million people - nearly 40% of the US population - live in coastal counties. Recent research shows that a rise in sea level driven by humans has increased the frequency of extreme coastal flooding around the world.

As climate change threatens communities, Florida is showing how to build to adapt. Throughout the state, architects and designers are merging infrastructure with urban design to create residential buildings, parks and more. The goal is to better withstand rising waters, worsening storms, saltwater intrusion, heat heaves and other climate impacts.

"In places like Miami, we're dealing with a combination of tidal flooding, storm surge and long-term sea level rise," said Huber, professor in the School of Architecture at Florida Atlantic University. "So the question isn't about how we stop water, but it's how we live on, with and over it."

As global average temperatures climb because of fossil fuel emissions, so do sea levels, making low-lying coastal cities vulnerable to flooding.

Frequent flooding and intensifying storm surges got so bad in Miami Beach that when it rained, Anya Freeman rushed home to move her car because her street filled with knee-deep water and she couldn't get car insurance for flooding.

"But nobody was doing anything practical about it," she said. So in 2024, she left behind her career as



Workers install a 3D-printed living seawall manufactured by Kind Designs at the Church by the Sea on Aug 4, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

a lawyer to launch Kind Designs, a startup creating 3D-printed living seawalls to protect shorelines from flooding.

These seawalls are meant to be affordable so they can be scaled, and also serve as marine habitat. They're made faster and with a non-toxic concrete mixture and can be custom shaped for the ecosystems where they're installed. On a recent August day, workers in neon-green shirts and yellow construction hats installed one mimicking mangroves at a waterfront church in Fort Lauderdale, north of Miami.

Traditional seawalls are flat, but theirs can be designed to mimic natural coastal features like the mangrove roots you'd find in Miami or barnacle clusters in New York.

"We have a whole library of designs for different marine habitats, and the point is to attract the native species... create caves where they can hide from predators and also to dissipate waves," she said.

Their technology dissipates at least 45% of wave energy, making it more resilient to overtopping and

erosion. On one wall, researchers from Florida International University identified 51 species living in it one year after installation, including filter feeders like oysters and tubeworms that clean water.

They've since installed 16 living seawalls across Florida for residential, commercial and government clients, she said. Soon they'll put their first ones in California and New York and will be fortifying coastal bases for the U.S. Navy.

The Vista Breeze affordable senior housing project in Miami Beach by the architectural firm Brooks Scarpa Huber is a real-world application of how to live with the threats of water.

The 119-unit, two-building complex is elevated 10 feet (3.05 meters) from sea level and is designed to withstand storm surges of up to 20 feet (6.10 meters). Concrete is mixed with a crystalline, waterproof powder that blocks water from penetrating into it, protecting structures and extending their life. Rebar coated in zinc shields it from rust and corrosion.

They're "some of the most sim-

ple, easy steps and they don't cost that much," said Huber, the project's principal architect. "But they're going to make our buildings more resilient starting up front."

From a heat-mitigation standpoint, the buildings are oriented southeast to the prevailing breezes, passively cooling themselves.

There are also community rooms, courtyards and terraces to promote socializing. The elevators are hidden, and the stairs made prominent to encourage their use.

About 30 miles north, a former parking lot was transformed into a public space that doubles as flood infrastructure. DC Alexander Park in Fort Lauderdale has a 25-foot artistic overlook that provides shade on hot days.

Along the park's perimeter, a native maritime forest absorbs rainfall and saltwater flooding while providing recreational opportunities and species habitat.

These designs build on Huber's research on adapting coastal cities to rising seas, which he wrote about in his 2024 design manual "Salty Urbanism."

5 challenges Congo faces in containing Ebola outbreak

ABUJA, Nigeria, Sept 6, (AP): Authorities in eastern Congo are shifting to a village-centered approach to fight the Ebola outbreak, Africa's top public health agency said Thursday, as the virus continues to spread faster than efforts to track and contain it.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the outbreak has likely not yet peaked. Since it was declared in mid-May, it has spread from three health zones to 60, with 6,250 cases, including 3,039 deaths, government data showed, mostly fueled by insecurity, displacement and intense population movements.

Compared with the outbreak of 2014 to 2016 across West Africa - the deadliest Ebola outbreak on record with more than 11,000 deaths - the current outbreak has recorded six times as many confirmed cases and five times as many deaths, the Africa CDC said.

Here are five areas where Congo's response to the outbreak is still falling short, according to a report this week from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

One major gap in the response is limited community-based surveillance to quickly investigate alerts to be able to detect, track and slow the spread of the virus, the US health agency said.

Delays in detection, reluctance to report cases and inadequate community engagement are contributing to preventable deaths. At least 63% of deaths recorded in the past week occurred outside Ebola treatment centers, Africa CDC data showed.

Authorities are now using a "village-centered approach," working with community leaders to help build trust and improve collaboration with residents, said **Yap Boum**, head of emergency preparedness and response at Africa CDC.

Ituri province, where the outbreak is concentrated, is also at the center of the rebel conflict in eastern Congo, complicating efforts to gain trust from residents. "Building that trust in the middle of an outbreak is quite complex," Boum said.

Quickly identifying and tracing the contacts of those who had come in contact with Ebola patients remains challenging across the six provinces affected.

Although 81% of contacts have been followed up with by surveillance teams, that figure does not reflect the full reality as it only refers to the listed contacts and doesn't include those who have yet to be traced.

Africa CDC estimates that cases confirmed in the last three weeks should have generated 97,600 contacts, based on an average of 60 contacts per confirmed case. Only 19% of those total expected contacts have been traced. Health data shows that treatment centers had expanded capacity to more than 1,300 beds in late August while their occupancy rate is currently at 67% with 869 patients.

However, experts have called for more treatment and isolation centers and beds in affected health zones to prepare for cases that have yet to be detected. Many affected health zones are in areas where cases go undetected or unreported for several reasons, including distrust in health authorities.

Some health zones are also not accessible to surveillance teams or health workers trying to treat patients, said Boum.

Experts also say that laboratory testing capacity needs to be expanded in order to promptly identify cases and treat patients.

The World Health Organization said last month that several treatment and transit centres in Ituri, the outbreak's epicenter, were "saturated" while North Kivu, the second-most affected province, lacked sufficient options to refer patients to specialized facilities.

Health workers at existing treatment centers are also exhausted, said Jeannot Krikejja, who works at an Ebola treatment center in Bunia, Ituri's capital. "Ebola is tiring us all the more because we don't know when this scourge will end. This ordeal is unbearable for me," Krikejja said.

Griezmann leads Orlando City to win over San Diego

Messi logs 2 assists for Inter Miami after international retirement

MIAMI, Sept 6, (AP): Lionel Messi may have retired from international soccer, but he's certainly not done making an impact on the pitch.

Messi had two assists for Inter Miami on Saturday night as his MLS club played Atlanta United to a 2-2 draw in his first match since announcing that his time playing for his native Argentina is done.

Luis Suárez and Casemiro scored for Inter Miami, which is second in the Eastern Conference and 10 points behind first-place Nashville with 11 matches left in the regular season.

Casemiro headed home a corner from Messi to open the scoring in the 32nd minute. Miguel Almirón equalized for Atlanta a couple minutes later before Messi lofted a pass toward Telasco Segovia, who set up Suárez's 12th goal of the season - a right-footed shot from the center of the box just before halftime.

Breel Embolo, converted a penalty in the 87th, and Atlanta withstood a series of last-minute chances by Inter Miami for the draw.

Antoine Griezmann scored in the first half and Maxime Crépeau made it stand up for Orlando City in a 1-0 victory over San Diego FC.

Griezmann used assists from 19-year-old rookie Justin Ellis and Daryl Dike in the 28th minute to give Orlando City the lead. It was the 35-year-old's fifth goal in his first eight MLS matches. It was the eighth assist for Ellis and the first this season for Dike in five appearances.

Crépeau finished with two saves for Orlando City (8-11-4) for his third shutout in 23 starts this season. He has nine shutouts over 157 career starts.

Santiago Rodríguez scored in the first half, Gonzalo Tapia had a goal and an assist after the break, and the Columbus Crew beat the Colorado Rapids 3-0.

Columbus (6-12-5) snapped a four-game losing streak following a 2-1 win over FC Cincinnati to close out July and a 2-2 draw with Inter Miami to start August.

Colorado (10-12-1) dropped to 2-9-1 on the road this season.

Tomas Totland and Conrad Wallem scored four minutes apart in the first half and St. Louis City beat the Vancouver Whitecaps 3-1 to extend its unbeaten streak to 13 games.

St. Louis (10-6-7) secured its first away win against Vancouver in club



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, right, runs with the ball against Atlanta United midfielder Mauricio Amaro, left, during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Miami. (AP)

history to move into a third-place tie with LAFC and Dallas - six points back of the Whitecaps (13-5-4).

Cavan Sullivan scored in a third straight match to become the first teenager with a goal contribution in five straight and the Philadelphia Union beat CF Montreal 2-0 on Saturday night to extend their unbeaten streak to eight.

The 16-year-old Sullivan added an insurance goal - unassisted in the 75th minute for his fourth netter of the campaign.

Marco Reus and Robert Taylor scored first-half goals to back JT Marcinkowski and the Los Angeles Galaxy beat the New England Revolution 2-1.

Reus staked the Galaxy (7-9-8) to

a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute on a penalty kick. The 37-year-old found the net for the fifth time this season and the 11th time in 49 career appearances.

Petar Musa converted a penalty kick in second-half stoppage time for his MLS-leading 18th goal of the season, and FC Dallas beat Sporting Kansas City 4-3 .

Musa moved into a tie with Miami's Lionel Messi in the race for the Golden Boot Award after scoring 18 goals for the second straight season. He's tied for the most single-season goals in club history with Jason Kreis, Kenny Cooper and Jesús Ferreira.

Vincent Janssen scored early in the second half to finish off a hat trick in his first start and fourth MLS appearance, helping the Portland Timbers outlast Minnesota United 5-4 .

Portland (9-10-4) used two goals by Janssen and an own goal by Minnesota United (7-8-8) keeper Drake Callender to jump out to a 3-0 lead in the first 26 minutes.

Houston's Jonathan Bond finished off his seventh clean sheet in his last eight starts as the Dynamo played Kristijan Kahlina and Char-

lotte FC to a scoreless draw.

Seattle's Andrew Thomas and New York's Ethan Horvath combined for 10 saves as the Sounders and Red Bulls played to a 0-0 draw.

Thomas totaled four saves for his sixth clean sheet in his first season replacing mainstay Stefan Frei as the starter.

Defender Guilherme Biro scored in second-half stoppage time as Austin FC played the San Jose Earthquakes to a 1-1 draw.

Austin (6-10-7), which entered the match in 14th place in the Western Conference, is 3-3-2 in league play since the World Cup break.

Derrick Etienne Jr. scored the tying goal in second-half stoppage time and Josh Sargent recorded his first career hat trick as Toronto FC rallied for a 4-4 draw against the Chicago Fire.

Toronto (5-7-11) allowed the first goal and came back to earn at least a draw for the eighth time this season.

Noel Caliskan scored a tying goal on a rebound in the 75th minute and DeAndre Yedlin made a sliding clearance in the 87th to preserve Real Salt Lake's 2-2 draw with LAFC.



South Africa's Jesse Kriel, left, breaks away from New Zealand's Leroy Carter, to score a try during a third international test rugby match between South Africa and New Zealand, in Johannesburg, South Africa. (AP)

Boks on the brink

South Africa outmuscles New Zealand to take lead

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 6, (AP): South Africa imposed its forward power on New Zealand and won a pulsating third test 29-24 to snatch a 2-1 lead in their historic rugby series.

The comeback from losing the first test ensured the Springboks cannot lose the series. They have a chance next Saturday in the fourth and final match in Baltimore to clinch their first series victory over the All Blacks since 1976.

The Springboks didn't lead until an hour in on the back of their influential scrum, then sealed the win with a long, energy-sapping lineup maul that finished with Malcolm Marx diving between the posts and thumping the ground in joy.

For the first time in the series, they matched New Zealand for tries - four each - and Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu replaced injured goalkicker Cheslin Kolbe to land two conversions and a penalty.

His success contrasted starkly with Ruben Love missing seven points off the tee. Also, crucially, New Zealand captain Ardie Savea scored a pair of tries but was lost to injury after 30 minutes, costing the All Blacks their leading physical presence.

They can still rescue a series draw against the pre-tour odds next weekend but they will rue careless errors that gave hope back to South Africa.

A 17-12 lead evaporated when a missed tackle by Leroy Carter allowed South Africa's Jesse Kriel to

stroll in untouched. The two-point lead then became nine with 14 minutes to go. A kick over the deadball line led to the maul and Marx try that energized the Boks in front of their biggest crowd of the tour - 85,976 - while deflating the All Blacks.

"They got on top of us," stand-in skipper Luke Jacobson said. "That lineup maul try ..."

A breathless end-to-end first half finished 12-12.

Feinberg-Mngomezulu was fortunate to concede a yellow card and not a penalty try for a deliberate knockdown in the same New Zealand attack that forced off Kolbe for a head knock.

Moments later, a wrecking ball run by New Zealand hooker Asafo Aumua set up Savea, whose 34th try made him the forward with the most in men's internationals.

South Africa held out with 14 men and managed to score when Damian de Allende gave right winger Kurt-Lee Arendse an overlap try.

Savea's second try featured a big sidestep by Tupou Vaa'i in his 50th test and Savea's skip pass to Carter. Feinberg-Mngomezulu played the ball out of the ruck and Savea swept it up on the run to score.

Five minutes later, Savea was helped off the field, clutching his ribs, bringing in Wallace Sititi, whose sister Amarante also came off the bench and scored in the New Zealand women's 52-20 win over South Africa in the curtain-raiser.

Australia holds off Turkey to reach World Cup final phase

China beats Czech Republic in OT

BERLIN, Sept 6, (AP): Ezi Magbregor scored 21 points as Australia reached the final phase of the Women's Basketball World Cup with a physical 87-71 win over Turkey on Sunday.

Turkey, led by Sevgi Uzun with 24 points, was down 8-0 at the start but fought back after a timeout to lead 15-14. That was brief, however, as the Opals rallied to end the first quarter 21-15 up and they did not relinquish the lead for the rest of the game.

Turkey's Goksen Fitik went off with what appeared to be a right-ankle injury in the third quarter but she returned in the fourth.

The Australian team features seven World Cup debutants. Team captain Sami Whitcomb of the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury had to withdraw before the tournament with a lingering knee injury.

Australia next plays European champion Belgium on Monday in



Japan's Rui Machida guards Germany's Lina Sontag during the Women's Basketball World Cup match between Germany and Japan in Berlin. (AP)

a showdown that will likely decide which team progresses directly to the quarterfinals as group winner. Australia, after two wins, is assured of at least a playoff place in the

final phase of the competition.

Belgium faced Puerto Rico in their second group game later Sunday.

China needed overtime to edge the Czech Republic 74-70 in a thrill-

ing game at the Women's Basketball World Cup on Sunday.

Han Xu scored 22 points and drew China level at 53-53 in the final quarter after her team had trailed for most of the game.

Eliška Joklová put the Czechs 64-59 up with 27 seconds left only for Luo Xinyu to respond with a three-pointer and Yang Shuyu to level at 64-64 with 3 seconds to go. There was still time for Joklová to miss another chance to clinch the win. Joklová had also just missed two free throws before Yang tied it.

Yang also completed the scoring in overtime for China, which failed to get the most from 7-foot-3 Zhang Ziyu. The 19-year-old sensation could only score three points in her second game after 13 on her World Cup debut against the United States on Friday.

China next faces Italy on Monday in a game that will likely decide second place in Group D. The Czech Republic faces elimination after two losses before its final group game against the United States.

Japan's Olympic champion takes silver

China's Yan, Feng win Diamond League titles



Yan Ziyi (right) of China celebrates with her coach Lu Xiurong after winning the women's javelin final and setting a new meeting record at the 2026 World Athletics Diamond League athletics meeting in Brussels. (Xinhua)

BRUSSELS, Sept 6, (Xinhua): China's 18-year-old sensation Yan Ziyi completed a perfect Diamond League season, coming from behind to win the women's javelin with a meeting record of 68.42 meters and secure her first Diamond League Final title.

Her compatriot Feng Bin had won the women's discus a day earlier, meaning China's only two qualifiers at the season finale both left Brussels as champions.

It was Yan's fifth win in as many Diamond League appearances this season. She also swept victories in Xiamen, Oslo, Paris and Monaco, with her winning mark exceeding 67 meters at every meeting.

Yan trailed after three rounds

before moving into the lead in the fourth. She then improved to 68.42m with her fifth attempt to seal the title.

Paris 2024 Olympic champion Haruka Kitaguchi of Japan finished second with a season-best 65.44m, while Colombia's Flor Denis Ruiz Hurtado took third with 64.07m.

Yan threw 71.74m in Xiamen earlier this season to break the Asian, world U20 and Diamond League records. The mark put her second on the women's javelin all-time list, behind only the world record of 72.28m set by Czech veteran Barbora Spotakova in 2008.

Yan emerged as one of the sport's brightest young talents when she won the women's javelin title at the

2024 World Athletics U20 Championships at the age of 16. She has since improved the world U20 record several times.

In Friday's women's discus final, Feng took the lead with 66.67m in the second round before improving to a season-best 67.46m in the fourth to secure her first Diamond League Final title.

Two-time Olympic and reigning world champion Valarie Sion of the United States finished second with 66.92m, falling short in her bid for a sixth consecutive Diamond Trophy. Jorinde van Klippen of the Netherlands placed third with 64.66m.

Feng became the third Chinese athlete to win a Diamond League

Final title after shot putter Gong Lijiao and javelin thrower Lyu Huihui. Yan joined the list as the fourth a day later.

The 2026 Diamond League season lasted 16 weeks and visited 15 cities across four continents. The two-day Final in Brussels featured 32 disciplines.

Under the World Athletics qualification system, Diamond League Final winners qualify automatically for the World Athletics Ultimate Championship. The inaugural edition will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from September 11 to 13, where Yan will contest the women's javelin. Feng will not compete, as the women's discus is not included in the program.

No handshakes as India routs Pak at Women's Asia Cup cricket

DUBAI, Sept 6, (AP): Pakistan stumbled to its lowest-ever score in a Twenty20 international cricket match after being dismissed by India for 55 runs at the Women's Asia Cup in Dubai.

There were no handshakes between players for the two arch-rivals as India went on to win by seven wickets with 68 balls remaining.

Only opening batters Shawaal Zulfiqar (14) and Muneeba Ali (13) got into double figures before Pakistan was bowled out in 18.1 overs after captain Fatima Sana won the toss and chose to bat first. Pakistan collapsed from 27-0 to 35-6.

Spinners Shree Charani (3-7), Prema Rawat (3-9) and Deepti Sharma (2-5) did the damage for India.

Pakistan's previous lowest score was 56 all out in 11.4 overs against New Zealand at the Women's T20 World Cup at the same venue in 2024.

India reached 57-3 in 8.4 overs for its third successive win in the Group A game.

Pakistan still has a chance to advance with a game in hand against Hong Kong.

Change Name

I am SIDI DARBAR VALI HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT NO.P9484709 HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SYED DARBAR SO FROM NOW AND IN FUTURE I WILL BE KNOWN AS SYED DARBAR S/O SYED SIDDIQ HUSSAIN SYED DARBAR S/O SYED SIDDIQ HUSSAIN

Late penalty try earns Australia draw against Argentina and series win

MENDOZA, Argentina, Sept 6, (AP): A penalty try with 10 minutes remaining allowed Australia to claim a frustrating 28-28 draw with Argentina in the second rugby test Saturday and to seal a 1-0 series win.

Australia had leads in both halves but Argentina captain Pablo Matera scored two tries to allow his team to draw level at halftime, then to go ahead for the first time in the 64th minute.

Argentina held on bravely with only 13 men late in the match to deny the Wallabies their fifth-straight test win and their first series sweep in Argentina, though they claimed their first series win after a 27-21 victory in the first test.

Australia will be frustrated it couldn't exploit its numerical advantage to achieve a winning score but it couldn't prise the ball from the Pumas' forwards at the death.

"It's difficult to come here and do what we did but just talking to a couple of the lads, we let them off the hook a couple of times," said Australia head coach Les Kiss who remains unbeaten after four matches in charge.

"We were up two tries to nil in that first half and just gave them field position, gave them opportunity and that brought the crowd back in and brought

energy back into their game. It was always going to be a dogfight from then on in."

Australia made a poor start when winger Filipo Daugunu dropped the opening kickoff to give Argentina an early attacking opportunity which it weathered.

Argentina won the aerial game early and was increasingly able to take advantage of quick set piece: from the

front or off the top of lineups and the second channel ball from scrums.

Australia looked dangerous when it hung on to possession and opened a 14-0 lead after 28 minutes with tries to returning captain Harry Wilson and winger Max Jorgensen.

Wilson scored in the 20th minute after a scrum penalty and strong carries from Rob Valetini, Len Ikitau and Angus Bell.

Zheng stuns Madison Keys with epic US Open comeback

Osaka holds off Mertens

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (AP): Zheng Qinwen was on her back with her arms in the air, celebrating a U.S. Open victory maybe only she believed was possible.

Madison Keys fought off tears as she tried to explain how Zheng, way down and all but out, somehow got the win.

Zheng, the Olympic gold medalist, extended her return to the U.S. Open on Saturday with a spectacular and stunning rally, winning the final seven games to eliminate No. 22 Keys 1-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5.

"I feel like I obviously got off to a really good lead, and then I just got really - I mean, got really scared, like I couldn't swing," Keys said. "I don't know. Tennis just feels really hard right now, so I feel like that kind of took over."

Hours later, 13th-seeded Naomi Osaka joined her in the fourth round by defeating Elise Mertens 6-3, 3-6, 7-5. The two-time champion from Japan put her head on her racket after the final point, stunned herself at the victory.

"Honestly, I can't believe I won this match," Osaka said. "I'm literally shocked that I won this match."

Not quite as big a comeback as Zheng, but Osaka was down 4-2 in the third set and apologized for expressing so much frustration throughout a tough night.

"There was a certain point, I don't know, I felt like I put my entire heart on the court and then I just kept trying every single point," Osaka said.



Zheng Qinwen, of China, reacts to winning the second set during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships against Madison Keys, of the United States in New York. (AP)

"I didn't feel like I played amazing, and it was really getting me down. I was very negative on myself."

Osaka avoided the kind of exit men's No. 9 seed Taylor Fritz endured, blowing a two-set lead and falling to No. 24 Francisco Cerundolo 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

"I don't know how I let that happen today," Fritz said.

Amanda Anisimova, like Fritz and Keys a past runner-up at the U.S. Open, also was knocked out when the No. 10 seed lost to No. 24 Anastasia Potapova 6-2, 7-5. No. 5 Flavio Cobolli, the French Open runner-up, lost in four sets to No. 28 Alexander Blockx to leave the men's draw without six of the top 10 seeds.

Keys won a three-set match in the previous round in a match tiebreaker when she fought off five match points. Two days later came a collapse that was as out-of-nowhere as that comeback.

The 2017 runner-up rebounded after losing the second-set tiebreaker to charge out to a 5-0 lead. Zheng held but Keys had a match point while serving at 5-1, and once she couldn't convert that, the turnaround was on, with Keys at one point banging her racket into her head repeatedly and pulling off her visor in disgust.

"I'm just telling myself keep holding every single point, never give up, stay there and somehow little by little it just happened," Zheng said.

She won the gold medal for China at the 2024 Olympics after reaching the Australian Open final that year, and has been ranked as high as No. 4. But after elbow surgery, she is down to No. 121 and had to go through qualifying just to make the main draw.

"The hard work pays off," said Zheng, who will play 2022 U.S. Open champion Iga Swiatek next.

Coco Gauff, the 2023 U.S. Open champion, beat Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-4. She'll face 18-year-old Iva Jovic in a matchup of young Americans with a spot in the quarterfinals on the line.

"Honestly, I feel like I'm definitely used to getting to Week 2s now because I feel like I woke up today and I was like, 'Oh, we're already in Round 3,'" Gauff said. "So, I think that's a good sign, just feeling like I'm not feeling tired."

Jovic defeated fan favorite Alex Eala of the Philippines 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 in a match that lasted over three hours.



Taylor Fritz, of the United States, returns the ball to Francisco Cerundolo, of Argentina, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

"The level was absolutely incredible from both sides," Jovic said. "We definitely put on a show, and it literally took everything to get through that."

Keys, who won the 2025 Australian Open for her lone Grand Slam title, said she was going to have to make some unspecified changes she has been putting off.

"I think she started playing better; I started playing poorly," Keys said. "Then I felt like I couldn't play tennis anymore, and it just felt like it was a

much bigger deal than just playing a tennis match all of a sudden."

Fritz stormed through his first two rounds, losing a total of 11 games, and there was no hint of trouble when he broke Cerundolo to open the third set. But Cerundolo broke right back and started to feel more comfortable in his first time playing in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I think fourth and fifth I played a really good tennis that I wasn't finding that tennis in the previous sets and the previous rounds," the Argentine said.

Anisimova missed repeated chances by converting just 3 of 16 break-point chances (19%). Potapova, a 25-year-old who was born in Russia but now represents Austria, went 6 for 8 and matched her best showing in a Grand Slam tournament by reaching the fourth round.

Anisimova made the final at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2025, falling to Aryna Sabalenka in Flushing Meadows. But after reach-

ing the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, the American was eliminated in the third round of the last three majors this year.

Potapova will play No. 5 seed Mirra Andreeva, the French Open champion.

Top-seeded man Alexander Zverev, who had to win five-setters in the first two rounds and spent nearly 9 1/2 hours on the court during that time, beat No. 25 seed Alejandro Tabilo 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-2 in the nightcap on Ashe.

Musiala returns for Bayern

Inter rallies past Napoli as Martínez strikes late

MILAN, Sept 6, (AP): Lautaro Martínez struck a second goal in injury time to complete Inter Milan's 3-2 comeback win over title rival Napoli in Serie A, while Jamal Musiala returned to the field for Bayern Munich in a scoreless draw with Schalke.

Musiala played his first minutes in the Bundesliga this season after the Bayern midfielder had collapsed in two preseason games due to a neurological issue which causes seizures.

In Spain, Athletic Bilbao struck three times in the second half to beat Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid 3-0 in La Liga, while Erling Haaland led Manchester City to another victory in the Premier League.

Martínez's goals ensured that Inter kept up its early title defense in Italy with its third straight win to lead the standings.

Napoli looked to be comfortably in charge after Matteo Politano and Rasmus Højlund scored in the 50th and 53rd minutes.

But Martínez pulled one back three minutes later and Marcus Thurman equalized in the 82nd just moments after hitting the post.

Martínez found the winner after Manuel Akanji scrambled a loose ball to him at the far post to poke home, unleashing celebrations at San Siro.

Napoli, under new coach Massimiliano Allegri, has now lost two in a row after falling to Como.

Next up for Inter is a trip to Real Madrid in their Champions League opener on Tuesday.

Musiala went on as a second-half substitute in Bayern's 0-0



Bayern's Tom Bischof, left, and Schalke's Soufiane El-Faouzi battle for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Schalke 04 and Bayern Munich in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. (AP)

draw with Schalke. He had missed the season opener against Stuttgart.

The point was the first Schalke had taken against Bayern since 2017.

Small-town club Elversberg continued a dream start to its first-ever Bundesliga season with another upset win, beating Borussia Mönchengladbach 4-3 with a

stoppage-time winner.

From a town of just 13,000 people, Elversberg stunned another former champion after its win over Bayer Leverkusen last week.

This time, Elversberg did it without coach Vincent Wagner, who was sent off at halftime, only for Maurice Krattenmacher to score the dramatic late winner.

Athletic Bilbao rolled over Atletico Madrid 3-0 with second-half goals from Nico Williams, Robert Navarro and Oihan Sancet.

It was a second straight win for Athletic under its new German coach Edin Terzić.

Also, Sergio Camello netted twice to lead Rayo Vallecano to a 3-2 victory over Racing Santander.

Al-Nassr sets historic scoring record despite Al-Ittihad loss

RIYADH, Sept 6: Al-Nassr made history despite suffering a 2-1 defeat to Al-Ittihad in the fifth round of the Saudi Roshn League, scoring for a record 92nd consecutive league match.

Angelo Gabriel netted Al-Nassr's only goal, extending the Riyadh club's remarkable scoring streak to 92 games — the longest in the history of the competition.

The last time Al-Nassr failed to score was on December 1, 2023, when it was beaten 3-0 by traditional rival Al-Hilal.

The defeat also ended Ange Postecoglou's perfect start as Al-Nassr coach. The Australian had guided the team to victories in its opening four league matches and their King's Cup Round of 32 ties before Al-Ittihad halted its winning run.

Despite the setback, the opening five-match run marked the best start of Postecoglou's coaching career at a club.

The 61-year-old had endured early defeats during previous coaching spells. While in charge of South Melbourne, he lost his opening match against Brazilian side Vasco da Gama at the 2000 Club



Al-Nassr coach Ange Postecoglou

World Cup. Later, during his time at Greek club Panachaiki, he suffered a 4-0 defeat to Kastoria in his second match in charge.

In today's Roshn League action, Al-Hilal hosts Neom, while Al-Khaleej takes on Al-Riyadh.

Embattled Infantino to seek re-election as FIFA President

ZURICH, Sept 6: FIFA President Gianni Infantino will seek re-election for another term in 2027 despite mounting pressure



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

from several quarters, a FIFA spokesperson confirmed.

"FIFA's president announced in April that he would stand for re-election in 2027. Nothing has changed. Mr. Infantino will run for re-election," the spokesperson said.

Infantino declined to comment on his future while attending the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Poland two days ago, saying he would address the issue at the appropriate time and place.

The FIFA president has come under criticism over plans that were eventually abandoned to sell stakes in major FIFA competitions, including the World Cup, to private investors.

UEFA, which has threatened to boycott FIFA events, is preparing legal action and has called for Infantino to resign.

Infantino, who has led FIFA since 2016, is also facing opposition from other continental confederations, including the Asian Football Confederation and CONCACAF, which represents North and Central America and the Caribbean.

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NEWS



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal falls while challenging Valencia's Jose Gaya during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Valencia and Barcelona in Valencia, Spain. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait handball team steps up preparations for Asian Games

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Kuwait's senior national handball team is stepping up preparations for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with the tournament scheduled for September 19 to October 4.



In this file photo, Kuwait handball players celebrate after winning bronze in 2023 Asian Games bronze.

The Blues will travel to Japan next Wednesday for their final overseas training camp before beginning their Asian Games campaign.

Kuwait will look to build on its bronze-medal success at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games, where the

team defeated Japan in the third-place playoff.

The draw placed Kuwait in Group B alongside Bahrain, South Korea, Iran and Kazakhstan. The Blues will open their campaign against Iran on September 19, followed by matches against South Korea on September 21, Kazakhstan on September 22 and Bahrain on September 25.

The Kuwait Handball Federation has expressed its full backing for the national team and wished the players success as they seek to represent Kuwaiti handball with distinction.

Kuwait recently returned from Slovenia after completing an overseas training camp that included several friendly matches in a tournament, along with games against Slovenian league champions Celje and clubs Istria, Gradis, Trimo Trebnje and Zagreb.

The team will continue its preparations in Kuwait until next Wednesday before heading to Japan for the final stage of its Asian Games buildup.



Sheikh Jaber Athbi Al-Sabah on the podium with other winners.

Sheikh Jaber takes third in British Formula 4 race

LONDON, Sept 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti racer Sheikh Jaber Athbi Al-Sabah finished third in the seventh round of the Formula 4 (F4) Championship at Croft Circuit in the United Kingdom on Sunday.

Speaking to KUNA, Sheikh Jaber said the rainy conditions made the race particularly challenging and affected his performance. Despite the difficult circumstances, he managed to secure a podium finish with third place.

He said there is still an opportunity to achieve better results before the end of the season, stressing that doing so will require strong mental preparation, sustained concentra-

tion and a high level of physical fitness. He also praised his technical team for its efforts in improving these areas.

Sheikh Jaber reaffirmed his determination to continue fighting for podium finishes and raise Kuwait's flag at international events. He said he hopes to demonstrate the ability of Kuwaiti drivers to compete with the world's top racers, having already shared the podium with several of them and aiming to outperform them in future races.

Sunday's race was the first of the season to be held in rainy conditions. Sheikh Jaber also won first place in the rookie category.

Antonelli wins Italian Grand Prix after epic charge from the back

MONZA, Italy, Sept 6, (AP): Kimi Antonelli took a big step to becoming the youngest champion in Formula 1 history with a fightback for the ages at his home grand prix on Sunday.

Antonelli stormed to victory at the Italian Grand Prix, despite having started 19th on the grid. It took the Mercedes driver fewer than 17 laps to fight his way to the front.

The rest of the race was spent tussling with teammate and title rival George Russell for the lead. Antonelli passed him for the final time with three laps remaining, going on to become the first Italian to win at Monza in 60 years.

It feels like a dream," Antonelli said on team radio after crossing the line.

"I did not expect it," Antonelli said later. "Unbelievable, unbelievable. I am so happy, I could not have imagined to be here today but we managed to pull it off and I am really, really happy."

It was the second furthest back anyone has come from to win a grand prix. John Watson won at Long Beach in 1983 despite starting 22nd.

Antonelli's triumph at least gave the crowd something to cheer about after Ferrari's Charles Leclerc crashed out of the scuderia's home race early on. In the other Ferrari, Lewis Hamilton finished sixth.



Mercedes driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli of Italy celebrates on the podium after winning the Italian Formula One Grand Prix race, in Monza, Italy. (AP)

Max Verstappen was a distant third behind the two Mercedes, just ahead of the McLaren duo of defending champion Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

It was Antonelli's seventh win of the season - and his fledgling F1 career - and extended his lead in the overall standings to 66 points ahead of Russell.

Russell had been hoping to make up some ground on Antonelli in the title race after his teammate took on a hefty grid penalty at Monza after Mercedes opted to swap his car's power unit.

The British driver started second and got ahead of surprise pole-sitter Pierre Gasly at the start of the second lap.

Moments later the race was red-flagged after Leclerc lost control coming out of Parabolica at the end of Lap 2 and swerved off into the barriers at high speed. He got out of his car and sat down near the track, looking heartbroken.

The hordes of passionate, red-clad tifosi around the track looked similarly despondent, with many in tears.

By that point Antonelli was already up to 12th and, when the race resumed, he continued to slice through the field.

The Mercedes duo were told off by their team as they yo-yoed for the lead and instructed to build a gap over Verstappen before fighting it out for the victory.

Antonelli was brought into the pits under the virtual safety car on lap 29, while Russell stayed out. Antonelli came out in sixth but, with fresh tires, started reeling Russell in for the second time in the race.

"To be honest, I thought we were both going to stay out," Russell said. "I was surprised to see him pitting."

"In the end it was a roll of the dice both ways. In the moment, the team wouldn't have known which strategy was better, made sense to split the car. In the end Kimi had great pace."

Arsenal fights back to beat Chelsea as Man United drops more points

Odegaard strikes winner



Chelsea's Romeo Lavia, right, challenges for the ball with Arsenal's Bukayo Saka during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Chelsea in London. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 6, (AP): Arsenal passed the biggest test of its Premier League title defense so far by rallying to a 2-1 win against Chelsea on Sunday.

Martin Odegaard struck a 50th-minute winner at the Emirates Stadium after Morgan Rogers had given Chelsea an early lead.

Kai Havertz equalized in the first

half for Arsenal, which has a 100% record after three games and moved level at the top of the standings with Manchester City.

Manchester United's difficult start to the season continued with a 2-2 draw at Everton, despite twice leading at Hill Dickinson Stadium.

Ainsley Maitland-Niles struck in added time to rescue a 2-2 draw for Everton against United.

The deadline day signing came off the bench to make his debut and curled a bril-

liant long-range shot into the top corner to salvage a point for his new club.

United twice led at Hill Dickinson Stadium through goals from Bryan Mbeumo and Benjamin Sesko, who looked to have scored the winner in the 88th. But Everton had an answer on both occasions, with Tyrrique George also scoring.

"Everybody wants to start off like that," Maitland-Niles said. "The ball fell to me on the edge of the box. I put my foot through it, it ended up in the

top corner, which I'm happy about."

It was another setback for United, which has just one win from its opening three games of the season after a loss to Hull and victory against Ipswich.

Defensive frailties cost United again as it conceded two goals for the third game running.

Mbeumo fired United in front straight after halftime with a low shot into the far corner. George lashed in a near-post equalizer in the 83rd, but substitute Sesko headed United back in front.

Kuwait squash season to begin Sept 13 as federation unveils calendar

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Kuwait Squash Federation has outlined its plans for the 2026-2027 season during a coordination meeting with representatives of local clubs.

Federation Secretary-General and Competitions Committee Chairman Hamed Al-Omran chaired the meeting, which was attended by Competitions Committee member Abdulhadi Al-Aryan and representatives of 12 of the 14 clubs.

Al-Omran presented the new season calendar, which will run from September 13 until May 20, 2027. The season will open with

the postponed Federation Cup from last season, a 12-day tournament, followed immediately by the National Singles Championship.

The meeting also addressed several proposals, including a plan to reopen registration for foreign players after the practice was suspended for four years. Under the proposal, each club would be permitted to register one foreign player born in Kuwait.

Al-Omran said the proposal would be referred to the Competitions Committee for further consideration before being submitted to the federation's board for a final decision. He said the



Members pose for a group photo after the coordination meeting.

objective was to support the clubs and strengthen the level of domestic competition.

He added that the Federation Cup draw will be held at the federation's headquarters this week and will feature seven age categories, including the women's category.

Meanwhile, Al-Omran announced the return of Kuwait Club's women's team to domestic competition after a two-season absence. Their comeback is expected to add further competition to the local tournaments, especially after the White won both the league and cup titles during the inaugural women's season six years ago.