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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

BY following up the internal situation in Iran through opposition sources and local media, we will notice that much of what is said by some of the supporters of the regime on Arab TV channels, or elsewhere, attempts to paint a rosy picture and reinforce the myth of Iranian resilience in the minds of people abroad. They also deify the ruling elite. Undoubtedly, these attempts

are the predictable outcome for those trying to identify with their patrons.

However, the reality is the opposite of what these individuals portray, according to the daily reality in Iran itself, especially since the economic crisis has reached unprecedented levels. Despite this, some figures insist on denying reality, because they benefit from embellishing the image of the regime.

The Iranians seen on television accurately depict the Persian political personality, which exaggerates national pride through fabrication and weaving imaginary stories that contradict reality, particularly after the events last January and the crisis the Iranian people are suffering today.

This is not surprising, as this behavior has been an integral part of the Persian character for centuries.

In Iranian tradition, there was a dialogue between two Iranians during the reign of Cyrus the Great, the

first Persian king (560-529 BCE).

When the kingdom lost its first battle at the Syr Darya River in Central Asia, one asked the other, "Who is the true Persian?"

The other replied, "A true Persian is one who speaks about one thing publicly, while thinking of another, harboring a third thought in his heart, and keeping a fourth item in his pocket related to his interests. Moreover, he has a backup plan as the fifth option if all other plans fail." In spite of these qualities, the empire lost the battle that signaled the end of the rule of Cyrus.

Therefore, if we look at the prevailing political reality in the region since 1979, we observe that this complex, pragmatic personality is at the heart of the ideology of the current Iranian regime. The regime's leaders say one thing, while meaning the opposite. They aim to achieve one thing, while focusing on maintaining

power in their country.

The truth cannot be obtained from TV channels that rely on the opinions of certain Iranians, or their cronies, but rather from the daily reality. Some Iranian senior officials have started to openly admit that there is a major internal crisis.

This is what former President Hassan Rouhani, Mohammad Khatami, and even incumbent President Masoud Pezeshkian stated, and what the domestic opposition media outlets are reporting.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Mashaan chairs Kuwait's delegation at the Arab League Council's 166th ministerial session and consultative meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo.

Kuwait presses Arab League on Iran threat

CAIRO, Sept 7, (KUNA): Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan chaired Monday Kuwait's delegation participating in the consultative meeting of Arab foreign ministers and the 166th regular session of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level, held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

The two meetings discussed the latest regional developments, efforts to enhance security and stability in the region, ways to support joint Arab action, and issues on the agenda.

In Kuwait's address before the Arab League Council, Al-Mashaan affirmed Kuwait's steadfast position in confronting Iranian aggression and attacks by its proxies, stressing the country's determination to safeguard its security and sovereignty.

He renewed Kuwait's full solidarity with brotherly and friendly countries subjected to such attacks, calling for a unified, clear and firm Arab position against attacks on Arab states, regardless of their source.

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30-day countdown for 'above-67' co-op staff

Age rule fuels fresh Kuwaitization drive

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ministry of Social Affairs has called on cooperative societies and unions to compile lists of employees who are 67 years old and above and terminate their services in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations and decisions, while ensuring that all their financial and employment entitlements are disbursed.

According to sources, the ministry contacted the Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies and requested it to send a memo to the boards of directors of cooperative societies, urging them to expedite the necessary procedures.

This is part of the initiatives of the ministry to support Kuwaitization plans in the cooperative sector and regulate the status of employees.

Sources pointed out that the memo is in line with the efforts of the ministry to develop the cooperative sector, raise the efficiency of human resources, and generate opportunities for qualified young Kuwaiti talent in order to realize the goal of the country to develop human capital and the Kuwait Vision 2035 objectives.

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PAMA hosts 'Back to School 2026-2027' event at The Avenues Mall for minors under its care and their families, as part of the government's family protection programme. - See Page 4

KUNA photo



Documenting history of Kuwait will enlighten next generations: Al-Jarba



ABK returns as platinum sponsor of Baiti Exhibition for second consecutive year



stc Kuwait concludes participation in the 5th edition of LEAP 2026 in Riyadh

KFH wins seven prestigious Human Resources awards for 2026

Day by Day

IN some Muslim societies, there are those who want people to lead a Western lifestyle while obtaining the same rewards as the Companions of the Prophet Muhammad (May Allah be pleased with them), arguing that God is forgiving and merciful.

These people try to make their societies live a life of ease while still being regarded as fully committed.

Indeed, God is forgiving and merciful, but it depends on intentions; intention is what matters. When someone is overwhelmed by problems, they raise their voice, forgetting God's power and complaining loudly. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Defense Ministry gets two new asst. undersecretaries

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (Agencies): Two Amiri Decrees were is-

sued Monday, appointing Dr. Wael Nasser Al-Sabah and Dr. Anoud Saleh Al-Turaihan as Assistant Undersecretaries at the Ministry of Defense.

The decrees tasked the Minister of Defense with implementing their provisions.

The decrees shall take effect from the date of issuance and will be pub-

lished in the Official Gazette.

Meanwhile, a decree published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm" on Sunday renewed the appointment of Sheikh Sabah Ahmed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah as Assistant Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers, with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary, for a four-year term, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr. Wael Nasser with implementing their provisions.



Dr. Anoud Saleh General of the Council of Ministers, with the rank of Assistant Undersecretary, for a four-year term, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Four-day registration window opens

12 schools set for new 'Masar' system

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ministry of Education announced the opening of online registration for students wishing to enroll in the course system through the "Masar" platform, available on the ministry's website, from September 7 to September 10, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that registration is open to students who passed Grade 9 in the first round of exams and to Grade 10 students only.

Registration begins with the submission of an online application. Admitted students will be assigned to a school according to their educational zone and the approved distribution of schools designated to implement the "Masar" course system.

The ministry emphasized that submitting an application does not guarantee final acceptance into the "Masar" course system, as applicants must continue their regular academic year at their current schools until the admission procedures are completed and the results are announced.

It indicated that 12 secondary schools have been designated to implement the "Masar" course system, with two

schools in each educational zone - one for boys and one for girls, covering all six educational zones.

The ministry explained that the schools designated for the new system are:

- Abdullah Al-Otaibi High School for Boys and Jumana Bint Abi Talib School in the Capital Educational Zone
- Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah High School for Boys and Salwa High School for Girls in the Hawally Educational Zone
- Ibn Al-Ameed High School for Boys and Umm Al-Alaa Al-Ansariya High School in the Ahmadi Educational Zone
- Aqab Al-Khatib High School for Boys and Taima High School for Girls in the Jahra Educational Zone
- Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah High School for Boys and Al-Adan High School for Girls in the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone.

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Cassation court overturns 14 acquittals, jails ex-MPs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The First Circuit of the Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Sultan Boursli, issued final rulings in several cases related to charges of challenging the rights and powers of His Highness the Amir, spreading false news, and the biometric fingerprint case involving a number of former members of parliament and others, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court sentenced several former MPs to prison, including Muhannad Al-Sayer, Saleh Al-Mulla, and Bader Al-Dahoum.

The court overturned the acquittals of 14 defendants in the biometric fingerprint case, convicting them and refraining from imposing sentences on some of them.

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Kuwait swelters on through Thursday

Kuwait is expected to see hot and humid weather through Thursday, with fog reducing visibility in some areas, particularly along the coast, the Meteorology Department said Monday.

Acting Director Dherar Al-Ali told KUNA that southeasterly winds would be light to moder-

ate at 8-35 km/h.

Low and medium clouds are expected to increase from Tuesday evening through Thursday, with a chance of scattered light rain in some areas.

Temperatures are forecast to reach highs of 43-46 C and lows of 29-32 C. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

A sweltering haze blurs Kuwait City's skyline as humid conditions cut horizontal visibility.



Amir congratulates Brazil President on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable to President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the President of Brazil good health and well-being, and for Brazil and its people progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince congratulates

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

President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the President of Brazil good health and well-being.

Kuwait PM congratulates Brazil on Nat'l Day

Prime Minister congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

Call to tackle cyber threat

Smart-cities risk grows: experts

SALALAH, Oman, Sept 7, (KUNA): Two members of Hawalli Governorate Council stressed Sunday the importance of addressing growing cyber risks targeting smart-city infrastructure, including water, energy, transportation and surveillance systems, underscoring the need for appropriate institutional and legal frameworks to confront potential threats.

Session

They made the remarks during a scientific session titled "Cybersecurity for Smart Cities: From Technical Risks to Legal and Institutional Response," presented by Dr. Fay bin Salama and Hadeel Maarefi on the sidelines of the 64th Executive Council meeting and 20th General Conference of the Arab Cities Organization, being held in Salalah.

Bin Salama reviewed technical risks and broader cyber threats. At the same time, lawyer Hadeel Maarefi addressed the legal aspects, discussing national legislation and Arab and international frameworks for judicial cooperation in this field.

Speaking to KUNA about the importance of participating in the Arab gathering, Bin Salama said it was particularly significant as a platform for unifying Arab perspectives on digital and urban transformation issues, as well as an opportunity to highlight Kuwait's experience in this field.

She added that engaging with specialists and officials from Arab municipalities, governorates and cities would help build partnerships in innovation and urban sustainability.

Bin Salama expressed hope that the Arab Cities Organization's General Conference, scheduled for Monday, would produce practical and applicable recommendations, foremost among them adopting unified Arab guidelines for cybersecurity in smart cities and strengthening mechanisms for exchanging expertise and early warnings among member cities.

Regarding the role of Kuwait's governorates in urban development, she said members of governorate councils play a pivotal role in monitoring infrastructure and local service projects and aligning them with modern trends in innovation and sustainability, thereby enhancing quality of life and supporting Kuwait Vision 2035.

In turn, Maarefi said that participation in the Arab gathering reflected a commitment to keeping pace with common urban issues among Arab countries and exchanging development expertise and experiences in a manner that contributes to improving municipal and local services.

In her scientific paper, she called for legal and institutional frameworks and an integrated package of legislation to protect digital infrastructure, safeguard privacy, and secure data flows while considering various rights, foremost among them human rights.

The Arab Cities Organization (ACO) held its 64th Executive Council meeting on Monday in Salalah, Oman, with the participation of delegations from Arab municipalities and cities, including Kuwait Municipality headed by Director General Manal Al-Asfour.

The meeting was chaired by Dhofar Municipality Chairman Dr. Ahmed Al-Ghassani, who is also chairman of the current session, in the presence of ACO Secretary General Bader Al-Ajeel of Kuwait.

The meeting coincides with the organization's 20th General Conference, sched-



KUNA photo
Dr. Fay bin Salama and Hadeel Maarefi

uled for Tuesday under the theme "More Innovative and Sustainable Cities."

The Executive Council meeting, held annually, discussed issues related to the organization's programs, activities and plans, constituting an important organizational milestone in its work.

The meeting is expected to strengthen coordination among member cities and follow up on issues related to Arab municipal affairs and emerging challenges, including urban planning, the environment, climate change, transportation, water, waste management and urban development.

Headquartered in Kuwait, the ACO is organizing the 64th Executive Council meeting and 20th General Conference in cooperation with Dhofar Municipality, with delegations from 22 Arab countries participating.

Workshops and scientific sessions were held on the sidelines of the meetings, addressing smart cities, cybersecurity and the future of sustainable urban mobility in Arab cities. Academics and specialists took part, including Dr. Fi Ban Salama and Hadeel Maarefi, members of Hawalli Governorate Council.

Dialogue sessions will also be held on enhancing the role of ACO institutions in empowering Arab cities and developing an Arab agenda for urban development, with the participation of officials from relevant Arab organizations and participating city leaders.

The Arab Cities Organization was established in 1967 as an independent regional Arab organization of a non-governmental and non-profit nature concerned with cities and municipalities in Arab countries.

The organization comprises 22 Arab countries and more than 650 member cities, and oversees seven institutions: the Arab Cities Development Fund, Arab Urban Development Institute, Arab Towns Organization Award Foundation, Arab Urban Environment Center, Arab Smart Cities Forum, Arab Heritage and Historic Cities Foundation, and Arab Cities Cultural Work Group.

Governance

The organization works to develop urban governance, strengthen integration among members, encourage the exchange of expertise and best practices, and provide scientific solutions supporting sustainable urban development across the Arab world.

Its strategic areas include heritage and identity, through preserving urban and cultural character and integrating it into contemporary development; sustainability, through balanced growth that takes into account economic, social and environmental dimensions; and urban governance, through modernizing administrative and digital systems and enhancing the efficiency of local governance.

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:09	Asr	15:18
Sunrise ..	05:29	Maghrib ..	18:03
Zohr	11:46	Isha	19:23



Photo by Samer Shqair

Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah welcomes researcher Fahad Faris Al-Jarba. Fahad Al-Rish, Dalal Al-Saif and colleague Bassam Al-Qassas were also present at the meeting.

Documenting history of Kuwait will enlighten next generations: Al-Jarba

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah met with history and political researcher Fahad Faris Al-Jarba, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting tackled the importance of documenting the history of Kuwait by preserving the documents and sources that chronicle its events, milestones and prominent figures.

During the meeting, Al-Jarba announced that he is dedicating his historical work on the 'Red Palace' to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people, in recognition of Kuwait's history and in an effort to preserve its national memory for future generations.

Al-Jarba said the work is the result of his interest in documenting historical facts related to Kuwait and consulting documents and sources that help present events accurately and in a reli-

able manner, thereby, safeguarding the history of the country and immortalizing prominent figures.

He explained that his efforts in this field will extend beyond the 'Red Palace' project, disclosing that he is currently examining, reviewing and verifying the contents of a number of historical documents and sources in preparation for their approval by the Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait (CRSK), so that they can contribute to the existing body of sources documenting the history of the country.

He stressed that documenting history is a responsibility that requires accuracy and careful verification, particularly when dealing with historical documents and information.

He underscored the importance of passing this history on to future generations in a reliable manner that preserves the truth of events and the standing of the figures who played a vital role in Kuwait's history.

He expressed his appreciation for Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers for supporting

the project since its inception, while praising Al-Jarallah's interest in initiatives and efforts that serve history, and contribute to preserving and highlighting national memory.

He also conveyed his gratitude to Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Rish for supporting the project from its early stages and for recognizing the importance of documenting Kuwait's history.

He added that his achievements in this field is part of an ongoing effort to preserve documents and the history of the nation, and pass them on to the future generations, ensuring that local events and prominent figures remain in the national memory.

Meanwhile, Al-Jarallah commended the project, specifically the efforts to document an important aspect of the history of Kuwait.

He stressed the importance of supporting initiatives that preserve documents and national memory and present them in a properly documented manner, befitting the history and prominent figures of the country.

Other Voices

Freedom of opinion and the limits of law

A recent Court of Cassation ruling brings an important question into focus: where does protected opinion end and legal responsibility begin?

By Dr Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb
Managing Partner, Taher Group Law Firm
Fawaz@tahergp.org

Freedom of opinion is a constitutional right guaranteed to every person in Kuwait. Article 36 of the Constitution protects freedom of opinion and the right to express and publish it, subject to the conditions established by law. Those words reflect an important balance at the heart of any society governed by the rule of law: freedom must be protected, but its exercise also carries responsibility.

That balance has come into renewed focus following a recent ruling by Kuwait's Court of Cassation concerning statements published on social media. The significance of the ruling goes beyond the individuals involved or the particular facts of the case. It raises a question relevant to every citizen, journalist, lawyer and social-media user: when are we expressing a protected opinion, and when can what we publish cross into the sphere of legal accountability?

The distinction is important. Criticizing a decision, questioning a policy or expressing disagreement is not conceptually the same as disseminating information presented as fact. In its reasoning, the Court distinguished permissible criticism - the expression of an opinion concerning an issue or action - from the dissemination of false or malicious news, statements or rumours concerning the country's internal affairs where the legal elements of the offense are established. The Court also

addressed criminal intent, making the state of mind accompanying publication part of the legal analysis.

This distinction deserves attention because freedom of opinion and legal responsibility are not opposing principles. The existence of legal boundaries does not erase the constitutional right, just as invoking freedom of opinion does not automatically remove responsibility where the elements of a criminal offense are established. The real legal question is therefore not whether freedom of opinion exists - it unquestionably does - but whether the particular expression remains within its lawful exercise.

This question has become considerably more important in the digital age. A statement that once might have been heard by a handful of people can now reach thousands within seconds. A post can be copied, forwarded, translated and circulated far beyond its original audience. Almost every smartphone has become a publishing platform. With that power comes a simple principle that deserves greater public awareness: the wider the reach, the greater the responsibility.

That should not discourage legitimate criticism. Responsible criticism can expose weaknesses, challenge assumptions and contribute to better decisions and stronger institutions. We can disagree firmly without attacking others, question actions without abandoning objectivity, and participate ac-

tively in public debate while respecting the law. Responsible opinion builds; objective criticism elevates dialogue.

The practical lesson is therefore not to speak less, but to publish more consciously. Before posting, we should distinguish between opinion and allegation, between criticism and assertion of fact, and between information we believe to be true and information we have actually verified. The greater our ability to communicate, the greater our responsibility to understand the legal consequences that may accompany publication.

This is also why legal awareness matters. The role of law should not begin only when a dispute reaches the courtroom. People should understand both the rights the Constitution guarantees and the responsibilities the law imposes, so that they can participate in public life confidently, constructively and lawfully.

Freedom of opinion is a constitutional right. It is not absolute, and it is exercised within the framework established by law. Responsible opinion builds, objective criticism elevates public dialogue, and when expression crosses the boundaries established by law, it enters the sphere of legal accountability.

In an age when every individual can become a publisher, the principle is perhaps clearer than ever: the greater the freedom to communicate, the greater the responsibility to communicate wisely.

May God protect Kuwait, its people and its leadership, preserve its security and unity, and keep our country prosperous - a nation where rights are protected, responsibilities are understood and the rule of law brings both together.

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

GTD nabs three drifters as their vehicles seized

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry continued its campaign to strictly enforce the law against reckless drivers, leading to the arrest of three individuals who were transferred to the Central Prison and whose vehicles were impounded.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that the department took this action after the release of a video showing the reckless and irresponsible driving behavior of the apprehended individuals.

The ministry indicated that officers from the Security Control Unit in the department made the arrest, as the three individuals endangered their lives and that of other road users due to their irresponsible behavior on the road.

It affirmed that the arrest was based on a video of the incident and the investigation, which led to identifying the suspects, initiating legal proceedings against them, and transferring them to the Central Prison.

It added that the vehicles of the arrested individuals were impounded as per the court order to confiscate them, pursuant to Article 33bis of the Traffic Law.

The department warned that reckless and negligent behavior will not go unpunished, and that anyone endangering the lives of road users are subject to legal action.

Ruling overturned as court finds man visually impaired

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Court of Appeals overturned the ruling of a lower court and decision of the Technical Committee at the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) regarding the disability of a citizen.

The court granted the citizen, who is covered by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law, a certificate confirming that his visual impairment is moderate and permanent.

The appellant filed a case through his lawyer, Attorney Ali Jawhar, demanding for the annulment of the decision of the committee, which concluded that his condition is not a disability. He explained that he suffered from certain eye conditions and diseases that resulted in the loss of vision.

Jawhar insisted on annulling the contested decision and its consequenc-

es, based on medical reports that confirmed the nature of his client's health condition.

The lower court had earlier dismissed the case, but the Court of Appeals found that this ruling is not in accordance with the law.

Based on the report of the appointed medical committee, the Court of Appeals confirmed that the visual acuity of the appellant did not exceed the ability to count fingers with both eyes and that his condition could not be improved by any intervention. The Court of Appeals concluded that his condition is classified as moderate visual impairment.

The court canceled the appealed judgment and the contested decision in order to include the appellant among those covered by Law No. 8/2010, open a file for him at PADA, and grant him a certificate of moderate and permanent visual impairment.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Positives and negatives of the Kuwaiti cabinet

“THE achievements of the Cabinet as a whole, or of individual ministers, are met with praise and appreciation from citizens, who also comment on negative decisions and highlight aspects that may harm them.” columnist Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“This society is vibrant and responsive to events, evaluating matters based on their benefit to the nation. Citizens reacted positively to several recently announced achievements, including the long-awaited announcement of the imminent opening of Terminal 2 (T2) at Kuwait International Airport. We await the announcement of which international airlines will resume operations at the new airport and whether those that previously left will return.



Adel Al-Kharafi

“Citizens have followed the achievements of the Ministry of Education, including its educational reforms. These achievements deserve commendation. The Ministry of Interior is making tremendous efforts that are felt by the public. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry also deserves thanks and praise for its positive impact on society. Everyone is witnessing the exceptional activity of the Ministry of Justice, exemplified by legislative amendments and the enactment of laws that serve citizens, protect freedom of expression, and support the development of the state in line with the continuous changes the world is witnessing.

“The Ministry of Public Works, under the leadership of Minister Noura Al-Mashaan, is making tremendous efforts. Everyone is witnessing the clear improvement in the condition of streets and roads, which has covered most areas of Kuwait. I would like to express my appreciation to the Ministry of Public Works, even though my residential area was among the last to have its streets repaired. The oil sector has also witnessed several achievements, including the announcement of major tenders and massive projects.

“Naturally, everyone has noticed the efforts of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, and other security sectors, which have exerted considerable effort in recent months. No one can ignore the achievements of the government. However, there are some negative aspects that deserve discussion. I will not mention them in this article, perhaps in a future one. The Ministry of Health has taken a number of positive measures and decisions. One of the most important is the reduction in the prices of many medications. This decision deserves praise for its direct positive impact on citizens.

“However, I would like to point out an issue concerning delays in medical appointments, especially for the elderly. I previously wrote about the cancellation of the Afia health insurance system for the elderly. I have called for greater attention to be paid to this group, given their greater need for healthcare. I reiterate this request so that retirees and the elderly are not forced to remain on waiting lists for extended periods. Waiting times at outpatient clinics continue to be lengthy, especially since the elderly often have health problems, and some are given appointments three months or more in advance.

“For example, in the past six months, a friend of mine with heart problems was given an appointment more than a month later, despite his clearly poor health. When his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to the emergency room, where he barely received treatment. Another example is an elderly man with a hand injury who was given an appointment three months later for treatment, despite the considerable efforts of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, and the ministry’s staff.”

Also:

“In our time, the media is no longer merely a means of transmitting news, but it has become an influential force in shaping public opinion, raising awareness, and drawing attention to issues that concern societies.” Kuwaiti writer Lawyer Abdullah Fallah Al-Hajri wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“With the tremendous digital revolution and the proliferation of smartphones and social media platforms, information reaches recipients within seconds, transcending geographical and temporal boundaries. This has created a new media reality based on speed and constant competition. Despite the significant advantages of the digital revolution, which has accelerated access to information, it has also created new and effective challenges.

“As news agencies race to be the first to provide information, accuracy has sometimes fallen victim to speed, while rumors and misinformation can spread like wildfire. Therefore, the success of a media agency is no longer measured solely by the speed of publication, but also by its ability to provide reliable content based on facts and verified sources. This underscores the importance of professional media, which balances the public’s right to know with a commitment to credibility. Responsible media does not merely report events but also interprets them within their context and presents diverse viewpoints, away from exaggeration that could mislead

the audience or exacerbate crises.

“Words and images now carry greater responsibility, as their impact can extend to social, economic, and political security. This responsibility does not rest solely with media institutions but also includes the audience, who have become partners in the dissemination process through sharing and commenting on news. Conscious engagement with content and verifying its accuracy before publication have become essential requirements of digital citizenship, especially given the increasing attempts at disinformation and the exploitation of cyberspace to spread fake news.

“In this fast-paced age, the media faces a true test: maintaining public trust amid a massive influx of information. This trust is not built solely on journalistic scoops, but on a commitment to professionalism, transparency, and respect for the reader’s intelligence. The audience may forget who first published the news, but they will never forget who presented them with the truth.

“Ultimately, a successful media message will be one that combines speed in delivering news, accuracy of information, and depth of analysis. The media is not merely a race against time, but a responsibility toward society, a tool for building awareness, fostering dialogue, and supporting stability. In a world of rapidly unfolding events, truth remains the value that grants the media its credibility and preserves its role as a partner in building a more informed and stable future.”

□ □ □

“Tehran can claim that the United States did not force it to surrender, that it still maintains significant control over the Strait of Hormuz issue, and that the negotiations are proceeding in its favor,” Saudi writer Saleh bin Abdullah Al-Muslim wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“In politics, preventing an adversary from achieving its full objectives can sometimes be considered a form of victory. However, Iran is aware that prolonging the war indefinitely would put further pressure on its economy and threaten its internal stability. Therefore, Tehran appears to need to reach an agreement. But Iran wants an agreement that does not appear to the public to be a direct result of American pressure.

“This explains the strong language used in Iranian statements, alongside the continuation of behind-the-scenes contacts. The most optimistic scenario is that Washington and Tehran conclude a comprehensive, or near-comprehensive, agreement. In such a case, the Strait of Hormuz would be gradually reopened, security arrangements for navigation would be established, and some energy exports would resume in exchange for Iranian concessions on the nuclear issue and other matters, along with a gradual easing of sanctions. This scenario would be best for everyone, but it requires solving one difficult problem - how to present the deal to the public in both the United States and Iran.

“Trump needs to appear victorious, while Iran needs to avoid being portrayed as defeated. The solution will likely lie in crafting an agreement that each side can present to its respective public as a victory.



Saleh Al-Muslim

through the Strait of Hormuz, ongoing negotiations, partial sanctions, and an exchange of messages, while the nuclear dispute remains unresolved. Such an arrangement may persist for months. In this case, the conflict would transform from a military event into a frozen conflict that could erupt again if negotiations fail.

“The third scenario is a renewed outbreak of violence in the Strait of Hormuz. The most dangerous scenario is the failure of the understandings reached between the parties. If ships remain vulnerable, a major attack occurs, mines are re-laid, or a military force attempts to impose a blockade on shipping, the Strait of Hormuz issue could return to square one. The issue would then no longer be merely an Iranian-American crisis, but would become an international crisis involving energy, trade, and navigation, affecting the Gulf states as well as Asian and European markets.

“Therefore, the Strait of Hormuz is a red line, the cost of which neither Washington nor Tehran can afford to ignore. The fourth scenario, while perhaps less dramatic, is more dangerous in the long run - a protracted economic war. This means that the military conflict will end and a war of economic sanctions will begin. This is already becoming apparent with the escalation of American economic pressure, talk of new sanctions, and the strangulation of the Iranian economy.

“In this case, the question will not be who controls Hormuz, but who can withstand economic pressure for the longest period. Crucially, the Gulf states are parties that should not be excluded from the equation.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photos

Arab foreign ministers hold a closed consultative meeting at the Arab League Council’s 166th regular session.

Iran aggression tops Arab FM’s talks agenda

CAIRO, Sept 7, (KUNA): Arab foreign ministers held a closed consultative meeting Monday, with Kuwait participating, to coordinate positions on issues on the agenda of the Arab League Council’s 166th regular session. Kuwait’s delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad

Al-Mashaan.

The meeting focused on consultations and coordination on key issues and Arab priorities, including the escalation involving Iran and attacks targeting several Arab states.

They also discussed the continued occupation aggression and violations in Pales-

tine, Lebanon and Syria, as well as issues related to Arab national security.

The ministers further discussed several appointments to the posts of assistant secretaries-general of the Arab League, based on nominations submitted by several member states.



Jahra Governorate photo
Governor of Jahra Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi with the officers.

Suitable place sought for ‘boat inspections’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Governor of Jahra Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi met with officers at the Maritime Transport Department in the General Directorate of Coast Guard —Lieutenant Colonel Fares Al-Shallal and Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Enezi — to discuss the needs of the department and procedures related to the inspection of marine vessels, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting is part of the initiative of Jahra Governorate to contact the General Traffic Department about allocating a suitable location for inspecting marine vessels at the Citizen Service Center in Al-Qasr. This initiative aims to streamline procedures and facilitate access to services for the residents of the governorate.

The Governor confirmed that the governorate remains committed to continue its coordination with the concerned authorities and address their needs in order to simplify procedures and improve services for the residents of the governorate.



Road closure in Al-Shamiya.

Shamiya entrance shuts until Sept 15 for repairs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The General Traffic Department announced the closure of the entrance to Al-Shamiya from King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Road (Riyadh Road) onto Abdullah Al-Majran Al-Rumi Street, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure will begin on Monday and continue until Tuesday, September 15 due to maintenance work.

Meanwhile , the Ministry of Public Works, in cooperation with the General Traffic Department, announced the opening of a traffic diversion from Fahad Al-Ahmad Roundabout to Gas Roundabout in Sabah Al-Ahmad, starting Sunday at 11:00 pm, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry clarified that the diversion will remain in place for 21 days, until September 26.

Kuwaiti assaults, robs expatriate contractor

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: A Kuwaiti man in his forties has been summoned by the Sabah Al-Nasser Police Station over allegations of extortion, theft, and assault against an expatriate contractor, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the contractor, an Arab national, told authorities that he had agreed with the defendant to carry out construction work. After completing the work, the defendant contacted him and asked him to come to his diwaniya (reception hall) to discuss some matters. However, the defendant assaulted and threatened him and stole two bank cards and KD 500.

He stated that there were no witnesses to the incident and that the assault took place inside the defendant’s diwaniya.

A case was registered, and the report was referred to the Criminal Investigation Department for further investigation and referral to the Public Prosecution.

Drug peddlers held at border

163 sachets of heroin seized

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ministry of Interior announced that the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Drug Control General Department (DCGD), in coordination with the General Administration of Customs (GAC), apprehended three individuals accused of smuggling drugs and intoxicants into Kuwait through a land border crossing with the intent to traffic them, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry explained that the arrest of the three suspects was based on information indicating that two of them had smuggled the drugs. Immediate action was taken to apprehend them upon their entry into Kuwait.

It was discovered that the suspects had concealed the narcotics inside a vehicle. The two suspects confessed to smuggling the drugs with the intention of delivering them to the third suspect, who was also apprehended.

Investigations revealed that the three suspects had been in contact with an individual outside Kuwait to arrange the delivery and

transportation of the drugs.

The ministry confirmed that coordination is underway with security agencies outside Kuwait to complete the investigation into all parties involved in the case.

It revealed that the seized items included 300 Captagon tablets, 150 grams of cocaine, 150 A4 sheets saturated with narcotics, 10 grams of hashish, and a precision scale.

Meanwhile, the ministry stated that the International Anti-Narcotics Department arrested a suspect in possession of narcotics intended for trafficking. The seized items consisted of 90 A4 sheets saturated with narcotics, 10 chemical ampoules, 30 grams of crystal meth, and a sensitive scale.

□ □ □

163 sachets of heroin?: The Security Commands Affairs Sector, represented by the Hawally Security Command, apprehended two individuals in Salmiya who were in possession of 163 sachets suspected of containing heroin, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the arrests were made during a routine patrol in the area. The two suspects attempted to flee and dispose of the bags but were apprehended.

A total of 163 bags were seized, including 75 bags in the possession of the first suspect and 88 in the possession of the second. The suspects were handed over to the relevant authorities with the seized items for further legal action.

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KUNA photos

Activities in progress for students returning to schools at the Avenues Mall.

PAMA organizes ‘Back-to-School’ event for children under its care at The Avenues

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: As part of the government’s Family Protection Program, the Public Authority for Minors’ Affairs (PAMA) organized a “Back to School” event for the 2026/2027 academic year on Sunday, September 6 at The Avenues Mall, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event was attended by acting Director General of PAMA Alia Fahad Al-Sager, along with a number of children under PAMA’s care and their parents.

The event included a range of educational and recreational activities designed to familiarize students with the essential skills and requirements for the new academic year, particularly those related to school stationery.

The event also featured interactive activities that contributed to developing the children’s skills and enhancing their knowledge.

Al-Sager emphasized that the “Back to School” event aimed to prepare students of all ages and grade levels for their return to school, helping to ease any anxiety or apprehension among newly enrolled students through fun and interactive activities that combined learning with enjoyment.

He added that the event included specialized awareness services, particularly in the areas of education and rehabilitation.

GCC integration driver of investment: Al-Budaiwi

DUBAI, Sept 7, (KUNA): GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said Monday that GCC states have become an integrated economic and investment bloc supported by strong financial foundations, stable economies and clear development visions.

Speaking at the 15th AIM Congress 2026 in Dubai, Al-Budaiwi said the GCC economy ranks among the world’s top 10, with GDP reaching USD 2.4 trillion. He said GCC sovereign wealth funds hold more than USD five trillion in assets, while commercial banks’ total assets reached about USD 3.9 trillion in 2025.

Foreign direct investment stock in GCC states reached about USD 792.7 billion in 2025, including USD 171.4 billion in intra-GCC investments, representing nearly 22 percent of the total.

These indicators, he said, reflect growing economic interdependence, adding that GCC integration itself has become a driver of investment.

Al-Budaiwi said national visions have expanded the private sector’s role, strengthened legislative and regulatory frameworks and opened broad investment opportunities in future-oriented sectors.



Al-Budaiwi

These include artificial intelligence, advanced technologies, renewable energy, future industries, transport, logistics, tourism, financial services and the knowledge economy.

He stressed that the GCC’s investment future rests on strong economies, deeper integration, global openness and investment in the future.

Al-Budaiwi called on investors and partners worldwide to view the GCC not merely as an investment destination, but as a partner in shaping the future of global investment.

He said this future should be based on trust, partnership, knowledge, innovation, sustainable development and prosperity.

Al-Budaiwi praised the UAE’s efforts to promote international economic and investment dialogue, saying Dubai has demonstrated how ambitious visions can become tangible achievements and challenges can become opportunities.

The 2026 AIM Congress opened in Dubai Monday with Kuwait represented by Finance Minister Dr. Yaqoub Al-Refaie, alongside senior officials, decision-makers, investors and business leaders from around the world.

The three-day event brings together participants to discuss investment and economic opportunities.

Kuwaitis lead in PAAET jobs

Basic pillar for progress: Dr. Al-Fajjam

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: By the start of the new academic and training year, Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), completed the procedures for filling a number of administrative and supervisory vacancies with qualified national talent, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr. Al-Fajjam

He stated that this contributes to enhancing the efficiency of institutional work and improving the quality of services provided to students, staff, and beneficiaries.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Fajjam emphasized that investing in national talent is a fundamental pillar for developing the work system.

He indicated that filling the vacancies aims to enhance operational readiness, align human resources with the actual needs of PAAET’s various sectors, and place qualified individuals with appropriate expertise in positions that match their specializations and capabilities.

Dr. Al-Fajjam highlighted the keenness

of PAAET to make optimal use of available administrative, technical, and academic expertise, thereby enhancing productivity, improving operational efficiency, and supporting the ability of academic, training, administrative, and technical sectors to perform their tasks effectively.

He emphasized that human resource development is not limited to filling job vacancies, but is part of a comprehensive institutional vision aimed at developing capabilities and competencies and creating a more efficient, stable, and sustainable work environment.

According to the decisions, Dr. Duha Al-Kharif was appointed Dean of Student Affairs.

A number of qualified individuals has been seconded to supervisory and leadership positions, including:

- Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Osaimi as Director of the Financial Affairs Department
- Bashayer Al-Essa as Director of the Curriculum Development Center
- Dr. Sultan Al-Daihani as Assistant to the Deputy Director General for Applied Education Affairs
- Dr. Mohammed Al-Enezi as Assistant to the Deputy Director General for Services and Development
- Dr. Tariq Al-Kandari as Assistant Dean for Student Activities and Affairs
- Prof. Khaled Al-Awadhi as Assistant Dean for Student Welfare and Services.
- Prof. Hanaa Al-Majed as Dean of the College of Health Sciences
- Dr. Adnan Al-Enezi as Dean of the College of Technological Studies
- Prof. Waleed Al-Hamad as Dean of Community Service and Continuing Education



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KUNA photo

Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan chairs the meeting with MPW officials, managers and engineers of all governorates.

Minister holds extensive meetings

‘Work diligently, maintain road maintenance quality’

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan recently met with the ministry heads, directors and project engineers to discuss the progress of ongoing projects.

During the meeting, Al-Mashaan stressed the importance of intensifying monitoring, follow up and field supervision of road and infrastructure maintenance projects to ensure work is completed according to the highest quality standards and approved technical specifications..

She also underscored the need for stronger coordination between engineering teams and the ministry sectors in re-

sponding quickly to comments or observations. She pointed out this move aims to expedite project completion, raise maintenance standards, and improve road quality and infrastructure efficiency.

On the other hand, the contracts plan of the ministry for the current fiscal year includes the infrastructure and roads in South Khaitan Exhibition Area.

The implementation period for this project is 36 months and it will be tendered through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) early next year.

The project includes connecting the area to the 6.5 Ring Road, securing the entrances and exits in the area to prevent traffic congestion, and building new infrastructure to serve the allotted plots.

Some of these things are out of our control: House Speaker Johnson

Whiplash election year enters final stretch as US President Trump holds wild cards

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): In the earliest days of this election cycle, the US wasn't at war with Iran.

The East Wing of the White House was still standing and the Kennedy Center wasn't threatened with demolition. Artificial intelligence data centers weren't bipartisan shorthand for the tech sector's excess. Democratic socialists were largely confined to the outer edges of political discourse. Lake Ontario's name wasn't in question.

Since President Donald Trump entered politics more than a decade ago, he's had a knack for dominating the national conversation so thoroughly that it can be hard to keep up. But as the final midterm of his presidency rapidly approaches, the landscape is proving especially volatile, with Trump often stirring the tumult.

"Some of these things are out of our control," House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, told reporters last week when pressed on whether the frenzy will hurt his party's election prospects.

Even the map itself has been in

flux, with Texas, California and Florida among the states that have redrawn congressional districts. Missouri's Republican attorney general is appealing a court ruling last week that blocked a Trump-backed map there.

The twists could keep coming. The economic fallout from Trump's tariffs on Canada may intensify as the election nears. His effort to limit mail ballots could add uncertainty to the voting process just as such ballots are being distributed in states like North Carolina, home to a critical U.S. Senate race.

The president is sitting on more than \$400 million that could shape the election's trajectory. And Trump's gilded remake of Washington stands in contrast to the economic anxiety many Americans are expressing. The wealth he has amassed in office has no modern presidential precedent, with Trump taking in \$1.2 billion from his crypto businesses last year, according to a federal filing released this summer.

That's threatening a bipartisan effort



Rep Aisha Wahab (left), who is filling California's 14th Congressional District seat in the House, walks with Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, just after she was sworn in, at the Capitol in Washington on Sept 2. (AP)

in the Senate to advance legislation to strengthen cryptocurrency regulation as soon as next week. Democrats are insisting the measure include a more robust ethics provision.

language.

With so many shifts underway, it is perhaps fitting that one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on is that Trump will again be a central player in the election's final stretch.

"No. 1, President Trump," Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary under Republican President George W. Bush, said when asked to rank the top issues this year.

Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington, the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said: "People are feeling the pain from Trump."

She expects voters will elevate candidates who "want to stand up for the American people, the pain that's been inflicted by this administration and Republicans in Congress."

Midterm elections are historically challenging for a president's party as restive voters seek change. Democrats flipped 40 House seats during Trump's last midterm in 2018 and 31 seats during the final race of Bush's term in 2006. Republicans, meanwhile, gained 63 seats in 2010

under Democratic President Barack Obama but flipped fewer than 10 seats in 2022 under President Joe Biden.

Shifting dozens of seats this year could be challenging because partisan redistricting has reduced the number of genuinely competitive races. Still, just a third of U.S. adults approve of how Trump is handling the presidency, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's down slightly from 37% in June and well below the 42% who approved of his work when he took office.

Majorities also disapprove of his handling of the economy and immigration, issues that were central to Trump's election in 2024.

Democrats are confident they can win the handful of seats they need to regain control of the House. There may be a path to flipping the Senate if they can hold on in states like Georgia, Michigan and New Hampshire while winning Republican-held seats in places like Maine, Texas, Iowa or Ohio.

WH renews appeal to top court to allow mail ballot restrictions

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): The Trump administration on Sunday renewed its appeal to the Supreme Court to allow new restrictions on mail ballots in time for the midterms.

The filing came after US District Court Judge Indira Talwani extended an order against the Postal Service enforcing President Donald Trump's executive order for the November elections.

The legal wrangling is happening even as states start sending out mail ballots, leaving the administration little time to make big changes in mail ballot rules.

"Ballots have already begun to be mailed in North Carolina, and more States will begin the mailing process as the injunction remains in place - including Alabama on September 9 and at least five States the week of September 13," Solicitor General John Sauer said in the filing.

"Once those ballot envelopes enter the mailstream, there is no retrieving them. And while the injunction allows the Postal Service and the States to continue taking steps to ensure that their envelopes satisfy the Rule's requirements ... each day the injunction is in place risks sowing confusion and chaos because the injunction makes those preparatory steps voluntary, rather than mandatory."

This is the third time the administration has asked the high court



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

to intervene. The high court has allowed the plan to move forward but not ruled on whether it is legal.

The battle could have major ramifications for this year's elections, when control of Congress is at stake. Nearly one-third of voters in the U.S. cast mail ballots.

Democratic states and voting rights groups say the changes are unconstitutional. Election officials contend there isn't enough time to revise their systems to comply with the new Postal Service directives.

The Trump administration has

framed the restrictions as common-sense changes that are within its power to regulate the mail.

"Simply put, the best way to address respondents' fears about inability to comply with the Rule is to grant an immediate administrative stay of the order, followed by a full stay pending further review," Sauer said. "That will remove the improper cloud of uncertainty that the district court has cast over the Rule, making clear to all involved that compliance with the Rule is not optional and must start without further delay."

The filing added that eligibility for mail-in and absentee voting will continue to be governed by state law and state and local officials will determine who is eligible to use the method and which ballots are eligible to be counted. "The Postal Service will not play any role in determining voter eligibility, maintaining voter rolls, or counting ballots."

The ACLU said the Postal Service rule is unconstitutional and unlawful.

"With fewer than 60 days to go before the November election, there is not a shred of evidence that states could comply with it without disenfranchising voters who rely on mail ballots," said Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, in a statement.



An Amazon cargo plane sits at the Miami International Airport (MIA) after it overshot the runway on Sept 6. (AP)

5 dead as Amazon cargo plane crashes at Miami airport

Federal investigators on Monday are detailing their plans for determining what caused an Amazon cargo jet to barrel off a runway at Miami International Airport, killing at least five people and injuring five others as it struck vehicles and was engulfed in flames.

The aircraft overran the runway around 2 pm Sunday after arriving from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and plowed across a road used by warehouse workers and other businesses that surround the airport. Five people

were killed, three critically injured and two others hospitalized with less severe injuries, officials said.

It wasn't immediately clear if the pilots survived or those killed were all in vehicles when the plane struck. (AP)



Police officers form a line to block protesters near Eastney Beach, in Portsmouth, England on Sept 6. (AP)

German chancellor faces pressure after AfD wins landslide in state election

BERLIN, Sept 7, (AP): German Chancellor Friedrich Merz was facing pressure Monday after his party was crushed by the Alternative for Germany party in a regional election that could result in it leading the first far-right state government since the Nazi era.

The AfD, classified by Germany's domestic intelligence agency as an extremist group in some regions of the country, fell just short of a majority in Sunday's election in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

While Sunday's election was only regional, it has major national implications. Merz had vowed to weaken the AfD when he came to office, and the election result shows that he has been unable to deliver on that promise.



Co-leaders of Alternative for Germany party, or AfD, Alice Weidel, (right), and Tino Chrupalla, (left), and top candidate for the Saxony-Anhalt state elections Ulrich Siegmund, (center), attend a press conference in Berlin, Germany on Sept 7. (AP)

AfD's strong victory is also a major distraction for Germany and Merz at a time when Europe faces several challenges, including Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine and a suspected sabotage campaign targeting NATO countries, and difficult dealings with US President Donald Trump.

Tricky coalition talks lie ahead, and the AfD candidate for governor, Ulrich Siegmund, still aims to become the first head of government from the far-right party on the state level.

"Very clearly, we want voters finally to get after the election what they voted for," Siegmund told public broadcaster ZDF late Sunday. "Over 44% voted for political change ... and that must be implemented after the election."

The vote weakens the chancellor and he will be partly held responsible for his party's historic loss after it led the state for the past 24 years. Merz's center-right Christian Democrats party, or CDU, saw its election results cut in half, while AfD more than doubled its share of the vote. The result could also energize the AfD in other state elections later this month.

Merz is expected to comment on the election result later Monday after meetings of his party and government leaders.

AfD, known for its pro-Russian and radical anti-immigration stance, is the biggest opposition party in Germany's national parliament and is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, where



From left: Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Sven Schulze, Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt and state chairman of the CDU in Saxony-Anhalt, his party's top candidate for the state election on Sept. 6, attend the meeting of the CDU Federal Executive Committee at the Konrad Adenauer House, in Berlin on Sept 7. (AP)

Saxony-Anhalt is located.

Tricky coalition talks in the state are expected in the days and possibly weeks ahead.

Leading a state government would be the biggest prize for AfD in its 13-year history, coming at a time of widespread discontent with a national government that has yet to persuade voters that it can get the country's sluggish economy moving.

While Siegmund has rejected an

AfD minority government, his party could possibly govern with the hard-left BSW party. The two parties share a Russia-friendly course and oppose immigration but do not agree on some other subjects.

On Monday, BSW's lead candidate in the election, Thomas Schulze, expressed his party's willingness again to help an AfD minister-president take office in the state parliament.

Europe

UK govt condemns demonstrators: The British government on Monday condemned the "intimidating and thuggish behavior" of anti-immigrant demonstrators who converged on a port in southern England where migrants were brought ashore after crossing the English Channel.

Hundreds of protesters, many dressed in dark clothing and wearing masks, faced off with police in Portsmouth late Sunday in an attempt to prevent lifeboats from bringing the migrants to land. They then tried to block buses carrying the new arrivals to a processing facility for asylum seekers.

"The right to peaceful protest is fundamental to our democracy, but it must never cross a line into disorder," the government said in a statement.

The Portsmouth protest came a day after hundreds of masked anti-immigration protesters blocked roads leading to Britain's busiest ferry port of Dover on Saturday, clogging traffic and disrupting travelers as well as cargo vehicles heading for France.

Both groups appeared to be led by Daniel Thomas, an ally of veteran far-right activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, better known as Tommy Robinson.

Successive U.K. governments have struggled to stop people - more than 40,000 last year - making the dangerous journey across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. The issue has been depicted as a crisis by politicians including Nigel Farage of the hard-right party Reform UK, and has been used as a rallying point by anti-immigration activists.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham's government says stepped-up law enforcement cooperation between Britain and France has helped reduce the number of people making the crossing so far this year by more

than 40% compared with 2025.

The boat carrying about 140 people to Portsmouth had left early Sunday from Normandy, far west of the beaches near Calais where most departures have taken place - making it a much longer and riskier journey.

Britain's Maritime and Coastguard Agency spokesperson said lifeboats, a coastguard helicopter and a plane were involved in the operation to bring the migrants to shore. (AP)

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Mladic's body lies in state in Serbia capital: The body of Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander who died while serving a life sentence for war crimes, lay in state on Monday as Serbia defied European Union warnings against allowing public homage to the man found guilty of the continent's first case of genocide since World War II.

Thousands of mourners arrived early at the small Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Luke in Belgrade to honor Mladic, who is still viewed as a hero by many Serbs. His military officer's cap and saber rested on the coffin, which was flanked by men in fatigues.

Pro-government media in Serbia reported that Mladic will receive full military honors while the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Porfirije, will lead the funeral service.

Mladic "was a man who gave everything in his life for the Serbian people," said Milan Dobric, a mourner who traveled from Kosovo for the funeral. "I am glad that this morning people are coming to pay special respect."

Mladic died at 84 on Aug. 27 in The Hague, Netherlands, while serving a life sentence for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity his troops committed during the Bosnian war in 1992-95. (AP)

Philippine lawmaker charged with corruption in flood control projects

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 7, (AP): A Philippine lawmaker and former speaker of the House of Representatives was charged Monday for allegedly pocketing millions of dollars in kickbacks from flood control projects in a widening scandal concerning vital public construction to shield communities from typhoons.

Rep. Martin Romualdez, a cousin and former political ally of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., and others are facing plunder charges at the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan.

“The amount involved here is 7.4 billion pesos (\$118 million), and this has been divided in various transactions where the money was used,” Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla, whose office filed the charges, told a news conference.

Romualdez has earlier denied any wrongdoing.

Nearly 10,000 flood control projects worth more than 545 billion pesos (\$9 billion) that were supposed to have been undertaken since Marcos took office in mid-2022 have come under scrutiny. Many were found to be substandard, overpriced or not built at all.



House Speaker Martin Romualdez hears the decision of members of Congress to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte at the House of Representatives in Quezon City in Manila, Philippines on Feb 5, 2025. (AP)

The Philippines is among the countries most exposed to destructive typhoons, some 20 of which lash the archipelago every year, causing considerable damage and casualties due to floods and landslides.

Romualdez, former Rep. Zaldy Co, who used to head the House appropriations committee and is now

considered a fugitive after fleeing to Europe, are among several powerful legislators accused of pocketing huge kickbacks. An incumbent senator, a former senator and several ex-government engineers and public works officials as well as wealthy construction executives have been detained while facing trial on corruption charges.

Indonesia keeps several airports closed though volcanic eruption easing: agency

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Sept 7, (AP): Indonesia kept several airports closed and shifted schools to remote learning Monday though the volcanic eruption that has halted 2,300 flights and coated areas with ash was subsiding.

The continuous, 25-hour eruption of Anak Krakatau that produced a fountain of lava and a boom heard 700 kilometers (435 miles) away ended Sunday, the country’s Geological Agency said. But it remained active Monday with moderate, intermittent eruptions, dark ash emissions and small, localized earthquakes, the agency said in a statement. Weather was obscuring visual observations of the eruption.

AirNav Indonesia said tests showed volcanic ash present in the airspace around Jakarta and several other cities, prompting authorities to close seven airports until 6 p.m. Monday, while Atung Bungsu Airport in Pagar Alam, a city in South Sumatra province, resumed normal operations Monday morning.

The closure of four commercial airports managed by state-owned operator InJourney Airports: Jakarta’s international airports of Soekarno-Hatta and Halim Perdanakusuma, Husein Sastranegara in West Java’s Bandung city and



People wait as flights are disrupted due to the eruption of Mount Anak Krakatau, at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Indonesia on Sept 7. (AP)

Radin Inten in Lampung on the southern tip of Sumatra, has disrupted about 2,300 flights and affected 270,337 passengers, according to Indonesia’s Transportation Ministry.

The eruption’s impact extended beyond air travel. The government authorized schools in areas affected by volcanic ash, including in Jakarta, West Java, Banten and Lampung

provinces, to temporarily move to online learning at home to reduce students’ exposure to ash.

“The probability of additional eruptions in the coming days remains high,” said Lana Saria, head of the Geology Agency. “The main hazards include volcanic bombs, heavy ashfall and possible lava flows if sustained eruptive activity resumes,” she said.

Concerns of the enemies will be surely deepened: Kim

N.Korea adds second naval destroyer as US, S.Korea and Japan hold military drill

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 7, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un put his second naval destroyer into service and called for building a more reliable nuclear deterrent, state media reported Monday, as the United States, South Korea and Japan began a trilateral military exercise he views as a security threat.

The ship’s commissioning comes as North Korea is dialing up pressure on the US after rebuffing President Donald Trump’s decision to scale back a major military drill with South Korea in a conciliatory step toward Kim. Observers say North Korea wants to wrest bigger US concessions.

The destroyer Kang Kon was commissioned into North Korea’s navy in the eastern port city of Wonsan Sunday at a ceremony attended by Kim and his teenage daughter, whom South Korea’s spy service calls his likely heir. North Korean

state media photos showed the girl in a white dress and blazer walking alongside her father on a red carpet, touring the warship and posing with sailors.

The ship and the Choe Hyon, which was put into service in June, are both 5,000-ton destroyers that state media said can carry various conventional and nuclear weapons. Considered North Korea’s biggest and most advanced warships, the two destroyers were likely built with Russian assistance, experts say. In July, North Korea said it test-fired nuclear-capable cruise missiles from the Kang Kon.

In a speech at the ceremony, Kim said the back-to-back warship additions instilled fear in the enemies as the nuclear armament of North Korea’s navy made it possible to exercise its nuclear deterrent in a more diversified, practical manner.

“The enemies’ concerns will surely be deepened,” Kim said.



This photo provided by the North Korean government, shows a destroyer, Kang Kon at a commissioning ceremony at a port in Wonsan, North Korea on Sept 6. (AP)

“We must establish more clearly a powerful and reliable nuclear war deterrent, to put into practice the di-

verse and effective operation of our nuclear combat systems and further strengthen our military activities

for maritime defense and war deterrence.”

After years of prioritizing ballistic missile development, Kim has increasingly turned his focus to modernize the navy, which he admitted in Sunday’s speech lacked warships befitting its mission until a few years ago. Outside experts said the North Korean destroyers’ weapons and radar systems would enhance its offensive and defensive capabilities.

Kim said North Korea is pursuing another “significant” naval advancement whose results would be unveiled in eight months. Many observers say the project could be related to Kim’s stated goal of acquiring a nuclear-powered submarine.

The US, South Korea and Japan kicked off on Monday their five-day Freedom Edge exercise near the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea’s military said the

exercise is defensive in nature and meant to enhance a joint response capability against North Korean nuclear threats and that it involves key maritime and aerial military assets from the three countries.

At the exercise’s opening ceremony at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, Lt. Gen. Stephen Jost, commander of the U.S. forces in Japan, said that Washington, Tokyo and Seoul “stand together on common interests, ready to preserve the peace and security we have built and defended for more than eight decades,” according to the U.S. Pacific Command.

The US command said the exercise will be held in international waters and airspace off South Korea’s southern coast, as well as military installations and command posts in Japan and South Korea. Japan’s Joint Staff said about 560 Japanese troops will participate in the exercise.



Residents look at the area destroyed by a fireworks explosion by Santa María Canchedsá church in Temascalcingo, Mexico on Sept 6. (AP)

Explosion of fireworks in Mexico kills 10, injures 64

Pyrotechnic material exploded during the festival for a patron saint in a town in Mexico State, collapsing a wall, killing at least 10 people and injuring another 64, Mexican authorities said.

The explosion occurred Saturday night next to the Nuestra Señora de la Luz church in Temascalcingo, a municipality in central Mexico with 66,000 residents. Hundreds of them were preparing to watch a

fireworks display that is part of a fireworks festival when the blast occurred.

The municipality is about 160 kilometers (100 miles) northwest of Mexico City. (AP)



Rescuers clear debris as they search for people possibly trapped at the site of a collapsed building in New Delhi, India on Sept 7. (AP)

Building collapse in New Delhi kills 6

Search and rescue teams combed through the debris of a collapsed building in New Delhi on Monday as the death toll climbed to six, officials said.

The five-story building, which

housed a boys’ hostel, collapsed on Sunday in Satya Niketan, a densely populated neighborhood known for its private student accommodations near a Delhi University campus.

Police, firefighters and crews

from India’s disaster response agency continued their search for a second day as earthmovers cleared debris and sniffer dogs worked the site to help rescuers reach those still trapped inside. (AP)

Ex-Cuban president Raul Castro reappears in public at army event

HAVANA, Sept 7, (AP): Former Cuban president Raúl Castro reappeared in public at a military event that celebrated the anniversary of an army branch responsible for protecting its top leaders.

Cuban state television aired more than 10 minutes of footage Saturday night that showed Castro, 95, in his traditional olive-green military uniform, alongside his bodyguard and grandson, Raúl Guillermo Rodríguez Castro. The former leader’s previous public appearance was on Aug.13.



Castro

The broadcast also reported that Castro’s grandson had participated earlier this year in talks with the United States, which has imposed an oil and financial blockade on the island since January. The talks have since halted, while sanctions have increased in recent months.

Authorities from both nations have acknowledged that talks took place following the energy blockade, but there is neither an agenda nor any leaked details regarding these conversations.

The former president, who no longer holds any formal position in government or in the island’s Communist Party, rarely appears in public. Rumors regarding his health have recently circulated, even more so since his first absence in decades from a July rally marking the anniversary of the Cuban revolution’s biggest celebration.

In June, the US Department of Justice filed murder charges against the veteran leader in connection with the 1996 downing of light aircraft that belonged to an anti-Castro organization. The planes had entered Cuban airspace as part of a campaign to tighten various sanctions and apply pressure for change in the island’s political system.

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 7, (AP): Nepal held a day of mourning Monday to remember those killed in the Aug. 26 floods, with flags lowered at government offices and families concluding mourning rituals.

Monday was the 13th day since the flooding which killed more than 1,300 people in Nepal and Tibet and left some 5,000 missing, including foreigners, according to Nepal’s disaster management agency.

In predominantly Hindu Nepal, mourning periods last 13 days, during which close family members stay home and relatives visit to pay their respects. Rituals are held on the final day to pray for the souls of the departed.

Several people whose relatives remain missing performed symbolic funerals. Cremation is an important final rite in Hindu tradition, and performing the ceremony even without the bodies of their loved ones provided some families a sense of spiritual release.

The government had declared



Nepalese Army and Police Force personnel check for signs of survivors inside a house damaged by flash floods in Dhunge, Nuwakot district, Nepal on Sept 7. (AP)

Monday an official day of mourning and ordered flags at government offices lowered to half-staff.

Meanwhile, search efforts continued for the missing, but some protested that not enough was being done.

In Kathmandu, relatives gathered near the offices of the prime minister and key ministries to demand the government speed up search and rescue efforts for hundreds of people who had been working at hydropower plants and were either swept away by the rushing Bhotekhoshi River or buried under debris.

Sumana Shrestha stood with family members holding a poster with the photo of her 55-year-old husband, who has not been heard from since the day of the flood.

Her husband, a consulting geologist, had promised to return home after his shift at the project office for the Trishuli hydropower plant on the day of the flood. The 2 1/2-story office was completely buried by debris.

“We are here because we have not heard of any rescue attempt on this project, but it has been 13 days already,” she said. “The only thing we have been able to do is pray to God and hope for a miracle.”

Nepal holds day of mourning after floods kill 1,300

US dollar, euro hold steady

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): The US dollar and other major currencies held steady against the Kuwaiti dinar on Monday, with the Central Bank of Kuwait reporting no change from Sunday's levels.

The greenback remained at KD 0.306, while the euro stayed at KD 0.356, according to the bank's daily bulletin published on its website. The British pound, Swiss franc and Japanese yen were also unchanged, at KD 0.414, KD 0.378 and KD 0.002, respectively.

Business

We're redefining home financing in Kuwait: Al Qattan

ABK returns as platinum sponsor of Baiti Exhibition for second consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its platinum sponsorship of the Baiti Exhibition for the second consecutive year, reflecting its continued commitment to meeting the needs and aspirations of customers planning to build their homes. Through its participation, the Bank will provide exclusive offers and discounts, financing solutions, and strategic partnerships tailored to citizens seeking to build or develop their homes.

The sponsorship further underscores ABK's commitment to providing best-in-class facilities and innovative banking services, alongside exclusive financing offers specifically designed for exhibition visitors.

During the exhibition, the Bank will showcase ABK Build, the first platform of its kind in the local market. Through the platform, ABK provides customers with consultations, services, and exclusive offers in collaboration with a network of partners, helping them select designs, furniture, and other homebuilding requirements that meet their aspirations and the highest standards.

Commenting on the occasion, Mohammad Al Qattan, Chief Consumer Officer at ABK, said, "We are pleased to continue our platinum sponsorship of the Baiti Exhibition for the second consecutive year, following the great success of our participation last year. This reflects our ongoing commitment to remaining close to our customers and providing comprehensive and competitive financing and housing solutions that facilitate their journey towards building their dream home while easing the associated financial burden."

Al Qattan explained, "Our participation in this year's exhibition aims to establish a new concept in home financing. ABK goes beyond providing fi-



Mohammad Al Qattan, Chief Consumer Officer



ancial support by placing an integrated ecosystem at our customers' fingertips, saving them time and effort throughout the construction journey. Our goal is to make the planning and building experience smoother and more transparent by connecting customers with the latest tools and competitive solutions under one roof through ABK Build."

He noted that during the exhibition, the Bank will highlight the services available through its innovative and dedicated digital ABK Build platform, which facilitates the customer journey from initial planning through to construction. The platform enables customers to estimate costs and accurately

calculate monthly instalments according to their individual budgets, while providing access to exclusive services, solutions, and offers from a range of partners, including Abyat, Al Kazemi Air Conditioning Services, Al-Rashoud& Al-Ramadan Engineering Consultants, among others. Customers can also submit financing applications and conveniently and securely track the various stages of the approval process through the platform.

Al Qattan added, "Our participation in the exhibition extends beyond financing. We will also provide customers with complimentary consultations tailored to their needs through Engineer Fawaz Alsanea, who will be present at ABK's booth to answer visitors' questions. This forms part of our continuous efforts to provide an integrated and exceptional banking experience across every touchpoint."

Al Qattan further stated that ABK's participation stems from its deep understanding of the importance of the homebuilding stage for customers. He highlighted the Bank's commitment to providing a comprehensive range of distinguished facilities and solutions that help customers turn their aspirations into reality through simple and convenient steps.

Concluding, Al Qattan noted that ABK's participation in the Baiti Exhibition and other events within the real estate sector serves as a continuous catalyst for the Bank to develop innovative solutions that keep pace with the aspirations of society and support urban expansion plans. He reaffirmed ABK's commitment to providing an exceptional experience for all visitors to its booth, giving them the confidence, financial clarity, and support needed to embark on their residential projects with confidence and stability.

Targeting investment, treasury, risk teams

KIB organizes 'sukuk training' for Public Authority for Minors Affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) organized a specialized two-day training course for employees of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs, titled "Practical Applications of Sukuk as an Islamic Financial Product." The course was delivered by Mohammad Al-Duwailah, General Manager of Treasury at KIB, with the aim of enhancing participants' knowledge of Sukuk and deepening their understanding of its mechanisms and practical applications in the workplace and financial markets.

The course, which the Bank delivered on August 23 and 24, 2026, forms part of its comprehensive corporate social responsibility program and reflects its commitment to supporting initiatives that contribute to capacity building and professional development, particularly in specialized financial and banking fields.

The course covered a comprehensive range of theoretical and practical topics, beginning with an introduction to the concept of Sukuk, their various types and structures, and the key distinctions between Sukuk and conventional bonds. It also examined the mechanisms underpinning primary and secondary Sukuk markets, the various types of returns and methodologies for their calculation, as well as the factors influencing Sukuk prices and their movements in financial markets.

The course also covered short-term and perpetual Sukuk and their various uses, alongside a number of practical applications designed to enhance participants' ability to analyze and evaluate Sukuk as an investment instrument compliant with Islamic Sharia' principles. The course targeted employees from the Authority's investment, treasury, risk, operations, accounting, and finance departments, ensuring that the training content was closely aligned with their areas of specialization and job requirements.

Al-Duwailah said: "At KIB, we are committed to sharing our specialized banking expertise in ways that contribute to disseminating



KIB's Mohammed Al-Duwailah

knowledge and developing professional capabilities across various financial and banking fields. Through this course, we sought to equip participants with specialized knowledge that provides them with a deeper understanding of Sukuk and their role within the broader Islamic finance ecosystem."

Al-Duwailah added: "Sukuk are playing an increasingly important role in capital markets and Islamic finance. Accordingly, we were keen to ensure that the course combined technical knowledge with practical application, enabling participants to better understand Sukuk market dynamics, the factors influencing their pricing and returns, and how to apply this knowledge effectively in the workplace."

For her part, Aliaa Fahad Al-Sager, Acting Director General at the Public Authority for Minors Affairs, said: "We value KIB's initiative in delivering this specialized course and the opportunity it provided our employees to enhance their knowledge of Sukuk and gain a deeper understanding of their applications in financial markets. Such specialized training programs reflect our commitment to continuously developing the capabilities of our workforce and equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to support their professional performance."

She added: "Collaborating with

banking institutions and benefiting from their specialized expertise helps enrich the training experience and bridge theoretical knowledge with practical applications. This supports our ongoing efforts to invest in human capital and enhance the capabilities of our employees in areas relevant to their respective specializations."

It is worth noting that this initiative reflects KIB's ongoing approach to building effective partnerships with various government institutions and contributing to initiatives that support sustainable development and create a lasting positive impact on society.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Sharia', 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.



Group photo of the HSBC and Tap Payments officials.

Deal cuts cash, cheque reliance

HSBC & Tap Payments empower businesses with digital payments

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: HSBC Kuwait has announced the launch of a new merchant acquiring proposition for its corporate clients, delivered through a strategic partnership with Tap Payments, a fintech founded in Kuwait and a licensed payment service provider.

Through this collaboration, HSBC clients can accept card payments using Tap Payments' payment infrastructure, while benefiting from a more efficient collections experience, improved receivables visibility, consolidated reporting, and simplified settlement.

This partnership expands the payment collection options available to HSBC clients and supports businesses across Kuwait in their digital transformation journeys by reducing reliance on cash and cheque-based collections.

In addition to enabling card acceptance, the solution strengthens receivables management by providing greater transparency and control over collections. Clients can view detailed transaction data across multiple collection channels in a single interface, making reconciliation easier and enabling better-informed decision-making. Designed for straightforward adoption, the proposition integrates seamlessly with clients' existing business channels and information systems, eliminating the need for significant investments in new software, infrastructure, or operational processes.

Commenting on the partnership, Ahmed Al Murad, Chief Executive Officer, Kuwait, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, said: "Kuwait's growing digital economy is creating strong op-



HSBC Kuwait partners with Tap Payments.

portunities for businesses to streamline their operations. By bringing together HSBC's global expertise and Tap Payments' local fintech strengths, we're helping companies improve efficiency with simpler collections, better reporting and stronger receivables management."

Kyle Boag, HSBC Regional Head of Global Payments Solutions, said: "This partnership reflects our commitment to helping businesses embrace digital transformation through innovative solutions that simplify financial operations and enhance efficiency. Together with Tap Payments, we are providing organizations with greater visibility, control, and flexibility in managing their collections and receivables."

Anwar Marafi, Tap Payments Group Head, Business & Financial In-

stitutions, said: "Businesses in Kuwait want to modernise how they collect and manage payments without adding complexity to their operations. By combining HSBC's global banking expertise with Tap Payments' local payments infrastructure, this partnership gives businesses a simpler way to accept card payments, improve visibility across collections, and manage receivables more effectively. It reflects our shared commitment to helping businesses grow through payment products built for the Kuwait market." The partnership underscores HSBC's commitment to supporting businesses across Kuwait with innovative digital solutions that enable growth, improve operational efficiency, and support the country's broader digital transformation agenda.

Al-Bseis presents books on Kuwaiti charity

Al-Awazem Charity represents Kuwait at Syrian-Qatari Economic Forum

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation made its mark as a Kuwaiti institution at the Syrian-Qatari Economic Forum and the official launch ceremony of the Qatari-Syrian Holding Company, held Sunday evening at the Eblla Al-Sham Hotel in rural Damascus.

According to a press release, the event was sponsored by the Syrian Investment Authority and attended by prominent economic, investment, social, and media figures from several Arab countries.

The forum was attended by the UN Ambassador for Community Partnership and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation, Advisor Hamad Zaid Saud Al-Bseis, at the invitation of Sheikh Nayef bin

Eid Al Thani and Ms. Majd Ezzat Al-Shurbaji.

The ceremony included several official and welcoming speeches, as well as a visual presentation outlining the vision and future projects of the Qatari-Syrian Holding Company. The company was officially launched to support cooperation and partnership opportunities between the State of Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Al-Bseis highlighted the Kuwaiti experience in charitable and humanitarian work, presenting Sheikh Nayef bin Eid Al Thani with a copy of the book "The Role of Kuwaiti Charitable Foundations in Supporting Charitable and Humanitarian Work."

Al-Bseis also presented Ms. Majd Ezzat Al-Shurbaji with a copy of the pub-

lication "Eternal Goodness in the Al-Awazem Charity," which documents aspects of Kuwaiti charitable work and the charity's experience in institutional and community work.

Al-Bseis met with Jaber Al-Hajri, Dr. Anas Qassab, and several other participating figures. The meetings included an exchange of views on the importance of strengthening institutional partnerships, sharing expertise, and supporting initiatives that combine community and developmental dimensions.

The Al-Awazem Charity's participation in the forum is an extension of its approach to engaging with Arab experiences and enhancing communication with influential institutions and individuals.



Photos during the forum.

Signs a number of strategic agreements spanning AI, automation, cybersecurity, cloud, IoT & enterprise solutions

stc Kuwait concludes participation in the 5th edition of LEAP 2026 in Riyadh



KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: stc Kuwait, concluded its participation in LEAP 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as part of stc group's presence as Strategic Partner of the conference. During the event, stc Kuwait signed several strategic agreements with leading global technology companies across artificial intelligence, automation, cybersecurity, cloud, IoT and managed connectivity. The agreements will expand the solutions and capabilities stc can offer to enterprise and government entities in Kuwait as their technology requirements continue to evolve.

stc Kuwait's participation in LEAP 2026 reflects the company's continued focus on keeping pace with the rapid developments shaping the technology sector and identifying new opportunities that can benefit its customers in Kuwait. The conference provided stc with direct access to global technology leaders, enabling knowledge exchange and identification of solutions relevant to its digital and ICT offering.

On the sidelines of the conference, H.E. Eng. Omar Al-Omar, Minister of State for Communication Affairs and Information Technology, visited the stc booth, where he met with the company's leadership and executive management. During the visit, he was briefed on the key solutions and advanced technologies showcased by stc in the areas of digital enablement, highlighting the company's ongoing commitment to driving innovation and supporting the digital transformation journey in Kuwait.

Held from 31 August to 3 September at the Riyadh Exhibition & Convention Centre in Malham, LEAP 2026 marked the fifth edition of the global technology event. The conference brought together more than 1,800 global technology brands and 1,000 speakers, alongside 600 startups and 1,900 investors. Over four days, LEAP provided a platform for discussions around emerging technologies, investment, innovation and developments shaping the future of the technology sector.

Expanding enterprise automation with UiPath

During the conference, stc Kuwait signed an agreement with UiPath to deliver Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and AI-driven automation solutions to its customers. The collaboration covers implementation, support and advisory services, allowing stc Kuwait to broaden its automation capabilities while helping organizations simplify processes through intelligent technologies.

Advancing enterprise data and AI capabilities with Cloudera

Through its partnership with Cloudera, stc Kuwait will expand its capabilities across hybrid data platforms, AI-powered analytics, data engineering and enterprise data management. The collaboration is aimed at helping organizations make more effective use of their data while supporting the adoption of AI and advanced analytics across their operations.

Simplifying enterprise IoT connectivity with Airling

Through its agreement with Airling, stc Kuwait will introduce a scalable IoT connectivity solution that enables enterprise customers to manage connected SIM fleets through a unified and automated platform. Customers will be able to manage shared data pools, service plans, policies, consumption and alerts through the solution, providing greater visibility over their connected devices.

Expanding managed cybersecurity capabilities with Cloudflare

stc Kuwait also entered into a strategic partnership with Cloudflare covering managed content delivery network services, DDoS protection, Web Application Firewall, Zero Trust Network Access and Secure Access Service Edge solutions. Leveraging Cloudflare's global edge network, the agreement will allow stc to offer enterprise customers a broader range of managed cybersecurity services.

Enhancing managed security services with Fortinet

Further expanding its cybersecurity portfolio, stc Kuwait partnered with Fortinet to enhance the managed security services available to organizations in Kuwait.

Through Fortinet's Managed Security Service Provider capabilities, stc Kuwait will be able to provide customers with comprehensive security solutions designed to protect their networks against a wide range of threats while simplifying deployment and ongoing operations.

Introducing AI-powered Network-as-a-Service with Nile

The partnership with Nile will enable stc Kuwait to offer AI-powered, secure Network-as-a-Service solutions to business customers. The collaboration introduces a next-generation managed connectivity model that gives business customers secure, scalable network environments with less complexity than traditional approaches.

Broadening technology collaboration with Huawei through CDN

CDN, a subsidiary of e-Portal Holding, signed an agreement with Huawei to establish a broad framework for collaboration across cloud, Network-as-a-Service, artificial intelligence and intelligent computing, as well as cybersecurity, IoT and industry-specific solutions. The partnership also covers communication and collaboration technologies, supported by joint solution development and go-to-market activities. Bringing together stc's reach across Kuwait's enterprise sector with Huawei's technology capabilities will create opportunities to develop solutions for specific market needs and move promising concepts from proof-of-concept stages towards commercial deployment.

Building partnerships that bring global innovation to Kuwait

Collectively, the agreements signed at LEAP 2026 reflect stc Kuwait's approach to expanding its enterprise offering through partnerships with specialized global technology providers, covering automation, AI, cybersecurity, connectivity, and IoT — areas of growing importance to enterprises and government entities in Kuwait.

Diesel surges to \$5.85/gal

Iran war pushes US fuel prices higher

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): It's never been more expensive in the U.S. to fill up the tank and take one last summer trip over the Labor Day weekend.

The average price of regular gas was \$4.14 a gallon heading into the holiday, nearly a dollar higher than last year and well above the Labor Day weekend record of \$3.82 from 2012, according to AAA motor club.

Nicole Collins planned to head from Philadelphia to South Carolina to visit friends, but she said her family has spent most of the summer close to home and not taking their typical weekend trips because driving has gotten so expensive.

"Gas is pretty high right now. It doesn't help that we also have a baby, so we also have to pay for that," Collins said outside a gas station in Claymont, Delaware, where regular gas was \$4.199 a gallon.

Prices shot up after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in February and have not settled down since. Crude oil traffic through the key Strait of Hormuz has plunged, and Iran has refused to reopen the waterway.

"Everything points to the Iran War and the Strait of Hormuz," said Tom Seng, a professor of energy finance at Texas Christian University.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright offered few specifics on when the nation's drivers might see relief at the gas pump, acknowledging that prices are higher now than Labor Day 2025.

"Yes, they're higher today, but we're doing everything we can to push them down," Wright said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

The national average for regular gas prices is still well below the record of \$5.02 a gallon set in June 2022.

But diesel is a different story: It hit a national average of \$5.85 a gallon Friday, a record.

Trucks and other freight delivery

systems use a lot of diesel, and that increased transportation cost is being passed on to consumers, whether at the grocery store or through package delivery services.

"It doesn't really seem like there's an end to it," Collins said. Gas prices typically drop as the summer driving season ends and refineries turn to making a cheaper winter blend.

But Seng said there are other factors this year even beyond the volatile situation in the Middle East that make future prices unpredictable. U.S. refineries are working at 98% capacity, many in the unusually harsh Texas heat. If there are problems there or a hurricane knocks some systems offline, prices will struggle to drop.

And it's not just a Middle East problem. Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian refineries are squeezing diesel supplies. Chinese refineries are seeing declining outputs as well, said Matthew Metzgar, a clinical professor of economics at UNC Charlotte.

"There's just less gasoline coming out of those refineries," Metzgar said.

Wright, the energy secretary, said the Trump administration was taking steps to increase production and that the markets forecast lower prices in the coming months.

"If you look at the futures prices, if you wanted to buy today in bulk gasoline for two months out in November, it's about \$0.35 cheaper than it is today. So the marketplace thinks gasoline prices are going to move meaningfully lower," he said.

Geopolitically, though, there is little a driver can do to knock down gas prices.

But using price apps can help save a little money, especially on long trips where gas by the interstate could be 10 to 15 cents per gallon more expensive than at stations a short drive down the road, Metzgar said.

Empowering the next generation of Kuwaiti digital talent

NBK launches 3rd cohort of the 'NBK Tech Academy'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has launched the third cohort of NBK Tech Academy, reaffirming its longstanding commitment to investing in Kuwaiti human capital and advancing its efforts to attract, develop and equip young national talent with the capabilities required to meet the evolving demands of the digital economy and contribute to the Bank's digital transformation and future growth.

NBK Tech Academy is Kuwait's first academy of its kind dedicated to digital technologies and data systems. Designed specifically for recent graduates in technology-related disciplines, the Academy equips participants with the technical and professional skills needed to build successful careers in an increasingly fast-paced and continuously evolving technology landscape.

The program reflects NBK's vision to develop future-ready national talent capable of keeping pace with rapid technological advancements. It delivers an integrated development experience that combines specialized learning, hands-on training, real-world applications and direct exposure to the workplace, helping bridge the gap between academic knowledge and the evolving requirements of the labor market.

Spanning six months, the program provides participants with intensive training across a broad range of contemporary technology disciplines, including FinTech, data analytics, technology ethics, cybersecurity, digital payments fundamentals, digital innovation, artificial intelligence and coding. It also covers core business and finance concepts for participants without a financial background, ensuring the program remains aligned with the

accelerating transformation reshaping the global banking industry.

The program also places strong emphasis on developing the professional and interpersonal skills that are essential to the success of young talent, including teamwork and team building, analytical thinking, project and change management, results orientation, communication and presentation skills, customer service, professional productivity, work ethics and continuous learning.

Participants also gain practical experience across various departments of the Bank, providing them with first-hand exposure to the modern banking environment and the latest digital applications used across the industry. This hands-on experience helps strengthen their professional readiness and enables them to translate academic knowledge into practical, value-adding capabilities.

Commenting on the launch of the third cohort, Senior Officer - Talent Management Abdulaziz Khalid Alkhalid said: "NBK believes that investing in people is the most important and sustainable investment, and that empowering Kuwaiti youth with future-ready skills and experience is a fundamental pillar of the Bank's continued success and innovation. Against this backdrop, NBK Tech Academy continues to serve as a specialized platform for developing and preparing recent graduates from

technology-related disciplines by equipping them with an integrated combination of technical, professional and business skills required to succeed in a workplace characterized by rapid change and continuous evolution."

He noted that the Academy represents an advanced model for professional development that bridges academic knowledge with practical application, offering participants a unique opportunity to learn and gain experience through direct exposure to the banking environment and the technologies shaping the future of the industry. It also helps build capabilities equipped to think innovatively, engage effectively with emerging technologies and develop solutions that support the Bank's digital transformation journey.

"The launch of the third cohort reflects the success of this distinctive program and NBK's continued commitment to investing in technology and developing young national talent, both of which are key drivers of future growth. We are proud to contribute to developing the next generation of Kuwaiti technology professionals, empowering them to play an active role in advancing the Bank's digital transformation and contributing to a more innovative and sustainable future for the banking sector and the national economy," Alkhalid added.

NBK Tech Academy embodies the Bank's commitment to developing the next generation of technology talent and reflects its vision to build a sustainable pipeline of qualified national capabilities that can continue supporting NBK's digital transformation journey and enhance its ability to deliver future growth and maintain leadership.



Executive Management with trainees from the NBK Tech Academy.

From Stevie Global Awards & the Association for Talent Development (ATD)

KFH wins seven prestigious Human Resources awards for 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has earned seven prestigious awards in Human Resources for 2026, including five recognitions in the 23rd edition of the Stevie Global Awards, along with two awards from the Association for Talent Development (ATD). These achievements underscore the Group’s commitment to fostering an exceptional work environment and advancing innovative HR practices that empower employees and reinforce an organizational culture built on continuous development. The awards include:

- KFH Kuwait – 2026 Stevie Awards for International Business Awards
- People Data & Analytics at Scale
- Achievement in Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG)
- Data Driven Candidate & Internal Mobility Experience
- Kuveyt Türk – 2026 Stevie Awards for Great Employers
- Talent Acquisition Ecosystem
- AI Powered English Skills Development Platform
- Kuveyt Türk – 2026 ATD Middle East Excellence Awards
- Competency Development Centre
- AI Driven Learning Transformation

This recognition reflects KFH’s extensive use of data and analytics across the Human Resources function to support employees and talent-related decisionmaking, marking a significant transformation in how data is used in human capital management and enabling more effective and informed decisions. It also reaffirms the Bank’s leadership in integrating sustainability principles within its corporate framework and long-term strategy.

Moreover, the awards highlight KFH’s success in devel-



Alhammad: Continue to invest in talent, data, AI, learning & development

oping an integrated end-to-end employee journey that begins with attracting talents and extends to empowering employees to explore development opportunities and internal mobility across the Group.

On this occasion, Acting Group Chief Human Resources Officer at KFH, Ahmad Alhammad, said: “This achievement reinforces KFH’s international competitiveness and affirms its position as a leading financial institution whose efforts extend beyond innovation in banking products and services to the development of an advanced human capital management ecosystem. It reflects the Group’s commitment to using data and modern technologies to support decisionmaking, while embedding sustainability and governance principles within its corporate framework and long-term strategy.”

Alhammad expressed his appreciation for this inter-

national recognition of KFH’s ongoing efforts to build a modern Human Resources ecosystem that uses technology to empower employees, improve their skills, and maintain a progressive work environment capable of facing future challenges. He emphasized that these efforts contribute to strengthening employee loyalty, attracting top talent, and reinforcing the Group’s overall position.

He also expressed his satisfaction with the success of Kuveyt Türk in enhancing the global presence of Kuwait Finance House Group by securing four of the seven awards, affirming the Group’s sustained excellence and innovation across its HR practices in international markets.

Alhammad explained that Kuwait Finance House will continue investing in the implementation of advanced technologies to enhance employee performance, support them in

achieving their career aspirations, and expand the range of well-being programs offered to employees and their families. He pointed out that these efforts further enrich the employee experience, strengthen national talent readiness, and support the achievement of the Group’s strategic objectives. He also stressed that the Human Resources function plays a vital role in reinforcing and elevating the overall performance of the Group.

Furthermore, Alhammad affirmed that these new awards add to KFH’s long record of global recognitions, further enhancing its position as a leading Islamic financial institution at both the regional and international levels. He noted that the awards also highlight the exceptional efforts of the Group’s Human Resources team and their commitment to implementing best-in-class practices and programs in the field.

Winners’ Selection

The winners were selected following a two-month evaluation process involving more than 300 specialists, with each submission reviewed by at least five volunteer judges before being approved by the Stevie Awards judging committee.

Stevie Awards and ATD Awards

The Stevie Awards, established in 2002, are among the world’s premier business awards. Often referred to as the “Oscars of the business world,” they were created to recognize and honor the achievements, innovations, and positive contributions of organizations and working professionals globally. The Association for Talent Development (ATD) is the world’s largest and most respected professional membership organization dedicated to the Learning & Development (L&D) and talent management industry.

Zain sets a new benchmark for 5G-Advanced innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Zain Kuwait has reached a new milestone in the evolution of its award-winning 5G-Advanced network, successfully completing the country’s first six-carrier aggregation verification and achieving peak downlink speeds of 3Gigabits per second (Gbps).

The milestone represents an important step forward in Zain’s journey to deliver faster, smarter, and more resilient next-generation connectivity, reinforcing network leadership as a key enabler of its 4WARD – Progress with Purpose strategy and preparing Kuwait’s digital infrastructure for the growing demands of an increasingly AI-powered digital economy.

By expanding the capabilities of 5G-Advanced across a broader range of spectrum, Zain is creating a stronger foundation for richer digital experiences, improved indoor connectivity, emerging mobile AI applications, and the continued growth of data-intensive services.

With 5G already accounting for more than 70% of traffic across its network, Zain continues to invest in technologies that enhance performance today while preparing its infrastructure for tomorrow’s digital demands. The latest achievement reinforces the company’s role in advancing Kuwait’s digital ecosystem and delivering the connectivity foundation required for increasingly intelligent, immersive, and data-driven services.

Field testing, completed in collaboration with MediaTek, confirmed peak downlink speeds of 3Gbps, demonstrating the potential of advanced carrier aggregation to deliver a substantial uplift in 5G-Advanced performance. Beyond faster speeds, the technology also supports a smoother transition of existing spectrum from 4G to 5G, helping Zain use its network resources more effi-

- The company completed Kuwait’s first six-carrier 5G-A test, achieving 3 Gbps
- Step accelerates transition toward an increasingly AI-powered digital economy

ciently as demand for 5G continues to grow.

The technology is also expected to strengthen 5G coverage, particularly in deep indoor environments where mobile signals can pose a challenge. At the same time, the expanded aggregation architecture significantly increases uplink capacity and performance, providing the high-quality connectivity required by a new generation of mobile AI and multimodal applications that depend on the rapid exchange of large volumes of data.

The milestone also supports wider sustainability ambitions by enabling greater network energy efficiency during the transition from 4G to 5G. The NR6CC architecture is designed to reduce power consumption per transmitted bit, allowing network capacity and performance to expand more efficiently while supporting Kuwait’s broader sustainability and carbon-reduction objectives.

The trial combined six spectrum carriers across both Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) and Time Division Duplex (TDD) bands through a 4FDD+2TDD configuration. It utilized 100 MHz on the N41 band, 100 MHz on N78, 20 MHz on N1, 15 MHz on N3, 10 MHz on N8, and 10 MHz on N20, with the verification conducted using MediaTek’s M90 modem. Notably, this marks the world’s first successful verification of a 4FDD+2TDD NR6CC configuration.



A group photo of the Sawaed Al Khaleej team.



Basta and Manara volunteering team welcome parents.

As part of its ‘Back to School’ campaign

Gulf Bank distributes 400 school bags to children

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: For the third consecutive year, and in celebration of the start of the new academic year, Gulf Bank distributed 400 school bags equipped with all essential school supplies to students from underprivileged families. The initiative was carried out in collaboration with the Basta and Manara Volunteering Team initiatives, with active participation from Gulf Bank’s employee volunteer team, Sawaed Al Khaleej.

This initiative forms part of the Bank’s annual “Back to School” campaign, which includes a range of activities and programs designed to support students and facilitate their return to the classroom following an extended period of remote learning resulting from geopolitical developments.

Gulf Bank’s collaboration with the Basta initia-

tive this year also coincides with the celebration of International Charity Day, observed on 5 September each year. Through this initiative, the Bank reaffirms the values of generosity, solidarity, and community support, while recognizing the invaluable efforts of volunteers around the world. It also aims to inspire young people and future generations to engage in humanitarian and volunteer work and to embrace volunteering as a culture that contributes to building a more connected and harmonious society.

As part of its commitment to fostering social sustainability, Gulf Bank actively participates in a variety of community initiatives throughout the year, with the goal of bringing joy to underprivileged families and encouraging students to continue their educational journey with confidence and motivation.

In addition, Gulf Bank provides annual support to students and parents who hold the Bank’s credit and prepaid cards through exclusive offers and discounts on school supplies in partnership with leading retailers across Kuwait. The Bank also offers a range of banking solutions tailored to support educational and savings goals, including educational loans and diverse savings accounts that promote a culture of saving, including the new Kids Account.

Gulf Bank remains committed to advancing sustainability programs and initiatives across all levels by launching carefully selected projects that create shared value for both the Bank and the wider community. These efforts align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Kuwait’s New Kuwait 2035 Vision.

America in focus: US hiring bounces back in August, mortgage rates climb

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): The economy, inflation and how those forces could impact the lives of Americans were front and center over the past week. Trips to the grocery store and gas station are more painful than they were last year, and rising costs are impacting the decisions of both households and businesses.

Here’s a snapshot of prominent economic data and news that occurred over the past week and what it potentially means for you.

The U.S. job market rebounded in August as employers added a surprising 162,000 jobs, which far exceeded the 65,000 that economists had expected.

Two months before the midterm elections, President Donald Trump welcomed the strong hiring report Friday. “Great jobs number just announced, breaking all estimates (except mine!) by double and triple - And you haven’t seen anything yet!” he wrote in a social media post.

But inflation has dominated conversations this year in business and households. Voters are increasingly frustrated by higher costs, particularly fuel prices that have hit record levels since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in late February.

And meager pay raises have made rising prices more painful for many. Average hourly wages rose 3.1% last month from a year earlier, the weakest year-over-year increase since May 2021.

Employers posted slightly more job openings in July as the American labor market remained sturdy in the face of higher costs that are squeezing household budgets.

U.S. job openings ticked up to 7.27 million in July from a revised 7.18 million in June, the Labor Department reported Tuesday.

The department’s Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) also showed that layoffs fell. But so did the number of people quitting their jobs - a sign of confidence in their prospects.

The American job market is hardly booming, but it is ambly along despite an energy shock



Hiring sign is displayed in Northbrook, Ill., Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

caused by the fighting with Iran that has squeezed family budgets.

Diesel hit a record price in the U.S., soaring to an average of \$5.85 a gallon for the first time Friday as the six-month war with Iran disrupts the world’s flow of fuel. Holiday travelers will pay more than they every have over Labor Day weekend for gasoline, which remains well above \$4 per gallon.

But it’s not just holiday travelers likely to feel the pinch. Higher diesel prices mean higher transportation costs for a long list of essential goods. Some businesses have already passed on costs to consumers in the form of added fees on online orders and packages in the mail. Shoppers may experience more sticker shock as higher shipping costs trickle down to store shelves.

One of the most immediate strains is being felt in the grocery aisle, particularly with produce, meat and other perishable foods that need to be hauled in and restocked frequently. Chipmaker Nvidia is buying artificial intelligence software platform Hugging Face for \$13 billion.

In July, Hugging Face’s data processing systems were hacked, and ChatGPT maker OpenAI acknowledged that its artificial intelligence system

was to blame, sending shock waves through the security community amid heightened concerns about the capabilities of powerful AI models.

Just over a week later, Anthropic said its artificial intelligence models hacked into three other organizations during testing. That was followed closely by an announcement from Meta, which said its AI model accessed the internet on its own and hacked another company.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said that Hugging face will remain an open platform. He signaled that Nvidia is betting that more businesses will turn to open-source AI, which lets them download and customize their own AI models, rather than pay for proprietary AI services from companies such as OpenAI and Anthropic.

Mortgage rates rose again this week, driving the average long-term U.S. home loan rate to its highest level in more than a year.

The benchmark 30-year fixed rate mortgage rate rose to 6.71% from 6.66% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. One year ago, the average rate was 6.50%.

Higher mortgage rates can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting homebuyers’ purchasing power. As rates rise, that can lead prospective home shoppers to delay buying a home, one reason U.S. home sales remain in a rut this year.

U.S. stocks mostly fell and Treasury bond yields rose to end the week after the monthly U.S. jobs report revealed a surprise burst in hiring in August that may free up the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates in its fight against inflation.

The tech sector relies on lax monetary policy for credit and any increase in the U.S. benchmark rate would make expansion more costly. Alphabet, Apple and Microsoft all pointed lower Friday.

The S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq composite struggled to finish the week positive.



Zain HQ

Global shares are mixed as chipmaker shares rally in Tokyo & Seoul

TOKYO, Sept 7, (AP): Global shares were trading mixed on Monday, with benchmarks in Tokyo and Seoul leading gains thanks to buying of computer chipmakers’ stocks.

France’s CAC 40 was little changed, inching up less than 0.1% in early trading to 8,282.06. The German DAX shed 0.2% to 25,993.23. Britain’s FTSE 100 declined 0.2% to 10,814.01.

U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures down 0.3% to 53,273.00. S&P 500 futures were little changed at 7,721.75.

In Asia, Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 added 2.1% to finish at 66,399.84, while South Korea’s Kospi jumped 4.6% to 6,995.39.

Shares in Samsung Electronics soared 5.7% and memory chipmaker SK Hynix surged 8.1%. Renesas Electronics Corp. added 3.1%, Rohm Co. rose 7.8% and Tokyo Electron edged up 4.7%.

“The AI complex continues to provide the local equity markets with its most dependable growth pulse,” said Stephen Innes, a former trader, about the Asian markets.

“The AI complex is firmly in the leadership seat and reminding investors that, for all the hand-wringing around valuation, the hardware trade is still refusing to roll over.”

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng lost 0.9% to 25,413.12, while the Shanghai Composite gained less than 0.1% to 3,932.70.

Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 rose less than 0.1% to 9,010.90.

In energy markets, Brent crude, the international standard, added 4 cents to \$96.32 a barrel following further escalation of the six-month-long U.S. war with Iran.

The U.S. military denied that Iran struck an uncrewed American military vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, which remains effectively closed, calling the claim a “total lie.”

A senior Iranian official said Tehran plans to announce an “exclusion zone” outside the strait, targeting vessels it believes are attempting to transit the waterway. That followed U.S. strikes on three Iranian oil tankers in response to Tehran

launching ballistic missiles at U.S. warships.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 29 cents to \$91.19 a barrel.

U.S. markets will be closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday.

Market players expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates before the year ends to help cool inflation, which remains well above 3%. The Fed’s next policy-making committee meeting ends Sept. 16.

The Fed has a stated goal of cooling inflation to a target of 2%. August inflation figures are expected on Sept. 11.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar slipped to 155.95 yen from 156.22 Japanese yen. The euro cost \$1.1634, up from \$1.1621.

The weakening yen has been a major area of concern for Japanese leaders. Its value has rebounded after the dollar surged to the 160 yen level last week. Market watchers are focused on what the Bank of Japan might do on interest rates at its next policy board meeting later this month.

Medical drama 'The Pitt' claims 4; Reiner wins guest actor posthumously

Horror-comedy 'Widow's Bay' runs away with 8 Emmys

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 7, (AP): "Widow's Bay" ran away with eight early Emmys for its debut season Sunday at a ceremony eight days before the main awards show and telecast, while "The Pitt" had a strong second-year showing with four of its own and Rob Reiner posthumously won an acting Emmy nearly nine months after his killing.

"DTF St. Louis" won big with six awards in the limited series categories, with co-stars and veteran actors David Harbour and Linda Cardellini both becoming first-time Emmy winners.

"Widow's Bay," the Apple TV horror comedy with Matthew Rhys as the mayor of a small New England town dealing with a centuries-old curse, won categories including cinematography, sound, music and production design.

Betty Gilpin won best guest actress in a comedy for her role on the show, and read a rapid-fire comic poem as her acceptance speech. It included the lines "our business is stupid, but actors are the bomb" and "let's all lean more toward Sam Shepard and less toward Sam Altman."

HBO Max's day-in-the-life medical series "The Pitt" - the year's top nominee with 25 and the reigning best drama winner for its first season - had wins Sunday in categories including prosthetic makeup and best guest actor in a drama for 73-year-old first-time nominee Ernest Harden Jr.

Harden, who won for portraying the last days of Louie Cloverfield, the emergency room's constant presence and constantly struggling alcoholic on "The Pitt," wept when his name was called.

"I am just on cloud 25," he said backstage at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. "I'm not saying it's a complete surprise because 'The Pitt' is such a powerful show to come from, but just to get it in your hands is unreal."

Harden's first speaking role was in the 1975 Robert Redford-Faye Dunaway thriller "Three Days of the Condor" and he had a three-season role on the sitcom "The Jeffersons" in the 1970s, but has acted for decades without awards recognition.

Singer-songwriter Andrew Bird and Gavin Brivik won for original music and lyrics for a song they wrote about the character.

"It's not a music-heavy show," Bird said backstage. "But they gave us a beautiful moment with a character that we love."

The Television Academy hands out well over 100 primetime Emmys, and most of them are being presented this weekend in a pair of ceremonies. 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 weekend's awards primarily go to behind-the-scenes crew members, but they include the guest-acting awards that tend to go



The team from "Widow's Bay" poses in the press room with the award for outstanding sound mixing for a comedy or drama series (half-hour) and animation during night two of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP)



Noah, from left, Cathy Sandrich Gelfond, Erica Berger, and Seth Caskey pose in the press room with the award for outstanding casting for a drama series for "The Pitt" during night two of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP)

to bigger names. And the shows' star power got a boost when five categories normally on the main telecast were bumped to the earlier weekend, among them best supporting actor in a limited series, won by Harbour in his third nomination, and best supporting actress in a limited series, won by Linda Cardellini in her fourth nomination in an elite TV career that included roles on "Freaks and Geeks" and "Mad Men."

"Thank you to everybody who along the way through the years

helped me get to this moment of a real dream come true," Cardellini said from the stage, through tears.

At a ceremony that otherwise moved at a blazing-fast clip with a breezy mood, a long, thoughtful ovation came when Reiner was announced as best guest actor in a comedy for his work on "The Bear." Reiner's friend and fellow "Bear" guest star Jamie Lee Curtis was among those in the crowd paying him tribute.

Reiner was killed along with his wife Michele Singer Reiner in

December, and their son, who has pleaded not guilty, has been charged with stabbing them to death. His win came about 50 years after winning two Emmy Awards for his acting on "All in the Family."

Saturday and Sunday's ceremonies 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.

Both "Widow's Bay" and "The



Ernest Harden Jr. accepts the Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for "The Pitt" during night two of the Television Academy's 78th Emmy Awards at the Peacock Theater at L.A. LIVE on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026 in Los Angeles. (AP)



Linda Cardellini accepts the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie for "DTF St. Louis" during night two of the Television Academy's 78th Emmy Awards. (AP)



David Harbour accepts the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie for "DTF St. Louis" during night two of the Television Academy's 78th Emmy Awards at the Peacock Theater. (AP)

Pitt" can add up to six more Emmys to their totals on that final night.

"Pluribus," another Apple TV Emmy rookie from "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan that could challenge "The Pitt" in the top drama categories, won four trophies Sunday night including editing, production design and sound mixing.

Shailene Woodley won best guest actress in a drama for her role on "Paradise." It was her first Emmy.

"Spider-Noir," the Nicolas Cage series which was canceled after one season last week by Amazon Prime

Video, won five Emmys including visual effects and stunts.

Hargitay was among this weekend's winners, getting two Emmys for the documentary she directed about her mother, Jayne Mansfield, "My Mom Jayne," to go with the best actress in a drama Emmy she won in 2006 for "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

And Bad Bunny won his first career Emmy Award for his Super Bowl halftime show, which took seven trophies at the first of the weekend's ceremonies on Saturday.

Variety

NEW YORK: Robin Morgan, a wholesome child star of the 1940s and '50s who grew up to become an all-American radical as a poet, essayist, editor and second-wave feminist, has died. She was 85.



Morgan's death was confirmed Saturday by the Women's Media Center, an organization she co-founded with Jane Fonda and the celebrated author and activist Gloria Steinem, who died Wednesday.

During the 1960s and '70s, Morgan embodied and inspired historic changes in how women lived and thought. As she was happy to point out, the one-time "Ideal American Girl" and adored "Little Robin Morgan" was a rule breaker and justice seeker with a notable list of achievements, along with a prison record and an FBI file.

Women's Media Center President Julie Burton called Morgan "one of the architects of the contemporary women's movement," hailing her writing and "global leadership for justice and equality." The statement didn't specify the location, date or cause of Morgan's death.

Morgan was at the center of the some of the defining moments of what came to be called second-wave feminism, expanding upon the achievements of the suffragists a half-century earlier. In 1968, she was among the organizers of the first protest against the Miss America pageant, joining fellow activists in tossing their bras (soon mythologized as burning) into a "Freedom Trash Can." (AP)

Golden Lion winner credits training, Strasberg legacy for 50-year career

Burstyn stars as 100-year-old Monroe in Venice short

VENICE, Sept. 7, (AP): Of all the roles Ellen Burstyn might have been offered in her 90s, that of Marilyn Monroe, who died at 36, seemed fairly unlikely. But then one day Maggie Gyllenhaal came to her apartment to talk about a wild idea: What if she played Monroe at 100?

"It sounded like a good idea to me," Burstyn told The Associated Press.

Their 17-minute short film, "Flesh Impact," is having its world premiere Monday at the Venice Film Festival, where Burstyn, 93, is receiving a Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement.

Though Burstyn never met Monroe, there was overlap. They shared a massage therapist, who would tell stories about his late friend. He even told Burstyn that she was actually quite like Monroe, and lent her one of Monroe's old books called "The Thinking Body," which had some treasures like old receipts, inside.

"I knew that she was not what she presented as her persona and that actually that's a persona that she created," Burstyn said. "She created the whole concept of Marilyn Monroe and played it."

Once, she saw her in a nightclub and Monroe nodded at her.

"She was so startlingly beautiful and she caught my eye and ... I felt that she recognized me," Burstyn said. "I was very early in my career. And the fact that she recognized me, I just felt so honored and pleased."

The Monroe short came about in somewhat unconventional fashion, through the luxury car company Genesis, whose chief marketing officer Amy Marentic approached Gyllenhaal about doing something



Jury president Maggie Gyllenhaal poses for photographers at the red carpet for the film 'A Place to Heal' during the 83rd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026. (AP)

around what would have been Monroe's 100th birthday in June.

Gyllenhaal asked for a weekend to think about it, and landed on Marilyn, at 100, "doing basically the most vulnerable, one of the most vulnerable things I think an actor can do, which is audition, alone on a stage."

Burstyn was the first actor she thought of.

"I just had this feeling maybe this is an opportunity for her to

think about things in a new way," Gyllenhaal said.

The two found that they shared a similar language and approach to the work.

"We are interested in the depth of what's being revealed. And we both want to go there," Burstyn said. "If we're going to be doing anything, we're gonna be doing it from there."

Though nothing has really changed very much in how

Burstyn chooses roles over the years - she just wants to be moved or challenged - having a set populated largely by women was a far cry from how things were when she was starting out.

"When I first started working, which was 150 years ago, there were no women on the set. There were no women crew. There was no woman behind the camera. ... If a woman was on set, that meant that she was an actress," Burstyn

said in a news conference Monday. "Then, slowly, thanks to blessed Gloria Steinem who just died, the consciousness started to change."

Burstyn is also in a feature film, Kornél Mundruczó's, "Place to Be" alongside Taika Waititi that's playing at the festival. And, she said, she's feeling "slightly overwhelmed" by the whole thing.

"I have been asking myself, why do I deserve this? What have I done? It's a long career," she said. "And I finally came to it today that I wouldn't have had this career without my training."

Perhaps that is a bit modest for someone who has won an Oscar, for "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," a Tony and two Emmys for her acting. In her over 50 years in the business, she's appeared in around 150 films, and is currently serving as a co-president of The Actors Studio. Burstyn even teaches acting classes occasionally, continuing the legacy of her mentor and acting coach Lee Strasberg.

"Her artistry, which could illuminate pain and everyday resilience with dignity, irony and courage, remains an absolute model of authenticity in performance and civic engagement within the craft of acting," festival director Alberto Barbera said in a statement.

Sitting alongside Gyllenhaal the day before the big award, she described her outfit, a gown, and wondered if it was too much. Her director assured her it wasn't: This was her day.

"I'm just really very happy to be here and very grateful to receive this award and grateful to this lady who put me in this interesting and deep and funny and wonderful movie," Burstyn said.

Hourani’s art moves beyond headlines to focus on people

Palestinian art exhibition offers moment of tranquility amid destruction



Palestinians keep searching for safety, carrying the pain of being displaced since the Nakba.



Displacement and the search for flour have become a daily reality in Gaza.



Artist Khaled Hourani reshapes the reality of Gaza through his ideas and emotions.



A Palestinian child flies a kite as its shadow becomes a helicopter.



A Palestinian mother reaches toward her child drifting peacefully among the clouds, symbolizing love, longing, and their unbreakable bond.



A child’s coffin rises into the clouds above Gaza’s devastated skies.

By Nejouad Al-Qassem

RAMALLAH, Sept 7, (KUNA): Palestinian artist Khaled Hourani, with his exhibition “1030+”, offers visitors a refuge from the bombing and destruction, to a place a of calm, ease, and tranquility.

His exhibition recently opened at Zawyeh Gallery in Al-Bireh in the West Bank, moves beyond the noise of news reports, casualty figures and urban destruction to focus on people without separating them from their reality. The exhibition provides a momentary space for viewers to absorb what is happening amid the ongoing war.

Food

Rubbed with sumac & cinnamon, finished with honey

Easy Greek-style halibut and halloumi skewers

By Maria Koutsogiannis

LOS ANGELES, Sept 7, (AP): The chapter on main dishes in my cook-book, “Greek Out,” starts with an explanation of what “main dish” means to me.

Most people, understandably, immediately think of dinner. Because in many places that’s the biggest meal of the day, and it’s usually meat plus starch plus vegetable.

But the way I grew up thinking about meals, a main dish is more of a feeling than a set formula, and it’s definitely not just about dinner. First of all, when I was growing up, the biggest meal of the day was usually lunch.

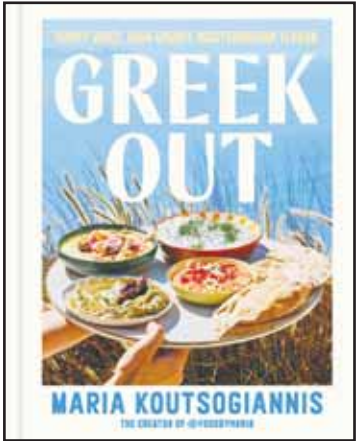
For this main dish, the idea is simple: Rub the halibut with sumac and cinnamon and a little drizzle of olive oil, grill until caramelized and charred, then hit it with some honey. Chewy, creamy, cheesy, sweet, salty – they’re all in attendance in one fun handheld barbecue dish. Halloumi isn’t as Greek as graviera as far as firm, salty cheeses go, but it holds its shape so nicely and goes toe to toe with the tender, juicy halibut.

Serves 4 as a main or 10 as an appetizer

- 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest (from 1 to 2 lemons)
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground sumac
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 pound skinless wild halibut, cut into 1-inch cubes



This image released by Voracious shows a recipe for halibut and halloumi skewers with dates and figs, from the cookbook “Greek Out,” by Maria Koutsogiannis. (AP)



This image released by Voracious the cookbook “Greek Out,” by Maria Koutsogiannis. (AP)

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cups 1-inch chunks sourdough bread
- 10 fresh figs, halved
- 9 ounces halloumi, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 10 Medjool dates, pitted
- Hot honey or regular honey, for serving
- Fresh mint leaves, for serving
- Store-bought toum (garlic spread), for serving (optional)
- Prep the halibut: If using wooden skewers, soak them in water for 20 minutes.
- In a small bowl, stir together the lemon zest, sumac, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper and cinnamon. Use paper towels to pat the halibut cubes dry, then transfer to a medi-

um bowl. Sprinkle with the seasoning mixture and 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and gently toss to coat the fish.

Assemble the skewers: In a second medium bowl, combine the bread, figs and halloumi with the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil and toss to coat.

Thread each skewer with a piece of bread, halloumi, halibut and fig, plus a date. Repeat until you’ve run out of ingredients and have made 10 skewers.

Grill: Heat the grill to medium heat - about 400 F or 200 C - and brush or spray with olive oil.

Add the skewers and grill until char marks form on the first side, 2 to 3 minutes. Flip and repeat on the remaining three sides, until the halibut is cooked through and flakes easily with a fork, 8 to 12 minutes total.

Serve: Transfer the skewers to a plate or platter, hit ‘em with a drizzle of honey and lemon and a sprinkle of mint, then serve with toum, if desired.

□ □ □

Maria Koutsogiannis is CEO and creator of FoodByMaria, a community of nearly 4 million followers who enjoy Greek and Mediterranean recipes. She grew up working in her parents’ Greek diner and traveling to Greece every summer. She lives in New York City and Calgary, Alberta, with her husband and two dogs.

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Social media & online learning revive youth’s mother tongues

Diaspora Africans embrace ancestral languages

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Sept 7, (AP): A television game show in Nigeria’s commercial hub of Lagos has an unforgiving rule: Speak English and you lose. For a U.S.-born millennial in the audience and a student of her parents’ mother tongue, the high-stakes setting is a perfect classroom.

Meanwhile, a 15-year-old Canadian speaks to a teacher about 13,000 kilometers (8,000 miles) away in Zimbabwe, learning a language her parents feared she would never speak.

“Mhoroi,” Nyashadzashé Machingura says cheerfully with a pronounced Canadian accent while greeting in Zimbabwe’s vernacular Shona.

The scenes capture a new generation of interest and entrepreneurship around African languages once pushed to the margins by decades of colonialism. Often seen as secondary to English, French and Portuguese, they are enjoying a renaissance that is also creating business opportunities.

Africa is home to over 1 billion people speaking roughly a third of the world’s languages, with between



Contestant Alhaja Olajumoke, left, participates on a game show called Masoyinbo, which translates to “Do not speak English,” in Lagos, Nigeria, Monday, July 27, 2026. (AP)

1,500 and 3,000 across 54 countries, according to UNESCO.

Experts say the revival in some of them is driven partly by second- and third-generation Africans in the diaspora finding it easier to reconnect with their roots and communicate

with older relatives, thanks to social media, online learning and entertainment.

“There were times I definitely felt left out because my family around me were all speaking Shona. And I just couldn’t understand them,”

Nyashadzashé said after a lesson covering traditional greetings, proverbs and ancestral clan symbols. She said she had eaten the food and worn the traditional clothing but still felt left out.

But now her conversations with her grandparents in Zimbabwe are growing longer.

“Being able to connect with them on that level makes me really proud of my heritage,” she said.

Her Zimbabwe-based tutor, Shungu Chidovi, left her banking career in January to focus full-time on ZimOriginal, an online platform that teaches Shona through storytelling, book clubs and “buddy pairing” exchanges.

Now she teaches about two dozen learners in Zimbabwe, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Ireland and Scotland, charging \$50 a month.

The business, part of a small but growing number of online initiatives teaching African languages, emerged almost by accident. Chidovi began writing a blog about Zimbabwean traditions in 2016. Readers began asking whether she taught Shona.

Red-meat alternative

Alpha-gal patients turn to ostrich for a taste of beef

DANVILLE, Ky., Sept 7, (AP): When a friend approached Brent Williams four years ago with a business proposition to start an ostrich farm, he was more than intrigued - he had a personal motivation as someone who developed a life-threatening allergy to red meat, triggered by tick bites.

The problem, known as alpha-gal syndrome, was first linked to a particular species of ticks about 15 years ago. But cases are on the rise as more people report symptoms such as hives, diarrhea and itchiness after eating as little as a mouthful of red meat. The allergy doesn’t extend to seafood or poultry. Chicken, turkey and eggs are all OK to eat.

And so is ostrich meat.

The flightless bird’s meat, red in color and high in iron, has a look and taste similar to beef.

“The people that have alpha-gal that I talked to that have tried an ostrich burger, most of them are almost in tears,” said Williams, a nutritionist and partner at Alpha Roost Farms in Danville, Kentucky. They say, “You just don’t know how bad I missed this.”

The farm is looking to nearly double its herd by next year. It recently built a new barn for hatchlings of the birds, which are native to Africa and are the world’s largest, standing at nine feet tall (2.7 meters) and weighing more than 300 pounds (136 kilograms). The farm has more than 400 birds, and expects that number to grow to 700 by next year.

Alpha Roost Farms owner W.D. King, who approached Williams with the idea of raising ostriches, said the interest from those with alpha-gal is helping drive the demand.

“People who haven’t had a hamburger in six or seven years really want one,” King said.

And they are willing to pay: A pound of ground ostrich can cost more than \$20, and choice cuts can sell for more than \$40.

“We have people that drive here from all over the state to get the ostrich,” said Leah Gibbs, who runs Dry Branch Farm market in Danville, Kentucky, that sells ostrich cuts from Alpha Roost Farms.

“They are elated to have something that’s an alternative to beef,” Gibbs

said. “I mean, it tastes exactly like beef.”

The Alpha-Gal Association, a non-profit advocacy group that provides online resources to people with the allergy, recommends ostrich as a dietary substitute that tastes like beef.

Boyd Clark, who runs a large ostrich farm in Texas, said he expects to increase his herd of about 1,200 birds by 50% next year. Clark has raised the big birds since the 1980s, and said the few full-scale ostrich farms around the country are trying to meet a growing demand.

“We get calls weekly from various restaurants or even small stores in different parts of the country that you wouldn’t think would even want to carry ostrich, but they’re looking for it because they’ve got customers wanting it,” said Clark, who runs Clark Ostrich Farm, about 90 miles (144 kilometers) northwest of Austin.

The latest interest comes after ostrich farming saw a surge and crash in the 1990s, when many farms and investors were eager to get into the ostrich market but lacked experience dealing with the wild birds.

“The U.S. producers that jumped both feet in in the ‘90s, they were all operating under the premise that these were 300-pound chickens,” said Michael Lehman, vice president of the American Ostrich Association and an ostrich farmer in Oregon.

The farms tried to apply the high-density approach that works well with chickens, but ostriches need free range space, Lehman said. The farms weren’t able to get the yields they expected, so supply wasn’t able to meet demand, he said, and the industry crashed under skyrocketing prices.

Lehman estimated there are only about 10 to 15 farms operating today that have large ostrich herds, and those producers have a better understanding of the animals’ behavior and free range needs.

Williams was diagnosed with alpha-gal seven years ago. His first allergic reaction came in 2017 after eating a steak sandwich while traveling for work, something he had done hundreds of times before.

He went to see an allergist for help in diagnosing the puzzling and painful flare-up.



In this photo taken with a smartphone, Brent Williams, who suffers from the tick bite allergy known as alpha gal syndrome, pets an ostrich at Alpha Roost Farms in Danville, Ky. (AP)

‘It is difficult, but we try to push ourselves beyond our limits’

Congo’s Ebola burial teams battle community anger, fatigue and fear of infection

BUNIA, Congo, Sept 7, (AP): Yuma Adolphe and his team are responsible for the safe and dignified burial of some of the people who die from Ebola in Congo’s Ituri province, the epicenter of history’s deadliest Ebola outbreak. Nearly every day, they dig the graves, prepare the bodies and handle the coffins.

But as the authorities grapple with the outbreak, which has killed nearly 3,200 people among more than 6,600 confirmed cases, the burial team says they are at their limits, struggling with an increasing workload and hostile communities.

“It is difficult, but we try to push ourselves beyond our limits,” Adolphe told The Associated Press.

Since the outbreak began in mid-May, authorities have deployed small burial teams like Adolphe’s across the hot spots to handle the burials. Paid \$20 a day, they are a part of a group of front-line workers who are working to contain the rapidly moving disease.

Despite the toll, the burial team members say the priority is to keep their community safe.

“We have to look at our own mental well-being, and physically the fatigue mounts, but we keep going to ensure the community is protected.”

But their work is in the crosshairs of the locals’ frustration with the outbreak, which not only has taken their loved ones but prohibits them from traditional burial rites.

Health workers exclusively handle the bodies as Ebola spreads as a result of direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of infected people.

Experts say bodies of victims still contain considerable amounts of active virus and can spread infections further.

Since May, health workers and burial teams such as Adolphe’s have been attacked by bereaved families across the front line of the outbreak.

“Usually, the body is handed over to the family, who can handle it however they wish, in accordance with our African customs,” Adolphe said. “But in this situation, it’s difficult to let the family handle the body as they please. They are deprived of certain rituals, and that’s what leads to misunderstandings.”

Jeanne Alasha, adviser to the military governor of Ituri on health and humanitarian affairs, said that “as for those who continue to assault the teams, they are committing offenses punishable by law.”

Ituri province, where the outbreak is concentrated, is also at the center of the rebel conflict in eastern Congo. The province is under a military government appointed by federal civilian authorities in Kinshasa.

Shortly before noon last Friday, Justine Abineno, a chorister, was buried in Ituri. Abineno had died of Ebola. She had only complained of slight headaches before heading to a hospital and was diagnosed with Ebola, her mother said.

A catechist presided over the ceremony attended by dozens of people, as a team of specialist burial team members in scrubs and boots stood by.

Abineno’s mother, Sofia Wanito, said that the doctors only allowed her to see the body through the window of the hospital ward, and she wasn’t allowed



Health workers who are members of the safe and dignified burial team prepare to bury Abineno Justine, a 38-year old woman who died of the Ebola virus, in Bunia, Congo, on Sept 4. (AP)

to touch the coffin.

“In the past, we didn’t die like this. I could not even cover her with the sheets myself and pay a final tribute,” Wanito said.

The Ebola outbreak is spreading across six provinces in eastern Congo in some of the most difficult conditions imaginable, fueled by rebel violence, displacement and intense population movements. A weak healthcare and surveillance system also challenges responders, and insufficient contact tracing and laboratory testing.

Efforts to contain the outbreak have also been complicated by the lack of an approved vaccine or treatment for the rare Bundibugyo virus causing it. Authorities have started vaccinating front-line health workers with the Eprebo vaccine, which the World Health Organization says could offer some protection against Ebola but there’s no conclusive evidence that it would work against the current virus.

Health authorities say the true scale of the crisis is likely three times more than official statistics as the disease continues to outpace efforts to contain it. WHO has said that it’s projected to surpass the deadliest in history, West Africa’s 2014-2016 outbreak, which killed more than 11,000 people.

Front-line health workers in eastern Congo have gone on multiple strikes to demand pay for their work, complicating efforts to stop the outbreak.

Benjamin Muhindo, another burial team member, said that his family wor-

ries that he might bring the virus home. For him, though, a bigger priority is ensuring the proper burial of victims, he said.

“Burials during this Ebola epidemic are very complicated, as we are working under pressure and constantly racing against the clock,” Muhindo said.

Trauma experts say the high number of cases and the deaths are only one side of its impact at personal and communal levels.

“The trauma of this outbreak doesn’t stop with the case count,” said Rose Tchwenko, Mercy Corps country director in Congo. The chain of transmission will only be broken by “an integrated holistic response,” which includes a social response to bereaved families and front-line workers, she added.

After the burial on Friday, Adolphe said that he’s very tired but more worried about the community than anything else.

“We have no choice,” he said. “We are here to safeguard our community.”

Also:

WINDHOEK, Namibia: The **United States** will start phasing out its financial support for Namibia’s HIV response programs, the latest among southern African countries to feel the effects of the withdrawal of foreign aid by the US administration.

The US will provide Namibia with \$45 million for its HIV response in the 2027 fiscal year but the country will then start funding its own HIV programs, with the US only providing “technical cooperation,” both countries said in statement.

Namibia has received around \$45 million annually through the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in recent years. The United States says it has contributed more than \$1.1 billion to Namibia’s HIV response since 2003.

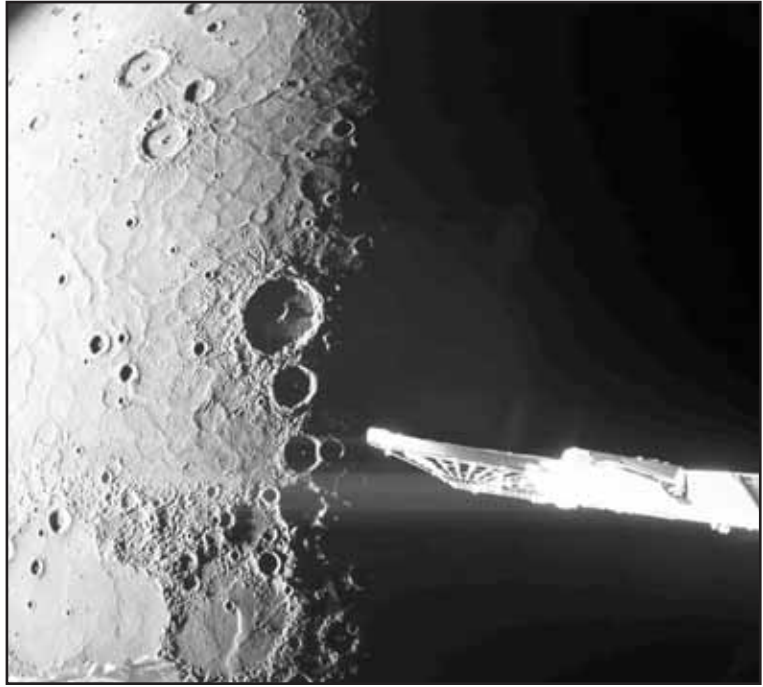
While the withdrawal of the funding was expected since the Trump administration’s “America First” approach to foreign aid was announced, it follows Namibia’s rejection of proposed provisions for sharing health data and biological specimens with the United States. Namibia cited privacy, sovereignty and legal concerns for its decision.

The Trump administration has been entering into country-by-country agreements that Washington says will reduce donor dependency, increase domestic financing and safeguard American interests. The US has signed agreements with about 30 countries since late last year, many of them in **Africa**.

But **Ghana** rejected a proposed agreement over access to sensitive health data. Zimbabwe withdrew from a \$367 million package over similar concerns, and a court challenge has put Kenya’s \$2.5 billion agreement on hold. Zambia has also objected to data-sharing demands.

Namibian officials previously said the proposed provisions in their original form were “not in compliance with Namibia’s national laws” and infringed constitutional privacy protections and national sovereignty over biological resources.”

Both government are reported to be negotiating a new bilateral health agreement.



This undated image provided by the European Space Agency shows close-up photos of Mercury’s north pole captured by the European-Japanese spacecraft BepiColombo. (AP)

As US hunger rises, Trump administration ‘efficiency’ goals cause massive food waste

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

By Tevis Garrett Graddy-Lovelace
American University School of International Service

The US government has caused massive food waste during President Donald Trump’s second term. Policies such as immigration raids, tariff changes and temporary and permanent cuts to food assistance programs have left farmers short of workers and money, food rotting in fields and warehouses, and millions of Americans hungry. And that doesn’t even include the administration’s actual destruction of edible food.

The US government estimates that more than 47 million people in America don’t have enough food to eat - even with federal and state governments spending hundreds of billions of dollars a year on programs to help them.

Yet, huge amounts of food - on average in the US, as much as 40% of it - rots before being eaten. That amount is equivalent to 120 billion meals a year: more than twice as many meals as would be needed to feed those 47 million hungry Americans three times a day for an entire year.

This colossal waste has enormous economic costs and renders useless all the water and resources used to grow the food. In addition, as it rots, the wasted food emits in the US alone over 4 million metric tons of methane - a heat-trapping greenhouse gas.

As a scholar of wasted food, I have watched this problem worsen since Trump began his second term in January 2025. Despite this administration’s claim of streamlining the government to make its operations more efficient, a range of recent federal policies have, in fact, exacerbated food wastage.

Supplying fresh foods, such as fruits, vegetables and dairy, requires skilled workers on tight timelines to ensure ripeness, freshness and high quality.

The Trump administration’s widespread efforts to arrest and deport immigrants have sent Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Border Patrol and other agencies into hundreds of agricultural fields, meat processing plants and food production and distribution sites. Supported by billions of taxpayer dollars, they have arrested thousands of food workers and farmworkers - with lethal consequences at times.

Dozens of raids have not only violated immigrants’ human rights and torn families apart: They have jeopardized the national food supply. Farmworkers already work physically hard jobs for low wages. In legitimate fear for their lives and liberty, reports indicate that in some places 70% of people harvesting, processing and distributing food stopped showing up to work by mid-2025.

News reports have identified many instances where crops have been left to rot in abandoned fields. Even the U.S. Department of Labor declared in October 2025 that aggressive farm raids drive farmworkers into hiding, leave substantial amounts of food unharvested and thus pose a “risk of supply shock-induced food shortages.”

When the Trump administration all but shut down

the U.S. Agency for International Development in early 2025, the agency had 500 tons of ready-to-eat, high-energy biscuits worth US\$800,000, stored to distribute to starving people around the world who had been displaced by violence or natural disasters. With no staff to distribute the biscuits, they expired while sitting in a warehouse in Dubai.

Incinerating the out-of-date biscuits reportedly cost an additional \$125,000.

An additional 70,000 tons of USAID food aid may also have been destroyed.

In the late 20th century, as globalized trade patterns grew, US farmers struggled with agricultural prices below their production costs. Yet tariffs in the first Trump administration did not protect small farms.

And the tariffs imposed in early 2025, after Trump regained the White House, severed US soybean trade with China for months. Meanwhile, there’s nowhere to store the mountains of soybeans. An October 2025 agreement may resume some activity, but at lower price levels and a slower pace than before, as China looks to Brazil and Argentina to meet its vast demand.

Though the soybeans were intended to feed the Chinese pig industry, not humans, the specter of waste looms both in terms of the potential spoilage of soybeans and the actual human food that could have been grown in their place.

Since taking office, the second Trump administration has taken many steps aimed at efficiency that actually boosted food waste. Mass firings of food safety personnel risks even more outbreaks of foodborne diseases, tainted imports, and agricultural pathogens - which can erupt into crises requiring mass destruction, for instance, of nearly 35,000 turkeys with bird flu in Utah.

In addition, the administration canceled a popular program that helped schools and food banks buy food from local farmers, though many of the crops had already been planted when the cancellation announcement was made. That food had to find new buyers or risk being wasted, too. And the farmers were unable to count on a key revenue source to keep their farms afloat.

Also, the administration slashed funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency that helped food producers, restaurants and households recover from disasters - including restoring power to food-storage refrigeration.

The fall 2025 government shutdown left the government’s major food aid program, SNAP, in limbo for weeks, derailing communities’ ability to meet their basic needs. Grocers, who benefit substantially from SNAP funds, announced discounts for SNAP recipients - to help them afford food and to keep food supplies moving before they rotted. The Department of Agriculture ordered them not to, saying SNAP customers must pay the same prices as other customers.

Food waste did not start with the Trump administration. But the administration’s policies - though they claim to be seeking efficiency - have compounded voluminous waste at a time of growing need. This Thanksgiving, think about wasted food - as a problem, and as a symptom of larger problems.

American University School of International Service master’s student Laurel Levin contributed to the writing of this article. (AP)



Firefighters watch as a wildfire called the Plaskett Fire burns towards Highway 1 on Aug 28, in Big Sur, Calif. (AP)

‘Species to go extinct’ Global warming will exceed limit: UN

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): In a strategic retreat in the fight against climate change, the United Nations has acknowledged that Earth has lost its chance to prevent some of the worst of global warming’s harms. So now the world must figure out how to get temperatures below the danger zone and back to safety, officials say.

Earth is soon going to exceed the safe temperature threshold agreed upon by the world in the 2015 Paris climate accord because of warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas, according to a bleak first-of-its-kind report issued by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Instead of giving up, scientists and UN officials recommend trying to limit excessive warming and then bring the temperature back down to the agreed-upon threshold. But it still will mean decades of increased weather-related disasters, rising seas, extinctions and melting ice and glaciers.

“Humanity is speeding past the limit to avoid climate catastrophe,” United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said.

After a period of over-the-limit warming, the new strategy envisions getting back below the limit by ending fossil fuel use and developing some kind of way to suck industries’ carbon dioxide out of the air.

“It’s a reality check. We have to live with this warmer world,” said report co-author Richard Betts, a climate scientist at the University of Exeter. “But there’s still a lot we can do to limit warming.”

After the Paris climate accord, the United Nations ordered its climate science arm to study different warming limits. A goal of 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above mid-19th century temperatures became generally accepted after the scientists found dramatic impacts that affect people and the planet at 2 degrees Celsius (3.8 degrees Fahrenheit) but not at 1.5 degrees.

The world is now at 1.4 C (2.5 F) above pre-industrial levels, some scientists have calculated. The measure is based on a 20-year average, rather than a single year’s temperatures.

Despite experts saying there’s no way to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, UN officials long maintained the 1.5

window was still open. The report finally admitted that the world will cross the 1.5 threshold “in the next few years.”

The report said the most optimistic scenario has warming peaking at 1.8 C (3.2 F) around mid-century if countries pursue ambitious climate goals, but that governments’ current policies should push temperatures to 2.6 C (4.7 F) above pre-industrial levels by 2100.

So instead of preventing warming of 1.5 degrees, now the UN said it wants policymakers to “prepare for and navigate a future” in which the globe crosses that limit and then corrects course and cools temperatures. The report envisions that global temperatures will pass 1.5 “within the next few years,” follow a hump-shaped path of more warming, peak, then gradually cool to below the 1.5 mark, ideally by the end of the century. The report and experts call it “overshoot.”

“Let’s be very clear, 1.5 target is still the goal. But now we need to approach it differently from above,” said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen.

Hamlin holds Chase lead despite trouble

Bell wins Southern 500 at Darlington, ends 33-race winless streak

DARLINGTON, S.C., Sept 7, (AP): Christopher Bell is finally second-to-none this season.

Bell's crazy, frustrating season of seven second-place finishes without a victory at last came to an end with a win at the Southern 500 on Sunday night.

The Joe Gibbs Racing driver passed defending NASCAR champion Kyle Larson with 18 laps left at Darlington Raceway and held on to win the Chase-opening race and break a winless stretch of 33 races dating to Bristol last September.

"Darlington is the epitome of NASCAR," Bell said. "This is better than a dream come true."

It was his first win in 15 career Cup races at Darlington and pushed him into second in the Chase standings behind teammate Denny Hamlin.

"No off weeks, right back to work next week at Gateway," he said. "I still feel I'm going to have win more races if I want to" win the championship.

Gibbs finished second and Tyler Reddick, a five-time winner this season, was third. Chase drivers accounted for nine of the top 10. Ryan Blaney was fourth, followed by

Larson, Chase Briscoe, Josh Berry, Bubba Wallace, Joey Logano and Ryan Preece.

Berry was the only non-Chase driver in that group.

Crew chief Adam Stevens tried to keep Bell focused as the runner-up finishes - along with the driver's frustration - grew. It was important for him to understand that him finishing second wasn't because his team wasn't doing everything it could to succeed. "You have to really come into each weekend with a clean slate, and he's done a fantastic job with that," Stevens said.

Larson gambled during the sixth and final caution, staying on the track while other competitors including Bell went into the pits for fresh tires.

And for a bit, Larson's bet look like it might pay off as he opened a sizeable lead on the restart and forced Bell and the others to come get him. Bell eventually did, moving low on the track to put Larson in his rearview mirror.

Larson thought more racers would've stayed out of the pits on the final caution to give him some



Christopher Bell celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Darlington, S.C. (AP)

cover and distance before the fresh-tire drivers got going. "But Bell got to second so fast, I was straight into defense," Larson said. "Not able to run the lines I ultimately wanted to take care of my tires."

Briscoe was looking to make a bit of history with his third straight

Southern 500 - only Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon had ever won more than four in a row from 1995-98 - and he fought off a pit-road penalty for running out of fuel at the end of stage two that took from the lead to 20th.

But he could not keep pace with Bell at the end.

Hamlin, the top seed in NASCAR's Chase, had started the final stage in the top five when he got hit from behind on lap 237 by Michael McDowell and his car struck the wall in turn four.

Hamlin immediately told his crew, "The toe links are gone." But the incident did not draw a caution and Hamlin had to keep racing, falling to 20th as he and his pit e was still in front by 12 points over teammate Bell.crew waited for the chance to fix the damaged Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

While the toe links were not damaged, there were extensive repairs and Hamlin was a lap down. Hamlin finished 18th.

"It was certainly not the finish we were hoping for," Hamlin said. "We certainly made gains on it all day."

Hamlin came into the race with a 25-point lead over second-seeded Ryan Blaney. The rules of NASCAR's postseason changed this year, with all 16 drivers competing in all 10 playoff races without eliminations.

He's still leading, 12 points in front of teammate Bell.

Hamlin wasn't the only one of the 16 Chase competitors to have problems. Hendrick Motorsports William Byron was in position for a top 10 finish when he spun out with what he believed was a flat tire. After a trip to the pits, smoke billowed out of Byron's Chevrolet and he went back to the garage to end his day.

Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing had high hopes with two of its three drivers, Chris Buescher and Ryan Preece in the Chase. But Buescher could not gain any momentum at Darlington and rode in the back of the pack for most of way.

Preece, who won his way into the postseason with a victory at Daytona last week, pledged to continue to be aggressive because as the 16th seed, his team had nothing to lose. That strategy worked well as he rode in the top 10 for most of the first half of the race. He couldn't sustain it, though, and ended 10th.

And while 23XI co-owner Michael Jordan watched from the pits, his two Chase drivers in Reddick and Wallace went from running 1-2 at the end of the first stage to falling out of the mix down the stretch.

GB&I pulls off stunning rally to win back Walker Cup from Americans

Lawrence claims Swiss playoff over Casey

COUNTY CLARE, Ireland, Sept 7, (AP): Connor Graham and Josh Hill each won the 18th hole in the final two matches Sunday at Lahinch as Great Britain & Ireland capped off a stunning comeback against the Americans to win the Walker Cup for the first time since 2015.

Graham birdied the last two holes to earn a precious halve against 17-year-old Miles Russell. It came down to Hill, all square in his match with 18-year-old Tyler Watts, his Tennessee teammate. Hill hit a long bunker shot to 3 feet and holed the birdie putt for a 13 1/2-12 1/2 victory.

The Americans, loaded with seven of the top 10 players in the world amateur ranking, swept the morning foursomes matches in the fierce wind to build a three-point lead going into the 10 singles matches, long a U.S. strength. Team USA needed to win only 3 1/2 points in singles to keep the cup.

GB&I, however, quickly turned the tables and put its blue scores on the leaderboard by winning the opening four matches.

Stuart Grehan, the lone Irish player on home soil, took down top-ranked amateur Preston Stout. Luke Poulter closed out his match on the 17th hole. U.S. Amateur champion Jack Whaley of England demolished William Jennings, 8 and 7, and Tyler Weaver won in 15 holes.

Key for GB&I, however, was getting three points - two wins and two halves - from the four matches that went to the final hole.

Niall Sheils Donegan, the Scot



Thriston Lawrence from South Africa celebrates with the trophy after winning the fourth and final round of the European Masters Golf Tournament in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. (AP)

who grew up in San Francisco, never had the lead in his match but ground out a halve against Kihei Akina when the the BYU freshman missed a 4-foot birdie putt.

Eliot Baker atoned for a Sunday singles loss to Stewart Hagestad last year at Cypress Point by winning the par-5 18th. Hagestad tried to hit driver off the deck and wound up in a tough spot that took a good birdie chance away, and Baker got up-and-down for birdie and a full point.

The final two matches were on the

18th hole and GB&I had to win the hole in both matches or watch the Americans keep the Walker Cup for a sixth straight time.

Graham, 2 down with two to play against Russell, birdied the last two holes for a halve.

Meanwhile, Thriston Lawrence of South Africa overcame a six-shot deficit Sunday with an 8-under 62 and denied Paul Casey his first victory in five years by making an 18-foot birdie putt on the fourth playoff hole to win the European Masters.

Casey stood over a putt with the chance to win four times on the 18th green at Crans-sur-Sierre, three of them in the playoff. Lawrence made good on his first chance. He became the seventh three-time winner of this event, and the first since Seve Ballesteros.

Casey (68) led by one going to the 18th and got a huge break when his approach from rough hit a rock and bounced over a stream. But he couldn't get up-and-down for par, leading to the playoff.

Americans need 14 points to retain trophy

Korda leads US bid for Solheim Cup win

AMSTERDAM, Sept 7, (AP): Nelly Korda is the No. 1 in the world, a multiple major winner and an Olympic gold medalist.

Still, for all her individual accolades, nothing in golf beats putting on the Team USA uniform and representing her country at the Solheim Cup.

"There's no greater feeling," Korda says, "especially stepping onto that first tee box."

This week could be even more special for the biggest name in women's golf.

Korda is spearheading the United States' attempt to win the Solheim Cup on European soil for the first time since 2015 in the matches that start Friday in the Netherlands. After regaining the crystal trophy in 2024, the Americans need only 14 points at Bernardus Golf course to keep possession.

An away Solheim Cup victory is one of the few achievements missing on Korda's golfing résumé - and she only has to speak to her captain to learn how to get it done.

Asked to rank the best memories from her six Solheim Cups as a player and three as an assistant, Angela Stanford says being part of that U.S. win in Germany 11 years ago is No. 1.

Her only Curtis Cup appearance was a win in England in 2000.



Nelly Korda hits on the 13th hole during the first round of the LPGA FM Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass. (AP)

Her only major title? At the Evian Championship in France in 2018.

For Stanford, there's just something about going into enemy territory and coming away with the trophy.

"Growing up, I played a lot of different team sports and I loved going to other people's gyms, going to their fields," the U.S. captain said. "It doesn't bother me to go into a hostile environment and try to play and try to perform."

Not that it's expected to be too intimidating at Bernardus. OK, there's a purpose-built amphitheater around the first tee that will allow around 3,000 spectators to see some of the world's top golfers go weak at the knees for the pressure-filled opening drive.

Just don't expect the kind of unruly behavior - or downright nasty abuse - seen at recent Ryder Cups, the men's equivalent to the Solheim Cup.

"With the women, it's super respectful," said European assistant captain Anne van Dam, who will be the only Dutchwoman in the team room. "Both teams are very close. Everyone is friends. And I think with the women, everything is a lot more friendly."

The U.S. team arrives with the best player in the world, an 11-7-1 advantage in a series that dates to 1990, and plenty of uncertainty.

There's no Lilia Vu, who was the world No. 2 and sank the winning putt for the Americans in Virginia in 2024, as she struggles to regain form after health issues.



Belgium's Antonia Delaere guards Puerto Rico's Arella Guirantes during the Women's Basketball World Cup match between Puerto Rico and Belgium in Berlin. (AP)

Change Name

I want to replace my name AJIJ AHMED as mentioned in my passport no. Z38830169 with my correct name AZIZ AHAMAD as mentioned in the documents. AZIZ AHAMAD S/O ASMAT ALI, WARD NO. 14, GOLYANA BUS STAND KE PASS, CHIRANA TH. NAWALGARH

Springboks, All Blacks head to US without injured Kolbe and Savea

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 7, (AP): South Africa and New Zealand fly together to Baltimore on Sunday to conclude their epic rugby test series without key players Cheslin Kolbe and Ardie Savea.

Both suffered series-ending injuries on Saturday as the world champion Springboks beat the All Blacks 29-24 and grabbed a 2-1 lead in the four-test series.

Kolbe, South Africa's flawless goalkicker in the series, broke his jaw when he was run over

by Luke Jacobson, and Savea, the All Blacks captain, possibly dislocated his right shoulder in a clearout by Jasper Wiese. Also, New Zealand center Quinn Tupaea damaged his MCL.

Neither team planned to replace them in the squad for the final match next Saturday at the NFL home of the Baltimore Ravens.

Having guided the Springboks into a series lead after losing the first match, coach Rassie Erasmus was relieved.

"It was epic, it was intense," he said. "We're just happy we won."

He believed the main difference between the sides was the depth of team knowledge between him and New Zealand counterpart Dave Rennie. Erasmus has had oversight of the Boks since 2018 and Rennie since June.

"Dave doesn't have that luxury yet," Erasmus said. "He's building a team and I know what that feels like; in 2018 I got the team 18 months before

a World Cup.

"I know these players inside out. They know me. They know when to take me serious and when not. We've got the luxury of knowing each other for nine years, through tough times, and that's not to say we're always going to win because of that, but we're just a little more used to (tough times). Dave and his team will find each other in those tough times but for us it's, not easy, but a lot easier to get through those tough times."

SPORTS

PSG, Real aim to resist big-spending English rivals in Champions League



Monaco's Mamadou Coulibaly, left, and PSG's Warren Zaire-Emery, challenge for the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain, and Monaco, in Paris, France. (AP)

Man City starts campaign at Porto

PARIS, Sept 7, (AP): The Champions League starts this week with five Premier League clubs in the 36-team lineup, chasing a first title for England in four seasons after yet another transfer window of heavy spending amid an affordability crisis for most of European soccer.

Two-time defending title holder Paris Saint-Germain and record 15-time European champion Real Madrid each has lifted the trophy as many times this decade, twice, as Premier League clubs have combined.

Manchester City, the last English team to win the Champions League in 2023, starts Tuesday at Porto armed with a new \$440 million midfield: Enzo Fernandez, Elliot Anderson and 18-year-old Ayyoub Bouaddi.

Liverpool hosts Atletico Madrid on Wednesday having paid PSG 125 million euros (\$145 million) to add Bradley Barcola and can start a forward line with three of the 13 most expensive transfer fees in soccer history, alongside Alexander Isak and Florian Wirtz.

Nine of the top-10 transfer fees this offseason were paid by English clubs. The exception was Real Madrid's 125 million euros (\$145 million) buy of 19-year-old Ivory Coast winger Yan Diomande from



Real Madrid's players walk on the pitch during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Betis and Real Madrid in Seville, Spain. (AP)

Leipzig.

If Madrid wins this Champions League under José Mourinho, its prize money from UEFA out a 2.5 billion euros (\$2.9 billion) total fund would just about cover Diomande's fee and the returning coach's salary. Madrid starts against Inter Milan on Tuesday.

PSG's biggest buy this offseason - midfielder Maghnes Akliouche for 50 million euros (\$58 million) from Monaco - did not even make the top-30 transfer fees worldwide this offseason.

On Wednesday, PSG hosts Slovan Bratislava to start its quest for a third straight title.

In the 35-season Champions

League era, only Real Madrid coached by Zinedine Zidane - who is now finally in charge of the France national team - won three straight, from 2016 to '18.

It was simpler in the old European Cup format that was a straight knockout bracket for national champions plus the defending champion. Madrid won the first five finals, starting in 1956, then Ajax and Bayern Munich each went back-to-back-to-back in the 1970s.

Still, PSG is a strong contender again after also adding Spain's World Cup-winning goal scorer Ferran Torres into coach Luis Enrique's famously hard-working team.

PSG has failed to win any of its four games so far in France where the domestic season started less than one month after the longest-ever World Cup.

Should PSG have a slow start in this Champions League campaign, it would hardly be a surprise. The eventual champions finished 11th and 15th in the 36-team standings in the past two editions, and had to survive the knockout playoffs round in February.

The Slovakian title holder returns after losing all eight games when the 36-team league format debuted in 2024.

There might be more momentum this time under new coach Yaya Touré, a Champions League winner with Barcelona in 2009, then a club great at Man City.

The 43-year-old former Ivory Coast captain in his first head coach job steered Slovan through three qualifying rounds - beating the champions of Georgia, Sweden and Slovenia - to become the first African coach to lead a team into the main phase.

The early starters Tuesday, kicking off at 6:45 p.m. (1645 GMT) in Central Europe, are Club Brugge hosting Aston Villa and AEK Athens at home to newcomer LASK.

Europa League title holder Villa impressed in the season-opening Super Cup game, losing 2-1 to PSG in Salzburg. Villa's start to the Premier League is similar to PSG in France: three games, no wins, no goals scored.

Kazma intensifies preparations for the new handball season

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kazma's handball team is stepping up preparations for the 2026-27 seasons while completing the remaining fixtures from the previous campaign, which was suspended due to the circumstances in the Gulf region.

Kazma treasurer and head of the handball department Omar Al-Mulla said the first team is maintaining an intensive daily training program under new French coach Slavisa Ristavac, who is focusing on improving the players' physical, technical and tactical readiness.

The "Orange" has so far played one friendly, defeating Khaitan 27-20. More warm-up matches are scheduled in the coming period as part of the team's build-up to the new season.

Al-Mulla said Kazma aims to remain a strong contender for domestic honors, adding that the upcoming campaign could be among the most competitive given the club's serious preparations.

He also highlighted the club's efforts to strengthen the squad, with Tunisian professional Anwar Ben Abdullah renewing his contract. Kazma have also signed Brazilian Leonardo Dutra and German Christian Dasinger.



Players in action during Kazma-Khaitan friendly match.

The new arrivals are expected to add quality and depth to the squad and boost Kazma's chances of competing for domestic titles.

Al-Mulla said the administrative and technical staff is working together to ensure the team is fully prepared, expressing hope that the players will deliver results that satisfy the club's supporters.

Al-Hilal leads Saudi clubs in summer spending

RIYADH, Sept 7, (Agencies): Al-Hilal emerged as the biggest spender among Saudi Roshn League clubs during the summer transfer window, splashing €193 million on three major signings.

According to Transfermarkt, Brazilian forward Gabriel Martinelli was the league's most expensive signing after moving from Arsenal, with Al-Hilal also bringing in Cryscenio Summerville and Ollie Watkins. The club's total spending reached €193 million (SAR 841 million).

Al-Qadsiah ranked next among the biggest spenders, paying €61 million for Dutch international Tijani Reijnders and another €8 million for Ivorian Ali Badra Diabate. Its total outlay reached €69 million (SAR 300 million).

Al-Ahli spent €68.5 million, including €39.3 million on Francisco Trincao, €21 million on Edouard Spertsyas and €6.5 million on Gambian defender Aboubakar Kinteh. Artem Bondarenko also joined on a season-long loan for a reported €1 million.

Al-Itihad spent €32 million, signing Senegalese midfielder Dion Lopy from Almeria for €13 million, making Jan-Carlo Simic's move permanent for €15 million and paying €4 million for the loan of Colombian Richard Rios.

Al-Nassr, meanwhile, made just one signing, bringing in Portugal international Samu Costa from Mallorca for €22 million (SAR 96 million).

Richard Hughes has become sporting director of Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal just days after stepping down from the same post with Liverpool in the English Premier League.

Al-Hilal said its board has "finalized the contract" with Hughes who took over his role after arriving.

The club said the move was meant to "contribute to raising the quality of technical work, developing recruitment and scouting processes, and enhancing integration across all aspects related to the football sector."

Hughes had joined Liverpool in 2024 from Bournemouth and oversaw the appointment of head coach Arne Slot after celebrated manager Jurgen Klopp stepped down.

Liverpool went on to win the Premier League title the following season but endured a disappointing campaign last term despite spending around \$500 million on new signings. Slot was fired at the end of the season and replaced by Andoni Iraola.

Liverpool said Saturday that Hughes wanted to "seek a fresh challenge."

He departed less than two months after Michael Edwards exited as CEO of football for Liverpool owner Fenway Sports Group.

Al-Hilal is Saudi Arabia's most successful team with 21 league titles and four Asian Championships.



A file photo of Al-Hilal players celebrating.

Balogun red-card ruling cited

Belgian federation says it can't back Infantino for another term

BRUSSELS, Sept 7, (AP): The Belgian soccer federation says it can't support Gianni Infantino's bid for another term as FIFA president, citing transparency and governance issues and the way it handled clearing Folarin Balogun from a mandatory one-game ban at the World Cup.

As the head of world soccer's governing body, Infantino has faced increasing pressure after his controversial plan to sell stakes in the World Cup was met with a furious backlash. But FIFA said Sunday he plans to stand again in next year's elections for a final term in office through 2031.

The Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA) said in a statement on Monday its decision not to support Infantino is related to the way FIFA has "shown no transparency" in dealing with the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) case and Balogun's red card.

With the FFE, FIFA proposed to sell stakes in the World Cup to private equity for \$4.2 billion. FIFA withdrew the proposal on Aug. 1, just days after it was made public, following intense pushback.

"The RBFA notes that, in this matter, a number of important decisions and assessments



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

have, to date, not been sufficiently substantiated by adequate justifications," the Belgian federation said. "This raises questions regarding the transparency and governance of this process. We remain in close contact with UEFA and, together, we are seeking clear answers regarding the decision-making process and the next steps."

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, has led the calls for Infantino to go, saying it had lost confidence in him and previously threatened to boycott FIFA tournaments, in-

cluding the World Cup. A number of national associations, such as the English FA, have withdrawn support for Infantino's reelection.

In the Balogun case, the Belgian FA said FIFA has failed to provide satisfactory explanations about the decision and how similar cases will be handled.

After U.S. President Donald Trump called FIFA president Gianni Infantino, a one-game ban for Balogun's red-card tackle against Bosnia-Herzegovina was deferred so he could play against Belgium with a quarterfinals place at stake. Belgium beat the U.S. 4-1 after a chaotic 36 hours at the World Cup. The Belgium players were seemingly fired up by one of the all-time controversies in the tournament's history.

"Two months after the events, we note that our questions remain unanswered to date," said Pascale Van Damme, the president of the RBFA. "Given the importance of transparency and clarity for all parties involved, we request the necessary explanations and, at the same time, wish to explore where improvements to the current processes are possible, so that similar cases can be handled in a clear, consistent and efficient manner in the future."

Best of the Rest

Grosso becomes 1st coach fired this season: Fabio Grosso at Fiorentina became the first head coach fired in Europe's five biggest soccer leagues this season after an 0-3 start in Serie A for the Tuscan club - which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"ACF Fiorentina confirm that Fabio Grosso has today been relieved of his duties as First Team Head Coach," the club said late Sunday - a day after a 2-1 home loss to Torino.

A new coach was not immediately named.

Grosso, who converted the decisive penalty in Italy's shootout victory over France in the 2006 World Cup final, had been hired in June after Paolo Vanoli coached Fiorentina to a 15th-place finish last season.

Grosso is the first head coach fired this campaign in the top leagues of Italy, England, France, Spain and Germany.

After beating Serie B side Benevento in the first round of the Italian Cup, Fiorentina was routed 4-0 by Roma in its Serie A opener then lost 3-0 to promoted Frosinone in its home league debut.

In Serie A, Fiorentina has scored one goal and conceded nine.

The poor results have come amid several celebrations for Fioren-

tina's centennial. The club was founded in 1926.

Fiorentina owner Rocco Comisso died in January and the club is now run by his son, Giuseppe Comisso.

Fiorentina next visits promoted Venezia on Friday, followed by an Italian Cup derby with Pisa next week. (AP)

□ □ □

Valencia fans call players 'mercenaries': Valencia fans protested against club officials and players after a demoralizing 5-0 home loss to Barcelona in the Spanish league.

A few thousand fans gathered outside the Mestalla stadium and called players "mercenaries." They also called for the club president, Kiat Lim, and team owner Peter Lim to "go home."

Some of the ultra fan groups left the stands empty at the start of the match. Players and coach Carlos Corberán were booed early on, and there were loud jeers at the final whistle as well.

Kiat Lim took over as president in 2025, but was attending a match at Mestalla for the first time, according to Spanish media.

It was Valencia's third straight defeat after opening the season with a draw. The team has scored only once in four matches.

There were no reports of violence during the protests. (AP)

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Toluca players raise the championship trophy during post game ceremonies after defeating Monterrey 2-0 after the Leagues Cup final soccer match in Houston. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait athletics team in strong form at Arab U18 Championships



Yasmeen Waleed celebrates her high jump gold medal.



Silver medalist Abbas Al-Nasser poses with officials.



Kuwaiti athlete Hameed Al-Qattan

CAIRO, Sept 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's athletics team added three more medals to its tally on Sunday at the 12th Arab U18 Athletics Championships in Cairo, taking its overall haul to five medals.

Yasmeen Waleed claimed gold in the high jump after clearing 1.66 meters, while Abbas Al-Nasser secured silver in the pole vault with a height of 4.20 meters.

Haidar Al-Qattan completed Kuwait's medal haul for the day by winning bronze in the 100 meters with a new personal best of 10.77 seconds.

Head of the Kuwaiti delegation Faisal Al-Dosam praised the athletes' performances, describing the results as a positive

sign of the progress of Kuwaiti athletics and the effectiveness of the team's preparations.

Kuwait has now collected two gold, two silver and one bronze medal at the championships.

On Saturday, Abdulrahman Al-Azmi won gold in the long jump, while teammate Fahad Al-Dhafiri took silver in the same event.

The championships are being held at the Olympic Center in Maadi, Cairo, with athletes from 15 Arab countries competing. Around 276 male and female athletes are participating in the event.



Gold and silver medalists Abdulrahman Al-Azmi and Fahad Al-Dhafiri with their coach.

Kuwait names 27-player squad for Gulf Cup 27

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kuwait head coach Hélio Sousa has selected 27 players for the Blues campaign at the 27th Gulf Cup, scheduled to take place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from September 23 to October 6.

The squad consists of Khaled Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Houshan, Abdulrahman Al-Fadli, Rakan Al-Saeed, Fahad Al-Hajeri, Khaled Sabah, Youssef Al-Haqan, Abdulaziz Naji, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Rashed Al-Dosari, Muath Al-Dhafiri, Mohsen Falah, Reda Hani, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Khaled Al-

Morshed, Jassem Al-Matar, Athbi Shehab, Abdullah Al-Qurzaei, Nasser Faleh, Mehdi Dashti, Eid Al-Rashidi, Youssef Majed, Mohammed Daham, Mubarak Al-Feneini, Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Shabib Al-Khalidi and Youssef Nasser.

The Blues began preparations with a training session at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium and will hold another session at the same venue today.

The team will travel to Doha on Wednesday for a short training camp before heading to Jeddah next Monday. The Saudi camp will run until the tournament begins and will feature a friendly against Yemen on September 18.

Kuwait has been drawn in Group A alongside hosts Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iraq. It will open its campaign against Saudi Arabia on September 23 before facing Iraq on September 26 and Oman on September 29.

Group B features Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Yemen.

Players from Kuwait Club will miss the team's training sessions and Doha camp because of their club's AFC Champions League Two fixture against UAE side Al-Wahda on September 16. They will join the national team in Jeddah.



Kuwait head coach Hélio Sousa oversees the Blues training session.

Al-Shabab slips to sixth place

Kazma, Kuwait Club share lead as Zain Premier League takes break

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kazma moved level with defending champion Kuwait at the top of the Zain Premier League after rallying to beat Al-Shabab 3-2 in the third-round finale at Al-Shabab Stadium.

The victory took Kazma to seven points, alongside Kuwait Club, while Al-Shabab remained on four points and slipped to sixth place.

Shabib Al-Khalidi opened the scoring for Kazma in the 26th minute with a fine finish. Al-Shabab responded through Matheus Eduardo, who caught goalkeeper Faisal Al-Subaie off his line and scored from near the halfway line in the 34th minute.

Kazma regained the lead three minutes into the second half when Michel found the net with a spectacular effort. Al-Shabab levelled again through Turalis Tim in the 77th minute, but Nasser Mohdoh sealed Kazma's victory with the decisive goal five minutes from full time.

Al-Khalidi was named the round's best player for the second time this season, having also won the award in the opening round.

Elsewhere, Al-Salmiya secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Al-Sahel, with Omar Ali scoring the only goal. The win lifted Al-Salmiya to six points, level with Qadsia and Al-Nasr, while Al-Sahel remained on four points and dropped to seventh.

Al-Arabi's difficult start continued as it drew 3-3 with Al-Sulaybiqhat. Both sides now have two points from three matches, with Al-Arabi occupying 10th place on

goal difference.

Al-Fahaheel, meanwhile, recorded its first win of the season by defeating Al-Tadamon 4-1. The defeat left Al-Tadamon bottom of the 12-team table after three consecutive losses.

The Zain Premier League will now take a break until early October, with Kuwait set to participate in the 27th Gulf Cup in Saudi Arabia, which kicks off on September 23.



Kazma and Al-Shabab players vie for the ball.

KUNA photo

Defending champions Sabalenka, Alcaraz reach US Open quarters



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, returns the ball to Tommy Paul, of the United States, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Tiafoe knocks off seventh-seeded Medvedev

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): Defending champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz are back to the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open, and they made it look easy.

The top-ranked Sabalenka solved some early struggles holding serve and overpowered Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-3. Alcaraz also advanced in straight sets, beating Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the second match at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Townsend broke Sabalenka three times in her first four service games as she looked to spring the upset. Sabalenka found a groove, regained her confidence and did not lose another point after falling behind 3-1 in the second set.

This was the first meeting between Sabalenka and Townsend, who gave her opponent fits in the first set but struggled to find her own rhythm.

Next up for Sabalenka is Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova, who needed six match points to get past Marta Kostyuk 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

"I played a couple of matches against her in the past, which also wasn't the easiest matches," Sabalenka said of Noskova. "Really aggressive style of the game. Serving really well, playing super fast. You've got to stay really low to be able to handle that power and energy."

Playing his first tournament following a four-month absence because of a right wrist injury, Alcaraz said last week he would not be coming back if he could not play



Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, reacts during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships against Taylor Townsend, of the United States in New York. (AP)

like his usual self. The 23-year-old Spaniard has made good on that so far, dropping just one set through four rounds.

Alcaraz dictated play on the way to extending his Grand Slam winning streak to 18. When Paul was making things interesting in the third set, Alcaraz set up match point by hitting a shot so perfectly in bounds that it left actor Matthew McConaughey in disbelief, along with many others in the crowd.

Asked if he thinks he is back to form, Alcaraz responded, "I think so." The U.S. Open is bringing that out in him.

"I'm just trying to enjoy my time on the court," Alcaraz said. "It doesn't matter that I was out four months and a half. Every time that I come here, I play my best."

Alcaraz will play Tuesday against American Ben Shelton, the No. 8 seed who swept Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday night in his strongest performance of the tournament.

"We're happy to have him back on tour. He lights up the stadium every time he plays," Shelton said of Alcaraz. "I think it's going to be fire-

works on Tuesday night."

Townsend and Paul were among the 10 Americans to reach the men's and women's round of 16. That is the most in the fourth round at any Grand Slam in nearly a quarter-century, going back to the 2002 U.S. Open, when there were 11.

The five U.S. men - Paul, Shelton, Learner Tien, Frances Tiafoe and Alex Michelsen - are the most at a major since eight in 1995 at Flushing Meadows.

"American tennis has been on the up and up for many years now," Townsend said. "There have been a really consistent chunk of players - Jess, Coco - (who) have been at the top and inside the top five for the last, I don't know how many years. Ben, Frances, Tommy, Taylor: It's just such a great group of men, as well."

At 20, Tien is the youngest American man in the U.S. Open fourth round since Andy Roddick in 2002.

Tiafoe knocked off seventh-seeded Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (1), 6-4, 7-6 (6) to improve to 10-0 in his career at Louis Armstrong Stadium, which he called "the people's court." Michelsen beat Tomas Martin Etcheverry 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4.

Michelsen and Tiafoe will meet in the quarterfinals Tuesday, guaranteeing an American man in the semifinals. No U.S. men's player has won a Grand Slam since Roddick in New York in '03.

There will also be an all-American matchup in the women's quarterfinals. No. 3 Jessica Pegula got there by beating No. 16 Sorana Cirstea and will face 26th-seeded Emma Navarro, who ousted No. 21 Anna Kalinskaya in straight sets.