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KUWAIT SLAMS IRAN ATTACKS ACROSS REGION

Faster, fairer tenders ahead

Cabinet rejects threats to Gulf, Red Sea navigation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet approved on Wednesday a draft decree-law amending certain provisions of Law No. 49 of 2016 on public tenders.

The amendment aims to simplify procedures, address difficulties and challenges arising from practical application, and enhance the flexibility of relevant authorities in dealing with actual circumstances that serve the public interest and ensure that public tender procedures are carried out with speed, efficiency, transparency and fairness.

This came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting chaired by Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Following the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Maousherji made the following statement:

The Cabinet strongly condemned and denounced the repeated Iranian attacks involving missiles and hostile drones that targeted several locations in Kuwait, including a residential complex last week, in a flagrant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and a direct threat to its security, stability and the safety of its citizens and residents.

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Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

'The General Directorate for Water Jar Affairs' ... This is how Hussein Mounis summarized the story of corruption



The king passed by a village and found its people drinking directly from unclean canal water.



The chief minister ordered the purchase of a water jar and to place it on the canal bank.



Because the water jar was public property, it needed a guard.



Six guards and six water carriers were appointed to guard and fill the jar.



Technicians were needed to maintain the jar's stand, lid and cup.



A legal and accounting department was required to disburse salaries and solve problems.



A personnel department was established, and attendance and departure logs were created.



The king decided to visit the location of the water jar, only to see it empty and broken.



The father said, "If I die tomorrow, my son will squander this wealth in a few days."



"My son, God does not forget to provide for everyone, but I want you to be like the lion."

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Jazeera Airways contributes \$2 million to Kuwait Emergency Response Fund



Marwan Boodai, Chairman of Jazeera Airways:

- Our responsibility to the State of Kuwait extends far beyond operating flights and connecting people and places
- Contributing to our country, standing alongside its leadership and people
- Always ready to step forward whenever Kuwait needs us
- We have made our aircraft, expertise and resources available to the Government of Kuwait
- The entire Jazeera Airways family stands united with Kuwait
- We are ready to play our part and support the national response in every way we can

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Day by Day

IF someone gives you harsh advice, don't interrupt them. Instead, benefit from their observations. Behind harshness lies great love, and that's how it should be. Don't break the alarm clock because it bothered you or woke you up.

Keep your eyes open, because everything has an explanation and a purpose. There is always a meaning behind sunrise and sunset. The punishment of the oppressor has an explanation.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Palestinian statehood support reaffirmed

Kuwait backs 12-nation Israel curbs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed Tuesday an initiative by 12 nations to restrict trade in goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In an official statement, the Ministry highlighted that these concerted measures-announced by Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the UK build upon growing international momentum to support Palestinian statehood under the two-state solution.

The Ministry emphasized the importance of

these trade restrictions in countering Israeli settlement policies, which directly violate international law and UN Security Council Resolution 2334.

Kuwait called upon additional nations to adopt similar measures, reiterating its categorical rejection of any attempts to annex Palestinian lands or forcibly displace Palestinian citizens from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The Ministry concluded by reaffirming Kuwait's steadfast support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among them the establishment of an independent state along the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Tourism windfall eyed

Kuwait set to cash in on 'unified' Gulf visa

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are moving towards a pivotal stage in their financial and professional history, with international and regional anticipation surrounding the launch of the unified tourist visa, announced by GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

Economic expert Ahmed Al-Khashnam described this step as a major strategic leap that will redraw the region's investment map and propel Kuwait and the Gulf states towards establishing a global tourism bloc capable of attracting massive foreign capital inflows and achieving comprehensive financial sustainability.

He explained that this step represents the primary driver for accelerating the shift away from the traditional oil-based economy and building the foundations of a sustainable, knowledge-based and service-oriented economy.

The project to launch the unified Gulf tourist visa will strengthen the GCC countries' position as an integrated and interconnected regional and global destination, unify marketing efforts, and attract substantial investment and tourism flows

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Ahmed Al-Khashnam



Capital Governorate photo
Capital Governor and Acting Hawalli Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah during an inspection tour of schools.

Capital Governor checks readiness

Kuwait schools tighten screws

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (Agencies): Capital Governor and Acting Hawalli Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah stressed on Wednesday that completing school preparations is a priority to ensure a successful and stable start to the new academic year.

Al-Sabah said in a press statement during an inspection tour of several schools in the Capital and Hawalli governorates that the tour was part of field follow-up on the readiness of educational institutions and completion of requirements and services before classes begin.

He added that the tour examined the readiness of facilities, services and school equipment and identified any observations or needs requiring action, helping provide a safe, healthy and stimulating educational environment for students and teaching and administrative staff.

Al-Sabah congratulated students on the start of the new academic year, wishing them a year full of success

and excellence, and stressed that students are at the core of the educational process and a key pillar in building the country's future.

He praised the efforts of Ministry of Education leaders, officials and all personnel in the educational field in preparing for the academic year and providing an appropriate learning environment.

He stressed the importance of integrating efforts among relevant bodies, completing supporting technical services and equipment and addressing any observations immediately to ensure a stable start from the first day of classes.

Al-Sabah said the governorate would continue supporting and following up on all efforts aimed at advancing the educational process and related services, in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Education and relevant government bodies.

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'Tagreed Rashed Mohammad Alduraiei' 2026's third millionaire: Al-Jawhara continues making customers' dreams a reality

9 KFH redefines branch banking with smart technology



8 Kuwait & Lonestar sign space-based data storage partnership



Fajr	04:10	Asr	15:16
Sunrise ..	05:30	Maghrib ..	18:00
Zohr	11:45	Isha	19:20



HH the Amir



Emomali Rahmon



Kim Jong-un

Amir congratulates Tajikistan and Korea on Independence, Nat'l Days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished Rahmon a long healthy life and more development and prosperity for Tajikistan and its people.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished Rahmon a long healthy life.

Prime Minister congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon on his country's Independence Day.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to the Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, General Secretary of the Workers' Party and President of State Affairs Kim Jong-un, on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the Korean Leader good health and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continued progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince congratulates

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His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Korean Leader a long healthy life.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to the Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, General Secretary of the Workers' Party and President of State Affairs Kim Jong-un, on his country's National Day.



Participants in the Arab Towns Organization's (ATO) 20th General Conference in the southern Omani city of Salalah. KUNA photo

Oman smart cities 'exemplary': Al-Asfour

SALALAH, Sept 9, (KUNA): Oman has set an "example" for the establishment of smart cities and other modern projects, the director general of Kuwait's municipality Manal Al-Asfour said on Tuesday, citing such initiatives as based on creativity and sustainability.

Implementing the principles of a smart city should come as part of a path towards an "urban transformation," that is based on the needs of the modern world, the official told KUNA after participating in the Arab Towns Organization's (ATO) 20th General Conference in the southern Omani city of Salalah.

Such a prominent gathering of municipal chiefs and officials from multiple Arab nations is instrumental in pushing forward the Kuwaiti municipality's plans to accelerate a digital drive across its various sectors, she underlined, citing transportation and energy as chief among those.

The Kuwaiti municipal chief went on to highlight the significance of the gathering as an opportunity to ratchet up knowhow exchange in a bid to bring key urban development projects to fruition, she added, hoping that the talks would yield tangible results.

The Kuwait-based ATO was established in 1967 as an independent Arab regional, non-governmental and non-profit organization concerned with the affairs of cities and municipalities in Arab countries.



Left: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan meets Ambassador of Thailand. Right: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan receives the Tanzanian ambassador. Ministry of Foreign Affairs photos

Deputy FM receives Thai, Tanzania envoys

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan on Wednesday received Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Kuwait Songchai Chaipatitayut on the occasion of the end of

his tenure as ambassador of his country to Kuwait.

He also received Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Kuwait Hussein Masoro on the occasion of the end of his tenure as ambassador of his country to Kuwait.

Kuwait condemns Iran attacks on Jordan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation of the Iranian attacks that targeted the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with a number of missiles.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement, described those attacks as a flagrant violation of Jordan's sovereignty and a blatant breach of the principles of international law, the UN Charter and UN Security Council

Resolution 2817. The ministry stressed the need to halt these attacks, prioritize de-escalation and dialogue, and abide by international law in a manner that preserves the security and stability of the region and spares its peoples further tension and escalation.

It affirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its support for all measures it takes to safeguard its sovereignty and preserve its security and stability.

Asian gang arrested for manufacturing local booze in desert farm for peddling

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced Wednesday the arrest of four Indian nationals for using a farm in a desert area along Al-Abdali Road to manufacture, store and sell locally produced liquor.

In a press statement, the ministry said search and investigation efforts led to identifying the farm used by the suspects as a site for manufacturing and storing local liquor.

A raid on the location resulted in the arrest of three suspects while they were engaged in the manufacturing process, while the fourth was arrested upon arriving at the farm to purchase a quantity of local liquor for resale. The ministry added that a search of the site resulted

in the seizure of 236 plastic bottles filled with locally produced liquor and ready for sale, along with a large number of barrels and raw materials used in the manufacturing process, as well as a sum of money.

The three suspects admitted using the farm to manufacture, store and sell local liquor away from public view, while the fourth admitted purchasing the liquor for resale.

It also emerged that three of the suspects were wanted under arrest warrants in other cases, including fraud.

The ministry said necessary legal measures were taken against the suspects in coordination with Kuwait Municipality to remove the illegal site.

Kuwait hits nearly 100% literacy rate

Women seeking higher education: UNESCO

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: On Tuesday, the world marked the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declaring September 8 as International Literacy Day in 1966, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Kuwait joined the world in commemorating this day under the theme "Literacy for People, Planet, and Prosperity."

This year's celebrations include assessing global progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and honoring the winners of UNESCO's international literacy prizes, which recognize innovative programs in this field.

In Kuwait, the day comes amid a number of significant achievements aimed at promoting education for all segments of society through tireless efforts to minimize illiteracy rates and the opening of several specialized adult education centers.

According to UNESCO data for 2024, Kuwait has achieved near-complete female literacy, along with an increase in women's enrollment in higher education, particularly in scientific disciplines. The illiteracy rate among women was approximately 2 percent, compared with 0.14 percent among men.

Since its early development, Kuwait has placed great emphasis on education and facilitated access to education for adults. Since 1957, the Ministry of Education has established literacy and adult education centers throughout Kuwait.

Since the early 1960s, Kuwait has enacted laws regulating the education process, including Law No. 11/1965 concerning compulsory education. Article 1 of the law stipulates that "Education shall be compulsory and free for all Kuwaiti children, male and female, from the beginning of the primary

stage until the preparatory stage. The State shall be committed to providing school buildings, books, teachers, and all that is necessary to ensure the success of compulsory education, in terms of both human resources and materials."

The education sector at all levels has received a significant portion of the state budget.

Kuwait's spending on education is among the highest in the world.

Kuwait's efforts to eradicate illiteracy have gone through three phases. The first phase started in 1950 and continued until 1957. The second phase lasted from 1957 to 1981. The third phase saw the issuance of the Literacy Law in 1981, which included 23 articles aimed at eliminating illiteracy.

Kuwait is making rapid progress in the field of literacy through its development vision, "New Kuwait 2035."

In 2025, Kuwait continued its efforts in education and literacy.

Recent data showed a continued rise in literacy rates among members of society, along with the government's continued allocation of a high percentage of its general budget to the education sector.

Efforts to develop education are no longer limited to combating illiteracy and providing adult education, but have expanded to include the use of technology and artificial intelligence and the development of the learning environment.

On February 11, 2026, the Ministry of Education launched a project to implement artificial intelligence tools in cooperation with Google to serve the educational process according to the latest international standards. On May 4, the Ministry of Education approved in-person school hours for adult education and literacy centers, reflecting the ministry's continued commitment to literacy and adult education programs.

Cultural relations play role in moderation, tolerance: envoy

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to Indonesia Khaled Al-Yaseen highlighted Wednesday the role of cultural programs in promoting the values of moderation and tolerance underpinning Kuwait's vision and strengthening them among peoples.

He made the remarks while attending the opening of the Middle East Festival 2026, organized by the University of Indonesia to build bridges of cultural and educational communication between Indonesia and Middle Eastern countries.

Speaking to KUNA, Ambassador Al-Yaseen said the embassy's participation in the cultural festival underscored Kuwait's prominent role in the Arab cultural scene through promoting arts, sciences, culture and scientific research, as well as supporting publishing and printing and the production of literary, cultural and scientific books and periodicals.

In his address, Al-Yaseen said Kuwait firmly believes in the importance of cultural exchange and

people-to-people diplomacy, adding that its participation in the Middle East Festival reflects Kuwait's approach to promoting dialogue among civilizations and communication among peoples.

In turn, Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs Nasaruddin Umar called on students, in a similar address, to strengthen relations between Indonesia and Middle Eastern countries in various fields, including education, culture, trade and knowledge exchange.

Umar praised the Arabic Studies Program at the University of Indonesia for its role in introducing Middle Eastern culture, stressing that "this kind of co-operation must continue to keep culture and humanity alive."

This year's Middle East Festival is held under the theme "Light and Pride," bringing together cultural, academic and youth activities with the participation of representatives of several Arab embassies in Jakarta, university professors, public figures and a large number of students.



Khaled Al-Yaseen

Other Voices

Death penalty or life imprisonment?

By Ahmad alsarraf

THE death of Frank Smith at the age of 101, after spending 76 years in prison for the murder of a night watchman during an armed robbery, has reignited the debate over the legitimacy of the death penalty compared with life imprisonment. Smith spent 76 years in prison, perhaps the longest sentence in history.

He was initially sentenced to death, but his persistent insistence on his innocence allowed him to escape execution eight times.

In most cases, this was thanks to the intervention of a member of the American Association Against the Death Penalty.

The specter of execution by electric chair haunted Smith throughout his imprisonment, even after the state abolished the death penalty in 2012. Calls for its abolition grew, along with questions about the state's right to end a human life in the name of justice and equity.

Proponents of the death penalty, especially for premeditated murder or extremely brutal crimes, argue that imprisonment may not achieve complete justice, while execution takes the life of the perpetrator as well as that of the victim.

These individuals argue that even if the death penalty does not deter others, it remains, in their view, a just punishment for a specific crime. They believe that execution will prevent the convicted person from killing others in prison, and that life imprisonment might reduce the risk of murder but does not eliminate it entirely, especially in systems that allow for pardons, reduced sentences, or escapes.

They believe that the existence of the death penalty might deter some people from committing serious crimes, knowing the inevitable consequences they face.

They also believe that the state sometimes needs to demonstrate clear resolve so that criminals do not feel that punishments are negotiable.

Some believe that the death penalty gives the victim's family a sense of justice, especially when the

perpetrator confesses.

Opponents of the death penalty argue that life imprisonment without parole can achieve the same level of isolation without executing the convicted person.

Scientifically, there is no evidence that the death penalty deters murder more effectively than long prison sentences. There is no conclusive proof that the death penalty reduces, increases, or has no effect on murder rates.

They also believe that one of the most serious and irreversible consequences of an execution is the emergence of new evidence, confessions, or evidence of misconduct by the police or prosecution.

Recent data indicates that at least 4.1 percent of those sentenced to death were likely wrongfully convicted, according to an American study.

This is a conservative estimate, especially given that the judicial system is not infallible. Therefore, it is unwise to grant the judiciary the power to make irreversible decisions.

They also argue that the death penalty is not always applied equally. The sentence may be influenced by several factors, including the defendant's poverty, the quality of their legal representation, their ethnic, religious, or national affiliation, the location of the crime, and the positions of the prosecution and the judge.

Thus, opponents argue that the punishment may not only reflect the severity of the crime but also the defendant's social standing and financial resources.

From a human rights perspective, the right to life should not be forfeited even after a crime is committed, as long as society can be protected through other means.

Ironically, in America specifically, death penalty cases are typically more expensive than life imprisonment because courts require special procedures, legal representation, appeals, and reviews to minimize the possibility of error.

Therefore, opponents argue that the money spent on executions could be better directed towards crime prevention, improving police services, supporting victims' families, and addressing addiction and mental health issues.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



'The General Directorate for Water Jar Affairs' ... This is how Hussein Mounis summarized the story of corruption

I CAME across a fascinating short story titled, “The General Directorate of Water Jar Affairs,” by the late Egyptian author, Dr. Hussein Mounis. The story was published in the Egyptian newspaper, Al-Ahram, in 1971. It ironically addresses corruption.

The story goes: While a king was inspecting his kingdom, he passed by a village and found its inhabitants drinking directly from the canal. The king told his companions to find a solution, even to put a large jar filled with clean water for the villagers to drink from.

The chief minister ordered the purchase of a jar and to place it on the canal bank, so the people could drink.

When the jar arrived, an official said, “Since the jar is public property, it needs a guard.”

The direct supervisor of the official said, “Someone must be appointed to fill the jar daily, as this is not the job of the guard.”

It was found that one guard was not enough to work 24/7, so six guards were hired, in addition to six workers who would take over the task of filling the jar.

Then, an official suggested buying a stand, a lid and a cup, and hiring technicians to maintain them.

At this point, a more experienced official interjected, “Who will handle the payroll for all these employees?” He suggested creating an accounting department and appointing accountants to handle the payroll.

A senior employee said, “These accountants need someone to monitor and supervise their work.” A personnel affairs department was established, and attendance and departure logs were created for employees.

Another employee wondered, “If a dispute arises among the workers, who will adjudicate it? A legal affairs department must be established.”

- The king passed by a village and found its people drinking directly from unclean canal water.
- The chief minister ordered the purchase of a water jar and to place it on the canal bank.
- Because the water jar was public property, it needed a guard.
- Six guards and six water carriers were appointed to guard and fill the jar.
- Technicians were needed to maintain the jar’s stand, lid and cup.
- A legal and accounting department was required to disburse salaries and solve problems.
- A personnel department was established, and attendance and departure logs were created.
- The king decided to visit the location of the water jar, only to see it empty and broken.
- The father said, “If I die tomorrow, my son will squander this wealth in a few days.”
- “My son, God does not forget to provide for everyone, but I want you to be like the lion.”

When the matter reached the chief of staff, he said, “This enormous number of employees and workers requires a competent manager. A highly experienced manager must be appointed.”

A year later, the king passed through the same

area and came across a magnificent building with a large sign that read, “General Directorate of Water Jar Affairs.”

The building consisted of numerous rooms, meeting halls and offices. The king found a dignified official at a huge desk with a sign that read: “Professor, Director General of Water Jar Affairs Directorate”

The king wondered about the new building and the unusual department he never heard about.

His companions informed him that this department is responsible for the affairs of the jar he ordered to be installed the previous year.

The king was very pleased and decided to inspect the jar himself. He was surprised to find it empty and cracked, while a guard and a worker who filled it were fast asleep next to it.

The king noticed a sign that read, “Donate to the maintenance of the jar. Regards, The General Directorate of Water Jar Affairs.”

This story is crystal clear and needs no interpretation in most Arab countries.

The father and his profligate son ... a lion and a fox

The following story from Iraqi folklore is on extravagance. A merchant in Baghdad had a spoiled only son who habitually spent his father’s money without a second thought. As they say, “Easy comes, easy goes.”

The father often thought, “If I die tomorrow, my son will squander this fortune in a few days, even though I spent my life accumulating it. My son will be lost in life.”

The father consulted a wise friend, who frankly told him that he is accountable for spoiling his son, because of excessive pampering. The friend advised him to force his son to earn his own living and put him in charge of a trading caravan.

The father liked the idea. He summoned his son and told him that he would be leading a trading caravan the following morning. The son said, “But Father, I do not know how to trade.”

The father replied, “It does not matter, buy, sell, profit or lose. You will have advisors with you, if needed. What really matters is to learn how to make your own living.”

Due to his father’s insistence, the son agreed, and the caravan set out. By evening, those who were part of the caravan rested in their tents. Early the next morning, the son awoke and looked out into the desert. He saw a magnificent sight: a lion caught a rabbit, carried it in its mouth, and headed to a cave where it placed the rabbit and then went on its way.

A few minutes later, a blind fox emerged from the cave, smelled the scent, found the rabbit, picked it up in its mouth, and went back into the cave to eat it.

The boy thought to himself, “How could my father be so foolish? If God did not forget to provide for this blind fox, would He forget a sighted man like me?” The son ordered the caravan to return, saying, “We do not want to trade.”

When the son arrived, his father asked him why he returned. The son told his father what he saw, and then said, “Father, if God did not forget to provide for the blind fox, would He forget me, who can see?”

The father laughed and said, “My son, God does not forget anyone in terms of sustenance, but I want you to be a lion who gives, not a fox who takes.”

This was the most valuable lesson from the father to his son.

Ex-MP Al-Mutair jailed

Appeals decides State Security case

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The State Security Circuit in the Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Abdullah Al-Sanea, with Judges Mohammad Jaafar and Hamoud Al-Bader as members, sentenced former MP Mohammad Al-Mutair to eight years in prison in two separate state security cases, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This followed his failure to appear at court hearings despite being postponed for several weeks to ensure his attendance.

The first sentence is three years in prison and the second is five years, bringing the total prison sentence to eight years, as determined by the court in both cases.

In one case, the court upheld the ruling of a lower court that sentenced Al-Mutair to three years in prison for disseminating false news through his account on the X platform, insulting the Attorney General, publishing confidential documents related to a case, and questioning the integrity of judges and members of the Public Prosecution.

In the other case, the court upheld the ruling of a lower court that sentenced him to five years in prison for publicly challenging the rights and powers of His Highness the Amir, insulting the Amir, disrespecting the position of the Amir, attributing statements to His Highness the Amir without obtaining written permission from the Amiri Diwan, insulting the head of the Supreme Judicial Council, judges and members of the Public Prosecution, questioning their integrity, and attempting to influence judges in the Constitutional Court, with malicious intent, to take action that could result in a favorable ruling in one of the pending cases.

According to one case file, the events occurred during a seminar held by Al-Mutair at his diwaniya in April 2023.

In its reasoning, the court pointed out the repeated absences of Al-Mutair from the hearings without a valid excuse despite his awareness of the proceedings against him, considering this indicative of his lack of commitment to pursue his appeal.

The court explained that it postponed the hearing for several weeks to allow the defen-



Abdullah Sanea



Al-Mutair

dant to attend, but he continued to be absent.

It added that the lawyer of the defendant appeared in court and stated that there is no excuse for his client’s absence. Based on this, the court concluded that he withdrew his appeal, so it exercised its legal authority regarding this matter.

In the other case, the events date back Sept 2-17, 2025. The Public Prosecution charged Al-Mutair with several offenses, including deliberately disseminating false news and rumors abroad about the internal affairs of the country through his publicly accessible account on the social media platform X.

This was done by publishing claims that the prosecution intended to undermine the prestige and position of the state.

Judiciary

The prosecution also charged him with disrespecting the judiciary by using public means of expression, through publishing statements that questioned the integrity of judges and members of the Public Prosecution and their adherence to the law, publishing statements online that insulted members of the Public Prosecution and undermined their integrity and impartiality, publishing confidential official documents, specifically some pages from the investigation reports of the prosecution in one of the cases, attributing false statements to a public official -- the Attorney General, which constituted defamation and insult, and misusing a means communication by using the telephone to commit the crimes related to the other charges.

Regarding the appeal of the prosecution that demanded a harsher penalty, the Court of Appeals affirmed that determining the sentence and its severity within the limits prescribed by law is under the discretionary authority of the trial court, according to the circumstances of the

case and what it deems necessary for the purposes of punishment and deterrence.

It clarified that the Court of First instance imposed a prison sentence within the legally defined scope for the crimes of Al-Mutair, and it was not proven that the Court of First instance erred in applying the law, exceeded the prescribed limits of the sentence or abused its discretionary power.

It stated that the request of the prosecution to increase the penalty is insufficient to warrant such an increase unless the case file contains solid evidence.

It also pointed out that the prosecution did not present new evidence to the Court of Appeals or legal or factual reason demonstrating an error in the lower court’s assessment of the penalty.

It concluded that the penalty is within the legally prescribed limits and that the case file lacked justification for increasing it.

Therefore, it rejected the appeal of the prosecution based on its merits and upheld the original ruling.

Moreover, the court reviewed the appeal submitted by the defense team, requesting the acquittal of Al-Mutair.

The court pointed out that Article 204/2 of the Criminal Procedures and Trials Law permits the court, in the event of the appellant’s absence from the appeal hearing, to consider his absence as a withdrawal of his appeal and to treat the appeal as if it was never filed.

The court clarified that Al-Mutair failed to appear at the appeal hearing scheduled for July 28, 2026 despite his lawyer’s presence and his request for an adjournment to appear before the court and present his defense.

Nevertheless, the court decided to postpone the appeal hearing to enable Al-Mutair to exercise his right to a defense and to give him a chance to attend and present his arguments, yet he failed to appear again for the Sept 8 session without providing a valid excuse, although he was legally notified and the case being adjourned for a suitable period at the request of his lawyer.

The court stated that the defendant’s repeated absences, even if he is aware of the appeal and the measures taken to ensure his attendance, indicate his lack of interest in pursuing his appeal.

Based on this conduct, the court concluded that Al-Mutair withdrew his appeal, and then ruled that the appeal is null and void.

Egyptian, Indian worker robbed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: An 18-year-old Egyptian young man reported being the victim of an attempted kidnapping, assault, and having his iPhone 15 forcibly snatched from his hand in a desert area in Salwa, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the victim said he was attacked by a group of individuals in a dusty lot, two of whom he was able to identify. He also claimed that some of the assailants were carrying knives.

The Deputy Public Prosecutor ordered the registration of a robbery-with-violence case and directed police to investigate and identify all those involved.

In a separate incident in Farwaniya

Governorate, an Indian worker reported being robbed of KD 450 by two men, one of whom claimed to be a police officer.

The victim said the two men asked to see his ID card before one searched him while the other stood watch. They then forcibly took the money and fled in a vehicle. The victim was unable to provide the vehicle’s license plate number.

The victim said one of his colleagues witnessed the incident, adding that he was preparing to travel the following day for his wife’s medical treatment.

A robbery-by-force case was registered, and the Criminal Investigation Department was tasked with identifying and arresting the suspects.

Man held for assaulting two airport detectives

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: A Kuwaiti citizen has been detained after assaulting two detectives at Kuwait International Airport, reports Al-Anba daily.

The incident occurred when detectives from the airport’s Criminal Investigation Department stopped the citizen, who had reportedly been visiting the airport almost daily and approaching arriving passengers to offer taxi services.

According to security sources, the confrontation began as a verbal altercation before turning

physical, with the citizen assaulting the two detectives. Security personnel intervened, subdued the man, and took him to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Police Station.

An investigator at the station ordered his detention pending further legal action.

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Bag snatcher nabbed: An individual has been arrested for stealing a handbag from a shopping cart at a mall in Shamiya, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the case began when a citizen reported to Al-Shamiya Police Station that his handbag had gone missing while he was shopping. He told police that he had placed the bag on a shopping cart before noticing that it was missing, adding that the bag contained a wallet of a well-known brand.

Shamiya detectives, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, identified and apprehended the suspect after reviewing surveillance camera footage and tracking the vehicle he used to leave the premises.

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‘Draft law to bolster charitable and humanitarian work system in Kuwait’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation is closely following Al-Qabas daily’s report on the draft law regulating charitable and humanitarian action and comprising seven chapters and 96 articles.

According to a press release, this legislative step aims to develop the charitable and humanitarian work system in the State of Kuwait and strengthen the principles of governance.

The draft law includes the establishment of the “National Center for Charitable and Humanitarian Action” and the “Kuwait Humanitarian Fund,” as

well as regulations governing the operations of associations, foundations, and fundraising campaigns.

It also aims to enhance the efficiency of financial and administrative oversight, protect the privacy of beneficiaries, and regulate projects and transfers for humanitarian projects outside the State of Kuwait through official channels and regulations.

Consultant Hamad Zaid Al-Bseis, UN Ambassador for Community Partnership and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation, affirmed that updating the

legislative environment represents a significant step toward strengthening public trust, consolidating institutional work, and preserving the State of Kuwait’s historical leadership in the field of charitable action.

He stressed that the Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation will continue to develop its institutional and oversight systems and policies and will follow up on the official text of the law, confirming its commitment to the regulations once they are ratified, in order to align its operations and fully comply with the relevant legislation and decisions.



Hamad Zaid Al-Bseis



Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi chairs the meeting.

Traffic chaos raises Governor concern amid school opening

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi chaired a coordination meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Works, General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior, and Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Present at the meeting were Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Education Eng. Mohammad Ghaleb Al-Khaldi, Director of Jahra Traffic Department Colonel Fahad Al-Jumaa, Head of the Urban Planning Department at PAHW Eng. Faisal Abu-Dhoum, Ministry of Public Works representative Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Nawmas, and representatives of other relevant government bodies.

They discussed preparations for the start of the academic year, traffic and service-related measures and solutions to ease traffic flow and better serve the students and their parents, plans for new schools in

Mutlaa City, organization of vehicle entry and exit points and traffic routes in areas near the schools to ensure compliance with traffic requirements, condition of roads and access points leading to the schools, issues requiring immediate attention in coordination with the relevant authorities, proposals previously submitted by the Jahra Governorate regarding road improvements and resolving traffic issues at various locations in the governorate, and progress of measures being taken to ensure smooth traffic flow and efficiency of the road network and access points.

During the meeting, the Governor stressed the importance of concerted efforts among the concerned entities, immediate completion of required procedures, and continuous coordination and follow up. He pointed out that these steps aim to guarantee full readiness for the start of the academic year, and to create a more organized and safe traffic and service environment.

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Traffic and Operation Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Interior conducted an extensive traffic and inspection campaign in Shuwaikh Industrial Area.

The operation was supervised by Head of the sector Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Azmi, with the participation of the Technical Inspection Unit at the General Traffic Department, and in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), and the Environment Public Authority (EPA).

The General Traffic Department stated that the campaign focused on garages, workshops and facilities in Shuwaikh Industrial Area



Oil tankers used for smuggling diesel being destroyed by the Ministry of Interior garage as the drivers/owners look on.

to ensure compliance with the relevant laws and regulations, and to take legal measures against violators, as each participating entity acted within its jurisdiction.

The campaign included vehicle

inspections, specifically violations related to window tinting and excessive noise, as well as verifying compliance with technical specifications and safety standards.

The campaign resulted in the is-

suance of 50 traffic violation citations, administrative impoundment of 217 vehicles, six citations issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, enforcement actions taken by KFF like closures, warnings and summonses, and three violation citations issued by EPA.

This campaign is part of the joint field efforts of the concerned government agencies to enhance oversight, strictly enforce regulations, uncover violations, and guarantee traffic and public safety.

Meanwhile, the General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry carried out another series of traffic campaigns to track down violators throughout the governorates, leading to the issuance of 361 violation citations for failure to use a warning signal.

A security source urged motorists to strictly comply with the Traffic Law to avoid violations, affirming that traffic campaigns are ongoing in all governorates.

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Kuwait, Swiss call for peace, int’l de-escalation in tension

GENEVA, Sept 9, (KUNA): Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Switzerland Yousef Ahmad Abdulsamad presented his credentials to President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin as Kuwait’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Switzerland at the Federal Palace in the capital Bern.

In a statement, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Switzerland said Ambassador Abdulsamad conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, along with their wishes for continued health and happiness and for the friendly Swiss people further progress and prosperity.

On the economic front, Ambassador Abdulsamad highlighted the strong investment and trade ties between Kuwait and Switzerland and Switzerland’s standing among Kuwaiti investors, affirming the aspiration to build on this solid foundation and open broader prospects for the private sectors of both countries.

The Swiss President, for his part, conveyed his greetings to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, wishing them continued health and happiness and the people of Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

Parmelin expressed his country’s pride in the close relations between the two friendly countries, affirming Switzerland’s keenness to continue developing bilateral cooperation in various fields in a manner that serves the common interests of the two countries and peoples.

For his part, Ambassador Abdulsamad expressed Kuwait’s pride in its historic and distinguished relations with the Swiss Confederation, noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He affirmed Kuwait’s aspiration to build on achievements made over six decades and elevate the Kuwaiti-Swiss partnership to broader horizons. In this context, the Kuwaiti ambassador highlighted key milestones marking the 60th



KUNA photo
Kuwait’s Ambassador to Switzerland Yousef Ahmad Abdulsamad presents his credentials to the Swiss President Guy Parmelin.

anniversary year, especially the official visit by Swiss President Guy Parmelin to Kuwait last February, which featured high-level talks, in addition to the organization of the first Kuwaiti-Swiss Business Forum and the launch of the first direct Kuwait Airways flight between Kuwait International Airport and Zurich Airport.

On the political level, the two sides affirmed during the meeting the convergence of Kuwait and Switzerland’s approaches in respecting international law, prioritizing dialogue and peaceful solutions, preventive diplomacy and good offices, as well as their keenness to continue coordination on issues of common interest.

They also stressed the need to support international security and peace, de-escalate tensions and enhance humanitarian action, international humanitarian law and mediation, contributing to international efforts to achieve peace and settle conflicts through peaceful means, particularly amid current geopolitical challenges and developments in the region and the world.

PAM conducted 617 inspections to enforce working outdoor ban

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Statistics issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) showed that, during the period from June 1 to August 31, 2026, 617 inspection visits were conducted in all governorates to enforce Ministerial Resolution No. 3/2026 concerning the ban on outdoor work during midday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The statistics indicate that 155 companies were found to be in violation during the first inspection, while 155 companies were found to be compliant upon reinspection. The number of workers present at the violating sites was 415.

PAM received 37 reports and six requests for exemption, all of which were approved. No violations were recorded

at the reinspection sites.

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Power restored: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced on Tuesday the restoration of power to Mishref and Mangaf areas following an outage affecting limited areas due to technical faults, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry had previously announced the outage of three sub-feeders from the Mishref (A) main power plant, resulting in a power cut affecting a limited area of Block 5.

It also announced the outage of three sub-feeders from the Fahaheel (C) main power plant, causing a power cut in a limited area of Mangaf, Block 4. The ministry’s emergency teams addressed the faults.

 Hala_Industrial hala@halakw.com

US Coast Guard to commission new fast-response cutter in New York

US President Trump honors 9/11 victims at Ellipse, pledges to ‘never forget’

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): Nearly a quarter century after a day “etched forever into the memories of Americans,” President Donald Trump honored the victims of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks on Tuesday by vowing to “never forget.”

The event at the Ellipse was spearheaded by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and showcased a massive, 21-foot, nearly 17,000-pound steel beam recovered from the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York, which had traveled for months across the country as part of the Steel Across America tour.

The steel beam will make its way through New York in a procession on Friday by retracing the steps of fallen New York City firefighter Stephen Siller. Trump’s presence at the event on Tuesday just outside the White House began a week of commemorations that will culminate in several events on Friday, including one at the Pentagon that Trump will attend.

“This battered piece of steel here today on the Ellipse is a reminder that America is blessed with a strength no fire can consume, no evil can conquer and no terror can destroy,” Trump said.

Trump noted that the Sept 11 attacks were one of few moments in history that “divide time into really what came before” and after.

His remarks briefly dipped into the political, as Trump warned of people turning a “communistic way” - a reference to his frequent attacks on Democrats as more democratic socialists gain influence in the party.

During his remarks, Trump paid particular tribute to two men who died in the attacks: Jeffrey Palazzo, a New York City firefighter, and Welles Crowther, a young equities trader who became known as the “man in the red bandanna” after rescuing several people in the attacks.

Trump said the US Coast Guard will commission a new fast-response cutter this weekend in New York in honor of Palazzo, a Coast Guard reservist who was working out of Staten Island’s Rescue Squad 5 when he responded to the



US President Donald Trump speaks during a Steel Across America event with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation on the Ellipse on Sept 8, in Washington. (AP)

attacks 25 years ago.

And the president recognized Crowther, also a volunteer firefighter, by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Crowther’s mother, Alison, and sister, Paige, accepted the award, which is considered the nation’s highest civilian honor.

During his remarks, Trump also recalled being near the site after the attacks and hearing the structure then known as the US Steel Building “creaking.”

“I was building a big building in New York and I took the whole crew down there right after this happened,” he said. “We thought it was coming down on top of us. And two firemen - big, strong guys, and I’m not the smallest guy in the world -- they grabbed me under the arms.”

“They lifted me up and they started running with me,” he added. “I said, ‘Fellas, I could run myself,’ but they were amazing.” It wasn’t clear from Trump’s comments precisely when the event he described occurred.

In attendance were a smattering of top Cabinet officials and members of Congress, including Republican Reps. Mike Lawler of New York and Dan Meuser, whose Pennsylvania district is near Shanksville, where Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001.

Trump praised at length Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who was chairman and CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, a financial firm that had been housed at the World Trade Center. Lutnick lost his younger brother, Gary, as well as more than 650 employees in the attacks.

“He’s done an amazing job,” Trump said of Lutnick. “He’s rebuilt Cantor Fitzgerald, and he’s given much of the profits to some of the families or the families of people who perished.”

About 150 first responders from New York, as well as some from Washington and Pennsylvania, were in attendance, Trump said.

“This steel beam represents the best of our country,” said Frank Siller, the foundation’s chairman and CEO who is the brother of Stephen Siller. “It’s important to recognize that the heroism that was exhibited that fateful day was nothing short of incredible.”



Damage caused by Hurricane Lowell is seen on Sept 8, in Po'ipū on Kauai's south shore, in Hawaii. (AP)

Hawaii’s western islands hit by fierce winds from hurricane

Damaging winds and heavy rains from Hurricane Lowell pelted Hawaii’s western islands Tuesday, knocking out power to thousands and ripping up stretches of beachside roads.

Along the Southern California coast, dangerous surf conditions kicked up by the remnants of Hurricane Marie were expected to stick around for several days.

In Hawaii, fierce winds downed trees and caused widespread power outages on the island of Kauai, home to 73,000 residents. The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative reported that nearly all of its roughly 35,000 members

were without power early Tuesday. Emergency officials asked residents to conserve water and stay off the roads as authorities assessed the damage.

Waves that crashed onto Kauai’s southern coast tore apart a road along the coast and pushed piles of sand and lava rocks into a beachside park, said Rochelle Ballard, a former professional surfer who runs a surf school across from the park.

It will take weeks of cleanup, she said. Her family’s surf shop and neighboring restaurant came away without damage, but she said a

friend’s house was destroyed.

“It’s going to take awhile. I think we’ll be fine,” Ballard said. “We’ve been through this before.”

The center of the storm passed west of the islands in the overnight hours Tuesday and moved farther away throughout the day.

The storm’s tropical storm-force winds extended well beyond the center, the National Hurricane Center said. On Kauai, sustained winds measured just above 50 mph (80 kph) at Lihue Airport, the island’s only commercial airport that was closed after the storm. (AP)

Trump’s map-making on social media stirs controversy in North Atlantic

LONDON, Sept 9, (AP): US President Donald Trump’s latest map-making exercise has rattled the North Atlantic.

During a flurry of social media posts over the long holiday weekend, Trump posted a map showing the U.S. sprawling across all of North America and extending to Greenland and Iceland. The map was colored in the red, white and blue stars and stripes of the US flag.

The Truth Social post offered no explanation but recalled Trump’s earlier talk of making Canada the 51st state and his repeated musings about taking over Greenland, Denmark’s self-governing territory.

“It’s disturbing and, in many ways, completely inappropriate,” Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen told the national broadcaster DR on Tuesday. “It’s obviously a sign that the US president still harbors some kind of maximalist vision in his own mind. We need to rein that in.”

Iceland’s Foreign Secretary Thorgerdur Katrín Gunnarsdóttir summoned US Ambassador Billy Long to a meeting and said she made it clear that the post was unacceptable, national broadcaster RÚV said.

The Arctic states have been on edge since Trump ramped up his rhetoric at the start of the year about U.S. control of Greenland.

His post came Monday as the European Union sought to reassure Greenland with the promise of a stronger partnership and hundreds of millions of euros in investment fol-



People protest against Trump's policy towards Greenland in front of the US consulate in Nuuk, Greenland on Jan 17. (AP)

lowing Trump’s repeated threats.

Iceland - just 180 miles (290 km) away - became alarmed when Trump mistakenly named their country four times while speaking about his designs on Greenland.

Iceland is a NATO member, but the gaffe led its left-leaning coalition government to move up a referendum, originally planned for next year, on whether the country should resume long-stalled negotiations to become a member of the EU.

Voters rejected the measure Aug. 30 that was promoted, in part, as an effort to strengthen ties with Europe to better insulate the country from geopolitical instability.

Thousands of Icelanders also signed a petition urging the prime minister to reject Long as ambassador after he made a crack earlier this year about Iceland becoming the 52nd US state and making him governor. Long apologized and took up his post in Reykjavik last month.

Trump has riled up Canada with frequent talk of it becoming a US state, launching a trade war with it and recently renaming Lake Ontario as “Lake America.”

Over the Labor Day weekend, the global map was not the only thing on his mind. Trump also suggested renaming the state of New Mexico as “New America.”

Putin tells Trump Moscow doesn’t have aggressive plans towards Europe

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 9, (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin assured US President Donald Trump in a phone call Tuesday that Moscow doesn’t harbor aggressive intentions toward Europe, a senior Kremlin official said, after European officials blamed Moscow for sabotage campaigns on their soil.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said meanwhile that US envoys who visited Kyiv presented some “very good, worthwhile ideas” for ending Russia’s 4 1/2-year-old war, adding that he hopes to meet with Trump within two weeks.

But Russia remains determined to accomplish its military goals and it believes it is close to winning, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Ukrainian and Western observers, however, believe that Moscow has been unable to make any significant progress on the front line.

The war could yet drag on for years as Russia reconstitutes its forces and its defense industry, said U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Elbridge Colby.

“We must be prepared for a protracted conflict and for Ukraine’s requirements to persist in the months and years ahead,” Colby told an online meeting of countries helping Ukraine.

US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff visited Moscow and Kyiv for separate talks with Putin and Zelenskyy over the weekend. The meetings appeared to produce no substantial breakthrough on ending the fighting, and both countries resumed their deadly air war after a weekend truce in their capitals for the American visitors.

The attacks killed seven people and injured 28 in Kyiv and the surrounding region, authorities said, officials from Russia reported three people killed and 13 wounded in areas it controls.

Yuri Ushakov, Putin’s foreign affairs adviser, said the hourlong conversation between Putin and Trump was “constructive and quite frank.” Moscow has a positive view of the results of the weekend visit by Wit-

koff and Kushner, he added.

There was no immediate White House comment on the call.

Ushakov told reporters that “in view of the speculation about Russia’s alleged hostile intentions toward European countries, it was underlined that we don’t have any aggressive plans regarding Europe.”

That claim runs counter to European authorities’ versions of recent incidents, such as the German government last week blaming Russia for an attempted attack at Leipzig/Halle Airport in August using a drone laden with explosives.

Ushakov said Putin told Trump about the combat situation in Ukraine and Russia’s plans to make battlefield gains and achieve its military goals in what Moscow calls its “special military operation,” not a war.

Zelenskyy said he is counting on meeting with Trump around Sept. 20 - about the same time that the U.N. General Assembly is being held in New York. Putin isn’t expected to attend.

He indicated he will press Trump to provide more Patriot air defense systems that Kyiv needs to counter

Russia’s ballistic missiles.

Ukraine needs 300 Patriot missiles from its partners’ stocks, 500 air-to-air interceptors and \$2 billion for more drones, U.K. Defense Secretary Wes Streeting told the meeting of countries providing help.

Also on Tuesday, the European Commission approved a loan of 3.2 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) for Kyiv to purchase components for Patriot air defense systems, Ukraine’s Defense Ministry said on its Telegram channel.

Zelenskyy thanked U.S. officials for their efforts to unblock negotiations with Russia, which have been stuck since early this year with little progress.

“As for the peace package that Kushner spoke about and the new ideas, I’ll tell you frankly, there were indeed a couple of very good, worthwhile ideas,” Zelenskyy said in audio messages answering reporters’ questions.

The proposals will remain under wraps for now, he said, but he expressed hope that talks involving delegations from Ukraine, Russia and the U.S. can take place in the fall.



Locals watch as firefighters work on a partially damaged residential building following a Russian drone attack in Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept 9. (AP)



The coffin of Norway's King Harald V is carried from the Royal Palace to Oslo Cathedral during a funeral procession in Oslo, Norway on Sept 9. (AP)

Norway bids final farewell to King Harald V as coffin taken in procession to funeral

OSLO, Norway, Sept 9, (AP): Norway was bidding its final farewell to King Harald V on Wednesday as the popular monarch’s coffin set off for a funeral attended by royalty and leaders from across Europe and beyond, with thousands of people lining the streets.

A 21-gun salute rang out over the capital at the start of the roughly 30-minute funeral procession from the royal palace to Oslo Cathedral. Harald’s son, new King Haakon VIII, and other senior royals walked behind the coffin, draped with the red Norwegian royal standard.

Harald’s widow, Queen Sonja, and Haakon’s wife, Queen Mette-Marit, followed in a car.

Norwegian officials and foreign dignitaries joined the solemn procession. They included the monarchs of Sweden, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco and Jordan. Also present were the heir to the British throne, Prince William, and Japan’s Crown Prince Akishino, as well as political leaders from more than 20 countries, including Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Harald, who died on Aug. 28 aged 89, was Europe’s oldest monarch and had reigned for 35 years.

He had modernized the royal house, but refused to follow in the footsteps of other aging monarchs who have abdicated in recent times. His son immediately became king and last week took an oath of allegiance to Norway’s

constitution in parliament.

Large crowds flocked to the capital for the funeral, and thousands stood behind barriers on streets lined with national flags. The downtown area was closed to vehicles and electric scooters, and police had instructed people not to bring bicycles, umbrellas or sharp objects.

People were tuning in from across the country. Scores of churches, libraries, cultural centers and city halls were making big screens available for the public to watch the funeral, public broadcaster NRK reported.

Ahead of the funeral, Norwegians waited patiently to file past Harald’s coffin in the chapel of the royal palace. The queue was seven hours long at one point over the weekend. Over 46,000 people visited the chapel during the week it lay in state.

A minute’s silence will be held across Norway at the start of the funeral ceremony. Eulogies will be delivered by Norway’s parliament speaker and prime minister, and there will be a candlelighting ceremony with representatives of different faiths.

The government says it’s not an official holiday, but schools and workplaces could individually opt to let students and employees tune in for Wednesday’s events. The government advised that “noisy events should be suspended while the funeral is ongoing.”

Hong Kong’s first post-colonial leader Tung dies at age of 89

HONG KONG, Sept 9, (AP): Hong Kong’s first post-colonial leader, **Tung Chee-hwa**, who struggled to cope with an Asian financial crisis died Tuesday at age 89.

His office said in a statement that Tung passed away peacefully in the presence of his family members. Chinese official newsagency Xinhua reported Wednesday that he died of an unspecified illness.

Tung was praised for his work ethic, even nicknamed “7-11” because of his reputation for long workdays.

Shortly after Tung took office in 1997, Hong Kong was hit by bird flu - the first known cases of the virus in humans. The

wealthy city’s economy was also battered by a financial crisis that swept across Asia.

Tung’s response to the crises was widely criticized and his deep distrust of the media hindered his ability to improve his image.

A year later, Tung faced another serious test when SARS - severe acute respiratory syndrome - hit Hong Kong, killing nearly 300 people and devastating the economy. Tung’s government was accused of a sloppy, sluggish response.

Later in 2003, Tung gained more critics by proposing an anti-subversion law, locally known as Article 23 legislation. Many saw it as a threat to civil liberties, and an estimated half million people joined a street march against it. The government later scrapped the legislation.

Hong Kongers held another massive protest in 2004 to demand direct elections for the city’s leader and the entire legislature.



In this photo released by the Chonburi government’s Public Relations Department, police officers gather inside Nongplalai Municipal Kindergarten after a gunman fatally shot a teacher in Chonburi, Thailand on Sept 9. (AP)

Gunman kills teacher in Thailand

A gunman shot and killed a kindergarten teacher Wednesday inside a school building in eastern Thailand, where 44 children and three other teachers were evacuated safely, authorities said.

The shooting took place around 11 a.m. inside a building at the Nongplalai Municipal Kindergarten in Chonburi province, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) southeast of the capital Bangkok.

All 44 students were unharmed and

evacuated along with the other teachers after the shooting, according to the Chonburi provincial government.

The shooter, who is believed to be the victim’s husband, fled the scene. His house was surrounded by police, officials said.

Thai media reports identified the suspect as a police officer at the nearby Bang Lamung station. The Chonburi Provincial Police office said the matter is still under investigation. (AP)

Singapore ministers get first raise in 15 years: PM Wong

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Sept 9, (AP): Singapore’s ministers, already among the world’s highest paid, are getting a raise for the first time in 15 years, Prime Minister **Lawrence Wong** said, explaining the government cannot attract top talent into politics if salaries remain unchanged.

Wong told Parliament on Tuesday that under a revised salary

framework, the benchmark annual pay for a minister at the lowest grade will rise to 1.8 million Singapore dollars (\$1.42 million), from 1.1 million Singapore dollars (\$868,330). The prime minister’s benchmark salary will jump to 3.6 million Singapore dollars (\$2.8 million) from 2.2 million Singapore dollars (\$1.7 million), he said.

The government ministers who will receive raises are elected lawmakers who lead ministries and help make national policies, while allowances for other lawmakers also will increase.

But Wong said ministers and other political officeholders will not immediately move to the new salary benchmark. Instead, they will get a one-time adjustment up to 9% beginning Oct. 15, with the increase depending on performance and responsibilities.

Wong expects most ministers at the lowest grade to earn about 1.35 million Singapore dollars (\$1.06 million) by the end of the current term. Salaries thereafter will vary by performance and responsibilities, rather than automatically reaching the benchmark of 1.8 million Singapore dollars, he said.

He didn’t say how much his salary would be, although a 9% adjustment would raise it to 2.4 million Singapore dollars (\$1.89 million). Wong said he would donate his entire salary increase to charity for the next five years.

Rescuers search for 8 missing at sea near Anak Krakatau volcano

More schools close in Indonesia due to worsening haze from forest fires

PALEMBANG, Indonesia, Sept 9, (AP): Schools in the capital of Indonesia’s South Sumatra province switched to remote learning Wednesday as worsening haze from forest and peatland fires pushed air pollution to unhealthy levels, adding to disruptions that have already affected more than 1.4 million students across the country, officials said.

Indonesia has been plagued by forest and land fires for decades but an intensifying El Nino pattern and a prolonged dry season made the impact of the fires especially dire this year. Toxic haze and smoke have spread far beyond Indonesia’s borders in Southeast Asia, creating a regional health crisis.

The smoke has drifted as far as the Philippines, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away, and breached Malaysia’s emergency-level threshold, forcing authorities to declare an emergency last week in a town in Sarawak state on Borneo Island.

In Palembang, the capital city of South Sumatra province, schools from kindergarten to junior high were ordered to start conducting

classes online Wednesday under an emergency measure.

Mayor Ratu Dewa said the thickening smoke posed health risks to children, including acute respiratory infections.

“Students’ health and safety remained the government’s priority,” Dewa said. Teachers were also asked to avoid excessive assignments during the period of remote learning, he said.

The policy, affecting more than 250,000 students at 1,030 schools in Palembang, will be reviewed regularly, and in-person classes will resume once conditions improve, he said.

About 12,800 schools across Sumatra and Borneo islands remained closed as dangerous air quality persisted, according to government data.

Save the Children, a leading international non-government organization, said haze from wildfires, intensified by El Nino-driven dry conditions, has forced more than 1.4 million students into online learning in affected areas in Indonesia.



Boats cruise on Musi River amid haze from wildfires in Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia on Sept 9. (AP)

“The Earth, our home, is on fire, and children, including here in Asia, are being left to bear the consequences,” said Arshad Malik, Save the Children’s regional director for Asia. “This is not just a health or an environmental crisis, it is a child rights crisis.”

Large fires have burned thousands of hectares in Indonesia’s Kalimantan and Sumatra regions, including areas of Borneo, the world’s third-largest island shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. The wildfire crisis has been centered in Indonesia’s Kalimantan region on Borneo,

where thousands of hectares have burned.

Satellite Environment Ministry data on Wednesday showed that Central Kalimantan remained the country’s wildfire hot spot, with 2,459 hot spots detected. South Sumatra recorded 1,445 hot spots, the second-highest number nationwide, while West Kalimantan ranked third with 928 hot spots.

Indonesian authorities have escalated firefighting efforts in several provinces as they seek to contain the blazes. The efforts have involved aircraft provided by countries in Southeast Asia and beyond, including Japan, the United States, Russia, Australia, Canada and Ukraine.

Indonesia’s Forestry Ministry recorded more than 202,000 hectares of burned land between January and July, almost three times Singapore’s size.

Also:
JAKARTA, Indonesia: Indonesian rescuers searched for eight people who went missing at sea while heading to a volcanic island to report on an eruption there, officials said Wednesday.
Anak Krakatau initially erupted

for about 25 hours over the weekend, and it has since continued to erupt intermittently with explosions ejecting lava, ash and incandescent volcanic material from the crater, Indonesia’s Geology Agency said in a statement on Wednesday.

A speedboat carrying five photo-journalists, two crew members and a route guide lost contact after leaving **Carita**, a coastal town in Banten province, for the volcanic island, said **Al Amrad**, Banten province’s Search and Rescue Office chief.

He said the last message from the boat was received by relatives of a journalist on board at 6:13 p.m. Monday, saying the group had arrived in the waters around Anak Krakatau. They have not been heard from since.

The five Indonesian journalists work for Indonesia’s state news agency Antara, Turkey’s Anadolu Agency, Indonesia’s Merdeka and iNews, while the fifth is a freelance photographer.

Their last known location was about 18.5 kilometers (11.5 miles) from shore. Rescuers, who have been deployed since Tuesday, were “still unable to establish contact with the group or determine their whereabouts,” Amrad said.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, (left), shakes hands with Colombian President Abelardo De La Escriella during a bilateral agreements signing ceremony in Barranquilla, Colombia on Sept 8. (AP)

Marco Rubio offers solid support to Trump-friendly leader in Colombia at start of South America tour

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, Sept 9, (AP): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio began a three-nation tour of Latin America on Tuesday by offering praise and a firm commitment of support to Colombia’s new leader, who has embraced President Donald Trump’s policies on countering drug trafficking and illegal migration.

Rubio met with Colombian President Abelardo de la Escriella and hailed enhanced and expanded cooperation between the two nations. He is among a new generation of right-wing conservatives who are winning elections and showing support for Trump’s muscular approach in a region that had tilted leftward in recent decades.

The trip also will take Rubio to Ecuador and Peru, two other countries aligned with Trump’s tough positions on the drug trade and migration. The Trump administration has stepped up military operations to combat narcotics trafficking and sought further inroads in the Western Hemisphere aimed at improving America’s energy standing and combating illegal migration.

Rubio said Colombian leaders have not asked for US forces to directly confront drug traffickers but that they want other kinds of help.

“In the end, the majority of this fight, the Colombian authorities are willing

to take on themselves,” Rubio told reporters. “They just need our help with intelligence. They need our help sometimes with some specialized training.”

“The Colombians have never asked for American soldiers to come into Colombia and take on drug cartels,” Rubio added. “They’ve asked for our help and training.”

De la Escriella said earlier that the two countries have a “long-term strategic partnership” and stressed the importance of fighting drug trafficking. The Colombian president promised to resume fumigating coca crops, targeting drug labs and apprehending drug kingpins.

“Colombia wants to become the first US hemispheric security partner,” he said.

A week after sealing a massive oil deal with Venezuelan leaders, Rubio was asked by reporters why he wasn’t making a stop there as he visited neighboring Colombia.

He said he will visit “eventually” and defended the Venezuela deal, saying the oil fields were “once dominated by China and Russia and Iran” but never tapped for production.

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez agreed last week to give the US control of roughly one-fifth of Venezuela’s oil reserves - the largest in the world.

While the deal could eventually generate billions for an economy wrecked by years of mismanagement, many Venezuelans say they believe gaining control of Venezuelan oil was the ultimate objective when Trump ordered US forces to capture then-President Nicolás Maduro.

The oil fields are “going to generate royalties and revenues for the Venezuelan people, eventually through a democratically elected government - hopefully sooner rather than later - and directly benefit the people of Venezuela as opposed to going into the pocket of some, you know, corrupt government official or in the hands of American and Venezuelan adversaries,” Rubio said.

During the visit to Barranquilla on Colombia’s Caribbean coast, Rubio and de la Escriella also signed two agreements covering potential civilian nuclear power cooperation and the protection of the supply of critical minerals that are used in technology, from fighter jets to smartphones.

“We have a lot of common interests with them, both taking on regional transnational criminal terrorism and also economic engagements,” Rubio told reporters about the three countries. “It’s part of a trend that you’re seeing in the Western Hemisphere of alignment with U.S. and U.S. interests.”

Colombian Foreign Minister Omar Bula said in a video released Tuesday that Rubio’s visit marks the beginning of “rebuilding a strategic alliance with the United States, our main partner in the region.” He affirmed that Colombia will focus on discussing security, which includes combating drug trafficking, trade and the defense of “shared values.”

De la Escriella has promised to take a hard line against drug traffickers and pledged to deport thousands of migrants in Colombia without residence permits, mainly Venezuelans, as he tries to make significant changes to immigration policies that he says will reduce crime.

After taking office last month, De la Escriella brought Colombia into the Americas Counter Cartels Coalition and strengthened long-standing security cooperation with the United States, following strained relations during the 2022-2026 administration of progressive Gustavo Petro.

Former presidential candidate Iván Cepeda, a Petro ally, said on X that Rubio’s visit appears to be an “act of surrendering strategic aspects of our sovereignty,” especially because “agreements that commit the country’s mineral and energy wealth” will be signed and matters of national security will be discussed.

Africa

Sierra Leone’s ex-prez returns home: Former Sierra Leonean president **Ernest Bai Koroma** returned to Freetown, the country’s capital, on Sunday after criminal proceedings against him over an alleged coup attempt were dropped.

Koroma, 72, arrived from Nigeria accompanied by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and was received by Sierra Leone’s Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Rahman Swaray.

The Sierra Leonean government dropped the criminal proceedings against the former president in July, ending a legal case that had followed a failed coup attempt in November 2023.

Koroma was charged with treason and placed under house arrest after gunmen attacked a military barracks and two prisons in Freetown, freeing more than 2,200 inmates. At least 21 people, including 14 soldiers, were killed in clashes during the incident.

The government had alleged that the attackers were backed by the former president, an accusation Koroma has denied.

The former president, who ruled Sierra Leone from 2007 to 2018, was later granted bail on medical grounds and permitted to travel to Nigeria in January



Koroma

2024. (Xinhua)

Man pleads guilty to gun offenses in S.Africa: A man wanted by British police over the killings of his wife and two daughters pleaded guilty Tuesday to firearms offenses in South Africa, where he was arrested in July while on the run.

Ndodana Mkhanyisi Tshuma’s guilty pleas to charges of illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition were part of a plea deal, South African prosecutors said. Tshuma also pleaded guilty to an immigration offense for entering South Africa while he was a fugitive.

South African authorities say they will move to extradite him to the U.K. after his local court case is concluded. Prosecutors in the U.K. say he will be charged with three counts of murder.

Tshuma’s wife, Nothabo Zandile Tshuma, and their daughters, Natalie, 15, and Nala, 5, were found dead at their home near the town of Bedford, north of London, on July 6. They had all suffered head injuries.

British police say they believe Ndodana Mkhanyisi Tshuma left the U.K. on July 4 and traveled to Zimbabwe and then arrived in South Africa before the bodies were discovered.

Tshuma, who was identified as a British citizen of Zimbabwean heritage, was arrested in Johannesburg on July 10 while in possession of a gun and ammunition after Interpol issued a notice for him to be apprehended. (AP)

Lat/Am

Brazil court removes federal police chief: Brazilian Supreme Court Justice André Mendonca on Tuesday removed the head of the country’s federal police and its intelligence chief from their posts, deepening a crisis at the top court and drawing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s government into the turmoil ahead of October national elections.

Mendonca, an appointee of former President Jair Bolsonaro, said in his ruling that federal police Director-General Andrei Rodrigues, a Lula nominee, and the intelligence director of the force, Leandro Almada, headed an organization that allegedly produced six illegal reports on the justice’s activities through the end of August.

Lula’s solicitor-general appealed the decision before the court’s chief-justice hours later, saying Mendonca has no jurisdiction in deciding who heads the country’s federal police.

Mendonca currently chairs two politically sensitive investigations: one into the collapse of Banco Master, which has ensnared several politicians, and another into alleged frauds in Brazil’s pension system. The first has hit mostly figures of the country’s opposition, while the latter has raised questions of wrongdoing by one of Lula’s sons. (AP)

US sinks Ecuadorian boat in Pacific: The US Southern Command on Monday sank another Ecuadorian vessel that the US alleged was linked to the criminal group Los Choneros.



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, (right), speaks with Federal Police Director General Andrei Rodrigues, (center), next to Justice Minister Wellington Cesar, (far left), during Independence Day celebrations in Brasilia, Brazil on Sept 7. (AP)

It was the latest action by the US against boats and vessels in Latin America that it said were involved in drug trafficking.

The joint task force intercepted a floating refueling station that supported illicit drug trafficking operations at sea in the Eastern Pacific, the Southern Command said in a statement.

It added that the people on board the vessel were removed and will be transferred to Ecuadorian authorities.

A video accompanying the announcement showed military personnel boarding a boat, followed by a helicopter flying overhead and finally a projectile striking and sinking it. (AP)

Supporting Kuwait through aircraft capacity & operational resources

Jazeera Airways contributes \$2 mln to Kuwait Emergency Response Fund

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Jazeera Airways has announced a financial contribution of US\$2 million to the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund, supporting the country’s efforts to respond to the current regional crisis and assist affected communities. Alongside its financial contribution, Jazeera Airways had also placed its operational capabilities at the service of the Kuwaiti Government for carriage of cargo.

During the temporary closure of the Kuwait International Airport earlier this year, Jazeera introduced Mission Barakah an initiative to keep Kuwait connected. Under Mission Barakah, the airline operated over 1,500 flights, 200,000 passengers and over 500 tonnes of cargo via Qaisumah and Dammam. This included direct deployment of 14 aircraft, 500 team members and other resources to support the movement of citizens, essential personnel, humanitarian supplies and other critical goods, whenever required by the relevant authorities.

Flying from Kuwait for over two decades, Jazeera Airways has a strong record of supporting Kuwait during periods of national and regional crisis. The airline has previously mobilized its fleet, teams, airport infrastructure and logistics network to operate repatriation and humanitarian flights, transport essential supplies and maintain vital air connectivity under several challenging circumstances.

Jazeera Airways expressed its sincere appreciation to Kuwait’s leadership, government authorities, emergency services and frontline personnel for their



tireless efforts in safeguarding the country and supporting its people. Jazeera Airways will continue supporting the national response in close coordination with the Government of Kuwait, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and other relevant authorities to provide operational and humanitarian assistance as required.



T8 Team



T8 Check In team



Marwan Boodai, Chairman of Jazeera Airways, said:

“As a Kuwaiti company, Jazeera Airways is deeply proud of its roots and over 20 years of service to the country. Our responsibility to the State of Kuwait extends far beyond operating flights and connecting people and places. It means contributing to our country, standing alongside its leadership and people, and being ready to step forward whenever Kuwait needs us. Our contribution to the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund reflects our commitment. Equally important is what we contribute through our people and operational capabilities. We have made our aircraft, expertise and resources available to the Government of Kuwait to support the movement of people, humanitarian assistance and essential goods wherever they are needed. Time and again, our team has demonstrated exceptional resilience, professionalism and compassion in responding to challenging circumstances. As always, the entire Jazeera Airways family stands united with Kuwait, ready to play our part and support the national response in every way we can.”



T8 GOPS



T8 returns to T5

Targeting Gulf, Egypt expansion

Kuwait & Lonestar sign space-based data storage partnership

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait Innovation Center announced the partnership with Lonestar, an American company specializing in developing space-based data storage technologies.

This is considered a crucial step towards strengthening the presence of Kuwait in the technology and space sectors.

In collaboration with Prima Security, the partnership opens new horizons for Kuwait and the region in one of the most promising technology sectors, especially since the center is an agent for Lonestar in the Gulf region and Egypt.

Lonestar CEO Steven Euseli presented the vision of the company or the future of space-based data storage, affirming the importance of the partnership with the center.

He expressed happiness over the warm reception, high attendance level and excellent organization of the launching of the partnership.

In his speech at the event, he expressed his eagerness to return to Kuwait soon to move from the partnership announcement phase to commencing work and developing joint opportunities and projects.

On the other hand, CEO of the center Mohammad Salah Al-Rifai said the center believes in the ability of Kuwait to play a greater role in the modern technology and investment sectors.

He pointed out that the partnership with Lonestar is a step towards transforming Kuwait into a launch pad for high-quality technologies and investments in the region.

He disclosed that the center is the exclusive agency for Lonestar in Kuwait, in addition to its partnership with Prima Security, which supports the development of an integrated system combining space technology, data security, infrastructure and investment.

Mahmoud Hamza Al-Hawari, Legal and Investment Director at the center, indicated that the center is working hard to establish high-quality partnerships and open channels of cooperation between international companies and the public, private and investment sectors.

He stated that the vision extends beyond the Kuwaiti market to include the



Part of the signing of the agreement in the presence of Mohammad Al-Rifai, Steven Euseli.



Close follow-up of the effectiveness.

Gulf, Egypt and Middle East markets, thus, strengthening Kuwait’s position as a regional platform for technology, innovation and investment. He said the center regards the Kuwaiti market as the first step towards future initiatives that will establish branches of the company in the Gulf, Egypt and Middle East, hence, opening a unique and pioneering investment opportunity in Egypt and the Middle East.

He expects the next phase to be an expansion of the scope of cooperation, with the partnership nearing its launch in the Egyptian market from Kuwait, within a vision aimed at building cross-border partnerships, which combine advanced technology with capital and institutional expertise.

Fawaz Fouad Buqmaz, Executive Director for Artificial Intelligence at the center, confirmed that this strategic partnership with Lonestar will be the starting point for developing locally made artificial intelligence technolo-

gies, which will later be tested in space. Buqmaz asserted that this collaboration opens a new dimension to the journey of research, development and innovation, and lays the foundation for creating unprecedented solutions that originate in Kuwait and will reach the whole world.

He stated that work on these technologies will commence in preparation for testing them in the launch scheduled for April 2027.

The event featured a special appearance by Lonestar Chairman Chris Stott, along with his wife, astronaut Nicole Stott who spoke about her experience and vision for the space sector.

Nicole also presented the developments related to launching spacecraft and future solutions for operating data storage technologies beyond Earth.

Her participation added a distinctive dimension to the event by linking practical experience in space with the commercial and investment opportunities provided by modern technologies.

In collaboration with KBA and Marmore

KFAS launches study on the banking sector’s role in national development

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) and Marmore MENA Intelligence, the research arm of Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz,” organized a seminar to present the findings of a study on “The Impact of Kuwait’s Banking Sector on the National Development Plan.” The seminar was held at the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre and attended by senior officials, specialists, representatives of the banking and financial sectors, and other relevant stakeholders.

In a press statement, KFAS stated that its funding of the study reflects the Foundation’s role in supporting applied research that addresses national priorities and challenges. Such studies help provide evidence-based insights that can inform policy development and strengthen collaboration between government entities, the private sector, and financial institutions.

Prepared by Marmore, the study examines the role Kuwait’s banking sector can play in supporting the implementation of National Development Plan projects and advancing the objectives of New Kuwait Vision 2035. It focuses on areas including the financing of major development projects, public-private partnerships, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, digital transformation and financial technology, as well as financing for non-oil sectors and green and sustainable projects.

The seminar presented the study’s key findings and recommendations, along with the opportunities and challenges associated with strengthening the banking sector’s contribution to financing national development priorities. Discussions also addressed ways to develop financing models and accelerate project implementation.

The Kuwait Banking Association noted that the study assessed the current state of Kuwait’s economy and banking sector and reviewed relevant regional and international practices. It also identified key gaps related to policies, regulations, financing, and project implementation mechanisms.

The study highlighted the importance of directing greater financing toward priority sectors and develop-



Photo during the seminar.

ment projects, expanding banks’ participation in public-private partnership projects, and developing more flexible financing solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises. It also emphasized strengthening partnerships with fintech companies and expanding green and sustainable finance.

Among its key recommendations, the study called for stronger governance frameworks and greater institutional coordination among relevant stakeholders, improved mechanisms for monitoring project implementation, and wider use of public-private partnership models. It also recommended diversifying financing instruments through bank lending, capital markets, and syndicated financing, as well as de-

veloping credit guarantees and targeted incentives to support sectors and projects aligned with the objectives of the National Development Plan.

KFAS and the Kuwait Banking Association emphasized that achieving Kuwait’s national development objectives requires greater integration of efforts and financing sources across government entities, the banking sector, the private sector, and investment institutions. Such collaboration can help mobilize financial resources, accelerate the implementation of development projects, strengthen the contribution of non-oil sectors, and support Kuwait’s transition toward a more diversified, sustainable, and knowledge-based economy.

KPC takes part in APEC 2026 petroleum conf. in Singapore

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), led by its Deputy Managing Director for International Marketing Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah, participated in the 42nd annual Asia-Pacific Petroleum Conference (APPEC 2026) in Singapore.

In a press statement on Wednesday, KPC said its participation was significant, as its presence and discussions with international customers and partners reaffirmed Kuwait's firm commitment to its role as a reliable energy supplier.

The corporation noted that, despite current regional challenges, KPC and its subsidiaries continue to operate with high efficiency and flexibility to ensure business continuity and fulfill their commercial commitments to customers.

The statement said the conference, which began Monday and concludes Thursday, featured the participation of several KPC leaders in specialized sessions.

Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah participated in a session titled "Producers' Strategy for the Next Cycle: How a Major Supplier Navigates Changes in Supply Flexibility and Evolving Demand Dynamics."

KPC Deputy Managing Director for

Global Marketing Contracts Emad Al-Kandari participated in a session titled "Strengthening Customer Partnerships in Petroleum Product Markets Amid Rapidly Changing Trade Dynamics," while Head of Marketing Research Team Dr. Salah Al-Awadhi took part in a session titled "Assessing Fuel Oil Trends and Flexibility Levels in Marine Fuel Markets."

The sessions discussed several strategic issues related to the development of global energy markets, supply security and flexibility, and strengthening long-term commercial relations with customers.

The KPC delegation also held a series of meetings on the sidelines of the conference with the corporation's customers, partners and representatives of major international companies.

Separately, KPC held its annual reception under the supervision of its regional office in Singapore, attended by a number of the corporation's customers and partners and representatives of oil and energy companies from Asia and around the world.

The reception reflected KPC's approach to building long-term relationships with customers and partners and strengthening channels of direct communication and dialogue with them.

Oil volatility rises

Kuwait backs OPEC+ output hold at 2.67 mln bpd for Oct

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait plays a crucial role within the OPEC+ alliance, as its oil policy supports market stability and strengthens joint collective action.

This role is clearly demonstrated through its full commitment to the collective decisions of the alliance to maintain balance in the global energy market.

In an analysis of the recent OPEC+ decisions in the midst of the intensifying geopolitical conflict in the Middle East that led to a surge in energy prices, economic advisor Abdullah Al-Gharib confirmed in a statement to the newspaper that the current rise in oil prices is due to the escalating tension between the United States and Israel on one side, and Iran on the other side. He pointed out that this led to the volatility of global energy markets, along with vigilance and cautious anticipation.

He cited as evidence the fact that the crude oil price reached almost \$100 per barrel, specifically \$98 over the past few days, compared to \$87.44 on Aug 29.

He considers this rapid rise, by about \$11 within a short period, a reflection of the mounting pressure on the supply and demand system.

He predicted that oil price will continue its meteoric rise, reaching \$120 per barrel in the coming period, due to threats to strategic waterways, such as the Strait of Hormuz, and the resulting restrictions on logistical supply chains and global market supplies.

He pointed out that in contrast to these dramatic shifts, the position of Kuwait emerged as a stabilizing factor and a wise analysis of the complex landscape.

He praised the confirmation of Oil Minister Tariq Al-Roumi that Kuwait remains committed to the collective decisions of the OPEC+ alliance, including its decision to maintain oil production for October at the current level of 2.67 million barrels per day.

He emphasized that this step indicates the cautious and well-considered vision of Kuwait for addressing fluctuations and ensuring balance between supply and demand to prevent haphazard speculation in energy markets.

He asserted that such commitment by all parties protects the global energy system, while prioritizing price stability over engaging in fierce competition for individual market shares, which could lead to an unplanned deficit that harms the interests of both the producers and consumers.

On stabilizing production, he said maintaining production at September level affirms that the oil alliance is following a flexible and rational approach to adapt to the decline in global demand.

He asserted that maintaining the cohesion of the oil alliance is the strongest weapon for protecting the public budgets of the Gulf states, including Kuwait, which has recorded a budget deficit resulting from fluctuating revenues and increasing government spending.

He pointed out that the oil policy of Kuwait is not based on quick profit calculations, but on a long-standing legacy of joint oil diplomacy, fully aware that any supply disruption could lead to global stagflation which harms everyone.

He added that Kuwait prefers compromise solutions to ensure the continuation of global energy flows and protect the market from the geopolitical storms surrounding the region.

US crude hits \$95.25

Brent jumps to \$100.72 on Gulf tanker, facility strikes

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): The price of oil surpassed \$100 a barrel for the first time since July after attacks on oil facilities and ships in the Middle East threatened to debilitate an already weakened supply chain.

Brent crude, the international standard, jumped nearly 3% to \$100.72 early Wednesday.

U.S. benchmark crude gained 2.4% to \$95.25 a barrel, and U.S. gasoline prices rose sharply overnight.

The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline ticked up 7 cents overnight to hit \$4.22, now more than a dollar above what it cost at this point last year, according to AAA.

Diesel prices, which can have an outsized impact on consumers because it is used in shipping and production, hit an all-time high Friday and has continued to climb since. The average price for a gallon reached \$5.94 overnight and is now 9 cents higher than it was Friday.

Jet fuel has become so expensive that U.S. and international carriers have cut flights while raising fares and fees.

Markets reacted after the U.S. military reported striking five Iranian tankers in response to attempted missile attacks on a Navy warship and after attacks by an Iranian-backed Houthi rebel group ignited fires at oil facilities in Saudi Arabia.

Crude oil prices shot up after Israel and the United States initiated a war with Iran, and they have fluctuated considerably during the more than six months since then. The fighting has halted most shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil supply passed before the war began.

Brent traded between about \$70 to \$100 a barrel for much of March, April and May. In July, prices swung between \$72 and \$102, reflecting rising and falling hopes that the U.S. and Iran would agree on a plan that would allow

stranded tankers to move oil safely out of the Persian Gulf.

"In our view, reaching a durable deal before the U.S. midterm elections is increasingly unlikely, and it could remain elusive even beyond that," Bank of America analysts said in a Tuesday research note.

The analysts increased their oil price forecast for the second half of the year to \$83 a barrel "in light of more persistent disruptions to Hormuz," but said they still expected shipping through the strait to gradually pick up. If attacks keep a chokehold on traffic, prices could reach \$95 to \$120 a barrel, while damage to major energy infrastructure could produce spikes of up to \$150 a barrel, the analysts wrote.

Negotiations over a preliminary deal between the U.S. and Iran to end the conflict broke down over control of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran insists it has the right to set the terms and charge fees for ships traveling through the waterway off its coast. The U.S. wants passage to remain free and has used a Navy blockade to block Iran's ports and oil tankers.

Recent stepped-up attacks by Yemen's Houthis could constrain global oil supplies even more because they targeted an alternative shipping route that Saudi Arabia has relied on to transport oil during the war.

Higher energy costs have weighed on consumers, businesses and national economies this year, particularly outside of the U.S. Refinery outages in Russia, reduced refining activity elsewhere and sharply declining inventories have pushed diesel and gasoline prices sharply higher globally, Bank of America said this week.

Yet rising prices may have an outsized impact on the upcoming U.S. midterm elections, now just 8 weeks away.

KFH redefines branch banking with smart technology

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Driven by its commitment to meeting customer needs and adopting cutting-edge technology, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) provides a wide range of core banking services through its smart branches. This delivers a comprehensive banking experience built around stronger security, greater efficiency, and faster, simpler transactions. By introducing innovative financial solutions, the bank continues to reinforce its leading role in digital transformation.

KFH is expanding the presence of its smart branches across Kuwait. Customers can currently access them at The Avenues; the co-operative societies in Ishbiliya, Jabriya, Mangaf, Sabah Al-Ahmad, Al-Salam, and Abu Fatira; Shuwaikh KFH Auto Showroom; Al-Khiran Mall; and Abdullah Al-Salem. Given the strong response and accessibility, KFH plans to increase the number of smart branches so that customers in more areas of Kuwait can benefit from them.

The bank is also strengthening its wider service network through the KF-HOnline app, social media, robotics, and artificial intelligence, alongside other digital alternatives to traditional channels.

At its strategically located smart branches, customers enjoy fast, secure, and seamless access to a full suite of interactive self-service solutions. They can



arrange Murabaha financing, apply for or instantly reprint credit and prepaid cards, and issue debit cards on the spot. The branches also support card-based and cardless cash withdrawals, cash deposits, and cheque deposits using a mobile number, Civil ID, or QR code.

Customers can check balances, view account statement summaries, make internal and local transfers, and request and print chequebooks immediately. They can open accounts and deposits, change or reset PINs, donate to charity,

transfer funds to credit cards, and activate bank cards. Personal details, KYC information, and Civil ID expiry dates can be updated on site using a physical Civil ID or the Kuwait Mobile ID app.

Dedicated gold services are also available, including opening gold accounts, buying and selling gold, viewing statements, and receiving 10-gram gold bars. Customers can open savings accounts as well as Al-Hassad, Al-Rabeah, and Electron accounts, together with a broad range of banking and

financing solutions designed to raise the quality of the customer experience through advanced digital channels.

Reaffirming its leadership in digital innovation, KFH has completed a comprehensive upgrade of its ATM network and the KFHOnline app, which now provides access to more than 200 banking services.

E-banking features include instant issuance of virtual prepaid cards; viewing PINs and details for credit and debit cards; and opening additional accounts in Kuwaiti dinars, GCC currencies, and other foreign currencies without visiting a branch. Customers can activate new cards, temporarily suspend cards, adjust usage limits, and customize card designs. They can also update phone numbers, set up term deposits, pay telecom bills, add beneficiaries, check balances, and request chequebooks. Further services include opening gold accounts, executing gold trading and gifting transactions, applying for financing, tracking financial obligations and instalment schedules, viewing investment plans, obtaining account and deposit summaries, and managing children's accounts, among many other electronic services.

The 24/7 fully automated smart branches reflect the rapid evolution of retail banking, as customers increasingly turn to digital solutions for quick and efficient banking.

'DTA talks reflect close Kuwait-Cuba ties'

Kuwait, Cuba open talks on double taxation agreement

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti delegation representing the Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs has begun the first round of talks on a double taxation agreement between Kuwait and Cuba, in the presence of Kuwait's Ambassador Adel Al-Adgham.

The first round of talks which runs until Friday aims to discuss the provisions of the agreement between Kuwait and Cuba, with officials from the Cuban Ministry of Finance, and assess its compatibility with the laws of both countries, the Embassy of Kuwait in Havana said in a statement on Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA, Ambassador Al-Adgham said that Kuwait is among the few countries that obtained the Cuban government's approval to discuss and finalize a memorandum of understanding on a double taxation agreement between the two countries, given Kuwait's close ties with Cuba and its efforts to boost trade and economic relations across various fields.

The Kuwaiti delegation is headed by Bader Al-Abdullahi, head of the tax agreements section at the Ministry of Finance, and it includes Ibrahim Al-Ameer from the section and Third Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti delegation representing the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance met with the Governor of the Central Bank of Cuba during its current visit to Havana.

Affairs Elaf Al-Rish, he noted.

The statement added that the Kuwaiti delegation met with Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment Deborah Rivas who highlighted investment opportunities in her country.

The Cuban official thanked Kuwait for its continued support and interest in economic partnership with Cuba. She extolled the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development's key role in supporting Cuba's infrastructure, noting it was the development fund in the world to

begin operations in the Republic of Cuba.

The delegation also met with the Governor of Central Bank of Cuba Juana Lilia who briefed the Kuwaitis on the latest economic and financial status of Cuba and new laws of investment.

Placing greater control & convenience directly in the customers' hands

stc unveils smarter, personalized mystc KW app

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the launch of its all-new mystc KW app, introducing a smarter and more personalized way for customers to manage their accounts and access stc's wide range of products and services. Designed around the evolving needs of customers, the new app brings essential services and account management capabilities together within a single intuitive platform, giving users greater control over their stc experience wherever they are.

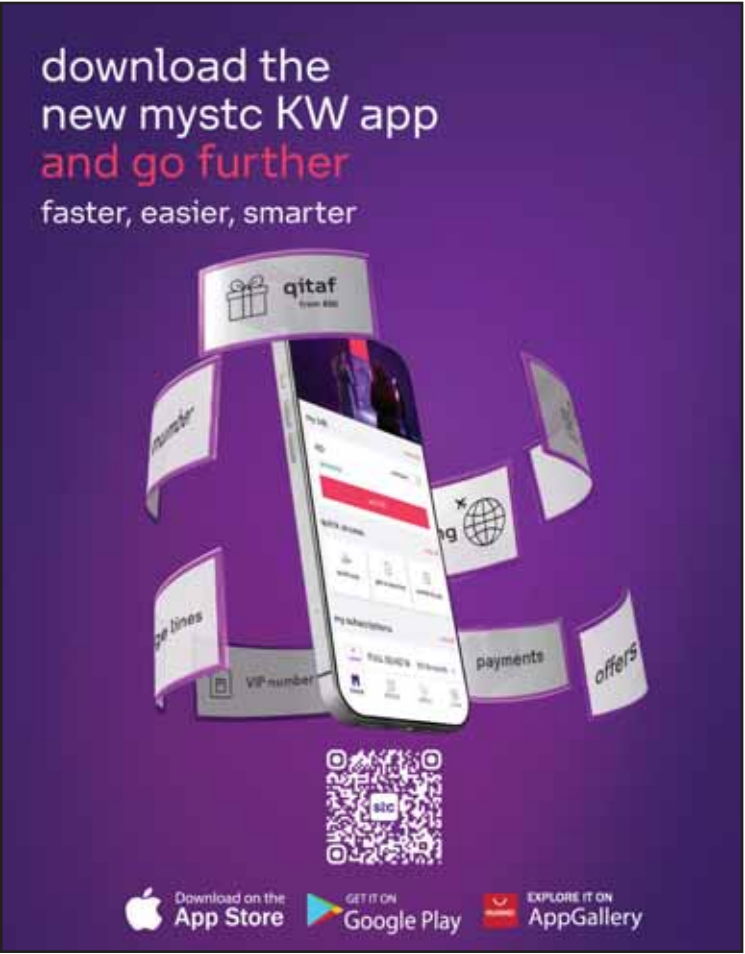
The launch marks a significant step in stc's digital transformation journey, reflecting the company's continued focus on evolving its services around the way customers prefer to interact and manage their everyday needs. With customers increasingly turning to digital channels for greater convenience and flexibility, the mystc KW app brings more of the stc experience directly to their smartphones, reducing the need to visit a branch or contact customer support for routine services.

Built around a more unified customer experience, the mystc KW app brings a wide range of everyday services together in one place, making it easier for users to manage their accounts whenever they need to. Customers can pay bills, monitor their usage and make changes to their plans in just a few taps, while additional self-service capabilities provide convenient access to support and roaming services directly through the app. This streamlined experience gives customers greater flexibility to manage their services on their own time, making it easier to stay connected and in control of the services they use every day. The app is also accessible to non-stc customers, allowing them to explore the Company's latest plans and offerings.

One app built around the customer

The mystc KW app has been designed to make managing an account feel simple and intuitive from the moment users log in. A clear view of their account puts the information they need within easy reach, while customers with multiple lines or family plans can manage them all from one place. This makes it easier to keep track of the different plans linked to their account without having to manage each line separately.

The experience also becomes more relevant to each user, with the mystc KW app presenting offers and features based on their plan and how they use it. This allows customers to discover



options that better suit their individual needs, while real-time notifications and alerts keep them informed about their bills, data consumption and important account updates. Together, these features provide customers with a clearer picture of their account and help them stay informed throughout the month.

Customers also have greater flexibility in how they access support and make changes to their services, without having to visit a branch or contact customer support. Users can raise support requests, adjust their settings and activate roaming when preparing to travel, while animated in-app content provides helpful guidance as they explore different features. The registration process has also been simplified, allowing users to quickly set up their account and start using the app, which is available in both Arabic and English and includes built-in accessibility settings to accommodate a wider range of users.

A new chapter in stc's digital customer journey

Commenting on the launch, the

Company release a statement that said, "The launch of our new app represents an important milestone in stc's digital transformation journey and reflects how we are evolving our business around the changing expectations of our customers. Digital transformation is ultimately about creating meaningful value, and this requires us to continuously rethink how customers interact with stc and how technology can make those interactions simpler and more effective."

The Statement added, "Our ambition extends beyond transferring traditional services to digital channels. We are building an increasingly connected stc experience that gives customers greater flexibility in how they engage with us and provides a strong foundation for the digital services we will continue to introduce. The new app is an important part of that journey and further builds on our commitment to investing in technologies that enhance the lifestyle choices of our customers while supporting our long-term digital strategy."

Highlighting the customer experi-

ence behind the new app, the Company' statement highlighted, "Customers increasingly expect to manage their services on their own terms, with the ability to access what they need quickly and without unnecessary steps. We approached the new stc app from that perspective, focusing on how we could make everyday interactions more intuitive while giving customers greater visibility and control over their accounts."

The statement added, "Whether a customer wants to check their usage, manage a family member's line, prepare their services before travelling or simply understand the options available to them, the experience should feel straightforward. Personalization also allows us to make the platform more relevant to each user, while the self-service capabilities provide customers with greater flexibility in deciding when and how they interact with stc. Ultimately, the new app has been developed to provide customers with an integrated and seamless overall experience."

The all-new mystc KW app is available on iOS, Android and Huawei devices, providing customers with access across major mobile platforms. Existing customers can download the app and begin exploring the new experience, while those interested in joining stc can discover the Company's latest plans and offerings directly through the app.

To find out more about stc's sponsorships, promotions, and events, follow stc's official social media platforms, visit one of stc's branches, download mystc KW mobile application, visit www.stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.

About stc

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2008. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014.

stc Kuwait is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and solutions to customers, both for individuals and enterprises, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc Kuwait has expanded its portfolio by acquiring companies such as Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait, and e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries.

5 new winners in Kuwait's largest banking prize draw

'Tagreed Rashed Mohammad Alduraiei' 2026's third millionaire:
Al-Jawhara continues making customers' dreams a reality

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Amid a festive atmosphere, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the winners of the Al-Jawhara and Al-Jawhara Junior draws. Attended by a number of the Bank's senior executives, the event was broadcast live across NBK's social media platforms, underscoring the Bank's commitment to the highest standards of transparency and reinforcing its ongoing engagement with customers.

Through live TV streaming, The event marked the announcement of 5 new Al-Jawhara winners, further reinforcing Al-Jawhara's position as Kuwait's largest banking prize draw, offering exceptional cash prizes and year-round opportunities to win.

The draws, which were conducted in the presence and under the independent supervision and oversight of representatives from Deloitte and Grant Thornton, saw NBK customer TAGREED RASHED MOHAMMAD ALDURAIEI win the Al-Jawhara prize of KD 1,000,000, becoming the third millionaire in 2026 Al-Jawhara draws, while OMAR NASER MOHAMMAD ALHURAIJI won the Al-Jawhara Junior grand prize of KD 10,000 in the weekly draw.



Al-Nusif: Al-Jawhara reinforces its leadership as the largest banking prize draw program. Saving rewards customers and Al-Jawhara continues to make millionaires and winners.



Ali Al-Mulla during the announcement of the Al-Jawhara prize draw winners.



NBK's senior executives during the draw.



Tagreed Rashed Mohammad Alduraiei wins the Al-Jawhara prize of KD 1,000,000.

In addition, among the announced winners, three customers received Al-Jawhara weekly cash prize of KD 20,000 each: HUSSAIN ALI KHUDHUR ALFARES - ABDULLAH FALAH HAMDAN ALMUTAIRI - ALI MAHMOUD MOSAYEB AZIZ

Commenting on the occasion, Hisham Al-

Draw Winners:		
Winner Name	Draw Category	Prize Amount
TAGREED RASHED MOHAMMAD ALDURAIEI	Grand prize of KD 1 million	KD 1,000,000
HUSSAIN ALI KHUDHUR ALFARES	Al-Jawhara Weekly Draw	KD 20,000
ABDULLAH FALAH HAMDAN ALMUTAIRI	Al-Jawhara Weekly Draw	KD 20,000
ALI MAHMOUD MOSAYEB AZIZ	Al-Jawhara Weekly Draw	KD 20,000
OMAR NASER MOHAMMAD ALHURAIJI	Al-Jawhara Junior Grand Prize	KD 10,000

Nusif, Chief, Consumer Banking at NBK, said: "Over the years, Al-Jawhara has succeeded in building a distinctive relationship with customers by combining the concept of smart saving with exceptional opportunities to win. This has established it as one of the most distinctive and popular banking prize draw pro-

grams in the Kuwaiti market."

"We continuously strive to enhance the customer experience associated with Al-Jawhara, not only through its substantial and diverse prizes, but also by offering a savings product that delivers genuine value to customers and supports them in achieving their financial goals, while maintaining the highest standards of transparency and credibility throughout every stage of the draw process," Al-Nusif added.

He noted that the program's sustained popularity reflects customers' confidence in the services and solutions offered by NBK, adding that Al-Jawhara continues to promote a culture of saving while delivering an integrated banking experience that goes beyond the traditional concept of savings accounts.

Al-Jawhara Account provides customers with opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year, including weekly and monthly draws, as well as a KD 1 million grand prize awarded through three draws annually in addition to Al-Jawhara Junior draw prizes. With total annual prizes of KD 5 million, Al-Jawhara remains the largest prize draw program of its kind in Kuwait.

Jazeera Airways operates inaugural flight to Ethiopia

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, today operated its inaugural flight from Kuwait to Addis Ababa, marking the launch of its newest destination in Africa and strengthening direct air connectivity between Kuwait and Ethiopia.

The inaugural flight was officially flagged off at Jazeera Terminal 5 (T5) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by H.E. Dr. Sied Muhumed Jibril, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the State of Kuwait, and Naser Fahad Alobaid, Chief Executive – Government Affairs (CEGA) and CEO – T5, Jazeera Airways, celebrating this important new connection between the two countries.

H.E. Dr. Sied Muhumed Jibril, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the State of Kuwait, said:

"Today's inaugural flight represents an important new chapter in the longstanding relationship between Ethiopia and Kuwait. Direct air connectivity plays a vital role in bringing countries and communities closer together, and we welcome Jazeera Airways' new service to Addis Ababa. We believe this route will contribute to stronger tourism, trade, investment and cultural exchange, while making travel more convenient for the large Ethiopian community in Kuwait. We look

forward to seeing this connection grow and create new opportunities for both countries."

The new service provides greater travel choice for the more than 70,000 Ethiopian nationals living in Kuwait, offering convenient direct connectivity for those travelling home to visit family and friends. It also creates new opportunities to support growing tourism, trade, investment and people-to-people ties between Kuwait and Ethiopia.

Paul Carroll, Chief Commercial Officer, Jazeera Airways, said:

"Addis Ababa is an important addition to our growing network as the first and one of the most strategic destinations in Eastern Africa. This new route serves the large Ethiopian community in Kuwait and supports growing business, trade and leisure travel between the two countries. As we continue to expand, we see Africa as a significant growth market, with Addis Ababa strengthening our presence on the continent while giving passengers convenient access through Kuwait to other destinations."

Jazeera Airways will operate direct flights between Kuwait and Addis Ababa three times weekly with flights available for booking through the Jazeera Airways website: www.jazeeraairways.com and mobile app.



Jazeera Airways 1st flight to Addis Ababa.



As part of its Back-to-School and University campaign

Gulf Bank welcomes students at PAAET and the College of Aviation & Technology

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Gulf Bank continued its active participation in youth-focused educational events by taking part in the orientation forum for new students organized by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) on September 8 and 9 at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds.

The Bank also participated in the orientation event for new students at the College of Aviation & Technology, reinforcing its commitment to engaging with young people and introducing them to banking services and solutions designed to meet their needs throughout their academic journey.

Gulf Bank's participation in both events forms part of its Back-to-School and University campaign, which features a range of initiatives and activities supporting students as they return to in-person learning following an extended period of remote education due to geopolitical developments.

The Gulf Bank booth at both events attracted strong interest from new students keen to learn more about the Bank's youth-focused products and services.

The sales team highlighted the benefits of the red account, designed around young people's needs, as well as the red Plus prepaid card, which offers ease and flexibility for purchases and digital payments, together with exclusive offers and benefits tailored to students' lifestyles and aspirations.

The Bank's team also answered students' questions and provided comprehensive information on Gulf Bank's digital services and modern banking solutions, helping enhance their banking experience and empowering them to manage their finances with greater ease and confidence.

Gulf Bank emphasized that its participation reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting and empowering Kuwaiti youth and strengthening financial literacy and awareness from the start of their academic journey. Through innovative banking solutions, the Bank aims to



A group photo of the Gulf Bank team at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training orientation event.



A group photo of the Gulf Bank team, accompanied by Dr Essa Al-Saadi, Dean of the College of Aviation & Technology, and Faisal Al-Kuraibani, President of the Academy.



Students from the College of Aviation & Technology learn about the benefits of 'red' account.



High turnout at Gulf Bank's booth during the orientation event for PAAET students.

help young people build sound financial habits and develop a stronger understanding of saving and responsible financial planning.

Gulf Bank places young people at the heart of its priorities, recognizing their central

role in shaping the future. The Bank continues to participate in educational and awareness initiatives that create opportunities for direct engagement and introduce students to products and services that keep pace with their evolving needs. It also re-

mains committed to supporting Kuwait's education sector and contributing to a more financially aware and future-ready generation, in line with its role as an active community partner and its commitment to sustainable development.

Power plays and personal battles light up competition

Musk documentary, ‘Bunker’ vie for Venice glory



Producer Tyler DiNapoli, from left, producer Nick Shumaker, producer Jessie Deeter, Ashley St. Clair, director Alex Gibney, Zoë Schiffer and producer Erin Edeiken pose for photographers at the photo call for the documentary film ‘Musk’ during the 83rd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026. (AP)

VENICE, Sept 9, (AP): A slew of high-profile films debuted Tuesday at the Venice Film Festival, including Alex Gibney’s Elon Musk documentary, a psychological thriller with Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem, and a drama from Casey Affleck.

With a runtime of nearly four hours, including an intermission, “Musk” is a portrait of the world’s richest man and an investigation into the scope of his power and influence. Gibney, an Oscar-winning filmmaker who has profiled powerful organizations and people before, from Enron and Elizabeth Holmes to Scientology, told The Associated Press that he started off as a kind of admirer and hoped that Musk might sit down for an interview.

“Ultimately he didn’t want to talk to me,” Gibney said. “Then you start digging into the facts and you follow them where they lead. And where they led for me was to a place that upended the myth, I would say, of Elon Musk as a kind of modern Leonardo da Vinci.”

The film is expected in North American theaters in October.

“Musk” wasn’t the only film that had billionaires on its mind. “Bunker,” written and directed by Florian Zeller, is about an acclaimed architect (Bardem) who is approached about designing a survivalist bunker for a tech billionaire (Paul Dano) in Hawaii. His wife (Cruz), a literary editor, questions her husband for even considering such a project.

“‘Bunker’ touches on several times contemporary themes - fear of the future, ecological threats, rising social inequality, and rampant individualism - but it does so through a deeply personal lens: a couple struggling with each other,” Zeller said in his director’s statement. “I wanted to explore love, fidelity and forgiveness while placing the audience in a position of deliberate ambiguity.”

Zeller wrote the film, inspired by a real story he read, for his stars specifically, who have appeared together in films many times going back to “Jamón Jamón.”

“I think they are among the greatest actors working today,” Zeller said. It was also, he said, a unique way to capture something true about a relationship.

Cruz said she was very happy that the film, which is in both English and Spanish, portrayed an authentic bilingual household. The family in the film,

Unmatched power comes under the lens

Musk myth meets its match in Gibney

VENICE, Sept 9, (AP): Alex Gibney has made films about powerful people, corporations and organizations before: Enron, Elizabeth Holmes, Scientology and the U.S. military’s abuses at Bagram and Abu Ghraib are just a few. And yet, he said, nothing compares to the scope of power held by his latest subject, Elon Musk.

With a nearly four-hour runtime, “Musk” is having its world premiere this week at the Venice Film Festival. It’s one of the most hotly anticipated of the festival and the year - Bleecker Street is releasing it in theaters in October.

Gibney spoke to The Associated Press about upending the Musk myth, his revelations about his power and his support of President Donald Trump.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Let’s start with the obvious, simple question: Why Elon Musk?

GIBNEY: A number of people came to me a few years ago, actually early 2023, and said, would you like to make a film about him? And I initially wasn’t sure, but a really good friend of mine convinced me that it was a good idea because it would be a portrait of kind of 21st century power. And so with that, I dug in.

AP: The nature and scope of his power is something that remains a little mysterious. Can you go into a little bit about what you found and how your film addresses that?

GIBNEY: In some ways it’s a simple story (with) a lot of complicated details. I think the source of his power comes from, how should I put this, (expletive)? That is to say, his ability to speak with confidence about the future in ways that convince people to invest in his companies. It’s really a future that rarely is in sync with facts or evidence or any remote possibility. So that is really what I discovered. And that the fact I think his genius, if there is a genius, is that he is not an inventor,



This combination of images shows filmmaker Alex Gibney, left, and Elon Musk. (AP)

he’s an investor. His genius is stock pumping.

The other thing I discovered was that the reasons for turning toward Trump were both a break with the past, I mean, people look to the way that he was idolized by many people on the, you could call it the left, or people who regarded him as a kind of climate savior for what he was doing with Tesla. Many people wondered about that transition. I discovered two things. One is, in a way, it was a predictable transition because he goes where the federal government money is.

But the other reason is his companies were facing an enormous number of federal investigations. And indeed, Tesla was under criminal investigation. But out of that case, there was a good chance that under a (Kamala) Harris administration, he might go to prison. He joked about that on the Tucker Carlson show. I think those were two key motivators that I had initially underestimated. A lot of people clocked it to the woke mind virus. After doing some re-

search, I didn’t see it that way.

AP: You’ve covered powerful people and companies before in your films. Does anything compare to this?

GIBNEY: Nothing compares to this in terms of the scope of his power. What’s interesting about Musk is it’s not so much something that’s new as an old wine in a new bottle. And Musk, I think like some of the characters that I’ve followed in the past, is afflicted with what some people call noble cause corruption. That is to say, you begin to believe in a cause. And in Musk’s case, it was making us multiplanetary and also leading us into a more sustainable environmental world. And because you’re in line with those important, valuable, good causes, anything you do in the service of those causes is OK. And ultimately that leads you to corruption.

In a way, Musk is not dissimilar from the guys at Enron. He’s not dissimilar from Elizabeth Holmes in the way that he bent the truth to serve his impulses.

The one big difference with Musk

is that he has companies (SpaceX and Tesla) which contain a great number of very qualified engineers and executive leaders.

AP: There was the famous social media exchange where Musk called the film a hit piece and you responded, “How would you know?” Do you go into your films willing to have your assumptions challenged? Was bias involved?

GIBNEY: What is it that physicist Richard Feynman used to say? It’s good to have an open mind, but not so open that your brains fall out. There is always bias, but I’m always willing to have my assumptions challenged. I started off as a kind of an admirer and was honest in my desire to want to talk to him, but ultimately he didn’t want to talk to me. Then you start digging into the facts and you follow them where they lead. And where they led for me was to a place that upended the myth, I would say, of Elon Musk as a kind of modern Leonardo da Vinci.

AP: Did he try to interfere?

GIBNEY: He didn’t really except in so far as the fact that people were terribly afraid to speak to me on the record, or at least on camera. They were just terrified of Elon. And these were people in his companies. These were people who knew him well. These were supporters and critics.

A lot of people close to him who were his admirers would say, “I can’t talk to you unless I get Elon’s permission.” I thought, wow, for such a big and powerful person, that seems awfully weak.

AP: When I told people that there was going to be a nearly four-hour Elon Musk documentary, the first question was “did he make it about himself?”

GIBNEY: This probably doesn’t share that much with the Melania documentary.

One of the things I would say about the film is it’s a dark and dangerous topic, but the film itself is a fun ride.

who relocated from Madrid with their kids, live in London but speak Spanish at home.

“It’s amazing how much that has changed,” she said.

Audiences, she said, were always ready for it but it was a challenge to get financiers and producers to agree until recently.

Stephen Graham and Patrick Schwarzenegger also star in “Bunker” which Searchlight Pictures will release in theaters early next year.

The film is playing in competition alongside titles such as “Wild Horse Nine” and “Ink” and, like them, it’s one of the possible awards contenders in the Venice slate and is expected to have a qualifying run in 2026. Zeller’s film “The Father” won Anthony Hopkins a best actor Oscar. He also won for the screenplay.

Also debuting is “Company,” a meditation on grief and compassion with a gothic element, which Affleck directed and co-wrote. The film, which is seeking distribution, begins in winter 1975, when a mysterious woman crashes a holiday gathering. The story then opens itself to several others.

“It’s not explicitly a political movie,” Affleck said. “But I’m not impervious to the world around me, so I was responding in part to all of the sort of raging conflicts in the world, and to things inside myself.”

The film stars Nick Nolte and Ben Mendelsohn, and features Affleck’s children Atticus Affleck and Indiana Affleck.

“Neither one of them really wanted to be a part of this production,” Affleck said of his kids. “I think that they grew up around it and had some interest in it and a sort of innate understanding of what it was. ...

“They were amazing and it made it the best professional experience of my life by far because I got to go to work every day with my kids and hang around and I would do it over and over again if I could. I don’t think that they will let me but I’m gonna try.”

Affleck dedicated the film to his parents, who both also appear in “Company” and who died this year. He said they never got the chance to see it.

“Company” is also in competition for the Golden Lion. Winners chosen by the Maggie Gyllenhaal-led jury will be announced Saturday.

Superheroes, epics fuel Hollywood summer comeback

‘Spider-Man’ swings to six-week box office streak

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” remained the No. 1 movie in theaters over the weekend, becoming just the second film this decade to top the box office for six straight weeks.

Since the end of July, the Sony superhero movie has ruled over cinemas with rare dominance. The last release to enjoy such a long stretch leading the box office was 2022’s “Avatar: The Way of Water.” “Brand New Day,” the fourth standalone Spider-Man film starring Tom Holland, collected \$18 million over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. Sony is forecasting \$23.3 million for the four-day holiday weekend.

“Brand New Day” has grossed \$2.4 billion worldwide.

Universal Pictures’ “The Odyssey,” as it has for much of the “Spider-Man” run, remained in second place. Christopher Nolan’s epic added \$13 million domestically over the weekend, bringing its global haul to \$1.63 billion. More than \$1 billion of that has come from overseas sales, making “The Odyssey” the first to achieve that international milestone since 2009’s “Avatar.”

Both blockbusters - “Spider-Man: Brand New Day”

and “The Odyssey” - helped lead Hollywood to its best summer since before the pandemic. Through Aug. 31, the domestic box office totaled \$4.6 billion for the season, according to Rentrak, an increase of 26.1% from 2025 and just shy of 2013’s record summer.

On Sunday, Rentrak forecast that, including the Labor Day weekend, the summer will end up with \$4.759 billion, a whisker above the \$4.758 billion of summer 2013. That time frame, though, spans 130 days this year, compared with 123 days in 2013.

Accounting for inflation and higher ticket prices, Hollywood’s summer wasn’t quite so historically sensational. Admissions are still well below pre-pandemic marks. But it’s nevertheless a remarkable rebound for a film industry that has struggled to string together such a hit-filled summer through the pandemic, labor strife and the expansion of streaming.

Labor Day weekend is typically a sleepy time in theaters. And neither new release - Paramount’s “By Any Means” and A24’s “Onslaught” - made much of a mark. One of the weekend’s best performers was “Coyote vs. Acme,” the hybrid live-action-animated Looney Tunes movie. It dipped a

modest 29% to gross \$11.3 million in its second weekend.

“Coyote vs. Acme” is turning out to be a good investment for Ketchup Entertainment. The indie distributor acquired the film for approximately \$50 million after Warner Bros., which produced the \$70 million film, opted to can it. In two weeks, “Coyote vs. Acme” has ridden strong reviews and good word-of-mouth to \$33.8 million domestically.

“By Any Means,” a 1960s-set civil rights action thriller starring Mark Wahlberg and Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, opened with \$7.4 million. Paramount is projecting \$9.2 million for the four-day holiday weekend. Audiences gave it a “B+” CinemaScore.

“Onslaught,” however, flopped with \$1.9 million on 1,918 screens for the three-day weekend and a projection of \$2.3 million for the four-day weekend. The A24 release, directed by Adam Wingard, stars Adria Arjona as a former Army sniper who defends her trailer park home from three escaped, experimental super soldiers. “Onslaught” cost a modest \$15 million to make. But reviews (57% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and audience scores (a “C” CinemaScore) weren’t good.

Meanwhile, “Buddy,” a low-budget dark comedy, has turned into a surprise success. Made for just \$3 million, the film, directed by Casper Kelly and from the producers of “Weapons,” is about a group of children trapped inside a surreal 1990s children’s television series. After overperforming in its opening weekend, “Buddy” actually increased its ticket sales over its second weekend. The film grossed \$5.7 million, up 5%, to bring its two-week total to \$14.3 million.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak:

1. “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” \$18 million.
2. “The Odyssey,” \$13 million.
3. “Coyote vs. Acme,” \$11.3 million.
4. “By Any Means,” \$7.4 million.
5. “Insidious: Out of the Further,” \$6.5 million.
6. “Cars” (20th anniversary), \$6.1 million.
7. “Buddy,” \$5.7 million.
8. “PAW Patrol: The Dino Movie,” \$3.3 million.
9. “The End of Oak Street,” \$2.9 million.
10. “The Dog Stars,” \$2.7 million.

Gardening

Wild evolutionary trick that makes these bulbs hard to eat



A rabbit munches on a clover plant in Carroll, N.H., on July 17, 2022. (AP)



Critter-resistant daffodils appear in bloom on Long Island, N.Y., on March 29, 2021. (AP)



A deer appears in Hawley, Pa., on June 25, 2023. (AP)

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): There’s little worse in a gardener’s mind than watching their careful planning and hard work go up in a cloud of teeth, thanks to every four-legged freeloader within chewing distance.

So if you’re planting bulbs this fall, select the rights to avoid planting dinner.

Although no plant is 100% animal-proof, some spring-blooming bulbs have toxic or unpalatable self-defenses that deer, rabbits and rodents tend to avoid.

Pet owners and parents, however, should exercise caution when deciding to grow these within reach of children or furry family members.

Crown imperials aren’t referred to as “stink lilies” for nothing. One whiff of the malodorous, tufted, downward-facing, bell-shaped flowers will transport you to a skunk sanctuary - or a sweaty locker room. No self-respecting living thing would deliberately sniff, let alone eat, any part of the plant, which also contains highly toxic steroidal alkaloids.

But don’t let that dissuade you from planting them. The striking plants not only keep rodents away, but they attract pollinators and are exceptionally eye-

catching in the spring garden. Just don’t plant them near the front walk.

Alliums are related to onions, and their bulbs’ scent makes no secret of it, so they’re typically left undisturbed. Their flowers have a similar, although milder, fragrance. If rabbits are particularly hungry, they might attempt a nibble, but the bitter sulfur compounds in the bulbs, leaves and stems will send them running. The plants are also toxic.

Similarly, all types of daffodils - from demure jonquils to giant trumpet types - contain bitter, toxic properties that most critters know to avoid.

Although nicely scented to us humans, the strong, sweet perfume emanating from Dutch hyacinth flowers is off-putting to many animals, as is the fruity scent of the unrelated grape hyacinth, which deer and rabbits perceive as musky. Neither is as offensive as pungent alliums, but both hyacinths also contain toxic compounds that cause mouth irritation and stomach upset if bitten or ingested.

Spanish bluebells contain saponins, which smell and taste like soap, as well

as poisonous cardiac glycosides.

Snowdrops, Siberian squill, anemone, glory of the snow, winter aconite and star of Bethlehem are smaller, so-called “minor” bulbs with flowers that bloom earlier than the larger bulbs above. But they pack a punch in deterring wildlife browsing, thanks to their unpalatable smell, bitter taste and/or toxic compounds.

Because they have strong defenses, multiply readily and are not kept under control by animals, some of these plants, particularly Siberian squill, Spanish bluebells and star of Bethlehem, can quickly become invasive, so plant with caution.

All of these plants have spent generations using their natural defenses to avoid being eaten, and you can take advantage of that, too.

If you’d like to plant bulbs that animals love to eat, such as tulips or crocuses, try surrounding them with unpalatable ones. As they exude odors and chemicals to protect themselves, some of those defenses will extend to their bedmates.

Education

Parents and technology emerge as key factors

Family interest in education falls as student scores decline worldwide

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): Families’ interest in their kids’ education is falling in many high-income countries as school systems struggle with plunging test scores, according to newly released results from a standardized test taken by 15-year-olds around the world.

Over 760,000 teenagers in dozens of countries took the Programme for International Student Assessment last year. Results released Tuesday show average scores in math, reading and science are all at their lowest point in PISA history among highly developed economies. That includes continued declines in reading and math scores in the U.S.

China, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea scored the highest marks on the test. Estonia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand also did well.

The key to why scores are falling so widely may be found in an accompanying survey taken by students.

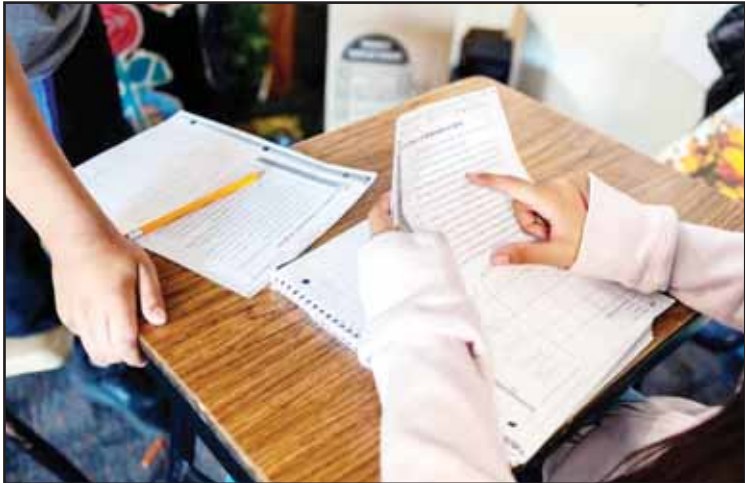
Compared with the 2022 results, almost every country saw a drop in families’ support for their kids’ education, especially for boys, as measured by questions about how often parents talk to their kids about their schoolwork or take an interest in their learning.

“Parents see themselves more as a client of the school, not as someone who takes personal interest,” said Andreas Schleicher, director for education and skills for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which runs the PISA test.

Students who said a family member asks them at least weekly what they did in school that day scored around 35 points higher on the PISA science test - equivalent to over a year and a half of learning - compared with students whose families take less interest. That number includes adjustments for socioeconomic differences.

Digital distraction is another factor. Over a quarter of students in high-income countries complained their classmates got distracted by digital devices in most or every science class. In countries with strong policies controlling the use of cellphones in schools, distraction rates were lower.

There’s undoubtedly a strong association between students using digital devices for leisure and lower test scores, Schleicher said. When tech is used for learning, however, the results



Sixth graders read a passage and give constructive feedback to their partners during Nancy Barajas’ class at Fairview Elementary School on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in Modesto, Calif. (AP)

are more nuanced.

Countries where high schoolers reported using digital devices for around two to three hours per day in school saw higher test scores, but scores fell once tech use climbed beyond that.

Asia seems to have found the key to using technology in a way that benefits students. Fewer than 10% of tested students in Japan, Korea and mainland China complained of digital distraction in the classroom. (Only four provinces in China participated in testing, plus Hong Kong and Macao.)

At the same time, Asia had some of the strongest schools in the world, with Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and the Chinese provinces ranking among the top 10 regions for math, science and reading.

Almost 100% of all children in the Chinese provinces scored at or above baseline for math and reading. In the U.S., it was only 65% in math and 74% in reading.

Experts worry China’s educational dominance over the U.S. has serious political implications.

“To win a technological race, you need the people with the science and the technology and the reading capabilities,” said Tracey Burns, chief of global strategy and research at the National Center for Education and the Economy, a group that researches high-performing education systems.

The U.S. scores for math were equal to the average among OECD countries that administered the test, and the U.S. was ranked in the top 15 countries in the world for science, reading and computational problem-solving, a new category. However, those rankings benefited from other countries’ declines. After all, U.S. teens’ reading and math scores slid to the lowest point since the PISA test was first administered in the early 2000s.

Researchers warned the results must be taken with a grain of salt because the U.S. did not meet standards for having a large enough sample of schools and students that participated in the test.

Generally, higher use of artificial intelligence was associated with lower test scores. Students who said they never use chatbots performed better than students who did. Almost half of students in developed economies say they use AI chatbots to help them learn at least weekly.

Schleicher pointed to China, Japan, Singapore and Estonia as countries that have succeeded in using AI to support learning without overusing it. He noted that in Asia, in particular, teachers are more empowered to take the lead in designing AI systems for the classroom.

“In the United States, teachers largely implement lessons. In Asia, teachers have a very strong role,” he said.

Performers hope roadside stunts lead to bigger stages

Street acrobats turn traffic jams into stage

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept 9, (AP): As the light turns red at a busy intersection in the Kenyan capital, a young man costumed in leopard print emerges into the street to perform somersaults. He is joined by five others, dressed similarly, as they execute a combination of acrobatic stunts.

One of them, juggling woven hats, breaks away and approaches the drivers of vehicles that have come to a halt. He’s hoping for generous tips as he presents his hat to driver after driver while his mates continue their routine. The group breaks away as soon as the traffic lights turn green.

Nairobi’s street acrobats first began appearing in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they have since become normalized at traffic stops in and around the city, with acrobats taking advantage of gridlocks to perform in exchange for cash tips. It is how they earn a living.

Mohammed Nyale, 22, said he started doing acrobatics hoping for a life-changing occupation.

“I have always loved acrobatics since I started performing at 15 years old,” he said.

He and others in his group left their homes on the Kenyan coast with dreams of on-stage careers and sold-out theaters, but they have so far

settled for the streets, performing their stunts for motorists in Nairobi’s never-ending traffic.

Nyale’s group gathers in the early mornings in an abandoned field in Nairobi’s impoverished neighborhood of Kawangware to rehearse their routines. Next, they move into the streets as traffic starts to build up during the morning rush hour.

“We say a prayer before changing into our costumes,” Nyale said.

They usually perform until noon, taking turns to collect tips from motorists. The amounts given tend to be small, usually no more than 50 shillings (about 40 U.S. cents). Because many Kenyans keep money in mobile wallets, the acrobats also hand out slips of paper with their phone numbers to which tips can be sent.

On a good day they might each earn roughly \$6, enough to look after their basic needs, though on some days they make more.

That is equal to the daily wage of most casual laborers in construction or agriculture in a country where unemployment is widespread. The youth unemployment rate stood between 4.9% and 9.9% in 2024, according to figures from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Earning money from street perfor-

mances “is what enables us to live in Nairobi because we moved here from quite far and no one is helping us to pay rent,” Nyale said.

They have rivals. Acrobatic troupes have materialized in other parts of the city. Across town, a group including 28-year-old Jackson Okoth entertained motorists along Lang’ata Road.

“There are no opportunities for us that we can go to, so we like it when we are here because it keeps us busy and it keeps us fit also,” Okoth said. “Instead of staying at home and doing reckless things, we decided to come here and perform for motorists and pedestrians.”

Okoth dreams of playing in a professional circus and touring the world.

“I am still on my way, I am still trying, I am still working hard so that one day things might go well and I may find myself in Europe performing in a circus show,” he said.

Some motorists see the acrobats as a nuisance. Others welcome the distraction.

“They are a source of entertainment here on the road. They entertain us and we feel good,” said Geoffrey Kioi, a Nairobi entrepreneur who regularly gives tips to the acrobats. “They are young people. They need to hustle. They are like my sons.”



Acrobats perform on a street in Nairobi, Kenya, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026. (AP)

Newly restored Baths of Trajan masterpieces reveal spectacular maritime city

Ancient Rome’s ‘Painted City’ and ‘Great Mosaic’ open to public

ROME, Sept 9, (AP): Authorities on Tuesday unveiled what is believed to be the largest fresco and mosaic complex of ancient Rome, a first century A.D. depiction of a maritime city in what became the largest bath complex in the world.

Mayor Roberto Gualtieri presented the recently restored “Painted City” fresco and “Great Mosaic” that were discovered in an underground gallery during excavations in the 1990s of the Baths of Trajan on the Oppio hill near the Colosseum.

The works are opening to the public for the first time, initially in small groups of 15 and during a trial period of weekend access starting this month. The aim is to determine how the delicate works

respond to increased humidity and climactic impacts before allowing more general access.

Gualtieri said the fresco, which features images of a walled port city from a birds-eye view perspective, was the largest wall fresco of its kind from ancient Rome and as such needs to be open to the public. After being hidden underground for centuries, its blues and terra cotta colors are still clear but faded.

“They are truly unique in the world, both from the point of view of artistic beauty and the historic and documental importance,” he said at the unveiling.

Rome’s cultural superintendent, Claudio Parisi Presicce, said the grandeur of the port city as depict-



A section of the restored 15-meter ancient wall mosaic from “The Painted City” site, discovered in the late 1990s within the underground structures that served as foundations for the Baths of Trajan, is seen in Rome on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026. (AP)

ed in the fresco, with buildings, a theater and temple, public piazzas and towers, was particularly well conserved. The restoration work included techniques to preserve and improve visibility, remove surface deposits and consolidate the grouting to keep the decorated surfaces intact.

“We don’t know what city it refers to, but it must have been a particularly well-known one,” he said.

The mosaic, for its part, measures some 15 meters (yards) high and features intricately decorated columns and architectural elements and figures over four different levels. The top levels are up-close images with people that are almost like theatrical scenes, while at the bottom are views of the port

city’s layout from above.

The Baths of Trajan, which were dedicated by Emperor Trajan in 109 A.D., extended over six hectares (15 acres) and were at the time the largest bath complex in the world. They incorporated an earlier baths complex, the Domus Aurea, and were designed on a different trajectory to take better advantage of the water temperatures to optimize the thermal experience for users.

The complex now open to the public includes a grand semicircular upper-level “library” which archaeologists believe was part of the baths complex and allowed users not only to practice sport and bathe but also to participate in cultural activities.

Study explores tigecycline journey in patients

Kuwaiti doctor makes strides in ECMO antibiotic research

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Dr. Rawan Al-Raish, a Kuwaiti doctor currently completing her residency in Anesthesia and Intensive Care in Germany, in collaboration with a team of researchers and doctors in Kuwait, published a scientific study on the pharmacokinetics of the antibiotic, tigecycline, in critically ill patients undergoing extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) treatment, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The study was conducted in the intensive care units at Amiri and Jaber hospitals, including patients undergoing ECMO treatment in Kuwait. It focused on understanding the effect of ECMO on drug concentration, distribution and elimination within the body.

Patients undergoing ECMO treatment are among the most complex medical groups, as the artificial circuitry used in the procedure, along with the physiological changes as-



Dr. Rawan Al-Raish

sociated with critical cases, can affect pharmacokinetics. This leads to different levels of antibiotic exposure compared to the levels expected in other patients.

Blood samples were collected from the patients at certain times to measure tigecycline concentrations and analyze the pharmacokinetic properties.

The results provide real-world clinical data in a field where scientific information remains limited, particularly regarding the optimal use of antibiotics in patients on ECMO.

This research aims to build a scientific foundation that may help improve antibiotic dosing strategies for patients on ECMO in the future, reducing the risks of both under- and over-dosage hazards.

The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal BMC Anesthesiology. It highlighted the importance of collaboration between Kuwaiti medical and research professionals and international academic institutions in upgrading clinical research and improving patient care.

Grand Canyon water supply to be restored in weeks, not months

PHOENIX, Sept 9, (AP): National Park Service officials expect to restore a reliable water supply in the Grand Canyon in weeks - not months - as the deadly flash flood didn't damage most of a near-complete pipeline project, they said Tuesday.

Officials said that they were just over a month away from completing a major upgrade to the sole 12.5-mile-long (20-kilometer) Transcanyon Waterline, which supplied water for millions of visitors to the Grand Canyon's South Rim and about 1,600 residents of Grand Canyon Village.

Construction of a temporary water intake that matches the park's pre-flood pumping capacity will start this week. Park officials encourage residents and tourists to continue conserving water as they work on a more than \$200 million repair and upgrade project.

Before the floods, officials said the project would ensure the park can meet its water supply needs for the next 50 years or more.

"The damage to this old pipe is no longer relevant to our new solution," Dave Black, deputy incident commander at the National Park Service's Western Incident Management Team, said. "Every gallon we conserve gives our crews more time to complete the work in the canyon."

The flash flood on Aug. 29 caused two deaths, left one person missing and caused about 80 rescues. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing.

The floods mark the third time that overnight stays

have been paused due to pipeline failures since August 2024.

Officials also implemented significant water conservation measures for residents to protect the limited stored water on the South Rim, where most visitors go.

Gloria Barrett, a longtime resident of Grand Canyon Village who works for a helicopter tour company, shut off her water heater to help her household of four conserve water.

"That inhibits us from taking longer showers because the water's so cold, which is miserable," she said.

Barrett, her partner and his two teenage sons have been eating on paper plates to avoid doing dishes and reusing cooking water to give to their dog. In her 10 years living inside the park, Barrett said she has learned to get creative with water conservation - the pipeline has broken more than 85 times since 2010 - but she has never seen damage this "extreme."

The pipeline, which has been in place nearly twice as long as it was supposed to be, crosses rugged terrain from the quieter South Rim, down to the canyon floor and back up to the South Rim to provide drinking water and fire suppression.

Many families in Grand Canyon Village live paycheck to paycheck, Barrett said, and leaving "is not an option for us - it's not feasible." But for the 27-year-old, who also owns a transport company that shuttles tourists from rim to rim, the hotel closures brought a wave of cancellations during what she said was her busiest season.

Australian study finds 31 rugby league players with brain disease CTE

Suspected measles cases kill nearly 1,000 as Bangladesh struggles to contain outbreak

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Sept 9, (AP): Eight-month-old Rojatun Jannat Ramisa is struggling to breathe in a hospital in Bangladesh's capital as her parents sit helplessly beside her. She's one of thousands of children sickened by a measles outbreak that's sweeping across the country and has killed hundreds of children following setbacks to the country's vaccine program.

Ramisa's mother Ranu Akhter traveled hundreds of kilometers (miles) after doctors in eastern Bangladesh referred her to a specialized child hospital in Dhaka to seek treatment for the life-threatening condition.

"Fourteen days ago, when we were at the district hospital, there were other children being treated alongside my daughter. I saw that those children also had red rashes on their bodies, sores in their mouths and fevers," Akhter told The Associated Press at Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

"It made me realize how widespread the measles outbreak is," she said.

Every day, the death toll is rising.

Bangladesh has been racing to halt the outbreak's spread since March, when more than 100 children died in less than a month. By Tuesday, the death toll from suspected measles cases reached 999 since the start of the year, according to the government's Directorate General of Health Services.

Since March, the country has recorded more than 166,000 suspected measles cases, including 19,835 laboratory-confirmed infections, according to the Ministry of Health.

The government launched an emergency vaccination drive in March together with the World Health Organization, the U.N. children's agency and the Gavi vaccine alliance. It began with a focus on children from 6 months to 5 years old and later expanded nationwide in phases.

Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease that causes fever, respiratory symptoms and a characteristic rash. It can sometimes have severe or fatal complications, especially in young children, according to the WHO.

Two doses of a vaccine provide strong protection against measles, but the WHO says 95% of the population has to be vaccinated in order to stop the disease from spreading - which protects children like Ramisa who are too young to be vaccinated as well as immunocompromised people.

A few years ago, Bangladesh had measles largely under control, with a vaccination program that was credited for decades for protecting children and mothers



Patients receive treatment during a measles outbreak as family members sit beside them in an overcrowded hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Sept 8. (AP)

from the deadly diseases of tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles. Between 2021 and 2025, the country recorded just 100 to 300 cases per year, down from 2,410 cases in 2020.

But in the last few years, disruptions to the vaccine program have left a growing number of children unvaccinated.

First the pandemic interrupted routine vaccinations, and then in 2024 the government largely missed a vaccination campaign previously carried out every four years.

Atiqul Islam, a neonatal and child specialist at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, said during the pandemic period in 2021 and 2022, many did not take their children to get vaccinated.

"So, if you look at children who are now four or five years old, many of them missed their vaccinations. That created a gap. During the previous interim government, vaccines were also unavailable at many vaccination centers," he said.

Bangladesh's current government, headed by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, said the failures in planning under ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and interim leader Muhammad Yunus left the country with shortages of vaccines and far behind on coverage.

The 2024 measles vaccination campaign was disrupted during the political upheaval that led to Hasina's ouster. She left the country in the face of a mass uprising in August 2024, and was followed by Yunus, who led an interim administration that transferred power to an elected government after an election in February.

From exile in India, Hasina blamed the Yunus-led government for the disaster.

At Bangladesh Shishu Hospital, Islam said the situation has improved, but not enough. The doctor said his colleagues are struggling to treat infected children who often arrive at the hospital with serious complications like pneumonia, diarrhea and encephalitis, or brain swelling.

"For the past six months, we have been treating measles patients continuously, and we are exhausted," he said.

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Brain disease (CTE): A study has found 31 rugby league players in Australia have been diagnosed with the degenerative brain disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

The ABC reported Australian Sports Brain Bank findings that showed players in their 20s, 30s and 40s had the degenerative brain disease, which can only be diagnosed after death. Of the 51 rugby league players' brains donated, 31 were found to have CTE. The donors had played at various levels of the sport, from amateur to professional.

CTE has also been found in former NFL players and others who play rugby union and other contact sports.

Do you need to worry about Sun turning into black hole?

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

□ □ □

By Anuradha Gupta
University of Mississippi

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

Do I need to worry about the sun turning into a black hole? - Anonymous, age 7. Chicago. Illinois

At the end of their lifespans, some massive stars collapse under their own weight until they turn into a black hole that sucks up everything around it.

It's a dramatic conclusion to a star's billions of years of existence, but it's not the finale that our own Sun will have. Our solar system's star is not big enough to have that kind of outcome, so worrying about the Sun becoming a black hole doesn't need to be on your list of anxieties. Whatever happens to the Sun will happen very slowly, over billions of years. By that time, you'll be long gone. Humans might not be there to witness it at all.

As an astrophysicist, I am fascinated by black holes and how they form. The universe is filled with different kinds of stars, and each has a distinct tale to tell about its life.

Just like humans, stars have a life cycle. A star is born when a giant gas cloud collapses in on itself and then grows, shining light by burning fuel.

In its core, the baby star fuses four atoms of hydrogen together to form the element helium, which releases energy in the form of starlight. This fuel-burning process also exerts outward pressure against gravity, which is pulling in on the star. These competing forces give stars their round shape.

As the star grows older, it eventually burns up all the hydrogen inside it. At this point, it can't maintain the same outward push, so gravity squeezes the star, shrinking it smaller and smaller. The helium atoms inside are pushed closer together, and they start to fuse into heavier elements

such as carbon, oxygen, iron and more.

The star keeps burning its fuel and shining on until most of the helium in its core has fused into iron. But fusing together multiple atoms of iron requires taking in energy instead of releasing it, so at this point, the fuel burning stops.

Gravity then takes over, and the core of the star collapses rapidly in a dramatic explosion. The cores of heavier stars are extremely dense, so any material falling toward the collapsing star bounces off, producing shock waves. This phenomenon drives what is called a core-collapse supernova explosion. The star explodes, shooting elements like oxygen and other heavy elements off into space. What remains is a dead star with a small, dense core.

The type of dead star the collapse forms depends on how much mass the star started with. If the mass is less than roughly eight times the mass of the Sun, the collapse will leave behind a white dwarf. This is a star so dense that all the electrons inside it are squeezed extremely close together, until they are no longer bound to individual atoms.

If the star was about eight to 20 times the mass of the Sun, it would leave behind a neutron star, which is an even denser star. In a neutron star, the electrons and protons crush together to produce neutrons.

If the star is heavier than 20 times the mass of the Sun, the end product will be a black hole with gravitational pull so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape past its boundary.

Because our Sun is on the smaller side for a star, when it dies it will collapse into a white dwarf, roughly the same size as Earth. It will still shine some light at first, but over time it may slowly cool down, to eventually become a cold, dark object called a black dwarf.

In about 1 billion years from now, the Sun will start to grow hotter and brighter than it is today. As it shines more brightly, the sunlight it casts on Earth will increase, which will make the Earth hotter. The oceans will evaporate, and it will become very difficult to sustain life as we know it on Earth. (AP)

Nepal's flood disaster and impact of climate change loom large in icy shadow of Mont Blanc

CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC, France, Sept 9, (AP): For centuries, French and Italian mountain communities on the flanks of Western Europe's highest peak have gazed upon seemingly eternal glaciers and snow that gave the colossus its name: Mont Blanc, the white mountain.

But climate warming is dismantling the picture at alarming speed.

Europe's record heat waves this summer savaged permafrost that for millennia has acted like glue on the Alpine landscape. Defrosting cliffs came apart as high-altitude cold gave way to higher temperatures, sending rock falls cascading from the heights. A famously dangerous rock-prone gully that climbers have long braved on ascents to the summit, 4,805 meters (15,766 feet) up, became temporarily impassable.

"We weep for our mountain, the way it's changing. It hits us in the gut," said Stéphane Bozon, a deputy mayor in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, a French town at the foot of the giant that straddles France's border with Italy.

"From mid-July onward, we saw an increase in rock falls. We saw areas becoming difficult to access because of glacial retreat and snow-melt on the glaciers, with crevasses opening up and rock collapses making some areas difficult to reach or traverse," he told The Associated Press.

Each degree of warming can have an outsized impact. On the Aiguille du Midi peak, which rises to an altitude of 3,842 meters (12,605 feet) in the Mont Blanc range, average temperatures for July have soared. From a chilly 1.6 C (33.8 F) in 1994, the monthly average for this July was the warmest ever recorded, at 3.3 C (37.4 F), says Meteo France, the national weather service.

"The mountain really dried out, with temperatures unlike any I had ever experienced," Bozon said.

In the wake of devastating floods in the Himalayas, AP talked to researchers, climbers and residents coping with the risks and uncertainties of climate change on Mont Blanc.

The Aug. 26 floods that swept through Nepal and China were triggered after a collapse of bedrock and glacier ice sent debris and water surging through multiple Himalayan rivers. Initial assessments of many scientists are that climate change played a key role in creating



The Mont-Blanc massif mountains and the 'Mer de Glace' glacier are seen from the Aiguille du Midi in Chamonix, France on Sept 5. (AP)

conditions for the catastrophe.

As Earth's global average temperature rises because of the burning of oil, gas and coal, the chances of such disasters increase.

In the Alps, glaciers once admired for their icy majesty are being eyed with trepidation as they shrink and lose stability.

Bozon, who is in charge of safety for Chamonix, says his town urgently needs to prepare for "serious scenarios" of chunks of glacier or mountain potentially falling onto inhabited areas.

"We have to move quite quickly because this summer has shaken us and year after year we're being shaken by the glaciers' retreat," he said.

In Italy, researchers are also documenting dramatic damage wrought by heat on glaciers this year. In Lombardy, Alpine glaciers have lost more than 40% of their surface area since 1991, according to the region's glacier service.

"While it used to snow at high altitudes in the past, now it rains," said Vanda Bonardo, head of the Italian branch of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, a nongovernmental organization.

"So we've also seen the effects on

the stability of the terrain," she said.

Permafrost that has held Alpine peaks in its icy grip for thousands of years acts as a cement, helping to hold their steep rock faces together. It took a beating from the succession of heat waves.

"That doesn't mean that all the rock faces will collapse in the coming years or decades but quite a number of them are on the verge of becoming unstable and remain stable today only because of the presence of that ice. As the ice changes, we have seen a huge, huge number of rock falls and rock collapses this year," said Ludovic Ravanel, a researcher at Savoie Mont Blanc University who specializes in climate change's impact on mountain snows, glaciers and frosts.

A collapse is a major fall involving more than 100 cubic meters (3,531 cubic feet) of rock - more than enough to fill a large shipping container. Ravanel expects this year's tally of collapses in the Mont Blanc massif "will probably reach around 400." He says that is about 10 times more than two decades ago.

The last time things got close to this bad was the "catastrophic year" of 2022, he said, with nearly 300 collapses.

"This has really been one of the defining features of the summer of 2026," he said.

Chamonix-based mountain guide Stuart MacDonald says it shocks him to see how rapidly and extensively glaciers that hang from the flanks of the Mont Blanc massif are retreating.

When he guides people up the peaks, he points them to "where the glacier was last year and this is where it was 10 years ago. And that usually has quite an effect."

Melting and the risk of rock falls made his job "pretty challenging" this summer and forced him to cancel plans to lead a group to Mont Blanc's summit last week.

"You hear it before you see it and then you'll turn round and you'll just see an enormous cascade of rocks coming down a slope and it can be quite terrifying," MacDonald said.

"What's most scary is that sometimes these rocks are falling on routes that we used to be climbing at this time of year," he added. "It can be depressing sometimes when you look at something that you maybe climbed in July or August in the past and you see that it's absolutely impossible to do it now."

Asian Games venues and athletes safe after Nagoya flooding

Kuwait Olympic Committee chief highlights importance of Asian Games participation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (Agencies): Chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah said Kuwait's participation in the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, marks an important milestone for Kuwaiti sports and provides an opportunity for the country's athletes to demonstrate their capabilities on one of Asia's biggest sporting stages.

Speaking ahead of the Kuwaiti delegation's departure, Sheikh Fahad said the delegation includes 120 athletes who will compete in 16 sports: shooting, athletics, football,

golf, modern pentathlon, fencing, teqball, sport climbing, karate, equestrian, squash, jiu-jitsu, swimming, handball, padel and sailing.

He stressed that the Kuwait Olympic Committee had made every effort to provide the necessary preparations and support to ensure the delegation delivers a strong performance worthy of Kuwait.

Sheikh Fahad expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for their con-

tinued support of Kuwaiti sports and their commitment to the nation's athletes.

He also thanked the private sector, particularly Zain Telecommunications Company and Kuwait Finance House, for their strategic partnership with the Kuwait Olympic Committee and their ongoing support for Kuwaiti sports and athletes.

Sheikh Fahad urged the athletes to compete with confidence, determination and sportsmanship, expressing his hope that their efforts would produce achievements that bring

pride and joy to the Kuwaiti people and see the Kuwaiti flag raised high at the Asian Games.

Meanwhile, athletes who've arrived early for the Asian Games were unharmed by extensive flooding that hit the central Japanese city of Nagoya, Mayor Ichiro Hirosawa said Wednesday.

"We are not worried about the conditions of the venues and we believe there is no problem holding the Asian Games as planned," Hirosawa told reporters.

The Asian Games, an event with more athletes than the Summer

Olympics, open Sept. 19 in Nagoya and surrounding areas and run through Oct. 4.

More than 11,000 athletes are signed up from 45 countries and regions in Asia. By comparison, about 10,700 athletes participated in the Summer Olympics in 2024 in Paris.

The previous edition of the Asian Games was held three years ago in Hangzhou, China.

Hirosawa said about 400 athletes and staff who are staying in converted shipping containers - remodeled to serve as temporary housing units

for the Asian Games - were briefly evacuated to higher ground during the heavy rain.

He said there were a number of leaking roofs but nothing more serious around the dozens of Games venues.

Record rain fell in parts of the city on Tuesday, flooding dozens of roads and homes, and stranding pedestrians and vehicles. City bus and subway operations were temporarily suspended, the mayor said.

Reports said about 3,500 people took shelter at emergency evacuation centers.

Germany rolls past South Korea, reaches World Cup quarterfinals

US faces Hungary in last eight

BERLIN, Sept 9, (AP): Host Germany advanced to the quarterfinals of the women's FIBA World Cup with a morale-boosting 94-56 rout of South Korea, and the United States learned its next opponent.

Hungary, which beat Japan 84-63, will play the four-time defending champion U.S. on Thursday.

Germany captain Marie Göllich led her team to a quarterfinal against European champion Belgium with 19 points and five rebounds. Frieda Bühner contributed 17 points.

Lee Hae-ran led South Korea with 21 points on a night her team never had a lead.

Every German score elicited huge cheers from the appreciative home fans at the Berlin Arena, particularly in the first half. Germany led by 17 points at halftime.

The players danced as fans jumped up and down to blaring music after the game.

The home support could play a pivotal role. Germany seems to be gathering momentum after losing its first group game by 30 points to Spain. It rebounded with a 74-58 win over Japan and followed with an 83-58 win over Mali.

"It makes a huge difference for us because when we're tired, when we need that extra push, when maybe a shot's not falling or the other team goes on a run, when we can have that crowd motivation and that support to cheer us on and they're outside the hotel and they are waiting for us, it's a big part of home court advantage for sure," Alexis Peterson told The Associated Press.

Réka Lelik led Hungary with 23 points and eight rebounds in a surprisingly comfortable win over Japan earlier.



Germany's Alexis Peterson is challenged by Korea's Lee Hae-ran, left, Heo Ye-eun and Lee So-hee, right, during the Women's Basketball World Cup qualification playoff between Germany and Korea in Berlin. (AP)

Virág Takács-Kiss also had eight rebounds and added 17 points for Hungary, which will face the U.S. in the early quarterfinal slot Thursday.

"It feels incredible. It's been 40 years since we went to the quarterfinals and I still can't believe it," Lelik said.

The game was overshadowed by a serious injury to Japan shooting guard Saki Hayashi, who went off with what looked a broken right arm after an awkward fall.

Hayashi needed immediate medical attention a foul in the air from Agnes Torok with just over a minute left in the second quarter. A blue tarp was provided to give her privacy

and fans responded with applause when she was led off.

Japan connected on only seven 3-pointers Tuesday. The Japanese had set a record with 20 three-pointers in a World Cup game on Friday before France broke it with 22 on Monday.

Ramu Tokashiki's two free throws drew Japan level at 34-34, but that was as close as it got. Agnes Studer responded with a 3-pointer to give Hungary a 37-34 lead at halftime.

"They hit their open shots, we missed our open shots," Japan coach Corey Gaines said.

Hungary finished 11 of 25 from beyond the arc on the first of two

days off for the U.S., which qualified directly for the quarterfinals as a group winner.

"I'm excited to play the very best players in the world, the best team in the world," Lelik said of Thursday's game. "I never got the opportunity to play against them. So I'm just very excited how it's going to be. And we're going to do everything for sure. But besides that, I want us to enjoy the game."

All the quarterfinals are scheduled for Thursday. Spain and France await the winners of Wednesday's playoffs between Italy-Australia and China-Puerto Rico, respectively.

'We are not changing anything unless we have to'

Drivers & teams won't be put at risk: Sulayem

MONZA, Italy, Sept 9, (AP): FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem has defended the wait for clarity over how this year's Formula 1 season will end amid uncertainty over the Middle East security situation but tells The Associated Press that drivers and team staff will not be put "at risk."

The F1 season is still scheduled to end Qatar Grand Prix on Nov. 29 and the season finale in Abu Dhabi on Dec. 6, but F1 has been examining potential alternative venues. A replacement finale at the Imola circuit in Italy is widely considered the likeliest option.

Ben Sulayem told the AP it remains "business as usual. We are not changing anything unless we have to," and said he's in regular communication with F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali.

"Being from that part of the world, we can't jump the gun and just say, that's it, we are canceling and then cancel," he added. "Are we going to allow our people, our staff, the drivers or the teams to go at risk? No, of course not. We will not. But we'll have also to listen to the gov-



FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem talks with the Associated Press during an interview prior to the start of the Italy's Formula One Grand Prix, at the Monza racetrack. (AP)

ernments and to the local promoter there."

F1 sets its own calendar and agreements with host venues, but as the governing body, the FIA must approve the schedule and any changes.

Iran has previously targeted Qatar

and the UAE, which includes Abu Dhabi, as part of its response to U.S. airstrikes and F1 called off the other two Middle East rounds earlier in the season - in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The Bahrain Grand Prix was rescheduled in Malaysia for Oct. 4,

still with Bahrain branding.

"Do I feel disappointed? I think human lives are more important than motor sport," said Ben Sulayem, who is from the United Arab Emirates, when asked about the impact on his home region of losing its events.

"And the well-being of my family being there and the UAE nationals and everyone that lives there comes as a priority."

Ben Sulayem added that "for the time being, there is no emergency" in deciding a calendar for the 2027 season.

If the season does end in Imola, it would mean that Kimi Antonelli's quest to become F1's youngest champion could now end with the party of a lifetime, just down the road from his home city of Bologna.

When Antonelli raced there last year, he invited his family and his whole school class to see him at the track.

The 20-year-old Antonelli moved 66 points clear in the title race with a statement victory at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday, after an epic fightback from the back of the grid.

France to announce stance on Infantino's FIFA candidacy

PARIS, Sept 9: The French Football Federation is expected to announce today whether it will continue to support Gianni Infantino's bid for another term as FIFA president.

The federation's executive committee is due to meet at its headquarters, with its decision expected to be announced this afternoon.

Unless there is a major surprise, France is expected to withdraw its backing for Infantino, according to a source familiar with the matter. The source said the decision should be made collectively rather than by a single official.

Infantino is seeking to remain in office despite growing calls for his resignation and pressure from national and continental federations that have withdrawn their support. He remains the only declared candidate for the FIFA election on March 18.

His leadership has come under increasing criticism in recent weeks, with opponents accusing him of a lack of transparency. Critics have particularly objected to a proposed commercial company that would have been open to private investors, potentially holding a 20% stake and receiving World Cup revenues.

Messi reaches preliminary deal to buy Eldense shares

LISBON, Sept 9, (AP): Lionel Messi is set to become the majority shareholder of Spanish second-division club Eldense.

Eldense, based near the port city of Alicante in southeast Spain, confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner had reached a preliminary agreement with the club's owners.

The deal will see him buy the shares held by Grupo TH Soluciones, subject to the completion of the remaining legal and contractual procedures.

The club did not provide financial details and did not say when the deal would be completed.

Eldense will become the second Spanish club the Argentina star has invested in. Earlier this year, he became the owner of a fifth-division side, Barcelona-based UE Cornellà.

Eldense fired coach Claudio Barragan on Sunday after claiming just two points from four league matches this season.

Messi has built a strong bond with Spain. He arrived at Barcelona at age



Messi

Club recruits Kuwaiti stars

Yarmouk reinforces volleyball squad with Cameroonian duo

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Yarmouk Club has bolstered its first-team volleyball squad by signing Cameroonian players Adam Ibrahim and Aba ahead of the 2026-27 season.

The club has also recruited several experienced Kuwaiti players, including setters Hussein Ashkanani and Mohammed Adel Al-Shammari, outside hitter Mohammed Bash and libero Hussein Ali, strengthening the squad in several positions.

Yarmouk began its preparations for the new season in early July with intensive daily training under national coach Khaled Al-Mutairi. The team played its first preseason friendly against Kazma yesterday as part of its preparations.

Al-Mutairi said the team's preparations are progressing well, adding that the arrival of the Cameroonian professionals and experienced local players has improved the squad's strength and readiness.

He said the team now has a good blend of youth, experience and ambition, while the coaching staff is focused on improving the players'



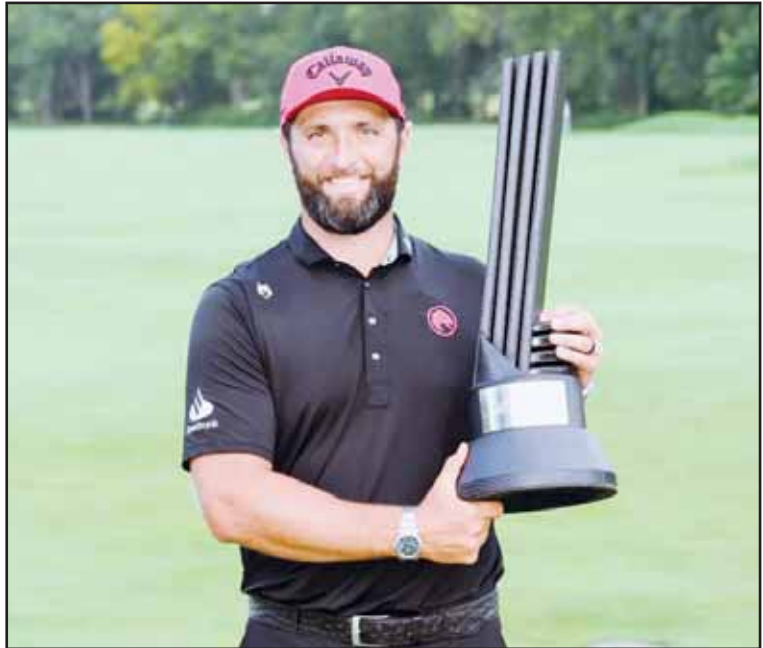
Khaled Al-Mutairi, Yarmouk Club coach.

technical and physical levels ahead of the new campaign.

Al-Mutairi expressed hope that Yarmouk can achieve its objectives and produce a stronger season that meets the expectations of the club's management and fans

New investors sought

LIV Golf files for bankruptcy



In this file photo, LIV Golf season-long champion captain Jon Rahm, of Legion XIII, poses with the trophy after the final round of LIV Golf Indianapolis in Westfield, Ind. (AP)

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): LIV Golf filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in New Jersey with more than \$500 million in debt, part of its goal to revive the league without Saudi funding.

The move was widely expected after the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia abruptly ended its financial support this year. The final event was last month in Indiana. Four vendors already have filed lawsuits because they have not been paid.

LIV said it has agreed to a restructuring plan with BC Partners as the primary source of its capital.

"This process gives us the structure and time to pursue a landmark transaction and begin the next chapter of LIV Golf," CEO Scott O'Neil said in a news release.

O'Neil has said "LIV Golf 2.0" would feature players as majority owners in a reduced schedule. In a letter to LIV Golf fans, O'Neil said the new look would expand the size of the field from 57 to 75 players and introduce a 54-hole cut for the first time. There also would be Monday qualifiers.

He said the team concept would be built around nationalities and that LIV would continue to tap some of its more successful markets in Australia, South Africa and Asia.

Still, the new version would be a shell of what LIV promised when it launched in June 2022 after paying nine-figure signing bonuses to lure away top names from the PGA Tour. The excessive spending topped more than \$5 billion before PIF said in April it was pulling the plug.

Still to be determined is the future of the biggest stars still with LIV, most notably Jon Rahm and Bryson DeChambeau. Rahm is playing the Irish Open this week and told BBC Northern Ireland: "I still have a contract with LIV 1.0 that I'm more than willing to fulfill. Like I said, time will tell."

Rahm, DeChambeau, Dustin John-

son and Cameron Smith were the leading four creditors listed in the filing. Of the top 30 creditors LIV listed, 14 were players. The filing listed only the "unsecured claim" - Rahm led the list at nearly \$7.5 million - and not the full amount owed.

LIV listed between \$100 million and \$500 million in estimated assets, and \$500 million and \$1 billion in liabilities.

The state of Louisiana is listed among the largest creditors at \$1,220,000. LIV Golf postponed its event in Louisiana shortly after PIF announced it was ending its support. The Michigan event also was canceled, with the team championship merged into the final event in Indiana.

Chapter 11 is commonly known as reorganization bankruptcy and generally allows the debtor to continue to operate the business, even borrowing new money under court approval.

LIV Golf said the PIF has agreed to provide \$49.6 million in debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing through the DIP credit agreement, subject to the court's approval.

BC Partners L.P. - the credit business of UK-based BC Partners - and other minority investors that might emerge would provide the exit financing as LIV tries to keep going. LIV said it intends to emerge from bankruptcy and start its new version as early as 2027.

"Now it is time to enter the next phase of LIV Golf," O'Neil said in his letter. "Today, we took an important step forward to get there. LIV Golf has entered a court-supervised restructuring process that provides us with the time and framework to address previous financial obligations and complete a transaction that will make the League's next phase a reality."

"Put simply, this process is designed to build a stronger and more sustainable future for LIV Golf."



Winners pose with officials during the closing ceremony.

Kuwait Shooting Club honors winners of training championship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations President Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi honored the winners of the final training championship held two days ago, featuring competitions in the 10-meter air rifle, 10-meter air pistol and archery.

In the men's category, Mohammed Al-Ajmi won the 10-meter air rifle title, while Fawaz Al-Mutairi topped the 10-meter air pistol event. Mohammed Al-Qattan claimed first place in archery.

Among the women, Fatima Al-Haddad won the 10-meter air rifle competition, Nada Al-Rashidi took first place in the 10-meter air pistol, and Joud Al-Rashidi secured the archery title.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Otaibi said the Kuwait Shooting Club organizes training courses every summer to introduce young men and women to the fundamentals of shooting in rifle, pistol and archery events.

He said the courses are supervised by a select group of experienced and

qualified coaches who work to develop participants' skills and technical abilities while identifying promising talents who could pursue careers in the sport.

Al-Otaibi added that participants who achieve outstanding results will be offered continued training programs at the club throughout the year. The aim is to further develop their skills and prepare the most promising athletes for possible selection to the national teams and participation in upcoming competitions.

Kuwait takes 3rd at AJP Tour Asia Jiu-Jitsu Championship



A group photo of the Kuwaiti athletes participating in the Asian Continental Championship.

Performance demonstrates growing strength of jiu-jitsu in Kuwait

ABU DHABI, Sept 9, (KUNA): Kuwait finished third in the overall country standings at the AJP Tour Asia Jiu-Jitsu Championship, held in Abu Dhabi from Sept. 4 to 6 with the participation of more than 2,000 athletes from 90 countries.

Speaking to KUNA Wednesday, Kuwait Jiu-Jitsu Academy coach Ahmad Al-Rashed said the third-place finish reflected the significant progress made by Kuwaiti jiu-jitsu and the athletes' ability to compete for top positions at continental and international championships.

He attributed the achievement to the continued efforts of Kuwaiti coaches to prepare athletes technically and physically, while promoting discipline, commitment, perseverance and sportsmanship.

Al-Rashed said Kuwaiti athletes showed determination, perseverance and a strong competitive spirit throughout the tournament, adding that their performance demonstrated the growing strength of jiu-jitsu in Kuwait.

He praised the support of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, represented by its Jiu-



Kuwaiti jiu-jitsu medalists raise the Kuwaiti flag.

Jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts Committee, for its efforts to develop the sport and provide athletes with the appropriate environment to achieve further success.

Kuwait accumulated 107,440 points to finish third in the overall country

standings. The UAE topped the table with 568,100 points, followed by Brazil in second with 153,200 points.

The championship, held at Mubadala Arena in Abu Dhabi, featured competitions across various age groups and



A Kuwaiti athlete in action during the AJP Tour Asia Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Abu Dhabi.



Kuwaiti coach Ahmad Al-Rashed with two Kuwaiti jiu-jitsu athletes participating in the championship.

belt levels and attracted wide international participation.

Al-Ittihad keeps winning as Al-Qadsiah stuns Al-Ahli

RIYADH, Sept 9: Al-Ittihad continued its strong run with a 2-1 victory over Al-Fayha in the sixth round of the Saudi Roshn League.

George Ilenikhena gave Al-Ittihad the lead in the 43rd minute, but Jason leveled for Al-Fayha in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time.

Youssef En-Nesyri restored Al-Ittihad's advantage from the penalty spot in the 68th minute, securing three valuable points.

The victory took Al-Ittihad to 14 points from six games, keeping it third in the standings, one point behind leaders Al-Hilal and Al-Qadsiah, who have 15 points each. Al-Fayha remained 11th with five points.

Al-Qadsiah, meanwhile, held off a spirited Al-Ahli comeback to claim a 3-2 home victory.

Tijjani Reijnders opened the scoring for Al-Qadsiah in the 14th minute, while Mohammed Abu Al-Shamat doubled the lead in first-half stoppage time. Reijnders then struck again three minutes into added time to put Al-Qadsiah



En-Nesyri celebrates after scoring the winning goal.

3-0 ahead.

Al-Ahli responded through Ivan Toney, who scored in the 63rd minute and again in the 82nd, but Al-Qadsiah held on to secure the win.

The result lifted Al-Qadsiah to 15 points, level with Al-Hilal at the top of the table, with the leaders ahead on goal difference. Al-Ahli remained seventh on nine points.

Amrabat says he will not play for Morocco under Wahbi

RABAT, Sept 9: Sofyan Amrabat has said he will not return to the Moroccan national team while Mohamed Wahbi remains head coach, although he has opted not to reveal the reasons behind his decision.

The Ajax Amsterdam midfielder said representing Morocco remains the greatest honor of his career and stressed that his commitment to his country has never changed.

"Representing Morocco is the greatest honor of my career. Since receiving my first call-up 12 years ago, I have given everything for my country and worn the national team shirt with pride. My love for Morocco and everything this team represents will never change," Amrabat said.

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NEWS



Minister Al-Jalahma in conversation with Kuwait national team coach Sousa during his visit to the training ground.

Sports

Kuwait to face Lusail in Doha friendly ahead of Gulf Cup

Al-Jalahma: Kuwait to build high-standard training facility for national teams



Group photo of Minister of State for Youth and Sports Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma with the national team's coaching and administrative staff and players.

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

DOHA, Sept 9: State Minister for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma announced plans to provide the Kuwait Football Association and national teams with a dedicated, high-standard training facility. Speaking to the Third Sports Channel, Al-Jalahma said the project would give the national teams greater privacy during training and include medical facilities, a gym and other amenities designed to support their preparations. Al-Jalahma attended Kuwait's training session before the squad traveled to Doha for a training camp ahead of

the 27th Gulf Cup in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from Sept. 23 to Oct. 6. He said the government is committed to creating the right conditions for the players and technical and administrative staffs to deliver performances that reflect Kuwait's football history and status in the regional competition. Team delegation Chief Ayman Al-Husseini said the federation decided to start preparations early to give the squad more time to prepare for the tournament. He explained that coach H lio Sousa preferred to begin the national team's training after the third league round, as most players had already trained with their clubs at overseas camps and were well prepared.

Al-Husseini added that Kuwait will play a friendly against Qatari club Lusail next week. All players are expected to feature except those from Kuwait Club, who will remain with their club for AFC Champions League 2 commitments before joining the national team in Jeddah. Abdullah Al-Awadhi said representing Kuwait in the Gulf Cup is a source of pride and pledged to give his best alongside his teammates. He stressed the importance of making the most of the Doha camp to reach peak readiness, while Eid Al-Rashidi said the squad has high ambitions and hopes to produce a performance worthy of Kuwait's football history.

Al-Rashidi also praised the passion of Kuwait's supporters and expressed confidence they would provide strong backing throughout the tournament. Striker Shabib Al-Khaldi described the Gulf Cup as a special tournament unlike any other, saying it brings Gulf nations together in a unique sporting atmosphere. Al-Azraq began its Doha training sessions yesterday under Portuguese coach H lio Sousa. The Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation has selected four Kuwaiti officials for the 27th Gulf Cup. Abdullah Jamali will serve as referee, Saud Al-Shammali and Ali Jarragh as assistant referees, and Abdullah Arab as the assistant VAR referee.

Al-Azmi soars to gold as Kuwait reaches seven medals at Arab U-18 Championship

Al-Hassan secures silver in the hammer throw

CAIRO, Sept 9: Kuwait's national athletics team added gold and silver medal to its tally at the 12th Arab U-18 Athletics Championship in Cairo, taking its total to seven medals. National teams' chief and Kuwait Athletics Federation board member Falah Sunaidah said Abdulrahman Al-Azmi struck gold in the triple jump with a new personal best of 14.53 meters. Abdulkarim Al-Hassan secured silver in the hammer throw, setting another personal best with a mark of 64.57 meters. Sunaidah praised the athletes' performances, saying Kuwait's haul of three gold, three silver and one bronze medal, along with several personal bests, reflects the progress of Kuwaiti athletics and the success of the team's preparations for the championship. He expressed pride in the athletes' achievements and new personal records, describing the results as an encouraging sign of development at the youth level. Sunaidah also commended the technical and administrative



Abdulrahman Al-Azmi celebrates his gold medal.

staffs, as well as the athletes, for their dedication and hard work, stressing that the results were the

product of sustained preparation and commitment from everyone on the team.

The championship, which began last Sunday, features 276 athletes from 15 Arab countries.

KUNA photo

Sabalenka keeps three-peat hopes alive

Shelton ends Alcaraz's title reign

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): Ben Shelton had gone toe-to-toe with Carlos Alcaraz for five exhausting sets and finally at 3:33 a.m. Wednesday came the chance to end the U.S. Open champion's title reign. Shelton fired an ace at 146 mph, a ball that Alcaraz couldn't have gotten back even with fresh legs. That gave Shelton a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7) victory in a marathon tussle that was the latest-finishing match in U.S. Open history. Alcaraz had his 18-match winning streak in Grand Slam tournaments ended in a match that lasted 4 hours, 28 minutes, after he fought deep into the night and early into the next morning in a bid to get his hands on the trophy again. Shelton next plays No. 11 seed Frances Tiafoe, who kept coming back until he had reached his third U.S. Open semifinal, beating Alex Michelsen 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (10-6) on Tuesday. The U.S. is guaranteed to have a representative in Sunday's final as it seeks its first men's major title since Andy Roddick lifted the title here in 2003. Alcaraz had played in the previous latest finish at the U.S. Open when he outlasted Jannik Sinner in a match that finished at 2:50 a.m. in the 2022 quarterfinals en route to his first Grand Slam title at 19. The U.S. Open craves its night matches and players love the energy the fans provide - even when a number of matches have already gone past 2 a.m. this year. Thousands stayed to the end, with Arthur Ashe Stadium perhaps still one-third full for the finish. Shelton benefited from a home-crowd boost even against the popular Alcaraz, with fans



Ben Shelton, of the United States, hits a return to Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, early in New York. (AP)

chanting his name along with "USA! USA!" Three of the four singles quarterfinals went to match tiebreakers on a marathon day, which started with Aryna Sabalenka edging Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova to keep her hopes alive of a third straight U.S. Open title. Aryna Sabalenka thought it was all slipping away. Her U.S. Open title reign and her lengthy hold on the No. 1 ranking in women's tennis were just about gone. Then Sabalenka proved she's not giving up of it up without a fight. Sabalenka kept alive her hopes for a third straight U.S. Open title by edging Linda Noskova 7-6 (1), 3-6, 7-6 (10-7) on Tuesday in a thrilling quarterfinal matchup of major champions. Sabalenka - who needed to win to maintain any hope of keeping the No. 1 ranking - will face No. 3 seed Jessica Pegula, who rallied to beat No. 26 Emma Navarro 3-6, 6-4, 6-3. Sabalenka beat Pegula in the 2024 final and against last year in the semifinals after dropping the first set.

Real Madrid and Man City kick off with wins as Champions League returns

MADRID, Sept 9, (AP): There were goals for Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland; and wins for Real Madrid and Manchester City as the Champions League returned for a new season. Mbappe gave record 15-time champion Madrid an early lead en route to 2-1 victory over Inter Milan at the Santiago Bernabeu. Haaland scored both goals as 2023 winner City beat Porto 2-0. Madrid and City are expected to be among the main challengers to back-to-back defending champion Paris Saint-Germain this season, and each club will be relying on its star strikers. Mbappe's goal after 14 minutes was his 71st in European club soccer's top continental competition and saw him move level with Madrid great Raul in fifth place on the all-time scorers list. Haaland took his tally to 59 in 59 appearances in the Champions League. Borussia Dortmund beat Villarreal 3-2, and Real Betis won by the same score at Lille. Aston Villa also won 3-2 over Club Brugge, and AEK Athens had a 1-0 win over LASK. PSG begins its campaign Wednesday against Slovan Bratislava. Jose Mourinho made a winning return to the Champions League as head coach of Madrid despite Inter dominating possession. It was a classic Mourinho-inspired performance as Madrid capitalized on two first-half errors by the visitors. When Inter lost possession deep in its own half Brahim Diaz slid in

Mbappe, who fired low past Josep Martinez. The Inter goalkeeper was then guilty of indecision when Federico Valverde closed him down in his own area and poked the ball into an empty net.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe fights for the ball against Inter Milan's Yann Bisseck during a Champions League soccer match between Real Madrid and Inter Milan in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Inter, which ended the game with 61% possession, set up a tense finish when Carlos Augusto scored in the 77th. "There's so much criticism when a game is boring, but today it was crazy - it could easily have ended 7-6," Mourinho told broadcaster Movistar. Mourinho won his second Champions League title with Inter in 2010 and is aiming to join the likes of Pep Guardiola, Luis Enrique and Zinedine Zidane by lifting the trophy for a third time. With five goals in his last three games, Haaland is in hot form. And it could have been even more if not for Porto goalkeeper Diogo Costa's first-half performance. Haaland eventually found the breakthrough at Estadio do Dragao with a header two minutes into the second half. He side-footed City's second in stoppage time to make certain of the win and ensure new coach Enzo Maresca's 100% start continued. "We have to learn. Enzo demands a lot from us and we have to demand a lot from each other," Haaland told Amazon Prime. "We have to win games because at Man City, you have to win trophies. That's what we have to do at this club." Aston Villa put its domestic problems behind it with a win over Club Brugge. Victory in Belgium ended Villa's winless and goalless start to its 2026-27 season, after early struggles in the Premier League.