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Kuwait, Iraq, US confer on regional challenges



Ministry of Defense photo

Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali receives Assistant Undersecretary for Support Services Dr. Wael Nasser Al-Sabah and Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs Dr. Anoud Saleh Al-Tariman at the ministry's headquarters following their appointment by Amiri decree.

Defense Minister congratulates appointees

'New trust comes with great responsibility'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah received at the ministry's headquarters Assistant Undersecretary for Support Services Dr. Wael Nasser Al-Sabah and Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs Dr. Anoud Saleh Al-Tariman, following the issuance of the Amiri decree appointing them to the rank of Assistant Undersecretary, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali extended his sincere congratulations to them on receiving this high trust, emphasizing that such trust entails significant responsibilities and duties.

He wished them success in serving Kuwait and contributing to its advancement and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Mubarak Al-Sabah and Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Major General (Pilot) Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Ministry of Interior photo

A meeting chaired by Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Thursday brought together Iraqi and US delegations to discuss security and defense cooperation, regional developments and ways to strengthen coordination and stability.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef urges closer coordination

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10, (KUNA): Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chaired a meeting on Thursday at Bayan Palace with delegations from the Republic of Iraq and the United States of America.

According to a ministry statement, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Interior Ministry Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib, representatives from the Ministry of Defense, and various diplomatic, security, and military officials.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef emphasized the importance of continued consultation and coordination with both the Iraqi and American sides. He highlighted the need to strengthen security and defense cooperation to address shared challenges in light of regional developments, thereby serving mutual interests and contributing to the region's security and stability.

The statement noted that the meeting reviewed aspects of cooperation and ways to enhance them, discussed topics of mutual interest, and facilitated an exchange of views regarding the regional situation and current developments.

It further explained that the meeting addressed various security and defense issues of mutual interest and the existing coordination among the participating parties, aiming to foster integration, the exchange of expertise, and support for efforts to consolidate security and stability in the region.

The Iraqi delegation was led by the Director of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Gen. AbdulAmir Al-Shammari, while the US delegation was led by Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve, Admiral Liam Hollen.

Booze in the veggie truck

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Inspectors from the Vegetable Market Inspection Unit at Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) seized alcoholic beverages when it inspected a truck at the vegetable market inspection point, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Sulaibiya Customs Department.

The inspection resulted in the seizure of 11 bottles of alcoholic beverages and one bottle of beer.

The administration attributed the discovery of the contraband to the instinct, vigilance and diligence of the inspectors during routine inspection procedures.

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Kuwait hails IAEA resolution on Syria, slams Israeli breach

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10, (Agencies): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has welcomed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors' decision to conclude its consideration of the agenda item on the implementation of safeguards in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the ministry said the adoption of the resolution by consensus marks a key step toward enhancing international confidence and supporting Syria's efforts to strengthen its cooperation with international institutions. It praised Arab diplomatic efforts that contributed to reaching the resolution and reaffirmed Kuwait's support for Syria's recovery, reconstruction, and restoration of control over its entire territory in a manner that ensures the security and stability of the Syrian people.

Kuwaiti statement at IAEA Board session

session

Earlier, Kuwait welcomed the positive findings in the latest report of the IAEA Director General, which highlighted significant progress in clarifying and resolving nuclear safeguards issues in Syria.

In a statement delivered on Wednesday by Ali Behbehani, Third Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to International Organizations in Vienna, during the Board of Governors session (September 7-11), Kuwait commended the constructive cooperation and transparency shown by the Syrian authorities. Behbehani praised practical steps taken by Syria to fulfill its obligations under the Safeguards Agreement, including the submission of required technical reports, data, and design information on nuclear materials.

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Newswatch

RIYADH: The Saudi civil defense activated the Early Warning Platform early Thursday in **Khamis Mushait** and **Abha** early Thursday.

In a statement, the civil defense called on the public to follow official safety instructions and remain calm as well as to head to the nearest safe location.

It also affirmed that the danger had passed, urging the public to call 988 if they notice any danger and to follow instructions issued by the relevant authorities through official channels. (KUNA)

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ALGIERS: Algeria announced Thursday that it's severing diplomatic ties with the **United Arab Emirates**, in a Foreign Ministry statement reported by state media.

The media reports gave no single or specific reason for the decision but said the statement cited alleged "provocative and hostile actions" by the Gulf state and "regrettable and unjustified behavior." (AP)



Who else was
2 involved in this massive corruption case?



Jazeera Airways signs
8 MoU with Kuwait's Association of Retired Officers

18 water projects enter the pipeline

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: The plan of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for the current fiscal year includes 18 contracts, which will be tendered by the Water Projects Sector.

This sector is responsible for planning, developing, designing and supervising the implementation of water projects throughout the country to better serve customers.

Water distribution complex projects in various areas top the list of priorities for the sector, given the vital role these complexes play in bolstering fresh water reserves and ensuring continuous supply.

The contracts include the development of four freshwater complexes in Wafra, Doha, Shuwaikh and Hawally, which entails the construction of two ground-level reservoirs, a water pumping

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Ministers aim to boost intra-Gulf travel

Kuwait, Saudi look to unlock tourism potential

MANAMA, Sept 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture, Omar Al-Omar, discussed with Saudi Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb ways to expand bilateral cooperation in tourism and related fields.

The meeting took place on Thursday on the sidelines of the 10th meeting of GCC ministers responsible for tourism, held in Manama, Bahrain. Both sides reviewed the deep-rooted fraternal and historic ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and explored avenues to strengthen cooperation in tourism-related sectors to support and develop the industry in both countries.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture, Omar Al-Omar during the 10th meeting of ministers responsible for tourism in the GCC countries.

New partnerships take shape

Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi chart aviation growth

CAIRO, Sept 10, (KUNA): Chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority of Civil Aviation Sheikh Eng. Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah discussed Thursday with Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation Sameh El-Hefny and Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation President Abdulaziz Al-Duaij ways to enhance cooperation in civil aviation.

The discussions took place during two separate meetings on the sidelines of Sheikh Humoud's participation in the second edition of the Egypt International Airshow, held in Alamein from Sept 7 to 10, according to a statement by Kuwait's Public Authority of Civil Aviation.

The meetings addressed several topics of mutual interest, particularly updating and developing operational aspects, enhancing cooperation and partnerships, and exchanging expertise, ideas and views to support the development of the civil aviation sector.

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Chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority of Civil Aviation Sheikh Eng. Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation Sameh El-Hefny (left) and Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation President Abdulaziz Al-Duaij (right).



KUNA photos



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:11 Asr 15:16
Sunrise .. 05:30 Maghrib .. 17:59
Zohr 11:45 Isha 19:19



KUNA photo
Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah during the meeting.

Al-Huwailah stresses digital solutions for family defense

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10, (KUNA): Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, emphasized on Thursday the importance of leveraging modern, technical and digital solutions, particularly in the areas of family protection and the provision of psychological and social support services.

Al-Huwailah's statement was made on the sidelines of a coordination meeting she chaired with Microsoft.

Al-Huwailah noted that utilizing tech-

nical solutions to enhance services ensures easy and rapid access while maintaining the highest standards of privacy and confidentiality and providing a secure environment for beneficiaries.

She explained that the collaboration with Microsoft aligns with the drive to advance digital transformation and leverage global expertise to improve government services, thereby boosting the operational efficiency of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and more effectively meeting the needs of beneficiaries.

Hunt for talent begins

1,071 appear in gifted students test

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: The Ministry of Education announced Thursday that 1,071 intermediate students have so far taken the gifted student tests in line with the decision of Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei to open special schools for gifted students for the 2026/2027 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement issued by the

ministry, acting Head of the Measurement and Evaluation Section at the Office for the Gifted Dr. Siham Al-Rabiah confirmed that a committee of experts in gifted education was formed to oversee the evaluation process.

Al-Rabiah revealed that the assessment period began on Sept 6 and will continue until Sept 13, adding that make-up testing sessions have been sched-

uled for those unable to attend the primary testing period.

She affirmed that these evaluations are in line with the ongoing commitment of the ministry to discover talented youths, hone their capabilities, and cultivate an educational environment tailored to sharpening their skills as the country is keen on nurturing talent and innovation.

Assistant Undersecretary for Educa-



KUNA photo
Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah accepts the award on behalf of the Medical Liability Authority team.

Kuwait wins top Arab award for high standard healthcare

ABU DHABI, Sept 10, (KUNA): The Arab Hospitals Federation has honored the State of Kuwait's Medical Liability Authority for securing first place regionally in the Leadership, Governance, and Continuous Improvement category of the seventh Golden Initiative for Excellence in Healthcare.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following the ceremony Tuesday, Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah stated that the prestigious recognition reflects the advanced standard of Kuwaiti health institutions and their commitment to institutional governance and leadership.

Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah, who accepted the award on behalf of the Authority's team, extended his appreciation to the personnel and management of the Medical Liability

Authority, emphasizing that collective dedication was instrumental in earning Platinum status in this cycle.

The award was presented during a ceremony held in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, in the presence of an official delegation from the Authority led by Dr. Laila Al-Anzi.

The Authority achieved the highest score among competing institutions in its pillar during the initiative, which evaluated 323 submissions from 10 Arab nations, with only 45 healthcare entities qualifying for final honors.

The recognition underscores Kuwait's ongoing advancements in developing healthcare regulation, institutional governance, and quality assurance frameworks across national medical services.

Expedite solution of problems for disabled persons: minister

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah underscored the need to expedite the processing of applications for persons with disabilities, streamline procedures, fast-track educational decisions and continue to develop services.

Al-Huwailah made the statement during an inspection tour at the headquarters of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) in Hawalli Governorate.

Director General of the authority Dr. Dalal Al-Othman and several officials escorted the minister during the tour.

Al-Huwailah assessed the workflow and quality of services provided to clients and beneficiaries. She personally looked into the operational procedures at the departments and service halls in the authority.

She instructed the concerned officials to continue service development, accelerate the processing of beneficiary applications and ease procedures.

She also observed operations in the service halls, including the procedures for receiving clients and delivering services.

She then reiterated the importance of refining operational mechanisms and improving services to raise the level of performance and ensure beneficiary satisfaction.

Other Voices

Who else was involved in this massive corruption case?

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

The former Director General of Kuwait's Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) died four years ago. But the money that passed through his hands is still speaking.

The latest reminder came not from Kuwait, but from Switzerland. A former senior Swiss banker was convicted of bribery and aggravated money laundering after paying CHF82.3 million to the former PIFSS Director General in return for placing approximately \$595 million from Kuwaiti pension assets with his bank and its investment funds by 2012.

The case went further. Nearly CHF77 million was moved through 122 transfers designed to obscure the illicit origin of the funds and frustrate their tracing and confiscation.

These figures raise a larger question: who else was involved?

The former Director General ran PIFSS from 1984 to 2012, a period of 28 years, at an institution responsible for investing billions of dinars

in Kuwaitis' pension assets. A corruption network spanning banks, asset managers, intermediaries and jurisdictions cannot reasonably be examined only as the story of one man.

Behind every questionable investment, commission or contract was another party. Who benefited unlawfully? How much did they receive, and for what? Were assets and services acquired at fair value? Who acted as intermediaries? Who collected commissions?

These are questions, not accusations. Criminal responsibility cannot be established by suspicion. But foreign court proceedings have already demonstrated that the former Director General did not operate in isolation.



Al Anjeri

Kuwait, Senegal discuss trade, development and investment

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Minister of Finance Nayef Al-Hajraf on Thursday met with Birima Mangara -- Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning in charge of the Budget of the Republic of Senegal, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

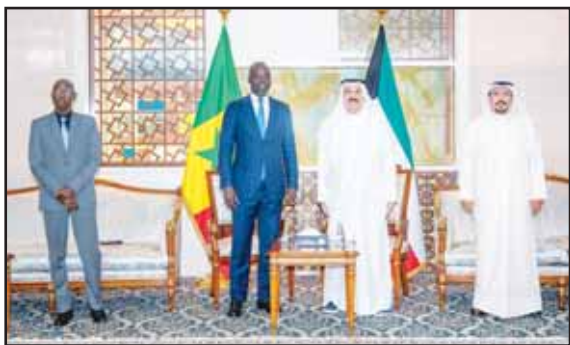
Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to the State of Kuwait Abdou Lahad Mbacké, along with several officials from the Ministry of Finance and Senegalese

Embassy, attended the meeting.

They talked about various financial and economic issues and cooperation opportunities, building upon the distinguished relations between the two friendly nations.

They also exchanged views on areas of cooperation in development and investment for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The meeting is part of the official visit of Mangara to the State of Kuwait.



MoF photo
Minister of Finance Nayef Al-Hajraf receives the Senegalese officials.

Other Voices

KAC's rescue plan

By Ahmad alsarraf

Kuwait Airways has suffered from administrative instability for more than half a century, resulting in losses of tens of billions of US dollars in public funds.

The reasons are well known - most are political, compounded by frequent changes in boards of directors, some of which were either unqualified or lacked sufficient authority. In the absence of effective government oversight, some KAC boards were pressured by certain MPs to appoint unqualified individuals.

According to my information, KAC still operates without written, pre-agreed performance standards between the board of directors and the executive management. The lack of accountability, combined with continued board interference in operational decisions without sufficient technical expertise, has led to frequent clashes between the two sides.

The Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA), with its incompetent management, has also played a role in hindering KAC's operations. The interference of some MPs, as well as the PACA's occasional submission to their demands, cannot be ignored.

The classic structural imbalance between senior administration and executive management must be resolved at the first upcoming meeting of the new board of directors, which consists of five Kuwaiti members and three foreign members. Each of the three foreign members will wear two hats - that of a board member and that of a member of the executive management.

Therefore, the board of directors must address this unprecedented situation by adopting the following measures:

1. Define the strategic goal, which means clearly establishing KAC's ultimate objective - pure profitability, public service, or a combination of both in specific proportions. This will determine the direction of every subsequent decision, whether related to pricing, recruitment, investment, or the performance evaluation criteria for executive staff.

2. Strengthen oversight and accountability by establishing clear key performance indicators (KPIs), reviewing them periodically, and holding the executive management accountable for achieving them.

3. Approve fundamental decisions, including major budgets, organizational restructuring, and key human resources policies.

4. Protect the independence of the executive management from day-to-day interference while ensuring that it remains aligned with the state's overall direction as the owner.

The airline's situation was certainly not lost on those who accepted positions in its executive management. They will likely have the upper hand in most decisions and will not be mere "rubber stamps," as was often the case with previous executive management teams.

Perhaps the situation will need to be the complete opposite, especially during the initial phase, with the foreign executive management effectively holding the real strategic decision-making authority, even though the board will retain formal legal responsibility to the owner.

This is dictated by the circumstances. I believe that any obstruction by any party could prompt the three-member executive management team to submit their collective resignation, especially since their expertise is in high demand and they are unlikely to remain idle for long.

Therefore, the owner needs to clarify all these matters to the new board of directors. A clear performance contract with the foreign executive management team is essential, linking the members' continued employment and compensation to predefined and mutually agreed-upon performance indicators.

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diwaniya

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Security is responsibility,
nat'l unity is guarantee

“GIVEN the delicate security situation in our region and what recent developments have revealed about the Iranian regime’s ambitions and its approach toward neighboring countries, we need to address a troubling debate concerning the security and preventive measures taken by Bahrain, as well as the fears of some Shiite citizens that they may be targeted because of their religious beliefs,” former Bahraini Minister of Labour and Social Development **Abdulnabi Al-Shuala** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Abdulnabi Al-Shuala

“Protecting national security is a responsibility that cannot be taken lightly and requires preventive measures when threats are confirmed. However, it is essential that we do not allow claims to circulate suggesting that a segment of the population bears responsibility for the actions of individuals, or that confronting an external political project has created a psychological barrier between citizens of the same nation.

“Bahrain was among the first countries targeted by the Iranian regime after 1979 as part of its “export of the revolution” project. The Iranian regime believed that Bahrain’s diverse social fabric and the presence of a large percentage of Shiite citizens provided an entry point for infiltrating society and causing damage to its stability. However, the Iranian regime ignored a well-established historical fact - Bahrainis, across all sects and social classes, had previously rejected Iranian claims and affirmed their country’s Arab identity and independence.

“In 1970, the UN Secretary-General dispatched his personal representative to ascertain the wishes of the Bahraini people. His report concluded that the overwhelming majority of Bahrainis desired a fully sovereign and independent Arab state. The Security Council unanimously endorsed this finding in Resolution 278, adopted on May 11, 1970. The position of Shiite citizens was no different from that of the Bahraini population. They affirmed their commitment to their homeland’s independence, Arab identity, and sovereignty, as well as their allegiance to the Al-Khalifa leadership, which had established Arab rule in Bahrain in 1783.

“This deeply rooted national stance has remained steadfast among the majority of the Bahraini people despite numerous attempts at incitement and polarization. Since the establishment of the “Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist” system, Bahrain has been subjected to continuous attempts to sow discord within its national unity, incite sectarianism, and transform citizens’ religious affiliation into a political and security tool used by a foreign state in its regional conflicts.

“This rhetoric has never served the interests of Bahrain’s Shiite community. We do not claim that Bahrain is a “utopia” incapable of error or shortcomings. Like all societies, Bahrain faces political, economic, and social challenges. Unjust individual practices may occur, but they require review and correction. Nevertheless, addressing any shortcomings must be done under the auspices of the state, through its institutions and laws, rather than by relying on foreign powers.

“Justice is a right for all citizens, loyalty is a shared and sacred duty, and security measures should target only those who violate the law, regardless of their sectarian identity. Punishment should not be collective; it should target only the offender. We have witnessed some cases in which some individuals expressed gloating when Bahrain was subjected to Iranian attacks. These are reprehensible stances, and those who adopted them have been held accountable according to the law. But these individuals do not represent Bahrain’s Shiite citizens, just as no extremist represents the sect to which they belong.

“The majority of Bahrain’s Shiite citizens are an integral part of the nation, having contributed to its development, defended its independence, and participated in its institutions, economy, and culture. Bahrain’s experience provides evidence of opportunities based on merit, including the Crown Prince’s International Scholarship Program, established by Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa in 1999. The program provided outstanding students with opportunities to study abroad based on competitive criteria, independent of sectarian or familial affiliations.

“This same approach is evident in the youth and sports sectors, thanks to the support of His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa. Champions have emerged from all segments of society, including Bahraini runner Ruqaya Al-Ghasra, who carried the Kingdom’s flag at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The message is clear - there is no security without justice, no justice without a strong state, and no strong state without national unity.

“Firmness is necessary in confronting those who collaborate with hostile foreign powers, but it gains strength and legitimacy when coupled with justice and the rectification of wrongs. Anyone who was deceived by Iranian slogans, but later corrected their position and abided by the law, should be given the opportunity to return to the national fold. Bahrain protects itself by welcoming back its sons and daughters and strengthening trust among them under the wise leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Attempts to infiltrate Bahraini society have failed because the bonds of history and shared destiny have proved stronger than incitement. Bahrain will remain a homeland for all its citizens.”

Also:

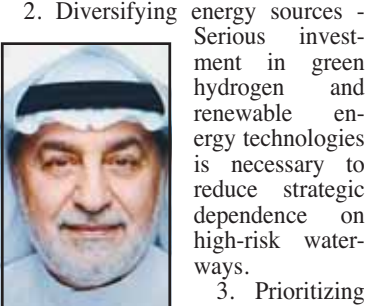
“The Strait of Hormuz is the life-line of the global energy economy, with approximately 21 million barrels of oil passing through it each day,” Kuwaiti writer Dr. **Nasser Hussein Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This analytical article, employing rigorous research standards, examines the complex interactions governing this strategic waterway amid current tensions and offers practical recommendations for policymakers. Disputes surrounding the Strait of Hormuz are the subject of ongoing legal arguments. While the international community affirms the right of “transit passage” under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Iran justifies some of its actions by arguing that it has not fully ratified the Convention, creating a legal gray area that can be used to impose political realities.

“Drone warfare and artificial intelligence have fundamentally altered the rules of engagement. Traditional capabilities are no longer the deciding factor. Instead, sabotage operations are increasingly being conducted using technologies whose direct sources are difficult to trace, placing major powers in a diplomatic and military predicament. I would like to offer the following recommendations to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states regarding the strategic diversification of their logistical capabilities. The completion and development of oil and gas pipeline networks that bypass the Strait of Hormuz must be expedited.

“It is crucial to establish a joint regional early-warning system based on artificial intelligence to monitor asymmetric threats. Soft power must be strengthened by revitalizing preventive diplomacy to build international alliances that enshrine the principle of “neutral waterways” as a non-negotiable global interest. These are recommendations I would like to offer to the international community:

1. Adherence to international law - The role of the International Court of Justice and maritime organizations should be strengthened to establish a unified legal interpretation of “transit passage” in international treaties.
2. Diversifying energy sources - Serious investment in green hydrogen and renewable energy technologies is necessary to reduce strategic dependence on high-risk waterways.
3. Prioritizing regional stability - Major powers must adopt a comprehensive de-escalation strategy rather than relying on military solutions to ensure the stability of global supply chains.



Dr. Nasser H. Abbas

“Understanding the Strait of Hormuz crisis requires a holistic perspective that goes beyond military analysis to encompass international law, technological development, and the transformations of the global economy. Diversifying logistical routes and adhering to international law remain the only guarantees of global energy security. The successful Saudi experience in shifting a significant portion of its logistical operations to the Red Sea via the East-West pipeline should be leveraged.

“The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) should explore projects to connect massive, interconnected oil pipelines extending to the Omani coast. This would ensure the overland flow of Kuwaiti and Gulf oil to secure export terminals located outside the direct threat posed by Iran. Logistical connectivity with Oman is crucial to food and energy security. With its strategic location, Oman represents vital strategic depth for the Gulf states, and for Kuwait in particular.

“The current trend goes beyond traditional trade toward establishing a “joint logistical security zone.” It is essential to establish shared strategic warehouses and silos to store essential goods and food, securing the vital needs of GCC countries, which import between 80 and 90 percent of their food. This mechanism would guarantee the overland flow of supplies via the unified Gulf railway network to Kuwait, eliminating the need for cargo ships to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



The team tasked with establishing the Aman Center for Emergencies, Crises, Disasters and Risk Management in Kuwait visited the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) of the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP).

Kuwait, Swiss mull tackling emergencies, crisis

GENEVA, Sept 10, (KUNA): The team tasked with establishing the Aman Center for Emergencies, Crises, Disasters and Risk Management in Kuwait visited the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) of the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection

(FOCP). The visit aims to review FOCP’s emergency and crisis management system, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, and national-level decision-making support. In a press statement Thursday, the team

said the visit was part of its program to examine international experiences and benefit from best practices in crisis and disaster management, in support of efforts to establish the center and Kuwait’s national system for crisis and risk management.



Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi receives Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cleaning Companies Union Saqer Al-Rashoud and Vice Chairman Khaled Al-Mudhahaka.

‘Together we maintain cleanliness & environs’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi had a meeting with Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cleaning Companies Union Saqer Al-Rashoud and Vice Chairman Khaled Al-Mudhahaka at the headquarters of Jahra Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

They discussed avenues for cooperation between the governorate and the union, as well as volunteer and community initiatives related to public cleanliness and environmental improvement.

They looked into the possibility of implementing joint programs to raise awareness on social responsibility and to better serve those residing in the governorate.

During the meeting, Al-Habashi underscored the importance of supporting such initiatives, and involving civil society organizations and the private sector in efforts that benefit the governorate.

He commended the union for its volunteer programs and contributions to the environmental and community endeavors.

On the other hand, Al-Rashoud expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for the warm welcome and his full support for community initiatives.

He also affirmed the commitment of the union to maintain coordination with the governorate and implement programs with a positive and sustainable impact.

Fake counselor goes to prison for three years

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: The Criminal Section at the Court of Cassation, presided over by Justice Saleh Al-Muraished, sentenced a citizen to three years in prison for impersonating a counselor and using forged identification and documents, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Case files indicate that the defendant attended public and official events, and interacted with prominent figures and officials under this false title.

Security authorities apprehended the defendant on suspicion of impersonating an official. Investigations revealed that he used forged documents, claiming he is a counselor. He exploited this assumed identity to cultivate relationships with ambassadors and diplomatic figures. He also received gifts from Arab and foreign ambassadors, capitalizing on the image he projected of holding an official position.

Investigations established that his actions were motivated by a desire for social prestige and recognition, which he achieved by appearing to hold an official position. The court declared the defendant guilty of the charges filed against him, thereby, sentencing him three years in prison -- a ruling that has been declared final.



A KFF inspector seals a shop in Shuwaikh Industrial Area.

KFF seals 28 companies violating rules of safety

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign on Wednesday evening in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area of the Capital Governorate, led by Brigadier General Mohammed Yousef Ahmed, Director of Fire Prevention for the Capital Governorate, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Environment Public Authority (EPA), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement released on Thursday, KFF said the campaign resulted in the administrative closure of 28 establishments and the issuance of closure warnings to others for failing to meet KFF requirements, as well as those of the other participating authorities.

Kuwaiti victim of cash ‘fraud’

Lankans held with drug sachets

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: A retired citizen has filed a complaint at Ardiya Police Station accusing a military personnel of fraud after losing KD 9,000 in an investment partnership, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the complainant said he met the accused by chance at a café. The accused introduced himself as a businessman involved in a profitable investment project and offered the citizen an opportunity to participate in the venture in exchange for financial returns.

The complainant said he was convinced by the proposal and handed the accused KD 9,000. However, after waiting for more than a year without receiving any profits, he demanded the return of his money.

The accused told him that the project had failed and incurred losses, asking him to wait.

He later encouraged the complainant to invest any additional funds he had available in a new project, claiming this would help recover the losses from the first venture.

An investigation led to the identification and arrest of the accused. During questioning, he admitted receiving the

KD 9,000 but denied intentionally defrauding the complainant.

The accused maintained that he had genuinely intended to enter into a business partnership with the complainant but was unable to return the money after the project incurred losses. He insisted that their relationship was based on a legitimate business partnership rather than fraud.

The accused was referred to the Public Prosecution for legal action.

Lankans held with drugs: Hawally Security Command, represented by the Operations and Patrols Department, apprehended two Sri Lankan nationals in Salmiya who were found in possession of 37 sachets, each containing a crystalline narcotic substance, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Interior stated in a press release that a security patrol spotted the two individuals digging in a dirt lot. When officers approached them, one of the men attempted to flee, but security personnel apprehended both suspects.

A precautionary search revealed 27 sachets in the possession of the first suspect and 10 sachets in the possession of the second.

The two suspects and the seized narcotics were referred to the relevant authorities for further legal action.

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‘Competent teachers guarantee skilled students’

New KU academic talent to reap rich harvest: Al-Maillem



KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Kuwait University President Prof. Dina Musaed Al-Maillem affirmed on Wednesday that the new academic and academic support staff are valuable addition to the scholarly journey of the university, and considered partners in advancing its national mission and developing its education and scientific research systems, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

In a press statement, the university revealed that Al-Maillem made the statement during an event organized by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, under her patronage, to welcome the new staff and prepare them for the start of their journey at the university for the 2026/2027 academic year, in the presence of various university officials.

Al-Maillem pointed out that the arrival of these new academic talents marks the beginning of a new phase in their academic and professional careers. She indicated that it is continuation of a national legacy upheld for decades by generations of academics who contributed their knowledge and dedication to building the university and serving Kuwait.

She added that the responsibility of an academic staff extends beyond the transfer of knowledge, as it includes building student capabilities and honing their skills in critical thinking, research and creativity.

She went on to say that it involves contributing to knowledge production and directing that knowledge toward issues and priorities that serve Kuwait and support its development journey.

She stressed that the university puts its academic and academic support staff at the heart of its efforts to achieve goals rooted in quality, innovation, distinguished presence and sustainability. “These efforts aim to improve the quality of education and scientific research, while solidifying



staff with students and colleagues, as well as their engagement with scientific research.

Meanwhile, Vice President for Academic Support Services Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutawa introduced the electronic portfolio, which contains links and resources relevant to academic and academic support staff.

Vice President for Research Prof. Abdullah Jawad Sultan talked about the aspects of scientific research relevant to the new academic and academic support staff, as well as the grant and award programs designed to support their research careers.

Acting Dean for Admission and Registration Dr. Fadel Aziz detailed the functions of various departments in the Deanship of Admission and Registration, and discussed teaching workloads in the humanities and science colleges.

Assistant Vice President for Planning and Institutional Development Dr. Dalal Al-Taweel underscored the importance of the training program in preparing new academic and academic support staff and in reinforcing the role of the university in innovation, scientific research and community service.

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs (Academic Development) Prof. Huda Mahmoud explained the promotion requirements and university regulations applicable to new academic and academic support staff, eligibility criteria for applying for promotion after completing the required tenure, and conditions for obtaining sabbatical leave.

Dr. Mishari Al-Nahedh, Assistant to the Vice President for Strategic Planning, outlined the strategic directions aimed at achieving excellence in scientific research, teaching, and community service -- initiatives designed to improve academic performance and elevate the university’s outputs.

Dr. Sulaiman Al-Refai, Assistant to the Vice President for Assessment and Measurement, highlighted the role of assessment and measurement in bolstering academic performance, and in evaluating outcomes of education, research and community services based on clear indicators and standards.

Pictures taken at the joining of new academic staff at the Kuwait University.

the university’s standing and national role,” she indicated.

She also confirmed that the university continues to develop its educational and academic environment and advance digital transformation by employing modern technologies and expanding the use of digital solutions in order to meet the demands of education and scientific research, while opening broader horizons for innovation and development.

She emphasized the university’s commitment to strengthen community partnerships, and aligning its academic and research expertise with the needs and development priorities of Kuwait, such as establishing effective partnerships with state institutions and the private sector, as well as reinforcing regional and international cooperation.

She is confident that the expertise and ideas of the new academic and academic support staff will be a valuable asset to the university, asserting that they will greatly contribute to enhancing the educational and research experience and opening new avenues for collaboration and innovation.

She affirmed the dedication of the university to provide an academic environment that nurtures ambition, enabling the staff to develop their capabilities and transform their

ideas into achievements that benefit students, the university, and society in general.

She warmly welcomed the new staff, considering them partners in the mission and aspirations of the university, and a continuation of the legacy of service spanning almost six decades since the inception of the university. She stressed that this journey continues to serve Kuwait and its future generations.

Towards the end of her speech, she implored the Almighty to protect Kuwait and perpetuate the blessings of security, safety, prosperity and progress under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, may God protect them.

On the other hand, acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Prof. Abdulrahman Al-Suleili delved into the administrative services provided by the Academic Affairs Department to the new academic and academic support staff.

He also highlighted the nature of the relationship of the

MEWRE plans to modernize power network at KD 5.5mn

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy will soon award two contracts for modernizing the electricity transmission network with a total value of KD5.52 million.

Two tenders were recently awarded for the maintenance and repair of high-voltage transformer cables and civil works in the southern area at a cost of KD2.97 million. The second contract for the same work in the northern area is valued at KD2.73 million.

In another development, the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) postponed the bidding for the tender to supply and install three main substations for the Cloud Data Center, including the feeder and accessories in various locations, until Sept 27, instead of last Sunday.

The bids will be opened and referred to the ministry for review and preparation of a technical recommendation, upon which the contract award decision will be based, in accordance with the applicable regulations and laws.

By establishing these three stations, the ministry will provide the infrastructure for delivering electricity to one of the most important projects aimed at developing the digital infrastructure and support digital transformation efforts in the government and private sectors through the provision of advanced and secure cloud services.

This will also improve the position of Kuwait as a trusted regional center for data, computing and cloud services.



Participants of the International Space Summit.

Kuwait attends space meeting, eyes upgrade in scientific ties

PARIS, Sept 10, (KUNA): Kuwait participated in the International Space Summit in Paris to boost scientific cooperation and strengthen the country’s capabilities.

The September 9-10 summit is jointly organized by France and Germany, as the event brought together leaders, officials, and representatives from space agencies, scientific institutions, and specialized companies from over 90 countries to discuss the future of the space sector and enhance international cooperation in addressing its scientific, technological, economic, and environmental challenges.

The Kuwaiti delegation was led by Dr. Amina Farhan, Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), and included Dr. Hala Al-Jassar, Director of the Kuwait National Space Research Center.

Yesterday, French President Emmanuel Macron opened the summit and presided over its proceedings.

In his address, he called for intensified efforts to bolster European and international space capabilities and to advance space technology in ways that serve the telecommunications sector while enhancing space security and sustainability.

For her part, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasized the importance of unifying European efforts and expanding investment in the space sec-



tor to boost competitiveness, security, and autonomy, while maintaining international cooperation to ensure the safe and sustainable use of space.

The summit focused on three key themes: developing the global space economy through international cooperation; supporting advancements in space science, technology, and exploration; and enhancing space security through dialogue and partnerships.

Kuwait’s participation reflects its commitment to advancing scientific research, building national capabilities in space science and its applications, and strengthening ties with specialized international institutions.



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Four-way fix for King Fahad Road

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: The Ministry of Public Works intends to float a tender for the construction, completion, and maintenance of roads and services at four intersections on King Fahad Road (Route 40), as well as a pedestrian bridge on Fahad Al-Salem Street, with a contract term of 36 months.

The ministry has included the project in its annual contracts plan for the current fiscal year, with the tender expected to be floated at the beginning of 2027.

The project includes the study, design, and supervision of intersections at various locations, in addition to the development of four sites along King Fahad Road. It aims to address the problem of pedestrians crossing the main road on Fahad Al-Salem Street near Jahra Roundabout in Kuwait City, particularly during peak hours.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) postponed the deadline for submitting bids for

the tender covering the construction, completion, and maintenance of roads, bridges, rainwater drainage, sewage systems, and other services along a section of Kabad-Al-Sulaibiya Road (604), as well as a section of the Kabad-Al-Sulaibiya Industrial Road link along the Fifth Ring Road and the Sixth Ring Road.

Through the implementation of the project, the ministry aims to develop and modernize the road network while enhancing safety and security standards.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait, Saudi

They also discussed several issues of mutual interest, stressing the importance of continued coordination, cooperation, and the exchange of expertise and experience in tourism in a manner that maximizes the benefits of both countries' resources and capabilities and boosts tourism flows between them. The meeting underscored the two countries' shared commitment to deepening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in areas that serve their common interests.

Also on Thursday, Al-Omar participated in the 10th meeting of ministers responsible for tourism in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain. Chaired by Bahraini Minister of Tourism Fatima Al-Serafi and attended by GCC Secretary-General Jassim Al-Budaiwi and tourism ministers from across the Gulf, the meeting emphasized the need to sustain joint Gulf efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination in tourism and advance joint Gulf action.

Ministers highlighted the importance of developing the sector's components and strengthening the GCC's position as a regional and international tourist destination. The meeting addressed a range of topics related to developing the tourism sector, enhancing cooperation, and exchanging expertise and experiences among GCC countries to support joint tourism initiatives and projects and revitalize intra-GCC tourism movement.

Kuwait's participation in the meeting reaffirmed its interest in developing the tourism sector and enhancing Gulf cooperation in this field, in line with rapid regional and international developments and the GCC countries' drive to diversify the tourism product and leverage the wealth of resources available across the Arab Gulf states.

18 water projects

station and main electrical substation. The scope of work consists of supplying and installing pumps and on-site piping, as well as civil, mechanical and electrical works and control systems.

The water projects include the construction of major water pipelines connecting Shuwaikh to Bayan, Shuwaikh to Hawally, and Hawally to Fahaheel Road.

Other projects are lines connecting the Mina Abdullah Water Complex to the West Fintas Complex, brackish water line from the Mina Abdullah Complex to Zour Complex, and pipelines linking Wafra Water Complex No. 1 to the southern part of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) recently opened bids for an excavation project covering the entire country.

Ten bids were accepted and will be referred to the ministry for evaluation and preparation of technical recommendations, leading to the final award decision for the bid that met all specifications and technical requirements.

The tender aims to adjust the configuration of medium-voltage cables and carry out excavation and backfilling works to raise, reroute or deepen the cables, in addition to the civil works for customers and all state projects.

Kuwait, Egypt,

They also discussed cooperation on projects and initiatives related to civil aviation, contributing to greater integration and coordination among brotherly countries and advancing the aviation system in line with the latest international standards and practices.

Both sides stressed the importance of continued communication, coordination and exchange of expertise in serving common interests and supporting the development and growth of the civil aviation sector.

Kuwait hails

He stressed that close technical cooperation between Syria and the IAEA has bolstered confidence and enabled the Agency to carry out its supervisory and technical mandate effectively, in line with established rules and procedures. Noting the Agency's assurances that previously reported outstanding safeguards issues have been clarified and resolved, Behbehani affirmed Kuwait's support for removing the Syrian safeguards item from the Board's agenda and concluding formal consideration of the file.

The Kuwaiti diplomat expressed hope that this outcome would serve as a constructive model for cooperation between member states and the IAEA, strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and reinforcing international peace and security. He concluded by reiterating Kuwait's appreciation to the IAEA Director General and Secretariat for their objective efforts, urging continued technical coordination to ensure effective long-term implementation of safeguards agreements.

Separately, Kuwait strongly condemned the "illegitimate" entry of the Israeli Prime Minister into Syrian territory, describing it as a blatant violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a contravention of international law.

In a Thursday statement, the Foreign Ministry said continued incursions and aggressions by the Israeli occupation inside Syrian territory represent an escalation that undermines regional security and stability. It reiterated Kuwait's full support for Syria's independence and sovereignty over all its lands.

Booze in

Consequently, the Customs Investigation and Research Department coordinated with the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry to take the necessary legal measures.

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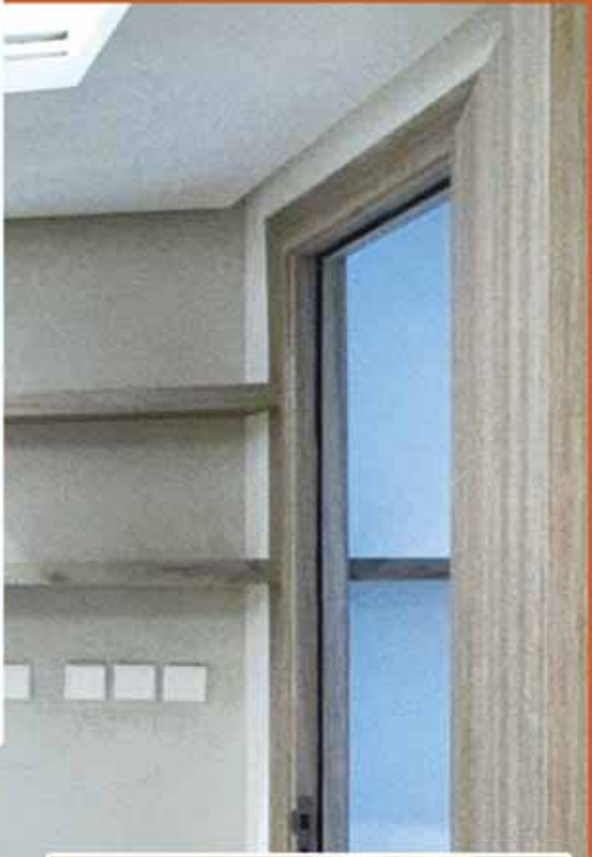
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Missouri’s congressional map back before court, sowing still more confusion

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Sept 10, (AP): A battle over Missouri’s congressional districts vaulted back to the US Supreme Court on Wednesday, two months before a pivotal November election that will determine control of Congress and affect the fate of President Donald Trump’s agenda.

A series of conflicting court rulings has left a scar on Missouri - and left voters befuddled and unsure which US House districts they will be voting in and which candidates will appear on their ballots.

A federal appeals court panel on Wednesday sided with Republicans, declining to halt a federal judge’s order favoring a new map backed by Trump. But that decision immediately was appealed to the US Supreme Court, which just a day earlier had let stand a ruling by Missouri’s top court against the Trump-backed districts.

Time is rapidly expiring to figure it out. Federal law sets a Sept. 19 deadline to mail absentee ballots to overseas citizens and military voters. Here’s a look at how Missouri ar-

rived at this point and the difficulties it now faces.

Trump urged Republican-led states last year to redraw congressional districts to their advantage ahead of the midterm elections. Texas went first. Missouri was the second GOP state to act. State lawmakers passed new US House districts last September targeting a Kansas City-based seat held by Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver.

The new districts were intended to help Republicans win seven of the state’s eight House seats in the midterm elections - a gain of one seat.

Redistricting opponents collected hundreds of thousands of petition signatures seeking to force a statewide vote on the new districts. They submitted the signatures in December. But Republican Secretary of State Denny Hoskins waited until August - on the same day as Missouri’s primary - to reject the petition. Hoskins asserted that a referendum petition could not be used for congressional redistricting.

The delay by Hoskins was inten-

tional. It allowed Missouri’s new congressional districts to be used in the primaries.

The Missouri Supreme Court said Hoskins was wrong. It ordered him to put the redistricting referendum on the November ballot, which he did. But more than that, the court said the new districts never became law and instead were suspended retroactively to the December petition submission.

The court barred Hoskins from using the new map and said the old map - passed by Republican lawmakers in 2022 after the last census - must be used in the November election. The US Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to hear an appeal.

Mere minutes after the US Supreme Court’s action, federal District Judge Stephen Clark of Missouri issued a contradictory decision. He temporarily barred Hoskins from using any map other than the new congressional districts in the November election. Clark said switching districts between the primary and general election could violate voters’ federal rights.



In this photo taken with a smartphone, Steve Dakopolos demonstrates in front of the state Capitol in Jefferson City, Mo. on Sept 2, in support of a referendum petition seeking a statewide vote on a congressional redistricting plan. (AP)

Fetterman speaks at event, fueling party-switch fears

Trump defends Iran war, slams Dems and promises cash at GOP midterm convention

DALLAS, Sept 10, (AP): US President Donald Trump capped Wednesday’s opening night of the unusual Republican midterm convention by slamming Democrats as extremists and staunchly defending the war in Iran while making the extraordinary pledge to pay every adult American \$5,000 if his party retains its control of both chambers of Congress after November.

The proposal, which could cost at least \$1 trillion, was financially and politically implausible. But it reflected Trump’s apparent calculation that he needs bold moves to revive Republicans’ chances as Democrats try to take advantage of his low approval ratings in close races across the country.

Trump reveled in making the upcoming elections all about himself, even though it’s unclear whether that will help or hurt his party. Many Republicans are skipping the two-day affair in Dallas, while others hoped their appearance would put them in the national spotlight as they work to turn out Trump’s supporters in a year without him on the ballot.

“If we hand America’s future to the radical-left Democrats, our nation will spend the next decade just getting back on its feet,” Trump said. “Vote Republican and we will leave the world in our dust for generations to come.”

The president urged the crowd to pretend he’s running in November and said there were about 35 key races in the Senate and House as his party hopes to maintain congressional control. He pledged “to go to every one of those states,” suggesting he might visit some repeatedly.

But Trump also frequently mentioned the unpopular war in Iran, even seeming to acknowledge that it had hurt the US economy. “We were doing great,” he said before he approached his economic advisers to say, “I hate to do this to you,” explaining that he needed to start the conflict because Iran was perhaps “two, maybe three weeks away from having a nuclear weapon.”

Trump similarly defended imposing sweeping tariffs on US trade partners, insisting that the resulting economic turmoil would be worth it in the long run.

His most dramatic comments, however, were to promise, “If the Republicans win the Senate and House, because of our tremendous strength and success economically, I will issue a dividend to every adult citizen in the United States of America for \$5,000.”

The president said the only caveat would be that recipients spend the money in the US. He provided no details on how such a plan would be implemented but declared, “It will be called the Trump dividend.”

The gathering took place as Republicans try to boost enthusiasm heading into the final stretch before Election Day, despite voters’ economic concerns and dissatisfaction with the war in Iran. The event described Democrats as communists, anti-American or even evil. Republicans called themselves a “common sense” alternative.

Trump used several minutes of his speech to praise Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is in a tough Senate race in what is normally America’s largest red state.



US President Donald Trump speaks at the Republican convention in Dallas on Sept 9. (AP)

“He may not talk exactly perfectly, and he may not be the best-looking guy I’ve ever seen,” Trump said of Paxton, while adding, “he deserves to be your next senator.”

The convention got a boost from an unlikely source, Democratic Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, who said in a video message that “I’m always going to reject the extremes and socialism.” Fetterman, who has clashed with his party’s leaders, referenced his state’s steel industry in pledging to “work with President Trump to fight and defend the steel way of life.”

Normal political conventions are held every four years and serve a purpose beyond pomp and circumstance, with parties formally nominating their presidential picks. This week’s convention, by contrast,

is The Trump Show, through and through.

The walls of the arena where the Dallas Mavericks play were covered with photographs of Trump, even in the elevators. Plenty of attendees wore cowboy hats and boots and many sequins were on display - as well as “Make America Great Again” and American flag caps and other gear.

People in the crowd waved signs reading “Republicans Are Fixing Democrats’ Mess,” despite Republicans controlling the U.S. House, Senate and presidency.

During the early hours of programming, speeches were delivered to scores of empty seats, even in areas close to the stage. Crowds began mostly filling them before Trump’s speech, though areas in the upper

decks remained sparsely populated.

Trump will follow up Wednesday’s address with closing remarks on Thursday, after Vice President JD Vance gives his own speech.

“I’m not doing a big deal like this,” Trump said, wrapping up his opening night address that approached the two-hour mark.

Ray Washburne, co-chair of the Dallas host committee, said the event is expected to draw roughly 30,000 people across both nights, but getting airtime was challenging. The NFL season kicked off Wednesday with a game between the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots. On Thursday, the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Rams will play in Australia.

Speakers included Republican congressional leadership and Cabinet members. Attorney General Todd Blanche also spoke, which is uncommon for the nation’s top law enforcement official, as Justice Department leaders don’t typically address such events given the agency’s tradition of political independence.

Blanche said Trump and Vance “put American families first. They prove that order and prosperity go hand in hand.”

Republican Michigan Senate nominee Mike Rogers, who is facing off against Abdul El-Sayed, isn’t giving his speech until Thursday night. However, many opening night speakers singled out El-Sayed as a sign Democrats were too radical.

There are 12 hours of programming over two nights, with 100-plus speakers and segments focused on subjects such as tax cuts, fraud allegations and border security.

Trump also hinted that he’d talk a lot about Iran even before leaving for Dallas. As he spoke to reporters on the tarmac prior to boarding Air Force One, the president said that oil prices - which have surged because of the conflict - likely won’t come down until after the midterms, a bit of economic forecasting that could darken his party’s fortunes.

“Right after the election, oil prices are going to be tumbling downward,” he promised, as oil prices jumped more than 3% Wednesday.

Some Republicans balked at high attendance fees. Republican House members were being asked to pay \$25,000 for convention tickets and lodging, according to people familiar with the situation and granted anonymity to speak frankly about the private arrangement.

An additional 2,000 tickets were distributed by the National Republican Congressional Committee, largely to donors and others to attend the convention. Other tickets were allocated to state parties to distribute as they saw fit.

“Per the RNC, this is a ticketed fundraiser and rally, not a traditional national convention,” the Denton County Republican Party in Texas wrote in a Facebook post, which advertised packages from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Trump’s political operation, which has been sitting on hundreds of millions of dollars, began spending heavily through a new group, the No Going Back PAC Inc., the New York Times reported Wednesday. The group has reserved \$49 million in six competitive Senate races and one competitive House race.



People walk on a beach after attempting to cross from the Moroccan northern town of Fnideq to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, July 31. (AP)

Spain’s spy agency warned of Ceuta border breach plans before crisis: docus

MADRID, Sept 10, (AP): Spain’s national intelligence agency issued multiple warnings before the Ceuta border crisis about a potential mass crossing of migrants from Morocco into the Spanish enclave in late July, according to declassified documents released by the government on Wednesday.

The trove of 40 documents, which includes alerts, intelligence reports, charts and communications from multiple law enforcement and intelligence agencies, appears to undermine what Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has said about the level of prior warning the government had before the sudden influx took place.

Major protests in Spain have taken place in response to the migrant arrivals, with critics blaming the Sánchez government for its handling of the crisis, and his political opponents accusing him of pandering to Morocco.

On July 29, a day before more than 72,000 people began pouring into the Spanish city neighboring Morocco, Spain’s spy agency, the National Intelligence Center (CNI), sent an alert via WhatsApp to the Spanish government’s delegation in Ceuta about calls on social media “for an assault on the fence and by sea tomorrow at 8 p.m.”

“There are two different groups with a total of 180,000 followers,” the declassified WhatsApp message from the intelligence agency said, “just to give you an idea of its scale.”

A report from Spain’s spy agency sent that day to Moroccan intelligence services warned of plans on social media for migrants to enter Ceuta on July 30 by climbing a border fence separating the enclave from Morocco, or by swimming around it, the documents show. It mentioned that migrants might take

advantage of Morocco’s national Throne Day, celebrated on July 30.

That same day, Spain’s national intelligence agency issued similar warnings about “several groups on Facebook and WhatsApp encouraging these attempts” in messages to Spain’s Civil Guard police force.

Once thousands of people were streaming across the border on July 30, a Defense Ministry intelligence report issued that day stated that Moroccan forces were passive and acted negligently to stop migrants.

“It cannot be ruled out that Morocco may attempt to exploit the situation that has arisen in Ceuta to further its strategic interests,” the report went on.

Morocco’s foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press on Wednesday about the documents.

Zelenskyy visits Canada to seek further military support for Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 10, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in Canada on Thursday for talks with Prime Minister Mark Carney, his latest international trip aimed at locking in future support for Ukraine’s fight against Russia’s invasion.

Ukraine is under pressure from Russia’s air war, which is using ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones to pierce defenses. Moscow’s attacks have targeted Ukraine’s power grid ahead of the upcoming winter as part of its campaign to demoralize civilians, Ukrainian officials say.

“The main focus will be on supporting Ukraine in protecting our skies and preparing for the winter,” Zelenskyy said of his Canada trip in a social media post. “We will discuss how to strengthen our resilience, support our people, and ensure that Ukraine has the capabilities it needs to defend itself.”

Canada and European countries are sending their own weaponry to Ukraine and are also buying American weapons for Kyiv under the so-called Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List, or PURL. The United States under President Donald Trump has stopped donating weap-



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife Olena Zelenska arrive in Calgary, Alberta, on Sept 9. (AP)

ons to Ukraine.

Recent US efforts to stop the more than four years of fighting have delivered no significant breakthrough, although Washington-brokered talks between delegations from Moscow and Kyiv are expected to continue.

Zelenskyy’s arrival on Wednesday night in Calgary, Alberta, came the day after his flight from Moldova to

Norway was delayed when authorities closed Moldova’s airspace because of a drone incursion.

The aerial drone battle between Russia and Ukraine has grown in scale since Russia’s all-out invasion in February 2022. Ukraine’s neighbors Romania and Moldova, and other European countries, have reported repeated drone incursions.

Europe

UK police probes Farage’s Reform: British police said Wednesday that they have opened a criminal investigation into allegations that anti-immigration party Reform UK broke rules barring foreign donations.

Farage

The Metropolitan Police said that after the broadcast, the force “received a number of reports relating

to donations and polling involving a political party.

“Detectives have assessed the information provided and determined that there are potential offenses requiring investigation,” it said.

Reform UK said it “denies any wrongdoing and will fully cooperate with the investigation.”

The party suspended Dan Jukes, a longtime adviser to Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, and party policy chief James Orr, after the documentary was aired. But Farage denied that there was any breach of electoral law. (AP)

□ □ □

British man charged with aiding spies: A British man was charged with assisting Russian military spies in a UK sabotage plot, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Joshua Cammidge, 31, was charged with engaging in conduct to materially assist a foreign intelligence service in carrying out activities in violation of the National Security Act. (AP)

Japan deploys equipment to Borneo to help fight wildfires causing haze

MEMPAWAH, Indonesia, Sept 10, (AP): A Japanese military transport ship docked on the island of Borneo on Thursday as part of a disaster relief mission to help fight wildfires in Indonesia that are causing a toxic haze impacting people’s health in other countries.

Japan deployed 300 crew members, landing ship JS Kunisaki and three CH-47 helicopters, which arrived in Kalimantan on the island of Borneo.

The mission in Indonesia marked the first known overseas firefighting operation carried out by the Japan Self-Defense Forces, or JSDF.

“To this end, we will learn from the Indonesian military’s operational experience and work in coordination and cooperation with them, striving to ensure that the Indonesian people can lead stable lives as soon as possible,” Col. Syunji Nakahara, the commander of the disaster relief activities, said at a port in Mempawah district.

Japan and Indonesia have been also increasingly strengthening their military cooperation ties, with the two sides discussing the Japanese sale of its used destroyers.

Indonesia has been plagued by forest and land fires for decades, but an intensifying El Niño pattern this year and a prolonged dry season worsened the impact of the fires.

Toxic haze and smoke have caused a health crisis in neighboring countries.



A crew member walks past one of the Chinook helicopters which will be used to help battle forest fires on Kalimantan Island, on the deck of Japanese tank landing ship JS Kunisaki after its arrival at Kijing Port in Mempawah, West Kalimantan, Indonesia on Sept 10. (AP)

South Korea trying to learn if Kim Jong Un has son but daughter’s status as heir appears solid

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 10, (AP): South Korea’s National Intelligence Service said it is trying to determine if North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has an older son while reaffirming its assessment that his daughter is the likely heir to the nation’s leadership.

The spy agency’s statement on Thursday was likely a response to a recent media report that South Korean intelligence authorities have determined Kim has no son with his wife, Ri Sol Ju. The NIS said that even if a son exists, he is not in a position to become the successor to Kim, who took the reins of North Korea’s government after the 2011 death of his father.

Kim’s daughter, who is reportedly named Kim Ju Ae and around 13, is likely in line to take over leadership of North Korea from her father, the agency has previously said.

The NIS said it was still attempting to verify whether Kim’s daughter has an elder brother, but under the current circumstance he cannot be his father’s heir even if he exists. The agency said Kim Jong Un also has a younger child whose gender has not been confirmed.

The statement Thursday didn’t



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, its leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter attend a commissioning ceremony of a destroyer, Kang Kon at a port in Wonsan, North Korea on Sept 6. (AP)

elaborate on the NIS assessment about Kim Ju Ae’s solid political status. But it previously cited a comprehensive analysis of her public activities and state protocols provided to her.

Since late 2022, Kim’s daughter

political standing.

The report of her name is based on an account by former NBA star Dennis Rodman, who recalled holding Kim Jong Un’s baby daughter during a 2013 trip to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

In 2023, a South Korean lawmaker said the NIS informed a legislative committee that Kim Ju Ae had an older brother. But the agency reportedly clarified it was still trying to verify reports that the North Korean leader had a son.

Whether she has an older brother is a key issue in outside discussions about North Korea’s potential succession plans because of its deep-rooted system of patriarchy and male-dominated power. Since its establishment in 1948, all three of North Korea’s leaders have been male members of the Kim family. Kim Jong Un was preceded by his father, Kim Jong Il, and grandfather, Kim Il Sung.

Some experts doubt whether elderly top North Korean officials would accept command by a female. They also note Kim Ju Ae’s rise to power could eventually mean the end of her family’s rule if she marries a man from a different family and hands power to their child.



In this image taken from video provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, remains of ferry MV June Aster that caught fire off Palawan province, western Philippines on Sept 10. (AP)

Philippines passenger ferry fire kills at least 5 and dozens missing

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 10, (AP): A fire burned overnight on a passenger ferry off the western Philippines, leaving dozens of people missing Thursday and killing at least five.

So far, 43 people have been rescued, coast guard spokeswoman Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said. The ferry MV June Aster was afloat but listing after the fire, which started Wednesday evening, was put out. Tendrils of smoke still wafted over the charred vessel by midday.

“We are continuing search and rescue operations,” she said, with a coast guard ship and high-speed response boats joined by a military vessel and other government boats, private volunteers and fishermen.

The coast guard made a radio broadcast to ships nearby to be on the lookout for passengers of the ferry. It has also coordinated with coastal villages in case some passengers drifted to the shore.

Images of the nighttime rescue



In this image provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, survivors are assisted as they alight from a small boat after being rescued from a burning ferry off Palawan province, Philippines on Sept 9. (AP)

Passengers were helped into smaller boats taking them to shallow water, and body bags were laid out at what looked like a port.

The ferry had sailed from the capital Manila and was near its destination of Coron in Palawan province when the fire started around 6:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Bad weather and big waves challenged rescuers. The ferry was around 4 nautical miles (7.4 kilometers) off Coron’s village of Turda when it sent a distress signal but strong sea currents had dragged it to a distance of 7.68 nautical miles (14.2 kilometers) off Turda.

Cayabyab said it was unclear what caused the fire, which one survivor said may have begun in the cargo hold, and the coast guard was coordinating with the shipping company and maritime authorities to get more details.

She said 134 people were on board, 117 of them passengers and 17 crew. There was no information about any foreigners onboard.

Asia

Gunman in Thailand shooting surrenders: A police officer who allegedly gunned down his wife at the kindergarten where she was a teacher in eastern Thailand surrendered Thursday after an overnight standoff with authorities, officials said.

Tatsapong Tongthat, an officer at the Bang Lamung station in Chonburi province, allegedly killed his wife late Wednesday morning inside a building at the Nongplalai Municipal Kindergarten about 150 kilometers (93 miles) southeast of the capital Bangkok, according to the provincial government.

Authorities said he fled to his home after the shooting and police surrounded the house, where he remained until surrendering after an 18-hour standoff.

All 44 students at the school were unharmed and evacuated with other teachers after the shooting. Classes were suspended until Friday as a safety precaution, officials said.

School safety and gun violence in Thailand have come under scrutiny after a 14-year-old opened fire at his high school and family home on Aug. 7, killing eight people and injuring more than 20 before apparently taking his own life.

Another 14-year-old student was arrested Sept. 2 after he fired several shots but failed to injure anyone at his school in Kamphaeng Phet province, 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of Bangkok. (AP)

□ □ □

China cargo ship fire at port kills 25: A cargo ship docked for repairs in a Chinese port caught fire, killing 25 people, Chinese state media reported Thursday.

The ship was being repaired in the Beihai Shipbuilding Co. at the port of Qingdao, a major shipping hub on the northeastern Chinese coast. A photo released by Xinhua news agency identified the ship as the Ocean Melody, which sails under a Liberian flag, according to the tracking website VesselFinder.

A total of 42 people had been on the vessel, and 12 of them were safely evacuated, Xinhua reported. Five were injured and taken to the hospital, and they remained in a stable condition.

The fire started around 11 am Thursday and was extinguished by 2:30 p.m. local time. Videos online showed workers on the ship attempting to put out the fire.

China’s President Xi Jinping issued “important instructions” to urgently conduct rescues of missing people on the ship, Xinhua said, adding that Premier Li Qiang called for “trapped” people to be rescued. (AP)

United Nations report details foreign networks fueling brutal war in Sudan

BRUSSELS, Sept 10, (AP): The United Nations said in a report that foreign networks are helping fuel the brutal war in Sudan that has raged between the army and the paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces since 2023, killing at least 59,000 people, displacing some 13 million and pushing many parts of the African nation into famine.

It said a network of companies based in the United Arab Emirates, Colombia and Chad, among other nations, had supplied military contractors, weapons and training to the RSF.

“The mission finds reasonable grounds to believe that a transnational network supplied the Rapid Support Forces with weapons, logistics, training and foreign personnel, including Colombian contractors involved in advanced weapons and drone systems,” according to a summary of the investigation by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, an independent body mandated by the UN Human Rights Council.

It found that “individuals and entities operating from, registered in, or linked to the United Arab Emirates played a significant role in networks involved in the recruitment, financing, transportation and deployment of foreign military contractors and the provision of military-related support benefiting the Rapid Support Forces.”

The UAE regularly denies that it



Fighters of armed defectors from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) raise their machine guns, as they are believed to be surrendering to the Sudanese army, in the west of Omdurman, just outside Khartoum, Sudan on Aug 19. (AP)

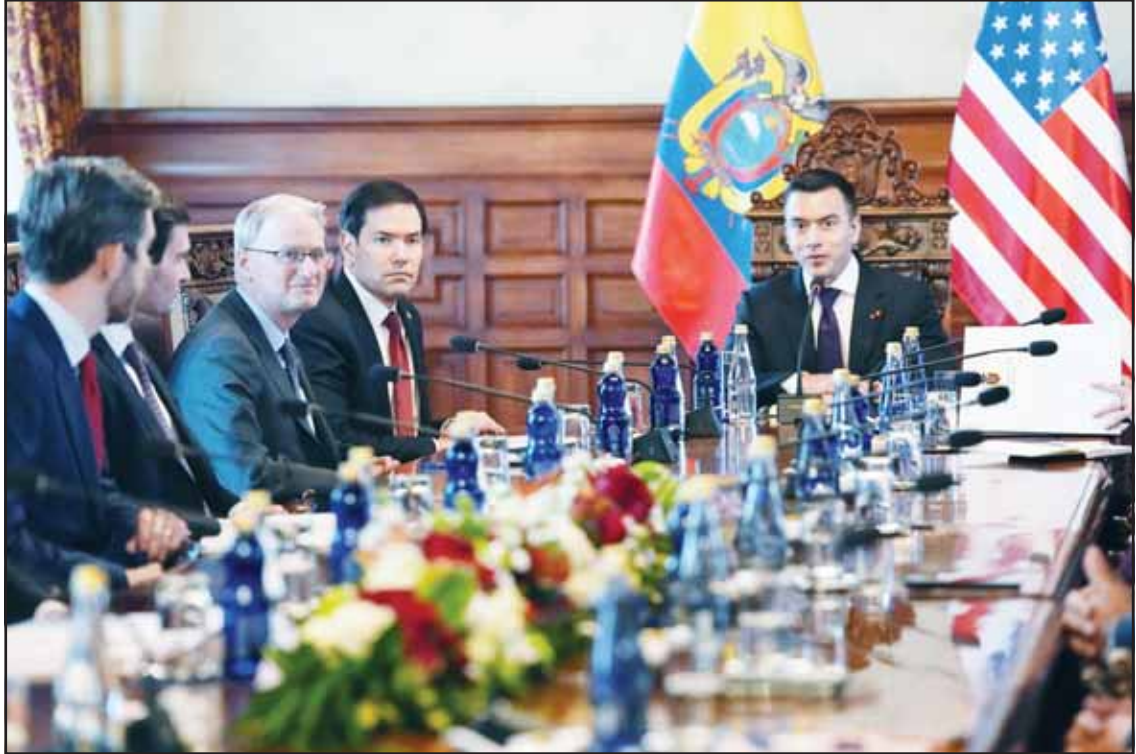
backs the RSF militarily.

The report also said that foreign-supplied drones “expanded” the Sudanese army’s drone capabilities, though it added that the findings about external support to the army “remain preliminary.”

The investigators called for the UN Security Council to extend its arms embargo on Sudan.

“The weapons, financing, personnel and technology that sustain this war must be constrained,” it said.

Investigators said they had docu-



Ecuador’s President Daniel Noboa, (right), meets with US Sec of State Marco Rubio, (fourth from left), at Carondelet palace in Quito, Ecuador on Sept 9. (AP)

‘US working with allies to counter drugs but will still blow up ships if need be’

QUITO, Ecuador, Sept 10, (AP): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio gave new clarity Wednesday on the US approach toward combating drug trafficking in Latin American waters, saying the Trump administration is now focused on working with allied countries and aligning with their laws but insisting the military will “still blow up ships if need be.”

The public acknowledgment of a shift in US strategy comes a year after Washington began a campaign of unilateral deadly strikes against those it calls “narcoterrorists” operating boats in international waters. Late Wednesday, US Southern Command announced the latest such strike in the Caribbean Sea, saying it killed three people. That brought the number of people who have been killed in boat strikes by the US military to at least 230 in 69 strikes.

Still, the Trump administration is focused on building agreements for joint operations with allied countries in the region, including Colombia and Ecuador, that comply with their laws in their waters.

“I think it’s an incredible advance for the first time to have countries that are willing to participate in these

efforts in their territorial waters,” Rubio told reporters on a trip to the Ecuadorian capital, Quito.

“The important point is that these routes are being disrupted. These routes are being ended,” he added.

He said the decision is “a strike-by-strike or operation-by-operation determination” that depends on the threat and location of the boat.

Recent US interdictions in Latin American waters are unlike the Trump administration’s initial strikes on alleged drug-trafficking boats that began in September 2025. Lately, people aboard floating refueling stations said to be supporting drug trafficking have been removed and transferred to Ecuadorian authorities. Then the US military blows up the vessels.

The shift comes after a series of strikes on boats over the year on people the Trump administration accused of being “narcoterrorists” without providing evidence.

Rubio’s comments came during a three-nation tour of South America aimed at boosting security cooperation with conservative leaders who have cozied up to President Donald Trump.

In Ecuador on Wednesday, he hailed it as the most “aggressive”

partner in the Trump administration’s push to target transnational criminal groups in the Western Hemisphere. Rubio met with Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa, who has rapidly embraced Trump’s get-tough stance on counternarcotics operations and illegal immigration.

Rubio said “elite forces” from both countries “are working jointly on a day-to-day basis in a way that has no precedent in order to try to dismantle these terrorist organizations.”

But he singled out Mexico, calling it “an even graver challenge” than other countries in the region because of cartels’ power there and saying the “ideal” scenario would be for the two countries to address the situation jointly.

“Eventually that threat will have to be confronted one way or the other,” Rubio told reporters in Ecuador. “But our hope is to do it cooperatively with Mexican authorities.”

Ecuador has been helping the US as it intercepts and sinks vessels, including one Tuesday that Washington said had links to the Ecuadorian criminal group Los Choneros. It was the sixth such operation in less than two weeks and the second in as many days.

Oil price up \$8.73 to \$118.10 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10, (KUNA): Kuwait oil price rose by USD 8.73 to reach USD 118.10 per barrel (pb) in Wednesday's trading, compared with USD 109.37 the previous day, according to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude went up by USD 3.90 to reach USD 101.21 pb, and US West Texas Intermediate crude also increased by USD 3.40 to stand at USD 96.05 pb.

Business

Offering travel benefits to retired officers

Jazeera Airways signs MoU with Kuwait's Association of Retired Officers



Jazeera Airways signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Kuwait's Association of Retired Officers.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Jazeera Airways represented by Naser Alobaid, Chief Executive Government Relations and Chief Executive Officer – T5, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kuwait's Association of Retired Officers represented by Maj. Gen. Ret. Faisal M. Al Jazzaf, Chairman and Maj. Gen. Ret. Nader Shaaban, Vice Chairman, to further strengthen its cooperation and commitment to supporting the Association's members and

their families. The MoU will provide members with access to travel-related benefits and convenient travel options across Jazeera Airways' growing network, while establishing a framework for broader cooperation and future initiatives. This partnership is aimed at recognizing the many years of service and

contribution made by retired officers from Kuwait's Armed Forces, Ministry of Interior, Kuwait National Guard and Kuwait Fire Force to the country. As a Kuwaiti airline, Jazeera Airways is proud to work with national institutions to create meaningful benefits for the communities they serve and recognize those who have dedicated their careers to serving Kuwait.

Trump says oil prices that spiked because of Iran war likely won't come down until after midterms

WASHINGTON, Sept 10, (AP): President Donald Trump said Wednesday that oil prices that have surged because of the Iran war likely won't come down until after U.S. mid-term elections.

Oil prices on Wednesday jumped more than 3%, pushing international Brent crude past the \$100 threshold for the first time since July as salvos between the U.S. and Iran escalated.

"Right after the election, oil prices are going to be tumbling downward," Trump said. "I think it's going to take a little bit longer than the midterm."

The comments were a striking acknowledgment from Trump about the conflict as his Republican administration faces mounting pressure to address high gas prices as the war in Iran grinds on with no conclusion in sight.

Trump, in an exchange with reporters before traveling to Dallas for the midterm Republican convention, added that he believes Iran will finally relent after the pivotal elections are held in the U.S.

"They're desperate to try and affect the election, so that we can get a nice weak group of people in there, and leave them alone and let them have their nuclear weapon," Trump said. He added, "I think the war's going to end immediately after the election because they can't hold out any longer."

Trump also spoke at length about the war in Iran during his keynote address to the convention Wednesday evening. He acknowledged it caused energy prices to spike and financial markets to struggle, but said it was necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.



The per-gallon price for the three grades of fuel is displayed electronically on a pump at a Conoco gasoline station Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, in Denver. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Trump also polled the audience, asking, "Does anyone here think Iran should have a nuclear weapon?" The crowd responded with a resounding "no."

The president at the outset of the war said it would last a matter of weeks. The conflict is now in its seventh month. The U.S.-Israel war against Iran has led to a dramatic slowdown of Gulf oil moving through the Strait of Hormuz, which about 20% of the world's petroleum passed through prior to the conflict.

Trump last week downplayed the conflict as "small potatoes" even as Republicans expressed concern the war will loom large with voters left navigating elevated gas prices and higher inflation.

The U.S. has tapped its strategic petroleum reserves, which in early August fell below 300 million barrels, down by more than 100 million barrels since the start of 2026.

Trump's prediction that the war won't be wrapped up until after Nov. 3 comes after Vice President JD Vance last week steered clear of predicting that the conflict would be over by the midterm elections, in which Republicans are trying to hang on to their narrow majorities in Congress.

Vance told reporters he didn't want to set "artificial timelines" for the war's end.

"But when you ask, 'When will this end?' You're asking me a question like, 'When will the Iranians stop shooting at ships?'" Vance said. "I think the reality is, I don't know the answer to that question. You would have to ask the Iranians."

U.S. benchmark crude on Wednesday stood at around \$96 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 outside impact on consumers because it is used in shipping and production, hit an all-time high Friday and have continued to climb since. The average price per gallon rose to \$5.94 overnight, up 9 cents from Friday.

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

The latest market gyrations come 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.

ABK encourages smart back-to-school spending

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: As part of its ongoing support for the 'Let's Be Aware' (Diraya) campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is raising awareness about the importance of financial planning during the back-to-school season and encouraging families to adopt responsible spending habits when preparing for the new academic year.

ABK highlighted that the beginning of the school year is often accompanied by a variety of expenses, including school supplies, uniforms, electronics, transportation, and extracurricular activities. Proper planning and budgeting can help manage these seasonal costs effectively while maintaining financial stability and avoiding unnecessary financial pressure.

The Bank encouraged parents to plan their purchases in advance by preparing a list of required items before beginning their back-to-school shopping. Early planning allows families to make informed purchasing decisions, avoid last-minute spending, and better manage their overall budget.

ABK also advised families to establish clear spending limits for school-related expenses and to allocate budgets according to their priorities and financial capabilities. Setting realistic spending expectations can help prevent overspending and ensure that essential needs are met without affecting other financial obligations.

In addition, the Bank emphasized the importance of prioritizing needs over wants when making purchasing decisions. While promotional offers and seasonal discounts may be appealing, customers are encouraged to focus on purchasing necessary items first and to carefully evaluate discretionary purchases before committing to additional expenses.



ABK further recommended comparing prices before making purchases. Taking the time to evaluate available options can help families identify better value, make cost-effective choices, and maximize the benefits of their allocated budget.

The Bank noted that financial awareness plays an important role in helping families navigate periods of increased spending throughout the year. Developing thoughtful spending habits and maintaining a clear financial plan can contribute to stronger financial wellbeing and reduce the likelihood of accumulating unnecessary financial commitments.

ABK emphasized that planning ahead helps avoid unnecessary financial pressure and enables families to approach the back-to-school season with greater confidence and peace of mind.

Through its participation in the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign, ABK remains committed to promoting financial literacy and empowering customers with practical knowledge that supports responsible financial decision-making and long-term financial wellbeing.

Global growth relatively resilient despite the headwinds

By National Bank of Kuwait

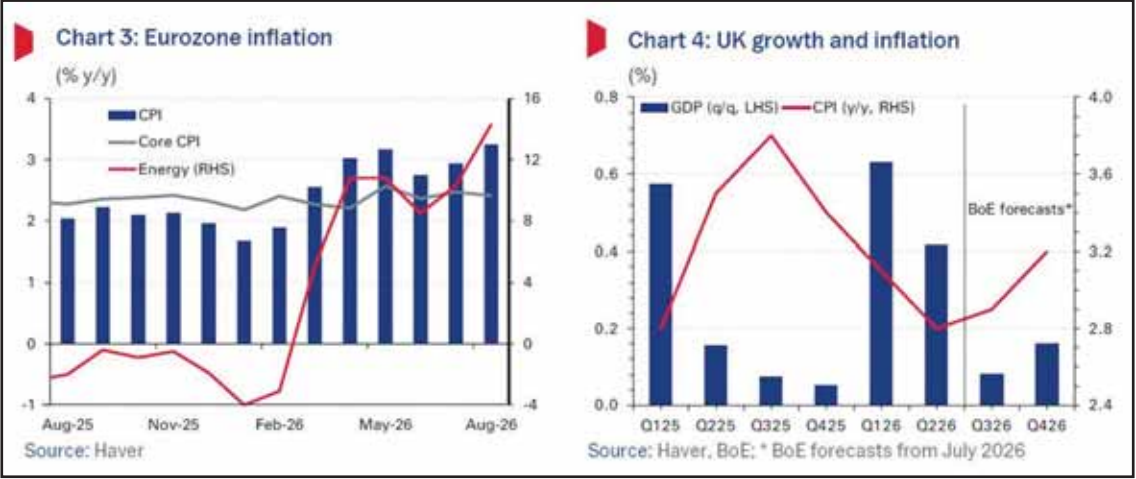
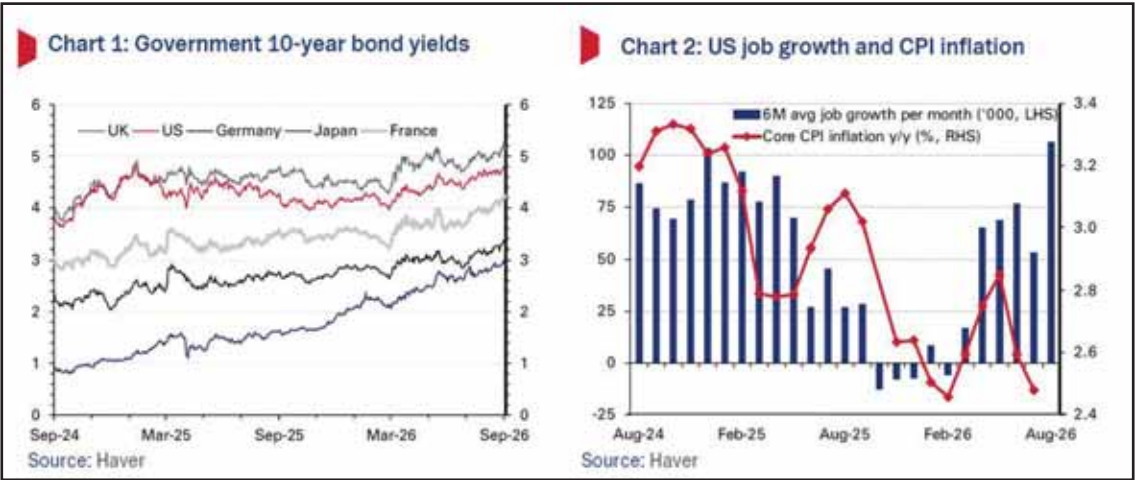
Despite the Middle East war-related headwinds of higher energy prices, supply chain disruptions, increased uncertainty, and elevated inflation, global economic growth has remained relatively resilient, helped by stable labor markets and solid AI/technology-related demand. Global PMI surveys continue to indicate elevated price pressures. The war-induced rise in inflation drove up expectations of tighter monetary policy by the major central banks, which along with challenging government fiscal positions is pushing up sovereign bond yields to multi-year highs. In the US, economic growth remains solid with this week's August CPI key in determining the September FOMC decision as political pressure not to hike piles up. In the Eurozone, the ECB is set to raise rates again this week with growth remaining relatively resilient. In the UK, growth has been robust but the outlook is soft, and while the market expects a BoE hike this year, that it is not a done deal. In Japan, the BoJ is set to hike further as the yen remains volatile and with strong exports buoying growth. Finally in China, despite solid exports, economic growth has been slowing, raising the odds of policy support.

US: Solid growth; Fed September decision resting on upcoming CPI as political pressure not to hike piles up

Fed Chair Warsh, unlike his previous vague communication posture, sounded clearer at the recent Jackson Hole symposium, stating that more work needs to be done to bring down inflation. Long-dated bond yields have increased, reflecting concerns about large fiscal deficits (around 6% of GDP), solid economic growth, and elevated inflation. The Trump administration is under pressure to act before the November mid-term elections, in which the Republicans are expected to lose, at a minimum, their House majority. In an effort to drive yields lower, the Treasury is boosting buybacks of long-dated government bonds after conducting a rare and joint currency intervention to prop up the depreciating yen and pre-empt further UST bond selling by Japan—the largest foreign holder of UST bonds. Still, these moves do not address structural issues and will likely see very limited results beyond the short term.

Meanwhile, underlying domestic demand remains solid, with final sales to private domestic purchasers expanding by an annualized 4.2% in Q2, the highest pace in over three years, and expected to stay north of 4% in Q3, driven by robust household consumption and solid AI-related investments. However, inflation (July's CPI at 3.4% y/y and core at 2.5%) remains well above the Fed's target, and for the sixth consecutive year. And while monthly job growth numbers are volatile, the trend has improved from last year with the 6M average at 107K per month through August, the highest in two years while the unemployment rate is a modest 4.1%. Sustained above-target inflation, steady job market conditions, and Warsh's recent hawkish messaging have boosted the probability of a 25bps rate hike on September 16th to around 60%. However, the upcoming August CPI report will be pivotal in shaping the FOMC decision. If Warsh votes for a hike, it will be the first solid signal that he is willing to withstand political pressure from the Trump administration, which piled up recently, helping to safeguard the Fed's independence.

Eurozone: ECB set to hike rates again this week given the inflation outlook as growth remains resilient



The Eurozone economy has remained relatively resilient with GDP expanding by a higher-than-expected 0.6% q/q in Q2 and unemployment holding close to historical lows (6.4%). Furthermore, PMI readings in July-August have improved with the composite measure hitting the highest level since November 2025, auguring well for Q3 growth. Inflation remains the key challenge for policymakers with headline CPI rising 3.3% y/y in August (from 1.9% in pre-war February), largely driven by higher energy costs (+14%), while core inflation remains tame at 2.4%, in line with February's reading. Importantly, there is no evidence yet of second-round effects from the energy shock, a view shared by ECB President Lagarde. While the ECB left interest rates unchanged at its July meeting following June's 25bp hike, policymakers emphasized that uncertainty remains elevated. Despite the view on second-round inflation effects, the ECB is near certain to hike rates again on September 10th, given their judgment of upside risks to the inflation outlook and the bank's sole mandate of maintaining

price stability, possibly also encouraged by the decent growth trends. The recent rebound in oil prices and European gas prices, which easily exceed August averages, will undoubtedly keep the ECB wary of upside risks to the inflation outlook.

UK: Decent growth in H1 but the outlook is soft; market expects a BoE hike this year, but it is not a done deal

The UK's new prime minister, Andy Burnham, intends to address the high cost of living issue and deliver on redistribution-inclined initiatives, but the path to a sustained economic revival faces familiar hurdles. The Chancellor will present the Autumn budget next month, but the scope for growth-boosting efforts are constrained by ongoing fiscal challenges. Moreover, long-term gilt yields have risen steeply (30Y-yield near the highest level since 1998), a fresh headwind for fiscal consolidation. However, GDP growth remained resilient in Q2 (0.4% q/q after 0.6% in Q1), helped by strong manufacturing and robust consumption. The latest data has been mixed with retail sales falling in July and employment declining further, but the

August PMI was upbeat. Mostly due to the repricing of household energy caps, CPI inflation rebounded in July (2.9% y/y from June's 15-month low of 2.6%), and the BoE sees a further rise to 3.2% in Q4. And while the futures market currently indicates around an 80% probability of at least one 25bps BoE rate hike by end-2026, this is not a done deal especially given the stance of BoE Governor Bailey, who is seeing muted second-round inflation effects. Given higher expected inflation, ongoing weak employment conditions, limited fiscal support, and the possibility of tighter monetary policy, the short-term growth outlook appears soft.

Japan: Yen remains very volatile and BoJ to hike rates further; exports buoying economic growth

Japan's economic growth decelerated to 0.4% q/q in Q2 (0.5% in Q1) as private consumption was flat and business investment declined while net exports continued to buoy growth. Exports have been a bright spot, growing by a strong 14% y/y in H1 and accelerating to 23% in July (near a four-year high), supported by a weak yen and solid demand for AI-related semiconductors. Despite government subsidies, inflation has been trending higher (1.9% y/y in July versus 1.3% in pre-war February) with the BoJ warning that inflation risks remain tilted to the upside. After hiking rates to 1% in June, the bank left rates unchanged in July but struck a hawkish tone, signalling further hikes in the pipeline. The market expects one to two hikes before year-end with the next move likely materializing in the September meeting. Meanwhile, the yen has been on a roller coaster, resuming its depreciation against the USD in August following a rare Japan-US intervention at the end of July, but rallying strongly in the last few days possibly supported by a more hawkish BoJ outlook, among other reasons. Fiscal pressures, higher inflation, and further BoJ tightening continued to push government bond yields higher with the 10-year one touching 3%, a multi-decade high.

China: Despite strong exports, economic growth slowing, raising the odds of policy support

China's economy lost momentum in Q2, with GDP growth slowing to 4.3% y/y (lowest since late 2022) driven by weak household spending, declining investment, and the ongoing property downturn. July data suggest these challenges persisted into Q3 with growth in retail sales easing to 0.6% y/y (1.0% in June) and in industrial production slowing to 4.5% y/y (5.3% in June), while the YTD decrease in fixed-asset investment widened to 6.7% y/y. Meanwhile, new house prices remained in decline, and for more than three years now, down 3.2% y/y in July. Moreover, official PMI readings remained below the 50-point threshold for the second consecutive month in August, underscoring the continued weakness in activity. Against this backdrop, policymakers continue to rely primarily on targeted measures to bolster demand, retaining scope for possible monetary easing should economic conditions soften further. Meanwhile, export growth has been solid, standing at close to 20% y/y in 8M2026 benefiting from strong global demand for technology and AI-related goods, but unlikely to fully offset the persistent weakness in domestic demand. Hence, the near-term outlook for the economy is increasingly dependent on whether policy measures can gain sufficient traction to support domestic demand, which will be critical to achieving the government's 2026 growth target of 4.5% to 5%.

Grand prize totaling KD 1.5 million

KFH: KD 130,000 in prizes for Al-Hassad & Al-Rabeh monthly draws

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10, (AP): Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners of its monthly Al-Hassad and Al-Rabeh draws for August 2026. Al-Hassad awards a monthly prize of KD 100,000 to one winner, while Al-Rabeh awards 30 winners with KD 1,000 each, reflecting KFH’s commitment to honoring customer loyalty and trust.

KFH conducted two draws, awarding 31 winners a total of KD 130,000 in cash prizes, distributed as follows:

- Al-Hassad Account: One winner received KD 100,000.
- Al-Rabeh Account: 30 winners received KD 1,000 each.

The full list of winners is available on KFH’s official social media channels.

The new campaign for Al-Hassad account features substantial prizes, headlined by a KD 1.5 million Grand Prize, a KD 500,000 semi-annual prize, and a KD 100,000 monthly prize.

Effective January of this year, the new Al-Hassad prize campaign coincided with the resumption of investment account draws conducted under the supervision of independent auditors appointed by the bank to ensure the highest standards of integrity and transparency.

KFH continues to enhance the features of its Al-Hassad account, one of the bank’s flagship products that has gained remarkable popularity and strong



customer trust.

Al-Hassad offers increased chances of winning, with one entry for every KD 50 deposited. The longer the balance is maintained, the greater the number of entries, bringing customers closer to the title of “KFH Millionaire”.

As for Al-Rabeh account, it is a dedicated salary account. To qualify for the draws, customers must deposit at least three salaries over the three months preceding the draw and maintain a minimum monthly closing balance of KD 50 throughout that period. The account awards 30 winners KD 1,000 each month.

KFH remains committed to offering premium banking products that fulfill customer aspirations and provide unique opportunities to win significant cash prizes. This makes the account a highly appealing savings and investment solution.

Based on the Wakala investment structure, Al-Hassad account allows the bank to invest the full balance at a pre-agreed expected profit rate, in addition to the monthly, semi-annual, and annual prize draws.

Customers can open Al-Hassad and Al-Rabeh accounts through KFH branches, KFHonline, or ATMs to enjoy exclusive draw opportunities and a wide range of banking benefits.

Driving Kuwait-Oman energy cooperation

Duqm Refinery exports 20 mln tons of products

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: The joint Kuwaiti-Omani Duqm Refinery exported about 20 million tons of high-quality refined products to different markets globally, hence, affirming its leadership in operational activities and continuous development, say reliable sources.

Sources told the newspaper that such an achievement started from the launching of export operations in May 2023 until the end of 2025, indicating it is a qualitative leap that solidified the positions of the two brotherly nations on the global energy map.

Sources confirmed that the petroleum products of the refinery penetrated major markets in Europe and Southeast Asia, as well as developing African markets. Sources said these regions are witnessing rising demand for high-quality diesel and jet fuel that meet stringent global environmental standards.

Sources indicated that the exports of the refinery are distinguished, owing to its full compliance with the best environmental benchmarks, and its focus on producing high-quality low-sulfur diesel, naphtha and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) -- environmentally friendly products that comply with European and international regulations and contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.

Sources revealed that the refinery also shipped about 305,000 metric tons of LPG within the same period, thereby, achieving record performance indicators. Sources pointed out these figures affirm the high efficiency of the production system and strong capacity to meet the rising demand in target

markets.

Sources added that the processing capacity of 255,000 barrels per day contributes to higher profit margins and increased financial revenues for the national budgets of both brotherly nations.

Sources stated that these successive achievements reflect the scale of the shared strategic vision underpinning this colossal oil facility—a model of Gulf economic integration and fruitful bilateral cooperation.

Sources said the refinery continues to solidify its status as a vital economic pillar in the region by leveraging cutting-edge global technologies in refining and petrochemicals, and adhering to the highest safety and environmental standards, paving the way for further expansion and success in the future.

Data revealed that the management of the refinery — led by CEO Abdullah Al-Ajmi (a Kuwaiti engineer)—launched the ‘Irada’ program on Thursday.

This program aims to develop executive and mid-level leadership, empowering them to guide teams with efficiency and confidence in line with the goal to accomplish peak operational performance for this joint regional project between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait.

The program is a comprehensive, carefully crafted development journey that combines innovative practical learning with the exchange of leadership experience among participants. It aims to hone managerial skills and improve the abilities of leaders to inspire their teams and spread the culture of constructive collaboration among the departments and groups at the refinery. It equips them to drive positive change, navigate global en-

ergy market challenges with agility, and translate the strategic plans and vision of the refinery into tangible and sustainable results that serve the interests of the two nations.

The launching of the ‘Irada’ program coincided with the period of rapid growth in the production and export operations of the refinery. This expansion necessitates the development of second- and third-tier leadership capable of managing complex operational systems in accordance with the latest international standards.

The program focuses on key areas, such as strategic planning, data-driven decision-making, and the management of operational and financial risks. It also emphasizes the development of effective communication skills and multifaceted intelligence, which are essential for collaborative work environments comprising diverse talents from various nationalities and cultures, reflecting the global nature of this joint venture.

The strategic partnership between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait regarding the Duqm Refinery project extends beyond economic and investment aspects. It encompasses a shared vision for human capital development and the exchange of technical and managerial knowledge and expertise.

The program fosters a robust network connecting current and future leaders, thereby, ensuring sustained operational success and safeguarding the massive investments—amounting to billions of dollars—into the project.

This establishes the venture as a model for Gulf cooperation within the refining and petrochemical sectors.

iPhone 18 Pro brings faster charging, AI upgrades

New Apple CEO unveils latest iPhone lineup, including a foldable model called ‘Duo’

CUPERTINO, Sept 10, (AP): Apple on Wednesday unveiled its latest generation of iPhones, including a widely anticipated foldable version called Duo.

The company’s new CEO, John Ternus, who took over from Tim Cook on Sept. 1, introduced the latest lineup at the company’s Cupertino, California headquarters.

After cycling through other updates to the iPhone, the Apple Watch and AirPods, Ternus told the audience inside the Steve Jobs Theater that “actually there is one more thing,” in a nod to the trademark phrase from Jobs that the company’s legendary late founder himself borrowed from the 1970s detective show “Columbo.”

The foldable phone has the “largest display ever on an iPhone, yet fits into your pocket,” Ternus said.

The phone opens to a 7.6 inch display that is 80% larger than the newest iPhone 18 Pro. It will let people use an Apple Pencil on the phone, a capability previously reserved for iPad users. Duo, Ternus said, “will redefine the experience of using a foldable phone.”

The Duo lets users split the screen to use two different apps on the device, or two windows of the same website for things like comparison shopping. With a starting price of \$1,999, it is the most expensive iPhone yet.

The Duo “was always going to eclipse Apple’s other announcements at the event,” said Ben Wood, chief analyst at CCS Insight. “The device



Apple CEO John Ternus displays the iPhone Duo on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, on the Apple campus in Cupertino, Calif. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

adds a distinctive new design to the iPhone lineup and marks the company’s entry into the niche foldable smartphone category.”

Wood said that while there is certain to be demand for the Duo, which costs less than some analysts had anticipated, foldables still account for less than 5% of the overall smartphone market.

The iPhone 18 Pro and 18 Pro Max, Ternus said, bring improvements to the battery, camera, and performance. They will start at \$1,199 and \$1,299, respectively. Customers can preorder the phones starting on Sept. 12 and they will be available on Sept. 18, although the Duo will be available on Oct. 23.

The new models feature a long battery life - 45

hours of video playback for the Pro Max - and faster charging. The camera offers what Apple called “cinematic effects” from regular video captured on the phone, as well as new options for manual controls and “smart focus tracking,” which lets users focus on a single moving subject, such as a kid during a soccer game.

Apple is also focusing on Siri’s new AI capabilities with the new phones, emphasizing privacy and security to stand apart from rivals who are further along in incorporating AI.

Many of Apple’s biggest rivals, such as Samsung, Motorola and Google, have already come out with foldable smartphones. But Apple is not one to rush on new technologies.

“The foldable launch is straight out of Apple’s playbook: Wait for the product to work out its kinks and for the market to offer glimpses of viability, then enter and shape the category,” said Forrester analyst Dipanjan Chatterjee. But, he added, the question will be whether it can expand demand for what’s still a niche product category.

Compared with earlier generations, the iPhone 18 costs about \$100 more due partly to a global memory chip shortage. The iPhone 17’s price ranges from \$799 to \$1,999 depending on the model.

Earlier this year, Apple unveiled artificial intelligence advances, including upgrades to its Siri assistant, emphasizing a focus on privacy and day-to-day use as the company tries to catch up with rivals on AI.

How to extend the life of your iPhone

APPLE’S latest iPhones, unveiled this week, come with new features, better cameras and hefty price tags - including a folding model with a starting price of \$1,999. If you’re planning to splurge on a new iPhone 18, you will want to take care of it to make it last as long as possible.

Or save money by holding on to your current device, whether it is Apple or Android, to get the most life out of it.

As smartphone technology has matured and innovations have become more incremental, people have stopped buying into the idea that they need to upgrade to the newest phone. There is also an environmental push to keep old phones out of landfills as electronic waste becomes a larger sustainability issue. Modern smartphones are also just sturdier and better able to survive dunks and drops.

The typical smartphone replacement cycle is now four years, according to Counterpoint Research. Some device owners boast in online forums that they have had phones last more than seven years.

Here are some pointers on extending your phone’s life:

The biggest factor in a phone’s longevity is the battery. A rechargeable battery’s life span is related to its “chemical age,” which is based not only on the manufacturing date but also on factors including “temperature history and charging pattern,” according to Apple. The company says that as lithium-ion batteries chemically age, they hold less charge, which results in “reduced peak performance.”

Samsung warns against running a lithium-ion battery down completely, because that could shorten its life.

“The battery is absolutely often the first thing to go in most people’s phones,” said Elizabeth Chamberlain, director of sustainability at the device-repair website iFixit.

Lithium-ion batteries typically last about 300 to 500 charging cycles before degrading noticeably to the point that they can’t last a day without needing a charge, she said. “Many people will hit 500 cycles in two years. Heavy users will get there faster.”

Batteries get stressed if they are completely drained or fully charged, Chamberlain said.

So avoid letting your battery die, and also avoid charging it all the way to 100%, “unless you really need a full charge,” she said. “Aim to keep the battery between 20% and 80% charged.”

If you are in the habit of plugging in your phone when you go to bed, Apple and Samsung both have charging optimization technology that improves battery life by delaying a full charge based on your daily routine.

This feature, which is on by default in iOS, pauses charging at 80% and then charges to 100% just before you wake up.

Device makers warn against exposing phones to extreme heat or cold, both of which can damage batteries.

Apple says batteries warm up as they charge, which can shorten their life span. It warns against using your phone or charging it in very hot temperatures, above 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 Celsius).

Samsung says you shouldn’t leave your phone in, for example, a car’s glove box when it is very hot or cold. And don’t put it in a freezer either - it’s a myth that it can prolong battery life.

Google, which makes the Android operating system and Pixel phones, says hot batteries drain faster, even when they are not in use, and that can damage the battery.

Tweak your device settings so

apps or features use less power, which extends your battery’s daily life and the time between charging cycles.

You can turn down your phone’s screen brightness, turn on the dark theme and reduce the time for the screen to power off. Enable the auto-brightness feature, which adjusts screen brightness according to the level of ambient light. Also check battery usage in your settings to see if there are any power-hungry apps you can switch off or uninstall.

If the power level dips below 10%, iPhone users can turn on low power mode to stretch their battery’s life before it needs recharging. Samsung’s Android phones have a similar “power saving mode.” You can also leave it on all the time, but it might affect your phone’s performance.

Phones are sleek capsules with glossy surfaces that also make them easier for them to slip out of your hand. A sturdy protective case is essential to help cushion the blow from accidental drops.

However, beware that some phone cases can retain heat, so your phone might stay hot even if it seems cool, Chamberlain warns.

Don’t forget a screen protector. Plastic versions are cheap but can scuff easily, according to iFixit, which recommends TPU film or tempered glass because they offer better protection against scratches and drops.

Keeping your phone in your pocket or purse means ports and sockets collect debris that needs to be cleaned out.

Chamberlain said that when a phone stops charging, often the problem is simply that the charging port is jammed with lint, preventing the cable from connecting.

You can buy kits with brushes, picks, swabs and dust blowers to give your phone’s ports, speaker and microphone grilles a thorough cleaning. But in a pinch, use a toothpick and a clean toothbrush.

Software is another important factor in a phone’s life span. Experts advise keeping your operating system and apps up to date so they have the latest privacy, security and battery management features.

That will be easier to do as your phone ages because some device makers have been extending the time limit for providing updates.

Google has pledged to provide Pixel 8 and newer phones with seven years of Android and security updates, compared with four to five years for older models. Samsung pledged in 2024 to extend its operating system updates to seven years.

Apple hasn’t spelled out how long it will support iOS updates for phones. The iPhone 11, released in 2019, was the oldest model still getting updates this year. But reports suggest it might not be eligible for the new iOS 27 due this month.

Sometimes your phone will have a problem that can only be solved by repairing it, usually involving paying someone else to fix it.

But there are device makers that are making it easier to repair phones yourself. Netherlands-based Fairphone makes phones it says are designed for longevity, which come with a stripped-down version of Android and can be easily disassembled using a mini screwdriver. Replacement batteries, screens and other spare parts can be ordered online.

Fairphone’s Chief Technical Officer Chandler Hatton said the company aims to have its devices last at least five years.

“What we’re trying to do is to support people to be able to use their device for longer,” Hatton said. (AP)

Trump-Xi meeting expected to focus on trade

China says it hopes to agree with US on tariff reductions at ‘an early date’

BEIJING, Sept 10, (AP): China and the U.S. hope to reach an agreement on lowering import taxes soon, a Chinese government spokesperson said Thursday, fueling expectations that an announcement could come when the leaders of the two countries meet in two weeks.

Negotiators are striving to implement reciprocal tariff reductions on \$30 billion worth of goods “at an early date,” Commerce Ministry spokesperson Huang Ling said at a weekly briefing.

The \$30 billion will be from each side, China’s official Xinhua News Agency said.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are expected to meet in Washington on Sept. 24 for what will be their third face-to-face talks in the past year. Both governments characterize the meetings as a way to stabilize relations in an era of competing interests between

the world’s two largest economies.

“Leaders’ diplomacy plays an irreplaceable strategic guiding role in China-U. S. relations,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Thursday.

Trump and Xi agreed at their previous meeting in May in Beijing to launch a U.S.-China Board of Trade that would manage trade between the two countries, along with a parallel Board of Investment. The agreements came after a truce was reached in a blistering tariff war in which Trump hiked tariffs on Chinese imports to extremely high levels and China responded in kind.

The talks on reciprocal tariff reductions are a central part of the negotiations on creating the Board of Trade. The goal is to identify and reduce tariffs on equivalent amounts of “nonsensitive” goods on each side, the U.S. said.

“Trade will be front and center

at the summit,” Barclays Bank said in a research note this week on the upcoming Trump-Xi meeting, noting that the truce the two countries reached on tariffs expires on Nov. 10. But it cautioned that the scope for a broad trade deal is limited, and that targeted tariff reductions are more likely.

But as the U.S. and China have already reduced mutual trade reliance, the “overall trade significance will be more limited than before, given the smaller bilateral volume,” said Gary Ng, a senior economist at French bank Natixis.

Chinese exports to the U.S., for example, fell sharply last year, after the U.S. rolled out elevated tariffs.

An agreement on reciprocal tariff reductions could likely benefit the U.S. more, as \$30 billion is roughly 28% of its exports to China, while it is only around 10% the other way around, Ng said.

Automakers shift production overseas

China’s car exports in first 8 months surpass 2025 total, as EV sales soar

HONG KONG, Sept 10, (AP): China’s passenger car exports in the first eight months of this year already surpassed last year’s total, an industry association said Thursday, though domestic sales continued to decline.

Passenger car exports in August jumped 67.1% from the year before to around 890,000 units, driven by plug-in hybrids and pure electric vehicles, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

China exported more than 6.2 million passenger vehicles in January-August. Exports of all types of vehicles totaled 7.1 million last year, CAAM data show, including about 6 million passenger vehicles.

The world’s largest car exporter is on track to achieve 50% to 70% growth in full-year passenger vehicle exports, according to S&P Global Ratings.

At home, passenger car sales fell 25.6% year-on-year in August to just below 1.5 million vehicles.

China’s domestic car market is under pressure from intense competition and price wars, while the slowing economy has undermined consumer confidence.

China’s car exports have been stronger than expected so far this year, helped by competitive pricing



Workers unload new electric bikes from a truck outside a store in Beijing, Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

ing and quality, said Stephen Chan, an associate director at S&P Global Ratings.

“It’s likely that strong export growth will largely mitigate the domestic weakness,” he said.

Over the past few months the energy shock from the Iran war and rising fuel prices have led more drivers of gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles to shift to EVs.

Hefty tariffs have in effect kept most Chinese-made passenger cars out of the U.S. market. But China has been exporting and selling

more of its vehicles to Europe, Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

Chinese automakers are also setting up more factories overseas.

Weak domestic demand is increasing carmakers’ incentives to redirect capacity overseas, analysts at Morgan Stanley said in a recent research note, and Chinese carmakers are increasingly moving beyond vehicle exports toward local assembly and manufacturing to ease impacts from trade barriers and reduce logistics costs.

Chinese electric bike imports surge as Africa’s EV investments diversify

NAIROBI, Sept 10, (AP): Africa’s imports of electric motorcycles and three-wheelers from China rose sharply in the first half of 2026, an increase that highlights a divide in the continent’s transition to electric vehicles.

Two and three-wheelers account for a large share of vehicles on African roads and are heavily used commercially. So, switching to electric from gasoline and diesel engines could cut fuel consumption and urban air pollution.

Northern African countries like Morocco, Egypt and Algeria led the 60% surge in the continent’s imports, to \$114.6 million. The region has become a major destination for fully built Chinese electric scooters.

Investments in EV startups, meanwhile, are concentrated in East and Central Africa, where companies are building local assembly plants, battery-swapping networks and commercial motorcycle ecosystems.

Morocco led in imports in the first half, importing 80,188 units worth \$21.7 million, followed by Egypt and Algeria. In sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa had the most imports, with 19,635 electric bikes worth \$6.9 million.

Peter Kossakowski, an independent electric two- and three-wheeler specialist who has worked across Africa, said the difference reflects two distinct markets.

“In North Africa, Chinese imports are largely electric scooters and mopeds bought by consumers for commuting and short trips,” he said. In East and West Africa, motorcycles are more often commercial assets used by riders for up to 150 kilometers (about 100 miles) a day to carry passengers and goods.

Spiro, Africa’s largest EV bike firm, raised more than \$348 million in investments in the past year, while other companies are investing in local assembly, battery-swapping and charging networks aimed at commercial motorcycle taxi and delivery markets.

Tom Courtright, a non-resident fellow at the African Tech Futures Lab, said Chinese manufacturers supply many of the electric motor-



A rider sits on an electric Spiro motorcycle in Nairobi, Kenya, on Feb. 24, 2026. (AP Photo/Henry Naminde, File)

cycles used in East and West Africa, but local companies are adapting them for commercial use and operating the energy infrastructure.

Battery swapping allows commercial riders to replace depleted batteries rather than wait for a motorcycle to recharge, making the model more suited to riders who depend on the bikes for their daily earnings, he said.

Courtright said electric motorcycles are more likely to replace petrol bikes than to expand the overall motorcycle market, although lower running and maintenance costs could increase demand by about 20%.

The transition is already gaining ground. Electric motorcycles accounted for about 20% of motorcycle sales in Uganda last year and roughly 15% in Kenya, Courtright said.

The shift could also reduce fuel imports. Courtright estimated that widespread electrification of motorcycles could eventually displace roughly \$600 million in fuel imports in Uganda and between \$600 million and \$800 million in Kenya.

The Chinese customs data captures vehicles entering a country, not necessarily those registered or used there, Kossakowski said.

In East and West Africa, much of

the industry is still based on assembling imported components rather than manufacturing motorcycles from scratch. Motors, controllers and battery cells are still mostly imported. Local production is concentrated on simpler parts such as seats, footrests and metal frames.

Kossakowski said sub-Saharan Africa’s bigger competitive advantage may be the supply chain that is developing around high-use commercial motorcycles, including battery swapping, financing and servicing.

But fragmented battery and swapping systems could limit the industry’s growth.

Operators often use proprietary batteries, connectors and software, preventing riders from using different networks and making it harder to build sufficient volumes for local battery production.

“Battery swapping solved the range problem by building closed systems,” Kossakowski said. “It now costs the sector twice by limiting manufacturing scale and battery resale value.”

The transition, Courtright said, will depend on affordable financing, reliable electricity, charging and swapping infrastructure, predictable government policies and greater standardization across markets.

Eurozone inflation hits 3.3%

ECB raises interest rates quarter point to quell oil-fueled inflation

FRANKFURT, Sept 10, (AP): The European Central Bank raised interest rates Thursday to cool inflation that is being fed by high oil prices from the Iran war. The decision was supported by a stronger-than-expected economy that suggests businesses can weather the higher borrowing costs.

The central bank for the 21 EU member countries that use the euro currency raised its benchmark rate by a quarter percentage point to 2.50% at a meeting held in Berlin, away from the bank’s Frankfurt headquarters.

Bank President Christine Lagarde said at her news conference that “the conflict in the Middle East continues to generate inflation pressures, and inflation is set to remain well above target for an extended period.”

“The outlook remains highly uncertain, with risks to the upside for inflation and to the downside for economic growth,” she said, adding that the bank would make future rate decisions meeting by meeting based on incoming data. She said the central bank would not commit to any particular path for rates before seeing the data.

The bank last raised rates at its June 11 meeting, then hit pause at its July 23 session. Remarks by ECB President Christine Lagarde later Thursday will be parsed by market analysts and investors for clues about whether more interest rate increases are coming.

Inflation concerns are also weighing on the U.S. Federal Reserve, whose



Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank, addresses the media during a press conference following the ECB Governing Council’s off-site meeting at the Deutsche Bundesbank’s conference center in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026. (Bernd von Jutrczenka/dpa via AP)

rate-setters next meet Sept. 15-16. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh has said the bank may have “more work to do” to contain U.S. inflation of 3.7%.

High energy prices are one reason eurozone inflation came in at 3.3% in August, above the bank’s target of 2%. Oil prices have risen above \$100 per barrel due to lower tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz that are under threat of Iranian attack. Decisions being made about borrowing costs are complicated by the fact that it’s impossible to say how long the shipping restrictions and high oil prices will last.

Higher rates cool inflation by making it more expensive to borrow and buy things, from houses to new factories. That reduces demand for goods and eases pressure on prices. The ECB benchmarks affect banks first, and through them lending rates throughout the economy.

The ECB’s move was “a hike to stay ahead of the curve, demonstrating the ECB’s high level of vigilance, and an attempt to prevent higher energy prices from feeding through to the broader economy,” Carsten Brzeski, global head of macro at ING bank, wrote in an email.

Debt piles up for young Argentines, testing support for President Milei

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 10, (AP): At 18, Martín Taborda began studying law at Argentina’s prestigious University of Buenos Aires, hoping to become the first in his family to graduate. Just two years later, that dream has slipped out of reach.

Unemployed and \$1,300 in debt, he can no longer afford the bus fare from his suburb or the books he needs to keep studying - even at a tuition-free university that has helped generations of Argentines climb into the middle class.

He’s not alone. Nearly half of Argentina’s 45 million people owe money, and more than 5 million are behind on payments, according to the Center for City Studies, an Argentine nonprofit that tracks debt using central bank data. Borrowers under 25 have the highest delinquency rate of any age group, at 37.6%.

“There’s hardly any work for anyone in this country right now,” said Taborda, who borrowed the equivalent of just over \$100 through a mobile payment app in 2024 for education expenses. His debt swelled tenfold as interest accrued on missed payments. Forced to rely on others, he said, “You start to feel like a parasite.”

A new wave of household debt is testing support for President Javier Milei among the young Argentines who helped elect him, and offering the nation’s fragmented opposition an opening to rally disillusioned voters ahead of next year’s presidential election.

As debtors and labor unions gathered outside Congress on Wednesday, lawmakers agreed to take up 50 proposals to ease household debt, including interest-rate caps and refinancing plans.

Even Milei’s libertarian party voted to debate debt relief - without endorsing the proposals themselves - underscoring the mounting pressure on Milei as voters look beyond his success in taming inflation to concerns about jobs and wages.

“They borrowed to make ends meet, because their paychecks run out earlier and earlier in the month,” opposition lawmaker Pablo Juliano said on Wednesday. “Many are falling into a spiral of borrowing to repay other

loans. Families want to pay, but they cannot find a way to restructure their debts with dignity or secure protection from abusive debt collection practices.”

Milei has rejected calls for government intervention, arguing that unpaid debts are a private matter between borrowers and lenders rather than a symptom of wider economic distress.

Economy Minister Luis Caputo promised at a recent press conference that banks were easing repayment terms, although he added, “We shouldn’t confuse empathy with public policy.”

On a recent afternoon, Taborda joined a few dozen other students in a classroom at his university’s economics school to discuss the emotional toll of their debts.

The gathering followed confidentiality rules similar to those of Alcoholics Anonymous. A moderator asked for a show of hands: Who bought groceries in installments? Who borrowed through payment apps to make ends meet? Who took on debt to repay old loans?

Most hands went up.

Since assuming office in late 2023 promising to break with a discredited political establishment, Milei has slashed the budget deficit and brought annual inflation down from a peak of 289% in early 2024 to about 34% in July.

The greater macroeconomic stability has encouraged banks to lend more, while steep cuts to subsidies for gas, electricity and transport have pushed bills up faster than incomes, forcing many Argentines to borrow just to get by.

In the past, wage increases meant to keep pace with runaway inflation could gradually ease the burden of fixed loan payments. Now, slower inflation means smaller pay raises, while borrowing costs remain sky-high under the government’s tight monetary policy. Digital payment apps require less paperwork than banks but often charge much higher interest because of the greater risk, with annual rates reaching triple digits.

“There was a time when people took out loans to buy a house, an apartment, a car,” said Vanesa Bittoco, a

spokesperson for Organized Debtors, an advocacy group that campaigns for repayment plans tied to workers’ incomes. “Now people take out loans to buy food to make it to the end of the month.”

At the anonymous debtors’ meeting, students described feeling trapped, ashamed and increasingly powerless over their futures. The distress extends beyond campus: More than 80% of adults surveyed in Buenos Aires and its suburbs in April said economic problems had a major impact on their psychological well-being, according to the university’s Applied Social Psychology Observatory.

Experts warn that Argentines’ mounting debt struggles could erode Milei’s support among young voters as he seeks a second term in the 2027 presidential election just 14 months away.

“Clearly, the economic model is hitting young people much harder than other Argentines,” said public opinion consultant Ana Iparraguirre, a partner at Washington-based strategy firm GBAO. “If this continues, Milei is putting his reelection at risk with the same electorate that helped him win.”

Milei has offered little sympathy for struggling Argentines, blaming the surge in delinquencies on irresponsible spending.

“They bought TVs to watch the World Cup and figured they’d decide later whether to pay,” he told investors in the port city of Rosario last month. “Well, now they haven’t paid.”

The debt squeeze comes as Milei’s broader support has weakened. A recent online poll of 1,500 people by well-known Argentine pollster Zuban Córdoba put approval of Milei’s administration at 33%, down from 49% in December 2025, with most respondents saying they’re worse off financially than when Milei took office. The survey, conducted from July 22 to 26, reported a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

“They’re going to have to provide a solution,” Bittoco, the advocate, said of the government. “Otherwise, they’re the ones who will have a problem.”

Brazil’s Lula signs measures to slash fuel taxes & subsidize diesel ahead of election

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 10, (AP): Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed a decree and a provisional measure Wednesday aimed at lowering fuel prices, weeks ahead of the presidential election and as the U.S.-Iran war drives up the cost of filling the tank.

The cost of fuel is a particularly sensitive issue for voters, who will decide in October whether to grant Lula a fourth, nonconsecutive term, or elect Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, a son of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

Brent crude, the international standard, surged above the \$100 threshold on Wednesday for the first time since July, after attacks on oil facilities and ships in the Middle East threatened to further strain an already weakened supply chain.

“We’re not going to allow this irresponsible war to hit your pocket,” said Lula as he signed the measures, which extend policies to control fuel prices introduced at the beginning of

the U.S.-Iran war.

The measures announced Wednesday include tax cuts on the import and sale of ethanol, gasoline and gasoline blends (excluding aviation gasoline), effective for 30 days from Sept. 10 to Oct. 9. A provisional measure authorizes a subsidy of one Brazilian real (\$0.19) per liter for producers and importers of road diesel.

Crude oil prices shot up shortly after Israel and the U.S. began their war with Iran in late February, largely because the fighting halted most shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway where roughly a fifth of the world’s oil supply passed before the conflict.

Brazil is a major producer and exporter of crude oil, and its revenues from the sector have surged this year due to the hike in international prices. But the country still relies on imports to meet domestic demand for refined fuels.

Stabilizing diesel prices is also

critical to prevent truck driver strikes and keep food inflation in check. In 2018, a truckers’ strike caused food prices to spike, left grocery market shelves and gas stations depleted, and caused billions in losses, underscoring the power of organized truckers.

Former President Jair Bolsonaro, then a lawmaker and months away from winning the presidential election, was an outspoken supporter of the truckers, who later became an important constituency for him.

Wednesday’s measures “have a significant electoral component,” according to Armando Castelar Pinheiro, an economics professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. If it weren’t for the political calendar, “there would be some subsidy, but it would likely be lower,” he said.

Diesel in Brazil is 28% cheaper than international prices and gasoline is 21% cheaper, according to an Itaú BBA market analysis cited by local media Wednesday.



This image released by Neon shows a scene from "Hope." (AP)

Korean thriller 'Hope' goes wild, then goes extraterrestrial

Na Hong-jin makes chase movies and it can be incredible where they go.

His latest, "Hope," is his biggest and wildest movie yet. But despite its heft in scale and run time, it rarely pauses to take a breath.

Though some of Na's contemporaries are better known in the West, the South Korean writer-director has for two decades been a must-see filmmaker for breathless spectacles laced with pointed satire and scruffy humanity. His appropriately titled 2008 debut, "The Chaser," focused on a pimp and former police officer trying to find a missing sex worker in a helter-skelter search through nocturnal Seoul.

Since then, the headlong pursuits of Na have grown more expansive and extreme. A gambling-addicted taxi driver on the run (2010's "The Yellow Sea"). A police officer hunting down the cause of a disease outbreak in rural Korea (2016's "The Wailing").

The scope of "Hope," his first film in a decade, is so vast that Na spent two years in post-production toiling over it before premiering it at the Cannes Film Festival in May - in a slightly different cut than is now arriving in theaters. As if a 156-minute run time wasn't enough, it was also made with a sequel in mind.

But through those two and a half-plus hours, "Hope" hurtles its way through genres the way the Kool-Aid Man crashed through walls. It is not always a smooth



Left: This image released by Neon shows Hwang Jung-min in a scene from "Hope." Right: This image released by Neon shows Hyeon in a scene from "Hope." (AP)



ride. The CGI in "Hope" won't win any awards. And the movie is overlong, sapping some of its momentum. But it is often thrillingly shape-shifting: a gloriously unwieldy spectacle that fuses monster movie and science fiction into a blistering and bonkers saga of otherness - human and otherwise.

Signs reading "Protect the nation against infiltration" can be seen in the town of Hope Harbor on the South Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone. There, the local police chief Bum-seok (Hwang Jung-min) is investigating a mysterious animal attack. The best guess of a group of hunters led by Sung-ki (Zo In-Sung) is that a tiger has made it through barbed wire fields from North Korea.

Bum-seok, though, is soon on the trail of something evidently much larger and more destructive than a loose tiger. Long before he - or we - get a look at what's running amok, he chases through the rubble wake with increasing trepidation. Expletives make up almost all his breathless dialogue.

It will be almost an hour before we get a look at what he's after. Once we do, it's a bit of a letdown. The CGI makeup of the creature - a towering but lean and sinewy alien that sometimes stands tall and sometimes runs on all fours (played in motion capture by Cameron Britton) - is a little schlocky in design. But it's telling that Na's movie turns on a slow-motion close-up, when Bum-seok recognizes something

like pain in the eyes of the marauding monster.

Na's movies have never been particularly kind to the authorities; they're usually shown as either incompetent or corrupt.

In "Hope," they're mostly bumbling or way out of their depth. But Bum-seok is at least charging forward, albeit not with as much panache as his fellow officer Sung-ae (Hyeon). She joins the chase midway, elegantly speeding into the fray in a squad car while shooting out the window. This is the big-screen debut of Hyeon, of "Squid Game," and, from the very first moment, she's winning.

After the chase - which runs for the better part of an hour - Bum-seok and Sung-ae begin trying to investigate what they've encoun-

tered. It's probably the baggiest part of the film but it's also when Na is at his most mischievous. There is, for example, the medical examination of the alien's corpse, carried out not with calm precision but with a chain saw. And then there's the unforgettable eyewitness account of a villager who's seen the aliens in the forest - while terrified, crouching in hiding and trying to hold back diarrhea. In vain, it turns out.

You could chalk up such digressions in "Hope" to the devilish hijinks of Na. But they also reflect Na's insistence on making a human-scaled movie - a funny, farcical, ridiculous one - even in increasingly sci-fi extremes. That sensibility makes "Hope," shot handsomely by cinematographer

Hong Kyung-pyo ("Parasite," "Burning"), very much its own, unpredictable thing despite its familiar genre setup.

The film, meanwhile, shifts to the separate, ongoing search in the woods by Sung-ki and the hunters. There, we learn more about the extraterrestrial visitors. In a cross-species leap of empathy, "Hope" begins shifting to their perspective, too. The leading figures are played by a trio of Hollywood stars (Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Taylor Russell) though they're unrecognizable under so much CGI-rendered alien skin. Well into the movie, their sounds get subtitles of their own, and the empathy of "Hope" begins stretching into the cosmos.

Whether Na's film, said to be the most expensive Korean film ever made, gets a follow-up remains to be seen. But for now, we get the movie's grand, galloping finale. Up until then, "Hope" is mostly a cluttered film. Production designer Lee Hwok-young delights in the debris of destruction. Yet "Hope" clears out for a sensational, open-road, wide-expanse chase scene that's one of the most exhilarating and ludicrous sequence of the year. Should Na continue this saga? That final sequence has you hoping.

"Hope," a Neon release in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong bloody violent content and language throughout. In Korean with English subtitles. Running time: 156 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

Race tightens as TV's best vie for glory

'Pitt' vs 'Pluribus,' 'Hacks' vs 'Widow's Bay' at Emmys

LOS ANGELES, Sept 10, (AP): It's "The Pitt" versus "Pluribus" and "Hacks" against "Widow's Bay" at the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday night.

The stars of all four shows - **Noah Wyle** in "The Pitt," Rhea Seehorn in "Pluribus," Jean Smart in "Hacks" and Matthew Rhys in "Widow's Bay" - look to be runaway favorites for the top acting awards. And prognosticators are nearly all picking "The Pitt" to win its second straight best drama prize.

But the television competition should otherwise be tight at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. The ceremony will air live on NBC starting at 8 p.m. Eastern with one of the network's signature stars, three-time Emmy winner Mariska Hargitay, hosting. Peacock will stream the show live. The network is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and will have a "peacock blue" carpet in place of the usual red.

Presenters announced Wednesday include Zendaya, Sally Field, Amy Poehler, Jon Hamm, Macaulay Culkin, Alan Cumming, Keke Palmer, Florence Pugh, Marcello Hernandez, Odessa A'zion, Dan Levy, Niecy Nash-Betts and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" stars Sarah Michelle Gellar and David Boreanaz.

HBO Max's day-in-the-life-of-an-emergency-room drama "The Pitt" has already become a cultural institution in two seasons, and after big wins as an upstart rookie, it was this year's top overall nominee with 25. "Hacks," which follows the travails of a stand-up comic fighting back against age prejudice, sexism and obscurity in the entertainment industry, led all comedies with a record-breaking 24 nominations for its fifth and final season.

Here's a closer look at where things stand and how they might play out.

While the biggest stars are still awaiting the opening of the envelopes, the majority of this year's Emmys were already handed out at early ceremonies Saturday and Sunday.

"Widow's Bay," the first-year Apple TV horror comedy with Rhys as the mayor of a small New England town dealing with a centuries-old

curse, won a whopping eight Emmys including best guest actress for Betty Gilpin.

The show had been widely acclaimed for its sly shifting between humor and dread, and it got 19 nominations, but few expected such a trophy haul. It can win up to six more on Monday.

"Hacks" managed just one win.

"The Pitt" won four early Emmys including an emotional first career victory for 73-year-old Ernest Harden Jr. as best guest actor in a drama.

"Pluribus," another Apple TV Emmy rookie, from "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan, also won four.

The soon-to-be-host Hargitay won two Emmys for the documentary she directed about her mother, Jayne Mansfield, to go with one she already had for her long-running role on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

The early Emmys weekend will be edited down to a single recorded show that airs on FXX on Saturday at 8 p.m. in all time zones.

The doctors, nurses and patients of "The Pitt" were flooded with Emmy nominations for Season 2. Many will be competing against one another. There's so much category overlap that despite having 12 nominations for Monday night's awards, it can win only six.

Wyle alone can win three Emmys including directing, best drama as a producer and best actor - an award he won last year in his role as Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinavitch.

The other best drama nominees are "Paradise," "Slow Horses," "The Diplomat," "The Gilded Age," "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms," "Your Friends & Neighbors," and "Pluribus."

Rarely has a single actor carried a show as much as Rhea Seehorn does "Pluribus," where she plays one misanthropic woman taking on an alien hive mind that has enveloped almost everyone else alive.

Voters are likely to reward the former "Better Call Saul" star with her first Emmy after four nominations.

Seehorn's fellow nominees include Zendaya, who has won the category twice before for "Euphoria."

Katherine LaNasa won best supporting actress last year for her "Pitt" portrayal of Nurse Dana, and the character had an even bigger second season, guiding patients through harrowing dramatic moments and becoming a viral phenomenon for the way she says "Baby Jane Doe" - an abandoned child in the ER who plays a key role in the season.

This year she'll have three castmates - Taylor Dearden, Fiona Dourif and Sepideh Moafi - as competition.

"It feels really exciting to have more of my colleagues up on the board," LaNasa told The Associated Press after the nominations were announced.

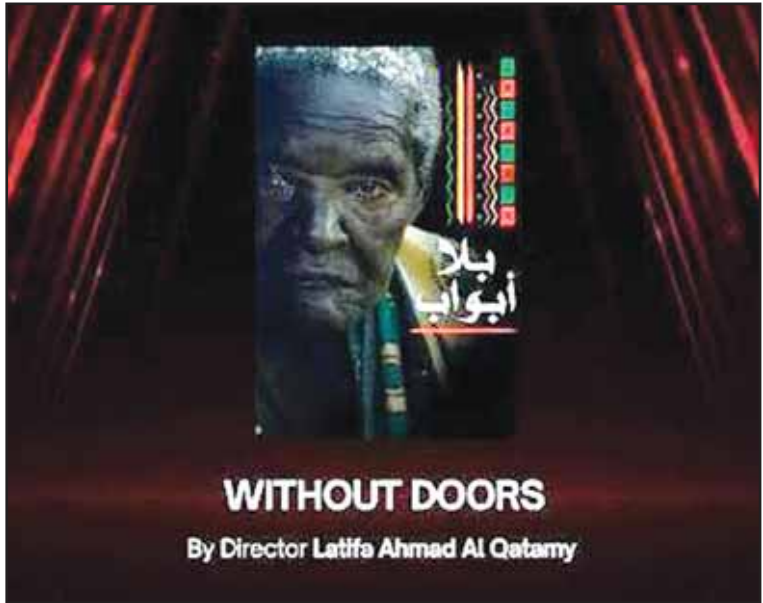
Three "Pitt" men - Patrick Ball, Shawn Hatosy and Gerran Howell - are up for supporting actor.

The Emmys loves to give golden send-offs to outgoing shows, and it will be stunning if Jean Smart doesn't win best actress in a comedy for playing stand-up comic Deborah Vance, as she did for all four previous seasons.

But Emmy voters' clear affection for "Widow's Bay" could keep "Hacks" from winning much more. The two shows will be competing for best comedy along with "Abbott Elementary," "The Bear," "Margo's Got Money Troubles," "Only Murders in the Building" and "Shrinking."

Hannah Einbinder, who had a breakthrough win last year as best supporting actress in a comedy after four nominations for "Hacks," will be up against Kate O'Flynn, who wowed with a breakout performance in the debut season of "Widow's Bay."

Both shows also have nominees for best supporting actor in a comedy, but they could easily be upstaged by Harrison Ford, who many think will finally win his first major Hollywood award for his performance on Apple TV's "Shrinking."



Kuwaiti documentary film "Without Doors," directed by Latifa Al-Qatami.

Kuwaiti documentary 'Without Doors' wins top award at Dhofar Film Festival

MUSCAT, Sept 10, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti documentary film "Without Doors," directed by Latifa Al-Qatami, won the Best International Documentary Award at the conclusion of the second edition of the Dhofar International Film Festival in Salalah, Oman, on Wednesday.

Organized by the Oman Film Society in strategic partnership with the Omani Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and Dhofar Municipality, the festival announced its official winners list following four days of screenings, workshops, and cultural activities.

In the feature film categories, the Omani film "Illusion," directed by Issa Al-Subhi, won the Best Omani Feature Film Award, while the Egyptian film "Closing," directed by Ahmed Al-Zoghbi, claimed the

Best International Feature Film Award.

The Moroccan film "Bottles" received the Special Jury Prize, and the Omani film "Forbidden Roses" received a Special Mention in the same competition.

In the documentary category, the Omani film "Life on Two Wheels" earned the Best Omani Documentary Award, while "Al-Hussam... The Man" received the Special Jury Prize, with a special mention awarded to the Libyan film "Queen."

The festival featured 32 competing films from 16 countries across four main categories.

The winning Kuwaiti entry, "Without Doors," chronicles the daily lives and resilience of families living under harsh socioeconomic conditions in Uganda.

Creators share struggles, setbacks, & fresh starts with people who understand

Divorce-tok goes viral as women turn heartbreak into healing

LOS ANGELES, Sept 10, (AP): On Instagram feeds that are often teeming with curated, contrived content, a recent post from Monette Wagner stood out for her disarming openness.

Looking into the camera, Wagner, a 36-year-old mother of three, said in the video: “Divorce can feel like a death.”

In what resembles a digital journal, Wagner has posted videos in real time about the emotions and life changes that have come with her recent divorce. Developing financial independence, getting used to co-parenting, and moving on from heartbreak are frequent themes of her Instagram posts.

A growing number of people, the majority of them women, are sharing unvarnished divorce stories, both offering and seeking advice on social media. Moving beyond a stigma around discussing marital breakdowns, the content provides a space for the creators to heal, and for their followers to relate and reflect on their own experiences and emotions.

A professional photographer in Indianapolis, Wagner already had a platform on Instagram to share and promote her work. But she recently took the page in this more vulnerable direction.

Alongside posts about the heavier moments, she also shares lessons learned and more optimistic musings. She has posted about wanting to reconnect with the confident, curious person she was more than a decade ago - before she met her now-former husband. She’s revisiting passions she had as a teen, including skateboarding and learning to DJ.

“I wanted to show my kids that you can still be strong even through these hard days. I wanted to show them how strong hope is,” she said. “I feel more confident. I feel resilient. I feel like I faced my fears of showing up scared, of putting myself out there as my authentic self.”

On TikTok, where niche categories of content sometimes earn a nickname, content that delves into marital woes has been dubbed “divorce-tok.”

The level of detail creators choose to divulge about their divorce and marriage varies widely. Some, like Wagner, do not post about their ex-



Monette Wagner poses with her children, Vivienne, 12, top left, Ellie, 9, left, and Xavier, 7, at her home in Indianapolis, Ind., Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026. (AP)

partners. Others provide detailed accounts of issues in their marriage and the sometimes messy and lengthy process of finalizing their divorce.

The voyeuristic world of social media tends to love story-time-style videos where creators talk as if they’re

clips showing people’s post-divorce “glow-ups,” or physical, and in many cases, emotional, transformations. The #divorce hashtag has millions of posts on both TikTok and Instagram.

Jen Hamilton, a labor and delivery nurse with more than 5 million TikTok followers, recently has been sharing the “nitty-gritty” details behind her divorce, as she said in one video. Hamilton has explained how her husband led what she called a “double life” with another partner, and has shared videos of herself crying, cracking jokes and generally processing the news while maintaining her signature optimism.

In a more celebratory post, Hamilton shared photos and videos from what would have been her 14th wedding anniversary, recognizing the occasion with what she called a “Jen-dependence Day” party. More than a dozen friends and co-workers joined her at her North Carolina home as she burned her bedsheets and toasted to her future beyond her marriage.

“I feel like if I share my pain with you, I don’t feel so alone, because there’s so many other people going through the exact same thing,” she

said in a video in July. She added that her followers then, in turn, feel less alone too.

Some men have posted content along these lines, but women make up the vast majority of creators posting about divorce.

Many of these creators say they’re not sharing their stories in hopes of gaining pity or sympathy, but rather are hoping to develop a sense of community online with people who have gone through similar experiences.

Alex Daly, a 41-year-old creator in Philadelphia, started posting about her divorce around three years after she went through it. Once she found that she had processed her emotions around the divorce, she was eager to talk about it. She aims to reach people who are “still in the thick of it, because it’s a really hard place to be,” she said.

“It can feel very lonely and isolating. It can feel like you’re the only person going through it,” Daly said. Followers have thanked her and told her she’s saying what they’ve been thinking and feeling. “You’re making me feel normal,” she said some people message her.

Stage

Darkness, illusion turn an ordinary couple into dread

‘Paranormal Activity’ brings horror to Broadway

NEW YORK, Sept 10, (AP): Movie producer Jason Blum, who has revolutionized the modern horror genre, gets invited, as you might expect, to tons of plays billed as scary.

“Everyone is always saying if you could make a play and give the audience the feeling they have in a horror movie, it would be an amazing thing,” he says.

Blum, whose Blumhouse has produced everything from “Get Out” to “Five Nights at Freddy’s,” estimates he’s gone to see 25 such plays, and 24 times “they come off goofy or you’re not scared at all.” That changed with his 25th - an adaptation of his “Paranormal Activity” franchise.

“I’ve never seen a play that’s made me scared ever and these guys pulled it off,” says Blum. “That they were able to make an audience feel like you felt when you watch the movie, I just couldn’t believe it.”

The play, which has made its way through London, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Toronto and Boston, is now on Broadway and is creeping out critics and audiences alike.

It’s the story of a newly married couple who have relocated from Chicago to London and find strange things going on in their quirky new home, straining their loyalties and sanity and defying science.

The stage play - without film’s benefit of cutaways, close-ups or jump scares - still makes audiences scream with quite simple effects: a TV flickering, candles getting snuffed out, shadows appearing and blankets mysteriously getting pulled.

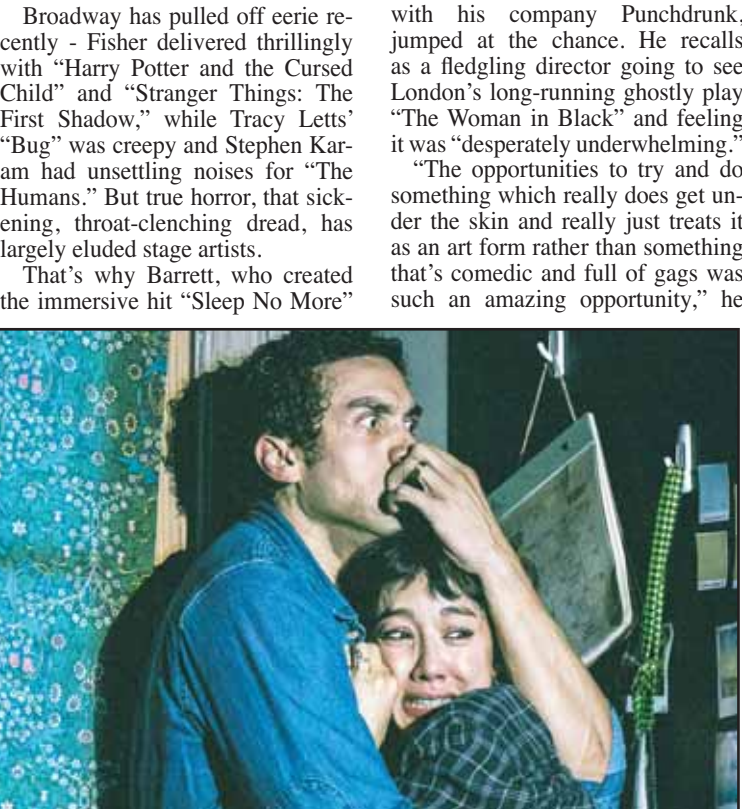
“I think the lack of big effects actually makes it feel much more grounded and scarier and more real,” says Blum, who knows a thing or two about horror effects: He was off-camera on the floor pulling a sheet off a bed with strings during the filming of the first “Paranormal Activity” movie.

Variety said the play “delivers more thrills, chills and screams than Broadway has seen in years” and Entertainment Weekly called it “two hours and 20 minutes of hair-raising, heart-pounding, and blood-curdling horror mixed with a dash of unexpected heart and humor.”

Blum credits playwright Levi Holloway, director Felix Barrett and illusion designer Chris Fisher with bringing horror to the stage, a traditionally tricky place for it. He opened his wallet and invested.



Cher Álvarez appears during a performance of the play “Paranormal Activity” in Boston on July 10, 2026. (AP)



Travis A. Knight, left, and Cher Álvarez appear during a performance of the play “Paranormal Activity” in Boston on July 10, 2026. (AP)

with his company Punchdrunk, jumped at the chance. He recalls as a fledgling director going to see London’s long-running ghostly play “The Woman in Black” and feeling it was “desperately underwhelming.”

“The opportunities to try and do something which really does get under the skin and really just treats it as an art form rather than something that’s comedic and full of gags was such an amazing opportunity,” he

says.

Central to his team’s approach was rooting the play in a truthful domestic drama. “This was only going to work if you saw a couple that you knew. You might walk past them in the street. You might even see yourself in that couple,” Barrett says.

Once that was established, the illusions and effects were baked into the set, not added afterward. Designer Fly Davis’ two-story, multiroom house is kept very dark, with some rooms empty, allowing the audience’s imagination to fill in the gaps.

“You really want to almost forget it’s horror for a bit, just actually deal with the drama and then, suddenly, like the best sort of horror, the tendrils of dread come and tap you on the shoulder and, as you turn around, all hell breaks loose,” Barrett says.

Aided by lighting, sound effects and the set, Barrett manages various sleights-of-hands, like a magician making you look at one hand while their other is doing something else.

“We’ve learned that less is more,” he says. “The more you do, the less the impact because the audience becomes desensitized. So actually, in earlier drafts of the script, there were far more crazy things happening which we’ve cut.”

Gold, gems and Renoir: French museums face smash-and-grab thefts

PARIS, Sept 10, (AP): At a museum in eastern France, two men disguised with wigs used a sledgehammer and a hammer to smash a display case and make off with a 2,500-year-old gold necklace. The heist took under four minutes.

In a smash-and-grab at another French museum, three masked robbers stole 27 pieces of jewelry valued at more than 4.5 million euros (US\$5.2 million), busting through two doors to break in.

Those thefts took place in July. This week, thieves sliced through a fence and climbed through the window of a museum on the French Riviera and fled with two paintings by Pierre-Auguste Renoir. They abandoned two other artworks by the Impressionist master as they made their escape.

The rash of the robberies, coming on the heels of last year’s stunning jewel heist in France’s most famous and most visited museum, the Louvre, show how the country is both blessed and cursed by its troves of treasure accumulated over centuries of conquest, creativity and having money to spend on art.

France’s passion for paintings, sculptures, ancient artifacts and other valuables and curios is a source of national pride and identity. Thousands of museums that house collections big and small help transmit France’s love of culture and history from one generation to the next. The biggest also draw millions of tourists who pump money into the French economy.

But keeping all that wealth safe is costly and difficult. Criminals see museums as soft targets. The brazen and agonizing theft of 88 million euros (\$102 million) worth of crown jewels from display cases in the Louvre’s Apollo gallery served as a wake-up call. But it was only the most shocking example of broader threats to museums, and not just in France.

“When the jewels of a French king disappear, to be melted down because of the price of gold, it is tragic. It breaks everyone’s heart,” said Guillaume Poitrinal, president of a foundation that funds the renovation and protection of French cultural sites, the Fondation du patrimoine.

“We need to make it more difficult



This photo provided by City of Cagnes-sur-Mer, southern France, shows ‘Madame Colonna Romano’, a painting by Pierre-Auguste Renoir stolen at the Renoir museum, in Cagnes-sur-Mer, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026. (AP)



This photo provided by City of Cagnes-sur-Mer, southern France, shows ‘Jeune femme au puits’, a painting by Pierre-Auguste Renoir stolen at the Renoir museum, in Cagnes-sur-Mer, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026. (AP)

to steal works of art and objects that are part of France’s cultural heritage and belong to all French people. That is absolutely essential. And to achieve that, we need to invest,” he said in an interview with The Asso-

ciated Press.

Before dawn Tuesday, two robbers made off with “Portrait of Madame Colonna Romano” and “Young Woman at the Well.” They dropped “Portrait of Madame Pi-

chon” and “Coco Reading” as they fled through the garden of the Renoir Museum in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

They cut through a fence with an electric knife or saw and entered the museum through the ground floor, said Bryan Masson, mayor of the town between Cannes and Nice on the Mediterranean coast.

The heist took under three minutes. Masson estimated the artworks’ value at 9 million euros (\$10.5 million). Offloading well-known, stolen art is impossible through legitimate channels, so the paintings could prove to be worth little or nothing for the thieves.

European police agency Europol says museum heists are becoming more violent, with sledgehammers, axes, crowbars and even explosives used for break-ins and to smash display cases.

Thieves also are increasingly targeting museum items with gold and other precious metals that can be melted down and with gemstones that can be removed and sold, the agency said in a report in August. Criminals believe “museum security measures are less robust than those

in jewelry stores,” it said.

The ancient necklace stolen July 24 from the museum in Châtillon-sur-Seine, eastern France, was crafted from nearly half a kilo (a pound) of gold.

A record 10 burglaries targeted French and other European museums this summer, according to Jean-Christophe Castelain, director of Le Journal des Arts, a bimonthly revue of the art world.

“Eight of those 10 involved jewelry, coins or antique objects that can easily be melted down,” he said.

The Lalique Museum in Wingen-sur-Moder, further east near France’s border with Germany, has not reopened since the July 5 theft of jewelry there from six display cases busted open with sledgehammers and hammers. The public museum celebrates 19th-century jeweler and glassmaker René Lalique and his successors.

The pain is still raw for its director, Véronique Brumm Schaich. Her voice cracked with emotion during an interview. The museum is seeking 200,000 euros (\$233,000) for security upgrades.

Tribute to Yayoi

Amsterdam’s Stedelijk Museum opens major Kusama exhibition

AMSTERDAM, Sept 10, (AP): Yellow tentacles decorated with rhythmic patterns of dots swirl around a room, the patterns echoed on the floor and the walls. Reflections bounce off mirrors, blurring the boundaries of the space at Amsterdam’s Stedelijk Museum.

The installation - specially created for an exhibition of the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, who died Aug. 14 at age 97 - is titled “Infinity Mirrored Room - The Hope Of The Polka Dots Buried In Infinity Will Eternally Cover The Universe.”

The room is at the heart of the exhibition at the Stedelijk that opens this week, just two weeks after her death. What was to have been a retrospective has turned into a posthumous celebration of one of the globe’s best known contemporary artists, who depicted her world splashed with polka dots and other repetitive motifs.

“We heard about her passing,” exhibition curator Leontine Coelewijn told The Associated Press. “We decided to make it really a tribute. A tribute to her life. Tribute to her work, so that everybody can see what she is ... to us. So many wonderful works.”

Kusama’s signature dots greet visitors before they even get into the museum in Amsterdam - they are plastered across its facade and even on red fabric wrapped around trees on the adjacent Museum Square.

Coelewijn said that painting the dots was a way for the artist to process hallucinations she had

from a young age. Among the works on display is a huge pumpkin made of fiber-reinforced plastic and polyurethane paint, its yellow skin covered in lines of black dots of varying sizes.

“So a lot of her work comes from these mental issues that she had,” Coelewijn said. “And I think she made something beautiful out of it for her. It was also a way to explore ideas about infinity, for instance, like, how do we relate to the universe, to the cosmos, to the world around us?”

Kusama had long-standing links to the Netherlands and the Stedelijk. She was active in Amsterdam and other Dutch cities in the freewheeling 1960s, and her work was closely aligned to the ZERO movement established in the late 1950s by German artists, Heinz Mack and Otto Pione.

She was part of a landmark exhibition by the movement, also at the Stedelijk, in 1965. A photo from that Amsterdam exhibition shows Kusama, wearing a white kimono, standing among artists from the movement - mostly men in suits and ties.

In a famous “happening” in 1967, Kusama covered the naked body of Dutch artist Jan Schoonhoven with painted dots in the chapel of the Stedelijk Museum Schiedam near Rotterdam.

“She really liked the whole atmosphere in the Netherlands, which was rather open and tolerant, liberal,” Coelewijn said. “She was also part of the counterculture of that moment, the hippie culture. You know, Amsterdam was the magical center, and she felt very much at home here.”



A man walks past “Pumpkin”, a work by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama during the Ravenel auction press preview in Hong Kong Friday, Nov. 23, 2012. (AP)

Global heat stuck on high

August 2026 Earth’s hottest month ever recorded worldwide: scientists

WASHINGTON, Sept 10, (AP): Earth cooked to its hottest month on record in August, blowing far past a key climate threshold, due to the dangerous double whammy of human-caused climate change and a supersized El Nino, according to the European climate service Copernicus.

August’s sizzle also helped push the globe and the United States to swelter through the hottest Northern Hemisphere summer scientists have measured.

Last month the world averaged 62.53 degrees Fahrenheit (16.96 degrees Celsius), which technically was one-hundredth of a degree Celsius more than the all-time global mark set in July 2023, but because that’s also the uncertainty level, it’s considered a tie, said Samantha Burgess, strategic climate lead for Copernicus.

“It is now time to stop acting surprised that our warming planet keeps getting warmer. This is occurring exactly as forecast by scientists literally decades ago,” Texas A&M University climate scientist Andrew Dessler said in an email. “The interesting question is

not whether we will keep breaking heat records (we will), but whether we’re going to do anything about it or just stand there while the climate train runs us over.”

Globally, August was 1.65 degrees Celsius (nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, far exceeding the longer term 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) threshold set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The eight hottest months on record have all been from July 2023 on, according to Copernicus data.

“Our climate system is really operating well outside the range we would have expected just a decade ago,” Burgess said Wednesday from a United Kingdom that has been beset with heat waves. “We’ve transitioned from climate being very abstract and perhaps impacting the global South or far away places to climate impacting and disrupting our daily lives with schools closing, hospitals being overwhelmed, roads melting, train lines buckling. And the reality is we will get more of these conditions that we’ve seen this summer.”

Global monthly ocean tempera-



Visitors pass by the cooling fog device at Gwangmyeong Cave tourist site in Gwangmyeong, South Korea on Aug 6. (AP)

tures in August tied a March 2024 all-time record for warmest month recorded, while Aug. 22 set a record for hottest day recorded in the world’s seas, according to Copernicus.

“This summer has really been exceptional. We’ve seen records that existed for close to 100 years be bro-

ken, in the U.S. in particular,” Burgess said.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Wednesday announced that for the first time, summer in the Lower 48 states was hotter than during the peak of the devastating Dust Bowl in 1936. June through August of

2026 in the contiguous United States averaged 74.37 degrees (23.54 degrees Celsius), nearly four tenths of a degree warmer than the mark set 90 years earlier. Globally, this past summer also tied, with 2024, for the hottest on record, according to Copernicus.

In the U.S., August smashed heat records by more than half a degree Fahrenheit, averaging 75.58 degrees (24.21 degrees Celsius) and the average daytime high was a blistering 88.56 degrees (31.42 degrees Celsius), also a record. July was similarly record hot in the US, erasing another long-standing Dust Bowl mark.

That records are regularly getting broken, and that August and not July which is traditionally warmer set an all-time record, are signs that human-caused climate change is accelerating, Berkeley Earth climate scientist Zeke Hausfather said.

Copernicus data goes back to 1940. NOAA data for the United States goes back to 1895 and global data, which generally matches Copernicus data but takes longer to calculate, dates back to 1880.

Several scientists said while El

Nino is a factor, this natural and temporary warming of parts of the Pacific that warps and warms weather globally is nowhere as big a cause as the heat-trapping gases emitted as humans burn coal, oil and natural gas.

“While El Nino is starting to ramp up the heat, the underlying driver remains our relentless burning of fossil fuels. Climate change makes every El Nino hotter, and until we stop burning coal, oil, and gas these record-shattering months will simply keep on coming,” said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London.

Burgess said El Nino generally adds only one or two tenths of a degree Celsius (two to four tenths Fahrenheit) to the global temperature with the overwhelming rest of the heat coming from the burning of fossil fuels.

This El Nino is forecast, however, to break records for strength in the coming months. And as temperatures continue to rise, heat waves, storms, floods and wildfires will get more frequent and more dangerous, said Texas Tech climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe.

Coroner releases details on 2 infant deaths in Pa. measles outbreak

NEW YORK, Sept 10, (AP): The two measles-related deaths in Pennsylvania last month involved infants, and the virus itself caused one of the deaths, a Pennsylvania coroner confirmed Wednesday.

Lancaster County’s coroner, Dr. Stephen Diamantoni, said he told the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of his conclusions. CDC officials, however, have not said whether they will count either death as measles-associated, and the agency’s website still carries a disclaimer about them.

Ivan Miller died on Aug 14 shortly after his birth of a ruptured spleen, Diamantoni said.

Mary Stoltzfus was 6 weeks old when she died Aug 18 at her home. She was born with a genetic birth defect that left her highly vulnerable to an infection. A measles infection killed her, Diamantoni told The Associated Press.

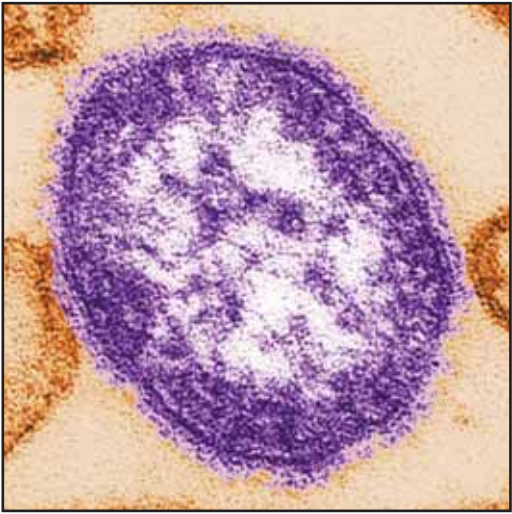
He said he was releasing the information in response to a state right-to-know law request by WPMT-TV, Fox 43.

Diamantoni’s office didn’t perform an autopsy on the girl. The cause of death was determined by the doctors caring for her, he said.

She had been born with a condition called Amish lethal microcephaly that causes an unusually small head and underdeveloped brain. Children with the condition typically live 6 months or less.

His office did autopsy the boy, and determined he died from a ruptured spleen. Exactly how and when that happened is still under investigation, Diamantoni said.

The boy was infected with measles, which is listed on the death certificate as a contributing factor. But Diamantoni said measles did not contribute to what happened to the spleen, and that measles is noted



This undated image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Feb 4, 2015, shows an electron microscope image of a measles virus particle. (AP)

only because it was considered “a significant condition” that the boy had at the time of death.

Neither was old enough to be vaccinated; the first dose is typically given at around 1 year of age.

Details of the deaths have come under unusual national scrutiny and became the focus of a furious political battle between Pennsylvania’s Democratic governor, Josh Shapiro, and officials in Republican President Donald Trump’s administration.

Artemis II moonshot commander, pilot hanging up astronaut suits at NASA

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 10, (AP): The two NASA astronauts who led the Artemis II moonshot earlier this year are stepping away from spaceflight.

NASA announced Wednesday that Artemis II commander Reid Wiseman and pilot Victor Glover will no longer serve as active astronauts but will continue to support the moon exploration program as emeritus astronauts.

Glover has taken a leadership job at his alma mater, California Polytechnic State University, while Wiseman’s future plans weren’t disclosed. They flew around the moon in April with two other astronauts, setting a new distance record for humanity.

Artemis II’s Jeremy Hansen retired from the Canadian Space Agency in July. That leaves Christina Koch as the only crew member still on the active astronaut rolls.

As emeritus astronauts, Wiseman and Glover will donate their time to train and mentor NASA workers and share their knowledge for future moon missions. It’s a new approach to taking advantage of expertise, according to the space agency.

“Together, they took on one of the most challenging missions in human spaceflight and helped return



Artemis II Pilot Victor Glover, (left), and Commander Reid Wiseman, (right), participate in a Congressional Space Medal of Honor ceremony at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, on Aug 28, in Houston. (AP)

America to the lunar environment,” NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said in a statement. “I’m grateful they will continue sharing what they learned.”

Cal Poly said Glover will help shape long-term strategies and inspire students to study science and engineering. His new job in San Luis Obispo took effect Sept. 1, the same

day he retired from the Navy.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Glover stressed “this is not a leaving ... for me, this is opening the aperture, not closing it down.”

“I want to keep talking about how faith and science work together in my life,” Glover said. “That’s not NASA’s mission, but I can still help NASA from the sidelines.”



Toba, the mother of three two-month-old Sumatran tiger cubs, plays with them at Attica Zoological Park near Athens, Greece, on Sept 8, after their first vaccination and microchipping, as part of an effort to build a backup population of the critically endangered species. (AP)

World’s most endangered tigers born in Greece as zoos build safety net

SPATA, Greece, Sept 10, (AP): The world’s most endangered tigers have started a family in Greece, offering hope for a predator rapidly vanishing from the wild.

Three 2-month-old Sumatran tiger cubs received identification microchips and their first vaccinations Tuesday at a zoo near Athens, as part of a global effort to build a backup population.

The Sumatran tiger, classified as critically endangered, is found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, which is slightly larger than Sweden.

As few as 400 are believed to remain in the wild, mainly because of aggressive forest clearing. It joins the South China tiger and the Malayan tiger in the category of severe risk.

“The Sumatran tiger is one of the most threatened tiger species in the world, and among felines in general,” said Theodoros Babilis, head keeper of cats and monkeys at Attica Zoological Park.

Zoos in Europe and elsewhere are maintaining a safety population, he said, “so that in the future there can be potential reintroductions of this

species into the wild.”

The Sumatran tiger is the smallest tiger species in the world, but males can still grow up to 2.55 meters (8.4 feet) long and weigh as much as 140 kilograms (309 pounds).

Skilled swimmers and climbers, they use their dark stripes - unique to each animal, like a fingerprint - to hide in the dense forest as they hunt deer, wild pigs and smaller mammals.

Even at 2 months old, Babilis said, the cubs have already developed sharp claws and teeth that make handling them a challenge.

The cubs were born in early July to Toba, their mother, and Argos, their father, who has since died of cancer. The surviving cubs are expected to take names from characters in Homer’s “The Odyssey,” zoo staff said.

Two males and one female, the cubs were restless during Tuesday’s vaccination. Veterinary staff needed help to complete the procedure, ferrying the animals back and forth in carriers on electric buggies.

Caring for the animals is demanding work, said Dr. Arsenoi Psarou-

daki, a zoo and wildlife veterinarian.

“The tigers don’t like to be handled. They’re very wild,” she said, explaining that staff have to work quickly to limit stress.

Also:

SANTIAGO, Chile: Researchers in Chile have designed an unlikely new garment for injured penguins - snug red vests threaded with copper and zinc that they hope will help the aquatic birds heal faster.

Veterinarians have found success in the past using such suits to treat injured dogs and cats. Now they’re trying out the technology on Humboldt penguins in Chile, home to the largest concentration of the vulnerable species.

“For years, vests with microfibers containing elements like copper and zinc have been tested on pets, particularly dogs and cats, and have greatly helped in the recovery of skin wounds,” said **Ignacio Idalgoaga**, director of the Buin Zoo, a wildlife park on the outskirts of Chile’s capital, Santiago, where researchers took measurements of penguins to develop the first bodysuits.

Emergency medicine doctor offers tips

Could you survive The Oregon Trail?

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

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By Elaine Reno
University of Colorado Anschutz

If you grew up in the United States in the 1980s or ‘90s, chances are you remember The Oregon Trail. For many like me, it was our first computer game and our first introduction to wilderness survival. We hunted buffalo, forded rivers, broke wagon wheels and, of course, learned about dysentery years before Google even existed, all while hoping our group would make it to Oregon City alive.

Lately, the game has found a second life. Nostalgic social media posts, memes and updated versions of the game have introduced The Oregon Trail to a new generation while reminding millennials just how unforgiving that grainy computer screen journey could be.

As a physician who specializes in emergency and wilderness medicine, I started thinking about how much of what the game taught me about surviving in the wilderness still applies today. After all, modern hikers and campers have access to tools the pioneers could never have imagined.

Surprisingly, I’d argue that more lessons from The Oregon Trail hold up than you might think.

The Oregon Trail game made dysentery famous for an entire generation. Fortunately, advances in sanitation, hand hygiene and antibiotics have made large outbreaks like those that wagon trains and military camps experienced much less common, at least in the United States.

That doesn’t mean gastrointestinal illnesses have disappeared. Traveler’s diarrhea and cholera are still an important cause of illness around the world. Untreated water, poor hand hygiene and contaminated food can still derail any trip.

Simple habits such as purifying drinking water, washing hands before meals and after using the bathroom, and practicing good camp hygiene remain some of the easiest ways to stay healthy outdoors.

Water purification is important with wilderness travel in the United States and in many areas of the world. There are many easy and cost-

effective ways to purify water, such as boiling, filtration and treating with chemical disinfectants. Each method has its benefits and downsides.

Boiling is often the most accessible method. While it can kill bacteria, viruses and parasites, it will not remove water contaminants such as heavy metals, including lead and arsenic, or industrial contamination such as pesticides. Consider boiling your water for at least one to three minutes, depending on your altitude, to purify it. Water filtration is an easy option for backpackers but is less effective at removing viruses.

If you’re unable to boil your water, another way to ensure water safety is to filter it, then use another method to disinfect it.

You may no longer have to ford the river with oxen, but rivers, lakes and other bodies of water present unique hazards that outdoor adventure enthusiasts can overlook.

Moving water can be more dangerous than people realize. Even the best swimmers can drown in rip currents.

Cross bodies of water only when absolutely necessary. Avoid any water crossings after recent rainfall, as the water level often rises and the current can be faster and stronger. Submerged objects - rocks, fallen trees and other debris - as well as changing weather, flash flooding and strong currents can make crossing more dangerous.

If possible, use a Coast Guard-approved life jacket when you’re crossing water or on a boat.

It’s not just a broken wagon axle that can send a trip sideways. One thing The Oregon Trail captured well is how distance changes everything. A sprained ankle in a city usually means an inconvenient trip home or to the doctor, but a sprained ankle 5 miles from the trailhead may mean that someone will need to carry you. The same is true for other common wilderness concerns, such as dehydration, heat illness, infections or even blisters.

Preparation is about packing a first aid kit and thinking ahead. Ask yourself what you would do if your hike took twice as long as expected or if you unexpectedly had to spend the night outside. Research your route and carry more food and water than you think you’ll need. Check the weather and be prepared for it to

change, with extra clothing and options for rain.

No one tackled the Oregon Trail alone because it meant you would not survive. There is a lesson here in solo travel and solo mountaineering.

Traveling alone means that a minor injury such as a sprained ankle could mean crawling to the trailhead to call for help or waiting until you are identified as missing. If you cannot find someone to travel with you, provide an itinerary and travel location to a trusted person. Make sure they know when you should be returning and plan to check in. If you do not return as expected, they can call for help.

Large animals still pose a threat across the country. While there may be fewer bison than previously seen on the Oregon Trail, animals in nature deserve respect.

No selfie is worth being attacked by a brown bear. If you see a dangerous wild animal, avoid approaching and immediately leave the area.

Venomous snakes are present throughout much of the United States and continue to cause significant injury and death around the world. If someone is bitten, please don’t try to cut the wound or suck out the venom. Instead, keep the person calm, minimize unnecessary movement, and focus on getting them to professional medical care. Antivenom is available in many major hospitals in the United States.

Even smaller and more docile animals such as deer and squirrels should not be fed. It is dangerous for an animal to get used to receiving food from humans. Additionally, animals carry diseases, such as rabies and leptospirosis, that can be fatal to people.

Don’t attempt to get close to any animals, no matter how calm or asleep the animal appears to be.

One of the biggest differences between today’s outdoor adventures and those of the Oregon Trail is the ability to communicate.

Cellphones, GPS apps and emergency beacons have made it possible to call for help from places that were once completely isolated. However, while those devices are incredibly valuable, they shouldn’t encourage you to take bigger risks, as help may be far away, slow to arrive, and injuries in the wilderness can be fatal. (AP)

Toronto extends unbeaten run to 7 games

Messi’s league-high 13th assist helps Miami earn draw with Fire

CHICAGO, Sept 10, (AP): Lionel Messi collected his league-leading 13th assist of the season when he set up Carlos Casemiro for the equalizer early in the second half, and Inter Miami tied Chicago 1-1 before a crowd of 63,094 - the most for a Fire match at Soldier Field.

Inter Miami (12-4-8) evened the score three minutes into the second half when Messi sent the ball Casemiro’s way off a free kick for his third goal in his eighth MLS appearance. Casemiro’s goals have come on headers in three straight matches.

Bruno Damiani secured his first hat trick in MLS, Cavan Sullivan extended his goal-contribution streak to six games, and the Philadelphia Union beat 10-man FC Cincinnati 5-0 to remain unbeaten since the World Cup break.

Dániel Gazdag scored in the third minute of second-half stoppage time to rally the New England Revolution to a 2-1 victory over New York City FC at Citi Field.

Gazdag subbed in to the match in the 72nd minute before using assists from defender Ilay Feingold and



Brooklyn Raines to score his first goal in his second appearance with the Revolution.

Dániel Sallói had a tying goal in the 72nd minute and Emilio Aristizábal scored in second-half stoppage time to give Toronto a 2-1 victory over MLS frontrunner Nashville.

Toronto (6-7-11) extended its unbeaten streak to seven games, going 3-0-4 in that span. It was Toronto’s first win against Nashville since Sept. 18, 2021.

Nashville (16-3-5) had its unbeaten streak halted at six games.

Idan Toklohati scored a go-ahead goal in the 81st minute to give Charlotte a 2-1 victory over Montreal .

Charlotte (11-7-6) has lost just one of its last 11 MLS regular-season games - a stretch that includes seven victories.

Montreal (5-13-6), last in the Eastern Conference, sits eight points behind Toronto FC for the ninth and final playoff spot.

Tai Baribo scored a pair of first-half goals and D.C. United held on to beat the Columbus Crew 2-1 to end a five-match winless streak.

Baribo found the net in the 24th minute to give DC United (6-7-10) the lead then scored for the 14th this season 14 minutes later for a 2-0 advantage that stood through halftime.

Louis Munteanu assisted on both goals, giving him four in his first 19 league appearances.

Guilherme opened the scoring in the 57th minute and Mateusz Bogusz scored a game-winning goal in the 87th to give the Houston Dynamo a

2-1 victory over Real Salt Lake .

Houston (13-7-4), which improved to 8-2-2 at home this season, has allowed just two goals in its last nine matches.

Santiago Moreno scored the go-ahead goal in the 84th minute and FC Dallas beat Minnesota United 2-1 to extend its home winless streak to nine games.

Minnesota (7-8-8) has one win, a 5-1 victory at San Jose on Aug. 22, in nine games since the World Cup break and hasn’t won at Allianz Field since a 2-0 victory over Portland on April 18.

Jude Terry and Armindo Sieb each scored a goal, Hugo Lloris had his MLS-leading 12th shutout this season, and Los Angeles FC beat the New York Red Bulls 2-0 to snap a six-game winless streak.

Niko Tsakiris had a goal and two assists by halftime to spark the San Jose Earthquakes to a 3-2 victory over San Diego FC on Wednesday night, ending an eight-match winless streak.

Tsakiris scored for the third time this season to stake San Jose (11-8-5) to a 1-0 lead in the third minute.



In this file photo, United States' Leif Nordgren crosses the finish line during the men's 4x7.5-kilometer relay at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Zhangjiakou, China. (AP)

Merger sparks opposition

US Ski & Snowboard withdraws from proposed Biathlon alliance

WASHINGTON, Sept 10, (AP): U.S. Ski & Snowboard withdrew from a proposed strategic alliance that was in the works with the U.S. Biathlon Association and had been set for a vote Wednesday in what would have been a rare merger between two Olympic sport organizations.

Sophie Goldschmidt, the CEO of USSS, said in a statement that “inaccurate and harmful misinformation was spread about the alliance’s intent. If we can’t go into this with the right collaborative spirit, then we don’t believe this is the best path forward. We wish U.S. Biathlon luck in the coming season.”

In a note to its members, U.S. Biathlon explained the board “has decided to pause consideration of the Alliance at this time.”

The partnership had been in the works for months and was necessary, U.S. biathlon officials said, to boost the revenues and results for a winter sport in which the U.S. is searching for its first Olympic medal. But the potential agreement drew strong opposition from the biathlon community.

A recent survey of biathlon coaches, volunteers and official members showed that 6.2% were in favor of approving the agreement as currently contemplated.

In its statement to members, U.S. Biathlon wrote: “We heard our members, and we value the continued engagement and willingness to participate in these important conversations. As we look ahead, we are committed to carrying those lessons forward and engaging our members and broader community.”

U.S. Biathlon CEO Jack Gierhart told members that the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee was cutting 22% of its funding and sponsors were pulling back. That led the board to consider an offer to join USSS, where biathlon - a sport that combines cross-country skiing with precision rifle shooting - would have access to more money and could add athlete services and expose more skiers to biathlon.

“We believe this agreement

would take biathlon to the next level, on and off the snow, with additional sport resources from the grassroots to the elite level, alongside significantly impactful partnership, marketing, communications and administrative support,” Goldschmidt said in a statement. “We worked closely with U.S. Biathlon’s board, athletes and stakeholders to build terms that incorporated the above, while protecting biathlon’s identity and independence.”

Merging Olympic sport organizations is rare. Goldschmidt tried to take over USA Surfing last year but dropped the bid after opposition from members. She’s in discussions with USA Skateboarding, she recently said.

The partnership was moving forward in July as biathlon organized a working group to further explore an operating agreement. The USB A scheduled a meeting for late August to go over the findings and possibly vote, but it was moved to Wednesday. The board held a special session and went over a few business items before Goldschmidt was introduced on the Zoom call and eventually voiced her concerns about the agreement.

“We really feel that we’ve got to a pretty win-win situation with this operating agreement,” Goldschmidt said during the meeting. “We’re disappointed that the community has not been receptive to much of what has been discussed and in our minds sort of the overall big win that this would have for biathlon.”

Bob Hall, the chair of the biathlon board, recommended a closed executive session after “some significant news that really has come out of left field,” he said. Leif Nordgren, an athlete representative, preferred to discuss the matter in a public forum.

“This whole process has created a pretty big divide, rift, between membership and leadership,” Nordgren said. “If it’s not something that we can discuss out in the open, then I think it’s just going to grow that rift and create more distance between the board and the general membership.”

Clark and Reese shine as US cruises into World Cup semis

France stuns China in quarterfinal

BERLIN, Sept 10, (AP): Napheesa Collier scored 19 points and the U.S. routed Hungary 108-56 to advance to the semifinals of the women’s FIBA World Cup.

The Americans have now won 34 consecutive games in the tournament dating to a loss to Russia in the 2006 World Cup semifinals. The U.S. has made every medal round since 1983 when the format changed to have medal rounds.

It was a record-breaking performance for the U.S. The 108 points was the most by any team ever in a quarterfinal. The U.S. had 31 assists, again the most in this round.

Copper said the players were always looking to turn good scoring opportunities into great ones. The Americans did just that.

The U.S. was off and running early against Hungary, jumping out to a 36-12 lead after the first quarter. The Americans were constantly pounding the ball inside and converting turnovers into easy layups. Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese showed their growing chemistry on the court, finishing the quarter with a nifty pick and roll just before the buzzer. Collier had 10 points in the first 10 minutes.

The offense was sizzling early on as the Americans hit 20 of their first 26 shots (77%), including five of six 3-point attempts to race to a 50-18 lead with 6 minutes left in the first half. The Americans led 59-30 at the break - the highest scoring first half



China's Yang Shuyu guards France's Romane Berniesp during the Women's Basketball World Cup quarterfinal match between the China and France in Berlin. (AP)

in team history in a knockout game at the event according to FIBA.

Meanwhile, Marine Johannès and Janelle Salaün led France to the semifinals of the women’s FIBA World Cup for the first time after beating China 90-61 on Thursday, joining the United States among the final four.

Both Johannès and Salaün scored 15 points while Gabby Williams con-

tributed 14 as the Olympic finalists put themselves in contention for a first World Cup medal since the inaugural tournament in 1953, when France finished third in the final round.

The French defense limited the impact of China’s 7-foot-3 Zhang Ziyu, who had the attention of two French players any time she received the ball. The 19-year-old sensation was held

scoreless over her 7 minutes, 18 seconds of play in the first half, though she contributed in defense with three blocks before halftime.

There was nothing Zhang could do to stop Johannès score successive 3-pointers in the third quarter, when she also got on the scoreboard. Zhang finished the game with seven points.

Moment carries special meaning for IOC president

Dakar 2026 Olympic flame lit in Athens

ATHENS, Greece, Sept 10, (AP): The flame for the Dakar Youth Olympics was lit in Athens on Thursday for the first Olympic competition ever staged in Africa.

International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry, the organization’s first African and first female leader, said the moment carried profound personal meaning.

“As an African, this moment means so much to me,” Coventry, an Olympic swimming champion from Zimbabwe, said, her voice breaking with emotion.

“For so many years we have spoken about the day when an Olympic event would finally come to our continent,” she said. “And now we have that great honor.”

With a nod to Apollo, the ancient Greek god of truth, healing and the sun, the flame was kindled using a concave mirror that channels the sun’s rays.

The hourlong ceremony was at the Panathenaic Stadium, the venue of the first modern Olympics in 1896.



Dakar 2026 Organizing Committee president Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye, left, and Hellenic Olympic Committee president Isidoros Kouvelos, hold the Olympic torch during the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games flame handover ceremony at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, Greece. (AP)

The Youth Games from Oct. 31-Nov. 13 bring together some 2,700 athletes aged 15-18 in 25 sports in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, and two other cities.

Dakar organizing head Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye offered assurances the Games would be a success.

“We do not promise the perfect games. We promise real games,

warm games,” he said.

Thursday’s ceremony featured hip-hop dancers, cheerleaders, a youth choir and a performance by Senegalese singer Kya Loum. The flame was lit after dancers performed as ancient Greek high priestesses.

Runners then carried the torch and an olive branch through the stadium, built entirely of white marble in the shape of a horseshoe and recently given a deep clean and a new blue-and-white track.

Isidoros Kouvelos, president of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, said the day was dedicated to young people.

“This ceremony belongs above all to you: To your dreams, your courage, to the early mornings, the long training sessions, the sacrifices, and the hope,” Kouvelos said. “Sport will teach you many lessons. It will teach you patience and respect. And if you listen carefully, it will teach you something greater: That the true measure of an athlete is the character formed along the way.”

Change Name

I, Randhir, holder of indian Passport number: P 4811563 Do hereby change my name to Given name: Randhir Surname: Yadav

Olympic hosts defy ‘naysayers’ on 2032 Games rowing in Rockhampton

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia, Sept 10, (AP): Not crocodiles, not currents, nor criticism over a shortage of beds will stop the Olympic rowing regatta being staged in the Fitzroy River at Rockhampton at the 2032 Brisbane Games - at least not according to the Australian planners.

In a news conference Thursday at the Rockhampton Rowing Club, Queensland state Premier David Crisafulli lashed out at “naysayers,” accusing critics of the regional venue of elitism.

“I want to put it beyond doubt: rowing and can-

noeing in 2032 will be held in Rocky,” Crisafulli said, using the local slang for the central Queensland city more widely known as the state’s beef cattle capital. “No ifs, no buts, no maybes ... I say to the naysayers, ‘Sorry, we’re not for turning.’”

Rockhampton is about 630 kilometers (390 miles) north of the state capital Brisbane, which is the central Olympic hub for sports venues across Southeast Queensland, also including the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

Crisafulli’s Queensland state government is the

main backer of the 2032 Games.

Ahead of a high school state championship regatta involving up to 800 rowers starting late next week, there’s been complaints about the cost of accommodation and the lack of options for families.

Critics of the Fitzroy River venue plan have voiced concerns since it was announced last year, some worried about nearby crocodile habitat, some flagging the competitive unfairness of the river’s tidal currents, and others saying there’s simply not enough rooms to house all the Olym-

pic rowers and spectators. World Rowing is undertaking a technical assessment to determine if the venue is suitable for the Olympics.

At a recent World Rowing congress, delegates from Britain, New Zealand and Germany told Brisbane 2032 organizers about athlete concerns, citing a petition of Australian rowers urging organizers to move the venue closer to Brisbane.

Queensland’s Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie said the some of the critics “think regional Queensland is beneath them.”

Gauff rallies to reach semis against new No. 1 Rybakina



Alexander Zverev, of Germany, returns to Botic van de Zandschulp, of the Netherlands, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Zverev sweeps into US Open last four

NEW YORK, Sept 10, (AP): Coco Gauff knows what she is up against in her U.S. Open semifinal against Elena Rybakina, whose firepower has vaulted her to the top of the tennis rankings.

That’s how Gauff earned her first title in Flushing Meadows and why she’s still in the running for another.

Gauff fought off a couple match points in a tiebreaker and beat Mirra Andreeva 2-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2 to set up matchup against the new No. 1 in women’s tennis.

Gauff overcame a horrible start to give herself a chance at a second U.S. Open trophy. She won the tournament in 2023, when she had to shake off a similar rough beginning against Aryna Sabalenka in the final.

Andreeva, the French Open champion, won the first seven points and took the first set in 26 minutes before the No. 4-seeded Gauff regrouped. She said during the break after the first set she thought about fellow American Frances Tiafoe, who came from two sets down in his quarterfinal match a day earlier.

Rybakina edged Zheng Qinwen 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 earlier , guaranteeing she will become No. 1 in the WTA rankings after the tournament.

It’s the first time since 1975 that all four of the women’s top seeds reached the U.S. Open semifinals.

Gauff won a 39-shot rally to take a 5-3 lead in the tiebreaker, but Andreeva took the next three points to earn her first match point. Gauff erased that when the Russian sent a forehand long, then stopped Andreeva’s second chance at 7-6.

Then it was mostly all Gauff in the third set en route to her seventh Grand Slam semifinal.

Rybakina and Zheng were scheduled to start about eight hours after Ben Shelton finished off his victory over defending champion Carlos Alcaraz at 3:33 a.m., the latest finish in U.S. Open history.

Rybakina said she struggled with the sun and shadows in Arthur Ashe Stadium early on after starting later in the day in her previous matches.



Elena Rybakina, of Kazakhstan, celebrates winning a match against Qinwen Zheng, of China, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Zheng capitalized on Rybakina’s early struggles to get her only break of the match against one of the best servers in women’s tennis and take a 5-3 lead in the first set.

But Zheng, who had been playing from behind so much in Flushing Meadows, couldn’t hold onto the lead and Rybakina rolled through the second set in 38 minutes.

Zheng, the 2024 Olympic gold medalist from China, had to come through the qualifying tournament just to make the main draw after elbow surgery dropped her down the rankings to her current place of No. 121. Once ranked No. 4, she is guaranteed to move back into the top 60.

She made a dramatic run to the quarterfinals, erasing a 5-0 deficit in the third set against Madison Keys in the third round and then climbing out of another 5-0 hole in the first set in her fourth-round victory over No. 8-seed Iga Swiatek.

Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev’s rocky road to start the U.S. Open turned into smooth sailing to the semifinals.

The No. 1 seed beat Botic van de Zandschulp 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 t, putting him into the final four of every Grand Slam tournament this season.

The French Open champion and Wimbledon

runner-up will play against Karen Khachanov, while Americans Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe meet in the other semifinal.

Zverev became the first men’s No. 1 seed to play five-set matches in each of the first two rounds of a major in the Open era, which began in 1968. But he won his last three matches in straight sets and is the only man to reach all four major semis this year.

After playing more than 4 1/2 hours in each of the first two rounds, Zverev hasn’t been on the court more than 2 1/2 in his last three matches.

“In other tournaments I would have been out in the first round but here I can fight back and play best-of-five, play 4 1/2 hours and somehow win the match.” He went to the final in 2020 but blew a two-set lead against Dominic Thiem. That was the closest he would come to a major title until his victory this year at Roland Garros and the German now is 23-2 in Grand Slam matches this season.

Khachanov got at least to the third round of every major this year and this time has gone three rounds further. He was prepared to go through a tough test Wednesday but Alexander Blockx’s body wasn’t up for one.

Blockx stopped playing in the third set because of injuries to his leg, ribs and back, sending Khachanov to his third Grand Slam semifinal.

Khachanov won the first two sets 6-2 and 7-5, and the No. 28 seed from Belgium decided it was time to stop after Khachanov broke his serve to take a 3-2 lead in the third.

Khachanov is seeking his first major final. The Russian got to the semifinals of the U.S. Open in 2022 and the Australian Open in 2023.

Khachanov was unseeded in a Grand Slam tournament for the first time since 2018 after a strange season. He reached at least the third round of all four majors for the first time but is just 10-15 in other events, with losses in the opening rounds of all three hard-court events before coming to New York.

Blockx said he nearly stopped in his last match because of his injuries. As he got treatment for multiple body parts Wednesday, he said ne was neither upset nor angry.

QFA approves Sheikh Hamad as president until 2027

DOHA, Sept 10: The General Assembly of the Qatar Football Association (QFA) approved the appointment of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani as president until 2027, while Sheikh Tamim bin Mohammed Al Thani was approved as vice president for the same period.

The ordinary General Assembly meeting was attended by Sheikh Hamad, Sheikh Dr. Tamim, members of the QFA Executive Committee and the secretary-general, along with representatives of member clubs and officials from the association’s various departments and committees.

The appointments will remain in effect until the QFA’s electoral General Assembly in 2027.

The assembly also approved proposed amendments to the QFA’s statutes.

Meanwhile, Al-Dafna Sports Club’s request to join the QFA as a member club was rejected.



Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani

Morocco to host 2030 World Cup final: Lekjaa

RABAT, Sept 10: Moroccan Football Federation president Fouzi Lekjaa has claimed that Morocco will host the 2030 FIFA World Cup final at the planned Hassan II Stadium in Ben Slimane, near Casablanca.

FIFA has yet to officially decide which stadium will stage the final, with Morocco and Spain competing to host the tournament’s showpiece match.

According to Spanish news agency EFE, Lekjaa made the claim during a political event in Bouznika, saying that Ben Slimane Province would have the honor of hosting the 2030 World Cup final.

Located about 60 kilometers from Casablanca, Ben Slimane is home to the Hassan II Stadium, which is currently under construction. The \$12 billion venue is expected to accommodate around 115,000 spectators, potentially making it the world’s largest football stadium.

The 2030 World Cup will be unique in scope, with matches being staged across six countries on three continents. Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay will host the tournament’s three centenary opening matches, while most of the competition will be played in Morocco, Portugal and Spain.

FIFA has not yet finalized all the host cities, and Spain is also pushing to stage the final.

Spanish Football Federation president Rafael Louzán said earlier this month that Spain should host the tournament’s decisive match.



Moroccan Football Federation president Fouzi Lekjaa.

Kuwait concludes Championship with 7 medals

CAIRO Sept 10, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti national athletics team wrapped up its participation in the 12th Arab U-18 Athletics Championship in Cairo on Wednesday with an impressive haul of seven medals — three gold, three silver and one bronze.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Kuwait Athletics Federation junior team manager Dr. Nasser Al-Jarallah praised the athletes for their strong performances, noting that several competitors also set new personal bests during the four-day championship.

Abdulrahman Al-Azmi led Kuwait’s medal charge, winning gold in both the triple jump and long jump, while Yasmine Waleed claimed gold in the high jump.

The three silver medals went to Abdulkarim Al-Hassan in the hammer throw, Abbas Al-Nasser in the pole vault and Fahd Al-Dhafiri in the long jump. Al-Dhafiri was the youngest competitor at the tournament.

Haider Al-Qattan completed Kuwait’s medal tally with bronze in the 100-meter sprint. Al-Jarallah said the federation’s national teams committee, headed by Falah Al-Ajmi, has developed a strategic plan to nurture the promising young athletes and make them the core of the senior national team within three to four years.

The plan includes specialized training camps and the appointment of elite coaches to support the athletes’ development.

The four-day championship featured 276 male and female athletes from 15 Arab countries, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Libya, Djibouti and hosts Egypt.

Defending champion Arsenal at Sunderland

New era for Manchester derby after Pep departure

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 10, (AP): Pep Guardiola’s departure was expected to shift the balance of power in Manchester. The early signs suggest otherwise.

For the first time in 10 years on Sunday, Manchester United goes into the derby against a Manchester City no longer guided by the genius of Guardiola.

Yet, if City wins at Old Trafford, the team of new manager Enzo Maresca would open a 12-point lead on United only four rounds into the Premier League.

Even this early in the campaign that would be a huge gap for United to make up.

While City is still getting used to change at the top after a decade of Guardiola, United has endured a carousel of managers at the same time in a desperate bid to return it to former glories.

Michael Carrick is the seventh permanent manager since the retirement of Alex Ferguson in 2013.

United fans will hope Guardiola’s exit will prove as profound as Ferguson’s. United has not won the Premier League since Ferguson’s final season in charge.

In theory, Guardiola’s exit has removed the biggest barrier standing in the way of United’s route back to the top following his dominance of English soccer. Though

he left without the title in his last two seasons, his run of six league crowns in seven years underlined City’s supremacy for the majority of his time at the club.

It would be asking a lot for Maresca - or anyone else for that matter - to emulate that level of success. Maresca, however, could not have made a better start to the season after a 100% winning record in the league and victory in City’s opening Champions League game this week.

Erling Haaland also looks at the top of his game with five goals in

his last three appearances.

It’s been a different story for United after its resurgence under Carrick in the second half of last season led to a third place finish.

The opening day defeat to newly promoted Hull was an early blow. There was a win against another newcomer in Ipswich but a 2-2 draw at Everton after leading twice.

It is the type of inconsistency that has hindered United throughout the post-Ferguson years and something Carrick will need to quickly stamp out.



Porto’s Alberto Costa, left, vies for the ball with Manchester City’s Antoine Semenyo during a Champions League opening phase soccer match between FC Porto and Manchester City in Porto, Portugal. (AP)

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NEWS



Kuwait Football Association President,
Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef

Sports

Kuwait submits bid to host 2028 Futsal Asian Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Kuwait has officially submitted its bid to host the 2028 AFC Futsal Asian Cup, Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef said.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from Jan. 25 to Feb. 6, 2028, and will also serve as a qualifier for the 2028 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Sheikh Al-Yousef said Kuwait has valuable experience in hosting the continental competition, having staged the 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup.

He added that an AFC delegation is expected to visit Kuwait at the end of September to inspect the sports facilities and venues proposed to host the tournament.

Sheikh Al-Yousef also praised Kuwait's sporting community, saying Kuwaiti youth have demonstrated their ability to organize major international events and matches. He cited the recent hosting of the French Super Cup and the Gulf Cup as examples of Kuwait's organizational capabilities.

Olympic team begins training in Japan

Kuwait steps up preparations for Gulf Cup



Kuwait national team continues Gulf Cup preparations.

Kuwait handball team begins final Japan camp ahead of Asian Games

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 10: The Kuwait national handball team began its final preparations in Japan after launching training at its overseas camp ahead of the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, which run from Sept. 19 to 29.

Kuwait has been drawn in Group

B alongside South Korea, Iran, Uzbekistan and Bahrain, with the team aiming to make a strong challenge and secure results that underline the status of Kuwaiti handball in Asia.

The Kuwait Handball Federation, in coordination with the team's administrative and technical staff, has implemented an extensive preparation program that started with domestic training before moving to overseas

camp in Slovenia and Croatia.

During the European camps, Kuwait played several friendly matches against Istria Champions, Slovan, Trimo Trebnje and Zagreb as the coaching staff worked to improve the team's physical and technical readiness and assess the players ahead of the Asian Games.

The squad comprises Hussein Dashti, Mohammed Buayabs, Hassan Safar, Abdullah Al-Khamis, Saleh Al-Mousawi, Saif Al-Adwani, Hamoud Al-Adwani, Aziz Salmeen, Haider Dashti, Fawaz Al-Mishari, Yousef Dhaif, Aziz Dhaif, Abdulrahman Al-Shammari, Aziz Al-Shammari, Mohammed Ali and Hussein Al-Mutawa.

Kuwait head coach Aron Kristjansson said previously that the team has the potential to compete strongly, praising the contribution of experienced players and young talents throughout the preparation period.

Kristjansson stressed that producing a performance worthy of Kuwaiti handball's reputation is the team's primary objective and said the players are capable of achieving it. He also commended the efforts of the technical, administrative and support staff in preparing the team mentally and physically and ensuring it reaches the required level of readiness for the Asian Games.



Players huddle for a team talk.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwait continued its preparations in Doha as part of a training camp ahead of the 27th Gulf Cup, to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from Sept. 23 to Oct. 6.

The camp, which began two days ago, will continue until Sept. 15 and includes a friendly against Qatari club Lusail on Sunday. Kuwait will then travel to Jeddah, where it will face Yemen in another friendly on Sept. 18 before opening its Gulf Cup campaign.

Head coach Hélio Sousa is working to bring the 27-man squad up to full readiness. The Doha camp currently includes 19 players, with eight Kuwait Club players remaining with their club ahead of its AFC Champions League Two clash against Al-Wahda of the UAE on Sept. 16.

The eight players are Khaled Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Houshan, Mohsen Falah, Redha Hani, Abdullah Al-Qurzaei, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Mohammed Daham and Yousef Nasser.

Kuwait was drawn in Group A alongside hosts Saudi

Arabia, Iraq and Oman. The Blue team will face Saudi Arabia in the opening match on Sept. 23, Iraq on Sept. 26 and Oman on Sept. 29.

Group B consists of Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Yemen.

Qadsia and Kuwait international Abdullah Al-Awadhi has joined Sulaibikhat on a one-season loan.

Al-Awadhi completed the move before departing with the Kuwait delegation for the Doha camp.

Kuwait's Under-23 national team will begin training in Japan today as it prepares for the 20th Asian Games, which will be held in Aichi-Nagoya from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4.

Kuwait is in Group C with Uzbekistan, Vietnam and the Philippines. The team will open against Vietnam next Tuesday, meet Uzbekistan on Sept. 18, and conclude the group stage against the Philippines on Sept. 22.

The top two teams in each group will advance to the quarterfinals.

Coach David Doniga is focused on ensuring the players are fully prepared as Kuwait seeks a strong showing in the Asian Games.

Champions League giants make winning starts

PSG and Barcelona on fire

PARIS, Sept 10, (AP): Six goals for Paris Saint-Germain, five for Barcelona and classically just one for Arsenal as the serious contenders for the Champions League started with wins.

There was a hat trick for Ferran Torres, the World Cup-winning goal-scorer, on his PSG debut in the competition, and two goals for his new teammate Ousmane Dembélé in a 6-1 beating of Slovan Bratislava by the two-time title holder.

At Barcelona, Raphinha scored two more in his rapid-fire start to the season, and Lamine Yamal fired a free kick through Feyenoord's defensive wall in an easy 5-1 win.

It was a typically Arsenal result, a 1-0 win at Napoli with the only goal scored by the English champion's suddenly prolific captain Martin Ødegaard. It's his fourth goal so far after just one in the whole of last season.

All four English clubs won their opening games after Liverpool rallied to beat Atletico Madrid 2-1 with goals by midfielders Dominik Szoboszlai and Alexis Mac Allister. However, Liverpool saw its record signing Bradley Barcola limp off with an apparent calf injury in the second half.

Unheralded Stuttgart forward Ermedin Demirović got a hat trick inside 12 first-half minutes in a 3-1 win over Norwegian debutant Viking.

Sporting Lisbon beat Galatasaray 3-1 having also trailed early in the game. The third was a powerful curling free kick by Uruguayan midfielder Rodrigo Zalazar.

The high rate of goals - 45 through the first 12 games in this Champions League campaign at a rate of 3.75 per game - is well above the average of 3.47 last season. That was itself the highest rate since the 1960s in the old European Cup format.

After beating Aston Villa 2-1 in the UEFA Super Cup four weeks ago, PSG failed to win any of its next four games in France, including three in defense of its Ligue 1 title. A routine demolition of Slovakian champion Slovan was more like business as usual.

Luis Enrique, who coached Barcelona to a Champions League title before his two in Paris, had praise for Slovan coach Yaya Touré. The Ivory Coast great became the first African to coach a team in the Champions League main phase.

Raphinha now has eight goals in just five games this season, as if sending a reminder to those who left his name off the Ballon d'Or nominations Tuesday.

Barcelona got high-class goals from all angles, including from new signings Karim Adeyemi and Gabriel Jesus. Adeyemi found the top corner of Feyenoord's net with a precise curling shot in the 22nd and Jesus came off the bench to glance in a header in the 85th.

Teenage star Yamal fired a free kick left-footed from 20 meters (yards) in the 77th that went at waist height between Feyenoord players jumping and turning sideways in the wall.



PSG's Ferran Torres, left, challenges with Slovan's Peter Pokorny during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between PSG and Slovan Bratislava in Paris. (AP)

Feyenoord was coached by Giovanni van Bronckhorst, who returned to Camp Nou where he spent four years as a player and won a Champions League title in 2006.

A 12-minute hat trick by Stuttgart forward Ermedin Demirović was just the

eighth-fastest in the Champions League era, UEFA said.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina forward found his rhythm to strike in the 20th, 26th and 32nd minutes and give Stuttgart a decisive lead against Norwegian newcomer Viking, whose captain Zlatko Tripić had leveled in the 22nd.

Kuwait set for Cairo camp ahead of Arab Volleyball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 10: Kuwait national volleyball assistant coach Zaid Al-Kadhmi said the team is stepping up preparations for the Arab Men's Volleyball Championship with intensive daily training at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

The tournament will be held in Jordan from Oct. 5 to 15, with Kuwait aiming to make a strong showing after finishing fourth at the West Asia Championship in Oman in July.

Al-Kadhmi said the current training phase is focused on improving the players' technical and physical fitness, building strength and endurance, and combining physical conditioning with tactical



Kuwait national volleyball assistant coach, Zaid Al-Kadhmi.

work. The program is being overseen by Argentine head coach Julian Alvarez.

Kuwait will then move to Cairo for a training camp from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4, where the team will intensify its tactical preparations and play several friendly matches. The squad will travel directly from Cairo to Jordan for the Arab championship.

Al-Kadhmi said the current squad includes 25 players, with the final list to be reduced to 14 before departure for Egypt. He noted that the team features a large number of young players who need greater exposure to strong competitions to gain experience and develop their skills.

He described giving the youngsters opportunities at major tournaments as an investment in the future, expressing hope that the experience will help build a generation capable of competing for titles in upcoming competitions.

France withdraws support for Infantino's FIFA re-election bid

PARIS, Sept 10: French Football Federation President Philippe Djallo said yesterday that France will withdraw its support for Gianni Infantino's bid for re-election as FIFA president in 2027.

Infantino has come under increasing pressure after abandoning in July a proposal to sell a 20 percent stake in FIFA competitions, including the World Cup, to private investors. The plan faced strong opposition from several continental confederations.

Several European football associa-

tions, including those of England and Italy, have also withdrawn their support for Infantino following the collapse of the proposal.

UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and CONCACAF have called for a change in FIFA leadership and are seeking a credible alternative ahead of next year's election.

Infantino still retains the backing of the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) and the Confederation of African Football (CAF).