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Acting PM witnesses oath of 14 female police graduates



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Iran seeks US dialogue while firing at neighbors

THE historical record clearly demonstrates the hostile neighborly conduct – driven by expansionist ambitions – that has long troubled the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations. This behavior extends far back before 1979.

As previously observed, Persian political strategy is frequently characterized by dissimulation ('taqiyya') and duplicity. It is therefore utterly baffling to witness the Iranian leaders proposing dialogue with Arab Gulf states, while pursuing aggression. Genuine dialogue does not happen under the threat of expansionism, terrorism and attempts to 'export a sectarian revolution'.

A peaceful neighborhood depends on principles that Tehran has repeatedly ignored, consistently allowing its actions to contradict its rhetoric. Ultimately, these overtures for dialogue serve as a deceptive facade intended to mislead observers.

Throughout 47 years of diplomatic efforts, the GCC nations have been trying to foster constructive relations with their neighbors in the Gulf, only to be repeatedly confronted by Tehran's deceptive rhetoric and empty promises.

Whenever the time comes to transform these words into concrete action, the Iranian leaders offer nothing but delay and avoidance. A stark illustration of this pattern occurred recently, following proposals for direct talks between the Gulf and Iranian representatives. Right before the scheduled meetings, Tehran activated its proxy forces in Yemen to strike Saudi Ara-

bia, deliberately opening a fresh conflict zone to coerce and blackmail neighboring states.

Through this aggressive maneuver, the Iranian regime sabotaged a vital opportunity to break the diplomatic stalemate—an error in judgment that will eventually inflict severe long-term costs on the regime itself.

An ancient proverb warns, "A smile may grace the lips while the heart harbors deceit." Unintended slips of the tongue usually expose the hidden real motives.

A close examination of the coverage, commentary and social media discourse by the Iranian state media and affiliated outlets revealed that Tehran's talk of diplomatic engagement consists of 'test balloons' rather than an authentic commitment to work towards peace. The regime remains incapable of adopting a stable and coherent policy.

Furthermore, the coordinated escalation on active fronts in Iraq and Yemen -- executed at Tehran's direct instruction -- underscores this ongoing duplicity. The simultaneous activation of fronts in Iraq and Yemen, as reflected in the recent Revolutionary Guard

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Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah during the oath-taking ceremony of 14 female police graduates.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah witnessed the oath-taking ceremony of 14 female police graduates after completing the 11th mandatory course for civil university graduates at the Police College in Qatar.

The ceremony was attended by Interior Ministry Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib, Assistant Undersecretary for Support Security Services Maj. Gen. Fawaz Al-Roumi and relevant security leaders.

The Ministry of Interior said in a press statement that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef stressed that taking the oath was a responsibility and trust requiring dedication to serving the nation, commitment to enforcing the law and safeguarding everyone's rights.

He noted that female police personnel were an essential partner in carrying out the security mission, wishing them success in their careers and service to Kuwait.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef congratulated the graduates on completing their training and taking the oath, praising their outstanding results as a reflection of Kuwaiti

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Kuwait backs Saudi as Houthi attacks escalate

Iraq moves to rein in cross-border strikes

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday strongly condemned Houthi militia attacks targeting civilians and civilian objects in the Saudi cities of Khamis Mushait, Abha and Taif.

The attacks, carried out with ballistic missiles and drones, injured several civilians and damaged residential homes and vehicles, constituting a flagrant violation of Saudi sovereignty and international law, including international humanitarian law.

In a statement, the ministry affirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for all measures taken to safeguard the Kingdom's sovereignty, security, stability and national interests, as well as to protect its citizens and residents.

It stressed that Saudi Arabia's security is an integral part of the security of

Kuwait and the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Cabinet condemned the continued Houthi attacks against civilians and civilian facilities in the Kingdom.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Information Minister Salman Al-Dosary as saying the Cabinet issued the remarks during a session chaired by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman in Jeddah.

The Cabinet affirmed that the Kingdom's security, territorial integrity and national resources are inviolable, and reiterated its legitimate right to defend itself and protect its sovereignty, citizens, residents and vital interests under the UN Charter and international law.

Earlier, Saudi Civil Defense declared the danger over in Makkah, Jeddah and Taif after activating the early warning system and urging residents to follow safety instructions.

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Kuwait's grid holds despite attacks, record summer heat

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem confirmed that the national electricity grid successfully navigated the summer of 2026, recording a peak load of 17,540 megawatts, a decrease of 70 megawatts compared with the summer of 2025.

This marks the second consecutive year of declining peak loads, despite urban expansion and the addition of new loads to the grid.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem noted that the peak load was 17,610 megawatts in the summer of 2025, down from 17,640 megawatts in 2024.

He explained that the continued decline reflects improved consumption efficiency and the effectiveness of demand-side management measures, particularly during peak hours.

New electrical loads added to the grid totaled 1,059 megawatts be-

tween the summers of 2024 and 2025, and 1,019 megawatts between 2025 and 2026, for a total of 2,078 megawatts over two years.

Despite this increase, the peak load this summer remained lower than the levels recorded in the preceding two years.

Regarding load management, Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem explained that measures taken during the summer season directly helped alleviate pressure on the electrical system. These measures included reducing government office hours by one hour, curtailing factory production lines during peak periods, and implementing the national energy and water conservation campaign, "Wafir" (Save).

He commended the cooperation of citizens, residents, government and private entities, and the media with conservation efforts, emphasizing that this collaboration helped reduce electricity demand during peak hours and supported grid stability and service continuity.

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Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem

Day by Day

THE State of Kuwait is always compassionate toward its citizens and residents.

Appreciation and gratitude are due to the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for permitting travel abroad for medical treatment using their Kuwaiti passports, pending the final resolution regarding their status.

It is hoped that the First Deputy Prime Minister will extend this authorization to include those wishing to travel to pursue their studies.

Kuwait and its leaders are known for their humanity and benevolence, such a measure will bring relief to these individuals while their cases are being resolved.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al Neyadi speaks during his meeting with the representatives of UAE companies operating in Kuwait.

Firms eye bigger footprint

UAE-Kuwait trade surges 11.3% to AED 55.5 billion

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al Neyadi affirmed the strength of economic

and trade relations between the UAE and Kuwait.

Ambassador Al Neyadi made the statement during his meeting with the representatives of UAE companies

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A 'simple favor' could hide drugs

Mol warns travelers against carrying others' bags

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior urged citizens and residents, particularly travelers, not to carry any luggage, bags, parcels, containers or items belonging to others to or from Kuwait, warning against the possibility of drug traffickers exploiting their good faith to transport narcotics and psychotropic substances.

In a press statement Tuesday, the ministry said drug traffickers may use various concealment methods and involve others in transporting prohibited substances through border crossings, exposing carriers to legal accountability.

It urged the public not to respond to requests to transport belongings for others, regardless of the justifications given or their relationship with the person handing over the items.

The ministry said competent authorities had arrest-

ed three travelers in separate cases upon their arrival in Kuwait after narcotics and psychotropic substances were found concealed inside medicine containers.

Preliminary investigations showed that the suspects had received the containers from individuals outside Kuwait to deliver them to others inside the country, after the actual contents had been concealed from them and they were led to believe that the containers held medicines.

Inspection procedures, however, revealed that the containers contained narcotics and psychotropic substances.

The ministry said the suspects and seized items were referred to the competent authorities to take necessary legal measures and complete investigations into the circumstances of the cases and identify all persons involved.

Purchase only from approved suppliers, Kuwait co-ops told

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Ministry of Social Affairs issued a circular to the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) for distribution to the boards of directors of individual cooperative societies, mandating that they source goods and conduct business exclusively with companies and suppliers covered by official circulars issued and approved by UCCS, or with companies holding authorized commercial agencies for the products and commodities supplied to cooperative societies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that dealing with or sourcing from any company or supplier not listed in UCCS' circulars or lacking an au-

thorized commercial agency for the products in question is prohibited. The measure aims to regulate supply operations and ensure that dealings are conducted only with approved entities.

The board of directors of each cooperative society bears full responsibility for any violation or non-compliance with UCCS' directives in this regard.

It also instructed cooperative boards to verify the accreditation status of companies and suppliers before undertaking any procurement or purchasing activities and to strictly adhere to the approved lists and circulars issued by UCCS.

Kuwait gives drones no lift

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Ministry of Interior has reiterated the continued ban on aerial photography and drone operations throughout the country until further notice, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the ministry emphasized the need for strict compliance with the decision, stressing that any violation or disregard of these instructions will result in appropriate legal action against offenders, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The ministry urged everyone to cooperate and adhere to the issued directives to ensure the security and safety of the nation, its citizens, and residents.



Governor pledges to remove obstacles, hails educational sector officials

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah hosted a delegation of educational sector officials at his office in the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters on Tuesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The delegation consisted of acting Director for Educational Affairs in Farwaniya Educational District Dr. Musaed Al-Shammari, Ministry of Education representative in the Farwaniya Governorate Council Eng. Jamal Al-Aiban, the educational affairs controllers in various academic levels -- Farah Asiri (secondary), Nadia Al-Habbaj (intermediate), Ohoud Al-Saif (primary) and Nawal Al-Tattan (kindergarten), and Eng. Nawaf Al-Barrak from the Engineering Affairs Department.

During the meeting, the Governor congratulated the educational sector officials on the start of the academic year, wishing the students and educational staff a year filled with success and achievements.

Discussions covered the progress of the educational process in different academic stages, readiness of schools and their requirements, and ways to strengthen cooperation between the governorate and Farwaniya Educational District to ensure a suitable environment for the students, as well as the teaching and administrative staff.

The Governor also affirmed his commitment to monitor educational matters within the governorate and remove the obstacles that schools might be facing. He commended the efforts of educational sector officials and personnel in the field.



Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah hosted a delegation of educational sector officials at his office in the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters on Tuesday.



Farwaniya Governorate photos

move the obstacles that schools might be facing. He commended the efforts of educational sector officials and personnel in the field.

On the other hand, the guests expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for the warm reception, his ongoing interest in addressing the needs

of schools, and for supporting the development of the educational process and efforts of educational sector officials in the governorate.

‘Summit fosters shared Arab vision for media’s future role’

Around 10,000 journalists, stakeholders attend UAE gathering



KUNA photos

More than 400 speakers from 23 countries and around 10,000 media professionals and industry stakeholders are attending the summit.

DUBAI, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwaiti and Emirati media professionals stressed Tuesday the 2026 Arab Media Summit’s role in fostering dialogue, exchanging expertise, and addressing regional media challenges.

In statements to KUNA, they said the summit offers an opportunity to exchange media experiences, strengthen communication, and discuss ways to develop media work and keep pace with rapid changes.

Dr. Essa Al-Amiri, a media professional and writer specializing in Gulf affairs, said the summit offers an important platform to discuss the future and challenges of media, exchange expertise, and enhance performance amid rapid industry changes.

Kuwaiti TV presenter Abdulaziz Darwish said that the summit represents a significant Arab media gathering, encompassing sessions, dialogues, workshops, and podcast episodes that allow media professionals to exchange ideas and experiences, analyze the current media landscape, and anticipate its future.

He expressed his gratitude to the head of the summit’s organizing committee, Mona Al-Marr, the director of the Dubai Press Club, Mariam Mulla, and the entire team for their efforts in organizing the summit and ensuring its success.

Dr. Ahmad Al-Mansouri, a faculty member at UAE University, said the summit is particularly important amid AI and digital transformation.



Dr Ahmad Al-Mansouri



Abdulaziz Darwish

tions, highlighting the need to develop content production, foster innovation, and uphold professional and ethical standards to preserve media credibility.

Al-Mansouri explained that the summit bridges media institutions and universities, linking theory with practice, developing media education to meet job-market needs, and fostering a shared Arab vision for media’s future and developmental role.

Dubai is hosting the Arab Media Summit 2026 from September 15-17, bringing together media professionals and experts to discuss the sector’s future and key transformations.

Kuwait, represented by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Al-Mohsen is participating in the 24th Arab Media Summit 2026, opening Tuesday in Dubai.

Al-Mohsen, representing Kuwait on behalf of Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, is participating alongside ministers, media leaders, decision-makers, content creators and experts from the region and beyond.

He told KUNA that Kuwait’s participation reflects its keenness to keep pace with developments in the media industry and benefit from international expertise, particularly in artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

He praised the summit’s organization and broad participation, stressing the importance of such gatherings in strengthening cooperation among Arab media institutions and developing media capable of meeting future challenges.

Held by the Dubai Press Club, the summit runs through Thursday at Dubai World Trade Centre under the patronage of UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

This year’s edition is the largest in the summit’s history, bringing together more than 400 speakers from 23 countries and around 10,000 media professionals and industry stakeholders.

The program features more than 175 discussion and dialogue sessions and 35 media events involving around 250 media organizations, focusing on the future of media and rapid developments in technology, artificial intelligence and digital platforms.

The summit also includes specialized forums on media, government communication, content creation, filmmaking and electronic gaming, alongside the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Arab Media Award and honoring its 25th edition winners.

presence on the Arab media scene.

Al-Nisf was honored during the Arab Media Award ceremony, held as part of the summit’s activities at the Dubai World Trade Centre from September 15 to 17.

The “Media Personality of the Year” is one of the categories of the Arab Media Award and is presented by a decision of the award’s Board of Directors in recognition of prominent media figures. This year, the award marks the 25th anniversary of its launch.

The Arab Media Summit 2026 is held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and under the direction of Sheikh Ahmad bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Media Council.



KUNA photo

Waleed Al-Nisf country’s long and distinguished history in journalism and media, as well as its prominent

Kuwait victim, seeks control over modern weapons use

GENEVA, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Permanent Mission to the UN has affirmed the necessity of strengthening legal frameworks and international oversight over the use of modern technologies in the military field in a manner that ensures transparency, accountability and human oversight while protecting human rights.

The statement was made by Second Secretary Badr Al-Doja Al-Mudhyan before the UN Human Rights Council during the 63rd session held in Geneva.



Al-Mudhyan

Kuwait has experienced firsthand the dangers posed by misuse of these technologies and modern military capabilities during Iran’s attacks on Kuwait that targeted Kuwaiti vital civilian facilities and endangered the safety and security of civilians, she noted.

She also pointed to accelerated development in using modern technologies, including drones, AI and surveillance techniques, stressing the need to prevent functioning technology in a way that threatens human rights and the sovereignty and stability of countries.

She highlighted Kuwait’s call for enhancing cooperation and ensuring accountability for violations caused by the misuse of these technologies, in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law.

Other Voices

Hidden, forgotten disease

By Ahmad alsarraf

There are complaints about the poor driving habits of many motorists, especially citizens, due to repeated violations, reckless driving, dangerous maneuvers that terrify other road users, and a persistent disregard for using turn signals when changing lanes.

The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (P.A.A.F.R.) complains that the majority of those who received agricultural plots are not contributing to food security, despite their pledges to do so.

Kuwait Municipality complains about some food vendors tampering with food expiration dates.

The Drug Control General Department complains about the widespread use of drugs, especially among young people. The Criminal Investigation Department complains about the growing number of moral crimes committed daily.

The Ministry of Social Affairs complains about rampant corruption in most cooperative society boards and other public benefit associations.

The Ministry of Finance complains about the increase in money laundering crimes. The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy complains about excessive electricity consumption, especially among citizens, including those with limited incomes. The Ministry of Islamic Affairs complains about an unjustified increase in the number of violators referred to the Public Prosecution.

The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) complains about the illegal use of vouchers granted to citizens for their businesses, which have been converted into showrooms and offices.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry complains about price manipulation and the misuse of commercial licenses. The Ministry of Health complains about the excessive dispensing of medications and the increasing number of unlicensed medical practitioners.

The Ministry of Public Works complains about the large number of unqualified engineers working for some contracting companies and the weakness of the ministry’s oversight mechanisms.

The Ministry of Education complains about poor student conduct and the prevalence of smoking, among other more serious issues.

Everyone complains about the unsanitary conditions of most school facilities compared with those in private-sector schools, in addition to the widespread cheating and the

resentment of students and their parents towards teachers who are serious or strict in enforcing rules and regulations.

All ministries, especially educational authorities, complain about the high number of individuals holding forged or unaccredited academic certificates.

On the other hand, citizens complain about the increasing corruption and dishonesty prevalent in many of the aforementioned institutions, even though those who manage them are citizens themselves and are brothers, fathers, or mothers of those outside these institutions.

The reasons behind the complaints of both sides, as well as others, stem from several issues, the most important and dangerous of which is the decline or collapse of the educational system. The failure of education cannot be observed immediately because it is usually hidden, and its disastrous consequences only become apparent many years later, when it is too late to reform.

The attention given to raising the standards of state leaders and selecting competent individuals is commendable. The serious efforts to address road maintenance and combat drug trafficking are also commendable.

We are grateful for all efforts to eradicate corruption in associations of all kinds. We are pleased with the continuous and impressive efforts to uncover those who have forged citizenship, as well as the positive acceleration in implementing development plans and revitalizing the economy. But what about education?

A former physical education teacher said he entered the school mosque one day to perform the prayer. Since the imam was absent, he decided to take his place, but one of the students refused, arguing that the teacher was wearing a suit. The teacher was impressed by the student’s behavior.

A few days later, he entered the examination room as an invigilator and saw some papers prepared for cheating in the same student’s pocket. He asked the student to hand them over so they could be destroyed. The student refused, claiming that he had permission from a scholar to do so.

It seems clear that the educational system in Kuwait is stagnant and will not progress with such teachers and students. We are truly living in two different worlds.

Footnote:

For half a century, we have failed to develop Kuwait Airways as well as our education system because we insist on relying on local administration. Banks, the oil sector, and others avoided this predicament and therefore made progress. Those responsible for developing education must understand this.



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CAPT: 29 firms deemed eligible for three MoH tenders

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) opened bids for three tenders on behalf of the Ministry of Health during its meeting last Wednesday. A total of 29 out of 32 companies were deemed eligible and three companies were excluded in accordance with Article 45 of the Public Tenders Law.

The Board of Directors of CAPT referred the submitted bid documents to the ministry for evaluation and to present recommendations within 30 days. The accepted bids cover the maintenance, construction and minor expansion of buildings, hospitals and centers—11 packages with 18 bids—as well as the tender for upgrading the main data center (seven bids).

The tender for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of nurse call and cardiac

arrest team call (Code Blue) systems at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital received four bids. These tenders are part of the plan to expand healthcare facilities to accommodate patients and visitors in hospitals and health centers.

This is in addition to modernizing the data center to make services more accessible for the public and to use modern technologies in all hospitals, including Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Hospital—a medical landmark.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Set up authority for co-ops, alleviate ministry burdens

“IT would be beneficial for the government to establish an independent public authority for cooperative societies, which represent the largest consumer sector for citizens,” columnist Brigadier General **Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Establishing such an authority would help alleviate the administrative, supervisory, and regulatory burdens placed on the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) while enhancing the performance of co-operative societies. The proposal aims to create an entity that oversees the operations of cooperative societies, separating them from the ministry while exercising direct executive oversight and improving governance to ensure stability and eliminate the corruption that has become widespread in recent years.



Al-Jazzaf

“The Ministry of Social Affairs has shouldered a heavy burden of work, follow-up, and regulatory decisions related to more than 60 cooperative societies nationwide, in addition to its primary responsibilities in the areas of social welfare and development. The proposed authority would reinforce the state’s vision of developing the cooperative sector as a key partner in providing goods at reasonable prices and supporting food security.

“The proposed authority is also expected to promote transparency and combat violations within the legal and regulatory framework, complementing the relevant decisions issued by Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila. The proposal would also contribute to digitally linking cooperative societies through a unified monitoring system, as the ministry has already decided. Establishing this independent authority would bring greater discipline to cooperative societies in terms of management and investment. This proposal could significantly contribute to the stability and development of cooperative societies.

“Note: There is a building in Al-Safaeer Market, as well as a building for small projects in Shuwaikh. Both buildings are neglected, so I urge the relevant authorities to utilize them more effectively. The buildings and their surrounding areas are filled with waste and debris, posing environmental and security risks.”

Also:

“A person may strive to adopt and maintain a new lifestyle, whether psychological or behavioral. However, some individuals find it difficult to remain consistent and persevere in making positive changes, especially in their interactions and dealings with others,” Kuwaiti writer Dr. **Khaled Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“There are several tips that may help a person maintain behaviors that strengthen their ability to change for the better. One of the most important factors is being convinced of the necessity of change. This conviction is strengthened by the certainty that the effort will succeed, allowing a person to continue living a better life and achieve a more prosperous future.

“A person develops this conviction through rational, sound, and calm thinking, away from emotional influences, especially temporary ones. One of the signs of being convinced of the need for positive change is a sense of inner peace and intellectual stability. It is important to choose a suitable and supportive environment that fosters commitment to the change plan. A person should surround themselves with people and circumstances that support them in achieving their new personal priorities and goals.

“It is difficult to maintain change if the surrounding environment is unsuitable, discouraging, or does not support positive change. One of the most important tips is to reward yourself whenever you successfully commit to your change plan and with every success or achievement. Self-reward does not necessarily have to be material or even tangible. It can simply be self-praise and encouragement to continue moving towards your desired goal.

“You may need to pretend to change in order for the change to actually take place. Initially, you may act as though you possess the personality traits and behaviors you want to develop until, over time, they become ingrained and automatic and form part of your new personality. When you change your mannerisms and speech to reflect the personality traits you are striving to acquire, you are not being pretentious or hypocritical. Rather, you are practicing and training yourself to change for the better. In doing so, you stop the old behaviors you want to leave behind and replace them with better ones.

“Whoever deliberately and intentionally changes their behavior according to a new pattern will gradually experience a change in their usual way of thinking, as their mental activity adapts to the new situation.”



“Gulf cities are witnessing a qualitative transformation in municipal management and urban planning, driven by artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things,” Kuwaiti writer Dr. **Nasser Hussein Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“However, the real challenge lies not in expanding the adoption of technologies, but in institutions’ ability to use them to make better decisions, manage resources sustainably, and provide

more efficient services while protecting residents’ privacy and preventing social inequality. Data infrastructure is the lifeblood of the modern city. However, its value depends on its quality and governance, not its quantity. Gulf cities need an integrated urban data system that breaks down institutional silos and establishes clear standards for information exchange, protection, and interoperability. This requires going beyond simply digitizing services to redesigning them.

“As the use of artificial intelligence expands, privacy protection and cybersecurity become essential conditions for sustainability, rather than merely technological additions. Disruptions to digital infrastructure threaten residents’ lives and the economy, necessitating the development of common Gulf standards for risk management and incident response without turning cities into fragile surveillance environments.

“The smart transformation requires investment in human capital and managerial leadership that understands the goals of technology. Solutions must be developed to suit the Gulf’s climate and specific characteristics, particularly in areas such as energy, water, and transportation management, while avoiding the importation of ready-made models that do not meet local needs. The success of smart cities is not measured by the number of new applications, but rather by digital equity and inclusivity, as well as the ability of services to reach diverse segments of the population.

“Partnerships with the private sector require clear contracts that guarantee data ownership and prevent dependence on a single server. The future demands the integration of technology with governance, scientific research, and human capital. The key is not the abundance of technology in the streets of Gulf cities, but its effective ability to meet residents’ needs and translate innovation into a measurable and sustainable quality of life.”



“The art of feigning ignorance and overlooking things is very important in our lives. The root cause of many of our family, social, and work-related problems is that we scrutinize every situation and magnify the minor mistakes of others,” Imam and preacher **Muhammad Al-Fawzan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal was asked, “Where do we find well-being?” He replied, “Nine-tenths of well-being lies in overlooking the mistakes of others.” A teacher once told me that he needed to take three hours of leave from work to attend to some personal matters. The manager refused, which led to a disagreement. The teacher explained that he subsequently requested sick leave, and the doctor granted him three days off. The manager could have simply approved the three-hour leave, and the matter would have been resolved. His decision was unwise.

“Those in positions of authority need to cultivate a more intelligent form of overlooking things. One manager recounts, “When I was promoted to manager, one of my employees was a very energetic and successful young man. He completed his tasks intelligently, quickly, and accurately. However, he



Al-Fawzan

lacked discipline and frequently left the workplace without permission. One day, he requested leave to travel with his friends, but I refused. He then submitted a sick leave request and called, feigning illness and apologizing for his absence. Knowing that he wasn’t sick, I went to his house the next morning and waited until I met him, carrying his suitcases. He was nearly mortified.

“I told him that he couldn’t fool me and that I wasn’t as naive as he thought. I spoke harshly, accused him of lying, and penalized him by deducting double his daily wage. A few days later, the young man resigned. He was a competent employee, but I lost his valuable contribution. I could no longer report the same performance figures to my superiors. Previously, I had needed to find a young man who could achieve the same results, and such people are few.

“My behavior was foolish. I discovered that some of what we lose is the result of putting pressure on others and leaving them with no option but to flee or consider us enemies. In both cases, you are the loser.” Imam Ibn al-Qayyim (May God have mercy on him) said, “One of the greatest reasons for a sound heart is overlooking people’s mistakes and not dwelling on their errors.” He also said, “The fool is not a leader among his people, but the one who feigns ignorance is the master of his people.”

“It is always better to give your opponent a way to exit with dignity and respect rather than embarrass him and turn him into an enemy. It is not necessary to win every battle. Sometimes, victory can actually be a defeat. Never burn your bridges, for you may need them again soon. I dedicate this article to every father and mother, every husband and wife, every brother and friend, and every manager and teacher.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets the security officials. Farwaniya Governorate photo

Call to intensify police presence near schools

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah on Monday met with Director of Farwaniya Governorate Security Department Brigadier General Faisal Al-Rabbah, Director of Farwaniya Governorate Emergency Police Department Colonel Mohammad Abdulhadi Al-Hajri, Director for Farwaniya Governorate Traffic Department Lieutenant Colonel Dhahi Rajaan Al-Nassafi and a number of other security officials, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The meeting coincided with the start of the new academic year.

During the meeting, the plan for the return to schools was reviewed, including the field measures aimed at ensuring security and safety and regulating traffic flow. This plan includes intensifying the presence of security and traffic officers around schools, intersections and vital roads in order to guarantee smooth traffic flow and reduce congestion.

The Governor stressed the importance of raising the level of preparedness and continuous coordination among security and traffic agencies and other relevant authorities, as well as to immediately deal with comments or challenges, and provide a safe and orga-

nized environment for the students, parents and teachers at the start of the academic year.

He stressed the need for on-site monitoring in the initial phase of the academic year, continuous assessment of traffic flow, and taking all the necessary measures to ensure smooth traffic movement and achieve the highest level of road safety throughout the governorate.

Meanwhile, the security officials expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Governor for his attention, continuous follow up, and commitment to support the efforts of the security and traffic authorities.

Hunt for thief as power cables stolen from MEW transformer

Hacker makes do with Kuwaiti woman’s cash

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Security authorities have launched an investigation into the theft of equipment from an electrical transformer belonging to the Ministry of Electricity and Water in Khaitan, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to security sources, an unidentified individual broke the transformer’s lock and stole 12 electrical cables valued at approximately KD 2,940.

A representative of the Ministry of Electricity and Water reported that ministry personnel discovered the theft during an inspection of the transformer. They found the lock broken and approximately 12 electrical cables missing.

When asked whether he had any information regarding the perpetrator, the representative did not accuse any specific individual.

A theft case involving the breaking of a lock

has been registered and referred to the Public Prosecution.

Forensic experts were summoned to collect fingerprints in an effort to identify the perpetrator, while detectives were notified to conduct further investigations.



Woman’s account hacked: A Kuwaiti woman filed a report with the Banking Affairs Prosecution stating that her bank account had been subjected to an unauthorized withdrawal, asserting that she had not initiated the transaction, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to security sources, the citizen discovered, without prior knowledge, that KD 2,000 had been withdrawn from her account.

She subsequently approached the competent authorities to file a report and requested an investigation into how the transaction was carried out and the circumstances surrounding it.

The complainant clarified that the withdrawal occurred without her knowledge or consent, necessitating legal action to verify the incident and

identify the responsible party.

The Banking Affairs Prosecution referred the case to the competent authority for further investigation.

The inquiry will determine how the withdrawal was carried out, the method used to execute the transaction, and the identity of the entity or individual responsible.



Rotten food destroyed: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced the detection of several violations and the destruction of 144,260 kilograms of food unfit for human consumption, as part of its ongoing monitoring efforts to protect consumer health and safety, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

PAFN explained that the violations, detected by the Capital Governorate Inspection Department, included displaying and selling spoiled food, failing to comply with public hygiene standards during operations, and operating a food establishment after its health license had expired.

Fire-fighters tackle blazes in Mutla’a and Mahboula

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Firefighters successfully extinguished a fire that broke out in a pile of scrap and construction materials in front of a house under construction in Al-Mutlaa, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The Control Room of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) received a report of a fire that engulfed waste and construction materials near a house under construction in Al-Mutlaa. Firefighting teams were

immediately dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival, firefighters began battling the blaze, containing the flames and preventing them from spreading to the house or nearby structures and properties.

They successfully extinguished and fully contained the fire without any injuries.

In a related incident, firefighters also managed to control and extinguish a fire that broke out re-

cently in two vehicles parked in front of a house in Mahboula. The flames were prevented from spreading to nearby vehicles, and no injuries were reported.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign on Monday evening in Qibla, Capital Governorate to identify buildings and facilities that violate safety and fire prevention regulations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

4th Ring Road opposite Yarmouk to open Wed.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: The Ministry of Public Works announced the opening of the Fourth Ring Road opposite the Yarmouk area at dawn on Wednesday, September 16, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The ministry clarified that the Fourth Ring Road flyover at its intersection with King Faisal Road will remain closed until further notice.

Meanwhile , the Ministry of Public Works, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, announced the closure of the road shoulder, slow lane, and half of the middle lane, along with the entry and exit points connecting the Fifth Ring Road to King Fahad Expressway (Road 40) and vice versa, for five days, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The closure will begin at 10:00 pm on Tuesday, and continue until 6:00 am on Sunday, September 20, to facilitate asphalt maintenance work.

The ministry stated that the work will include closing the bridge connecting King Fahad Expressway to the Fifth Ring Road towards Salmiya, as well as the slow lane on the Fifth Ring Road and the connecting slip roads to and from King Fahad Expressway.

Also ,the Ministry of Public Works announced the full closure of King Fahad Road, extending 300 meters from the First Ring Road intersection, to carry out asphalt maintenance work, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The ministry stated that the closure will begin on Tuesday, at 12:00 noon and continue until dawn on Sunday, September 20.

Young Kuwaiti man dies as car flips over at turn

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: A Kuwaiti man, in his 20s, died when his vehicle overturned on the 6.5 Ring Road, opposite Dajeej.

A security source stated that the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received a report about the accident. Security personnel and paramedics were dispatched to the accident site immediately. Upon arrival, they found that the accident resulted in the death of the young Kuwaiti man.

The source added that the necessary measures were taken and the body of the young man was transferred to the Forensic Department.

A case was registered and investigations are underway to determine the circumstances that led to the fatal accident.

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Jahra Governorate photo
School staff welcome students with gifts.

Jahra schools welcome new students with gifts

KUWAIT CITY Sept 15: The Jahra Governorate organized a program to mark the start of the new academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is in line with the commitment of the governorate to shoulder its social responsibility and support the educational process.

The program included visits to various schools in the governorate on the first day of the new academic year.

The governorate staff warmly welcomed the students and distributed gifts to them in a positive and cheerful atmosphere.

On this occasion, the governorate expressed its best wishes to the students, hoping they have an academic year filled with excellence, success and achievements.

‘Kuwait Palestinian support proves deep-rooted bonds’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwait has consistently been among the countries most supportive of and closest to the Palestinian people, said Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub.

In a statement to KUNA Tuesday following a visit to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Tahboub said the wise leadership’s directives have contributed to the continuation of Kuwait’s support in various forms.

He noted that Kuwait’s assistance since the beginning of the Israeli occupation aggression was difficult to quantify given the scale of initiatives, aid and projects implemented, adding that Kuwait has provided hundreds of millions of US dollars in support to the Palestinian people and continues to provide humanitarian assistance.

Tahboub said Kuwait’s position reflects the authenticity of the Kuwaiti people and the keenness of the political leadership and government to stand by their Palestinian brothers under all circumstances.

‘Cutting-edge’ tech explored

PAAET visits BYD, Robotech

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: A student delegation from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) explored the experiences of leading universities, educational institutions, companies, and factories in Shenzhen and Shanghai during an educational and technical visit to the People’s Republic of China, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative was part of a collaborative effort between PAAET and the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait.

In a press release issued on Monday, PAAET explained that the delegation of outstanding students from the College of Technological Studies, led by Dr. Bashar Al-Zuwair, observed advanced educational, technological, and industrial practices.

The students gained firsthand insight into the latest applications in technology, innovation, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, robotics, automation, and smart manufacturing.

The program included field tours of major Chinese entities, such as Huawei, BYD, and Robotech, where students learned about operational workflows, technologies, production lines, and modern applications, as well as the rapid technological and industrial advancements taking place in these sectors.

The delegation also visited several universities and educational institutions to observe environments dedicated to education, training, research, and innovation.

They explored academic and applied models that contribute to preparing specialized professionals and equipping the labor market with future-ready skills.

PAAET emphasized that the visit reflects its commitment to providing students with exceptional educational and practical experiences.

By connecting students with cutting-edge global practices, PAAET aims to enhance their knowledge and skills while broadening their scientific and professional horizons.

The statement quoted the students as expressing their appreciation for the experience, which enabled them to explore various aspects of the Chinese model and observe practical applications of the knowledge and skills they acquired in their respective fields.

They emphasized that the visit provided an enriching educational experience that helped strengthen their future ambitions and aspirations.

The participation of these outstanding students in the visit underscores PAAET’s commitment to linking academic excellence with high-quality educational and training opportunities, while encouraging students to benefit from leading international experiences across scientific, technological, and professional fields.



Amir congrats Latin America countries on ‘Independence’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulation to the co-Presidents of Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo, on their country’s Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the co-presidents good health and well-being and more progress and prosperity for Nicaragua and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulation to the co-Presidents of Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo, on their country’s Independence Day.

HONDURAS

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Honduras, Nasry Asfura, on his country’s Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the President good health and wellbeing, and more progress and prosperity to Honduras and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Honduras, Nasry Asfura, on his country’s National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the President good health and wellbeing.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Honduras, Nasry Asfura, on his country’s independence Day.

COSTA RICA

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Costa Rica Laura Fernandez Delgado, on her country’s Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president continued wellbeing and more progress and prosperity to the country and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Costa Rica Laura Fernandez Delgado on her country’s Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir expressed his wishes of continued welfare and progress to the President and his people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to the President of Guatemala Bernardo Arevalo on his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Amir expressed his wishes of continued welfare and progress to the President and his people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to the President of Guatemala Bernardo Arevalo on his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed wishes of welfare to the President.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable to the President of Guatemala Bernardo Arevalo, congratulating him on his country’s National Day.

tory cable to the President of the Republic of Costa Rica Laura Fernandez Delgado on her country’s Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president wellbeing and more prosperity to the country and its people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Costa Rica Laura Fernandez Delgado on her country’s Independence Day.

EL SALVADOR

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable to the President of El Salvador Nayib Bukele, congratulating him on his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Amir wishes President Bukele and his people more welfare and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of congratulations to the President of El Salvador Nayib Bukele on the occasion of his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Bukele good health and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to the President of El Salvador Nayib Bukele on the occasion of his country’s National Day.

GUATEMALA

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to the President of Guatemala Bernardo Arevalo on his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Amir expressed his wishes of continued welfare and progress to the President and his people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to the President of Guatemala Bernardo Arevalo on his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed wishes of welfare to the President.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable to the President of Guatemala Bernardo Arevalo, congratulating him on his country’s National Day.

Kuwait joins preparatory GCC meeting on education issues

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr. Khaled Al-Rshaid participated remotely Monday in the preparatory meeting of GCC education undersecretaries ahead of the 10th meeting of the GCC Committee of Education Ministers, to discuss several agenda items.

The Ministry of Education said in a statement that the meeting was chaired by Bahrain’s Undersecretary of Education and current session chairperson, Nawal Al-Khater, with participation from education undersecretaries of GCC states, GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Development Affairs Khalid Al-Sunaidi, and Director General of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States Dr. Mohammad Al-Muqbil.

The meeting discussed several joint Gulf education files, including developing the work of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States and the Gulf Education Strategy for 2026-2030, as well as issues related to technical education, occupational training, planning, coordination and follow-up.

The participants also reviewed developments in implementing Sustainable Development Goal Four, which concerns quality education, international cooperation, and unified procurement of educational materials, systems and equipment.

The agenda also included Kuwait’s initiative to unify the education system across GCC states and its proposal for a Gulf school sports league, in addition to the program of competitions for Gulf students, the ministry said.

The meeting further discussed the Gulf Strategy for Combating Drugs and Kuwait’s initiative on student exchanges for gifted students and outstanding teachers, as well as strategic transformation in general education and several other issues related to strengthening cooperation and coordination among GCC education ministries.



Dr. Al-Rshaid

Continued from Page 1

Acting PM

women’s capabilities and commitment to their responsibilities.

He urged them to translate the knowledge and skills they had acquired into efficient, disciplined field performance and proper interaction with the public.

Director of the Female Police Institute Col. Athari Al-Safi read the decision appointing the graduates to the police force with the rank of lieutenant, while Col. Staff Fatma Al-Mutairi led the oath, which the graduates repeated before Sheikh

Fahad Al-Yousef.

The ministry said Lt. Mnwoa Anbar achieved first place in the class and in physical training, while Lt. Ritaj Khamis ranked first in discipline, reflecting the excellence, dedication and commitment of female police personnel to military training requirements.

The scholarship program represents an addition to the development of Kuwait’s female police force by preparing scientifically and practically qualified personnel to perform duties in maintaining security and serving the community.

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Continued from Page 1

Iran seeks

statement regarding conditions for opening the Strait of Hormuz, proves that Iran has no intention to stabilize the situation. Instead, it persistently seeks to destabilize regional security, hoping to improve its leverage in negotiations with the United States.

True intentions were laid bare regarding the memorandum of understanding with the US as the regime continued to bombard Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states –whether directly or indirectly -- to improve its negotiating position. Publicly, it sought to wriggle out of the agreement, because the deal hindered its real scheme -- to weaken Gulf states in order to achieve hegemony, a foolish midsummer night’s dream.

A popular proverb states, “Hearing about ‘Mu’aydi’ is better than seeing him.” This applies to the current regime, which beats the drums of war against the US and Israel, yet lacks the strength to strike them. Instead, it fires at neighbors who—from the very spark of the current conflict—declared neutrality and did not allow US forces to use their territory. Rather than confronting its declared enemy, it chose the path of aggression against its neighbors, thus, it is the impotent ‘Mu’aydi’ whose reputation far exceeds the reality.

The time has come for the Iranian people to break free from this vicious cycle. They have immense potential and energy, yet have been under the pressure of repression since 1979.

Salvation is in their hands, not only for themselves but also for the entire region. They must liberate it from a regime that still dwells in the caves of the Middle Ages.

Kuwait backs

It had called on residents to seek shelter indoors, away from windows and exposed areas, remain there until the danger had passed, and follow official instructions issued through authorized channels.

Bahrain also condemned the Houthi missile and drone attacks on Khamis Mushait, Abha and Taif, which injured civilians and caused damage to homes and vehicles.

In a statement, the Bahraini Foreign Ministry described the attacks as a flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law, the UN Charter and relevant Security Council resolutions.

It said Saudi Arabia’s security and stability were integral to Bahrain’s national security, and reaffirmed Manama’s full solidarity with the Kingdom and support for measures taken to protect its sovereignty, security, citizens and residents, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Bahrain urged the Security Council to assume its responsibilities, adopt a firm

position against the repeated attacks, hold those responsible accountable and ensure the implementation of relevant resolutions, particularly Resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2817 (2026).

Qatar likewise condemned the Houthi attacks, describing them as reprehensible acts of aggression and a blatant violation of Saudi sovereignty and international law.

In a statement, the Qatari Foreign Ministry said the attacks reflected a reckless disregard for civilian lives and called for an immediate end to such acts. It reaffirmed Qatar’s support for all legitimate measures to protect Saudi Arabia’s sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and national interests.

The ministry stressed that the Kingdom’s security was integral to Qatar’s security and the collective security of GCC states. It wished those injured a speedy recovery and expressed hope that Saudi Arabia and its people would remain safe.

GCC Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi strongly condemned what he described as continued terrorist attacks by the Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, Al-Budaiwi said the repeated targeting of civilians and civilian facilities with ballistic missiles and drones represented a dangerous criminal escalation and a blatant violation of international law.

He said the attacks directly threatened the Kingdom’s security, stability, citizens and residents, reaffirming the GCC states’ unity with Saudi Arabia and their support for measures taken to protect its territory, people, security and national resources. Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy also condemned the attacks, describing them as an unacceptable violation of Saudi Arabia’s sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, as well as a threat to civilian lives and regional stability.

In a statement, Fahmy expressed full solidarity with the Kingdom and support for measures taken to protect its security, sovereignty and citizens. He stressed that Saudi Arabia’s security was an integral part of Arab national security.

He warned that the continued targeting of Arab states would deepen tensions, fuel further escalation and threaten regional security and stability.

Elsewhere, Head of Iraq’s Security Media Cell Lt. Gen. Saad Maan said Tuesday that Iraq would not allow attacks against countries in the region, adding that investigations were under way to identify those responsible for launching drones at Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Maan as saying that Iraq respected and valued all neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia, and sought to serve as a positive point of convergence in the Middle East and beyond.

Regarding attacks launched from Iraqi territory, Maan said the competent authorities had contacted their Saudi counterparts and located inside Iraq the launch platform used to send the drones.

He said investigations were continuing to identify those involved, adding that the immediate focus was on determining responsibility for the attacks.

Maan said Iraq had adopted a new vision and approach aimed at preventing anyone from creating confusion or dragging the country into actions it did not support.

UAE-Kuwait

operating in Kuwait.

The UAE Embassy has been organizing this meeting twice a year over the past four years to facilitate communication with companies, listen to their feedbacks, and gain insight into their operations, projects, future plans and the challenges they face.

Welcoming the representatives, Al Neyadi reiterated the commitment of the embassy to maintain direct contact with them, listen to their views, and learn more about their projects and future plans in the Kuwaiti market. He pointed out that the meeting took place after a period marked by exceptional regional circumstances and challenges that affected different sectors.

He expressed his appreciation for the UAE companies’ continuous operations and investments in Kuwait, as well as their ability to overcome many challenges. He stressed that the embassy remains close to these companies, keeping its doors open to hear about the challenges they face and provide full support and facilities, within its mandate and in coordination with the concerned authorities.

On trade growth, he stated that economic indicators prove the strength of the relationship between the two countries and its continuous growth, disclosing that non-oil trade has maintained its momentum over the past few years.

He said the Kuwaiti market is one of the most important in the region, as it offers promising investment opportunities in various sectors, supported by an ambitious economic vision and investment-friendly legislation.

He revealed that the volume of trade exchange between the two nations reached around AED55.5 billion in 2025 -- 11.3 percent higher compared to 2024, while the UAE imports to Kuwait rose by 17 percent and re-exports by three percent.

He added that trade volume between the two nations in the first quarter of 2026 reached about AED13 billion -- a level close to that recorded in the same period last year. He expects the trade and investment relations between the two countries to continue to grow in the coming period.

On the supply chain, he mentioned the period of conflict and the attacks by Iran on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz -- violation of the transit passage provisions established under public international law, and the impact on shipping lines and maritime transport.

He confirmed that the port network

of his country played a vital role in supporting efforts to maintain shipping and transport operations at the ports in the region, thereby, bolstering supply chains and sustaining the flow of imports and exports.

He also pointed out that the Kuwaiti market is experiencing economic growth and transformation, driven by an ambitious vision and legislation that fosters promising investment opportunities.

He highlighted key promising sectors like industry, logistics, energy, artificial intelligence, food, construction, financial and banking sectors, tourism and hospitality, shipbuilding, shipping, transport and warehousing.

He is hoping that Emirati companies will continue to strengthen their presence and partnerships in the Kuwaiti market, while citing the participation of new Emirati firms in the meeting and anticipating the entry of more companies into the market in the near future.

He stated that the meeting serves as an ongoing communication channel between the embassy and the companies to review progress made since previous meetings, address remaining challenges, and identify ways the embassy can facilitate connections between these companies and relevant entities in Kuwait.

He disclosed that the primary goal of these meetings is to gain insight into the operating conditions, projects and opportunities available to Emirati companies and to encourage them to increase investments, given the importance of the Kuwaiti market and the opportunities it offers.

Assessing economic relations and the latest coordination developments, he pointed out the steady growth in trade exchange in recent years and the numerous opportunities available to the private sector in both countries.

He cited the presentations made by participating companies and institutions like First Abu Dhabi Bank regarding future opportunities and projects, reiterating that Kuwait has an ambitious political vision, supported by new legislation designed to create an attractive investment environment.

He stressed that Kuwaiti investments in the UAE are long-standing and substantial, as they began in the real estate sector before diversifying to cover banking, infrastructure, and the digital and technology sectors.

He said the UAE market is open to Kuwaiti companies, offering them opportunities to access global markets and benefit from the economic partnership agreements the UAE has concluded with 37 markets worldwide. He added that these agreements provide Kuwaiti companies with incentives and opportunities that facilitate growth, expansion and access to new markets, using the UAE as a launchpad.

Regarding the UAE investment opportunities in Kuwait -- specifically in ports, artificial intelligence, tourism and hospitality, he said the Joint Higher Committee between the two nations met

in Kuwait on Jan 6. He asserted that such meetings convey a clear message encouraging companies and the private sector in both countries to boost investment and cooperation.

He identified infrastructure, logistics, artificial intelligence and healthcare as key new sectors where the committee is keen to encourage private sector exploration and investment. He added that many projects require joint investments -- a matter that rests primarily with the private sector in both countries.

He described the Kuwaiti and Emirati private sectors as dynamic and ambitious, capable of driving economic and commercial growth and contributing to the realization of the aspirations of the leaders of both nations.

Highlighting the status of Kuwait as a commercial, investment and logistics hub, he emphasized that its vital location and proximity to various markets enhanced its economic and investment appeal.

He indicated that proposals from companies like Aramex and Al-Futtaim demonstrated interest in increasing investments and expanding in the Kuwaiti market. He added that this interest aligns with the Kuwaiti government’s plan to develop the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, wishing Kuwait success in executing its economic and development projects.

Regarding the participation of Kuwait in the United Nations Water Conference—an invitation he personally delivered to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he said the event will be held in the region for the first time in December through the partnership between the UAE and Senegal.

He confirmed the growing importance of water-related issues on the global agenda. He pointed out that as early as 2023, the UAE highlighted the need to address water-related challenges and prioritize the issue on the international agenda, having circulated a discussion paper on the subject during that year’s UN General Assembly meetings.

He also announced that the embassy will host a workshop on Oct 7 -- in collaboration with the United Nations, Embassy of Senegal, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), and the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy -- to showcase the significance of the conference and the issues it will address. He stressed that Kuwait’s participation is vital, as water challenges are not confined to one country or region since it is a global issue.

He added that the UAE is using modern technologies to help mitigate water scarcity and devise effective and sustainable solutions, particularly for regions with desertification, low rainfall and landlocked areas.

nity outreach this year through partnerships with government and private entities, as well as through programs, lectures, activities, and awareness messages.

He indicated that these efforts fostered a culture of responsible electricity and water consumption and reinforced the concept of shared responsibility in preserving the state’s resources.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem explained that the summer season of 2026 unfolded under exceptionally difficult circumstances due to regional developments and Iranian attacks that targeted parts of the electricity infrastructure, including power generation and water desalination plants, fuel storage tanks, and overhead transmission lines.

These incidents caused several generation units and system components to go offline, affecting production and operational capacities.

The repercussions of these conditions extended to periodic and preventive maintenance programs, making it impossible to carry out certain tasks according to the original schedules. However, maintenance work on several units was gradually completed by the end of August.

The ministry’s teams and technical staff worked around the clock to repair the damage, restore affected units and facilities to service, and maintain system readiness, enabling the ministry to ensure service continuity and meet the state’s needs throughout the summer season.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem stressed that consumption conservation is no longer merely a matter of public awareness, but it has become a key element complementing the state’s plans to enhance the security and sustainability of the electricity and water sectors.

He affirmed the ministry’s continued commitment to implementing strategic projects aimed at increasing production capacity, upgrading transmission and distribution networks, and expanding renewable energy initiatives.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem noted that several strategic projects are currently in their final stages with the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), paving the way for implementation in a manner that keeps pace with urban, population, and economic growth, as well as the state’s future needs.

He commended the national workforce and staff at power plants, monitoring and control centers, and emergency units, acknowledging their efforts in maintaining grid stability and service continuity under unusual operational conditions.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem explained that the conclusion of the factory production curtailment period, which began on May 14 to alleviate electrical load, coincides with the start of the new academic year. This has prompted the ministry to intensify its preparations to ensure grid stability and meet the needs of schools and educational facilities.

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Trucks come and go from the ‘Alligator Alcatraz’ immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades on Aug 28, 2025, in Collier County, Fla. (AP)

‘Alligator Alcatraz’ detainees held in small metal cages – federal report

MIAMI, Sept 15, (AP): Detainees at a now-closed immigrant detention center in the Florida Everglades - known as “Alligator Alcatraz” - were held for up to two hours in small metal enclosures used as “calming areas,” a practice that “does not meet standards for humane treatment,” according to a new report by the Department of Homeland Security’s Inspector General released on Monday.

Between July 17, 2025, and Jan. 18, 2026, the report said, 79 detainees were confined in small metal enclosures of about 18 square feet of floor space each, for periods ranging from several minutes to nearly two hours. Photographs included in the report show a cage that looks only slightly larger than a telephone booth sitting on what is either grass or turf and surrounded by chain-link fencing topped with concertina wire.

“The use of such restrictive spaces

is highly unconventional,” the report stated.

It noted that facility staff described the metal enclosures as “‘calming areas’ for detainees to de-escalate and have time alone.” It didn’t specify where the boxes were located or exactly the instances in which they were used but documents provided by staff at the facility said one detainee spent 26 minutes in one for failing to “comply with a lawful order.” The report said that in at least one instance, the metal enclosure may have been used as a disciplinary tool.

A policy posted on the enclosures said the purpose of the holding cell space was to provide a “safe and secure place in general population for detainees to reflect on their behavior choices, manage their emotions, reduce stress, and practice self-directed behavior,” according to the document attached to the report.

The revelation was part of a broader report from the Inspector General that detailed other conditions it described as inhumane.

The detention center was opened July 3, 2025, and closed on June 25. It quickly drew attention from immigration advocates who criticized the conditions. Detainees lacked adequate living space, access to showers, legal information and clean water, the report said, calling it a violation of federal and state detention standards.

The report was prepared following an unannounced visit to the South Florida Detention Facility on Jan. 21. It marks the first time a government agency has confirmed the existence of such conditions at the facility. Advocates, lawyers, families and human rights organizations such as Amnesty International had previously reported and harshly criticized the treatment of detainees.

States, cities sue over Trump rule seeking to deny green cards to immigrants using public benefits

NEW YORK, Sept 15, (AP): Democratic-led states and cities filed lawsuits Monday challenging a federal rule set to begin Friday that they say gives President Donald Trump’s administration broad discretion to deny green cards to immigrants who rely on public assistance for food, healthcare, housing and other basic needs.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who is leading a coalition of 21 other states in one of the suits, said the rule would force needy immigrant families to choose between seeking assistance and seeking legal status in the country. California, Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico and Wisconsin are among the states involved in the legal challenge.

“This rule preys on that fear and counts on families forfeiting the food assistance, health care coverage, and other public benefits to which they are legally entitled,” she said Monday at a news conference in City Hall alongside New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and immigrant advocates.

Mamdani filed a separate suit with leaders of other U.S. cities, including Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle. He said the rule would have a “chilling effect” not just on immigrants seeking legal status but other residents of the nation’s largest city.

“The new public charge rule seeks to push immigrant families away from the programs that have kept people fed and healthy for decades,” the mayor said. “New Yorkers will be afraid to see a doctor or ask for help they are legally entitled to. That fear will not stop at the families that the federal government is targeting.”

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is named in the lawsuits, dismissed the dire warnings.

“Let’s get this straight, sanctuary states are terrified they will lose federal funds because hundreds of thousands of illegals and noncitizens might remove themselves from American welfare programs,” the agency said in a statement. “We’re shaking in our boots over this supposedly terrible outcome.”

The lawsuits challenge DHS’s plan to revive a “public charge” rule the Republican president originally imposed during his first term, only to have it reversed under his successor, Democratic President Joe Biden.

The lawsuits, which were both filed in federal court in Manhattan, argue the new rule is “arbitrary and capricious,” exceeds the DHS’s statutory authority, and departs from the longstanding meaning of the federal government’s public charge provision.

Specifically, James said, the rule unlawfully gives immigration officials broad discretion to consider a wide range of public benefits when making their decisions on immigrants seeking legal status in the country.

She said the rule lets immigration officers count nearly any public benefit, used for any length of time, against a green card applicant -- even if it’s a U.S. citizen family member who is taking advantage of the benefit.

That means a parent’s green card application could be at risk simply because their U.S. citizen child used state-provided health insurance or participated in a school’s free lunch program, James said.

“This new rule sweeps away more than a century of settled law to unlawfully broaden the definition of ‘public charge’ in a way that Congress never intended,” added Steve Banks, the city’s corporation counsel.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta called the rule a “cruel policy.”

Federal law already requires those seeking permanent residency or legal status to demonstrate they will not rely on public benefits.

The new rule does not specify the programs that could be taken into account. It simply says officers, “using good judgment and discretion,” will make “individualized, fact-specific public charge inadmissible determinations, based on a totality of the alien’s circumstances.”



New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani announces a lawsuit filed by New York and 21 other states challenging the federal government’s new public charge rule, on Sept 14, in New York. (AP)



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters put out a fire following a Russian air attack in Kramatorsk, Ukraine on Sept 14. (AP)

‘Ukraine will pause strikes on Russia if Kremlin spares critical infrastructure’

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 15, (AP): President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday that Ukraine is ready to halt its strikes on Russian territory if allies can secure a genuine Russian commitment not to hit Ukraine’s critical infrastructure.

His comments came after US President Donald Trump claimed in a social media post that Russia and Ukraine had agreed “not to hit” each other’s energy infrastructure, though Trump did not offer further details on the purported agreement.

Russia did not immediately comment on Trump’s claim. Previous efforts to broker even a partial ceasefire have repeatedly fallen apart within hours, with both sides accusing each other of violations.

Trump did not offer further details about the agreement but it comes a day after the U.S. president called on Zelenskyy to stop targeting Russian oil refineries and other infrastructure used to produce and distribute diesel, claiming the attacks are causing a global shortage. Diesel prices have surged in the U.S., and high fuel costs associated with the Iran war have become a major issue for Trump’s party in upcoming congressional elections.

He also claimed that the rise in the price of global diesel fuel “is mostly caused by the Russian/Ukraine war” and not Iran. But restricted shipments caused by the slowdown of oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz and damaged refining systems in Russia are causing strains in the energy market.

In his post, Zelenskyy said Ukraine has proposed that partners



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, (right), and Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, arrive to sign agreements in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on Sept 10. (AP)

help secure an agreement with Russia for a ceasefire. It’s not the first time Kyiv has floated the idea.

“Every day, Ukrainian energy facilities, port infrastructure, logistics, even food and pharmaceutical warehouses become targets,” he said. “The war must be ended. And a de-escalation step regarding critical infrastructure could be a first step toward peace.”

Zelenskyy said he “expects concrete proposals from our partners.”

Trump on Sunday called on Zelenskyy to stop the strikes. Afterward, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said any call on Kyiv to stop strikes on civilian economic infrastructure “can only be welcomed.”

NATO Secretary-General Mark

Rutte said Monday that Russian drone strikes near the Ukraine-Poland border - one of which hit a train shortly after senior visiting officials had passed through the same station - would drive the military alliance to increase its support for Kyiv, calling Sunday’s attacks a sign of Moscow’s growing desperation.

The strikes “close to NATO territory” show Russian President Vladimir Putin’s “desperation and also his desire to sow fear and terror,” Rutte said at NATO’s political headquarters in Brussels. “Russia is growing increasingly reckless as it continues its terrible war against Ukraine.”

Rutte pledged to increase support for Ukraine and bolster the 32-nation alliance’s own defenses along its long eastern border with Russia.

“He thinks that he can stop us from supporting Ukraine and that he can undermine our unity. He is wrong,” the NATO chief said of Putin.

Sunday’s strikes near the Polish border are the latest in a string of incidents that officials say point to a deliberate pattern of escalation by Putin, as Moscow tests NATO’s response while pressing its offensive in Ukraine.

Rutte’s comments came as Poland pledged increased security along its border with Ukraine after a wave of Russian drone strikes near the frontier, including two that landed within kilometers of Polish territory.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk warned Sunday that Moscow appears poised to intensify its campaign against Ukraine’s borders with European countries.

UK’s unity threatened by pact between Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

LONDON, Sept 15, (AP): The leaders of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland signed a pact Monday that threatens to lead to the breakup of the United Kingdom.

The first ministers of the three semiautonomous regions of the UK told Prime Minister Andy Burnham and his government to prepare for constitutional change and that their future lies with the European Union.

“For people watching across these islands - for people watching around the world - there could be no clearer sign that Westminster’s time is coming to an end,” they said in a memorandum of understanding, referring to Parliament.

The announcement came about 48 hours after US President Donald Trump waded into the waters of the politically contentious issue when he said he would “love to see” a reunified Ireland during a trip to visit his golf course hosting the Irish Open.

It’s the first time the leaders of all three countries are either from pro-independence parties, or pro-unification in the case of Northern Ireland, which was partitioned and remained part of the U.K. when Ireland won independence from Britain over a century ago.

Burnham’s spokesperson brushed aside the threat and said the prime minister strongly believes in the union and was more focused on low-



From left: First Minister of Scotland John Swinney, First Minister of Wales Rhun ap Iorwerth, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald and First Minister of Northern Ireland Michelle O’Neill, during a meeting to discuss the ‘pursuit of a different attitude’ from the UK Government and the future of independence for their respective countries, in Cardiff, Wales on Sept 14. (AP)

ering the cost of living than dealing with constitutional debates.

“The United Kingdom is at its best when people come together around our shared values and problem-solving, rather than division,” Tom Wells said.

Nicola McEwen, director of the University of Glasgow Center for Public Policy, said the summit was symbolically important but has no legal significance.

“I don’t see the threat to the union

being bigger today than it was yesterday,” McEwen said.

In the late 1990s, the UK passed legislative acts that decentralized government through the process of devolution, giving each country except England some level of policy independence and self-governance through their own parliaments. But tensions have remained with the UK-wide government in London, which retained control over national issues and those concerning England.

Europe

NATO jets down drone over Lithuania: NATO fighter jets shot down a drone that entered Lithuanian airspace overnight, officials said Tuesday, less than a day after NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said that strikes close to the alliance’s territory would drive the trans-Atlantic organization to increase its support for Kyiv.

The drone was downed near the village of Pratkūnai in the Kaišiadorys district, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) west of the country’s capital, Vilnius, and near the Kaunas Reservoir, Lithuania’s National Crisis Management Center said Tuesday.

Lithuania’s military said that the incident marked the first time that a drone had been shot down in the country’s airspace. Authorities didn’t comment on the drone’s origin or purpose, saying the incident needed further investigation. (AP)

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Serbia protesting youth formally join race: University students behind nearly two years of anti-government protests in Serbia on Monday formally entered the election race before an early parliamentary vote, challenging populist President Aleksandar Vucic.

The youth movement submitted their election list to the state election authorities after a joyful march through downtown Belgrade, the capital of the Balkan country. A few thousand people joined the noisy gathering, clapping in support.

The Oct. 25 vote is seen as a major test for Vucic, whose Serbian Progressive Party, or SNS, has held a tight grip on power since taking office 14 years ago. The election will be held against the backdrop of heightened political tensions as the governing populists seek to remain in office despite widespread



Lithuanian soldiers securing the area where Italian fighter jets during NATO’s Baltic Air Policing Mission shot down a drone early morning near Pratkūnai village, Kaišiadorys district some 90km (55.9 miles) northwest of the capital Vilnius, Lithuania on Sept 15. (AP)

popular discontent. (AP)

□ □ □

Pope celebrates 71st birthday: Pope Leo XIV celebrated his 71st birthday on Monday but it was Vatican employees who got the gift.

The Vatican published a papal decree repealing 2021 salary cuts that Pope Francis had imposed on many Vatican employees as part of the Holy See’s COVID-19 cost-saving measures.

In the decree, Leo said the salary-containing measures “can now be overcome, in the certainty that the institutions of the Holy See and the Vatican City State will continue, through various means, their commitment to ensuring economic sustainability.”

The unpopular salary cuts had included a 10% cut on pay for cardinals and smaller percentage salary cuts for office heads and lower-ranking priests and nuns. (AP)

Tensions continue with sporadic incidents

Thailand, Cambodia begin UN conciliation process over disputed maritime claims

BANGKOK, Sept 15, (AP): Thailand and Cambodia’s foreign ministers exchanged opening statements in Singapore on Tuesday at the first meeting to settle a sea border dispute under a UN agreement on maritime law for compulsory conciliation.

At issue is territory claimed by both that is believed to contain large, exploitable amounts of natural gas and other hydrocarbons.

The decision to take the matter to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS, was triggered by Cambodia in June after Thailand terminated a 25-year-old memorandum of understanding meant to resolve overlapping maritime claims.

Thailand’s decision to revoke the agreement came unilaterally after a sharp deterioration in relations and armed combat with Cambodia last year. The Southeast Asian neighbors fought over competing claims to territory along the land border in July and December. Several dozen civilians and soldiers on both sides were killed and hundreds of thousands of people displaced.

Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow and his Cambodian counterpart Prak Sokhonn led their delegations in the first conciliation meeting with the five-member UNCLOS commission, held in Singapore from Monday to Wednesday.

Cambodia called for a peaceful resolution, which “serves the peoples of both nations and contributes to peace, cooperation and shared prosperity in the region,” Prak Sokhonn said in his statement Tuesday.

He said Cambodia was compelled



Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow, center, prepares to attend the first meeting of a conciliation commission between Thailand and Cambodia under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, in Singapore on Sept 15. (AP)

to consider other peaceful options and chose to initiate the UNCLOS proceedings “in keeping with its commitment to the rule of law and to the peaceful settlement of disputes.”

Sihasak said Thailand has been unwavering in its commitment to uphold international law and peaceful settlement in disputes. He argued that the revoked agreement “had produced no concrete progress,” as the two countries managed to hold only two meetings over a period of 25 years.

He said Thailand wished to “give negotiations a fresh start,” and that it had offered Cambodia an opportunity to hold direct talks, which Cambodia disregarded, before moving on to the UNCLOS conciliation process.

“Thailand stands ready to engage in this process constructively, with the aim of achieving, with the Commission’s assistance, a negotiated and equitable solution,” the Thai foreign minister said.

A fragile ceasefire between the two countries was agreed in late December, but tensions continue with sporadic incidents and large-scale deployment of military forces.

Any UNCLOS ruling isn’t binding on the parties involved, even though both countries are signatories to the international pact.

Thailand has been averse to having territorial issues decided by third parties rather than handled bilaterally. It has long felt a 1962 ruling by the International Court of Justice awarding Cambodia the hilltop Preah Vihear temple along their border to be unfair, contributing to ongoing tensions between the neighbors.



Alejandro Marquina shows a photo of his aunt Yolanda Suárez on his phone after the earthquakes killed her and four other members of his family in his home state of La Guaira, on Aug 29 in Doral, Fla. (AP)

For Venezuelans living in United States, June’s earthquakes still reverberate across daily life

LOS ANGELES, Sept 15, (AP): After her parents went missing under the rubble of their Venezuela apartment building, Kelly Granado Montano spent her days here “lost, worried, on the phone,” her body in one country, her mind in another.

“The desperation, the pain, and the anguish grew - from not knowing” their fate, she said.

She was among the more than one million Venezuelans living in the United States who watched one of the worst disasters to hit the South American country unfold from afar.

The powerful back-to-back earthquakes that struck north-central Venezuela on June 24 killed more than 6,500 people, left an untold number missing and damaged thousands of buildings.

As the news overtook social media feeds and family WhatsApp chats, survivor’s guilt, anger toward Venezuelan authorities and a devastating feeling of powerlessness overcame many in the diaspora, a group whose numbers doubled to 1.2 million between 2019 to 2024, as people sought relief primarily from economic hardship.

More than two months later, some Venezuelans in the US still navigate the earthquakes’ aftermath - confronting loss and leading recovery efforts - against a backdrop of deepening uncertainty in both countries, largely tied to White House policies.

As President Donald Trump tightens his grip on Venezuela’s domestic affairs following the stunning U.S. military operation that deposed then-President Nicolás Maduro in January, his administration is narrowing paths to remain in the US, ending programs that allow more than 700,000 Venezuelans to live and work here legally.

Some immigrants feel a responsibility to keep shining light on Venezuela’s ongoing needs and unique challenges. “People think we are fine, but we are not,” said Dariela Merchan, an emergency room nurse in Austin, Texas.

Four Venezuelans living in the US shared how they experienced the last two months, and what their futures might hold. This story is a collaboration with Caplin News in Miami and Phoenix-based Conecta Arizona.

Granado Montano called her parents over and over the evening of June 24, but there was no answer.

Marina, 66, and Jesús, 80, had last been seen in the underground parking of the building where they kept

a beach apartment, about to leave from a family vacation. The 10-story building in the coastal state of La Guaira had completely collapsed.

Granado Montano, 43, last saw her parents 11 years ago. Unable to leave the U.S., and with so little help from Venezuelan authorities, looking for her parents alongside relatives and volunteers on the ground became “an odyssey.”

She fundraised for the search efforts and pleaded on social media for more help to reach their building, one of 190 that completely collapsed. A group searching for their loved ones spent thousands hiring a machine to move debris, to little avail. Progress began when someone donated an excavator and a drone operator helped locate missing remains.

In the midst of everything, Granado Montano turned her Los Angeles restaurant, Full Arepas, into a relief hub, filling shipping containers with donations to be sent to Venezuela. “Knowing we are helping people who are going through something similar ... it brings me a little relief,” she said.

And so 57 days passed, until the afternoon of Aug. 19. Granado Montano was at work when a cousin sent her a video of her parents’ van, covered in rubble.

Inside, volunteers found her mother and father; her cousin and her 9-year-old daughter; her daughter’s friend; her cousin’s boyfriend and his 13-year-old son. Her father had his seat belt on.

Learning they’d been found was “bittersweet,” she said. Her family had been recovered, but “it wasn’t the way we had wanted - alive.”

She processes one day at a time - keeping busy at the restaurant and establishing a foundation to continue helping Venezuelans. Unable to attend the memorial for her parents in Venezuela, Granado Montano and her sister held their own service at a Los Angeles church.

“They were together for 45 years and into eternity,” said Granado Montano. “Because they were found just as I had hoped they would be. Together.”

Dariela Merchan longed to put her medical skills to use on the ground. But an expired Venezuelan passport prevented the emergency room nurse from returning to the country she first left 14 years, a common issue after Venezuelan consulates in the U.S. shuttered years ago.

As Trump squeezes International Criminal Court, more countries leaving

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Sept 15, (AP): As the United States ratchets up the pressure on the International Criminal Court, sanctioning two more high-ranking staff members in recent weeks, a small but growing number of the global tribunal’s member states have announced they will quit the institution.

The recent departure of Venezuela and Chad brings the number of countries to pull out of the court in the past year to five, joining Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The surge in withdrawals comes as the ICC faces hostility from Washington and a leadership crisis after ousting its own chief prosecutor.

“Five countries so far have announced plans to withdraw from the Rome Statute, and we welcome more announcements in the future,” a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department told The Associated Press.

The Rome Statute established the ICC in 2002 as the court of last resort to prosecute individuals responsible for the world’s most heinous atrocities: war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression. Based in The Hague, it takes on cases when nations are unable or unwilling to prosecute crimes on their own territory.

“The ICC regrets any decision to depart from the collective effort to end impunity for the most serious international crimes,” the court’s spokesperson Oriane Maillet told the AP.

In July, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that the US was launching a “sweeping campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the International Criminal Court to US sovereignty.”

Rubio said he will pressure the court’s 125 member states to withdraw from the institution, sanction organizations that work with the court and ban staff from traveling to the United States. Trump’s administration already has sanctioned a dozen ICC staff in retaliation for warrants the court has issued for top Israeli officials over the war in Gaza and investigations into US personnel in Afghanistan.

The Central African country of Chad specifically cited the United

States in its decision to withdraw. Its Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul said in a statement that in a phone call with a US official on July 23, “the American side expressed its concerns regarding the functioning of this institution and requested that Chad reconsider” its membership.

Four days later, Chad said it would leave the ICC.

Iva Vukušić, a researcher at Utrecht University, told the AP that the US campaign will lay bare just how committed countries are to the court. “Are they willing to defend it if it costs them something real?” she said.

The State Department told AP the US would call upon nations that “enjoy the benefits of the US security umbrella” to reject the ICC.

It’s not just pressure from Trump that is sending ICC members toward the exit door.

The ruling military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger blamed selective justice. The ICC has become an “instrument of neocolonial repression in the hands of imperialism,” the trio said when they announced their departures last year.



The International Criminal Court (ICC) is seen on Dec 9, 2025, in The Hague, Netherlands. (AP)

Asia

Questions grow after Vanuatu ferry sinking: Questions were growing about a passenger ferry believed to have sunk off the coast of Vanuatu as rescuers on Tuesday searched for more than 30 people still missing. The sinking on Friday, which officials said wasn’t reported for almost a full day, has killed at least two people.

No further bodies or survivors were recovered Monday from the sea or coastline near where the MV Matui was believed to have sunk, local news outlet VBTC said. Two bodies were recovered and 14 survivors were found by rescuers over the weekend, the broadcaster said, citing the police.

Vanuatu Police Assistant Commissioner David Bongranlie gave the total number on board as 53 on Tuesday, according to VBTC.

The circumstances of the sinking, including when it happened, weren’t clear on Tuesday. Vanuatu police said they hadn’t been told the vessel was missing until 22 hours after it was believed to have sunk, VBTC reported Bongranlie as saying.

Vanuatu’s Daily Post reported that the vessel wasn’t approved to carry more than 30 people and departed on Friday without the knowledge of the country’s Maritime Safety Authority, according to a statement from an agency spokesperson. The news outlet also reported the company that owned the vessel was de-registered from Vanuatu’s business register in June.

Tui Shipping, the boat’s owner, provided a statement to VBTC expressing sympathy to those affected and acknowledging its responsibility for passenger safety, according to the broadcaster on Tuesday. The statement didn’t disclose any details about the sinking.

The office of Prime Minister Jotham Napat wrote on social media Tuesday that he would cancel a planned trip to the United Nations General Assembly in New York to deal with the disaster.

“A lot of valid questions are being asked publicly that demand answers and solutions,” Napat said in the statement. “The Government acknowledges that this situation could have been minimized or avoided had all responsible authorities been alert and up to the task.” (AP)

Australian court rules to release youngest serial killer: An Australian court ruled Tuesday that one of three serial killers convicted over the murders of 11 people in one of the country’s most notorious criminal cases can be-



A man walks on Champagne Beach, near Luganville on Santo, Vanuatu’s largest island, in 2010. (AP)

leased from prison, rejecting a state government’s bid to block his parole.

The victims were killed over seven years, and most of their bodies were found in 1999 in barrels of acid in Snowtown, a small town north of the South Australia state capital, Adelaide. The discovery led the crimes to become known as the “Bodies-in-Barrels” murders.

Three judges of the South Australia Court of Appeal upheld a parole board decision made last month to release the youngest of the three convicted murderers, James Vlassakis.

Vlassakis, now 46, was 18 when his crimes began in 1998. He pleaded guilty to four murders, including those of a half brother and stepbrother. He became a star witness for the prosecution, and was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 26 years, which expired in August of last year.

He was granted parole in December but the state government succeeded in overturning that parole board decision.

The discovery of dismembered bodies in a derelict Snowtown bank branch and a yearlong trial that ended in 2003 captured the nation’s attention at the time, inspiring books and the 2011 movie “Snowtown.”

Parole board chair Frances Nelson argued Vlassakis had “always been

remorseful and contrite.” He had not been diagnosed with any anti-social personality disorder and his prison behavior has been “excellent,” she said.

South Australia Attorney-General Kyam Maher, who had unsuccessfully challenged the parole decision, instead argued that the traumatic nature of the crimes justified keeping Vlassakis behind bars. (AP)

Inquiry into NZ man who hid his kids in forest: A major inquiry into the case of New Zealand man Tom Phillips, who hid his children in dense forest for years before he died in a police shootout, has criticized officials for not taking seriously enough the harms and risks to the children early in the saga of his disappearance.

The public inquiry - which is a formal, independent investigation of matters of significant importance in New Zealand - was launched in November 2025 to scrutinize how government agencies handled the case. It was prompted by outrage about how a father involved in court proceedings was able to evade authorities for almost four years, while forcing his children to live in rugged, squalid conditions in remote countryside without access to health care or education.

The inquiry’s report, released Tuesday, said the harms caused by Phillips isolating his children were “underplayed, minimised or overlooked” for “significant periods” by the police and New Zealand’s child protection agency, Oranga Tamariki. Concerns raised by the children’s mother and her relatives were “often minimised as being part of a parenting dispute,” the report added.

When Phillips vanished with his children - then 5, 7 and 8 - from Marokopa, a tiny rural township on New Zealand’s North Island, in December 2021, it wasn’t the first time he’d disappeared with them. Yet officials dealing with the case didn’t act with enough urgency, the inquiry found.

Significant opportunities were missed by police officers and social workers after the family’s first disappearance months earlier, New Zealand Minister of Social Development Louise Upston said in the government’s response to the inquiry on Tuesday. The inquiry found officials didn’t act quickly enough on a 2023 sighting of the family and didn’t seek surveillance warrants or bring in the military early enough.

“To the Phillips children directly, this report has found that our agencies did not take all practical steps to protect you,” Upston said in a statement. “For that we are deeply sorry.” (AP)

Kuwait oil up \$4.39 to \$123.41 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwaiti crude oil gained USD 4.39 during Monday’s trading to reach USD 123.41 per barrel (pb), compared with USD 119.02 pb the day before, Kuwait Petro-

leum Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday. In global markets, Brent crude increased by USD 1.07 to USD 105.68 pb as did West Texas Intermediate by USD 1.34 cents to USD 101.39 pb.

Business

Recognized for delivering measurable business value through technology

Kamco Invest recognized at IDC CIO Excellence Awards 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest assets under management in the region, announced that it has been recognized at the International Data Corporation (“IDC”) Chief Information Officer (“CIO”) Excellence Awards 2026 during the IDC ICO Summit held in Kuwait. The recognition reflects Kamco Invest’s continued progress in advancing digital innovation and implementing technology-driven initiatives that enhance the client experience, improve operational efficiency and create measurable business value.

Ahmed Nahla, Director of Digital Innovation at Kamco Invest was selected following a rigorous evaluation process involving a highly competitive pool of nominations from across Kuwait. The process focused on completed initiatives that demonstrated measurable business value, technological innovation, operational improvement and tangible organizational impact. The award was announced during the IDC CIO Excellence Awards ceremony, held on 14 September 2026 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel in Kuwait.

Among the initiatives highlighted during the evaluation was Kamco Invest’s AI-enabled online due diligence solution. The solution significantly reduced processing time and related costs while improving operational efficiency and optimizing the review process. It was developed using a human-in-the-loop model, which combines the capabilities of artificial intelligence with professional oversight to support informed and responsible decision-making. Automating time-intensive elements of the process also enables professionals to focus more closely on areas requiring judgment and detailed assessment, while ensuring that their expertise remains central to the final review.

The recognition also reflected the Digital Innovation Team’s broader progress in advancing Kamco Invest’s digital customer experience and introducing practical solutions that respond to evolving business and client requirements. These efforts form part of the Company’s continued digital transformation journey and its focus on adopting emerging technologies responsibly to deliver sustainable business value. Kamco Invest continues to explore opportunities to enhance customer journeys, simplify internal processes and strengthen its digital capabilities in line with its long-term strategic priorities.



Ahmed Nahla receiving the IDC CIO Award.

Commenting on the recognition, Nahla said, “We would like to thank IDC for recognizing Kamco Invest’s application of digital innovation and artificial intelligence to create meaningful value for its clients. This achievement reflects the dedication of our Digital Innovation Team and the collaboration of colleagues across the Company, whose knowledge and engagement have helped transform forward-looking ideas into effective tools that respond to genuine business requirements.”

He added, “Our AI-enabled online due diligence solution demonstrates how artificial intelligence can be applied responsibly while keeping professional expertise at the center of the review and decision-making process. We will continue to identify opportunities where digital solutions can address practical business needs and support Kamco Invest’s long-term growth and transformation objectives.”

Kamco Invest continues to invest in its digital capabilities as part of its commitment to delivering a seamless client experience and maintaining operational excellence. Through collaboration across the organization, the Digital Innovation Team develops and implements solutions that address business requirements while supporting the Company’s strategic priorities.

About Kamco Invest

Kamco Investment Company K.S.C (Public) “Kamco Invest” is a regional non-banking financial powerhouse headquartered in Kuwait with offices in key regional financial markets, established in 1998 and listed on Boursa Kuwait in 2003. It is an Independently managed subsidiary of Burgan Bank, a member of KIPCO Group, adopting highest standards of corporate governance and regulated by the Capital Markets Authority and Central Bank of Kuwait. The Company offers a comprehensive range of investment solutions covering asset management, investment banking and brokerage.

Kamco Invest has AUM of over USD18.0bn as of 30 June 2026 allocated to various asset classes and jurisdictions, making it one of the largest asset managers in the MENA region. It has acted as investment banker to deals exceeding USD50.3bn from its inception to 30 June 2026 in equity capital markets, debt capital markets and mergers & acquisitions.

Kuwait, your Uber has arrived

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Today, Uber announced that riders in Kuwait will be able to request convenient everyday trips on-demand through the Uber app. Uber’s launch in Kuwait marks an important step in the company’s long-term commitment to the country and its evolving mobility ecosystem, bringing technology-enabled mobility solutions to residents and visitors.

By connecting riders and drivers through technology, Uber aims to support convenient and accessible transportation, complementing existing mobility options and supporting the continued digital transformation

of the transportation sector. For residents, the Uber app provides a convenient way to request a trip at the push of a button, while for international visitors, it offers a familiar and accessible way to navigate Kuwait.

Riders in Kuwait, as of today, can request a trip easily through the Uber app and choose from Taxi, Uber Comfort, Uber Black or Uber Lux, benefiting from features designed to enhance their everyday mobility experience, including multiple destinations, scheduled rides, digital cashless payments, and support from Uber’s 24/7 global incident response team.



Uber Kuwait

KD 9.7 mln contract awarded

KOC strengthens West Kuwait oil infrastructure

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Boursa Kuwait on Monday announced that tender for the repair and renovation of production facilities in the western part of the country, which belong to Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and valued at KD9.7 million, was awarded to a major contracting company.

On the importance of this project, an oil sector source confirmed that KOC prioritizes its production facilities in West Kuwait, as the area is considered a major hub for supporting its capabilities.

The source indicated that KOC is systematically pursuing comprehensive repair and renovation operations for all its facilities as an essential requirement for the sustainability and development of its operations.

The source added that this project is very significant in terms of supporting the foundations of the oil infrastructure of the country.

According to the source, the paramount technical and operational importance of this project lies in maintaining the sustainable production capacity of KOC’s facilities and production centers in West Kuwait, ensuring their operational safety, and raising their technical efficiency.

He pointed out that the project could reduce downtime and address unforeseen malfunctions that might affect daily crude oil flow rates.

He revealed that such advanced periodic maintenance and renovation services could extend the lifespan of the massive capital and production assets of KOC, in line with the plans

and strategies of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to increase production rates and upgrade vital facilities to meet future global demand.

He disclosed that the tender was awarded to a major contracting company in accordance with the official and legal procedures to ensure transparency, indicating the results are published in the official gazette, “Kuwait Al-Youm”.

He asserted that allotting such a huge investment for the maintenance and renovation contracts will have a positive impact on the local economy, and will stimulate the contracting and support services sector.

He expects the project to generate substantial and sustainable operating returns, thereby, proving the strength and solvency of the operational services sector throughout the duration of the project.

He affirmed that KOC prioritizes the development and modernization of its oil facilities to achieve its production quotas and solidify the competitive position of Kuwait in global oil markets.

He emphasized that upgrading production facilities in West Kuwait is vital, given the significance of the area in the oil production of the country, its major reservoirs and gathering centers, which necessitate regular maintenance using the most advanced engineering technologies.

He added that the modernization process includes the implementation of digital control and smart monitoring systems, while the regular maintenance and upgrade of facilities and pipeline flow systems will prevent mechanical failures and corrosion.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the winners of its Alfouz draw account for the month of August 2026, which took place on 14 September 2026, reaffirming its commitment to rewarding customers and promoting a culture of saving through one of Kuwait’s most rewarding banking products.

The winners of the August 2026 weekly draw, each receiving KD 1,000 per month for one year, are: Iyad Tayar Abouraid, Hani Alounsi, Hussain Ali Alshemali.

The winner of the monthly draw receiving KD 2,000 per month for one year, is Talal Hussain Muzaffar.

To further enhance audience engagement, the live broadcast featured a series of interactive questions that gave viewers the opportunity to learn more about ABK and the benefits of the Alfouz account. Winners of prizes including gold bars, Alshaya Gift Cards, during these competitions were announced live during the draw.

The enhanced prize structure includes weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual draws, with rewards distributed as monthly salary-style payouts. Customers can win between KD 1,000 and KD 3,000 per month in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws, depending on the prize tier.

In addition, the semi-annual and annual draws offer prizes of KD 5,000 per month for periods of 5 and 10 years, respectively. Customers can participate in the draws by maintaining a minimum



ABK’s Alfouz draw winner.

balance of KD 200 in their Alfouz draw account. ABK congratulates all winners and encourages customers to continue saving through the Alfouz

draw account to maximize their chances of winning future draws and benefiting from its rewarding prize structure.

In collaboration with Jahra Mall

KIB supports school supplies collection initiative

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: As part of its commitment to social responsibility and sustainable practices, and in line with the social and environmental pillars of its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) supported an initiative to collect pre-owned school supplies. Organized by Jahra Mall, the initiative coincided with the back-to-school season.

The initiative aimed to encourage community members to donate school supplies that were still in good condition for reuse, while the supplies were directed toward recycling and distributed to families in need. The initiative saw participation from people of various age groups, supported by volunteers who assisted with the collection and sorting process. Their involvement reflected a strong spirit of cooperation and social responsibility, while helping raise awareness of the importance of conserving resources and reducing waste.

Commenting on the initiative, Abdulaziz Al-Thawab, Assistant Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: “At KIB, we believe community initiatives have the greatest impact when they empower individuals to take part and make a positive difference themselves.

This is why supporting this initiative was especially meaningful, as it gave pre-owned school supplies a new purpose by turning them into valuable resources for others, just in time for the start of the new academic year.”

Al-Thawab added: “The initiative also carries an important message about our shared responsibility toward the resources we use and the importance of extending their useful life whenever possible, rather than simply discarding them. Initiatives like this provide a practical way to combine community service with promoting more conscious and sustainable behaviors, values that we are committed to reinforcing through KIB’s social responsibility program and our ESG approach.”

KIB’s support for the initiative coincided with its participation in back-to-school activities through a dedicated booth at Jahra Mall over a three-week period. The booth enabled the Bank to engage directly with families and mall visi-



KIB - Al Jahra Mall Back To School

tors, while showcasing its products, services, and range of banking solutions designed to suit their needs and lifestyles.

KIB’s presence at Jahra Mall during the back-to-school season reflected its continued commitment to staying close to customers during occasions that form part of their everyday lives. It also provided an opportunity to engage with them beyond the Bank’s branches and traditional banking channels, strengthening direct communication and gaining deeper insight into their needs and aspirations.

It is worth noting that KIB remains committed to participating in a wide range of community occasions and maintaining a presence at destinations that bring together different segments of society. Through these activities, the Bank continues to strengthen its relationships with both customers and the wider community, while reaffirming its commitment to being a close and trusted partner throughout the various stages of their lives, in line with its main slogan, “Bank for Life.”

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari’ah, based in the

State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: “Bank for Life”.

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

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

In cooperation with Mol & MoE to enhance security & traffic with the beginning of academic year

KFH contributes to raising community awareness through ‘Prevention & Safety’ campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting national efforts aimed at enhancing community security and safety through its active participation in the national awareness campaign “Prevention and Safety”, launched in conjunction with the start of the new academic year. The campaign is implemented as part of a strategic partnership between KFH, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Education.

The campaign seeks to raise security and traffic awareness among students and parents and to promote preventive practices that contribute to protecting children and enhancing their safety, thereby generating a positive impact on society.

KFH’s participation reflects its ongoing commitment to adopting national initiatives with sustainable impact and supporting collaborative efforts aimed at building a safer and more aware society.

As part of the initiative, a KFH team visited several schools across Kuwait’s governorates to participate in the awareness activities associated with the beginning of the academic year. During these visits, gifts were distributed and educational messages and guidance were delivered, highlighting the importance of adhering to traffic safety regulations and promoting security awareness among students and parents, ultimately contributing to the well-being of the community.

The Bank is keen to participate in and support this campaign annually in conjunction with the start of the school year, as part of its social responsibility commitment and its deep-rooted belief in the importance of promoting security and traffic awareness among all segments of society, particularly students and parents, who are key partners in fostering a culture of safety and preven-



Kuwait Finance House team with Interior Ministry personnel.



Kuwait Finance House distributes gifts to students.



tion.

The Prevention and Safety campaign represents a leading model of effective partnership and constructive integration between public and private sector institutions. Its continued implementation over the years reflects the importance of unifying national efforts and strengthening

cooperation between government entities and private sector institutions to achieve shared objectives in the fields of awareness and prevention.

The campaign also contributes to promoting a culture of security, safety, and social responsibility, in alignment with the pillars of Kuwait’s

development vision, which aims to build a more aware, secure, and sustainable society while strengthening community partnerships in support of national priority issues.

The Bank continues to play a major role in supporting impactful community and awareness initiatives, alongside its ongoing commit-

ment to supporting and empowering students and youth, based on its belief that they are the cornerstone of human development and a key driver in building a sustainable future.

KFH is considered one of the largest supporters of student and youth programs and activities through qualitative initiatives that contrib-

ute to developing young people’s capabilities, skills, and readiness for future requirements. These efforts reinforce their role as active partners in the journey of social development and progress and contribute to building generations capable of leading advancement and innovation toward a more prosperous future.

Kuwait Airways, Emirates ink MoU to enhance connectivity

DUBAI, Sept 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Airways and Emirates airline inked on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding to expand their existing interline partnership, paving the way for a reciprocal codeshare agreement.

The agreement aims to provide customers with wider travel options and enhanced connectivity across the two airlines’ networks.

Kuwait Airways said in a statement to KUNA that the MoU was signed on the sidelines of its participation in Kuwait’s pavilion at Arabian Travel Market 2026 in Dubai.

Kuwait Airways Acting CEO Captain Abdulwahab Al-Shatti said the agreement reflects the carrier’s efforts to expand strategic partnerships with global airlines and offer customers greater travel flexibility.

Under the new arrangements, Kuwait Airways customers will gain access to more Emirates destinations through its Dubai hub, with multi-sector journeys bookable on a single ticket and baggage checked through to the final destination.

Emirates customers will likewise benefit from Kuwait Airways’ network, expanding travel options and connectivity between Kuwait and

destinations served by both carriers.

Al-Shatti described the expanded partnership as an important step toward strengthening connectivity and broadening travel options, highlighting the strategic ties between the two airlines and the close relations between Kuwait and the UAE.

Emirates Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim said the move reflects the partnership’s development and offers customers greater travel and connectivity options across the region and beyond.

He said a reciprocal codeshare agreement would allow both carriers to better leverage their complementary networks, open new routes and provide a more seamless travel experience through Dubai and Kuwait.

The statement noted that Kuwait Airways had earlier expanded its strategic cooperation with Emirates, giving its customers access to 19 international destinations across the Emirates network, including markets in Australia, China, Japan, the United States and South Africa.

Emirates customers can currently access eight destinations across the Kuwait Airways network.

What the closure of Saudi Arabia’s East-West pipeline could mean for oil flows

Repairs may take weeks

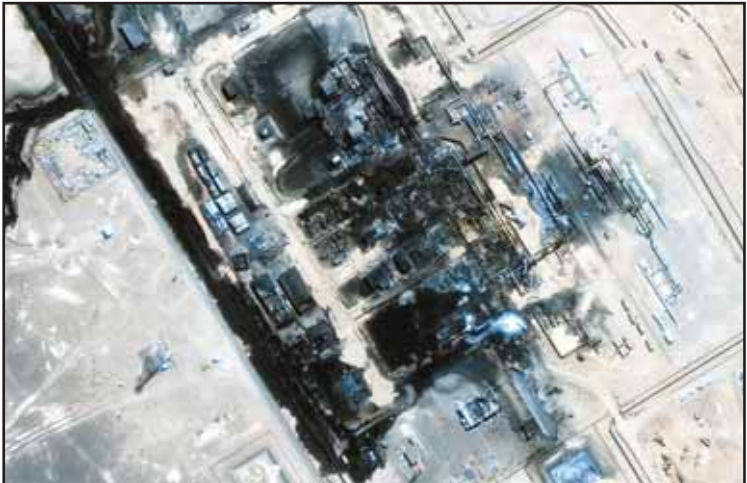
CHICAGO, Sept 15, (AP): Saudi Arabia’s closure of a major oil pipeline after a recent attack is raising fears that global energy markets in crisis because of the war with Iran could face even starker shortages, pushing prices higher for fuel and other essentials.

The largest oil producer in the Middle East closed its East-West pipeline on Friday after the attack, which it blamed on drones from Iranian-backed militias in Iraq. Two regional officials told The Associated Press that repairs could take three to five weeks.

The pipeline is crucial to getting some crude out of the Middle East by shipping it to the Red Sea rather than through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway through which roughly a fifth of the world’s oil supply passed before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in February.

Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthis rebels have seized islands along key Red Sea shipping routes, further threatening Saudi exports. And while several limited alternatives remain, including trickles of tanker traffic in Hormuz, experts warn more supply shocks and higher prices straining households could pile up. Brent crude, the international standard, traded at more than \$105 a barrel Monday.

Here’s what we know: Saudi Arabia’s East-West pipeline stretches some 1,200 kilometers (746 miles) across the desert nation - carrying oil from a processing facility near the Persian Gulf westward to the Red Sea. There, crude is typically loaded onto tankers that head north towards Europe via the Suez Canal or south through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, on



This satellite image provided by Vantor on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026 shows the aftermath of the recent drone attack on the East-West pipeline in Saudi Arabia. (Satellite image ©2026 Vantor via AP)

the way to Asia.

The pipeline was built in the 1980s amid fears that Tehran would disrupt shipping through Hormuz during the Iran-Iraq war. And for the first six months of the current war, it was crucial to keeping at least some oil flowing out of the Middle East while most tanker traffic in Hormuz remained at a standstill.

Rystad Energy said Monday that an average 2.6 million to 4 million barrels of oil a day moved through the pipeline and out of the Red Sea port of Yanbu since late August - a volume it said is now at risk of “disappearing from the market.”

Four million barrels per day is about 4% of the global oil supply, according to the International Energy Agency. Saudi Arabia produced nearly 10 million barrels of oil a day in September 2025, but was down to 6 million barrels per day in August, the IEA said.

Janiv Shah, vice president of oil markets for Rystad Energy, noted the recent jump in Brent prices proves the market is already responding to “a significant loss of supply.” Saudi inventories could sustain exports in the coming days,

but that could “change quickly,” Shah added.

The Strait of Hormuz is still top of mind. Before the war, about 20 million barrels passed through Hormuz each day.

Some tankers are again traversing the strait, but traffic is well below what it once was. Maritime data company Lloyd’s List Intelligence counted 90 transits in the first week of September. Before the war, about 130 ships passed through daily.

The Houthis have also tightened their hold on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a vital passage for the southern Red Sea. Analysts at Melius Research estimated that about 3 million barrels of oil a day were moving through Bab el-Mandeb in early September, but noted Monday that “it’s likely zero now.”

Because of Houthi attacks, most Saudi traffic from Yanbu went north to the Mediterranean, either via the Suez Canal or Egypt’s SUMED pipeline. But the Houthis have also begun targeting Saudi shipping in the north.

Salvatore Mercogliano, a professor of maritime history at Campbell University in North Carolina, noted that

at least Hormuz is still on the table.

“If this (East-West pipeline) was the only method for Saudi Arabia to get their oil out it would be absolutely cataclysmic,” he said. “But since the Hormuz route has opened back up - not completely but opened up some - it’s not the death knell for Saudi Arabia. They’re getting oil out.”

Supply squeezes have led to soaring prices worldwide. And analysts warn that the latest disruptions could bring even more pain for consumers in the coming weeks and months.

One of the most immediate consequences is the cost of fuel and household energy bills. Countries in Asia and Africa, which rely more heavily on imports from the Middle East, have experienced some of the starkest shocks.

In Nigeria, for example, diesel prices are now 92% higher than they were in late February, and gasoline prices are up nearly 61%, according to energy tracker Global Petrol Prices. Countries including Indonesia (diesel up 87% and gas up 38%) and Lebanon (diesel up 80% and gas up 46%) have also seen steep spikes.

In the U.S., the price per gallon of regular gasoline was nearly \$4.32 on average Monday, up almost 45% from the \$2.98 seen before the war, according to motor club AAA. Diesel hit another all-time high (without accounting for inflation) of \$6.23 per gallon on average Monday, up nearly 66% from the start of the war.

The cost of diesel, in particular, makes its way into other goods because the fuel is used for long-haul trucks and other delivery networks, as well as farm equipment.

“An inflationary spillover is likely,” warned Melius Research analysts on Monday, pointing to the war’s squeeze on essentials like fertilizer as well as energy sources. “The diesel crunch is also coming ahead of the U.S. harvesting and heating season.”

Africa’s biggest oil refinery opens to public ownership

LAGOS, Sept 15, (AP): Nigerian industrialist Aliko Dangote opened his refinery to public ownership Monday with plans to raise \$1.6 billion from retail investors across the continent in Africa’s biggest initial public offering, or IPO.

Dangote, Africa’s richest man, dubbed the IPO one “for the people” and said he wants everyone to be able to own a share. Retail investors can buy a 10-share bundle in the sprawling Lagos-based refinery for 5,250 naira (\$4), the minimum investment. Dangote retains 87% ownership of the refinery, Africa’s largest.

The refinery’s scale and potential returns, especially at a time when global oil prices have risen following the U.S.-Iran war, have generated excitement among retail investors.

“We are all going to fully share all our prosperity with the people and that is why we call it the people’s IPO,” Dangote said at Monday’s launch at the Nigerian Exchange Group in Lagos, flanked by the refinery’s officials and associates.

Although the refinery stock won’t be publicly listed in Nigeria until November, its IPO launch resulted in heavy traffic on some of the country’s digital investment platforms, with at least two knocked offline briefly.

“I will be a fool not to partake in it and see how it goes. I am placing a lot of emphasis on his name and on the refinery being the biggest in Africa,” Titi Adetoye, an Abuja-based operations manager who hopes to buy up to 1,000 shares, told The Associated Press.

Nigeria has relied for many decades on foreign refining of its oil

due to decrepit state-run refineries, many of which operate below capacity or have remained stagnant for years due to poor maintenance.

But when the \$19 billion refinery began production in 2024, it transformed the energy-rich country of more than 210 million people from an importer of refined oil into an exporter.

“It is going to be a game-changing IPO for Nigeria’s markets,” said Mohammed Saidu, head of research and investment analysis at Lagos-based TrustBanc. Saidu said he predicted there would be millions of new investors from the IPO.

The IPO has raised questions about Dangote retaining significant ownership and the refinery’s purported valuation after the offering. At \$49 billion, the valuation is more than twice what it cost to build it. The refinery’s officials have denied that its valuation is inflated.

“It is not something someone can classify as people-driven if you still own 87% of the refinery and there are many ways that narrative breaks down,” Joachim McEbone, a senior West Africa analyst at Control Risks, said.

The IPO also has its skeptics. Abdulkabeer Tijani, a Lagos-based researcher who invests regularly in Nigerian stocks, said that, priced at 525 naira (\$0.40) per share, it might already be too expensive.

“(The share price) puts a bigger duty on the refinery, which suggests that to justify an even higher valuation from the roughly 47 trillion naira (\$49 billion), the refinery needs to generate very substantial profits and cash flow consistently,” Tijani said.

Houthi gains in Yemen push Somali importers to reroute cargo

MOGADISHU, Sept 15, (AP): Somalia’s business community is seeking alternative shipping routes due to disruptions and security concerns around the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Strait of Hormuz after Iran-backed Houthis captured a key port city and an island, sending thousands of Yemenis fleeing to neighboring Djibouti.

Companies have traditionally imported goods from Asia through Gulf countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. Now, some are trying a more direct approach.

“The latest tensions in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, as well as those in the Strait of Hormuz, have negatively impacted us,” said Mohamed Ali Nur, director of Mogadishu Seaport. “But we have also taken measures to avoid that disruption.”

Nur said his port has worked with exporters to find alternative routes.

“For the first time, we brought a ship carrying sugar directly from Sri Lanka,” Nur said. “This could be a strategy we developed because of these tensions.”

Yemen’s internationally recognized government and Saudi Arabia have been battling the Houthis for 12 years.

The recent escalation has ended a ceasefire that had largely stopped civil war across Yemen since 2022.

Now the number of people from Yemen fleeing the fighting is soaring.

On Sunday, the International Organization for Migration said over 85,000 people have been displaced since the beginning of the month. More than 2,000 people have reached Djibouti, which neighbors Somalia, the agency said.

At Mogadishu’s busy seaport, cargo ships continue to unload food and other commodities. Somalia is particularly dependent on maritime trade for many of the goods its people use every day.

For ordinary Somali consumers, changes in shipping routes can eventually be felt in the markets, where imported food and other goods are sold. Longer or more complicated journeys can mean higher transportation costs and delays in getting products onto store shelves.

Capt Ali Jemdi, who is originally from Syria and ships cargoes of sugar, said uncertainty in the region is already creating concerns for ships operating along the routes.

“There is some trouble over there because of the war,” he told The Associated Press, referring to the Arabian Gulf and surrounding waters. “The Bab el-Mandeb may also have some issues for the vessel.”

He said the instability could make maritime transportation and trade more difficult.

Fed poised for first rate hike in 3 years

Markets bet on Fed rate hike

WASHINGTON, Sept 15, (AP): The Federal Reserve is widely expected to lift its short-term interest rate Wednesday for the first time in three years to fight stubbornly high inflation, a move that would put the central bank at odds with President Donald Trump’s support for a cut.

A quarter-point increase in the Fed’s rate, currently about 3.6%, isn’t guaranteed because Fed Chair Kevin Warsh doesn’t provide the signals about next moves that his predecessors did. Still, most analysts and economists expect a hike after a speech two weeks ago at the Fed’s annual conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in which Warsh argued that the Fed had not yet achieved its goal of putting inflation in check.

A rate increase would throw another sharp shift into a volatile period for the economy and financial markets. As recently as March, the Fed had forecast it would cut its rate once this year. But with the Iran war flaring up again and causing sharp increases in oil and gas prices, inflation is likely to remain higher than the Fed’s 2% target for even longer.

“I don’t see any end to the war in Iran right now,” Kristin Forbes, an economist at MIT’s Sloan School, said. “Given what everyone has been through in the last few years of high inflation, consumers are more sensitive, companies are more sensitive, they raise prices faster ... The risks are much more on more persistent inflation than it falling quickly.”

Surging investment in AI data centers has also been accelerating inflation and contributing to higher longer-term interest rates, though now leading companies are discussing slowing the technology’s development.

The Fed’s potential rate hike

comes just seven weeks before the midterm elections in which high prices and affordability have taken key roles. Trump has demanded that the Fed cut rates, a move that isn’t on the table, and on Sunday the president said, “the United States is so strong we should be paying the lowest interest rate in the world.”

Trump repeatedly attacked Warsh’s predecessor, Jerome Powell, in harshly personal terms, upending decades of tradition in which presidents treated the Fed as independent.

Kevin Hassett, Trump’s top economic adviser, said Sunday on CNN that Trump “100% respects the independence of Kevin Warsh.”

Yet at the same time, Hassett suggested in a Fox News interview that the Fed shouldn’t hike so close to the midterms.

“I’d be wary of a rate hike ... I think if you want an independent Fed, then one thing the Fed does is it stays out of the way of elections,” Hassett said.

Financial markets expect that Warsh and the central bank will brush off such warnings. Traders now see a 90% chance the Fed will hike Wednesday, according to futures prices. That figure jumped after Friday’s inflation report showed that prices remain stubbornly high and core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy, picked up in August from the previous month.

After that report, and Warsh’s tough talk on inflation late last month, most economists argue that Warsh will have to hike rates or risk undermining his credibility with financial markets. Longer-term interest rates, such as those on the 10-year and 30-year Treasury bonds, could spike if he doesn’t hike, as they did after a Fed meeting in late July when Warsh failed to convince markets he was willing to lift rates if needed.

“At the end of the day the Chair’s repeated stern warnings on inflation intolerance risk institutional credibility absent some action to back it up,” Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, wrote in a preview of the Fed’s meeting.

Some members of the Fed’s interest-rate setting committee still

expect inflation, outside of food and energy, to fade over time and may not feel a rate hike is necessary.

But Warsh has not made that argument. Instead, in his Jackson Hole remarks, he said recent inflation reports “do not tell me that underlying trends have improved,” adding that if such improvement wasn’t seen soon, “we have work to do.”

Ironically, by boosting Fed credibility, a rate hike could hold down longer-term interest rates that consumers pay for things like mortgages and auto loans. Some of the recent spike in mortgage rates has likely reflected concerns among investors that the Fed wasn’t committed to fighting inflation. Investors typically demand higher yields to own bonds when inflation is elevated.

Still, if the Fed does increase its rate Wednesday, then Warsh will face a new set of questions: How many hikes will the Fed implement? How effective will they be in reducing inflation when much of it stems from higher oil prices, something the Fed can’t control? What will they do if an AI slowdown threatens to slow the economy, which would typically get the central bank to cut rates?

Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank, said it is rare for the Fed to lift its key rate just once, which is likely to have little impact on the economy, and so multiple hikes are likely.

But how the Fed characterizes possible rate increases on Wednesday could give clues to its next steps, he said. For example, if Warsh suggests the Fed is unwinding the three cuts it made in late 2025 - when it feared that unemployment was rising - that would suggest two more hikes would be needed.

Alternatively, Warsh could portray a hike as an act of “risk management,” Luzzetti said, with the Fed expecting inflation to cool but hiking rates to essentially ensure it falls. That could point to possibly just two increases.

Warsh has resisted providing such guidance so far. But Wall Street traders expect three hikes - in September, December, and March - according to futures prices.

Ottawa seeks visa-free mobility pact

Carney seeks deeper Canada-Europe ties amid US trade war

TORONTO, Sept 15, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is heading to Europe in the middle of a trade war with U.S. President Donald Trump, seeking a deeper relationship with the European Union that could give Canadians greater freedom to work and study there.

Canada will seek an arrangement that would allow Canadians to live and work in Europe without visas as part of a strategic partnership, according to a senior Canadian official familiar with the discussions.

The official said Ottawa is not seeking to replicate the arrangements Norway or Switzerland have with the EU and did not propose “associate membership,” a term used in a recent report. Canada instead wants a partnership tailored to its priorities, with investment at its core.

Roughly 70% of Canadian exports go to the United States. Europe is central to Carney’s effort to reduce that dependence.

Carney has ruled out EU membership, saying Canada instead wants “a unique alliance” with the bloc.

Canadian government officials have consulted provinces and labor groups but have not settled on what form the relationship should take. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the talks publicly.

The official said the goal is greater Canadian sovereignty, not less. “We’re not looking at giving up our rights to Brussels or anything like that,” the official said. “It’s quite the opposite.”

Carney will attend European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s State of the Union address Wednesday as a guest of honor before addressing the European Parliament on Thursday.

The trip puts him back on the European stage as relations with Washington reel from tariffs, threats and personal attacks since trade talks collapsed. His Davos speech in January drew a personal rebuke from Trump, and another forceful defense of middle powers could raise the temperature again.

Carney is also carrying to Europe a message that has won praise there but that European governments have been reluctant to follow: Middle powers should be willing to resist economic coercion and walk away from a bad deal.

Canada has retaliated against U.S. tariffs and rejected terms Carney says would weaken its sovereignty. Europe, by contrast, shelved retaliation and accepted a deal leaving most EU exports to the United States facing tariffs of up to 15%.

That choice is striking given the EU’s economic weight as the world’s largest trading bloc.

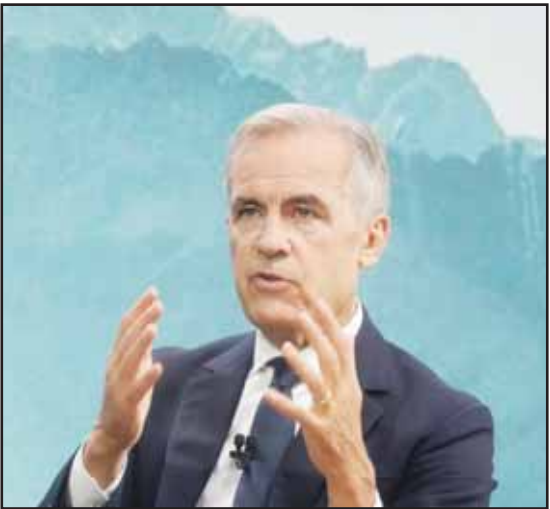
At Davos in January, Carney urged middle powers to band together rather than bow to great powers. When countries negotiate alone with a hegemon, he said, “we negotiate from weakness. We accept what is offered.”

“This is not sovereignty,” Carney said. “It is the performance of sovereignty while accepting subordination.”

In a March European Parliament debate, French lawmaker Chloé Ridet said Carney had “said out loud what many Europeans think quietly,” while German lawmaker Tobias Cremer urged Europe to “show the same courage as the Canadians have done in this moment of rupture.”

Tobias Gehrke of the European Council on Foreign Relations said Europe accepted economic pain in hopes of preserving U.S. support for NATO and Ukraine, but gained neither firm security commitments nor stable ties with Washington.

“European governments will be watching closely to see whether retaliation creates leverage or simply produces more escalation and an increasing bill,” Gehrke said.



Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks during a fireside chat with the Chief Executive Officer of PSP Investments, Deborah Orida, in Toronto, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026. (Nathan Denette/The Canadian Press via AP)

Canadian Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne rejected the idea that Canada’s push toward Europe is simply an effort to gain leverage over Washington, saying Ottawa intends to keep working with the United States even as it builds stronger partnerships elsewhere.

“It’s always about us,” Champagne told The Associated Press. “We will still do things with the United States.”

But Champagne also said the geopolitical landscape has fundamentally shifted. “The world has changed and America has changed,” he said. “And I think the world has taken notice.”

Carney’s trip follows his investment summit in Toronto, part of a broader push to attract global capital and reduce dependence on the United States.

Canada and the EU already cooperate on trade, defense, energy, technology, and critical minerals. Bilateral trade reached about \$147 billion (127 billion euros) in 2025, making the EU Canada’s second-largest trading partner.

Underscoring the push for closer ties, the European Parliament said Monday it will open an office in Ottawa, its 10th outside the EU, with a regional mandate extending to the Arctic.

“At a time when the world is becoming more unpredictable, like-minded partners need to work even more closely together,” European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said.

Canada this year became the first non-European country to join the EU’s 150-billion-euro (\$173-billion) SAFE defense program, giving Canadian companies access to joint procurement. Canada and the EU will hold a summit in Montreal in late October.

Ian Lesser of the German Marshall Fund in Brussels said Trump’s tariffs and policies toward NATO and Greenland have accelerated efforts by Canada and Europe to diversify their economic and security ties.

“The sheer unpredictability emanating from Washington has given history a shove,” Lesser said. He said many in Brussels still prefer to accommodate Washington or “wait and see” whether November’s midterm elections produce a Congress able to constrain Trump.

Carney will also travel to Britain to meet Prime Minister Andy Burnham for the first time. The fellow Everton supporters are expected at Everton’s League Cup match against Wolverhampton on Wednesday.

AI safety bills stall amid election-year politics

Tech’s AI warnings clash with Washington gridlock

WASHINGTON, Sept 15, (AP): The technology industry’s increasingly urgent warnings about the potential harm of artificial intelligence are slamming into political intransigence in Washington, offering a fresh test of the federal government’s willingness and ability to confront what may become a defining issue of the era.

President Donald Trump is leading the opposition to recent calls by tech leaders seeking greater government oversight, including Anthropic’s Dario Amodei, OpenAI’s Sam Altman and xAI’s Elon Musk.

The president dismissed efforts to limit the technology on Monday as a “conspiracy.” Other leading Republicans including Vice President JD Vance have expressed caution. House Speaker Mike Johnson has largely deferred to the White House.

Democrats, meanwhile, are pressing for a more robust response, convening in private on Tuesday in the House to discuss AI. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is hosting his colleagues for a briefing with experts on Wednesday. Top candidates on the ballot this year such as Sen. Jon Ossoff of Georgia are pressing for sweeping action in Washington. And former President Barack Obama is encouraging those with White House aspirations to develop a “very clear plan” to address AI concerns.

The contrasting responses illustrate a yawning disconnect existing between a tech sector warning of AI’s existential threats to humanity and a federal government often struggling to accomplish basic functions under the weight of intense partisanship and election-year pressure.

“The signals we’re receiving from our political leaders are not representing an understanding of the crisis that I think we are in fact in,” said Max Stier, the president and chief executive of the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service. “Delay is going to prove very costly.”

There are notable exceptions to the partisan divide. A Washington AI conference on Tuesday will feature speakers including Sanders and Trump ally Steve Bannon. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., opened an investigation last week into OpenAI for its artificial intelligence system hacking into another AI company on its own.

Congress and the White House have managed to respond swiftly to past crises and the intensifying AI debate is emerging as a new referendum on whether they can do so again.

During Trump’s first term, his team worked with Democrats in control of Congress to stabilize the economy as federal agencies worked to produce a vaccine to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. As the economy teetered on collapse in 2007 and 2008, President George W. Bush’s Republican administration teamed with congressional Democrats to inject money into the financial system.

But Congress has long been reluctant to regu-



Dario Amodei, CEO and co-founder of Anthropic, attends the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 23, 2025. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber, File)

late the technology industry.

The Biden administration called on lawmakers to develop policies after a 2023 executive order on AI oversight, which Trump rescinded soon after returning to office. As the technology has progressed at a rapid clip, Congress has refrained from imposing rules or funding ways for people to successfully adjust to the potential changes from AI.

A bipartisan working group on artificial intelligence formed by then-Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer released a report in 2024 recommending the U.S. spend at least \$32 billion over the next three years to develop artificial intelligence and implement safeguards around it. But there was little follow up. Similarly, a bipartisan bill on internet safety for children has repeatedly stalled.

“We never do anything until we have a holy heck moment,” said Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat and former technology executive.

Lawmakers in both parties agree more guardrails are needed, but even narrow attempts at regulation have fallen apart and a certain skepticism has set in.

“Have we gotten election security done?” asked Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla. “Did we balance a budget? Oh, did we pass a budget? See, what have we gotten done? So you think we’re going to get AI done?”

Ossoff cast the AI debate as an example of Washington’s inability to tackle anything big.

“What fills us with dread is the crushing weakness of our politics against the massive stakes of our times,” he said during a Sunday reelection rally in Athens, Georgia.

There are some signs of renewed urgency.

After the tech leaders called for greater oversight on Saturday, Senate Majority Leader John

Thune, R-S.D., said he spoke that night with Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., about a “path forward” on legislation they’re working on.

“You don’t want to stifle innovation, but I think you also want to make sure that the more advanced threats can be mitigated and there’s a capability and place to do that,” he said.

“I also think,” he added, “that there is a way in which Congress can put guardrails around those types of more consequential threats without, in any way, harming our ability to stay ahead in the AI race.”

Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., said he plans to offer a so-called kill switch measure on Wednesday that would require developers to have the capacity to shut down their systems if needed. It would need the Senate’s full support to advance.

“AI is becoming an issue, particularly in the last few days,” he said.

But with a dwindling calendar ahead of the November election, any fast movement on legislation seems unlikely. In the House, Johnson seemed downbeat on the prospect of a legislative response, calling instead for Trump to summon AI leaders for a meeting to resolve concerns.

“The reflex of legislative bodies is to cover things up with red tape and hyper regulation,” he said.

And any legislation that emerges would require Trump’s support, which appears unlikely at the moment.

“All I can tell you is my own perspective on this,” said Hawley, who has introduced bipartisan legislation requiring federal tracking of AI safety concerns tied to national security, civil liberties and labor protections. “We need to protect working people. We need to protect kids online. We need to protect folks who are threatened by data centers.”

“We also need to make sure,” he added, “these frontier models are not going to blow up the internet and/or the world.”

For veterans of past crises, the congressional inertia is baffling.

“Earth to Washington: You’re pushing an open door,” Rahm Emanuel, Obama’s chief of staff in the wake of the financial crisis and a potential 2028 presidential candidate, said in an interview. “In my entire time of public service, I’ve never had an industry or a CEO ask for regulation and oversight.”

Rep. Don Beyer, a Virginia Democrat who is a leader in the Congressional Artificial Intelligence Caucus, said Congress is “capable” of passing stronger AI rules. He said he thinks there’s sufficient support for multiple bills, including a bipartisan measure that would establish guardrails for AI models and another that includes the kill switch provision.

“It’s very much a leadership issue,” Beyer said as the House is poised to adjourn at the end of the week and not return until after the elections.

Senate vote tests future of US crypto regulation

WASHINGTON, Sept 15, (AP): The Senate is set to vote Tuesday on whether to move forward with legislation to create a new regulatory framework for cryptocurrency, a pivotal election-year test for the \$2.3 trillion market as many Democrats say it doesn’t go far enough to rein in President Donald Trump’s investments.

The vote, just two months before the midterm elections, comes as the crypto industry has become a major political force and as Trump has amassed significant crypto wealth while in office. While some Democrats support the idea of a regulatory framework, a top priority for the industry, the party has been mostly united in opposition to the legislation unless it includes strong ethics safeguards to prevent the president and his family from enriching themselves while in office.

“Let’s make sure that we do not pass a crypto bill that will let Donald Trump continue to rake in billions of dollars in crypto profits while working families across this country struggle to deal with higher prices and an economy that gets worse by the day,” said Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the top Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, in a Senate floor speech on Monday.

As Democrats have vowed to block the bill, Trump has agreed to some concessions on ethics, including new restrictions on federal elected officials from issuing digital assets like the presidential meme coins he and his wife Melania launched before he took office for his second term. On Sunday, Trump agreed to additional concessions, such as additional powers for state attorneys general that Democrats had sought to enforce the crypto measure.

But those concessions do not appear to be enough for most Democrats. A proposal by Democratic Sen. Ruben Gallego of Arizona and Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina had sought to require Trump to put his crypto holdings in a blind trust and divest when those holdings reach a certain value.

The latest version of the bill “leaves a lot to be desired,” Gallego said Monday evening. “If they think this is a final deal, this is not their call.”

Gallego said he would offer a counterproposal, but it was unclear if the two sides would be able to agree before the vote Tuesday afternoon. Republicans need Democratic support to win the 60 votes necessary to move forward on the bill in the 53-47 Senate.

Trump’s family has raked in big profits in the crypto sector since he was

reelected, including the meme coin, announced the day before Trump took office. Top investors were invited to a private reception with the president.

Trump’s family also has a controlling stake in World Liberty Financial, a crypto firm co-founded with the president’s special envoy Steve Witkoff. Trump reported more than \$500 million in revenue from World Liberty Financial sales of crypto products, including “governance tokens,” in his annual disclosure report filed with the Office of Government Ethics. That is a significant share of the more than \$1.4 billion that the president reported from crypto businesses last year.

A measure enacted into law last year regulating stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency, barred members of Congress and their families from profiting off them, but it did not extend to Trump or his family.

Republicans who have been working on the legislation for a year say it could stall indefinitely if the Senate doesn’t vote to move forward on Tuesday. The House and Senate will be out of session during October and before the elections, and the dynamics could significantly shift if Democrats win back the majorities of the House or Senate, or both, in November.

Republican Sen. Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, a lead sponsor of the bill, said that a no vote means “opposing real ethics reforms on politicians’ personal investments, handing American leadership in digital assets to our foreign competitors, and leaving Americans with zero protections in the digital asset markets.”

Supporters say the legislation aims to give the industry more legal certainty and protect consumers by creating a broad set of guardrails and regulatory requirements, including better enforcement to prevent bad actors and protections to prevent a market collapse.

Opponents, mostly Democrats, say it is a giveaway to the industry, which strongly backs the bill and has become a major donor to candidates in both parties around the country. In 2024, the crypto industry spent more than \$130 million in congressional races, including \$40 million in Ohio and \$10 million each in Arizona and Michigan.

“DC received a clear message that being anti-crypto is a good way to end your career, as it doesn’t represent the will of the voters,” Brian Armstrong, the CEO of Coinbase, the nation’s largest crypto exchange, wrote in a social media post the day after the 2024 election.

Philippines brings centuries-old textile traditions to Kuwait



From AlSadu to piña, threads bind cultures

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Centuries of Filipino history, identity and craftsmanship are being brought to life in Kuwait through the Philippine Traditional Textile Exhibition, which opened on Monday at Bait Al Sadu, showcasing the country's rich and diverse traditions of weaving and textile production.

Organized by the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Kuwait in collaboration with AlSadu Society and under the patronage of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), the exhibition brings together traditional Philippine textiles, garments, weaving techniques and craftsmanship from different regions of the archipelago. Traditional artisans from the Philippines are also present to demonstrate their skills and share with visitors the knowledge and techniques passed down through generations.

For His Excellency, Jose A. Cabrera III, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, the exhibition represents an important cultural milestone. "This is the first time the Philippine Embassy is holding an exhibition dedicated to traditional Philippine textiles and garments," the Ambassador said, expressing appreciation to AlSadu Society, under the leadership of Sheikh Altaf Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Sheikh Bibi Duaj Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and NCCAL for their support in making the event possible.

The Ambassador stressed that textiles are far more than decorative objects, describing weaving as an important part of the cultural heritage and identity of communities around the world. "Weaving traditions are an important part of the cultural heritage and identity of many nations and societies," he said.

He noted that exhibitions such as this provide an opportunity for cultures to meet and learn from one another while encouraging communities to protect their own traditions. "Our exhibitions not only increase awareness of the traditions of other countries but also help communities sustain and preserve their own traditions for present and future generations," he said.

Threads that connect cultures

The exhibition carries particular significance in Kuwait, where Al-Sadu, the country's own traditional



His Excellency, Jose A. Cabrera III, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines

weaving heritage, has long been associated with Bedouin culture, community life and artistic expression. The Philippine exhibition creates a natural cultural connection between two countries whose traditional textile practices have been shaped by generations of craftsmanship and knowledge.

"Weaving is a tradition that dates back hundreds of years. In Kuwait and the Philippines, weaving became an important part of our cultural heritage and sustainable traditions," the Ambassador said.

Traditional textiles, he explained, provide a window into the communities that create them, with colours, patterns, materials and designs reflecting local environments, beliefs and social values.

"The visual designs and fabrics are part of the story and the history of our people and countries," he said, adding that traditional textiles are closely connected to the development of community culture and identity.

The exhibition is part of AlSadu Society's continuing efforts to pro-

mote cultural exchange through textiles and traditional crafts. Textiles carry not only technical knowledge but also stories, memories and identities that are transferred from one generation to another.

Piña — weaving with pineapple fibers

Among the Philippine traditions represented is piña, one of the country's most highly regarded traditional textiles and a craft now inscribed on the Representative List of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Made from fibres extracted from pineapple leaves, piña is produced through an intricate handloom weaving process that requires considerable patience, precision and skill.

Farmers harvest the leaves of "pinya Bisaya", a particular pineapple variety, before carefully extracting the fibers by hand. The knowledge associated with growing the pineapple, preparing the fibers and weaving the finished textile has traditionally been passed down within families.

Children grow up watching older family members cultivate pinya Bisaya and work at the loom before eventually learning the craft themselves. The tradition is also being preserved through Schools of Living Traditions, established through partnerships between local communities and the Philippine government to safeguard the country's intangible cultural heritage.

Piña has become closely associated with Filipino identity and is widely valued for formal clothing. At the same time, weavers continue to experiment with designs and patterns, demonstrating how traditional

craftsmanship can remain relevant while preserving its original character.

The craft also provides livelihoods for families and communities, making piña not only a cultural treasure but also an important source of economic opportunity and empowerment.

Yakantennun — a living heritage of Basilan

Another distinctive tradition is tennun, the traditional handwoven textile of the Yakan people of Basilan in the southern Philippines.

Known for its vibrant colours and intricate geometric patterns, tennun represents generations of knowledge, identity and craftsmanship. In communities such as Bohe Bessey and Parangbasak in Lamitan City, Yakan women continue to work at household looms, preserving techniques and designs handed down through generations.

For women such as Vilma Ausalin, NanjinanAwalan and Dalilan Kamasun, weaving represents much more than a livelihood. It is a direct connection to their families, ancestors and cultural identity.

Vilma continues the legacy of her mother, the late Abuh Ambalang Ausalin, a renowned master weaver from Basilan and a National Living Treasure Awardee. Nanjinan learned to weave when she was only six years old and continues to create traditional pieces, including the Saputangan, a traditional headdress worn by Yakan women.

For Dalilan, weaving has also provided a path to a better future for her family. Income from her woven pieces helped finance her daughter's education, eventually enabling her



Some of the garments on display during the Philippine Traditional Textile Exhibition at Bait Al Sadu.

daughter to become a licensed professional teacher.

The stories behind tennun demonstrate how traditional crafts can simultaneously preserve cultural identity and provide economic opportunities for women and their families.

Preserving the past, creating the future

The Philippine government's efforts to sustain traditional textile practices also form an important part of this cultural story. The Ambassador highlighted the work of the Department of Science and Technology and the Philippine Textile Research Institute in supporting local and indigenous communities and helping keep traditional weaving practices viable through enterprise, innovation and trade.

"Communities continue to pass these techniques from one generation to the next, preserving patterns and imagery that carry deep cultural significance," the Ambassador said.

The exhibition also features the creative work of Benj Dela Rosa, an award-winning Filipino fashion designer and creative director based in Dubai. With more than two decades of experience, Dela Rosa is known for combining Filipino heritage with contemporary design through couture, bridal gowns, abayas and modern interpretations of the Barong Tagalog. His participation demonstrates how traditional Filipino craftsmanship continues to inspire contemporary fashion.

For AlSadu Society, the exhibition is also an opportunity to create a dialogue between traditional craftspeople and audiences in Kuwait. By bringing Philippine artisans directly into the exhibition space, visitors can see techniques first-hand, speak with the makers and gain a deeper understanding of the cultural meaning behind the textiles.

The Ambassador said the Philippine Embassy would continue strengthening cooperation with its Kuwaiti partners to promote cultural understanding and appreciation.

"The Embassy will continue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with our partners in Kuwait in promoting greater awareness, mutual understanding and appreciation of the cultures of our two peoples," he said.

The Philippine Traditional Textile Exhibition runs from September 14 to 17 at Bait Al Sadu, with visiting hours from 10 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 8 pm. More than an exhibition of beautiful fabrics and garments, it offers visitors an opportunity to see how threads, patterns and craftsmanship can preserve the memory of communities — and how traditions carried through generations can continue to find new meaning in the modern world.



Photos during the Philippine Traditional Textile Exhibition at Bait Al Sadu.

'The Pitt' repeats as best drama

'Widow's Bay' rules the Emmys with record 14 wins

LOS ANGELES, Sept 15, (AP): A "Widow's Bay" wave slammed into the Emmy Awards on Monday night as the Apple TV show set a single-season record for a comedy with 14 wins, including best comedy series and best actor for star Matthew Rhys, who personally took home three trophies.

"The celebrations will be long, varied, and I hope at times wild," Rhys said backstage while holding two of his Emmys.

"The Pitt" won best drama series for the second straight year, and star Noah Wyle repeated as best actor in a drama, but the HBO Max emergency room drama won no other Emmys and underperformed its expectations.

Rhea Seehorn won best actress in a drama for "Pluribus," and Jean Smart won her fifth best actress in a comedy award for the fifth and final season of "Hacks." No actor had won an Emmy every year for a series that lasted more than three seasons until Smart did it Monday.

Every other comedy award went to "Widow's Bay," which unequivocally owned the night and broke the comedy series record set last year by "The Studio" when it won 13.

Along with best actor in a comedy, Rhys won best actor in a limited series for "The Beast in Me," becoming the first man to win two leading actor categories in the same year, and he gets one of the best comedy series trophies as an executive producer for "Widow's Bay."

The first-season series created by Katie Dippold leans hard into both comedy and horror as it tells the story of a New England island community, with Rhys as its mayor, reckoning with a centuries-old curse.

"Thank you, Apple, for letting us take this crazy, creative swing," Dippold said as she accepted the best comedy award. "They truly just let us do this weird show."

Apple TV solidified its status as the owner of the Emmy comedy categories. Between "Widow's Bay," "The Studio" and "Ted Lasso," it has won best comedy series four times in six seasons. The latter two shows were between seasons and not eligible this year.

"Widow's Bay" also won for directing for Hiro Murai and for writing for its creator Dippold, a first-time Emmy winner and first-time nominee who was previously best known for a decade-old viral tweet showing her awkwardly dressed as "The Babadook."

"When I was sitting there in that costume," Dippold said backstage after the show, "I did not think that this moment would happen."

"Widow's Bay" had won eight Emmys in a previous ceremony before sweeping all six of its categories Monday night. Stephen Root won best supporting actor in a comedy series and Kate O'Flynn won best supporting actress.

"The Pitt" was the top drama nominee with 25 and "Hacks" was the top comedy nominee with 24, but neither made much of a splash when it came time to claim trophies.

Smart's was the only win for "Hacks" on Monday night.

"What a ride this has been," an emotional Smart said after getting a standing ovation.

The 75-year-old has won eight Emmys overall in a career that was already more than respectable when she landed her defining role of Deborah Vance, a brash stand-up comic pushing back against age, obscurity and sexism in the HBO Max series.

And best drama and best actor were the only wins for "The Pitt," though it had won four at an earlier ceremony.

Wyle won for playing Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinavitch, a role that brought him a major career revival after starring in "ER" in the 1990s.

"This is all I've ever wanted to do, and this is the only club I've ever wanted to join," Wyle said in his acceptance.

Seehorn won her first Emmy for playing the lone central character on Apple TV's "Pluribus."

The 54-year-old had been nominated twice without winning for her breakthrough role on "Better Call Saul," a show from "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan, who put Seehorn at the center of "Pluribus." Gilligan won his fifth career Emmy for his writing on the show.

Allison Janney won best supporting actress in a drama for



Katie Dippold, center, and the team from "Widow's Bay" accept the award for outstanding comedy series during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)



Matthew Rhys poses in the press room with the awards for outstanding lead actor in a limited or anthology series or movie for "The Beast in Me," and outstanding lead actor in a comedy series for "Widow's Bay" during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the JW Marriott in Los Angeles. (AP)



Noah Wyle poses in the press room with the awards for outstanding lead actor in a drama series for "The Pitt" and outstanding drama series for "The Pitt" during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the JW Marriott in Los Angeles. (AP)



Rhea Seehorn poses in the press room with the award for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for "Pluribus" during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the JW Marriott in Los Angeles. (AP)



Stephen Root poses in the press room with the award for outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series for "Widow's Bay" during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the JW Marriott in Los Angeles. (AP)



Kate O'Flynn accepts the award for outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series for "Widow's Bay" during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)



R. Scott Gemmill, center, and the team from "The Pitt" accept the award for outstanding drama series during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)



Steven Conrad, far right, and the team from "DTF St. Louis," accept the award for outstanding limited or anthology series during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)



Stephen Colbert, center, and the team from "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" accept the award for outstanding variety series during the 78th Emmy Awards on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)

"The Diplomat," and Tom Pelphrey won supporting actor in a drama for "Task," both beating several nominees from "The Pitt."

"DTF St. Louis" won best limited series. Stars David Harbour and Linda Cardellini both won for supporting acting at a previous ceremony on Sept. 6 as the Television Academy moved several categories off the main telecast to shorten the show. "DTF St. Louis" won seven Emmys overall.

"Widow's Bay" brought a combination of younger, well-respected unknowns and widely known and beloved veterans to work on the show.

It was the first Emmy for both O'Flynn and Root.

O'Flynn, a 40-year-old British actor whose previous acclaim came mostly for her work in theater, plays Patricia Moyer, a city worker and social outcast dealing with a demonic darkness on "Widow's Bay."

"This is the role of a lifetime," O'Flynn said from the stage. "This is for all the Patricias out there."

Root, one of the most ubiquitous character actors of the last few decades, beat out Harrison Ford, who many thought would get his first major competitive Hollywood award for his role on "Shrinking."

"Thank you, sir, for all your many years of great, great, great acting," Root said to Ford during his acceptance.

Root, 74, is the oldest person to win the category.

Sally Field, 79, became the oldest woman to win best actress in a limited or anthology series or TV movie for "Remarkably Bright Creatures."

"The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," taken off the air by CBS, won best variety series. It's one of six Emmys the show has won this year after the show was cancelled for what the network said was economic reasons while many believe it was his criticism of the Trump administration.

"If you like the comedy tonight, my old writers wrote it," Colbert said.

Mariska Hargitay hosted the NBC telecast held at the traditional Emmys home of the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

"NBC is celebrating its 100th year, and I have been on 'Law & Order: SVU' for all of them," said Hargitay, a three-time Emmy winner who has starred in the show for 27 seasons, during her opening monologue.

Hargitay closed the show - which came in at a relatively lean three hours with the shortened awards slate - with the famous "Law & Order" gavel sound.

Michael J. Fox, a nominee for his work with Ford on "Shrinking," received the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.

Field paid tribute to her "Steel Magnolias" co-star Dolly Parton, who died last month, in a tribute during the telecast that also included Reba McEntire.

There were also emotional tributes to Catherine O'Hara, who died in March, and Rob Reiner, who was killed along with his wife, Michele Singer Reiner, in their home in December.

Reiner, who won a posthumous Emmy at an earlier ceremony for best guest actor in a comedy series for his role on "The Bear," was honored by his friend and "Bear" co-star Jamie Lee Curtis.

"He was generous, kind and funny as hell, and a friend to all," Curtis said. "And we all miss Rob and Michele and all those we lost this year."

Here's a list of winners at the 78th annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

- "Widow's Bay"
- "The Pitt"
- Matthew Rhys, "Widow's Bay"
- Jean Smart, "Hacks"
- Noah Wyle, "The Pitt"
- Rhea Seehorn, "Pluribus"
- "DTF St. Louis"
- Matthew Rhys, "The Beast in Me"
- Tom Pelphrey, "Task"
- Allison Janney, "The Diplomat"
- Stephen Root, "Widow's Bay"
- Kate O'Flynn, "Widow's Bay"
- Sally Field, "Remarkably Bright Creatures"
- "The Traitors"
- "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert"
- Saul Metzstein, "Slow Horses"
- Hiro Murai, "Widow's Bay"
- Vince Gilligan, "Pluribus"
- Katie Dippold, "Widow's Bay"

Health

‘Bacteria found in stadium tower not tied to outbreak’: Bacteria that cause potentially fatal Legionnaires’ disease were found in a Yankee Stadium cooling tower - one of 10 such towers in the Bronx that tested positive amid several reported cases of the illness including one death, New York City health officials said.

The city’s Health Department said Sunday that more tests were being done to determine whether the Legionella bacteria in the towers was live, and the Yankees said none of the current Legionnaires’ disease cases in the area has been linked to the stadium. Only live bacteria can cause the disease, which is a form of pneumonia. The initial testing performed on the 10 towers last week found traces of living or dead bacteria.

Health officials said they are investigating a likely community cluster of Legionnaires’ in the South Bronx, where Yankee Stadium is located. Ten people have tested positive for the disease including one who died and three who remain hospitalized, the Health Department said. Authorities are still investigating the source or sources of the outbreak.

“I want to assure New Yorkers we are moving aggressively to contain the spread,” New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said at a news conference Monday. He later added, “This has been an issue that New Yorkers have had to deal with for far too many years, and we are looking to develop any kind of tool that can help to ensure that Legionnaires’ is something that we’re able to combat.”

Health officials ordered the owners of the 10 towers to clean and disinfect them by Monday. The Yankees said the stadium tower that tested positive was drained and cleaned Sunday morning.

The Health Department said anyone who lives or works in the Melrose and Morrisania sections of the Bronx, or have visited there since late August, and are experiencing flu-like symptoms should contact a healthcare provider immediately.

The Yankees said in a statement that new, state-of-the-art cooling towers were installed at the stadium in 2024 and have been tested weekly for water quality and bacteria since then. Those tests results are reported monthly to the city. The most recent testing on Aug. 20 was negative for Legionella bacteria, the team said, noting it uses a different method than the city used



The grounds crew grooms the field before Game 3 of baseball's American League Division Series between the New York Yankees and the Toronto Blue Jays on Oct 7, 2025, in New York. (AP)

last week for its monthly testing. □ □ □

Abbott agrees to settlement over closure of formula plant: Abbott Laboratories will pay \$385 million to resolve claims tied to an investigation of contamination at a baby formula factory in Sturgis, Michigan, the largest in the country, which led to the supply shortages in 2022.

Problems at the facility prompted a lawsuit by the Justice Department and recall of powdered infant formula at the facility.

The recall covered several infant formula brands, including Similac, and squeezed inventory that had already been strained by supply chain disruptions and stockpiling during COVID-19 shutdowns.

The settlement, which Abbott says does not represent any finding of fault or liability, also pertains to lawsuits filed by certain relators and the Attor-

neys General of several states.

Abbott said on Monday that tests by government regulators of unopened product from the homes of the infants under investigation at the time of the 2022 recall were negative for Cronobacter sakazakii, a bacterium that can cause illness in infants. The company also said that no unopened, distributed Abbott infant formulas have ever tested positive for Cronobacter sakazakii.

The Justice Department under President Donald Trump closed its criminal investigation into the matter.

The Biden administration eased import rules for foreign manufacturers, airlifted formula from Europe and invoked federal emergency rules to prioritize US production during the supply shortage. (AP)

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Chile eliminates dog-transmitted rabies: Chile has become the first country in South America to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies to humans, following more than five decades of public health “prevention and surveillance,” the World Health Organization said Monday.

The WHO said the last reported case of dog-to-human rabies occurred in 1972.

“This validation reflects decades of commitment to protecting communities from rabies and demonstrates the impact of sustained investment in public health,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. “Chile’s success offers valuable lessons for countries working to end human deaths caused by this preventable disease.”

Rabies spreads through the saliva of an infected animal, usually through a bite. However, the virus can also infect someone if saliva enters the eyes, nose or mouth, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rabies is almost always fatal once the initial symptoms appear, but it can be prevented through vaccination, effective surveillance and prompt access to post-exposure prophylaxis.

Chile has long maintained a public health policy focused on prevention and surveillance to combat the disease. Efforts include extensive vaccination campaigns for pets and vaccines for people who may have been exposed to the virus, WHO said. “These actions were complemented by door-to-door dog vaccination campaigns, specific measures for managing the dog population, and community awareness and education initiatives,” it added. (AP)

‘Our goal is to make the Maasai Mara net zero by 2035’

Electric mobility brings Africa’s energy transition into the wild

MAASAI MARA, Kenya, Sept 15, (AP): Joshua Kijape eases his motorcycle through the tall grass, listening for movement in the bush. There is no engine rumble, no exhaust and little warning for anything ahead.

That is exactly how the Mara-Siana ranger, attached to Entumoto Safari Camp in Kenya’s Maasai Mara game reserve, wants it.

For the past year, Kijape has patrolled the Mara on an electric motorcycle, using its near-silent motor to approach wildlife and, when necessary, poachers.

“With this bike, I can get closer to the animals without disturbing them,” he said. “And when you are following poachers, they cannot hear you coming.”

The electric motorcycle is part of a growing effort to bring Africa’s energy transition into wildlife reserves, replacing petrol-powered transport with vehicles charged by the sun. In the Maasai Mara, conservation operators are testing whether electric mobility can reduce fuel use and maintenance costs while limiting noise in one of Africa’s most important ecosystems.

The move comes during one of the Mara’s busiest periods, when the annual wildebeest migration

draws huge numbers of animals, tourists and conservation teams onto the grasslands.

Jason Knauf, CEO of the BBC program The Earthshot Prize, said the development shows how the energy transition is reaching places far beyond conventional urban transport.

“Seeing electric vehicles reach the Maasai Mara during the Great Migration is powerful proof that the energy transition extends far beyond cities,” Knauf said. “The Mara is one of the world’s most demanding environments, and if clean technology can prove reliable, affordable and effective there, it strengthens the case for scaling it across other conservation landscapes and remote communities,” Knauf said.

For ROAM, the Nairobi-based electric motorcycle company behind Kijape’s bike, the Mara is an engineering test of whether an e-bike built in Kenya can handle rough tracks, long patrols and remote locations.

“Nature is worth protecting, so we think it’s important to put our motorcycles and products out there,” said ROAM CEO Filip Lovstrom. “By eliminating noise associated with petrol bikes, it creates a serene, quiet environment that is beneficial to both the animals and tourists.”

Lovstrom said economics could ultimately drive wider adoption of this approach.

“Instead of shipping petrol all the way from the port of Mombasa out into nature to fuel a bunch of petrol motorcycles, you’re now able to charge them using solar, right where you are contributing positively to the environment,” he said.

ROAM’s e-bike can travel about 160 kilometers (100 miles) between charges, but longer patrols will require charging stations along the route. Because the bikes can plug into a standard 10-amp socket, Lovstrom said, stations can be built around relatively small solar and battery systems.

“Just as you need access to petrol, which is really difficult today in an area like the Maasai Mara, you now need access to electricity,” he said.

The market also extends beyond conservation. Communities near wildlife areas often rely on motorcycles for transport, especially where roads are poor and alternatives are limited.

Emboo River Camp in the Maasai Mara has been using electric safari vehicles since 2019. The camp’s co-founder and co-director, Loic Amado, said the vehicles are charged exclusively with solar power.



In this photo taken with a smartphone, an electric safari van operated by Emboo Camp drives through the Maasai Mara, Kenya on Aug 29. (AP)

Are too many Americans taking antidepressants?

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

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By Andrew McLean
University of North Dakota

Drugs for treating depression are among the most prescribed category of medications in the US - 1 in 6 American adults take them.

Some health researchers and advocates have raised concerns that too many patients are using antidepressants and that patients who want to stop taking them struggle to do so. One of the most prominent voices on this point is Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who launched an effort in May 2026 encouraging doctors to find other ways besides antidepressants and other psychiatric drugs to treat depression when possible.

As a psychiatrist for over 35 years, including a past role as the medical director of North Dakota’s Department of Human Services, I’ve seen both the benefits and the problems with antidepressants. In my view, there are grains of truth to claims that they are overused, but the full picture is much more nuanced.

Over half of all antidepressant medications prescribed are a type of drug called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs. The first SSRI - fluoxetine, better known by its brand name Prozac - was approved in 1987. A handful of other types of SSRIs, which work through different mechanisms, also exists.

Antidepressants can be helpful for moderate to severe depression, but they are typically not warranted for mild depression, as the side effects might outweigh any potential benefits. For mild depression, many effective nonmedication treatments exist.

However, the distinction between mild and more severe symptoms sometimes gets lost. In everyday language, people use the term “depression” to describe everything from a minor sense of the blahs to a serious clinical condition requiring treatment.

Healthcare workers in primary care clinics routinely screen patients for depression using a widely used questionnaire. This tool can be effective in flagging patients who might need further testing or treatment. But in my

experience, if used on its own to diagnose, it can be easily misinterpreted.

A person having a bad week or two who scores higher on a screening test might be prescribed a medication that was not necessary. But the tool can also fail to flag people who do need care. Over a third of people who die by suicide have visited a primary care provider in the month before their death. For those 55 and older, it rises to more than two-thirds.

According to a 2026 analysis, most prescriptions for antidepressants in the U.S. are not written by psychiatrists. In some cases, these medicines are prescribed by nurse practitioners or physician assistants with psychiatric qualifications, but most are written by primary care providers, who are not specialists in mental health.

Clinicians who provide primary care don’t just have less time to evaluate patients’ mental health concerns. They also have less access to ways of treating depression apart from medication, such as talk therapy.

Primary clinics that have behavioral health providers and consult with psychiatrists tend to help patients more effectively and provide more treatment options. These types of collaborative approaches to care are still rare but are becoming more common.

I recall my father, who was a country doctor in general practice, saying that half of his patients’ problems had to do with mental health issues, and he didn’t know how best to help them. Today’s primary care providers do receive more training on mental health issues, and they are often more equipped to recommend lifestyle changes that can be especially helpful for people with less severe depression symptoms.

But it’s simply human nature that when given a choice between taking a daily medication and engaging in activities that require commitment and intention, many will choose medication.

Stigma has been a long-standing barrier in seeking mental healthcare.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, anxiety and depression have become more prevalent. That’s particularly true among adolescents and young adults - especially young women, who tend to experience less stigma around mental health issues. (AP)

Stronger-than-normal El Nino alarms scientists over Galápagos wildlife and forests

QUITO, Ecuador, Sept 15, (Agencies): The prediction that this season’s El Nino phenomenon will be stronger than normal has alarmed the Ecuadorian scientific community, which has warned of its impact on the flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands, home to the highest concentration of species not found elsewhere on Earth.

The archipelago of more than 230 islands - of which only four are inhabited - is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the coast of Ecuador.

The climatic phenomenon occurs periodically and in the equatorial Pacific is characterized by an increase in sea temperature and intense rainfall. Its strength is determined by measuring the water temperature in that area and comparing it to the normal average. If it is 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above normal, it is considered “very strong.”

The sea temperature will be about 2.2 degrees Celsius (4 F) above normal, according to the latest projection from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which means that “the impact will be significant,” said Franklin Ormaza, a professor and researcher at the Faculty of Maritime Engineering and Marine Sciences of the Higher Polytechnic School of the Coast (ESPOL).



Saltwater succulents grow by the water on Bartolome Island, Ecuador in the Galapagos on June 7, 2024. (AP)

Animals and fish will be at risk because as the water temperature rises, “plankton, algae, and smaller fish species, which are food for larger marine animals, practically disappear,” explained Washington Tapia, director of Biodiversa Ecuador, a conservation organization in the archipelago, to the AP.

He specified that the species most at risk are the iconic Galápagos penguins, blue-footed boobies, petrels, flightless cormorants, albatrosses, and even sea lions. Coral colonies could also be seriously affected, as could tuna fishing.

In the absence of food, “animal colonies stop reproducing,” disperse in search of food, and die of starvation in the process, explained scientist Gustavo Jiménez, from the Charles Darwin Foundation.

If the phenomenon occurs with the expected magnitude, the archipelago’s vertebrate population could decrease by at least 20% this year, Jiménez added.

One of the most closely monitored species in the islands, the Galápagos penguins, serves as a marker of the impact of this climate phenomenon on the archipelago’s fauna.

According to data from the Charles Darwin Foundation, after the 1998 El Nino - one of the most powerful and

destructive cycles - only 400 of the 1,300 existing Galápagos penguins remained.

If El Nino strikes with the expected force, the last three remaining Scaleisia forests could be at risk of disappearing, scientist Heinke Jager of the Charles Darwin Foundation said.

Opuntia cacti, which grow along the seashore, would also be threatened.

These plants, found only in the Galápagos Islands, support various ecosystems of insects, birds and other smaller plants that are part of the archipelago’s unique biodiversity.

Jager explained that “these species need human support” because the heavy rains brought by El Nino will cause the territory they occupy to be overrun by invasive plants, such as blackberries, which have shorter reproductive cycles.

Therefore, they have organized a plan that includes the eradication of invasive plants, the collection of seeds and the creation of nurseries to conserve threatened species. The Ecuadorian government, foundations, and nongovernmental organizations working in the archipelago are participating in the program.

The Galápagos Islands were declared a Natural World Heritage Site in 1978 for their unique animal and plant species, which served as the basis for the English scientist Charles Darwin to develop his theory of evolution.

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Also:

MELBOURNE: Antarctic scientists in Australia are part of an international plan to conduct geophysical surveys of the entire Antarctic coastal region in a bid to improve predictions of future sea-level rise.

Scientists would run three continent-wide survey rings around Antarctica, tracking inland ice flow, grounding zones and ocean-facing ice shelves to capture the critical processes driving ice loss, according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s University of Tasmania (UTAS).

The study, published in the American Geophysical Union’s Reviews of Geophysics, synthesizes current understanding of how ice, ocean, atmosphere and the solid Earth interact in Antarctica’s coastal zone, and highlights key knowledge gaps and the need for improved observations at a pan-Antarctic scale.

“This ambitious, globally coordinated campaign would resolve the biggest uncertainties in predicting Antarctic sea-level rise, with huge implications for coastal planning and efforts to support low-lying nations, including Australia’s Pacific neighbors,” said study co-lead author **Felicity McCormack** from Securing Antarctica’s Environmental Future based at Australia’s Monash University.

Study co-author **Zhao Chen** from the UTAS Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies said the plan could help reveal how far and how fast Antarctic ice loss could reshape coastlines around the world.

The review was written by 80 scientists worldwide through the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research’s RINGS Action Group, which coordinates international efforts to survey Antarctica’s coastal zone.

Researchers identified persistent gaps in direct observations of coastal bed topography and sub-ice shelf cavities, which can limit estimates of Antarctic ice loss and future sea-level rise.

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SYDNEY: A rare microalgae species behind one of Australia’s worst marine environmental disasters is among the most toxic to marine life ever recorded, according to a new Australian-led study.

Researchers identified the species, *Karenia cristata*, as the primary driver of a catastrophic algal bloom in the state of South Australia (SA) since early 2025, killing fish, seabirds, shellfish and marine mammals, and disrupting aquaculture and tourism, according to a statement released by Australia’s University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

Kenya’s capital confirmed as host of 2029 edition

World Athletics Championships head to Africa for first time

NAIROBI, Sept 15, (AP): The World Athletics Championships are heading to Africa for the first time as Kenya’s capital Nairobi was confirmed Tuesday as host of the 2029 edition of track and field’s premier event.

Kenya has long been a superpower in distance running and is second on the all-time worlds medal table behind only the United States. The championships return to Germany in 2031 after a 22-year wait, with Munich hosting.

“Taking our championships to Africa for the first time will be historic,” World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said as he announced the decision following the Ultimate Championship in Hungary. “Athletics is woven into the fabric of Kenya.”

Salim Mvurya, the Kenyan government minister responsible for sports, said “the world will come to a country where running is more than competition, it is our national story.”

Coe added World Athletics research had shown Kenya was the most passionate market for track and



World Athletics President Sebastian Coe speaks during a news conference marking the formal opening of the World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary. (AP)

field among those surveyed. The championships will use a stadium that’s already being upgraded for

Kenya co-hosting soccer’s Africa Cup of Nations next year.

“It was important that the World Athletics Championships should come to Africa when we had the right host, the right bid and the right circumstances. Nairobi has demonstrated emphatically that this is their moment,” Coe said.

The decision brings recognition of Kenya’s status as a track nation, but is likely to bring extra scrutiny of the East African nation’s history of top runners being busted for doping.

Marathon world record holder Ruth Chepngetich is serving a three-year doping ban after joining the many elite-level Kenyan runners suspended over the past decade.

The 2031 championships could be a boost for Munich’s campaign to host the Olympics in future. It’s never hosted track worlds before, though Germany’s capital Berlin did in 2009 and Stuttgart hosted in 1993.

London was unsuccessful with a bid for 2029 af-

ter last hosting in 2017, while Rome was the other losing candidate.

After the new Ultimate Championship brought big cash prizes instead of medals for an invitation-only field of track’s biggest names, it’s back to the traditional worlds format next year in Beijing.

Next year’s world championships run for 10 days, against three for the new Ultimate Championship, with a full slate of events. That means including competitions like the men’s triple jump, shot put, walks and marathon which weren’t on the schedule in Budapest last week.

The Ultimate Championship doesn’t yet have a host confirmed for its next edition in 2028, but Coe said there was “a lot of interest” following the inaugural event.

“I think the proof of concept worked pretty well. There are things that we will obviously look at and adjust,” Coe said. “There’s already heightened interest in wanting to stage those championships.”

US women show vulnerability ahead of Los Angeles Games

Team’s biggest weakness: training time

BERLIN, Sept 15, (AP): The names may change, but the results are the same for the U.S. women’s basketball team - another FIBA World Cup title.

The Americans’ fifth championship in a row came Sunday in a 97-79 victory over France. It wasn’t as easy as the previous four, with the U.S. showing some vulnerability throughout the tournament.

A three-point win over Italy in group play gave other teams hope. A tight game against Spain in the semifinals also raised some eyebrows.

France held a 14-point first-half lead in the title game - the biggest deficit the Americans had faced since their last loss in a major competition when Russia beat them in the semifinals of the 2006 World Cup. But the U.S. was calm and not worried. The game ended the same way the previous 35 had for the Americans, with a victory.

“We are the standard,” said Breanna Stewart, who scored 22 points and earned MVP honors of the tournament for a record second time. “USA Basketball has continued to show up and go for gold and to have done that however many times consecutively is an insane stat. We want to make sure that we continue to build on that standard and everybody else knows it.”

This might have been the best chance for someone to beat the U.S.. They were missing four-time MVP A’ja Wilson and the roster was full of newcomers, including Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese and Paige Bueckers. Kara Lawson was coaching and getting acquainted with the second-youngest American squad in



Aliyah Boston, of the United States, guards France’s Marine Johannes during the Women’s Basketball World Cup final match between the United States and France in Berlin. (AP)

the past 40-plus years. Clark, Reese and Bueckers gained valuable experience and will be integral for the U.S. to continue its success over the next decade.

France, which lost to the U.S. by a point in the Paris Olympics gold medal game two years ago, thought it could be the team to end the Americans’ two decades of dominance. For nearly a half they had it going.

There was no panic though on the U.S. side, thanks in part to the ultimate winner Stewart, who has two World Cup MVPs now - the first

player to ever accomplish that. She’s only 32 years old and has four World Cup championships on her resume.

The Americans calmly rallied within two points at the half as Clark’s 3-pointer just before the buzzer capped the rally. The U.S. then put it away in the third quarter.

With Stewart and Wilson most likely leading the way at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, teams will be hard-pressed to end this run by the Americans. Besides their World Cup success, they also haven’t lost

an Olympic game in 34 years.

One of the biggest weaknesses for the U.S. is just a lack of training time. The team got together as a whole group for the first time a few days before the World Cup began. That won’t be a problem in 2030 when the tournament will be played in Japan. FIBA shifted the dates of it to late November and early December. That means the Americans will have ample time after the WNBA season is over to get together to train.



In this file photo, Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard warms up before an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore. (AP)

NBA clears deal

Leonard returns to Raptors

TORONTO, Sept 15, (AP): The trade sending Kawhi Leonard back to Toronto is finally complete, with the Raptors and Los Angeles Clippers getting league approval on Monday to close the deal that was agreed to earlier this summer.

In the end, the deal was the same as what was agreed to 2 1/2 months ago: Leonard returns to the Raptors, with the Clippers getting Brandon Ingram, Grady Dick, two first-round draft picks, two second-round picks and a pick swap.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Kawhi back to Toronto,” Raptors general manager and executive vice president Bobby Webster said. “His impact on our organization, our city, and our country is undeniable, and he embodies the competitiveness and championship mindset that we value. We believe his leadership, experience and talent will help us as we continue building toward our next championship.”

It’s a huge move for Toronto, which won the 2019 NBA title with Leonard leading the way and is expecting to contend in the Eastern Conference. But the sides put the agreement on hold in early July pending any resolution of NBA’s investigation into whether the Clippers circumvented salary cap rules with regard to Leonard’s compensation.

The NBA hit the Clippers earlier this month with massive penalties as a result of that probe, suspending owner Steve Ballmer for one year, fining the team \$30 million and forcing it to forfeit five first-round draft picks, among other sanctions.

Leonard, a two-time NBA Finals MVP, was hit with a

\$700,000 penalty as a result of that investigation. But he was not suspended and his contract was not voided, and the Raptors evidently are certain that his status will not be affected.

Leonard, 35, spent one season in Toronto - and led the Raptors to their lone title. He is coming off the highest-scoring season of his career, averaging 27.9 points for the Clippers in 65 games.

Leonard is a seven-time All-Star, seven-time All-NBA selection, a two-time NBA champion (also winning in 2014 with San Antonio) and is considered one of the game’s top defensive players. He is expected to sign an extension with the Raptors once the trade is finalized.

Toronto visits the Clippers on Nov. 2 and hosts the Clippers on Jan. 1. The teams are also scheduled to meet at Vancouver in a preseason game on Oct. 10.

Drivers criticize lack of overtaking

Layout changes expected next year at new F1 track in Madrid to make racing more exciting

MADRID, Sept 15, (AP): Changes are expected to the new Madrid track next year after its lackluster debut at the Spanish Grand Prix this weekend.

Organizers said they are open to trying to improve the layout that produced virtually no overtaking opportunities and drew widespread criticism from Formula 1 drivers. The lack of track action was criticized by fans as well as F1 returned to Madrid after a 45-year absence.

Event director Luis Garcia Abad said that governing body FIA has already indicated the changes that might be needed on the urban track that mixes existing roads and purpose-built sections. Madrid signed a 10-year contract to be on the F1 calendar.

“Well, to be honest, FIA has clearly defined how to improve the circuit layout, and we will be open to that because we will have to refurbish the circuit for next year,” Abad told Motorsport.com.

Mercedes’ Kimi Antonelli won Sunday’s race after pole-sitter Lando Norris caught an unlucky break with the timing of the deployment of the virtual safety car. Norris ended third, behind Max Verstappen.

“I think there are some obvious changes they should make,” Norris said. “I think they can make it into a track that’s good for racing, and I’m excited to come back here next year if they can make these changes because I think it’s a track that is good fun to drive and it can be a great racetrack. To me, it’s not a great racetrack. It’s great in qualifying.”

Norris was among those who praised the high-adrenaline laps that



McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain, right, leads the field after the start of the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix race in Madrid. (AP)

the circuit produced when cars were not battling for position.

“I really believe that the drivers enjoyed qualifying a lot. But for sure we will try to make an improvement for next year,” Abad said. “We have the space, we have a venue, we have the facilities, we have the capacity to do it. If we can improve something, we will do it.”

Only a few passes happened during the race at the 5.4-kilom-

eter (3.3-mile) circuit that has 22 corners and combines high-speed zones, heavy-braking areas, changes of gradient, blind angles, technical sectors and long, high-load corners that proved challenging for drivers.

“It definitely doesn’t create overtaking opportunities and it doesn’t push you to try and make a move,” Antonelli said. “I think there are some corners that need to be changed to create more overtak-

ing opportunities because right now, yes, it’s nice over one lap, but for sure in the race, you know, you’re just stuck behind.”

Drivers mostly praised the infrastructure of the new circuit that was built around exhibition-hall pavilions in an affluent area of the Spanish capital.

Norris had also called for changes to the track’s long pit lane, which is divided in two sections and discourages strategic pit stops.

Major results don’t make me best player in tennis: Zverev

NEW YORK, Sept 15, (AP): Alexander Zverev won two Grand Slam titles and reached another final this year. He was the best player in the biggest events.

He’s not ready to call himself the best player in tennis though.

Ben Shelton seemed willing to at least consider it after Zverev beat him 6-3, 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-2 on Sunday in the U.S. Open final to add that trophy to the French Open title he won in June.

“You’re one of the very best players in the world, maybe the best player in the world this year,” Shelton told Zverev during the trophy presentation.

This year, of course, was different than last year.

Carlos Alcaraz won the Australian Open title, but then had to miss the French Open and Wimbledon with a right wrist injury, getting hurt in April and then not playing again until the U.S. Open. Jannik Sinner beat Zverev in the Wimbledon final, but then the top-ranked player in men’s tennis couldn’t play in New York because of a knee injury.

Sinner and Alcaraz met in the last three Grand Slam finals in 2025.

Zverev took all that into consideration when asked if he considered himself the best player in men’s tennis.

“With Jannik Sinner being injured and Carlos Alcaraz coming back from injury after four months, right now, this moment, probably yes. Both of them healthy and both of them at the top of their game, maybe not,” Zverev said.

“But if we say right now with Jannik being injured and Carlos coming back from injury, maybe. I mean, four, five months ago when both of them were healthy, I wasn’t. I was losing to Jannik all the time. So if everyone is healthy, I think Jannik



Alexander Zverev, of Germany, reacts to winning the men’s singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships against Ben Shelton, of the United States in New York. (AP)

is still ahead. It’s as simple as that.”

Zverev did his job in the majors by beating the players who were there.

He went 25-2 in the four biggest tournaments and was the only man to reach the semifinals of all four. Forced to play five-setters in each of the first two rounds of the U.S. Open, the first No. 1-seeded man to do that in the Open era that dates to 1968, he didn’t drop another set until the final.

Shelton, who can fire serves at more than 140 mph, said Zverev had the best serve on tour.

“I think you combine that with as good as he is as a tennis player outside the serve, you know how complete he is, he’s gotten so much better at the net,” Shelton said. “He’s an elite mover at 6-7. He’s got a lot of length, so he returns really well. Solid from the baseline and one of the fittest guys on tour, too. Yeah, he’s a tough guy to play, 100%.”

Munich confirmed for 2028

Barcelona’s Camp Nou beats Wembley to host 2029 Champions League final

GENEVA, Sept 15, (AP): Barcelona’s renovated Camp Nou was picked over Wembley Stadium in London to host the 2029 Champions League final, UEFA said Tuesday.

The choice gives Barcelona a marquee game one year before Spain co-hosts the 2030 World Cup with Portugal and Morocco. Staging that final is a contest between Real Madrid’s renovated Santiago Bernabéu home and the 115,000-seat stadium being built in Casablanca.

UEFA’s executive committee also confirmed the 2028 Champions League final will return to Bayern Munich’s stadium, which was the only bidder, just three years after the 2025 edition.

The much-delayed rebuild of a 105,000-seat Camp Nou is ongoing with the upper tier and roof still under construction.

Barcelona last hosted the Champions League final in 1999, when Manchester United’s two stoppage-time goals stunned a dominant Bayern team.

Wembley has hosted three times since then - in 2011, 2013 and 2024 - and eight times in total since the European Cup started 71 years ago.

This season’s Champions League final goes to Madrid at Atletico’s Metropolitan stadium.

Record eight-time Women’s Champions League winner Lyon will host the final in 2028.



Barcelona’s iconic crest takes center stage at the Camp Nou ahead of match action.

UEFA also picked Cardiff for the 2029 women’s final in the city center national stadium that will host the opening game of the men’s 2028 European

Championship.

UEFA also picked hosts for two editions of the second-tier Europa League: Romania’s national stadium in Bucharest in 2028 and in 2029 at the new Serbian national venue being built on the outskirts of Belgrade.

Serbian soccer has developed closer to ties to UEFA and will co-host the men’s Under-21 Euros next year with Albania.

The decision Tuesday comes just nine days after players and fans from Belgrade’s biggest clubs, Red Star and Partizan, paid tribute at a game in the city’s current main soccer stadium to convicted war criminal Ratko Mladic who died last month in The Hague.

UEFA fined Red Star this month for fans chanting in honor of Mladic at a Europa League game on the day he died.

The Europa League final this season is at Eintracht Frankfurt’s Waldstadion home.

Turin will get the 2028 final of the third-tier men’s club competition at Juventus’ stadium. The 2029 final will be at the 67,000-seat Puskás Aréna in Budapest, which hosted the Champions League final in May.

The success of the Conference League since launching in 2021 has seen its finals venues outgrow the 20,000-seat venues for the first two title matches held in Tirana, Albania and Czech capital Prague.

Leeds crushes Newcastle as Betis run continues in Spain



Inter Milan’s Francesco Pio Esposito, right, challenges Udinese’s Christian Kabasele during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Udinese in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Roma and Inter tied atop Serie A

MADRID, Sept 15, (AP): Leeds hammered woeful Newcastle 4-1 to go third in the Premier League while Real Betis won 2-1 at Villarreal to move equal on points with second-place Real Madrid in La Liga.

The top two in Italy, Roma and Inter Milan, won comfortably to maintain their 100% records and Como beat Parma 2-1 to climb into third spot.

Betis’ strong start to the Spanish season continued with victory over Villarreal.

The win, courtesy of goals from Cucho Hernández and Natan, came 10 days after it beat Real Madrid 1-0 in La Liga, and less than a week after it overcame Lille 3-2 in its first Champions League group match since 2005.

The result at Estadio de la Ceramica lifts Betis into second place, tied with Madrid on 12 points. Barcelona is top on 15.

It was another disappointing night for the home side, which is still to win this season and sits third-bottom with two points from five matches.

In Italy, Roma continued its superb start to the season with a 2-0 win over Torino. It was joined at the top of the table by the only other team with maximum points, Inter Milan, which came from behind to beat Udinese 5-3.

Both teams have 12 points from four games, although Roma is first on goal difference after what was its ninth consecutive victory.

In-form striker Donyell Malen scored his

sixth goal in four games to put Roma ahead and Niccolò Pisilli got a deserved second in stoppage time.

Inter struggled to get going against Udinese, which looked set to continue its good run of away form by scoring twice without reply in the opening 16 minutes.

James Abankwah rose unmarked to head Udinese ahead in the ninth minute and Jurgen



Leeds United’s Noah Okafor, right, celebrates scoring their side’s fourth goal with Dominic Calvert-Lewin during the English Premier League soccer match between Leeds United and Newcastle United in Leeds, England. (AP)

Ekkelenkamp doubled its lead seven minutes later.

However, Carlos Augusto got a goal back for the reigning champion after 26 minutes with a 30-yard strike and Nicolò Barella equalized 10 minutes before half time.

In Como, the home side moved into the top three with a 2-1 win over Parma.

Jacobo Ramon turned Nico Paz’s shot in for the opener midway through the first half and Kaiki made it 2-0 seven minutes from time after a goalmouth scramble. Jose David Romero got Parma’s consolation in stoppage time.

Como is third on 10 points along with Lazio.

In England, Dominic Calvert-Lewin was the star as Leeds overran a flimsy Newcastle side.

The home team turned it on during a sparkling first half and took the lead in the 32nd minute when Ao Tanaka’s shot from the edge of the box took a double deflection to bamboozle Newcastle keeper Lukas Hornicek.

Three minutes later, sloppy defending led to Calvert-Lewin making a second with a trademark header, the goal being marked down to Jayden Bogle after the ball went in off his head.

Calvert-Lewin then grabbed his fourth goal in four games on the stroke of halftime. Noah Okafor rounded off the scoring for Leeds with a half volley after another weak clearance early in the second period.

Newcastle’s consolation goal came in the final minute from substitute Bazoumana Touré.

The result lifts Leeds into third place in the Premier League, equal with Hull on eight points, four behind joint leaders Arsenal and Manchester City. Newcastle is 12th.

Kuwait Club beats Sharjah in friendly

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Kuwait Club defeated UAE side Sharjah 85-74 in a friendly match as part of the team’s training camp in the UAE ahead of the WASL Final 8 in Beirut.

The tournament is scheduled to run from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, with Kuwait Club using the camp to fine-tune preparations and build understanding among its squad.

Under Serbian coach Dusan Stojkov, Kuwait Club fielded their new foreign signings alongside key local players. The club has recruited Americans Shinanu Onuaku, Christian Brown and Dai Dai Grant, as well as Palestinian Sniper Sakakini.

Teams can register four foreign players for the competition, although only three are permitted to play at the same time.

Kuwait Club is drawn in Group A with Lebanon’s Al Riyadi, Saudi Arabia’s Al-Ittihad and India’s Railways. Group B features Saudi Arabia’s AlUla, Lebanon’s Sagesse, Qatar’s Al Arabi and Iran’s Shahrdari Gorgan.

Meanwhile, Qadsia has signed Ali Al-Hadhoud to bolster their roster for the



A glimpse of the friendly between Kuwait Club and Sharjah.

new season.

The tall center came through Kuwait Club’s youth system and later played for the senior team before joining Al-Arabi two seasons ago.

Bader Tareq leaves Al Arabi after 15 years

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 15: Al-Arabi has announced the departure of midfielder Bader Tareq after nearly 15 years with the club.

Tareq came through Al-Arabi’s youth ranks before breaking into the first team under coach Boris Bunjak. He also represented Kuwait at various youth levels before progressing to the senior national team.

Tareq is the fourth prominent first-team player to leave Al-Arabi this season. Salman Al-Awadi and Abdullah Al-Qarzaei joined Kuwait Club, while Ahmed Khorshid moved to Salmiya.



A glimpse of the friendly between Kuwait Club and Sharjah.

Top Man United academy prospect asks to leave club

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 15, (AP): Manchester United has been rocked by the news that one of its brightest prospects JJ Gabriel has asked to leave the club.

The 15-year-old youth player was the club’s Academy player of the year last season and is regarded as one of the hottest talents in his age group in Europe.

A person with knowledge of the situation said United was unclear why Gabriel wanted to leave and that the club remained hopeful the situation could be rectified.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Gabriel, who is a striker, was due to be included in United’s first team squad for the first time in a competitive match in Wednesday’s English League Cup game against Brighton.

Just last week United greats Ryan Giggs and Rio Ferdinand spoke of Gabriel as an immense talent.

“He’s off both feet, ridiculous, getting a yard and just bang. So small, so slight, doesn’t allow people to make contact,” Ferdinand said.

Giggs added: “I think he is sort of a generational talent.”

Gabriel was named the Under-18 Premier League player of the year last year, scoring 20 goals in just 21 appearances. He started this season with a bang, scoring a hat trick when making his Uefa Youth League debut against Sabah.

Scotland calls up Robbie Ure in post-World Cup reset

GLASGOW, Scotland, Sept 15, (AP): A transfer to Spain and change of Scotland coach finally earned Sevilla striker Robbie Ure a first international call in a reset after a disappointing World Cup where the Tartan Army of fans far outperformed the team.

Scotland’s new coach Sébastien Pocognoli made the 22-year-old Ure the standout inclusion among sweeping changes for four games in a second-tier Nations League group where World Cup quarter-finalist Switzerland starts favorite.

Half of Pocognoli’s 28-player squad was not involved in a group-stage exit at the World Cup that pushed coach Steve Clarke to leave despite signing a four-year

contract extension days before traveling to the United States.

Pocognoli, a 39-year-old former Belgium defender, also gave first-time selections to Hearts winger Josh McPake, Celtic right back Colby Donovan and Stoke center back Luke Graham.

Star player Scott McTominay is missing as he recovers from a heart procedure at Napoli, though Pocognoli picked six from Serie A clubs.

Scotland’s four games in the first national-team break in the European fall to be spread across two weekends are away to Slovenia on Sept. 26, then hosting Switzerland, at North Macedonia and home to Slovenia on Oct. 6.

Ure never got in Clarke’s World

Cup plans despite a prolific spell at runaway Swedish league leader Sirius that earned him a 6.5 million euros (\$7.5 million) move to Sevilla last month.

Scotland was toothless in attack at the World Cup. Clarke’s team scored just one goal and created few chances in three games - a 1-0 win over Haiti, then tame losses to Morocco and Brazil - before making a quick exit home.

Ure also is eligible for Ukraine and playing competitive games for Scotland will tie down the former Rangers prospect’s international eligibility.

Hull forward Oli McBurnie was long out of favor but a strong start to the season for the Premier

League’s surprise team has earned the 30-year-old a fresh start.

A former coach at Monaco and Union Saint-Gilloise, Pocognoli was an unexpected pick last month for Scotland where fans are looking for more dynamic play.

Clarke excelled in restoring Scotland to qualifying for tournaments after a 20-year absence but the team was overmatched at back-to-back European Championships and the World Cup in June.

Scotland is a co-host of Euro 2028 with England, Ireland and Wales. UEFA has reserved two entries in the 24-team lineup for hosts that do not earn a place directly in qualifying groups played next year.

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Oliver Bierhoff, a German soccer legend, sports executive and entrepreneur, passes the ball during an event with school children after a UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait held by Vietnam in Asian Games opener

Uzbekistan hits 5 past Philippines

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 15: Kuwait's Olympic U-23 team opened its Asian Games campaign with a 1-1 draw against Vietnam at Minato Stadium in Japan.

The match was Kuwait's first Group C fixture at the 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026).

Omar Al-Matar put Kuwait ahead in the 79th minute with a header after substitute Ahmed Boudi delivered a well-taken free kick. Vietnam responded just two minutes later, with Nguyen Ngoc heading in from a corner to restore parity.

Vietnam started strongly and created several early chances, with Nguyen Ly Fat hitting the crossbar and post in the eighth minute. Kuwait gradually grew into the game and began creating opportunities of its own.

Montaser Abdul-Salam tested Vietnam goalkeeper Cao Van Binh with a powerful effort from outside the box in the 23rd minute, while Talal Al-Qaisi came close to breaking the deadlock in the 41st minute after a fine individual run.

Kuwait started the second half positively, with Al-Qaisi again denied by the Vietnam goalkeeper in the 48th minute. Kuwait goalkeeper Abdul-razaq Shehab also remained alert, making an important save from Nguyen Ly Fat six minutes later.

Kuwait eventually took the lead through Al-Matar, but its advantage lasted only two minutes before Vietnam equalized.

The result gave Kuwait its first point in Group C. Uzbekistan leads the group after defeating the Philippines 5-1.

Kuwait will face Uzbekistan on Friday morning, while Vietnam meets the Philippines on the same day.



Kuwait U-23 players celebrate after scoring the opening goal against Vietnam.

Nasaf hosts Bahrain's Khalidiya

All aboard

Kuwait Club 'ready' for Al-Wahda battle in Champs League 2 opener

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ABU DHABI, Sept 15: Kuwait Club launches its AFC Champions League Two campaign today with a tough away clash against Al-Wahda at Al Nahyan Stadium at 7: 00 pm in the opening round of Group A. In the other group fixture, Uzbekistan's Nasaf host Bahrain's Khalidiya.

The top two teams from each of the eight groups will advance to the knockout stage. The group phase, divided equally between the West and East zones, is played on a home-and-away basis and runs through Dec. 9.

The Round of 16 is scheduled for Feb. 9-18, 2027, with the quarterfinals set for March 2-18 and the semifinals for April 6-14. The final will be played on May 15.

Kuwait Club arrived in Abu Dhabi on Saturday determined to make a strong start to its continental campaign. The five-time defending Zain Premier League champion is joint leaders after three rounds with seven points, level with Kazma.

The club has won the league title a record 21 times, including



Al-Khatib gives instructions to the players during the final training session.

the last five seasons, underlining their domestic dominance.

Today's match will be the third meeting between the sides in the past two decades. They drew 2-2 in the AFC Champions League in 2002, while Al-Wahda prevailed 2-1 in the Arab Club Championship a year later.

The reigning AFC Challenge League champion will be keen to improve on its previous AFC Champions League Two campaign, when it was eliminated in the group stage two seasons ago.

For Coach Firas Al-Khatib, the match is also an opportunity to

claim his first international victory with Kuwait Club and his first away win in continental competition since taking charge.

Al-Khatib can call on a blend of experience and attacking quality, with Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Ali Hussein, Saud Al-Houshan, Redha Hani, Sami Al-Sanea, Mohammed Freij, Yousef Nasser, Amr Abdel-Fattah and Faisal Zayed among the established names. The squad also includes Mohsen Falah, Mishari Ghanem, Mohammed Daham, Abdullah Al-Qarzaei and Salman Al-Awadi.

The foreign contingent features Tunisia's Yassine Khenissi, Bahrain's Mohammed Marhoon, Congolese defender Arsene "Malik" Zola, Cameroon's Omar Gonzalez and Morocco's Mehdi Berrahma.

Al-Wahda, four-time UAE champion, will rely on home advantage and a strong squad under Brazilian coach Chamusca. Among their key players are Syrian striker Omar Khribin, Belgian forward Christian Benteke, UAE international Caio Canedo, Slovenian defender Ahmed Jnezdar Cirkin and goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Shamsi.



The Italian cruise ship, the Costa Serena, that will house up to 5,000 officials and athletes for the Asian Games, is seen in Tokyo, Japan. (AP)

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 15, (AP): All Aboard. The Italian cruise ship Costa Serena that will house up to 5,000 officials and athletes for the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, received its official welcome on Tuesday at Kinjo Pier in the host city.

The 16-day games open Saturday and run through Oct. 4. Without a dedicated athletes village, officials are using the cruise ship, hotels and converted containers to house more than 11,000 athletes. That's more than the 10,700 athletes who attended the Paris Olympics in 2024.

"So, today our ship becomes more than a destination," ship Captain Federico Sias said at the Tuesday ceremony. "It becomes home where athletes and guests from across Asia can come together in the spirit of friendship, mutual respect and unity."

Officials have not released an official count of athletes, but the number could match the 12,000 that participated three years ago in the games in Hangzhou, China. The Asian Games, first held in 1951 in New Delhi, India, includes 45 countries and regions and 43 sports - many Olympic disciplines and a few regional specialties.

To adjust to the limited space, many teams are expected to stagger arrivals of athletes and officials. Athletes in early events will leave and make way for others.

Best of the Rest

Pakistan docked 11 WTC points: Pakistan was sanctioned on Monday for maintaining a slow over-rate during its eight-wicket loss in the third and final test against England.

The International Cricket Council said in a statement that Pakistan was ruled to be 11 overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration during the Edgbaston test that ended on Saturday.

As a result, Pakistan was fined 50% of its match fee and received an 11-point deduction in the World Test Championship cycle.

The ICC said match referee Ranjan Madugalle imposed the sanction after on-field umpires Paul Reiffel and Chris Gaffaney, third umpire Alahudien Palekar and fourth umpire Russell Warren leveled the charge.

Pakistan is at the bottom of the WTC table after winning just two of its nine test matches. It has two more series to play in this cycle, against Sri Lanka in November and against New Zealand in March 2027.

Pakistan also finished last in the previous WTC cycle and changed its captain after losing 2-0 to Bangladesh earlier this year. However, things worsened during its tour of England with selectors axing seven players after the team lost the second test by an innings and 194 runs at Headingley. (AP)

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Sterling admits dangerous driving: Former England forward Raheem Sterling admitted dangerous driving on Tuesday after being involved in a collision on a highway.

Sterling pleaded guilty at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court to driving his Lamborghini Urus dangerously before he crashed on the M3 in southern England on May 28.

No other vehicles were involved and no injuries were reported, officials previously said.

The 31-year-old also admitted possession of six nitrous oxide canisters for wrongful inhalation, a class C drug, and failing to provide a specimen.

Sterling, who scored 20 goals in 82 appearances for England, is currently without a club. He has played for a number of England's top teams - Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal - and was at Dutch club Feyenoord on a short-term deal last season. (AP)

Jeddah giants Al-Ahli and Al-Ittihad escape defeat

JEDDAH, Sept 15: Al-Ahli and Al-Ittihad both avoided defeat in their opening AFC Champions League Elite matches, with the two Jeddah clubs settling for draws.

Al-Ahli, the reigning two-time champion, washed 1-1 at home by Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor after Firas Al-Buraikan struck in stoppage time to rescue a point.

Pakhtakor looked set to leave Jeddah with all three points after Brazilian forward Giovenco Flamarion put the visitors ahead in the 86th minute. Al-Buraikan equalized in the third minute of added time to keep Al-Ahli from suffering an opening-day defeat.

Al-Ahli will next face South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns in the Three Continents Cup before returning to AFC Champions League Elite action against UAE side Al-Wasl away.

Pakhtakor will host Saudi Arabia's Al-Qadsiah in its next continental outing.

Al-Ittihad also had to come from behind to earn a point, drawing 1-1 away to Qatar's Al-Shamal.

Veteran Algerian striker Baghdad Bounedjah gave Al-Shamal the lead, but Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum equalized to secure a point for the visitors.

In the second round of West Zone matches on Oct. 12 and 13, Al-Shamal will visit Iran's



Players in action during Al-Ittihad-Al-Shamal match.

Tractor, while Al-Ittihad will host UAE side Shabab Al-Ahli.

Al-Qadsiah enjoyed a winning debut in

the competition, defeating UAE side Al-Wasl 2-1 at home to claim a historic victory.