



Arbitration Law gets initial nod; main pillar for justice

Page 2



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Kuwait flag raised at Asian Games village in Nagoya

Page 16

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KUWAIT SLAMS HOUTHI BID TO STRIKE ISLAM'S HOLIEST CITY

'Makkah sanctity must not be violated'



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

The era of Qarmatians is over, Houthis

NO matter how much things change, the Qarmatians era is over and it will never return.

The Iranian government and its Houthi proxy must acknowledge this fact. We are not currently involved in a religious or sectarian conflict, and the world has undergone remarkable change.

To appease the leaders of Tehran, even the Shia Muslims who disagree with the Ayatollah regime will not consent to fight in a sectarian war.

Any Houthi attack on Makkah implies a confrontation with 1.5 billion Muslims of different schools of thought and sects.

Anyone attempting to undermine the security of the Two Holy Mosques must be aware of this fact. It is a red line for all Muslims.

Even among those with extreme political ideologies who reject all religions and faiths, anyone who holds a different view is naive or, more accurately, stands outside the bounds of religious belief.

This statement is not just emotional. It reflects a historical truth. Therefore, any attempt to commit the heinous act of threatening Makkah only results in shame for those responsible.

Such actions violate humanity and core values. Throughout history, religious sites and sanctuaries have been regarded as sacred and untouchable.

It is essential to scrutinize the political ideology that drives the Teh-

ran regime and its affiliates. Despite their use of Islamic rhetoric, it has no genuine connection to religion. Instead, it is built on principles that undermine faith in all of its manifestations. This addresses the religious dimension.

On the other hand, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has significant economic resources that the global community cannot overlook.

In terms of oil, it has reserves amounting to 268.5 billion barrels. It recently revealed the discovery of rare minerals and uranium reserves totaling 114 million tons. The global implications of these figures are well understood.

Moreover, Riyadh has established numerous military and political alliances—most notably the 'Makkah Alliance'—which ensures its resilience against any threats posed by the Houthi militia.

Continued on Page 5

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UN sounds alarm over escalation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait on Wednesday strongly condemned an attempted drone attack by the Houthi militia targeting Makkah, describing the act as a violation of the sanctity of Muslims' Qibla and an affront to its religious significance and the feelings of Muslims worldwide.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its support for all measures taken to protect the Kingdom's sovereignty and security, safeguard the Two Holy Mosques and preserve their sanctity.

The ministry also commended the vigilance and efficiency of the Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces in thwarting the attack, stressing that Saudi Arabia's security is integral to the security of Kuwait and the GCC countries.

The Joint Forces Command of the Saudi-led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen announced early Wednesday that the Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces had intercepted and destroyed a hostile drone launched by Houthi militias toward the airspace of the Holy City of Makkah.

Coalition Spokesperson Major General Turki Al-Maliki said in a press release that Saudi air defenses detected and neutralized the drone south of Makkah at 6:50 p.m. Tuesday, before it could enter the restricted airspace surrounding the Holy City. Al-Maliki condemned the incident as a despicable act of terror targeting the birthplace of Islam, threatening the safety of pilgrims and endangering residents and citizens.

He said the attempted attack was the second major direct breach targeting the Holy City since a ballistic missile attack was intercepted on July 27, 2017.

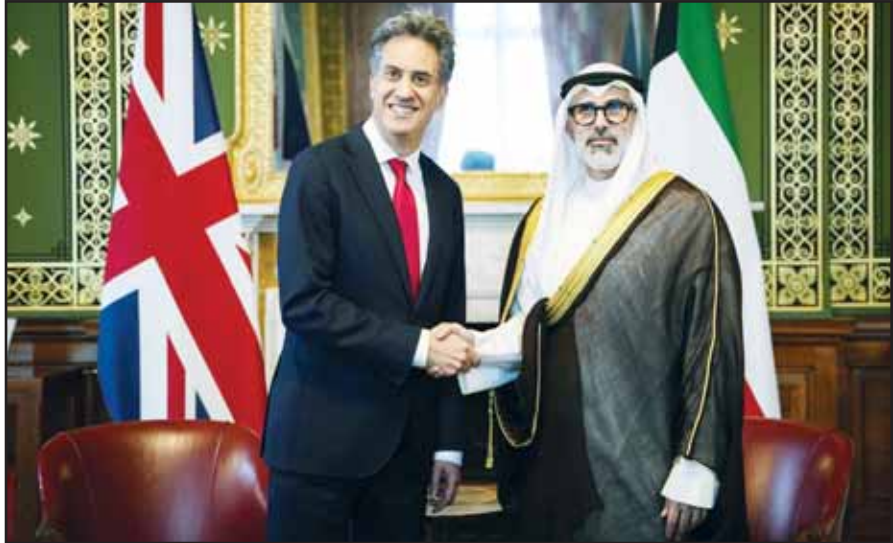
The coalition spokesperson stressed that the security of the Two Holy Mosques and pilgrims remained an uncrossable red line. He warned that the Joint Forces would take all necessary deterrent measures to counter hostile Houthi actions and protect regional stability.

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy condemned the attack and reaffirmed support for Saudi Arabia. He called for an end to Houthi attacks, respect for international law and compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2216 of 2015.

Continued on Page 4



Left: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with German counterpart Johann Wadepuhl during his official visit to Berlin. Right: Sheikh Jarrah with the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary Ed Miliband during his official visit to London.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photos

Sheikh Jarrah's Europe push targets regional de-escalation

Kuwait FM holds Berlin, London talks on security

BERLIN, Sept 16, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Wednesday with German counterpart Johann Wadepuhl, during his official visit to Berlin.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the meeting reviewed the close relations between the

two friendly countries and ways to further strengthen the across various fields in a manner serving their common interests.

The two sides also discussed the latest regional developments and diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalation and enhancing security and stability in the region.

Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also met Wednesday with Dr. Guenter Sautter, Special Adviser to the German Federal Chancellor for Foreign and Security Policy.

Continued on Page 5



9 The AI Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group General Assembly approves authorized capital increase to KD 600 mln



8 The National Bank of Kuwait's employee empowerment strategy & strong organisational performance earn global recognition from WTW



5 KFAS-backed SOOF Wool Mill wins regional energy award

Crisis puts one Gulf currency back on table

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Successive geopolitical tensions in the region have sparked renewed discussions about the concept of a unified Gulf currency.

The need for such a currency has become more pressing than ever, given the ongoing war that has raged in the region since late February - a conflict that continues to cast a heavy shadow over the economies of the Gulf states.

This strategic monetary project has moved to the forefront of the agenda as strengthening economic integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states has become an imperative rather than a secondary option.

Launching a shared Gulf currency would serve as a cornerstone for reducing currency exchange costs and facilitating the seamless flow of goods and services without monetary barriers.

Furthermore, it would play a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth movement of capital and labor while fostering a unified monetary policy that strengthens the region's negotiating position and competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment to a vast, unified market, one that reflects the economic

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

SCHOLARS of human psychology concur that some of the most destructive viruses are malice, jealousy, envy, and resentment concealed within the human heart.

These traits inevitably surface and become evident in the eyes of those who harbor them. Therefore, it is best to avoid such people and keep one's distance from them.

May God safeguard us from such people and leave them to face the consequences of their own harmful intentions.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



KUNA photo

Kindergarten pupils share a moment with security officers on their first day of school Wednesday, with safety and security measures in place to welcome the youngest students.

Little learners start school

Kindergarten pupils took their first steps into school life Wednesday, joining students from primary, intermediate and secondary stages who had already returned to classrooms as part of the 2026-2027 academic year.

The kindergarten stage marks children's first educational experience outside the family environment, providing an important foundation for developing their personalities, social skills and learning abilities.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait moves closer to paperless gov't after SAB's conditional nod

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) on Wednesday decided to conditionally approve the contract for the paperless government project (contract no. 67).

This is a confirmation of the report that the newspaper published on its front page

on May 18 regarding the project, which is planned for implementation within a period of three years.

The contract, commissioned by the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), is valued at KD9.813 million, down from the initial amount of KD9.992 million.

Continued on Page 5

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Shaw to the lady: 'We have already determined who you are, and now we are negotiating the price!'

Free and honorable people do not trade in principles.

Would you agree to spend a night with me for a million pounds?

What if the night were for just five pounds?

Germany was not just a defeated nation, it was a landscape of ruin.

Paralyzed infrastructure and people groaning under the weight of hunger.

The world believed its recovery would take centuries.

The miracle—and the journey—began with two words: work and discipline.

'Trümmerfrauen' (rubble women) cleared the debris with their bare hands, and factories began to rise.

Cambodia: from civil war to the hell of Pol Pot.

Soldiers did not join the celebrations, they just stood by and watched.

Two and a half million people were forced to leave the cities.



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:14 Asr 15:12
Sunrise .. 05:34 Maghrib .. 17:52
Zohr 11:43 Isha 19:11

ISFO recognizes scientific, professional work

MoH honors Prof. Khorshid for global surgery award

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Sabah honored Professor Moussa Khorshid, a specialist in general, bariatric and laparoscopic surgery, after he received the Pioneer Award from the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO), in recognition of his scientific and professional contributions.

In a statement Wednesday, the ministry said that Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Sabah affirmed that the achievements of Kuwaiti medical professionals at international forums are a source of pride and reflect the distinguished expertise and strong academic presence

within Kuwait's healthcare and academic sectors.

Professor Khorshid received the award during the IFSO World Congress held in Toronto, Canada, where he was honored alongside four US surgical scientists in recognition of his career and contributions to the development of bariatric and metabolic surgery.

The ministry noted that the latest honor adds to a distinguished record of international achievements, including an honorary fellowship from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in 2021 and an honorary fellowship from the American Surgical Association (ASA) in 2024.

Professor Khorshid expressed



Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Sabah honors Professor Moussa Khorshid.

pride in the recognition, commending the Ministry of Health's support for national medical professionals and continued encouragement of scientific and professional excellence.

He stressed that such achievements serve as an incentive to continue working and contributing to the advancement of medicine and to raising Kuwait's profile at international medical forums.

Arbitration Law gets initial nod; main pillar for justice

High-level team to join HH Amir Rep on US trip named

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet approved a draft decree-law to issue the Arbitration Law, given that it is a key pillar for efficient justice, and due to its speed in resolving disputes and flexibility in procedures.

This came during the Cabinet's meeting on Wednesday, chaired by the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.

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

The Cabinet was informed of the names of the official delegation accompanying representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on his official mission to New York for the



Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet meeting.

High-Level Week of the 81st UN General Assembly session from September 19-26, 2026.

The delegation includes Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Assistant Minister of Foreign Af-

fairs for International Organizations' Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafi, Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Permanent Delegate to the UN Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai and a number of officials from the Crown Prince's Diwan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Cabinet strongly con-

demned attempts to target Makka with a drone launched by the Houthis militia, reiterating its full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its support for all measures taken to protect its sovereignty, security, and the holy sites.

Similarly, it condemned the Houthis militia attacks on civilians in the cities of Khamis Mushait, Abha, and Taif in Saudi Arabia using ballistic missiles and drones, resulting in several civilians injured and houses damaged.

The Cabinet also condemned the attack on the East-West pipeline in the regions of Riyadh and Madina in Saudi Arabia by several drones coming from Iraqi territory last Saturday, which resulted in injuries and material damage, stressing the need to halt these attacks that constitute a serious escalation to the stability of the region.

It also reviewed topics and reports on the agenda, referring some to relevant ministerial committees for study and to submit appropriate recommendations to complete the necessary procedures for their implementation.



Top and above: Khusrav Noziri, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the State of Kuwait is pictured with the guests.

35th Independence Day marked

Tajik-Kuwaiti bilateral ties see steady growth: envoy

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Khusrav Noziri, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the State of Kuwait, said the Tajik-Kuwaiti relations are witnessing steady development, based on mutual respect, political dialogue, trust and mutually beneficial partnership.

Noziri made the statement at a ceremony organized by the Embassy of Tajikistan on Tuesday to celebrate the 35th Independence Day of the country. Present at the event were Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Nawaf Al-Ahmad, ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, diplomats and members of the Tajik community.

He affirmed that his country looks forward to transforming the strong political understanding between the two nations into broader and more effective practical and economic cooperation.

He stated that celebrating the 35th anniversary of independence is not just a commemoration of a historical event, but a reflection on the 35-year journey of the nation and a look toward the future that Tajikistan views with confidence, determination and hope.

He expressed his sincere gratitude to Al-Mashaan for accepting the invitation and attending the celebration, describing her participation as a testament to the deep ties of friendship uniting the two countries and their peoples.

Regarding relations with Kuwait, he confirmed that the State of Kuwait holds a special and cherished place in Tajikistan's foreign policy. He disclosed that diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on March 31, 1995, and that just a few weeks later, President Emomali Rahmon made his first official visit to Kuwait, the first visit by a Tajik president to an Arab nation.

He said President Rahmon's recent official visit to Kuwait in November 2024, and his meetings with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah are considered a significant milestone in bilateral relations, providing

strong momentum for cooperation and opening new horizons for partnership in various fields.

He pointed out that the opening of the Embassy of Kuwait in Dushanbe and the commencement of duties by the first resident Kuwaiti ambassador to Tajikistan are regarded as crucial steps, reflecting the depth of mutual trust and the shared will to foster closer ties between the two peoples. He added, "Our mission today is clear, to transform this strong political understanding into broader and more effective practical and economic cooperation."

He cited promising opportunities for both countries in trade, investment, infrastructure, agriculture, energy, tourism and other priority sectors.

He confirmed that Tajikistan looks forward to hosting the fifth meeting of the Joint Governmental Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Dushanbe. "This event aims to open new avenues for cooperation, enhance direct engagement between business communities, and translate available opportunities into tangible projects and outcomes that benefit both nations and their peoples," he explained.

He added that his country remains committed to working with Kuwait, as well as all other friendly nations and international partners, to promote peace, stability, sustainable development and shared prosperity, while reiterating his appreciation for Kuwait and all those who attended the celebration.

He praised the cooperation with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and its contributions to supporting development projects in Tajikistan. He described this collaboration as a model of development solidarity and an embodiment of the approach of Kuwait to support development in friendly nations.

He also emphasized that relations between nations are built not only on agreements and projects, but also on human and cultural bonds between peoples. He highlighted the deep cultural and spiritual ties between Tajikistan and Kuwait, as well as the historic connections between the Tajik people and the Arab world.

Nicaragua marks Independence Day

Boost eyed in health, education, tourism ties

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua to Kuwait Mohamed Farrara Lashtar confirmed the depth of relations between the two countries, stressing that these relationship is rooted in historic friendship, mutual respect and fruitful development cooperation.

Lashtar made the statement to reporters on the sidelines of the celebration organized by the Nicaraguan Embassy on the occasion of the 205th Independence Day of Nicaragua.

Counselor Ahmed Shannar Al-Bakhit from the Protocol Department, along with many ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of Kuwaiti entities and friends of Nicaragua attended the event.

Ambassador Lashtar disclosed that the diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1990, followed by the opening of the Embassy of Nicaragua in Kuwait—the country's first embassy in the Gulf region and the Arab world. He indicated that his country aspires to expand cooperation with Kuwait in the fields of health, education, transport, tourism and investment.

He praised the wisdom of the Kuwaiti leaders and their balanced approach in dealing with regional crises. He asserted that Kuwait serves as a model of poise, diplomacy and restraint, while emphasizing that dialogue is the only path toward achieving security and peace and resolving crises.

He added that the Embassy of Nicaragua in Kuwait covers all the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, Jordan, Lebanon and Libya, while Nicaragua maintains another embassy in Algeria. He affirmed the desire of his country to translate its excellent political relations with Kuwait into broader and more practical partnerships.

He commended the role of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), stating that its contributions facilitated the construction and opening of the largest hospital in his country, which serves a population of around 700,000. He said the project was valued at \$120 million and KFAED contributed about 33 percent of the total cost.

He also revealed that the implementation of a major transport project started three or four



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua to Kuwait Mohamed Farrara Lashtar and Counselor Ahmed Shannar Al-Bakhit at the cake-cutting ceremony.

months ago, which includes the construction of several major bridges to enhance connectivity between the country's regions bordering the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

He indicated that KFAED is providing a loan of about \$15 million to develop roads and transportation networks, replace aging infrastructure, and connect vital areas of livestock, mining and agricultural production, thereby, reducing travel times and logistics costs in the Northern Caribbean.

Regarding tourism, he expressed his desire to increase the number of Arab and Gulf visitors, as the number of Arabs visiting Latin America remains limited. He cited the lack of direct flights as a major challenge, despite Nicaragua being accessible through Mexico, Brazil, Turkey and certain Central American countries. He invited Kuwaitis and other Gulf nationals to discover Latin America, stating that the region "needs everything and possesses everything"—a reference to its diverse resources and opportunities for tourism and investment.

He stated that Gulf citizens can enter Nicaragua without obtaining a visa in advance, and that his country offers investment facilities and incentives

in agriculture, livestock and tourism. "These facilities include tax exemptions and concessions, land-related privileges, and a banking system that allows investors to manage their businesses and repatriate profits and funds in accordance with the law," he explained.

He added that investors in the tourism sector could benefit from exemptions and incentives extending up to 20 years. He stated that the embassy held meetings with Kuwaiti businesspeople and investors. "While some had visited Nicaragua and returned with positive impressions, translating this interest into actual projects requires more time and greater awareness of the available opportunities," he asserted.

He urged investors to diversify their destinations rather than limiting themselves to European markets, some of which might have political and legal risks, highlighting instead that Nicaragua offers opportunities, incentives and guarantees in sectors in need of new investment.

On the regional developments, he expressed hope for lasting peace in the region, while lamenting what he described as misguided policies that have exacerbated crises.

He also talked about the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, indicating that the strait remained open to global trade before the crises and escalatory policies led to its closure. He argued that merely reopening the strait will not address the root of the problem, as true peace requires tackling the underlying causes of tension.

He emphasized that Kuwait is among the nations most affected by the repercussions of regional crises, yet it handled such crises with wisdom, patience, poise and diplomacy.

He believes that the balanced policy of Kuwait helped safeguard the country, stressing that "there is no alternative to dialogue."

Regarding the Palestinian issue, he affirmed that Nicaragua's ties with Palestine are rooted in "bonds of blood and historic solidarity," disclosing that a number of fighters from his country participated in the Palestinian struggle and resistance, with some losing their lives in 1968, 1969 and 1970.

He asserted that Nicaragua does not maintain relations with Israel, and it fully supports the Palestinian people's right to freedom, independence and self-determination.



KUNA photo
Tajikistan's Minister of Labor, Migration and Employment Soleha Kholmahmadzoda meets Kuwait's ambassador in Dushanbe Mohammad Al-Ameeri.

Kuwait, Tajikistan eye greater labor cooperation amid talks

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Tajikistan's Minister of Labor, Migration and Employment Soleha Kholmahmadzoda held talks on Wednesday with Kuwait's ambassador in Dushanbe Mohammad Al-Ameeri, focusing on efforts to ratchet up cooperation over the workforce and labor market.

The talks looked into plans to recruit "qualified" Tajik workers to ply their trade in Kuwait's private sector, subse-

quently allowing Kuwait to benefit from the technical skills of the Tajik workforce, the minister said.

The Kuwaiti envoy said that his country would work alongside Tajikistan in a bid to facilitate the recruitment of Tajik workers, in line with a 2024 bilateral agreement over workforce exchange that was signed in the wake of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon's visit to Kuwait.

Ruling in wife murder case postponed to Sept 23

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Court of Appeals postponed until Sept 23 announcement of its ruling in the case of a man sentenced to death for allegedly murdering his wife by running her over with his car in Mutla'a, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the court proceedings, Attorney Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan, lawyer of the family of

the victims, claimed that forensic analyses and medical evaluations conducted on the defendant indicated that he had been pretending to be ill and exaggerating symptoms that were not present.

The defense argued that this evidence contradicts the claims of the accused regarding his health.

Al-Qattan urged the court to uphold the death sentence, pointing out that the demand of his clients is to finalize the previous ruling, which declared the defendant guilty and sentenced him to death.

At the end of the session, the court announced that postponed the issuance of judgment until Sept 23.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Shaw to the lady: ‘We have already determined who you are, and now we are negotiating the price!’

OPPORTUNISTS shift their stances based on self-interest and the highest bidder. If their pay drops or their interests vanish, they abruptly flip, suddenly preaching to us about principles and honor.

Such people tarnish a nation, yet the free and honorable do not barter with their stances or principles—regardless of the price or the magnitude of the inducements or threats involved.

The following lines illustrate this shift of positions through a story based on an anecdote attributed to Irish writer George Bernard Shaw (July 1856-November 1950).

At a party, George Bernard Shaw whispered into the ear of a very beautiful woman: “Would you agree to spend a night with me for a million pounds sterling?” The lady thought for a moment, then smiled and said, “Of course, I’ll do it.”

Shaw continued, “And what if it were for just five pounds a night?”

The lady retorted angrily, “What is this? What do you take me for?”

He calmly replied, “Madam, we have already established who you are. We are just negotiating the price now!”

From rubble to the summit... the story of Germany’s resurgence

Following the end of World War II (1939–1945) and the defeat of the Nazis, Germany was not just a defeated nation, it was a landscape of devastation—cities razed to the ground, infrastructure paralyzed, and a population buckling under the weight of hunger and despair.

The world believed it would take centuries for Germany to come back to life. Yet, what followed

- Free and honorable people do not trade in principles.
- Would you agree to spend a night with me for a million pounds?
- What if the night were for just five pounds?
- Germany was not just a defeated nation, it was a landscape of ruin.
- Paralyzed infrastructure and people groaning under the weight of hunger.
- The world believed its recovery would take centuries.
- The miracle—and the journey—began with two words: work and discipline.
- ‘Trümmerfrauen’ (rubble women) cleared the debris with their bare hands, and factories began to rise.
- Cambodia: from civil war to the hell of Pol Pot.
- Soldiers did not join the celebrations, they just stood by and watched.
- Two and a half million people were forced to leave the cities.

was not just reconstruction—it was a miracle. The journey began with two words: work and discipline. Instead of lamenting the ruins, Germans united behind the vision of a ‘social market economy’.

Bolstered by the Marshall Plan and driven by

the determination of workers—and the women known as ‘Trümmerfrauen’ (rubble women) who cleared debris with their own hands—factory chimneys began to rise once more.

Rather than focusing on armaments, the Germans prioritized education, technical innovation and industrial quality.

Companies championed the ‘Made in Germany’ label, transforming it from a post-war warning mark into a global symbol of precision and durability.

The power of the mind defined the German Renaissance. It was not just a rebuilding of walls, but a revival of the intellect.

They invested in people before infrastructure, believing that military defeat was not the end of history, but rather an opportunity to correct their course.

Within just two decades, West Germany emerged as Europe’s leading economic power, sending a message to the world that resilient nations do not die when their cities fall, but rather when they lose their will.

Today, the nation stands as living proof that unwavering determination and hard work are the true fuel for rising from the ashes.

The extremist rule of Pol Pot

This is the story of people who suffered under a leader obsessed with slaughter and torture.

After triumphing over his adversaries, he promised to transform his country into a paradise, only to wipe out 25 percent of its population through killing, torture and famine.

In 1975, Cambodia was mired in civil war as communist forces advanced on the capital,

Phnom Penh.

Crowds cheered and families gathered, yet the soldiers did not join the celebrations, they just watched.

Then, their leader stepped forward, promising absolute equality—with neither rich nor poor—and declared the dawn of ‘Year Zero’, a complete reset of everything.

No one understood the implications at the time, but the nightmare began soon. Believing that modernity corrupted Cambodia and that the only solution was to start from scratch, he issued his orders.

Two and a half million people were forced to leave the cities. Patients were even dragged from their hospital beds.

Currency was abolished, schools were burned, temples were emptied, and millions were driven into the rice fields to labor from sunrise until they collapsed—yet all this destruction was not enough.

Anyone who could read was executed, even wearing glasses was enough to make one a suspect.

In just four years, two million people died—wiping out a quarter of the country’s population. The ruler who promised to transform his nation into a paradise was Pol Pot.

The leader of the ‘Khmer Rouge’ (meaning ‘Red Khmer’—with ‘Khmer’ denoting the peasantry in the Cambodian language) implemented a radical and hardline form of agrarian communism, forcing the entire society into a scheme of social engineering that compelled them to work in agricultural communes or perform grueling forced labor.



Participants of the meeting.

KUNA photo

Kuwait team focuses on digital inspection, technical oversight

Judicial teams from 14 Arab countries meet

MUSCAT, Sept 16, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti judicial delegation participating in the 30th Arab Meeting of Heads of Judicial Inspection Bodies and Agencies in Oman presented Kuwait’s experience in automating judicial inspection and technical oversight amid the accelerating digital transformation of the judicial system.

Speaking to KUNA Wednesday, head of the delegation, First Counselor at the Court of Cassation Khaled Basheer, said the two-day meeting in Salalah, attended by judicial delegations from 14 Arab countries, focused on developing oversight and evaluation tools and benefiting from modern technologies while safeguarding judicial independence.

He said the meeting sought to establish a common vision for developing judicial inspection systems and exchanging expertise through working papers addressing the shift from traditional to preventive oversight, court performance evaluation, and the use of smart technologies in legal research and data processing, as well as challenges related to algorithmic bias and the protection and confidentiality of judicial files.

Basheer said the Kuwaiti paper, titled “Digital Judicial Inspection System and Application of Modern Performance Indicators to Ensure Expeditious Justice,” highlighted Kuwait’s

judicial system amid digital transformation, particularly the judicial inspection experience in developing supervisory and oversight tools to reinforce governance and transparency standards.

He noted that Kuwait’s experience included scanning and converting paper documents, records, statements and judgments into organized digital formats that are securely archived across all levels of litigation.

The digital system enables secure storage and archiving of case files in protected databases, with access restricted to authorized personnel, allowing judicial inspectors to review inspection-related files and complete inspection reports more efficiently, he said.

Basheer added that digital transformation had enabled inspectors to move from traditional assessment to comprehensive evaluation based on accurate information through network links between courts and the judicial inspection body.

He noted that Kuwait’s recently issued Judicial Organization Law also addressed judicial inspection and digital transformation by introducing new evaluation methods concerning judges’ compliance with electronic litigation and trials and their effective management of digital hearings.

Among the delegation’s recommendations was standardizing procedural inspection criteria across Arab countries and developing digital guidelines to measure judicial performance, he said.

It also recommended dedicating the Arab Judicial Inspection Award to successful electronic applications demonstrating effective-

ness in judicial inspection.

Basheer stressed that Kuwait’s participation reflected its commitment to strengthening Arab judicial cooperation and exchanging expertise and views on developing judicial inspection bodies as a safeguard for the proper administration of justice, judicial independence and the rule of law.

The Kuwaiti delegation included First Counselor at the Court of Cassation Khaled Basheer, First Counselor at the Court of Appeal Raed Al-Daiouli, and Khaled Al-Numani from the Judicial Inspection Affairs Department at the Ministry of Justice.

Concluding its work Tuesday, the 30th Arab Meeting adopted several recommendations, including approving the Arab Judicial Inspection Award project and standardizing procedural inspection criteria among Arab countries.

Participants also recommended adopting a balanced system for evaluating judges’ performance, developing objective and measurable criteria, linking evaluation results to continuous training and qualification programs, and using artificial intelligence as an auxiliary tool to analyze the quality of judicial judgments and inspection work, within legislative and ethical frameworks governing its use.

The meeting also approved scientific themes for its 31st edition in 2027, including comprehensive quality management in judicial institutions, balancing judicial independence with performance evaluation, smart justice, and preparing a unified Arab framework for indicators of judgment quality and judicial inspection.

10 years jail, KD 6m fine for joining, financing Hezbollah

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The State Security Section in the Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of the Criminal Court, which sentenced three Kuwaitis and a Lebanese to 10 years in prison and fined them KD6 million for joining and financing Hezbollah, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a separate case, the court sentenced a citizen to seven years in prison and fined him KD6 million for joining and financing Hezbollah through a charitable committee—a case in which the Court of Cassation previously issued final rulings against other defendants.

These rulings are based on evidence and investigative findings presented by the State Security Agency and the Financial Intelligence Unit, which proved the charges

against the defendants.

Tailor shop robbed: A tailor shop in Farwaniya was burglarized by an unidentified individual who broke in through the exterior door while the premises were unattended, and stole KD 1,974, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the shop owner reported discovering that the premises had been broken into and its contents ransacked.

The complainant stated that the perpetrator not only forced open the exterior door but also pried open several drawers while searching for cash. He stole KD 1,974 before leaving the scene as stealthily as he had entered.

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90% GPA must for student to continue in gifted school

Minister greenlights governance regulations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei approved the regulations governing schools for the gifted, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This move establishes a comprehensive organizational framework for such schools, enhancing their ability to provide a specialized educational environment tailored to the nature, needs and capabilities of gifted students, while supporting the transformation of their talents into scientific and creative achievements that serve Kuwait.

The Ministry of Education emphasized that the regulations—comprising 70 articles in nine chapters—establish a holistic framework for the operation of schools for the gifted. This framework covers everything from nomination, identification and admission mechanisms to the academic system, enrichment programs and assessment methods.

It addresses student monitoring, safeguarding of student rights, and talent development within an educational environment designed for their specific capabilities.

The ministry clarified that the regulations apply to schools for the gifted, the students enrolled in these schools, and their teaching, administrative and technical support staff.

It pointed out that the program encompasses educational stages determined by the Minister of Education, with implementation beginning at the intermediate level (Grades Six through Nine) starting in the 2026/2027 academic year. Implementation dates for other stages will be determined through a ministerial decision.

It indicated that schools for the gifted fall under the administrative, technical and financial supervision of the Office for the Gifted.

It explained that the regulations adopted a scientific system for identifying gifted students based on standardized and approved tools to measure general mental ability, academic achievement and creativity, alongside personal interviews. Candidates are ranked according to test and interview results, and admissions are finalized based on available spaces in each school. A reserve list is

created during each identification cycle—comprising students who passed the tests but could not be accommodated—to fill any vacancies that arise.

Schools for the gifted utilize the official curricula of the ministry, while incorporating an enrichment subject as a core course taught twice weekly. This subject covers academic enrichment, applied projects, thinking and problem-solving skills, and achievements in activities and competitions. This approach helps shift the educational process from focusing solely on academic attainment to the development of the capabilities of students in research, practical application and creativity.

The regulations take into consideration the nature of gifted education by ensuring a suitable classroom environment -- limiting class sizes to a maximum of 16 students—and providing transportation for students as per the schedule and prescribed educational programs of the schools.

The regulations established an assessment system for the enrichment subject, graded out of 100 points as follows: 60 points for the project, 20 points for achievements in activities and competitions, and 20 points for coursework covering thinking skills, participation, interaction, behavior and the handling of tools. This structure reflects the gifted schools' emphasis on achievement, practical application, skills and academic knowledge.

A student's continued enrollment in a school for the gifted is contingent upon two criteria: maintaining an overall final grade of at least 90 percent and achieving a score of not less than 75 in the enrichment subject.

These measures ensure that the schools maintain standards aligned with their founding purpose and that enrollment remains part of a comprehensive support program for the target group.

If student's performance declines during the first semester, the school is required to notify the parent, refer the case to the gifted support committee, and—in coordination with the psycholo-

gist, social worker and teachers—develop and monitor a documented remedial support plan.

The final decision regarding continued enrollment is made only at the end of the academic year, after these procedures are exhausted. Parents retain the right to appeal, and a student may transfer to a general education school without being considered to have failed or repeated the grade if the program is found to be unsuitable for his needs.

The regulations mandate the formation of a gifted support committee in every school, chaired by the principal and comprising assistant principals, department heads, psychologist and social worker. This committee reviews cases of under-performance, approves support plans, and submits recommendations to the Gifted Education Office.

Each school must employ a psychologist and a social worker to monitor the students' psychological and family-related needs and to maintain communication with parents.

The regulations enhance the individualized monitoring of each gifted student by establishing a cumulative file upon enrollment that includes screening test results, psychological and academic records, projects, activities, competitions, periodic reports, counseling sessions and support plans. This creates a comprehensive reference for evaluating the student and making decisions regarding his educational journey, while ensuring the confidentiality of his data.

Regarding students' rights and data privacy, the regulations guarantee students' rights, including access to educational and enrichment programs suited to their abilities, environment, tools and resources that support their talent, and the right to seek academic, psychological and social guidance. Protection of their data privacy, as well as the right to review the assessment of their projects and the components of their grades, are guaranteed as well.

Prior to their child's enrollment, guardians or parents have the right to review the curriculum, enrichment programs, scheduled activities, and conditions for continued enrollment.

Guardians also have the right to monitor the progress of students, view their cumulative file, and be informed of any decisions regarding their continued enrollment, thereby, fostering a partnership between the school and the family in nurturing and tracking the development of the students.



HH the Amir



HH Crown Prince



HH Prime Minister

Amir congratulates Mexico, and PNG on National Days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable of congratulations to President Claudia Sheinbaum of the United Mexican States on her country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president well-being and more progress and prosperity for Mexico and its people.

Crown Prince congratulates

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable of congratulations to Governor-General of Papua New Guinea Sir Bob Dadae on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the Governor-General well-being and more progress and prosperity for Papua New Guinea and its people.

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Kuwait Zakat House efforts enhances charitable status

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi affirmed recently the continued development of Kuwait's Zakat House action, enhancing its role in charitable and humanitarian work and advancing the frameworks for humanitarian action encouraged by Islam.

The statement was made while the minister was presiding over a Zakat House meeting, in the presence of the board members, Zakat House said in a statement to KUNA.

The statement underlined the need to pursue humanitarian action to meet the aspirations of Kuwaitis and enhance the country's distinguished status in humanitarian and charitable action.

The board reviewed some topics listed on the agenda and discussed some issues related to the development of institutional action and upgrade services offered to beneficiaries and volunteers to achieve the House's goals, it noted.

Other Voices

AI-generated plagiarism

By Ahmad alsarraf

With the implementation of the EU AI Act, AI companies and other interested observers will be able to identify text generated by AI applications.

The law requires all companies to fully comply by December 2 by including a hidden watermark within all generated text. This watermark is not a letter or symbol visible to the naked eye, but rather a subtle mathematical and statistical pattern in the way words are chosen.

The generated text will appear completely natural, but approved scanning tools can accurately detect the watermark and confirm that it was generated by AI rather than written by a human.

Consequently, it will become difficult to continue directly copying and pasting AI-generated text into school assignments, academic papers, official emails, or books, articles, and reports without it being identifiable as AI-generated.

The European Union issued the EU AI Act concerning the use and transfer of AI-generated text, with the transparency requirements under Article 50 coming into effect on August 2, 2026.

The Act requires providers of generative AI systems to make their output machine-readable and detectable as AI-

generated content.

Anthropic, the company behind the Claude model, has already included a hidden watermark within its generated text, effective August 2, 2026. This watermark will be applied globally, not just to users in Europe, as there is currently no reliable way to restrict its application geographically.

How does this technology work?

AI companies embed invisible symbols or characters into each generated text. The method works through a simple, subtle form of guidance during word selection. Instead of randomly selecting the next word from a reasonable range of possibilities, the model applies a slight statistical bias towards a specific set of "preferred" words, defined by a secret key. This allows detection tools to identify with confidence whether the text was generated by AI.

Although the deadline for implementation is December 2, 2026, the three major companies have not yet fully committed, with the exception of Claude, owned by AI giant Anthropic.

All three companies have already signed the EU Code of Conduct on the Transparency of AI-Generated Content.

The companies have stated their intention to implement similar technologies in the future. Currently, OpenAI only tags images, not text. The law only mandates compliance "whenever technically available," meaning it is not 100 percent mandatory in all cases. There are ways to escape the AI trap.

□ □ □

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‘Makkah sanctity

Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the incident, praised the Saudi forces and called for restraint, dialogue and diplomacy. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said the attack violated Saudi sovereignty, offended Muslims worldwide and threatened regional security.

Both officials reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Saudi Arabia in safeguarding the Two Holy Mosques and protecting pilgrims, citizens and residents.

Elsewhere, the UN has warned of the consequences of the escalating conflict in Yemen on the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait, affirming the need to reduce tensions, prevent further escalation, and ensure freedom of navigation through this key international waterway.

This came in a briefing delivered by UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Khaled Khiari on Tuesday evening before an emergency session of the UN Security Council convened to discuss developments in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Khiari said that the situation in the Strait and its surrounding area has become increasingly unstable in recent days, amid mounting fighting along Yemen's western

coast and growing concerns over the impact of the conflict on civilians, humanitarian operations and vital maritime routes.

He noted that the Houthis militia has continued its advance toward Bab el-Mandeb Strait with reports that it has taken control of several islands in the southern Red Sea.

Khiari noted that commercial shipping through the Red Sea has not been affected so far, according to maritime vessel-tracking websites.

The Yemeni government launched a counteroffensive following the Houthis' advance last week, while local clashes were reported in Ma'rib, Lahij, Al-Jawf, Hajjah, Al-Bayda and Saada, he elaborated.

In addition, Khiari cautioned that escalation was worsening civilian suffering, noting that the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that at least 125,000 people had been displaced across Yemen since the beginning of this month.

He added that the UN Human Rights Office documented the killing of eight civilians and the wounding of 32 others - women and children made up half of those killed and more than half of those injured - during the same period.

The UN official called for protecting civilians, respecting international humanitarian law, and facilitating safe and unhindered humanitarian access to communities in need.



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KFAS-backed SOOF Wool Mill wins regional energy award

AEE awards recognize outstanding projects, organizations and professionals in energy, energy efficiency and sustainability. SOOF Wool Mill was selected as the 2026 Innovative Energy Project of the Year for the Middle East and North Africa region under AEE's regional awards program.

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They are a continuous ongoing threat to the United States: Mast

US House votes for third time to end Iran war as conflict drags on

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): For a third time, the US House has voted to end the war in Iran, approving a war powers resolution that would halt US President Donald Trump’s ability to continue military action without congressional approval.

The roll call late Tuesday, 220-204, was similar to earlier efforts this summer, with a few more Republicans joining all Democrats voting to bring an end to the conflict. None of the resolutions have made it to the president’s desk, where Trump would almost certainly veto the measure.

“Remember when Donald Trump said that this war would last just a few weeks?” said Rep Seth Moulton, D-Mass., who served as a Marine during the Iraq War and pushed the resolution forward.

He said it’s time for Congress to “actually ask tough questions, as the Constitution directs us to do, rather than be subservient to another warmongering administration.”

Republican Rep. Brian Mast of Florida, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, questioned which military resources Democrats would want to remove from the region where he said Iran remains a threat.

Mast said Trump is against “forever wars, and that is what he is ending” - the decades of hostilities from Iran.

“They are a continuous ongoing threat to the United States,” Mast said. “Enough is enough.”

The action is likely the last House vote on the Iran war ahead of the mid-term elections, where the conflict overseas is playing a substantial role in the political campaigns. The war that Trump launched Feb. 28 has dragged, with on-again, off-again deadly missile strikes being exchanged and causing havoc in the region for nearly seven months.

Lawmakers are heading home at the end of the week to campaign nearly full-time, with less than 50 days to go before the elections that will determine control of Congress as Democrats try to wrest power from Republicans.

Voters are confronting high prices, particularly for gas at the pumps, as the conflict disrupts the flow of oil resources through the vital Strait of Hormuz.



The US Capitol is seen from the Washington Monument on Sept 15 in Washington. (AP)

The Congressional Budget Office said Tuesday that the war has cost more than \$38 billion, as of Aug. 1, and is projected to be costing between \$2 billion and \$3 billion monthly, depending on the intensity of the fighting. The budget office projected inflation will be 0.5 percentage points higher than expected heading into 2027 due to the war.

Trump himself had promised not to involve the U.S. in foreign wars when he won a second term in the White House, and his actions against Iran are weighing on the Republican Party that controls the House and Senate. Most

Americans say the war in Iran has not been worth fighting, according to an AP-NORC poll in July.

In the previous House actions, four Republicans voted to halt the war in Iran, but that number rose to seven in Tuesday’s war powers vote, including GOP lawmakers from battleground Iowa, Rep. Zachary Nunn and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, and retiring Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina.

They joined GOP Reps. Tom Barrett of Michigan, Warren Davidson of Ohio, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky voting in favor of the war powers resolution, with all Democrats.

Congress has tried repeatedly to alter the trajectory of the war against Iran, but efforts to limit the Trump administration’s military action remain a long-shot so long as the president is able to fend off or veto the measures.

The House first approved a war powers resolution in June, and followed up with another one in July, all seeking to halt U.S. action in Iran. The Senate on its 10th try also approved a war powers resolution to end the conflict, but GOP senators quickly reversed course the next day after Trump berated them during a closed-door lunch.

While the Constitution gives Congress the authority to declare war, it also gives the president authority as the commander in chief to engage in some military actions. The War Powers Act, created in the aftermath of the Vietnam conflict, sought to put a more specific time limit on the president’s power, requiring congressional approval for sustained military actions after 60 or 90 days.

House Speaker Mike Johnson acknowledged at a press conference Tuesday the need to bring gas prices down.

But the Republican speaker said he believes the Iran conflict is entering a “new phase” as allies step up to help stabilize the region. When that happens, he said, “you’re going to see, as the president said, anytime gas prices will go down again, the cost of groceries will as well.”

Johnson said Trump expects the shift after the election, and the speaker added, “I’d love it to happen today.”

Other efforts to reshape midterms ongoing

Trump’s push to restrict mail ballots fails

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): The Supreme Court this week closed the chapter on one of President Donald Trump’s boldest efforts to reshape November’s elections - a plan that would have demanded a dramatic overhaul of the nation’s mail voting processes on what most election officials agreed was an impossibly short timeline.

But the case was just one example of the Republican president’s numerous attempts to assert federal control over the upcoming midterms. Several others remain in various states of play, even as mail ballots have been sent out in at least three states and early voting starts in others this week.

Recently, the Department of Justice ordered officials in more than two dozen states to preserve records from the 2024 election as part of a campaign to force them to turn over detailed voter data despite repeated court losses.

And lacking the sensitive voter data the administration wants from many states, the Department of Homeland Security has launched its own probe to find noncitizen voters on state rolls, an effort that a federal whistleblower says is rushed, error-ridden and potentially violating state laws.



Election worker Wendy Wimer looks through vote-by-mail ballots for the presidential primary election, March 12, 2024, at the Clark County Elections Office in Vancouver, Wash. (AP)

Meanwhile, Trump has continued to falsely claim that mail ballots are corrupt, that noncitizens are abundant on voter lists and that Democratic election fraud is widespread. During the recent Republican convention, the president goaded his fans in a verbal pledge to “cheat like hell, like they do.”

In response to Monday’s Supreme Court ruling, Trump lashed back at the justices, saying they lacked the “courage necessary to save our America.”

The Constitution gives the power to run elections to states, rather than to the federal government. Election officials have said they’re prepared to run a safe, secure election even if Trump continues to fan the flames.

Merz cancels UN trip as pressure mounts over elections at home

BERLIN, Sept 16, (AP): German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has canceled a trip to the U.N. General Assembly next week as he faces mounting pressure at home during a string of difficult state elections.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because they couldn’t publicly discuss a trip that hadn’t been announced officially, said Wednesday that Merz won’t travel to New York as originally planned because “his presence is required in Berlin.” Merz had been expected to speak at the General Assembly next Wednesday.

There was no word on why his presence in Germany was required. But speculation has mounted that Merz’s job is in danger following a stinging defeat for his center-right party by the far-right Alternative for Germany party in an election Sept. 6 in the eastern region of Saxony-Anhalt. That damaged the already unpopular chancellor’s authority as he tries to push through reforms to Germany’s sluggish economy.

Two more regional elections fol-



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, (right), speaks to German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt as he arrives for the Cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on Sept 16. (AP)

low on Sunday: one in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, another largely rural eastern state, and the other in Berlin, the capital.

The AfD is expected to make significant gains in both, though it has no realistic path to power in Berlin and faces a much stronger challenge from the current center-left governor in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania than it did from Merz’s party in Saxony-Anhalt.

Von der Leyen calls for EU security mechanism

STRASBOURG, France, Sept 16, (AP): The European Union needs a NATO-like mechanism to better respond to drone incidents, acts of sabotage and cyberattacks across Europe, many of them blamed on Russia, European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** said Wednesday.

“Europe needs its own counter-hybrid playbook. We urgently need a consensus on how to respond to certain incidents,” von der Leyen said, particularly for acts that “fall below armed aggression but clearly threaten our national security.”

Officials in Germany, Denmark, Poland have in recent weeks accused Russia of involvement in drone incursions, sabotage, arson, surveillance of defense facilities and planning to use a drone carrying explosives to attack an airport.

Italian fighter jets working with NATO shot down a drone over EU member Lithuania earlier this week, the first time one has been downed in its airspace. It was believed to have entered from Russia’s ally, Belarus.

But Europe and NATO are struggling to know how best to respond to acts that fall short of outright aggression.

Von der Leyen said that the system should be similar to Article 4 of NATO’s founding treaty, which allows countries believing that their territory is under threat to convene emergency meetings.



Former Kosovo president Hashim Thaci, (top left), appears before the Kosovo Tribunal as he defends himself against charges including murder, torture and persecution allegedly committed during his country’s war for independence from Serbia in the Hague, on April 3, 2023. (AP)

Thaci convicted of war crimes

A European Union-backed court on Wednesday convicted former Kosovo President Hashim Thaci of four counts of war crimes committed during his country’s war for independence from Serbia and sentenced him to 25 years in prison.

Thaci, who is 58, resigned from office nearly six years ago to face the charges. He was convicted by a panel of judges at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers of murder, torture, cruel treatment and arbitrary detention. Both he and the prosecutors, who had asked for a stricter sentence, can appeal. (AP)

America

3 dead in LA helicopter crash: A helicopter crashed between two commercial buildings in suburban Los Angeles on Tuesday night, killing at least three people, local authorities said.

Four people were assessed, with three pronounced dead at the scene, while another was taken to a local hospital in an unknown condition, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) said.

The crash occurred at around 7 p.m. local time (0200 GMT Wednesday) in the Chatsworth neighborhood, about 40 km northwest of downtown Los Angeles, near the site of an earlier deadly bus collision to which emergency crews had been responding.

A total of 56 firefighters responded to the incident, the LAFD said. The fire was completely extinguished and did not spread to any structures. Four automobiles and two storage containers were damaged by the fire. (Xinhua)



First responders work at the scene after a helicopter crashed near a bus crash in Chatsworth, a neighborhood in Los Angeles on Sept 15. (AP)

mend a sentence at the low end of the recommended range and seek additional reductions should his cooperation prove substantial. (AP)

‘Officials security failures led to Kirk’s death’: Charlie Kirk’s family blamed Utah officials for failing to prevent the conservative activist’s assassination at a state university, in a wrongful death notice announced Wednesday that presages a possible lawsuit.

Attorneys for the family said Kirk’s death resulted from a string of “reckless decisions” by officials at Utah Valley University that left him exposed to a rooftop sniper, who fired a fatal shot from more than 400 feet (122 meters) away on Sept. 10, 2025. The university has faced harsh criticism for a lack of key safety measures on the day of the shooting.

Kirk, 31, had been debating students in an outdoor courtyard surrounded by tall buildings and with several thousand people in attendance. An Associated Press review following the shooting showed the campus in Orem did not use several public safety practices that have become standard safeguards at events around the country. (AP)



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters put out a fire at private homes following a Russian air attack in Sumy, Ukraine on Sept 16. (AP)

Russian drone strike kills 5 and injures at least 7 on passenger bus in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 16, (AP): A Russian drone struck a passenger bus in southern Ukraine early Wednesday, killing five people and wounding at least seven. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the attack, the latest in a series of Russian strikes on civilian transportation, as an “atrocious.”

The strike occurred in the Nikopol district of Ukraine’s Dnipropetrovsk region, near the war’s southern front line. Oleksandr Hanzha, head of the regional military administration, said all five were killed at the scene while the seven wounded were receiving medical care.

In a post on social media site X, Zelenskyy described the vehicle as a minibus and said the strike had “no military rationale,” and that the incident was connected to Russia’s targeting of logistics and critical infrastructure that has continued “unabated.”

Zelenskyy said a passenger train was also struck in the Mykolaiv region on Wednesday, damaging a railway station and a diesel locomotive. Nearly 170 passengers on board the train were evacuated before the strike. An electric locomotive in the

northwestern city of Kovel was also struck, Zelenskyy said.

Russian strikes on Ukraine’s rail network have resulted in over 500 locomotives being damaged or completely destroyed since the beginning of the war in February 2022, with more than half those strikes occurring this year, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha wrote on X on Tuesday.

Sybiha described such attacks as “systematic” and aimed at disrupting logistics across Ukraine. He said Ukraine urgently needs replacements for damaged locomotives, and called on the country’s partners to assist in finding locomotives compatible with its 1,520 millimeter rail gauge and to assist in financing.

In another post on X on Wednesday, Sybiha said Russian forces were striking passenger trains, locomotives, stations and railway routes “knowing exactly how essential they are for civilians, evacuations, and Ukraine’s economy.”

“This is not collateral damage. It is a systematic hunt for people and an attempt to paralyze civilian life,” he wrote. In an interview with CBS News on Tuesday, Zelenskyy pushed

back against an earlier claim by U.S. President Donald Trump that Ukraine and Russia had agreed to mutually cease attacks on each other’s energy infrastructure. Zelenskyy said Ukraine was ready to enter such an agreement if Russia stops striking Ukrainian energy facilities.

Trump said in a social media post Monday that such a truce had been reached, but didn’t offer details on the purported agreement. Previous efforts to broker even a partial ceasefire have repeatedly fallen apart within hours, with both sides accusing the other of violations.

In the CBS interview, Zelenskyy said the possibility of an energy truce was discussed during a recent meeting in Kyiv with Trump’s representatives Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, but that he had told them: “If the Russians are ready for an energy truce, that means there will be no attacks on energy facilities at all.”

The deputy head of the Russian armed forces’ military-political department, Lt. Gen. Aпти Alaudinov, confirmed Wednesday that a decorated Russian general had been killed by a Ukrainian drone in the occupied Donetsk region.

Asia

North Korea ordered to pay \$32.5 million: A South Korean court ruled on Wednesday that North Korea should pay the South 44.6 billion won (\$32.5 million) for blowing up a joint liaison office between the countries in 2020 as their relations deteriorated following the collapse of nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington.

The ruling by the Seoul Central District Court was symbolic as South Korea has no clear way to force the North to pay amid a diplomatic breakdown.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in recent years has suspended all meaningful diplomacy with the South and declared it his most hostile enemy while advancing his nuclear weapons program and pursuing closer ties with Moscow and Beijing as part of what he has described as a “new Cold War.”

While there have been cases of individuals suing the North Korean government over human rights abuses and other issues, the liaison office case was the first time the South Korean government sued Pyongyang. (AP)

Large-scale fire breaks out at S.Korea facility: A large-scale fire broke out at a waste recycling facility in South Korea on Wednesday, prompting the fire authorities to raise their emergency response to level 2, according to Yonhap news agency.

The blaze began at around 1:58 p.m. local time (0458 GMT) at the recycling plant in Hwaseong, about 45 km southwest of Seoul.

The initial report was made by a facility official who stated that combustible waste materials had caught fire.

The fire authorities initially issued a response level 1 at 2:15 p.m. but upgraded it four minutes later to response level 2, which can mobilize personnel and equipment from neighboring fire stations, due to flammable waste inside the facility that could spread the fire rapidly. (Xinhua)

Emergency warning issued for Australia bushfire: Authorities in Australia’s Northern Territory (NT) on Wednesday issued an emergency alert for a bushfire burning south of Darwin, warning unprepared residents to evacuate immediately.

The warning issued by Bushfires NT said that authorities were notified of the fire in the rural town of Blackmore, about 30 km south of Darwin, shortly after 2 p.m. local time on Wednesday.

“A bushfire is running or contained under very high to extreme weather conditions; The risk of loss of life or threat to properties is almost certain or has occurred,” it said.

The warning said that anyone who is unprepared should evacuate the area immediately. People who cannot leave have been advised to shelter indoors. (AP)



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows the demolition of an inter-Korean liaison office building in Kaesong, North Korea on June 16, 2020. (AP)

Lawmaker pleads not guilty to taking kickbacks in flood control projects

Former Philippine president Duterte appears in court in The Hague

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Sept 16, (AP): Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte attended a hearing Wednesday at the International Criminal Court, where he’s facing charges of crimes against humanity, smiling and waving to supporters during his first public appearance in over a year.

The ex-leader is accused of murder and attempted murder for his alleged involvement in dozens of killings as part of his so-called war on drugs during his time in office. He denies the charges against him.

Dressed in a black suit and a crisp white shirt, the 81-year-old joined a pretrial hearing that focused largely on scheduling concerns ahead of the trial’s official start, expected in November.

Duterte was arrested in the Philippines in March 2025 and sent to The Hague. He made his initial appearance via video link from the court’s detention center and had not attended another session until Wednesday.

His legal team had attempted to get the case thrown out on medical

grounds, but judges denied a request for him to be released from custody and ultimately ruled earlier this year that he was healthy enough to stand trial.

The ICC has been looking into mass killings in crackdowns overseen by Duterte, first when he served as mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president.

Estimates of the death toll during Duterte’s presidential term vary, from the more than 6,000 reported by the national police to up to 30,000 claimed by human rights groups.

According to the prosecutors, police and government hit squads carried out dozens of killings at Duterte’s orders, motivated by the promise of money or to avoid becoming targets themselves.

In June, the presiding judge in his case told Duterte’s lawyers that she wanted the ex-leader to turn up. “We would expect Mr. Duterte to be here unless there’s some medical issue,” Judge Joanna Korner said.

Earlier this week, his counsel requested additional medical evalua-



Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte appears before the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands on Sept 16. (AP)

tions.

Relatives of those killed in the drug crackdowns held a group watch in Manila, chanting “Justice for all victims of the killings!”

A small group of protesters also gathered outside the ICC ahead of the hearing to voice their support for

the proceedings.

A month after the court in February 2018 announced a preliminary investigation into the violent drug crackdowns, Duterte said the Philippines would withdraw from the ICC.

Last year, judges rejected a request

from Duterte’s legal team to throw out the case because of the Philippine withdrawal. They said that countries cannot “abuse” their right to withdraw from the court’s foundational Rome Statute “by shielding persons from justice in relation to alleged crimes that are already under consideration.”

Earlier this year, an attempt by authorities to arrest another man wanted by the ICC in connection with the drug killings dissolved into gunfire in the Philippine Senate in May. No one was hurt. The court had unsealed an arrest warrant for Ronald Marapon dela Rosa, who served as national police chief under Duterte. Dela Rosa went into hiding following the Senate standoff and remains on the run.

Also:

MANILA, Philippines: A Philippine lawmaker and former speaker of the House of Representatives pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges alleging he pocketed millions of dollars in kickbacks from flood control projects, his lawyer said.

Rep. **Martin Romualdez**, a cousin and former ally of President **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.**, is among several powerful legislators accused of pocketing huge kickbacks. Nearly 10,000 flood control projects worth more than \$9 billion that were supposed to have been undertaken since Marcos took office in mid-2022 have come under scrutiny. Many were found to be substandard, overpriced or not built at all.

MANILA, Philippines: Candidates from parties associated with a former rebel group appeared to be leading the first elections in a predominately Muslim region in the southern Philippines, official results showed Wednesday.

The election was a significant step forward for self-rule in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which was rocked by deadly uprisings for decades until a 2014 peace deal in which Muslim rebels agreed to lay down their arms in exchange for a promise of autonomy.



People march during a protest organized by opposition parties against constitutional changes proposed by President Felix Tshisekedi, in Kinshasa, Congo on Sept. 15. (AP)

US strips millions in military aid from Europe, ME to back nations in Americas

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): The Trump administration is stripping tens of millions of dollars in US military assistance from countries in Europe and the Middle East to support conservative-leaning governments in Central and South America.

The State Department on Tuesday notified Congress that it will reprogram \$52 million in foreign military financing from Slovakia, North Macedonia, Tunisia and Iraq to Panama, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Colombia, Ecuador and Peru last week and pledged to them additional support as the Trump administration has prioritized the Western Hemisphere in its foreign policy with an emphasis on combating drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

It is just the latest in a series of moves that have reduced either money or troop deployments to Europe in response to President Donald Trump’s complaints about NATO allies not spending enough on their defense budgets and other matters. Both North Macedonia and Slovakia are NATO members.

But it also comes as the administration has put particular attention on the Western Hemisphere, aligning deeply with right-wing governments



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

as Trump celebrates a renewal of the 19th century Monroe Doctrine establishing Washington’s dominance in the Americas.

Foreign military financing provides recipient countries with US taxpayer dollars to allow them to purchase military equipment from American defense contractors.

The State Department said the funds would be used to “combat

narcoterrorism in our backyard and help continue to secure the Panama Canal,” adding that the Western Hemisphere has been historically neglected in US military assistance.

“These funds will prevent adversaries from establishing strategic footholds in our hemisphere,” the department said in a veiled jab at China, which has increasingly sought to boost its presence in Latin America.

Brazil top court postpones decision on key justice ahead of Oct elections

BRASILIA, Brazil, Sept 16, (AP): Brazil’s Supreme Court suspended deliberations Tuesday in a case revolving around one of its justices that is shaking the run-up to the country’s presidential election in October.

The court was set to decide on whether Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the man who led the trial against former President Jair Bolsonaro, should face an investigation in a graft case.

The session ended with the decision on de Moraes postponed possibly until mid-December.

That would put it off until well after the vote that is set to have President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, the former president’s son, as the most competitive candidates in what is expected to be a close election.

The two Supreme Court justices at the center of an unprecedented crisis at the top court are perceived as being at opposing ends of Brazil’s polarized political spectrum.

De Moraes is facing accusations raised by Justice André Mendonca, Bolsonaro appointee. The cases revolves around his connection to shuttered Banco Master, a case that has ensnared high-ranking politicians and judiciary members.

Mendonca unsealed documents last week showing that the head of Banco Master, Daniel Vercaro, who is now in prison, sought legal advice from de Moraes as he was about to be arrested. The documents also showed the bank had a contract worth 130 million reais (\$23 million) with the law firm of de Moraes’ wife.



Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes gives a thumbs-up during a plenary session of the court in Brasília, Brazil, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026. (AP Photo/ Eraldo Peres)

Outside the court Tuesday, several dozen Bolsonaro supporters protested, calling for de Moraes to leave the court or be impeached by the Senate. Their presence waned as rain fell on capital Brasília.

Many Brazilians spent their day glued to their TVs watching the heated discussions among justices, including friction between de Moraes and Mendonca.

In his remarks, de Moraes denied any wrongdoing. He also accused Mendonca of waging a vendetta against him for political reasons, prompting a brief shouting match between the two.

Sudan gold mine collapse kills 67

CAIRO, Sept 16, (AP): A gold mine collapse killed at least 67 people in a remote area in Sudan, a medical group and survivors said Wednesday.

The tragedy happened in al-Zara gold mine in the town of Nuhud in West Kordofan province. The area is under the control of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which has been at war with the country’s military for over three years.

Survivors said the collapse occurred late Tuesday and many people remain missing at the mine.

The medical group said the death toll could increase as search and rescue operations were still ongoing in search of survivors or people trapped beneath the rubble.

Al-Amin Suliman, a miner, said there were people trapped inside the mine, which includes several shafts.

Khairal-Sayed Gabara, a survivor, described the collapse as “massive,” adding that machinery required to remove the collapsed soil and rubble wasn’t readily available.

Sudan is a major gold producer, but mine collapses are common due to poor safety standards.

Similar incidents in recent years include a 2023 collapse that killed 14 miners and one in 2021 that claimed 38 lives.

Africa

Hundreds protest in Congo: Police in Congo fired tear gas Tuesday to disperse hundreds of people demonstrating against constitutional changes they said could allow President Félix Tshisekedi to seek a third term in office.

The opposition coalition C64 organized demonstrations in the capital, Kinshasa, and several other cities, including Lubumbashi and Kindu in eastern Congo, despite restrictions on mass gatherings imposed due to the fast-spreading Ebola outbreak.

The protest in Kinshasa drew hundreds of people and began peacefully, but was dispersed by police with tear gas and warning shots after protesters clashed with pro-government supporters.

“The Congolese state is working with a political party militia,” said opposition leader Martin Fayulu. “God is great; I made it out alive. There was a massacre, and the police were firing at us.”

Congolese government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya condemned the opposition for disrupting activities by falsely claiming schools would be closed on Tuesday. “The right to protest is recognized in the Constitution, but it must be exercised properly,” he said. (AP)

US hits S.Africa with new sanctions: The Trump administration has announced that it will impose travel bans on officials it claims are responsible for discrimination against whites and other minority groups in South Africa.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Tuesday he would revoke US visas or reject visa applications from foreign nationals found to be responsible for, or complicit in, enacting or enforcing laws and policies that allow for uncompensated land seizures, race-based discrimination and the incitement of violence against minority ethnic and racial groups in South Africa.

“The United States will not allow such behavior to go unchecked,” Rubio said in a statement. “These actions directly undermine peace, economic stability, and the rule of law, and they are incompatible with the pillars of America’s foreign policy.”

The South African government has strongly rejected U.S. allegations of discrimination against whites, calling the claims made by the administration since US President Donald Trump returned to office last year baseless and a result of misinformation.

Rubio did not identify any officials who would be targeted with the travel restrictions, though a lobby group for minority whites in South Africa has previously called for the USto sanction officials of the African National Congress party, the party of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and the largest in South Africa’s Parliament. (AP)

Oil rises 93 cents Tues. to \$124.34 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): Kuwait oil rose 93 cents during Tuesday’s trading to reach USD 124.34 per barrel compared with 123.41 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday. Benchmark Brent crude futures gained USD 2.90 to USD 108.75 pb and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) surged USD 4.44 to USD 105.83 pb.

Business

Among 29 organizations worldwide & the only Middle East bank recognized within WTW’s HPEX framework

The National Bank of Kuwait’s employee empowerment strategy & strong organisational performance earn global recognition from WTW

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Following years of investment in enhancing the employee experience and fostering a corporate culture built on engagement, empowerment and continuous development, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been recognized by WTW as a Global High-Performance Employee Experience (HPEX) Organization. This independent recognition reflects the Bank’s success in translating employee experience into strong business results and sustainable organizational performance.

The recognition follows an assessment based on WTW’s global methodology for measuring the relationship between employee experience and organizational performance. Organizations qualify by simultaneously outperforming their respective industry averages across employee engagement indicators and financial and operational results.

WTW (Willis Towers Watson) is a leading global advisory firm specializing in management consulting, human capital and risk management. Its assessment framework draws on a cumulative database of more than 250 million employee surveys collected over more than five decades.

According to WTW data, NBK is one of only 29 organizations worldwide recognized as a Global High-Performance Employee Experience (HPEX) Organization. It is also one of just two organizations in the Middle East to achieve this recognition and the only financial institution in the region included in this global group.

A Journey That Began by Listening to Employees

This achievement marks an important milestone in a journey NBK began in 2018 through its employee engagement surveys. Since then, the Bank has adopted a structured approach centered on listening continuously to employees and translating their views and feedback into tangible development programs and initiatives.

Over the years, NBK has implemented a series of initiatives designed to enhance the employee experience throughout every stage of the career journey. These have included expanding opportunities for career development and continuous learning, strengthening leadership communication channels, introducing workplace wellbeing initiatives,



Emad Al-Ablani

Al-Ablani:

- NBK among only 29 organizations worldwide recognized under WTW’s HPEX framework
- The Bank is one of only two organizations in the Middle East recognized under the HPEX framework
- NBK is the only financial institution in the region included among this global group of organizations
- Independent recognition reflects NBK’s success in linking employee experience to sustainable organizational performance
- A distinctive Kuwaiti presence within a select global group of leading organizations
- NBK reaps the rewards of years of investment in employee experience
- NBK strengthens its appeal as a leading career destination across the region



WTW’s HPEX recognition.



NBK’s executive management receiving the award from WTW.

and enhancing employee recognition programs.

These efforts were not standalone initiatives, but part of an integrated vision linking employee success with organizational success, an approach reflected in both employee engagement and organizational performance.

A Testament to the Effectiveness of NBK’s Business Model

The Bank’s inclusion in this global group confirms that excellence in employee experience is not a standalone objective, but a fundamental driver of sustainable business performance.

Under WTW’s methodology, organizations recognized under

its HPEX framework must outperform their respective industry averages in employee engagement indicators, alongside a range of key financial metrics, including growth, revenue, profitability, capital efficiency, return on assets and return on equity.

Against this backdrop, the recognition reflects NBK’s success in implementing an organizational model that balances investment in human capital with strong financial and operational performance.

Our People Power This Achievement

The Bank attributes this achievement to the collective efforts of its employees, leaders and executive

management over many years, underpinned by a culture of engagement, openness and continuous development that has fostered a workplace where excellence and innovation thrive.

In this context, the Bank emphasizes that listening to employees will remain an integral part of its future strategy, as it continues to invest in enhancing the employee experience and strengthening the workplace environment to support sustainable growth and reinforce its position as an employer of choice in the region.

Recognition Grounded in Results

This achievement represents

more than an organizational designation; it is an independent recognition of the effectiveness of NBK’s approach to human capital management, linking employees’ views of their professional experience with the Bank’s actual organizational performance.

This milestone encapsulates a journey spanning several years under the theme:

“Your Voice Matters”

What began as a structured process of listening to employees evolved into tangible programs and initiatives that created a more distinctive employee experience, strengthened organizational performance and ultimately culmi-

nated in global recognition based on rigorous criteria and objective measures.

On this occasion, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer said: “NBK’s recognition by WTW as a Global High-Performance Organization marks an important milestone in our ongoing journey towards organizational excellence. It also reflects the success of our strategy in creating a workplace that empowers our employees to realize their full potential and contribute to the Bank’s goals and ambitions.”

He emphasized that what makes this recognition particularly meaningful is that it reflects the voice of NBK’s employees and their genuine experience within the Bank, while affirming that building a strong and inclusive organizational culture has a direct impact on performance and sustainable success.

Al-Ablani added that this recognition is distinguished by an assessment that extends beyond employee experience indicators to encompass employee engagement, organizational performance and business results, reflecting the strength of the Bank’s business model.

“We began this journey in 2018 with a commitment to listening continuously to our employees, understanding their aspirations and responding through practical, impactful initiatives. We believe that the success of any organization begins with the success of its people. We will therefore continue investing in talent development and fostering a culture of performance, innovation and continuous learning, further reinforcing NBK’s position as an employer of choice in the region and one of the world’s leading organizations”, Al-Ablani noted.

WTW’s HPEX framework draws on one of the world’s largest employee experience databases, comprising more than 250 million employee surveys collected over more than 50 years. It measures the relationship between employee experience and organizations’ financial and operational performance.

WTW (Willis Towers Watson) is one of the world’s leading firms specializing in management consulting, human capital, risk management and insurance brokerage., the firm serves thousands of organizations worldwide.

Targeting greater financial flexibility

NREC advances portfolio optimization and reviews capital allocation strategy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: National Real Estate Company (NREC) announced continued progress in its portfolio optimization strategy following a strategic review by the Board and management to reshape the portfolio and strengthen financial flexibility. NREC’s broader divestment program, including Carina Views and other recently completed transactions, represents approximately KD 70 million in total transaction value.

The latest transaction involves Carina Views Property Development Limited, which owns two land plots on Al Reem Island in Abu Dhabi. The contractual sale consideration is AED 400 million (approximately KD 33.4 million), with potential total proceeds of up to AED 470 million (approximately KD 39.2 million), subject to the agreed terms.

Financial Impact and Transaction Structure

At the initial closing, the buyer submitted a certified cheque for AED 200 million (approximately KD 16.7 million) for a 50% stake. A further AED 120 million will be paid four months later for an additional 30% stake, secured by a dated cheque.

NREC will retain a 20% interest in Carina Views, valued at AED 80 million, together with two board seats and a put option exercisable within 12 months following the second closing. If the put option is not exercised, NREC will retain priority rights to distributions of up to AED 150 million, followed by 20% of future dividends.

NREC expects to recognize a profit of approximately KD 8.2 million in Q3 2026 from this transaction, with potential additional future profits depending on the exercise of the put option. Upon conclusion of the full transaction,

Transaction Highlights

- Carina Views transaction has contractual consideration of AED 400million (approximately KD 33.4 million), with total proceeds potentially reaching AED 470 million (approximately KD 39.2 million), subject to the agreed terms.
- The completion of this transaction will bring the Company’s asset monetization program to approximately KD 70 million in aggregate proceeds, materially reducing leverage and expanding financial flexibility.
- Upon conclusion of the full Carina Views transaction, NREC expects its net debt to fall below KD 100 million.



Faisal Al-Essa, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



NREC expects net debt to fall below KD 100 million.

Capital Allocation
The transaction forms part of NREC’s broader divestment program to optimize its portfolio, enhance financial flexibility and focus on value creation.

The Board will continue to assess capital allocation opportunities, including potential investment in housing projects in Kuwait and potential dividend distributions, subject to the necessary Board and AGM approvals, as applicable.

CEO Commentary

“The Carina Views transaction marks another important milestone in NREC’s portfolio optimization strategy. We have reshaped our portfolio, strengthened our financial flexibility and created a stronger platform for future growth and value creation. Going forward, we will continue to assess opportunities for disciplined capital allocation, including potential investment in housing projects in Kuwait and potential dividend distributions, subject to the necessary approvals.”

— Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

About NREC

Established in 1973 and listed on Bursa Kuwait, NREC is a real estate investment, development and property management company operating across the Middle East and North Africa, with a diversified portfolio that spans retail, commercial and residential assets.

Focusing on health, climate, nature & workforce

PMI launches Value Plan 2030+ as sustainability roadmap ends

DUBAI, Sept 16: Philip Morris International (PMI) has released its 2025 Value Report, outlining the company’s progress under its five-year sustainability roadmap and setting out priorities for the next phase of its business transformation.

The report reviews PMI’s performance in 2025 across areas including sustainability, operational resilience, stakeholder engagement and responsible business practices.

It also introduces the company’s Value Plan 2030+, which focuses on six areas: consumer and product health impact, circularity, climate change, nature and biodiversity, the company’s workforce, and workers across its value chain.

PMI said the new plan is intended to integrate sustainability considerations into its business strategy and long-term decision-making.

The company added that its future plans remain subject to applicable regulations and market conditions.

“Change in motion” is the theme of this year’s report, reflecting PMI’s view that its transformation is an ongoing process shaped by changing markets, advances in science and evolving stakeholder expectations, according to Group Chief Executive Officer Jacek Olczak.

The report marks the completion of PMI’s 2025 Roadmap, which was introduced in 2020. It outlines the company’s stated progress against the roadmap’s



PMI Value Report 2025

objectives and presents its approach to measuring performance and communicating with stakeholders.

For the Middle East and North Africa, PMI Vice President Andrzej Dabrowski said the report links the company’s global strategy with regional and local activities, including initiatives involving consumers, business partners and communities.

The report was prepared with reference to the Global Reporting Initiative’s 2021 Universal Standards and relevant topic-specific standards.

It also incorporates guidance from the International Sustainability Standards Board, including SASB Standards, the

Integrated Thinking Principles and the Integrated Reporting Framework.

PMI said it renamed its annual disclosure from the “Integrated Report” to the “Value Report” beginning with the 2025 reporting cycle.

The change is intended to reflect the company’s focus on how it creates, preserves and enhances value over the short, medium and long term.

The report is accompanied by a series of “Stories of Impact” published on PMI’s website, featuring examples of the company’s initiatives in different markets.

For more information and to access the full report, please visit www.pmi.com/sustainability.

Increase provides ABK with greater long-term flexibility to support its strategic development & future growth

The Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group General Assembly approves authorized capital increase to KD 600 mln



Talal Behbehani presiding over the General Assembly, attended by Van Der Tol, Abdullah Al-Sumait, and Fawzy Al-Thunayan.



A view of the general assembly.



Van Der Tol in a group photo with some members of the executive management.



Attendance at the General Assembly.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Extraordinary General Assembly of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group (ABK Group) approved an increase in the Group’s authorised capital from KD 274.865 million to KD 600 million, divided into 6 billion shares with a nominal value of 100 fils each.

The Board of Directors may, by resolution, increase the issued and fully paid-up capital within the limits of the authorized capital, call for an increase and record the increase of the issued and paid-up capital in the Commercial Register, and determine its terms and conditions, in whole or in part, in one or more installments within the limits of the authorized capital, by a resolution that specifies the amount and methods of the increase, the date or dates of calling for it, and all its terms and conditions, and determines the dates of the subscription, trading, entitlement and distribution periods related to the increase of the Bank’s capital, and take all necessary measures in this regard.

The Bank’s shareholders shall have the right of priority in subscribing to such cash increase, each in proportion to his share in the Bank’s capital, for a period of not less than 15 days from the date of opening the subscription. After that, the Board of Directors may extend the period of exercising the priority rights and allocate the surplus of unsubscribed shares to current or new shareholders in accordance with the provisions of the law, and dispose of fractional shares resulting from the increase in the manner it deems appropriate, taking into account the regulatory requirements.

The Board of Directors is also authorised – in the cases other than capital increases for the purpose of issuing bonus shares to be distributed to shareholders – to decide on adding a share premium for each capital increase or new subscription and to determine the value of this premium to be added to the nominal value of the new shares.

The Board of Directors may seek assistance from whomever it deems necessary to implement all or part of the above, provided that all requirements are met and the necessary approvals are obtained in accordance with the provisions of the law, regulations, and the decisions and instructions of the regulatory authorities.

Article 4 of ABK’s Articles of Association



Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, ABK Chairman

tion was amended to state: “The purposes for which the Company has been founded shall be as follows: Conventional banks,” replacing the previous wording: “To practice all commercial banking services and operations, whether for its own account and/or for the account of others.”

Article 5 of the Articles of Association and Article 6 of the Memorandum of Association were also amended to state: “The Bank’s authorized capital is specified in the amount of KD 600,000,000 distributed over 6,000,000,000 shares, the value of each is 100 fils, and all shares are in cash. The Bank’s issued and paid-up capital is specified in the amount of KD 274,865,010.800 distributed over 2,748,650,108 shares, the value of each is 100 fils, and all shares are in cash.”

The General Assembly, which was attended by 86.667% of shareholders, was held at the Group’s Head Office and chaired by Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Group Chairman, with the participation of Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group Chief Executive Officer. It also approved the amendments to Articles 4 and 5 of the Articles of Association and Article 6 of the Memorandum of Association.

Commenting on the occasion, Behbehani said that the General Assembly’s approval to increase ABK Group’s authorised capital represents a pivotal milestone that strengthens the Group’s readiness to enter a new phase of growth and expansion and further develop its capabilities.

He added that the measure provides the



Giel-Jan Van M. Der Tol, GCEO

Bank with long-term strength and flexibility to support its long-term strategy, prepare for potential increases in its capital base as the Group’s business grows, and respond efficiently to suitable opportunities or regulatory requirements. He emphasised that this is a preparatory governance measure, with KD 600 million representing the maximum authorised capital and not an obligation for the Bank to issue capital up to this amount.

Behbehani continued, “The decision enhances the Bank’s flexibility and readiness as it develops and implements its new five-year plan, enabling the Board of Directors to respond to future capital requirements within the authorised limit, subject to the necessary regulatory requirements and approvals.”

He concluded, “The considerable trust placed in us by our shareholders carries with it a responsibility to manage the Bank prudently and create sustainable long term value. We remain focused on pursuing disciplined growth while maintaining a resilient and well managed institution.”

Enhancing Proactive Readiness

On his part, Van Der Tol said that the increase in authorised capital is intended to support growth and expand project financing, both in Kuwait and in the countries where the Group operates.

He said, “The significance of this step is that it raises the legally permitted capital ceiling. This gives management the flexibility to seek an increase in paid-up capital

tal or launch a subscription when an appropriate opportunity arises, significantly reducing the time and approvals required for implementation at that stage.”

Van Der Tol added that the move enhances the Bank’s proactive readiness and provides it with greater flexibility to address future requirements effectively.

He reaffirmed ABK Group’s commitment to maintaining its prudent strategic approach and applying the highest standards of governance and risk management to ensure sustainable growth and reinforce its position as a preferred banking partner for its existing customers, and attract new customers.

“We will continue investing in future technologies, strengthening our digital infrastructure, adopting artificial intelligence solutions, developing financial products that meet customers’ evolving expectations, and building a resilient business model capable of adapting to changing economic conditions, ensuring continued leadership and excellence,” he said.

Van Der Tol continued, “We will further strengthen our competitive position in the banking sector, capitalise on promising opportunities and meet the expectations of our customers and shareholders, while continuing to support the Kuwaiti economy. We will continue working diligently to achieve further accomplishments that reinforce ABK Group’s leading position in the banking sector.”

He concluded that ABK Group remains committed to implementing its vision, adding that it will not merely keep pace with change but will seek to continue to deliver sustainable and rewarding returns to its stakeholders. The Group will continue working to maintain its position among the fastest-growing and most influential financial and banking institutions and pursue new avenues for success.

Behbehani and Van Der Tol thanked all regulatory authorities in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt for their continued support of the Group and the banking sector. They also thanked shareholders for their continued confidence and commended the efforts of all employees in contributing to the achievement of the Group’s objectives.

Zain Kuwait partners with Schneider Electric to boost critical-infrastructure resilience



Daaij Aloud and Amel Chadli after signing the partnership in Abu Dhabi.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Zain Kuwait has announced a strategic collaboration with Schneider Electric, a global energy technology leader, to enhance the operations, resilience, and performance of its critical facilities and infrastructure, further strengthening the foundations that support Zain’s digital services, business continuity, and future sustainable growth.

The announcement was made during the Schneider Electric Innovation Summit Middle East & Africa 2026 in Abu Dhabi, where the agreement was signed by Zain Kuwait Chief Technology Officer Daaij Aloud and Schneider Electric Gulf Cluster President Amel Chadli.

Through this collaboration, Zain is leveraging Schneider Electric’s specialized operational expertise to support the high availability and reliability of its critical facilities and infrastructure. The project is designed to reinforce business continuity through proactive operations, rapid response to critical events, and a structured approach to managing mission-critical environments.

The collaboration also focuses on improving asset reliability and performance, reducing operational risk, and strengthening infrastructure resilience. By optimizing the performance of critical facilities like datacenters and enhancing their operational efficiency, the project enables Zain to maintain its focus on its core business priorities, accelerate digital transformation, and continue delivering reliable digital services and experiences to customers on Kuwait’s most awarded 5G network.

Commenting on the occasion, Daaij Aloud said: “Digital transformation can only move as fast as the infrastructure that supports it. As our networks, platforms, and services become more advanced, the resilience and intelligence of our critical facilities become increasingly strategic to our digital ambitions and business growth.”

He added: “Our collaboration with Schneider Electric strengthens this foundation by bringing together specialized operational expertise, proactive asset management, and a strong focus on reliability and business continuity. This will help us reduce operational risk, optimize the performance of our critical environments, and build the resilient infrastructure required to support the next generation of



Daaij Aloud and Amel Chadli with executives from Zain Kuwait and Schneider Electric.

- **Zain Kuwait CTO Daaij Aloud:** “The resilience and intelligence of our critical facilities are increasingly strategic to our digital ambitions and business growth”
- Agreement announced during the Schneider Electric Innovation Summit Middle East & Africa 2026 in Abu Dhabi
- Collaboration to explore new pathways in AI-ready data centers, sustainability, and intelligent asset management

digital services, AI, and connectivity.”

Aloud continued: “Our ambitions extend beyond operational excellence today. We are looking ahead to how AI-ready infrastructure, intelligent asset management, and more sustainable operating models can support Zain’s long-term technology roadmap and future growth. Working with global technology leaders like Schneider Electric allows us to continually explore new approaches that make our infrastructure smarter, more efficient, more resilient, and future-ready.”

On her part, Amel Chadli, President, Gulf Cluster at Schneider Electric, said: “Kuwait’s digital economy needs infrastructure that is as intelligent as the services it powers. Schneider Electric brings deep operational expertise in critical facilities, together with digital tools that translate asset data into faster decisions with fewer disruptions. Working alongside Zain Kuwait, we are combining that expertise with our commitment to sustainable, AI-ready infrastructure to help build a more resilient digital backbone for the country.”

On the sidelines of the summit, Zain Kuwait and Schneider Electric also explored opportunities to expand their collaboration across several strategic

areas aligned with the evolving requirements of digital infrastructure. These included AI-ready data centers, sustainability and decarbonization, AI-enabled Asset Performance Management, and advanced Facilities Management and Operations Support.

The discussions reflect a shared commitment to innovation, operational excellence, and sustainable growth, while exploring technologies and operating models that can further enhance the efficiency, intelligence, and resilience of Zain’s infrastructure.

As demand for cloud services, artificial intelligence, advanced connectivity, and data-intensive digital applications continues to grow, critical infrastructure is becoming an increasingly important enabler of digital transformation. Zain continues to invest in technologies, partnerships, and operational capabilities that strengthen the foundations of its network and digital ecosystem while supporting greater efficiency and long-term sustainability.

The collaboration forms part of Zain Kuwait’s broader approach to building future-ready technology infrastructure capable of supporting its evolving digital ambitions. By combining advanced connectivity with resilient facilities, intelligent operations, and sustainability-focused innovation, Zain aims to create a stronger technological foundation for the next phase of digital growth in Kuwait.

Schneider Electric is a global energy technology leader, driving efficiency and sustainability by electrifying, automating, and digitalizing industries, businesses, and homes. Its technologies enable buildings, data centers, factories, infrastructure, and grids to operate as open, interconnected ecosystems, enhancing performance, resilience, and sustainability. The portfolio includes intelligent devices, software-defined architectures, AI-powered systems, digital services, and expert advisory. With 1 million partners in over 100 countries, Schneider Electric is consistently ranked among the world’s most sustainable companies.



Jazeera IDC CIO Award



Jazeera IDC CIO Panel

Recognition highlights tech, innovation

Jazeera Airways earns IDC Award for Mission Barakah

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Jazeera Airways has been recognized at the IDC CIO Excellence Awards, Kuwait for Mission Barakah, the airline’s large-scale contingency operation launched to maintain vital connectivity for Kuwait during the temporary closure of Kuwait International Airport earlier this year.

Selected from a highly competitive pool of nominations from across Kuwait, the award recognizes the innovation, leadership and impact demonstrated through Mission Barakah, including the rapid deployment of technology solutions that enabled Jazeera Airways to manage an unprecedented and complex operating environment.

Launched on 11 March 2026, Mission Barakah established alternative operating hubs in Saudi Arabia and an integrated air-land corridor connecting passengers with Kuwait. Over the course of the operation, Jazeera Airways operated more than 1,500 flights and over 9,000 bus movements, providing around 200,000 seats across 27 destinations, while deploying 14 aircraft and more than 500 employees.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: “Mission Barakah was an extraordinary test of our people, our systems and our ability to respond with speed and agility. Technology was at the heart of that response, enabling our teams to rapidly adapt our operations, connect multiple locations and make informed decisions in real time. This award is a proud recognition of the ingenuity and determination of our technology team and every colleague across Jazeera Airways who worked together to keep Kuwait connected. More importantly,

it demonstrates what we can achieve when innovation is driven by a clear purpose and supported by exceptional teamwork.”

Technology played a critical role in enabling the operation. Jazeera Airways teams rapidly developed and deployed digital solutions to provide greater operational visibility, coordination and real-time decision-making across multiple locations. These included the R2P Bus Monitoring System, developed in just five days to track and coordinate bus movements, alongside enhanced operational dashboards and data-driven tools supporting teams throughout the mission.

Prof. Thummar, Vice President of Cybersecurity, AI and Technology, Jazeera Airways, said: “Mission Barakah demonstrated what technology can achieve when it is closely connected to a clear operational purpose. This recognition from IDC belongs to everyone across Jazeera Airways who brought together technology, operational expertise and teamwork to keep Kuwait connected.”

As part of the IDC CIO Excellence Awards, Kuwait, Capt. Ayman Alshammari and Thummar also participated in panel discussions titled – “The CIO Talent Agenda: How CIOs, CHROs, and Business Leaders Are Shaping the Future Workforce” and “Agentic AI in Action: Industry Use Cases and Early Wins,” respectively.

Jazeera Airways continues to invest in digital transformation across its operations, with technology playing an increasingly important role in supporting safety, efficiency, scalability and customer experience.

In cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society

Gulf Bank helps ease school fees for underprivileged children

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: As part of its unwavering commitment to social responsibility and continuous support for the education sector, Gulf Bank announced its contribution to covering school tuition fees for a number of students from underprivileged families. The initiative is being carried out in cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society under the “Back to School” campaign, which aims to support students and alleviate the financial burden on families as the new academic year begins.

This initiative is an extension of the long-standing strategic partnership between Gulf Bank and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. Over the years, the partnership has resulted in numerous humanitarian and community-focused initiatives designed to support various segments of society, particularly underprivileged families. These efforts have included humanitarian assistance, support for community and relief initiatives, and programs aimed at enhancing social solidarity while fostering a culture of giving and volunteerism.

Following the reception of a delegation from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Ms. Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, emphasized that the Bank takes pride in its enduring strategic partnership with the Society. She praised the Society’s pioneering humanitarian and social role at both the local and international levels through its relief efforts, assistance programs, and support for those in need.

Aleisa noted that the Kuwait Red Crescent Society serves as a model in humanitarian and volunteer work through the valuable services and initiatives it provides, which strengthen social cohesion and promote the values of generosity and human solidarity. She reaffirmed Gulf Bank’s commitment to continuing its collaboration with the Society to implement more



Najla Aleisa receives a certificate of appreciation from Fawaz AlMazrouei.

- **Najla Aleisa:** Gulf Bank is proud of its long-standing strategic partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.
- **Fawaz AlMazrouei:** We highly appreciate Gulf Bank’s commitment to supporting the humanitarian and charitable projects implemented by the Society.

initiatives that benefit society and support vulnerable groups.

For his part, Mr. Fawaz AlMazrouei, Director General of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, presented a letter of appreciation to Najla Aleisa, recognizing Gulf Bank’s distinguished support for the Society’s humanitarian and community programs and activities.

AlMazrouei expressed his deep appreciation for Gulf Bank’s contributions and ongoing social responsibility initiatives, commending the Bank’s dedication to supporting the humanitarian and charitable projects undertaken by the Society. He emphasized that this effective partnership strengthens efforts to serve the community and meet the needs of deserving beneficiaries.

Gulf Bank places special importance on supporting education as one of the key pillars of sustainable development and community empowerment. Accordingly, the Bank continues to launch and support educational initiatives that provide equal learning opportunities for students and help them pursue their academic journeys and achieve their future aspirations.

These efforts are aligned with Gulf Bank’s sustainability strategy and its commitment to contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Through supporting those most in need and promoting their inclusion and active participation in society, the Bank believes that investing in education is a long-term investment in human and economic development, helping to build a more prosperous and sustainable future for generations to come.

Jazeera Airways and Trip.com team up to accelerate growth

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait’s leading low-cost carrier, today announced a strategic partnership with Trip.com Group, a leading global travel service provider, aimed at expanding its global reach and driving early bookings, while supporting the local travel and tourism industry.

The collaboration will see Trip.com leverage its vast global user base, predictive demand tools, and multi-market engines to strengthen Jazeera’s network – particularly on new and imbalance-prone routes – by boosting visibility, bookings, and demand generation across both origin and destination markets.

Commenting on the partnership, Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, said: “This partnership with Trip.com Group marks a significant step in our distribution and growth strategy. By tapping into their global demand ecosystem and cutting-edge AI retailing capabilities, we’re not only accelerating network performance but also enhancing how we reach, engage, and convert travelers. We



Jazeera Airways and Trip.com

look forward to jointly shaping Kuwait’s positioning as both a vibrant tourism destination and an efficient transit hub.”

CT Ooi, Chief Executive Officer of Flights, Trip.com Group, said: “By combining Jazeera’s network and local market expertise with Trip.com’s global reach, demand intelligence and technology capabilities, we can help connect the airline with high-potential traveller segments

across key international markets. Our goal is to shed light on new and emerging routes, while helping travellers discover more of what Kuwait has to offer. We look forward to working closely with Jazeera to support the growth of Kuwait’s tourism and aviation ecosystem.”

As part of the agreement, both parties will also collaborate on promoting Kuwait as a high-potential stopover and destination through curated con-

tent, dynamic packaging, and regional storytelling, aligning with national efforts to diversify the economy and stimulate inbound tourism.

Jazeera Airways will also gain access to Trip.com’s next-generation distribution and retailing technology, enabling it to better serve niche segments such as students, expatriates, and visiting friends and relatives (VFR), while maximizing revenue per passenger through improved fare bundling, ancillary offers, and upsell strategies.

Additionally, the partnership will drive brand amplification for Jazeera Airways across Trip.com’s owned media platforms, co-branded campaigns, and CRM-led activations, allowing the airline to gain top-of-funnel awareness, drive mid-funnel engagement, and convert bottom-funnel interest into bookings.

This partnership is expected to further enhance Jazeera Airways’ ability to deliver affordable, reliable, and high-quality travel experiences while contributing to the broader vision of making Kuwait a regional aviation and tourism powerhouse.

Governors praise initiative as symbol of national unity

‘Amir in the Heart’ reflects Kuwaitis’ loyalty to leadership



Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Moajil with Bassam Al-Qassas.



Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi with Dalal Al-Saif.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with Ahmed Al-Rish, Dalal Al-Saif and Maram Al-Saif.

By Bassam Al-Qassas

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Secretary-General of Kuwait's Diwanias and Head of the Kuwait Diwanias Gathering Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Moajil (Bu Faisal) said the “Amir in the Heart” (Wa fi al-Qalb Amir) initiative authentically reflects the deep devotion of Kuwait's diwanias and citizens.

He said the initiative embodies the profound affection and allegiance Kuwaitis hold for His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, praying that Allah protect and preserve him.

Speaking during a meeting with initiative founder Dalal Al-Saif, coordinator Fahad Al-Rish and Sarah Al-Kharji, Al-Moajil said expressions of devotion to the leadership do not require a formal occasion. Patriotism and loyalty, he noted, are timeless values passed down from one generation to the next.

The “Amir in the Heart” initiative provides a unified platform for these shared sentiments, enabling Kuwait's diwanias to declare collectively: “Our Amir is in our hearts, and Kuwait is in our hearts.”

Al-Moajil said His Highness the Amir has consistently maintained a close relationship with the Kuwaiti people, seeking their engagement, valuing their views and listening to their concerns. He added that this approach had been evident since His Highness served as Crown Prince and had continued throughout his reign, reflecting the deep bond between Kuwait's leadership and its people.

He emphasized that the Kuwaiti diwaniya is an integral part of the country's social fabric and far more than a place to sit. It is a gathering place and a school where Kuwaitis learn dialogue, consultation, patriotism and solidarity. Diwanias, he said, have always united Kuwaitis through kind words and shared national positions.

“For us, the diwaniya does not belong solely to its owner. It belongs to the people of Kuwait,” Al-Moajil said. “Whoever enters a diwaniya enters an open Kuwaiti home — a place to hear and express opinions, where the young learn from and benefit from the wisdom of their elders. This is the value of the diwaniya that we have preserved, generation after generation.”

He noted that Al-Moajil Diwaniya, established in 1938, represents an important part of Kuwait's history and the collective memory of its people.

Al-Moajil also highlighted the longstanding bond

between Kuwait's diwanias, the nation and its leadership — a relationship dating back to the era of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Over the years, diwanias have witnessed Kuwait's various stages of development and transformation, serving as places where citizens gather in a spirit of affection, consultation and service to the homeland.

He stressed that Kuwaitis today are more committed than ever to unity and cohesion.

“Kuwait draws its strength from its people, while the strength of Kuwaitis lies in their unity and their rallying around their leadership — a blessing we must preserve and pass on to our children,” he said.

“The ‘Amir in the Heart’ initiative is not merely a project title, but a message of loyalty from Kuwait's diwanias to His Highness the Amir. It affirms that the people of Kuwait deeply appreciate His Highness's efforts to ensure the nation's security and stability, safeguard its institutions and preserve its unity.”

Al-Moajil prayed that Allah protect His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, as well as Kuwait and its people, and bestow lasting security, safety and glory upon the country. He expressed hope that Kuwait would remain “a land of goodness and love, where the people stand united in both good times and bad.”

Farwaniya Governor: Initiative embodies loyalty and allegiance

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah said the “Amir in the Heart” initiative, together with the sentiments expressed in Kuwait's diwanias, embodies the loyalty, love and allegiance Kuwaitis hold for His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, praying that Allah protect and preserve him.

He said these feelings were not tied to a particular occasion, but reflected a deep-rooted bond between the Kuwaiti people and their leadership — one that had endured across generations.

During a meeting with initiative coordinator Ahmed Al-Rish, originator of the “Amir in the Heart” book concept Dalal Al-Saif and Maram Al-Saif, Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser said the stability and confidence in the future currently witnessed in Kuwait were the result of His Highness the Amir's approach.

That approach, he explained, focuses on consolidating the state's prestige, upholding the rule of law, restoring the standing of state institutions and placing the interests of Kuwait and its people above all else.

Since assuming power, His Highness the Amir has shouldered a significant national responsibility to move Kuwait beyond stagnation, return the state to the right path, protect its resources and institutions, and reinforce the principle of a state governed by law, where the national interest takes precedence over all other considerations, the governor said.

The messages conveyed by Kuwaiti diwanias through the “Amir in the Heart” initiative reaffirm that the people of Kuwait have always regarded, and continue to regard, wise leadership as the nation's safety valve. They also underscore the longstanding ties of love, loyalty and national unity linking the Kuwaiti people to the noble Al-Sabah family.

“It gives me great pleasure and honor to express words of loyalty and gratitude to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in appreciation of his sincere efforts for Kuwait and its people and his unwavering commitment to protecting the state and strengthening its stability,” Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser said.

He noted that his participation in the national initiative was a sincere expression of the Kuwaiti people's love and loyalty to their wise leadership. It also reaffirmed their commitment to placing Kuwait first and regarding service to the nation and its people as a responsibility, a duty and an honor.

Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser stressed that the current phase requires preserving unity, rallying around the leadership, and reinforcing the values of responsibility and adherence to the law.

He affirmed that Kuwait could, by the grace of Allah, continue its journey with steadfastness, provided its people remained united behind their leadership.

The governor concluded by praying that Allah protect His Highness the Amir, grant him abundant health and well-being, safeguard Kuwait and its people, and preserve the blessings of security, stability and prosperity.

Jahra Governor: Diwanias voice Kuwaitis’ national sentiments

Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi said the “Amir in the Heart” initiative embodies the loyalty and affection Kuwaitis hold for His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, praying that Allah protect and preserve him.

He said the expressions and positions voiced in Kuwait's diwanias reflected genuine patriotic sentiment regarding the stability, reform and restoration of the

state's prestige that the country was currently experiencing.

During a meeting with Dalal Al-Saif, founder of the “Amir in the Heart” initiative, Governor Al-Habashi said the project was not merely a title, but a patriotic expression voiced by Kuwait's diwanias.

These gatherings, he explained, had come together to express appreciation for His Highness the Amir's sincere efforts to restore the state's prestige, correct its course, reinforce the authority of law and institutions, and place the interests of Kuwait and its people above all else.

The people of Kuwait, across all walks of life and in every region, recognize the magnitude of the responsibility His Highness the Amir assumed during a critical period, Governor Al-Habashi said. They also appreciate his decisions to protect the state, safeguard its resources, and strengthen its security and stability.

The governor emphasized that Kuwait was now more confident in its ability to move forward and more certain that a state governed by law and institutions was the true guarantee for the future of coming generations.

He added that the sentiments expressed by Kuwaiti diwanias through the initiative confirmed that the relationship between the people and their leadership was not based solely on occasions or slogans. Rather, it was an authentic bond of loyalty, love and devotion inherited from generation to generation, with the noble Al-Sabah family remaining an integral part of Kuwaiti society's conscience and history.

Governor Al-Habashi said Kuwait's diwanias had always been, and would remain, the voice of society.

The sentiments currently expressed in the diwanias regarding His Highness the Amir, he noted, reflected public appreciation for the reform measures undertaken, as well as an aspiration for a new era marked by stability, development and the preservation of the nation's achievements.

“The people of Kuwait hold their Amir close to their hearts, just as they cherish Kuwait itself,” he said.

Governor Al-Habashi affirmed that loyalty to the leadership at this juncture was loyalty to Kuwait, its security, stability and the future of its people.

He extended his utmost expressions of loyalty and affection to His Highness the Amir, praying that Allah protect him, grant him abundant health and well-being, safeguard Kuwait and its people, and preserve the blessings of security, safety and stability under his wise leadership.

Abu Dhabi salutes Arabic computing pioneer Al-Sharekh

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: At the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, a dedicated cultural seminar titled “Al-Sharekh: When the Computer Mastered Arabic” celebrated the enduring legacy of the late Kuwaiti pioneer in Arabic computing, Mohammed Al-Sharekh.

According to a press release, the panel featured notable speakers, including Riyadh Al-Sharekh, Kuwaiti author Saud Al-Sanousi, writer and publisher Samuel Shimon, and researcher Dr. Abdullah Al-Madani, with Abeer Al-Baloushi serving as moderator.

The session explored Al-Sharekh's pioneering efforts to advance the digital integration of the Arabic language. It highlighted his key achievements in developing specialized Arabic software, expanding digital knowledge content, and establishing a foundational role for Arabic in computing during its formative years.

The discussions also examined the far-reaching cultural impact of his work, demonstrating how his innovations bridged technological advancement with the linguistic and cultural identity of the Arab world.

Tracing the evolution of the “Sakhr” Arabic software and technology framework from its launch in 1983 through 2004, Riyadh Al-Sharekh detailed his father's journey and highlighted two landmark applications - the “Al-Sharekh Archive” and “Sahihli” (Correct Me).

The seminar highlighted a pioneering Kuwaiti contribution to modern technology with an impact spanning decades, stemming from Al-Sharekh's early realization that the Arab world's entry into the computer age would be incomplete without securing a place for the Arabic language within that technology.

His work with “Sakhr” evolved beyond hardware and software production into an initiative focused on building digital Arabic content and developing tools that enabled a broader presence for Arabic in the computing world - a legacy that continues to this day.

The seminar highlighted the intersection of technology and culture in Al-Sharekh's work, emphasizing that his interest in the Arabic language was not separate from his technological project, but an integral part of it.

This synergy gave his work a lasting impact across the fields of knowledge, content, and Arab culture, cementing the name “Sakhr” as a pivotal early milestone in the history of Arabic computing.

The seminar also went beyond the technical aspects of Al-Sharekh's experience, addressing the project's impact on Arab culture, literature, and content, as well as the significance of his commitment to preserving Arab cultural memory and making it digitally accessible, exemplified by initiatives such as the Al-Sharekh Archive of literary and cultural magazines.



Mohammed Al-Sharekh



An archival photo of the late Mohammed Al-Sharekh and his son, Fahad Al-Sharekh, with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in the UAE.



A glimpse of the seminar.

Handling frustration

Kindergartners learn bike riding skills in school gyms



Students participate in a learn-to-ride program at Terra Vista Elementary School in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026. (AP)

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): For generations, kids have learned how to ride a bike - a quintessential childhood milestone - in driveways, on sidewalks and in neighborhood streets. Now, they're learning in school gyms and playgrounds.

On a recent September day, kindergarteners at Terra Vista Elementary School in Rancho Cucamonga, California, were fitted with helmets and assigned a black-and-white balance bike. Off they went, propelling themselves with their legs and practicing gliding on the pedal-free bikes. The kids started and stopped on a circular path outlined by orange traffic cones, with adults watching and directing nearby.

For every nervous face, there was another with a smile. For every squeal, there was a laugh. All Kids Bike, a program within a nonprofit organization, has brought a learn-to-ride curriculum into nearly 2,000 U.S. elementary schools. They've made bike-riding part of physical education for children who might otherwise have to wait for an adult or older sibling to teach them - or whose neighborhood and socioeconomic status might stop them from getting the chance.

When schools apply for the program, All Kids Bike can pair them with donors that fund the costs. In Rancho Cucamonga, the city provided \$45,000 to gift the equipment and the curriculum to Terra Vista and four other schools.

The eight-lesson curriculum gradually moves children from simply walking with and getting comfortable on a properly fitted bike to balancing with both feet off the ground. Then, adults add pedals and the students progress to full-fledged cycling.

The activity is perfect for kindergarten physical education classes, says Drew Raney, a P.E. teacher in Wasco, California. For schools' youngest students, gym class focuses on exploring movement, learning to share space and equipment, following directions and having fun. The learning can happen with rainbow parachutes, scooter boards, Hippy Hops - and now, bicycles.

For Raney, who teaches the All Kids Bike program at his school, some of his favorite moments come when students begin lifting their feet and riding in stop-and-go spurts.

"Once you see students start to kind of glide around, that's when you can start to see that confidence shoot up because they're taking those first steps and they're putting themselves out of their comfort zone," he said.

In Seattle, district physical education manager Lori Dunn sees learning to ride a bike as more than simply mastering a recreational skill. The process requires balance, core stability, sequencing and body awareness, she said, with each step building on the one before it. She compares it to typing or keyboarding: Once children learn the skill, it's easier to pick it up later, with practice.

The process can also teach children how to handle frustration as they wobble or fall. Hopefully, bike riding will someday be "just like basketball or dodgeball or whatever other sport there is," becoming such a basic skill that it is simply part of PE, said Lisa Weyer, executive director of the Strider Education Foundation, which operates All Kids Bike.

Some schools also pair the curriculum with other programs to teach road and pedestrian safety and expand access for children with disabilities.

For example, Seattle Public Schools also participates in Let's Go, which serves third, fourth and fifth grades, and includes adaptations for students with additional mobility and cognitive needs. Students in the district also learn how to cross streets, make eye contact with drivers and recognize unsafe behavior. "Traffic gardens" on school playgrounds give students a chance to practice navigating intersections, stop signs, roads and parking areas, giving them skills they can use as pedestrians, cyclists and eventually drivers.

The program can also give children a sense of freedom and independence, Weyer said, while getting them away from screens and into active play.

"We want them to be able to have that sense of freedom and independence," Weyer said. "That's a life skill. It's like swimming." The lessons can stick with students long after the bikes are put away, Raney said. "I have now third graders that are running up and they still remember three years ago, 'That's our bike teacher!'" he said. Some students still remember the chants from the end of the lessons.

"On three, we're gonna say, 'We can ride.' What are we gonna say?" he asks his students. "We can ride!" they shout.

Sheikh Mubarak affirms regional media cooperation

JPPI Chief: Media partnerships strengthen content

DUBAI, Sept 16, (KUNA): Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Director General of the GCC's Joint Program Production Institution (JPPI), affirmed on Wednesday that strengthening partnerships among Gulf media institutions embodies the spirit of integration and joint Gulf action, while supporting efforts to develop the content industry and expand the scope of media cooperation.

In a statement, the GCCJPPI noted that these remarks were made during two meetings held by Sheikh Mubarak with Chairman of the UAE National Media Authority Abdullah Al-Hamed, and Bahrain's Minister of Information Dr. Ramzan Al-Nuaimi, on the sidelines of the 24th Arab Media Summit 2026 in Dubai.

The statement quoted Sheikh Mubarak as saying that the JPPI's participation in the Summit stems from its commitment to maintaining an active presence at Gulf and Arab media events and leveraging platforms that bring together leaders, decision-makers, and media experts to discuss the future of the media and content industries.

The Arab Media Summit 2026 is held under the patronage of Sheikh



KUNA photo Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah tours the Arab Media Summit 2026 in Dubai, exploring its various halls and exhibitions.

Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, upon directives of Sheikh Ahmad

Al-Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Media Council.

The event also features the participation of a distinguished group of officials, media leaders and professionals from the region and around the world.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Director General of the GCC Joint Program Production Institution (JPPI) met on Wednesday with Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Thani, CEO of the Qatar Media Corporation.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance joint program production, said a JPPI press release, as Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah visited the Qatar Media Corporation as part of efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination among Gulf media organizations.

The also meeting addressed strategies for developing joint program production and expanding areas of media cooperation. It also included a review of the JPPI's plans, key works, and upcoming projects, as well as a discussion on leveraging media capabilities and expertise to support and boost the presence of Gulf-produced content.

Four acts pull out in solidarity

Ed Sheeran's tour faces chaos as artists rally behind Macklemore

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): Ed Sheeran's tour of North and South America was plunged into chaos Tuesday when four of his supporting acts abruptly quit in solidarity with the rapper Macklemore, who was dropped for making pro-Palestinian comments onstage.

Hours after Sheeran posted on social media about Macklemore's ouster and attributed the decision to the tour's promoters, Irish acts Aaron Rowe and Beoga, the Danish band Lukas Graham, and Finneas posted on Instagram that they were leaving the tour.

Rowe and Lukas Graham would have been replacements for Macklemore on Sheeran's remaining U.S. dates, while Beoga had been performing several songs - including some the Irish folk band co-wrote - with Sheeran around the middle of each set. Finneas, who is Billie Eilish's brother and musical collaborator, was due to tour with Sheeran in South America later this year.

"Artists must not be silenced when they speak up for the oppressed," Finneas said on Instagram. "I have decided to withdraw from my upcoming tour dates with Ed Sheeran. I stand with Palestine and its people."

The moves by his fellow artists put enormous pressure on Sheeran, who has tried to avoid politics and taking a side in the Gaza conflict, arguing that his fans don't come to his shows to hear politics.

Rowe and Beoga each cited their country's history in their statements explaining their decision. "We are Irish people who understand colonialism. As founding members of the Irish Artists for Palestine movement, we are committed activists for justice and will continue to be," Beoga said.

Rowe called Sheeran a friend and said the British singer-songwriter changed his life. "But as Irish people we know all too well about genocide, forced famine and violent occupation," he said, adding that he couldn't "stand by and allow billions to use their position of power to silence the rightful voices of those who speak up."



Recording artist Macklemore appears on ABC's "Good Morning America" Summer Concert Series in Central Park in New York on July 22, 2022, left, and Ed Sheeran appears at the premiere of the film "F1 The Movie" in London on June 23, 2025. (AP)

Meanwhile, Lukas Graham, the band that had hits with "Mama Said" and "7 Years," expressed gratitude to Sheeran and called it "a difficult decision."

"Money doesn't give you the right to own the conversation. Nobody's bank balance should decide who gets to speak or which suffering we're allowed to acknowledge," the band posted, seemingly referring to billionaire Robert Kraft's role in Macklemore's removal from the tour.

Emails seeking comment were sent to Sheeran and the tour's promoter, the Messina Touring Group. Sheeran weighed in on Mack-

lemore being dropped after the rapper made pro-Palestinian comments onstage during their tour, saying the decision was made by the promoters alone. The British singer also said he refused to be drawn into a public discussion about the war in Gaza.

"Macklemore coming off tour was the promoter's decision, it was not mine," Sheeran wrote on Instagram on Tuesday. "I would never let down the fans who had made plans, nor would I abandon the touring crew and the other support acts and musicians who rely on me for work and to make a living."

Sheeran's statement came a day after Macklemore said he was kicked off the Loop Tour after exclaiming "Free Palestine!" during the Sept. 5 date at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium while introducing his protest song "Hind's Hall."

"To all of my Jewish brothers and sisters, criticism of Israel, criticism of apartheid, being against genocide, it in no way is criticism of you," he said during the concert.

Macklemore said Monday on Instagram that several U.S. venues told the promoter they would prohibit him from performing as Sheeran's opening act, rallied by Kraft, owner of NFL's New England Patriots. His Kraft Group also owns Gillette Stadium, where the Patriots play.

In a statement Monday, Kraft said the decision to cancel Macklemore was a result of his recent comments "and a broader history of antisemitic rhetoric and imagery that we believe has been deeply offensive and hurtful to the Jewish community."

Kraft's representatives didn't immediately respond to a Tuesday email seeking comment about the other musical artists' actions.

A growing chorus of organizations and experts say Israel's wartime actions in Gaza amount to genocide - an accusation Israel vehemently rejects.

Macklemore was scheduled to perform at eight of the 10 shows Sheeran has remaining on his stadium tour, which is scheduled to resume Saturday in Philadelphia. Ahead are stops at Gillette Stadium, Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium and Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium.

In his social media post, Sheeran said he "spoke with the venues at length all week to try to build a bridge," but that "the venue's and promoter's decision was final."

He wrote that he tries to use his music to "bring people from all backgrounds and cultures together" and that while he has personal views about "this devastating conflict," he chooses not to speak publicly because people who come to his shows "do not expect a political forum." He added: "I am not complicit."

AI rivals back safety as slowdown proves difficult

EU chief proposes bloc-wide social media ban for kids under 13

BRUSSELS, Sept 16, (AP): The European Union's top official proposed on Wednesday banning children under 13 across the 27-nation bloc from using social media sites and imposing limits for older teens on accessing the platforms.

The plan outlined by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen adds to global efforts to protect young people using platforms such as Instagram and TikTok from online harm.

"I am aware that many perceive the power of Big Tech as overwhelming and impossible to roll back. I disagree," von der Leyen said in her annual State of the European Union speech in Strasbourg.

"We do not have to accept additive features. We do not have to accept children being drawn into ever more extreme content. We do not have to accept that girls have their photos used for AI-generated sexualized images," she said.

Von der Leyen said that under her proposal "mini accounts" chaperoned by guardians would be granted to kids aged 13-15, with limits on features and the amount of time they can be accessed.

For 15-to-18-year-olds, platforms will need to provide a "safe design," she said. Further details of the plan are expected Thursday.

The EU's 27 member nations still need to debate and vote on the proposal, which could take years and spark tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump, who has long criticized Europe's tech regulations.

Brando Benifei, an Italian member of the European Parliament, said he supported the plan and that Brussels shouldn't shy away from a showdown with the dominant U.S. tech companies.

"To apply this, you need to confront in a very frontal way the interests of platforms and Big Tech who are not happy with this," he said.

Von der Leyen was advancing a plan she foreshadowed earlier this year, when she said kids should be exposed to social media in a "phased and gradual" way.

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and TikTok already prohibit anyone under 13 from opening



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivers a speech at the annual State of the European Union at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, Wednesday, Sept 16, 2026. (AP)

an account, but authorities have accused the companies of failing to keep them off.

But some experts said the commission was failing to tackle a more fundamental issue with the social media industry's core business practices based on getting users hooked on scrolling through addictive content while showing them ads.

The plan "merely delays young people's exposure to the risks of online harm instead of addressing the business model and extractive practices which fuel it," said Simeon de Brouwer, a policy advisor at digital rights group EDRI. The platforms will "unavoidably target them as soon as they're a day older than the threshold."

The commission's proposal is part of a wider global push to protect young people online and represents the first move to introduce a bloc-wide age limit for social media.

Individual European countries such as Spain and Portugal have taken their own steps to ban teens from social media platforms, mirroring regulatory actions in other places like Australia and New Zealand

Some efforts have run into roadblocks. France's top court last month struck down a law banning children under 15 from social media, saying it infringed on fundamental freedoms. French President Emmanuel Macron vowed to rework the proposal.

In the United States, social media company Meta Platforms last month agreed to pay up to \$18 billion and add stronger child-safety measures to its Facebook and Instagram platforms to resolve a trial over teen social media addiction and settle claims filed by nearly every state.

Manfred Weber, the head of the largest group in the European Parliament, spoke after von der Leyen to propose that the EU follow Australia's lead in allowing citizens to switch off social media algorithms.

"Elon Musk will not like it, but probably that is a reason for doing it," he said.

Von der Leyen also weighed in on the intensifying debate about artificial intelligence and the potential risks it poses to humanity, saying the commission would discuss efforts to slow down advanced AI development with leading AI companies.

She said the EU would work with "like-minded partners" like Canada and Britain.

"We want to team up on model evaluation, verification, early warning, AI security and much more," she said.

Meanwhile, the leading AI industry voices rarely agree - so when they do, it's no wonder it captures attention.

Anthropic's Dario Amodei, OpenAI's Sam Altman, SpaceX's Elon Musk and other prominent industry leaders have said in recent days that AI's development needs to slow down. The consensus came after an Anthropic researcher resigned with a dire warning about the threats the technology poses to humanity.

But obstacles including domestic and global competition, profit motivations and pushback from President Donald Trump all stand in the way of a coordinated effort to pace AI's development.

Still, this moment could force the industry to wrestle with a "reframing of what we consider successful," said Nick Reese, former director of emerging technology

policy at the Department of Homeland Security and an adjunct professor at New York University.

"What if we considered success in AI the same way that we consider success for airlines? On time and haven't had a crash in who knows how long," Reese said. "We don't tolerate commercial airline crashes, but we do tolerate significant AI failures."

In theory, the leading AI startups could slow the progress of their models at any time. But leaps in the technology have partly sprung from competition to build even more powerful models, all with the blessing of a White House that doesn't want the U.S. to lose its edge over China. Anthropic and OpenAI also are racing toward potentially record-breaking public offerings on Wall Street, although the latter said it's holding off on going public this year while it continues its safety efforts.

That's why the proposals floated by industry depend upon mutual collaboration and, to an extent, government regulation.

Amodei recently published a lengthy essay in which he outlined a plan for slowing advanced AI development.

One proposal calls for companies at the forefront of AI, often called frontier labs, to commit to giving "ongoing, employee-like access" to independent outside evaluators. Evaluator teams would have offices, access badges and company laptops so they can monitor safety practices.

Anthropic is "unilaterally committing" to this step now, Amodei wrote. Altman called it a "great idea" on social media and said OpenAI will follow suit.

Altman said he welcomed a "federal framework" setting out safety standards for advanced AI, but said the company didn't need to wait for legislation or an antitrust exemption before addressing AI safety.

Amodei's essay also called for government regulation and intervention, including coordination between frontier AI companies with the help of the U.S. government and the governments of other democratic countries. He said he hopes the leading labs could establish "common safety standards as well as limits on the rate of unchecked AI progress."

Hospital marks World Physical Therapy Day

Women’s Physical Therapy Dept highlights prevention of heart disease, stroke

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Women’s Physical Therapy Department at the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital celebrated World Physical Therapy Day on Tuesday, with the theme, “The Role of Physical Therapy and Physical Activity in Preventing Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke.”

This event is part of broader efforts to raise health awareness, instill the concept of prevention, and encourage community members to adopt healthier and more active lifestyles.

Present at the event were Head of the Medical Staff and Director of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital Dr. Jamal Mohammad Jamal, along with department heads, medical and technical staff, patients and visitors.

Jamal affirmed the vital



Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital staff.

role that physical therapy and physical activity play within the healthcare system. He said spreading the culture of prevention and engaging in regular physical activity help mitigate risk factors associated with

numerous chronic diseases, particularly cardiovascular diseases and strokes.

He explained that organizing such events is in line with the commitment of the hospital to raise health awareness among



patients and visitors. “It reinforces the idea that prevention is a cornerstone of maintaining

human health and improving quality of life, while highlighting the importance of sharing

knowledge about good health practices applicable to daily life,” he added.

On the other hand, Nafisa Kamal, Head of the Women’s Physical Therapy Department, stated that physical therapy is no longer limited to the rehabilitation phase following injuries or surgeries. “Instead, it has become a crucial element in prevention, health promotion, maintenance of mobility and functional ability, and improvement of overall quality of life,” she stressed.

She pointed out that global figures entail the need for rehabilitation services. She said the World Health Organization estimates that around 2.4 billion people worldwide live with health conditions that could benefit from such services—a demand expected to continue rising alongside increasing life expectancy due to the prevalence of chronic diseases.



CAN photo
Photo taken during the launch of the 2026 head and neck cancer awareness campaign, held on Tuesday under the slogan ‘Your Awareness Makes a Difference.’

Awareness makes a difference in cancer fight: Dr. Al-Saleh

Head and neck cancer ranks among top 10 in men

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (Agencies): Dr. Khalid Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign, revealed that head and neck cancer ranked tenth among the most common cancers among Kuwaiti men and eighth among non-Kuwaiti men, according to 2022 data.

He emphasized the importance of continued awareness of the disease, its risk factors, and methods of prevention.

In a press statement marking the launch of the 2026 head and neck cancer awareness campaign, held on Tuesday under the slogan “Your Awareness Makes a Difference,” Dr. Al-Saleh noted that the campaign will run throughout the month.

He explained that the campaign aims to provide health information about the disease, its types, associated risk factors, and prevention strategies, while raising awareness of the importance of recognizing symptoms and consulting a doctor when necessary. Awareness is a fundamental component

of efforts to combat cancer.

It is important to enhance public knowledge about head and neck cancer and its risk factors, while encouraging the adoption of healthy behaviors that contribute to prevention.

Head and neck cancer encompasses a group of cancers affecting various areas of the head and neck. Educating the public about these types of cancer and their associated risk factors is a key focus of the campaign throughout September, with the aim of improving health literacy within the community.

The campaign program includes awareness exhibitions at various health centers and hospitals to engage directly with the public and provide health information and guidance on head and neck cancer.

In addition, awareness materials and publications will be disseminated through social media to reach a wider audience and share health messages in a simple and reliable manner.

Dr. Al-Saleh noted that the campaign’s awareness component also includes organizing educational lectures for medical professionals, including physicians and nursing staff, aimed at enhancing their knowledge of head and neck cancer and supporting the role of healthcare personnel in health education and awareness.

He emphasized that CAN is committed to ensuring its awareness messages reach diverse segments of society, while recognizing the vital role of healthcare professionals as key partners in promoting awareness and fostering a culture of prevention.

Dr. Al-Saleh encouraged community members to follow the campaign’s content and benefit from its activities and educational materials, stressing that raising awareness about head and neck cancer and enhancing understanding of prevention methods and risk factors represent significant steps toward building a more health-conscious and informed society.

Kuwait committed to international efforts to protect ozone layer, says Environment Society

KUWAIT, Sept 16, (KUNA): Kuwait, represented by several concerned authorities, remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under international agreements and protocols aimed at protecting the ozone layer, implementing numerous projects and programs at the national and regional levels, the Kuwait Environment Protection Society said Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, observed on September 16, Society Board Member Dima Al-Adsani said the UN designated the occasion to promote the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances, protect the climate and commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987.

She noted that this year’s theme is “Global Action for a Cooler Planet,” coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment, while the world continues to face wars and military conflicts that generate waste and pollutants affecting various environmental components, particularly the atmosphere and ozone layer.

Al-Adsani said signs of ozone-layer recovery became evident in satellite imagery of the ozone hole during the global lockdowns imposed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, when international efforts to reduce environmental pollution were intensified.

She stressed that continued efforts by governments, institutions, companies, civil society organizations and the international community to address climate change, restore the climate system and protect the planet would help sustain ozone-layer recovery.

The ozone layer serves as a protective shield that absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun, protecting human, animal and plant health and reducing risks associated with excessive exposure, including skin cancer, she explained.

Al-Adsani said the Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment demonstrated that collective action can deliver benefits for the climate, economies and populations worldwide, while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

She added that the society incorporates ozone-layer protection and related international agreements into its awareness and training programs, including initiatives covering the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the 1987 Montreal Protocol and the links between international commitments and national environmental legislation and policies.

Through its “Environment” magazine, the society also maintains ongoing awareness efforts on ozone depletion by publishing scientific materials on its causes, the chemicals affecting it, the risks of increased exposure to ultraviolet radiation, and the importance of reducing pollutants and protecting air quality.

Solar activity can manipulate deep-sea climate, says study

BEIJING, Sept 16, (Xinhua): Solar activity not only affects temperatures on Earth’s surface, but can also “control” climate change in the deep sea, according to a group of Chinese researchers.

Using eight decades of ocean reanalysis, they showed that the 11-year solar cycle robustly modulates the volume of a subsurface water mass in the North Pacific Ocean, the North Pacific Eastern Subtropical Mode Water (NPESTMW), said the researchers in an article published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

The NPESTMW, connecting the subtropics and tropics, forms at the ocean surface in winter and sinks, transferring heat and carbon to the deep ocean and influencing climate variability on timescales of years to decades.

Researchers at the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOCAS), found that one to two years after the solar maximum, the formation of this mode of water was significantly suppressed.

The mechanism of this process is not as simple as solar heat directly warming the ocean, said Wang Jianing, a researcher at the IOCAS. During periods of high solar activity, anomalous cyclonic circulation over the formation region weakens surface winds and reduces ocean heat loss, suppressing winter mixed layer deepening and mode water formation.

However, the strength of this solar influence varies over time, according to the research article. A long-term natural climate fluctuation in the Atlantic Ocean further amplifies it, helping explain why the sun’s imprint on climate has been particularly pronounced since the 1990s.

These findings reveal a new mechanism for incorporating solar activity, a predictable external forcing source, into decadal climate prediction.

Sats show Earth lost more than 12tn tons of ice from Greenland, Antarctica in 47 years

US acknowledges for the first time that it has deployed weapons in space

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): The United States has confirmed for the first time that it has deployed weapons in space, a remarkable revelation after previous warnings about countries such as Russia possibly weaponizing a global frontier long agreed in treaties to be used for only peaceful purposes.

Air Force Secretary Troy Meink said Monday that the US has fielded “on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the Joint Force against hostile adversary action.”

Meink did not detail what the weapons were, how they work or if they were targeting other objects in space or on Earth. The US had warned two years ago that Russia was developing a new space-based, anti-satellite weapon, though the White House said the danger wasn’t imminent at the time.

But reports of the anti-satellite weapon reflected longstanding worries about space threats from Russia and China, given that much US infrastructure is dependent on satellite communications. The US has also previously demonstrated its own abilities to shoot down satellites from Earth.

In his remarks to the Air and Space Forces Association’s Air, Space & Cyber Conference, Meink also said the Air Force was adding more autonomous systems to its capabilities and predicted the service would look “radically different” by 2032. For example, he foresaw one-way attack drones replacing artillery as the “primary killer.”

“We are increasing readiness against existing threats,” he said.

The revelation comes as the Trump administration puts a growing focus on space.

In 2019, during his first term,

Trump created the Space Force as a separate military branch. In his second term, he has announced the “Golden Dome” missile defense system, which includes plans to put US weapons in space.

Trump said last year that he expected the system would be “fully operational before the end of my term,” which ends in January 2029, and have the capability of intercepting missiles “even if they are launched from space.”

Trump also has directed the Pentagon to pursue the space-based interceptors, in an executive order during the first week of his presidency.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that just the space-based components of the Golden Dome could cost as much as \$542 billion over the next 20 years.

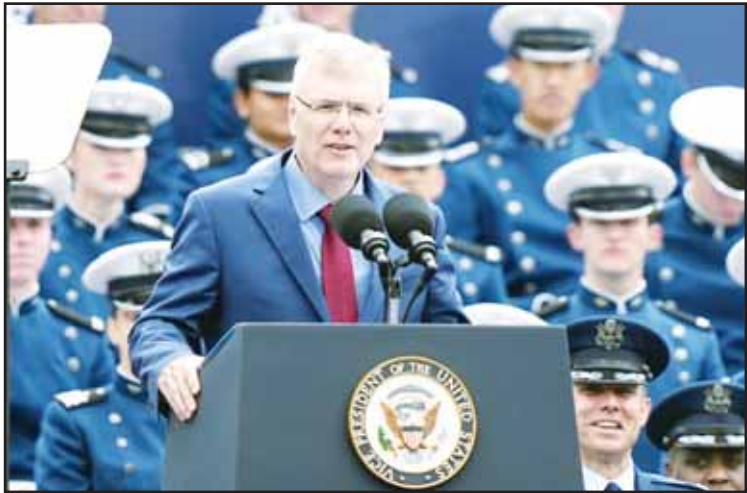
The Biden administration announced in 2024 that Russia was developing a space-based nuclear weapon that could loiter in space for long durations, then release a burst that would take out satellites around it.

That kicked off a renewed debate on the idea of weapons in space at the United Nations.

In April 2024, Russia vetoed a joint US-Japanese resolution that would have called on all countries not to develop or deploy nuclear arms or other weapons of mass destruction in space, as banned under a 1967 international treaty that included the US and Russia.

The treaty also declared that outer space was a global commons that could be used for only peaceful purposes.

The Russian delegation called the resolution hypocritical and a double



Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink speaks during the United States Air Force Academy Graduation Ceremony at Falcon Stadium on May 28 at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. (AP)

standard and instead proposed a rival resolution to ban all weapons in space “for all time.” It ultimately failed.

Russia had argued that the United States and its allies opposed a ban on all weapons in outer space because they planned to deploy weapons there.

Also:

WASHINGTON: About 12.5 trillion tons (11.3 trillion metric tons) of ice from glaciers in **Greenland** and **Antarctica** have melted since 1979, which is enough frozen water to stack ice five feet deep across the continental **United States**, according to a major scientific report.

A warming Earth is accelerating the melting of the planet’s two major ice sheets, with five-sixths of the melt not coming from hotter air, but from warmer waters eating away at

the ice sheets from below and the sides, with glaciers flowing into the oceans, according to a study in Wednesday’s journal *Scientific Data*. That’s bad news for future sea level rise, the study’s authors said.

“The ice sheets are melting away fast,” said study co-author Eric Rignot, an ice scientist at University of California, Irvine. “We are melting the polar regions, sea level is rising worldwide and will exacerbate the vulnerability of coastal regions.”

The numbers behind the melt are both mind-bogglingly huge and deceptively small.

All that melted ice turned into nearly 3 quadrillion gallons of water (11.3 quadrillion liters), which pushed global sea levels up about an inch (3.1 centimeters) since 1979, on

top of other climate factors raising ocean heights, the report said.

An inch may not sound like much, but for every third of an inch (or centimeter) of sea level rise, another 2 to 3 million people get flooded at least once a year, said lead study author **Ines Otosaka**, an ice scientist at **Northumbria University in England**.

The Jakobshavn glacier in Greenland is now retreating up to 164 feet (50 meters) a day, Otosaka said.

The international collaboration of polar scientists, headed by the European Space Agency, had in the past only looked at ice sheet melt since the 1990s based on European satellite data. But by incorporating NASA satellites, the scientists were able to chart ice sheet volumes in Antarctica back to 1979 and in Greenland back to 1972.

“There is a clear trend that the ice sheets are losing more mass and it has been increasing from decade to decade, especially if you look at the ice being discharged to the ocean,” Otosaka said. “And that’s quite clear that there’s a link to climate change.”

It showed that in the 1970s, 1980s and into the 1990s, the ice sheets were relatively stable, but then melt started happening and it really kicked in during the 2010s, Otosaka said.

“That’s something to be concerned about as it shows that the changes are tracking decades behind global warming, which means we can expect them to continue for decades more - even if we are able to stop heating the planet,” said study co-author **Andrew Shepherd**, also of Northumbria.

The accelerating numbers seemed to pause from 2020 to 2023, but the study’s authors said it more reflected

short-term weather variations not long-term trends. Otosaka said the study stopped with 2023 data, but she’s looked at measurements since and found the accelerating trend has picked back up.

A lot of the stability in Antarctica was because **East Antarctica** had record snowfall, which compensated for the rapid melting in the less stable West Antarctic Ice Sheet, the authors said.

The three-year hiatus was “just a bump in the record,” **Rignot** said. “The long rise is climate and the threat is crystal clear.”

The biggest changes scientists saw are in what they call dynamic processes, which are more abrupt and active than the slow steady melting from the air, and that’s something prone to trigger runaway “tipping points,” Otosaka said.

New York University ice scientist David Holland, said that’s what concerns him “because most of the ice loss is dynamical and that is exactly what you would expect in an ice sheet instability collapse scenario.”

The international team used 45 independent surveys and 27 different satellites. “The use of relatively independent methods gives me greater confidence in the result,” said Holland, who wasn’t part of the study. “The upward trend is real.”

“The ‘wild cards’ of Antarctic mass loss continue to pose a challenge for human management of the planet - a clear and present danger, but many decades in the future,” said University of Colorado ice scientist **Ted Scambos**, who wasn’t part of the study. “We are now as a society smart enough to know the future, but not prudent enough to act upon the knowledge.”

Functional five-seat cabin offers 795 liters of luggage space even with rear seats in use

ALSAYER and Toyota launch the all-new Land Cruiser FJ bringing freedom and joy to every journey



KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L and Toyota have announced the launch of the all-new Land Cruiser FJ, introducing a new member of the legendary Land Cruiser family designed to make its trusted capability and adventurous spirit accessible to an even broader range of customers.

The public unveil held at the Grand Avenue at Avenues Mall was a remarkable event witnessed by hundreds of visitors, in the presence of top social media influencers in Kuwait and attended by Mr. Bengt Schultz COO, Mr. Martin Aherne Senior Business Director Toyota Group Sales, Mr. Ian Tuttiett General Manager Toyota Retail, Mr. Bader Faisal Al-Sayer, Senior Manager Toyota Marketing along with Senior Management team from ALSAYER.

Joining the Land Cruiser 300, Land Cruiser 70, and Land Cruiser Prado, the Land Cruiser FJ was developed under the concept of “Freedom & Joy.” It combines the reliability, durability, and off-road performance that have defined the Land Cruiser for generations with a more compact and easy-to-handle size, enabling customers with diverse lifestyles to enjoy greater freedom of mobility and a wider variety of memorable experiences.

Since the original Toyota BJ was introduced in 1951, the Land Cruiser has continually evolved through real-world use in some of the world’s most demanding environments. Its mission has remained unchanged: to help people go anywhere and everywhere and return safely. With cumulative sales of about 12.4 million units in over 190 countries and regions around the world, the Land Cruiser has supported the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere. Developed and refined in response to the experiences of customers around the world, it has built this enduring reputation by delivering dependable mobility wherever it is needed most.

The Land Cruiser FJ brings this enduring philosophy into a new and distinctive form. Its arrival expands the Land Cruiser lineup with a vehi-

cle that retains the nameplate’s fundamental character while offering excellent agility, practical dimensions, and an engaging sense of fun. Under Toyota’s “TO YOU” concept, the Land Cruiser will continue to evolve in response to changing customer and societal needs while remaining a vehicle people can trust.

Commenting on the all-new Land Cruiser FJ, Masaya Uchiyama, Toyota Motor Corporation Chief Engineer of Land Cruiser, said: “Our goal was to create a vehicle that continues to be trusted to support the lives of a diverse range of customers by returning to the original idea of ‘FJ40 = CORE,’ while inspiring people to enjoy life even more. The Land Cruiser FJ represents a ‘Core’ Land Cruiser that provides freedom and joy for a wide variety of lifestyles.”

Uchiyama added: “By providing drivers with solid Land Cruiser off-road performance, this model gives customers the freedom to go wherever they want, whatever their lifestyle, together with the joy of using the vehicle in their own way. As customer needs become more diverse and change more rapidly, we believe it is not enough simply to add more specifications and functions. By focusing on a simple design that is within reach of more people, the vehicle becomes a canvas through which customers can express themselves.”

The Land Cruiser FJ will be offered in two grades: Mid and High. This grade structure gives customers the ability to select a vehicle suited to their individual preferences and intended use while retaining the fundamental reliability, durability, and off-road performance shared across the range.

The wheelbase has been shortened, and braces have been added beneath the floor to increase lateral frame rigidity. Strong and lightweight high-tensile steel is used within the body structure, while additional spot welding beneath the floor improves vibration damping. This combination helps enhance ride comfort without compromising the stability and structural strength ex-



Top and above: Photos from the event.

- Newest member of the Land Cruiser family joins the Land Cruiser 300, 70, and Prado
- Compact dimensions and shortened wheelbase deliver excellent mobility and maneuverability
- Traditional ladder-frame construction preserves Land Cruiser reliability, durability, and off-road capability
- Toyota Safety Sense and other advanced technologies support confident on- and off-road driving

pected of a Land Cruiser.

With a wheelbase of 2,580 mm, the Land Cruiser FJ is 270 mm shorter than the Land Cruiser Prado. This reduced length contributes to a minimum turning radius of 5.5 meters, making the vehicle easier to maneuver in urban environments, on narrow trails, and across more technical off-road terrain. Despite its compact footprint, the vehicle preserves the fundamental geometry and mobility required for genuine off-road performance. Ground clearance and approach and departure angles have been engineered to support confident progress across challenging surfaces; while wheel articulation equivalent to the Land Cruiser 70 series helps the tires remain in contact with the ground over uneven terrain.

Power is provided by a naturally aspirated 2.7-litre petrol engine producing a maximum output of 120 kW, equivalent to 163 PS, and maximum torque of 246 Nm. The engine is paired with a six-speed Super ECT automatic transmission and a part-

time four-wheel-drive system.

The suspension system has been developed to balance off-road capability with on-road comfort and stability. A high-mount double wishbone layout is used at the front, while the rear adopts a four-link rigid-axle configuration with a lateral rod. Together, these systems provide dependable wheel control and composed vehicle behavior across driving environments ranging from paved roads to demanding trails.

A range of drive and braking control systems further supports customers during challenging off-road situations. Downhill Assist Control helps maintain a stable descent on steep slopes without locking the tires, allowing the driver to focus on steering. Hill Start Assist Control helps reduce backward movement when starting on an incline, while an electric rear differential lock enhances traction by helping the rear wheels rotate together when additional grip is required. These systems combine to support stable and controlled

progress across uneven, loose, or steep terrain.

The Land Cruiser FJ’s exterior and interior were developed to unite the functional heritage of the Land Cruiser with a playful and contemporary character. Its design retains the square cabin form traditionally used to prioritize passenger space, visibility, and cargo capacity, while introducing a lean and cohesive shape with a distinctive dice-inspired motif and carefully chamfered edges.

The body measures 4,575 mm in length and 1,855 mm in width, giving the vehicle compact proportions. The rectangular form and clear corners contribute to greater confidence when maneuvering in narrow spaces or positioning the vehicle on uneven ground. At the front and rear, strong bumpers and flared fenders create a planted and stable appearance. These features are integrated into a clean and tightly sculpted body, preserving visual strength without unnecessary complexity.

The Land Cruiser FJ adopts distinctive U-shaped headlamps and rear combination lamps that give it an instantly recognizable identity. At the front, key functional elements are visually integrated to create a sharp and purposeful appearance, while the side view incorporates a horizontal beltline that has been positioned lower to improve visibility of the surrounding road surface.

The exterior color range comprises five monotone finishes: White Pearl, Ash, Black, Bronze, and Smoky Blue. Each has been selected to complement the Land Cruiser FJ’s simple, functional, and adventurous design character. Additionally, the Mid grade sports 17-inch alloy wheels, while the High grade comes with larger 18-inch alloy wheels.

With the second-row seats in use, the Land Cruiser FJ provides 795 liters of luggage capacity, together with a minimum cargo length of 735 mm and height of 1,030 mm. Folding the rear seats expands capacity to 1,607 liters and increases the available cargo length to as much as 1,480 mm, allowing the vehicle to accommodate equipment for work,

leisure, travel, and outdoor activities.

Safety and driver confidence remain fundamental priorities. The Land Cruiser FJ, in its High grade configuration, is equipped with Toyota Safety Sense, an active safety package that includes advanced systems such as the Pre-Collision Safety System and Lane Departure Alert. The Pre-Collision Safety System is designed to assist the driver in recognizing potential hazards and can provide support in avoiding or reducing the severity of a collision. Lane Departure Alert helps identify unintended movement from the vehicle’s lane and alerts the driver, supporting safer and more attentive driving.

Additional safety and convenience technologies for the High grade include a Panoramic View Monitor and Blind Spot Monitor. The Panoramic View Monitor provides the driver with additional visibility around the vehicle, supporting more confident maneuvering in tight spaces and across situations where direct sightlines may be restricted.

The Blind Spot Monitor helps alert the driver to vehicles travelling in areas that may be difficult to see through the mirrors. Together with Toyota Safety Sense, these technologies contribute to a more reassuring driving experience in urban, highway, and off-road environments.

Available on both Mid and High grades, the 12.3-inch display audio system provides a clear and accessible interface for key multimedia functions. Its large display is integrated within the practical cockpit layout, supporting intuitive operation without detracting from the clear visibility and functionality central to the Land Cruiser FJ.

The launch of the all-new Land Cruiser FJ expands one of Toyota’s most recognized vehicle families with a model that remains faithful to its heritage while creating new opportunities for enjoyment. Its more accessible size and agile character allow a broader range of drivers to experience the capability and reassurance associated with the Land Cruiser name.

George understands sentiments after trade

BOSTON, Sept 16, (AP): Paul George made one thing clear during his introductory news conference with the Boston Celtics on Tuesday: his ears work just fine.

He’s heard the not-so silent chorus of Celtics fans who bemoaned the front office’s decision to jettison 2024 NBA Finals MVP Jaylen Brown in the July trade with Philadelphia that sent the 36-year-old George to his fifth NBA team.

But George also isn’t shying away from his new situation.

“I understand my circumstances. I understand how huge JB was, not only for the organization, but here in the city. So, I didn’t take it personal,” George said. “To be honest, they should have a relationship, emotionally, to that trade. But my job is to kind of come into a great opportunity for me. Obviously, the last few years have been rough, just with injuries. But for myself, personally, I feel great again. I feel like I’ve turned that corner of dealing with injuries, and now, kind of re-establishing myself from a physical standpoint again. And with that, I can carry it over to the court.”

George, along with acquisitions Mitchell Robinson and Mike Conley, Jr. represent president of basketball opera-

tions Brad Stevens’ attempt to shore up the roster alongside Jayson Tatum.

The franchise centerpiece, Tatum is embarking on his first full season since tearing his Achilles tendon in May 2025 and then having his return late last season end with him being sidelined for the Celtics’ Game 7 first-round playoff loss to George and the 76ers.

Robinson comes in fresh off winning a championship with the Knicks, and the 38-year-old Conley will be suiting up with his fourth NBA team as he prepares for his 20th NBA season.

Robinson missed Tuesday’s news conference for a personal matter, but Stevens said he’s liked what he’s seen over the past few weeks during workouts between the three newcomers and returning members of Boston’s roster as they prepare to open training camp in two weeks.

The trio also joined Tatum and other current Celtics for informal workouts this summer.

The team held its annual season launch event on Monday and Stevens said there was only one image behind him when he spoke to everyone - a photo of the TD Garden court being refurbished.

NBA used precedent in Clippers cap penalty: Silver

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): NBA Commissioner Adam Silver wanted to impose a significant punishment on the Los Angeles Clippers for circumventing salary cap rules, even while understanding the impact it will have on fans hoping to see a winning team.

Forfeiting five first-round draft picks might make it difficult for the Clippers to deliver one.

“I don’t think in any way we’ve done permanent damage to this franchise. No question, this is a setback for the team,” Silver said Tuesday. “The ultimate goal in terms of these type of sanctions is to ensure that other teams don’t engage in this type of behavior in the future.”

He added that he has “no inkling” any other teams are doing it now.

Silver’s news conference following the NBA’s two-day Board of Governors meeting included his first re-

marks after the Clippers were found to have circumvented salary cap rules on Kawhi Leonard’s behalf - something the team vehemently denied during a yearlong investigation. 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 draft picks, among other sanctions.

Silver said he relied on precedent in his ruling, pointing to how the Minnesota Timberwolves were once docked five picks for cap circumvention. In this case, he said the penalty had to go beyond suspensions and financial consequences.

“That has to go directly to competition,” he said.

“I think that’s in some ways the most difficult part of adjudicating these disputes,” Silver added, “because while

there have to be competitive consequences, our view, if these rules are violated, we still want to be a 30-team league. We recognize that in some ways we’re unfortunately punishing the fans of that team as well. That’s the balance we’re trying to seek.”

Ballmer said this weekend that he would accept the penalties and that the fine had been paid. His statement did not admit any guilt on the part of the franchise - which Silver assumed could be because there are other investigations into the Clippers that don’t involve the NBA.

“Aside from that, I appreciate the fact that he has stood down, that he did apologize and is accepting responsibility,” Silver said. “Our plan is to move forward. Every reason to believe that at the end-of-the-year period he’ll return to be an owner in good standing.”

Kuwait University takes part in Asian University Table Tennis Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Sports Activities Department in the Deanship of Student Affairs at Kuwait University sent a student delegation to the Asian University Table Tennis Championship, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the university disclosed that the championship was hosted by the Malaysian city of Kuantan from Sept 3-11, with the participation of various universities and sports educational institutions throughout Asia.

The university stated that its participation is in line with its commitment to support sports and intensify the presence of its students in regional and international arenas.

This initiative aims to nurture the students' talents, hone their skills, and instill values, such as competitiveness, commitment and teamwork.

Head of the delegation and acting Dean of Student Affairs at the university Dr. Salem Al-Shammari pointed out that this participation is a reflection of the strategy of the university to support athletically gifted students and provide them an environment conducive to the development of their capabilities.

He affirmed the importance of international participation in gaining experience, boosting self-confidence, and representing both the university and the State of Kuwait with



Participants pose for a group photo during the closing ceremony.

distinction in international sports events.

He said the university prioritizes expanding student participation in

local, regional and international championships in order to solidify the prominent international standing of the university and reinforce

its role in cultivating the talents of students and developing their capabilities in different fields. He added that male and female student teams

represented the university in the championship.

Meanwhile, the Sports Activities Department continues to implement

programs aimed at advancing university sports, discovering talent, and preparing students to compete in various athletic events.



Left to right: participants in action.



Kuwait University takes part in the closing ceremony.



The Kuwaiti delegation.

Madrid pulls off late victory after squandering 2-goal lead at Elche

Rayo edges Espanyol

MADRID, Sept 16, (AP): Carlos Espí scored in stoppage time after a nifty move by Jude Bellingham and an assist by Kylian Mbappé to help Real Madrid salvage a 3-2 win at Elche in the Spanish league after it relinquished a two-goal lead.

Bellingham used a neat long touch to get past an opponent near midfield and fed Mbappé in a breakaway into the area, and the France star quickly set up Espí's close-range score to give Madrid the victory and earn the Spanish powerhouse points.

"We went from having it easy to losing control," Real Madrid coach José Mourinho said. "But in the difficulty of the moment, facing the pressure of losing points, the team reacted and won the match, which in the end is the most important thing. The good thing is that nobody gets bored when Real Madrid plays. The games are always fun."

Madrid had taken the lead against Elche with an own-goal by goalkeeper Matías Dituto in the 25th after the ball ricocheted off him following a well-struck free kick taken by Arda Guler. Mbappé added to the lead by scoring from close range after an assist by Yan Diomande in the 33rd.



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe controls the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Elche and Real Madrid in Elche, Spain. (AP)

Abiel Osorio pulled the hosts closer with a header in the 71st and Fer Niño netted the equalizer in the 83rd.

There was a bit of a scare immediately after Mbappé scored as he stayed on the ground in visible pain, but he eventually returned to the field after being attended by Madrid doctors.

The goal moved him to seven goals in six league matches, one goal more than Lamine Yamal, Raphinha, Sergio Camello and Roberto Fernández.

Mbappé had scored a brace in Madrid's 4-1 win against Rayo Vallecano in the previous round.

He had a goal disallowed for

offside just before halftime.

Bellingham came into the match by replacing Guler in the 68th.

Madrid's only league setback this season was at Real Betis two rounds ago.

Players from both clubs wore t-shirts showing words of support for Ceuta as they came onto the field before the match. But Madrid players Mbappé, Vinícius Júnior and Ibrahima Konaté wore the shirt only halfway down their chest, without pulling them down, and obscuring some of the words on it. Mbappé and Vinícius removed their shirts before they saluted the other players and the referees.

They had not immediately explained why they did that.

In July, tens of thousands of migrants breached the frontier between Spain's North African territory of Ceuta and neighboring Morocco.

Valencia won 1-0 at Alaves to end a four-game losing streak and a winless start to the season.

The string of poor results had led to the firing of coach Carlos Corberán and soccer CEO Ron Gourlay this weekend. It then appointed Braulio Vázquez as its new sporting director and named B-team coach Óscar Sánchez as an interim manager.

Luis Rioja scored a 78th-minute winner for Valencia, which had been outscored 10-1 so far.

Valencia fans had been protesting and called players "mercenaries" after the 5-0 home loss to Barcelona. They have long called for the exit of owner Peter Lim.

Rayo Vallecano beat Espanyol 2-1 with first-half goals by Alvaro García and Adria Pedrosa in what may have been its last match before returning home to Vallecas Stadium.

It was Rayo's third home game played at Butarque Stadium - which belongs to second-tier club Leganes - because of unsafe conditions at Vallecas. It also beat Racing Santander 3-2 and drew Alaves 1-1 at Butarque.

Roberto Fernández scored for Espanyol in the second half for his sixth goal in six matches.



Walid El Cheikh

Club reshapes foreign squad

Walid El Cheikh joins Al-Arabi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Al-Arabi has strengthened its squad for the current season with the signing of Dutch player of Moroccan descent Walid El Cheikh.

The 26-year-old, who can operate in both midfield and attack, has gained experience with several European clubs. He previously played for German side Eintracht Braunschweig and Dutch clubs Heracles, Roda JC Kerkrade, Volendam and De Graafschap.

El Cheikh's arrival follows the termination of the contracts of Senegalese forward Johar Rasoul and Brazilian player Leonardo Sheldon.

Al-Arabi is also searching for another foreign player to strengthen its defense, with coach Goran Sablic reviewing the profiles of several potential central defenders.

The club's current foreign contingent includes Nigeria's Anayo Iwuala, Palestine's Zaid Qunbar and Ethiopia's Kenan Malinco.

Al-Arabi visits 10th in the league

standings with two points from three matches. It drew 1-1 with Kuwait Club and 3-3 with Sulaibikhat before suffering a 2-1 defeat to Al-Jahra.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi will face Al-Jahra in a friendly at 6:00 pm today at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.

Fluminense into Copa Libertadores semis

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 16, (AP): Despite a 2-1 loss to Argentina's Platense on Tuesday, Brazil's Fluminense secured a spot in the Copa Libertadores semifinals with a 3-2 aggregate victory.

First-half goals from Guido Mainero (30') and Bruno Sepúlveda (45') brought the home team level at 2-2 on aggregate, before Agustín Canobbio struck in the 57th minute to score the decisive goal for the Brazilians.

Fluminense, the 2023 tournament champions, had taken control in the first leg at the Maracanã Stadium through goals from Nonato and Hulk.

This marks only the third time in Fluminense's history that they have reached the Copa Libertadores semifinals, following previous runs in 2008 and three years ago.

The defeat ends a fairytale campaign for surprise Platense, who came agonizingly close to reaching the semifinals for the first time.

Dowman stars for Arsenal in League Cup

Tottenham's misery continues with loss at Liverpool

LONDON, Sept 16, (AP): Arsenal can't stop winning. As for big-spending Tottenham, just scoring a goal is a feat in itself this season.

The current gulf between the two north London rivals was highlighted in the English League Cup, with Arsenal fielding almost an entire second-choice lineup and still overwhelming fellow Premier League team Ipswich in a 4-2 win in the third round.

Make that six straight win across all competitions to open the season for Arsenal.

Then there's Tottenham, which lost 3-1 in the pouring rain at Liverpool and isn't getting much return on its incredible \$400 million outlay on new players in the summer transfer window.

At least Spurs scored. They haven't managed that in four Premier League games so far this season.

Max Dowman, a 16-year-old prodigy, enhanced his budding reputation with a goal early in each half, while Noni Madueke and Mikel Merino also netted for the English champions as they soared into a 4-0 lead.

"He is only 16 years old and we have to be careful," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said of Dowman, an attacking midfielder who last year became the youngest player in Champions



Ipswich Town's Anis Mehmeti, second left, and Arsenal's Max Dowman in action during the English League Cup third round soccer match between Ipswich Town and Arsenal in Ipswich, England. (AP)

League history, at age 15 years and 308 days. "We don't want to stop him, but we need to develop him. We're fully aware of what he needs and he will have full opportunities to play."

Arsenal's impressive strength in depth should enable Arteta's squad to challenge on multiple fronts.

"That's what we want, to face every game, ev-

ery competition with the same mentality, attitude and desire," Arteta said, "and so far we are doing it."

Spurs' only victory in six games this season was against second-tier Charlton in the previous round of the League Cup.

In the Premier League, they have two draws and two losses - and no goals.

Conor Gallagher's header at a corner in the 69th minute gave Tottenham hope after goals by Alexis Mac Allister and Cody Gakpo put Liverpool 2-0 ahead. Dominik Szoboszlai's long-range piledriver in the first minute of stoppage time ended any chance of a comeback by the visitors, who racked up 17 mostly wayward shots.

"We have to shoot more times and we have to shoot better," Tottenham manager Roberto De Zerbi said. "We have to finish better the clear situations."

Tottenham isn't playing in European competition this season, so its only realistic chance of silverware lies with the FA Cup starting in January.

"I don't know if the click is (coming) on Saturday or not," De Zerbi said, looking ahead to Aston Villa's visit in the league, "... because we have enough qualities to score many goals with these players."

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NEWS



Australia's bowler Xavier Bartlett, left, bowls as umpire Langton Rusere of Zimbabwe, watches on during the first One Day International cricket match between Zimbabwe and Australia in Harare, Zimbabwe. Australia's won by 59 runs in the 1st ODI. (AP)

Sports

‘A proud moment for the entire delegation’

Kuwait flag raised at Asian Games village in Nagoya

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 16: The Kuwait flag was raised at the Athletes' Village in Nagoya, Japan, ahead of the official participation of the Kuwaiti delegation in the 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026), which run from September 19 to October 4.

The ceremony was attended by Kuwait delegation chief and Kuwait Olympic Committee Director General Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Mohammed Saeed Al-Khalifan, deputy delegation chief Dr. Hussein Al-Saeed, financial director Mohammed Atef, as well as members of the Kuwaiti delegation and officials from participating sports federations.

The event was held in a festive atmosphere, with the Kuwaiti national anthem played as the flag was raised. The ceremony reflected the athletes' pride in representing Kuwait at Asia's biggest multi-sport event.

Al-Khalifan described the occasion as a proud moment for the entire delegation and praised the Kuwait Olympic Committee for its efforts to prepare the athletes and provide the support needed to achieve strong results.

He said the participation followed months of preparation and coordination with the country's sports federations to ensure the athletes' technical and physical readiness, overcome logistical challenges and provide the



Kuwait flag raised at the Athletes' Village in Nagoya ahead of the 2026 Asian Games.

necessary administrative and logistical support.

Meanwhile, Retaj Abdulhussein and Habari Al-Thuwaini will compete in the women's individual modern pentathlon semifinals at 4:00

am. The event combines fencing, obstacle, swimming and laser-run disciplines.

The Kuwaiti duo will seek strong performances in the decisive stage as they bid to advance to the finals.

In teqball, Zaid Eidan begins his men's singles campaign in the qualifiers at 3:00 am, while Basel Ahmad and Abdulwahab Al-Qattan compete in the men's doubles qualifiers at 7:30 am.

Kuwait handball team moves to Nagoya for Asian Games

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 16: Kuwait's senior national handball team has moved from Tokyo to Nagoya to compete in the 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026), which run from September 19 to October 4.

The team completed its final preparations at a nine-day camp in Tokyo, playing one friendly against a Japanese club before heading to Nagoya, the main venue for the Games.

Head coach Aron Kristjansson used the camp to finalize his squad ahead of the tournament. Kuwait will open its campaign against Iran next Saturday.

Kuwait Handball Association Treasurer and delegation member Khaled Taleb expressed confidence in the team's readiness, while praising the Kuwait Olympic Committee for arranging the final training camp in Japan.

"The preparation camp achieved its purpose by helping us get ready for the Asian Games. The team is now fully prepared, and we have no injuries in the squad. We hope that remains the case throughout the tournament," Taleb said.

"Kuwaiti handball has always



Kuwait Handball Association Treasurer and delegation member Khaled Taleb.

shouldered its responsibilities and seeks to compete strongly in tournaments across Asia. The Asian Games are no different, given the high level and intensity of the competition," he added.

Taleb said Kuwait's group features several strong teams with different technical levels, playing styles and tactical approaches. He added that the coaching and administrative staff RE fully aware of the challenge facing the team.

Al-Rufaid brothers claim gold

Obaid and Abdullah proud to represent Kuwait at Asia Jiu-Jitsu Championship

ABU DHABI, Sept 16: Kuwaiti brothers Obaid and Abdullah Hamoud Al-Rufaid, both just seven years old, struck gold in their respective age categories at the AJP Asia Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Abu Dhabi.

The young fighters capped an impressive run after competing in 30 bouts across five tournaments as part of their participation in three international jiu-jitsu events. They secured first place in their respective divisions at the Asian championship, which attracted more than 2,000 competitors across different age groups and weight categories.

UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation Vice President Mohammed Salem Al-Dhaheeri and board member Yousef Abdullah Al-Batran presented the Kuwaiti brothers with their gold medals.

The two youngsters drew praise from technical and administrative officials for their strong performance



Kuwaiti brothers Obaid and Abdullah celebrate on the podium.

es despite their young age.

Obaid and Abdullah said they were proud to represent Kuwait and

raise the country's flag at regional and international competitions. They also vowed to continue their

winning streak as they prepare to compete in the Qatar International Championship in Doha next month.

F1 schedules Bahrain as 2027 season opener

LONDON, Sept 16, (AP): Formula 1 plans to open the 2027 season in Bahrain even as uncertainty remains over this year's races in the Middle East.

F1 released a 24-race schedule for 2027 on Wednesday starting with the Bahrain Grand Prix on March 14 and then Saudi Arabia a week later, with events also scheduled for Qatar and Abu Dhabi at the end of the year. All have long-term contracts to host F1 and Bahrain also hosts preseason testing in February.

Races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia were called off this year due to the Iran war. An extra race in Malaysia next month will have Bahrain Grand Prix branding.

The Qatar Grand Prix on Nov. 29 and the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Dec. 6 remain on the schedule. F1 has considered a change to Europe if they can't go ahead but tickets remain on sale for both races.

Bahrain has opened most F1 seasons in recent years and was only moved from that position in 2025 and 2026 because of a clash with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Next year's schedule avoids clashes with two other auto racing highlights, the Indianapolis 500 on May 30 and the Le Mans 24-hour race on June 12-13. F1 scheduled races on the same days as both this year. Four-time F1 champion Max Verstappen has said he wants to race at Le Mans in future.

F1 is also expanding from six to 10 sprint races in 2027, including a first at the Monaco Grand Prix, where overtaking is almost impossible.

A sprint is also scheduled for the season-opening race in Bahrain. That would mark the first time an F1 season has begun with a short-format race before the first Grand Prix of the year.

F1 said race weekends that featured sprint races attracted an average viewership that was 12% higher than those without sprints. By increasing their number, F1 is "giving our fans even more intensity, drama, and the wheel-to-wheel action that make our sport so special," chief executive Stefano Domenicali said.

F1 returns to Portugal in June for the first time since 2021 as the Portimao circuit replaces the Dutch Grand Prix, while the Turkish Grand Prix is also back in October 2027 after signing a five-year contract in April.

Kuwait, Qatar officials discuss Gulf, international soccer developments

Kuwait begins Jeddah preparations as Sheikh Al-Yousef urges players to give their best

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

JEDDAH, Sept 16: Kuwait Football Association (KFA) President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef met with the administrative and technical staff and players of the Kuwait national team at their Doha training camp the day before yesterday, urging them to step up their efforts and deliver their best at the 27th Gulf Cup.

Sheikh Al-Yousef called on the players to show com-

mitment in training and represent Kuwait to the best of their ability during the regional tournament.

In Doha, Sheikh Al-Yousef also held talks with Qatar's Minister of Sports and Youth, Qatar Football Association President and Gulf Football Association President Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa. The meeting focused on the latest developments in Gulf and international soccer.

Sheikh Hamad later visited the Kuwait national team's training session in Doha.

The national team has now moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where it will continue preparations after concluding its Doha camp.

Eight Kuwait Club players are due to join the squad this morning after featuring against UAE side Al-Wahda last night in the AFC Champions League Two. They are Khaled Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Houshan, Mohsen Falah, Redha Hani, Abdullah Al-Qurzaei, Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, Mohammad Daham and Yousef Nasser.

Kuwait will hold one training session before facing Yemen in a friendly tomorrow, Friday, in their final stage of preparation for the Gulf Cup.

The draw placed Kuwait in Group A alongside hosts Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iraq. Kuwait will open their campaign against Saudi Arabia on September 23, face Iraq on September 26 and conclude the group stage against Oman on September 29.

Group B consists of Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Yemen.



Sheikh Al-Yousef with the Kuwait national team delegation at the Doha training camp.