



Pages 14-16



Scan the QR code to access  
the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

# APPEALS COURT BARS 'INDEFINITE LIMBO' FOR EMPLOYEES 'No freeze on right to resign'

Court warns against abuse of administrative power

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Court of Appeals affirmed that referring employees for investigation must not be used as a means of obstructing their resignation or keeping them in a state of indefinite professional limbo, while emphasizing that the administrative authority must comply with the law and refrain from abusing its powers.**

**ply with the law and refrain from abusing its powers.**

The court made this affirmation when it upheld the ruling of a lower court that deemed the resignation of an employee of the Ministry of Electricity accepted as per the law, as well as granting her a clearance certificate, discharge of liability, and settlement of her employment entitlements.

In its reasoning, the court explained that referring an employee for investigation without substantive action and leaving the matter pending indefinitely constitutes an arbitrary act by the administrative authority and cannot be invoked to deprive an employee of the right to resign.

It stressed that the power of the administration over resignations is not absolute, as it is subject to legal constraints. It cannot be used to undermine an employee's legal status or hold him indefinitely for an investigation in which no actual steps are taken.

Attorney Mohammad Al-Ansari said the ruling reinforces protections for employees against being left in professional limbo because of an investigation that has not actually commenced.

He asserted that disciplinary and investigative procedures must be conducted in accordance with law and must not be turned into a tool for obstructing an employee's rights or career.

## Hawally sweep yields 122 wanted, violators

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Hawally Governorate Security Directorate, led by Head of the Security Directorates Sector at the Interior Ministry Brigadier General Abdulaziz Al-Omar, conducted an extensive campaign in cooperation with the Kuwait Municipality and Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN).**

The campaign was aimed at intensifying security presence, apprehending wanted individuals and violators, and enforcing the law.

It resulted in the arrest of 122 wanted individuals and violators, implementation of 195 security deployment measures, including security patrols, checkpoints and stationary security posts, issuance of 547 traffic violation citations, impoundment of five wanted vehicles, putting 62 notices and warning stickers on violating vehicles, removal of 44 abandoned items like vehicles, boats, caravans, buses, motorcycles, diwanias and external fences, provision of humanitarian assistance in 34 instances, and issuance of seven citations for smoking in enclosed areas.

The Municipality recorded 44 violations and official reports, while PAFN issued 14 violation citations and destroyed 12 kilograms of adulterated food products.

The total tally of the campaign, including measures, apprehensions, violations, removals and security deployments, reached 1,074.

Head of the Security Directorates Sector Brigadier General Abdulaziz Al-Omar and Hawally Security Director Brigadier General Hussain Dashti supervised the campaign.

Meanwhile, the Rescue Police General Department at the Ministry of Interior continued its security and traffic campaigns in various governorates, in line with the field plans aimed to maintain security, guarantee road safety, and deal with incidents and reports immediately.

Continued on Page 5

## Kuwaiti photographer makes history with 'Quiet Predator'



The Shark Nebula (LDN 1235) is 650 light years away in the constellation Cepheus. A dark nebula, it is made from interstellar dust dense enough to block starlight. The blue-coloured areas are reflection nebulae.

Taken with an Askar 140 APO telescope, Sky-Watcher EQ8-R mount, ZWO

The Quiet Predator © Ali Alobaidly (Kuwait)  
ASI2600MM Pro camera, 784 mm f/5.6 (140 mm with a 0.8x reducer), Gain 100, 168 x 300-second L exposures, 60 x 300-second R exposures, 60 x 300-second G exposures, 48 x 300-second B exposures, 28 hours 30 minutes total integration  
Location: Jahra Governorate, Kuwait, 21-22 August 2025

## Alobaidly wins ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year

**LONDON, Sept 17: The overall winner of Royal Observatory Greenwich's ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year is The Quiet Predator by Ali Alobaidly. This image captures the Shark Nebula (LDN 1235), which lies almost 650 light years away in the constellation Cepheus. A dark nebula, it is made of interstellar dust dense enough to block starlight. The image will be on display alongside the winners of the other categories in the accompanying exhibition, opening at the National Maritime Museum, London on Friday, September 18, 2026.**

Ali Alobaidly, Overall Winner said, "Receiving this award is a tremendous honour. I am in awe of the extraordinary work of my fellow photographers, each deserving of this recognition. The juxtaposition of an oceanic predator prowling the skies above the Kuwaiti desert is something I find deeply poetic, and it is what first drew me to this remarkable region of the sky. To me, it represents perfectly my love for both the Universe and the deserts of my ancestors. Looking ahead, I hope to continue using astrophotography not only to inspire wonder, but also to contribute to scientific research while using my images to make astronomy more accessible, engaging and meaningful



Ali Alobaidly

through science communication and education."

Steve Marsh, Art Editor at BBC Sky at Night Magazine and Judge, said, "Sometimes a photograph comes alive through its flawless presentation, pin-sharp details and dynamic contrast of light and dark. This is such an image. The Shark Nebula is already a striking object, but when it is resolved to the point where even detail-rich distant galaxies can be seen through it, you know you're looking at something very

The juxtaposition of an oceanic predator prowling the skies above the Kuwaiti desert is something I find deeply poetic ... To me, it represents perfectly my love for both the Universe and the deserts of my ancestors.

special."

The ZWO Young Astronomy Photographer of the Year award was won by Nikolaos Strimpoulis for his image Mineral Moon. This image is a close-up of the surface of the Moon, including dark areas (known as maria) and bright areas (known as the highlands). The smooth, dark areas are ancient lava flows, while the rugged highlands have been shaped by billions of years of impacts.

Steve Marsh, Art Editor at BBC Sky at Night Magazine and Judge said, "Many of us start our astrophotography journey with the Moon – some of us stay there forever! But often we don't delve deep into the subtle colours of its mineral deposits until much later. This

amazing young astrophotographer has achieved perfectly developed colouring in this photograph."

The other winning images include Saturnian Equinox by Tom Williams, which beautifully captures a rare ring-plane crossing of Saturn in 2025, Botswana Star Trail by Stefano Pellegrini and The Crown by Radoslav Sviretsov, which shows a spectacular aurora. In the Annie Maunders Open Category, judges awarded the winning prize to Reverse Astronomy: Mother by Pawel Pawel.

Sam Wen, Founder and CEO of ZWO, said, "This year's Overall Winner, The Quiet Predator by Ali Alobaidly, is a stunning blend of technical excellence

Continued on Page 5

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has warned against interacting with messages or links from unknown sources that may seek to obtain users' personal or banking information or verification codes, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

CITRA stressed the importance of not sharing sensitive information through untrusted messages or calls and avoiding suspicious links.

It also urged users to consult the official channels of the relevant entities whenever they receive requests concerning their data or accounts.

### Pakistan stands with Saudi

## Drone interception in Taif leaves one dead, 2 injured

**JEDDAH, Sept 17, (KUNA):** The Saudi General Directorate of Civil Defense said its teams in Taif Governorate responded Thursday to falling debris from the interception and destruction of a drone launched by the terrorist Houthi militia.

The attack resulted in the death of a Yemeni resident, injuries to a



Sharif

Saudi woman and a Pakistani resident whose condition is critical, as well as material damage to civilian buildings and vehicles, noted a directorate spokesperson.

According to SPA, the directorate confirmed that standard emergency procedures for such incidents have been implemented.

Pakistan Foreign Office on Thursday said that Pakistan stands unwaveringly, shoulder to shoulder, with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Continued on Page 5

## KIA, Canada forge stronger investment links

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA):** Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Sheikh Saoud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah held discussions with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to explore avenues for expanding economic and strategic investment cooperation between the two nations.

The talks centered on identifying joint investment opportunities and enhancing bilateral strategic economic ties, according to a press statement by the KIA obtained by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the inaugural Canada Investment Summit 2026, held in Toronto on September 14-15.

Continued on Page 5



Kuwait Investment Authority photo  
Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Sheikh Saoud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.



| Prayer Timings |       |            |       |
|----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr .....     | 04:15 | Asr .....  | 15:11 |
| Sunrise ..     | 05:34 | Maghrib .. | 17:50 |
| Zohr .....     | 11:42 | Isha ..... | 19:10 |

## KEPS: Coastal rehabilitation can be achieved through mangrove cultivation

MUSCAT, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (KEPS) presented Wednesday its coastal rehabilitation project through mangrove cultivation during Oman Climate Week 2026 in Muscat.

The project was presented during a workshop on regional climate modeling in the Arab region, in cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

A senior biologist at the authority, Asma Al-Haddad, told KUNA that the project helps restore coastal ecosystems, support biodiversity, and strengthen climate change adaptation efforts.

Al-Haddad added that the mangrove-based coastal rehabilitation project, overseen by the Biodiversity Conservation Department, has been implemented with GCC countries since 2018.

She explained that black mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) seeds are acclimatized in authority laboratories before being cultivated at Jahra Nature Reserve, with thousands of seeds imported from GCC countries, including Oman.

She pointed out that mangroves once grew in Kuwait's Khuwaisat



Senior biologist Asma Al-Haddad

KUNA photo

area in the 1940s before becoming extinct, with current cultivation efforts aimed at restoring ecological balance and biodiversity.

Al-Haddad stressed that mangrove cultivation restores coastal ecosystems and boosts biodiversity, with increased crustacean populations and bird nesting, while serving as a natural barrier against dust, high waves, and soil erosion.

She said the workshop offered an opportunity to exchange regional expertise on climate adaptation and environmental protection, with 50 participants from 15 Arab and international countries.

The authority, represented by Acting Director General Nouf Behbehani, also joined a dialogue session addressing the human and societal impacts of climate change and women's contributions to confronting related challenges.

The second edition of Oman Climate Week 2026 began Monday, bringing together international participants to advance climate action, sustainability, and climate solutions through workshops, discussions, partnerships, and specialized women's and youth summits.

# MoE okays fee hike for Arab, Pakistani schools

10-15 percent increase decided by ministry

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has officially decided to increase tuition fees at private Arab and Pakistani schools, effective from the beginning of the current academic year, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The move aims to regulate tuition fees and enhance the clarity of the procedures and guidelines governing the operation of private schools.

Under the ministry's decision, private Arab and Pakistani schools charging tuition fees ranging from KD 250 to KD 450 will be permitted to increase their fees by 15 percent, based on each school's approved rates. A 10 percent increase will apply to schools charging KD 451 or more.

The increase may be applied only once, and schools are required to provide educational services commensurate with the rate of increase specified in the decision.

The decision outlines a mechanism for collecting tuition fees from parents in three equal installments. The first installment, including registration fees, is due during the first week of the student's attendance. The second installment is due during the first week of the second term, in accordance with the academic calendar, while the third is due during the first week of the third term, specifically for Pakistani schools, also in accordance with the academic calendar.

The decision also prohibits the affected private schools from increasing fees beyond the specified percentages and amounts or from changing the due dates, number, or value of the installments stipulated in the decision, ensuring compliance with the ap-

proved fee collection mechanism.

Furthermore, schools are strictly prohibited from denying students educational services, preventing them from taking term or final examinations, expelling them, or withholding their results due to non-payment of tuition fees during the academic year.

Regarding student transfers during the academic year, the ministry stipulated that a school is entitled to 50 percent of the tuition fees if the due date for the first installment falls while the student is attending classes.

However, the full tuition fee becomes due if the second installment's due date falls while the student is attending classes.

### Decision

According to the decision, if a student transfers from one school to another or withdraws from studies during the academic year, they remain liable for the scheduled installment fees due at the specified times.

The school to which the student transfers is not entitled to any tuition fees for the period the student spent at the previous school.

As an exception to this rule, the Department of Examinations and Equivalency, in coordination with the Administrative Affairs Department of the General Administration of Private Education, may readjust the fees owed by students who are dismissed or transferred between schools for educational reasons, in accordance with school system regulations, during an installment period.

The adjustment will be calculated based on the duration the student spent at the school from which they transferred.

The Ministry of Education's decision to raise tuition fees for Arab and Pakistani schools follows a similar decision issued last November regarding schools following

the Indian curriculum.

That earlier decision applied the same mechanism, with a 15 percent increase for schools charging tuition fees ranging from KD 300 to KD 500 and a 10 percent increase for schools charging more than KD 500.

However, because the decision regarding Indian schools was issued during the academic year, approximately two months after classes had already begun, some schools opted not to implement the fee increase immediately, choosing instead to postpone it until the beginning of the current academic year.

Regarding disclosure and transparency, the new decision requires schools subject to these regulations to submit a schedule of approved tuition fees to the Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs at the General Administration of Private Education.

The schedule must be reviewed and verified to ensure compliance with the approved rates.

Following the review, schools are required to prominently display the fee schedule on their premises or on their websites, clearly informing parents of the tuition fees set for the academic year.

The ministry has mandated that schools grant parents and students the right to access their term or final examination results, even if tuition fees remain unpaid.

Furthermore, schools are required to notify the parents of students who have failed one or more subjects and are therefore eligible to take a retake examination, using a communication method previously agreed upon with the parent.

The notification may be sent via text message, electronic message, email, or postal mail.



KUNA photo

Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila meets Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Maksym Subkh.

## Talks focus on exchanging child protection expertise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila discussed with Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Maksym Subkh ways to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise in social affairs and child protection.

Al-Huwaila said in a ministry press statement Thursday that Kuwait is keen to continue its humanitarian role in supporting and protecting people af-

ected by disasters and wars, reflecting the country's long-standing humanitarian approach.

The statement said the meeting addressed several topics of mutual interest, particularly cooperation in social affairs and child protection. It added that the two sides discussed several proposals for further study and ways to expand cooperation for the benefit of both countries, including possible coordination in the field of social affairs.

## Cooperative board dissolved, members to face legal action

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued a decision to dissolve the Board of Directors of a cooperative society and appoint an interim board to manage its affairs.

The decision is based on the results of inspections, audits and oversight activities conducted by the ministry.

Al-Huwailah confirmed that the decision falls within the scope of the supervisory and regulatory responsibilities of the ministry over the cooperative sector. She said the decision is in line with the commitment of the ministry to protect the shareholders' funds, uphold the principles of integrity, transparency and good governance, and ensure compliance with the laws and regulations governing cooperative work.

She indicated that the ministry decided to refer cases, along with the

cooperative employees involved, to the Public Prosecution. She explained this step aims to facilitate the necessary legal proceedings, investigate the allegations, and determine legal liability based on the outcome of investigations.

She added that the appointment of an interim board is intended to ensure the continuity of the operations of the cooperative and uninterrupted provision of services to shareholders and residents in the area of its operations, as well as to safeguard their interests during the transitional period until all the legal and regulatory procedures are concluded.

She stressed that the ministry remains committed to conducting oversight and auditing of cooperative societies, and it will take legal action once violations are uncovered, in order to protect the shareholders' funds and raise the efficiency and sustainability of the cooperative sector.

## 70 arrested, 34,375 citations in traffic crackdown

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior conducted another series of campaigns throughout the country, under the leadership of Traffic and Operations Sector Head Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Azmi.

This is in line with the commitment of the department to regulate traffic flow, strictly enforce the law, guarantee road safety and instill discipline.

The campaigns, which were carried out from Sept 7-13, resulted in the recording of 34,375 traffic violations, handling of

2,625 traffic reports, arrest of 70 individuals wanted by law, 47 with expired residency permits and five who failed to present valid identification documents, referral of three suspects to the Drug Control General Department, and two individuals were detained as they were found to be in abnormal condition.

Furthermore, 24 wanted vehicles were impounded, in addition to 250 vehicles and five motorcycles whose drivers committed various violations.

A total of 17 individuals were placed in traffic detention and 21 juveniles were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution.

Regarding accidents, traffic officers

handled 957 collisions and 213 accidents involving injuries—totaling 1,170 incidents throughout the week. They took the necessary measures in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

The Traffic and Operations Sector affirmed its continuous traffic deployment and field monitoring on the roads, as well as its commitment to respond to reports and accidents and cracking down violations and behaviors that impede traffic flow or compromise the safety of road users.

It reiterated that such traffic campaigns are ongoing to guarantee road safety, reduce accidents and violations, and safeguard lives and properties.

### Other Voices

By Ahmad alsarraaf

This article is challenging and requires careful reading.

One of the things most people tend to do, regardless of their level of civilization or advancement, is adopt the opinions of others.

People generally believe that as long as the majority follows a particular path, it is probably the right one and perhaps the shortest and safest. However, the opposite may be true.

Thus, thinking outside the box or beyond the norm has become difficult because most people have not been trained to go against the grain. Moreover, people have been pushed, either intentionally or unintentionally, away from independent thinking.

German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer presents an important passage in his book "Essays and Aphorisms," specifically in his essay "On Independent Thinking," which can be summarized as follows: Independent thinking is rare because people tend to accept ready-made opinions and allow the ideas of others to replace their own.

Throughout my life, I have strived to think independently. However, I am sometimes influenced by others, and I still tend to be swayed by preconceived opinions, allowing

their views and ideas to affect me, albeit to a lesser degree than many others.

Throughout my life, I have been different from those around me, whether in appearance, dress, or way of thinking.



alsarraaf

For example, at a young age, I shaved my mustache, which, in the 1960s and earlier, and even today, is something some men touch when they want to pledge or swear to do something or affirm their determination to accomplish a difficult task. I want to emphasize that being different from the majority has never, in any way, made me better than them.

Schopenhauer, the philosopher of pessimism, said, "Some people never think, and when they do think, they merely rearrange their preconceived notions."

This is one of the quotes that touches on bias, independent thinking, the dangers of following the opinions of others, and the idea that a person who does not think for themselves does not truly think at all.

The essential characteristic of genius is the ability to think independently.

Most people are incapable of independent thought. They are only capable of believing, especially when opinions come from influential people or have been repeated often enough.

The power of opinions is so great that people may believe even the most absurd ideas if they are repeated frequently enough.

According to Schopenhauer, the stronger a person is, the less they need anything external. Therefore, society, or those who control it, does not want individuals to become strong, lest they become independent and have little need for others. Thus, we see that highly civilized or cultured individuals are more capable of living independently, and vice versa.

Schopenhauer also said, "The greatest folly is to sacrifice one's health for any other kind of happiness." When we believe that drugs, smoking, or alcohol, for example, will make us happier and pursue them at the expense of our health, we will ultimately pay a heavy price. This is the height of folly.

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraaf@alqabas.com.kw



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets with Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Kifaya Al-Najdi in his office.

## Need to expedite service and development projects – Gov.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Kifaya Al-Najdi at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Thursday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

They discussed ways to expedite the implementation of service and development projects in the governorate, follow up improvement works, develop infrastructure, and strengthen coordination between the gover-

norate and ministry to address issues and improve the services provided to the residents.

Both sides stressed the importance of continuous cooperation to meet the needs of the entire governorate and support its development plans.

At the end of the meeting, Al-Najdi expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for his warm reception. She affirmed the commitment of the ministry to continue cooperating with the governorate in the interest of its residents.

diwaniya

حيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Cash for vote draws scorn, America is not run this way

“DURING his midterm election campaign, US President Donald Trump announced a \$5,000 payment to every American citizen if the Republican Party won the elections. This would mean a total cost of approximately \$1.8 trillion, despite the US national debt having reached nearly \$40 trillion,” columnist Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“The announcement was met with widespread objections, not only from within the Democratic Party but also from members of the Republican Party itself. Some even described it as an unprecedented form of election bribery in the United States. In reality, every election in every country around the world is marked by numerous unfulfilled promises. However, the US president’s announcement makes it appear as though he is attempting to buy votes.



Adel Al-Kharafi

“Therefore, many Republican lawmakers were quick to criticize the idea, describing it as an ill-conceived proposal that would be virtually impossible to pass through Congress. They also characterized the announcement as inconsistent with several of the party’s core economic principles. The real issue here is not the political threat facing Trump, who aspires to be re-elected even though this is constitutionally impossible. The concern is that this move could undermine a deeply held belief among Americans that democracy cannot be bypassed as long as strong institutions exist, even in the face of presidential decisions.

“What are we to make of this announcement? Is the United States, as a superpower, run on bribery, even if it takes the form of empty campaign promises? America is not run that way. During his first term, Trump promised to eliminate the U.S. trade deficit, but it continued to fluctuate throughout his presidency. Moreover, the national debt increased, and the inflation rate rose. This was a painful blow, the effects of which were evident in the election results, which saw former President Joe Biden win.

“Donald Trump, who has boasted of being a successful dealmaker, could not stop the current war. In fact, his policies inflicted losses on the global economy, while his approval rating plummeted to around 30 percent. Opposition to the war rose to around 65 percent. These figures point to weaknesses in the way Trump’s policies have been presented and marketed. Under U.S. law, bribery is severely punished, while direct campaign contributions are not.

“In the Arab world, we must consider not only opinion polls and campaign promises, but also the implications of events in the Middle East and the broader objectives behind them. Undoubtedly, neither the Democratic nor the Republican Party will relinquish its unwavering support for Israel, nor will either party accept a two-state solution. This means the status quo between the Palestinian people and Israel is likely to continue. Despite all this, it must be acknowledged that Trump is the American president who has managed to contain Iran. Therefore, we must support him, even if doing so is difficult.”

Also:

“It seems that the regime in Tehran will ultimately succumb to political and economic pressure and concede on all of its demands in order to preserve its existence,” Kuwaiti writer Tariq Idris wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“The Iranian regime will concede on the issue of the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for preserving its political, social, and ideological hold on power. Despite this, we find the Iranian regime continuing to mobilize its proxies across the region, including the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq and the Houthis group in Yemen, particularly as its arm in Lebanon faces imminent collapse and Hezbollah appears to be on the verge of leaving the political system, following Hamas before it, as Damascus and its new regime tighten the noose around them.

“From this point, Iranian concessions began to become increasingly clear, through attempts to correct the course of its negotiations with the Arabian Gulf states regarding the future of relations, particularly concerning the Strait of Hormuz and the shipping lanes through this vital artery. Tehran began to maneuver around the issue of trading the Strait of Hormuz for the survival of its faltering regime, seeking to escape its internal, regional, and international crises.

“Is the world aware of the Iranian regime’s manipulation of time? Does the Iranian people, with all their diverse ethnicities, political affiliations, and social and political groups, understand the extent of the political stalling tactics employed by the Iranian regime? How long will the Iranian people remain silent, unable to mobilize effectively through popular or political action, whether from within Iran or from abroad, through the regime’s opponents here and there? Today, we are monitoring every step towards change or reform in Tehran and awaiting the moment when the Iranian regime’s true intentions are revealed.

“What will follow the anticipated meeting between Gulf officials and Iranian representatives on Gulf and

Arab soil, land directly connected to the Strait of Hormuz? I maintain that the test is straightforward because the people of the Gulf, from north to south, are masters of the seas, and they will not relinquish control of the Strait of Hormuz so easily.”

“An impression is an automatic psychological feeling that forms within an individual towards another person. It sometimes constitutes a significant part of their positive or negative feelings towards them,” Kuwaiti writer Dr. Khaled Al-Janfawi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“I believe that first impressions, especially among those with sound judgment, are often accurate and truthful. In light of the wisdom that says, “When someone displays one trait, expect more similar ones,” the subconscious mind does not lie. The subconscious mind accumulates lessons from unique life experiences and, over time, becomes a primary source of intuitive knowledge. The more one enriches their subconscious mind by learning the laws and principles of life, the more effective, influential, and accurate its conclusions become, particularly when identifying those who emit positive or negative energies.

“Intuition is a true friend. It is a judgment issued by the subconscious mind based on initial emotional impressions. Intuition reveals whom one should accept without fear and whom one should avoid and be extremely wary of. The accuracy of the impression formed in a person’s mind and heart towards another contributes to the accuracy of their intuition and the effectiveness of their subconscious mind. Souls are drawn to or repelled by others based on their initial impressions. A first impression can reveal whom a wise person should avoid and whom they can trust.

“Those who disregard their first impressions of others may suffer psychological trauma that could have been avoided had they exercised reason and listened attentively to their subconscious mind. In our turbulent world, delaying judgment based on first impressions can sometimes be a mistake, especially in tense social environments. A wise person’s reluctance to form judgments about others based on their initial impressions can sometimes lead to trouble.

“As one poet said, “A person’s eyes are the mirror of their heart, revealing their secrets whether they like it or not.” A discerning person needs only to observe what they can glean from another’s eyes to form their own judgment.”

“These days, job advertisements for Kuwaitis abound, but these advertisements are based on the actual needs of companies and commercial establishments in the private sector, whether industrial and commercial businesses, fashion showrooms, shoe stores, or restaurants,” Kuwaiti journalist Hassan Ali Karam wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“In every country, the government bears the responsibility of stimulating the market to revitalize commercial businesses and tourism, both domestic and international. Tourism in Kuwait is currently in a hypothetical phase, meaning that we are still observing whether tourism will succeed under the current circumstances or whether it is necessary to develop new ideas and diversify entertainment options.

“Kuwait is one of the countries that opens its doors to visitors seeking leisure, shopping, or medical treatment at its private hospitals, which are no less advanced than hospitals in many Western or Middle Eastern countries and boast top-tier medical staff. Returning to job advertisements, applicants rarely receive a positive response from advertisers, suggesting that most of these advertisements lack credibility.

“Therefore, these advertisements appear to be more akin to marketing campaigns aimed at attracting customers than recruiting employees. We must acknowledge that we are facing an unemployment crisis among our citizens, the majority of whom are young graduates from universities and institutes. This situation leaves them frustrated and disillusioned. Undoubtedly, the government is responsible for employing the unemployed, as stipulated by the Constitution. However, it must be clarified that providing employment does not necessarily mean distributing positions. A job is not a gift bestowed upon just anyone; rather, it is a right earned by talented and dedicated individuals.

“Job seekers should not take job advertisements published in newspapers and online at face value. They should understand that the purpose of most of these advertisements is to promote businesses and attract more clients. The government has placed the burden of addressing the employment problem on the Civil Service Commission (CSC), as if it possesses a magic wand that can create jobs with a mere wave. The number of available jobs in Kuwait is lower than the number of graduates produced by universities and institutes.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



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

Rapid response by rescue police wins accolades

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah had a meeting with Director General of the Rescue Police General Department Brigadier General Hamlan Hudairi Al-Hamlan, and his deputy, Colonel Sabah Ali Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Wednesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Governor warmly welcomed Al-Hamlan and Al-Yousef, while commending the vital role played by the Rescue Police General Department in maintaining security and stability, ensuring rapid response and field readiness, and effectively handling reports

and emergency situations.

They talked about ways to strengthen coordination and integration between the governorate and security agencies, security issues in the governorate, and the need to improve joint coordination mechanisms and raise readiness levels to guarantee the efficiency of security operations and the security and peace of mind of citizens and residents.

At the end of the meeting, the visiting security officials sincerely thanked and appreciated the Governor for the warm reception. They praised his commitment to ensure communication and coordination with security agencies for the safety of the entire governorate.

Asian gang nabbed for stealing power cables, copper and iron

Suspects sold stolen goods at Amghara scrap yard

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Criminal Investigation Department detectives apprehended a six-member gang of Asian expatriates suspected of stealing electrical cables, copper, and iron from government buildings and homes under construction in the Mutlaa area and selling the stolen materials by weight at the Amghara scrap yard, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, detectives formed a specialized team to investigate re-

ports of thefts involving cables, copper wiring, and iron from construction sites and buildings.

Following several days of intensive investigation and surveillance, the six Asian suspects were identified, and their activities at various locations were monitored.

After completing the necessary legal procedures, detectives arrested the suspects in a well-planned ambush.

A large quantity of stolen materials, including cables, copper wiring, and iron pieces worth thousands of dinars, was found in their possession.

During preliminary interrogations, the gang members confessed to stealing iron and copper wiring from government buildings and homes

under construction in Al-Mutlaa.

They admitted to seizing the materials and transporting them to the Amghara scrap yard, where they sold them by weight, exploiting the scrap yard’s operations to dispose of the stolen goods.

The seized items have been impounded pending an inventory and cross-referencing with filed theft reports.

Meanwhile, detectives are working to identify all locations targeted by the gang and uncover any other individuals linked to its activities or involved in disposing of the stolen goods, with the aim of referring them, along with the seized items, to the Public Prosecution for the necessary legal action.

Illegals, wanted persons held in traffic campaign

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Security campaigns conducted by traffic police in various governorates resulted in the arrest of seven individuals who violated the Residency and Labor laws, some of whom have outstanding arrest warrants.

A security source disclosed that the traffic officers detained the suspects and referred them to the competent authorities for further legal action.

The source added that traffic police impound-

ed four vehicles subject to court-ordered seizure and referred them to the relevant authority.

**Hit leads to verbal spat:** A citizen born in 2007 filed a report stating that while driving his vehicle across Al-Shuaiba Bridge, he was struck by a four-wheel-drive vehicle driven by another citizen, reports Al-Anba daily.

The complainant stated that the other driver stopped after the collision, exited his vehicle, and verbally abused him, including telling him, “You don’t know how to drive.” The incident ended with a report being filed and referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal

action.

Meanwhile, a citizen reported to Jahra Police Station that his luxury vehicle had been damaged after being struck by a grey Korean vehicle whose driver fled the scene.

The complainant said the incident occurred in the Qaisariya area of Jahra, adding that he had no information about the other vehicle or its driver apart from the vehicle’s make and color.

A case was registered, and the report was referred to the competent authorities to take the necessary measures and identify the driver of the fleeing vehicle.

Kuwait tackles over 2,000 fire incidents in H1, 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force teams and rescue units handled 8,282 out of 8,751 emergency calls across the country during the first half of 2026, official spokesman Brig. Gen. Mohammad Al-Gharib said Thursday.



Al-Gharib

In an interview with KUNA, Al-Gharib said the calls included 3,171 rescue reports, 2,545 false-alarm calls, 2,159 fire reports, 819 public-service calls and 57 other incidents.

He said the 2,159 fire reports comprised 629 fires in residential areas, 314 in non-residential areas, 432 road transport incidents and 778 incidents in other locations, in addition to five aviation incidents and one land accident.

Al-Gharib added that the total number of rescue reports handled by firefighting teams and other relevant authorities reached 3,432, most of which occurred in Ahmadi Governorate.

On public awareness, Al-Gharib stressed the importance of complying with safety, security and fire-prevention requirements, noting that electrical short circuits were among the most common causes of fires during the period.

He urged citizens and residents to conduct regular maintenance of electrical wiring and connections through qualified technicians, avoid overloading sockets and electrical connections, and refrain from using equipment that does not meet safety standards.

He also called for not leaving electrical appliances and equipment unattended, disconnecting unused devices from power sources, and taking seriously any signs of electrical malfunction, burning odors or smoke.

Al-Gharib stressed that compliance with safety and prevention measures directly contributes to reducing fires and protecting lives and property, urging people to promptly contact the relevant authorities in emergencies.

He highlighted the importance of installing smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in homes and facilities, ensuring they are functional and easily accessible, and teaching family members and workers how to use them.

Early warning and initial firefighting equipment can help detect fires early and limit their spread before firefighting teams arrive, he said.

He also warned against leaving children unattended near electrical sources, flames or hot appliances, or storing flammable materials near heat sources. He urged proper storage of gas cylinders and chemicals in suitable, well-ventilated locations away from children’s reach.

WELCOME BACK TO KUWAIT

CRAVING SOMETHING SPECIAL TONIGHT? WE READ YOUR MIND

SAME DAY DINE IN Feast OFFER

FROM 10 KD → 8.750 KD, ALL THE WAY TO 100 KD → 75.950 KD.

BUY TODAY & USE TODAY ONLY AVAILABLE IN OUR WEBSITE & APP

10 KD

8.750 KD

20 KD

16.950 KD

30 KD

23.950 KD

50 KD

38.950 KD

75 KD

57.950 KD

100 KD

75.950 KD

www.mughalmahal.com | 1800 188 | @mughalmahalkuwait



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives journalist Mohammad Al-Barjas in his office.

## Governor, Al-Barjas meet praise media binding role

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with journalist Mohammad Al-Barjas in his office at the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Wednesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Governor warmly welcomed Al-Barjas, while praising the role of the media in highlighting societal issues and enhancing communication between state institutions and society.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on several topics of mutual interest and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and communication in the interest of the public.

This meeting is in line with the commitment of the governorate to maintain communication with media practitioners and support the media's role in serving the society.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Al-Barjas expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for the warm reception. He lauded the commitment of the Governor to support the media and develop communication with various segments of society.

## Maritime sector vital field, needs 'qualified' Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Higher Institute of Telecommunications and Navigation (HITN), part of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), administered an aptitude test for applicants to the Marine Pilotage program on behalf of the Kuwait Ports Authority, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative falls within the framework of joint cooperation aimed at preparing and qualifying national personnel specializing in the maritime sector.

The test aims to assess applicants' capabilities and suitability for the program, paving the way for their training and qualification in accordance with the professional and specialized requirements essential for a career in marine pilotage.

Eng. Mahnaz Hassan Qabazard, Director of HITN, stated that the program's implementation reflects PAAET's commitment, through the institute, to strengthening partnerships with labor market entities.

## PADA new logo symbol of quality, integration

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) has announced the launch of its new visual identity (logo), reflecting its commitment to strengthening its operational framework and enhancing the quality of services provided to persons with disabilities, reports Al-Rai daily.

PADA explained that the new logo embodies the principles of inclusion, integration, and empowerment, bringing various disability groups together under a single umbrella.

The new logo underscores PADA's commitment to promoting inclusion and equality while creating a supportive environment for persons with disabilities.

It emphasized that the rebranding is part of its ongoing efforts to improve the beneficiary experience, enhance services, and strengthen institutional performance. These steps align with the upcoming phase of operations and reinforce the PADA's mission to serve persons with disabilities and their families.

Launched under the slogan "A New Vision for Better Service," the new identity reflects PADA's commitment to delivering more effective, high-quality services and strengthening its institutional presence in line with beneficiaries' expectations.

The new identity features updated logos, colors, and visual elements, giving PADA a more modern and distinctive look while making it easily recognizable across its various official platforms and channels



The new PADA logo.

# Kuwait key to revitalize OIC

Unite, chief urges members

JEDDAH, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait is a key partner in joint Islamic action, given its distinguished political, diplomatic and humanitarian record, said Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

In his first press interview since his election as OIC Secretary-General, granted to KUNA, Ould Cheikh Ahmed said he counted heavily on Kuwait as an active partner in reforming the organization and enhancing its ability to translate Islamic solidarity into concrete positions, initiatives and results.

He said Kuwait's experience in diplomacy, mediation and humanitarian action represented added value to the organization, particularly at a time when greater dialogue, consensus and solidarity among member states were needed.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed said Kuwait would be among the first countries he would visit, hoping for an opportunity to strengthen consultations and coordination with the Kuwaiti leadership and government on issues of concern to the Islamic world.

He identified humanitarian action, crisis response, mediation and preventive diplomacy, as well as sustainable development and food and water security, as key areas for enhanced cooperation between Kuwait and the OIC.

He said Kuwait's humanitarian record could serve as a foundation for developing joint institutional initiatives and strengthening coordination in international forums, contributing to a unified Islamic position on priority issues and challenges.

On his priorities as Secretary-General, Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the next phase required genuine reform of the OIC to move from crisis management to initiative-making and from issuing decisions to implementing them.

He outlined a strategic vision based on six pillars: institutional reform to enhance efficiency; strengthening unity and solidarity among member states; supporting security, stability and conflict resolution; building economic, scientific and technological partnerships; investing in youth, women and people; and enhancing the OIC's international presence and



Ould Cheikh Ahmed

influence.

He stressed the need for clear mechanisms for implementation, follow-up and accountability to turn OIC decisions into programs and tangible results, saying: "We want an organization that is more effective and influential, anticipates crises, unifies positions and translates Islamic solidarity into action and achievements."

Ould Cheikh Ahmed said leading an organization comprising 57 countries with diverse priorities and circumstances was a major responsibility, but that diversity could be a source of strength if differences were properly managed and consensus built.

### Dialogue

He emphasized the importance of dialogue and consultation among member states, prioritizing common interests and activating mediation mechanisms to bridge differences away from polarization, while translating consensus into joint economic, development, security, scientific and technological initiatives.

Regarding his extensive diplomatic experience, he said his background in international diplomacy and UN work represented an important asset for strengthening the OIC's political and diplomatic presence through expanding partnerships with international and regional organizations and enhancing coordination with the United Nations and multilateral institutions.

He said this experience could also support preventive diplomacy, mediation and consensus-building, enabling the organization to anticipate developments through practical initiatives and international partnerships serving the priorities of the Islamic world.

On Palestine, Ould Cheikh Ahmed stressed that Palestine remained the central issue on the OIC agenda.

He said the organization would continue diplomatic efforts to strengthen partnerships with international organizations, mobilize international support for implementing the two-state solution, and highlight Israeli occupation violations.

On the need to develop the OIC's crisis-response mechanisms and implement reforms, he said institutional reform had be-

come an urgent necessity in light of rapid changes in the international system.

He suggested that holding an OIC economic summit could be an important step toward translating this vision into practical programs and projects by mobilizing resources, encouraging joint investment, supporting least-developed member states, enhancing intra-OIC trade and building mutually beneficial economic partnerships.

He said the envisaged reform was comprehensive and aimed at making the organization more effective, flexible and influential, and better equipped to address and anticipate crises while strengthening political, economic and development cooperation.

Asked what he expected from member states in supporting his vision, Ould Cheikh Ahmed said success could not be achieved by the General Secretariat alone, but required genuine partnership and shared commitment from all member states.

He called on member states to strengthen unity and solidarity, coordinate positions, support OIC initiatives and positions in international forums, and participate in implementing its economic and development projects.

On the Islamic Court of Justice, he said the OIC attached great importance to the institution as a project aimed at strengthening justice and legal cooperation in the Islamic world, commending Kuwait's role in hosting the court.

He hoped that member states would complete ratification procedures for its statute.

In his final message to member states, Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the OIC's success depended on the ability to work in a spirit of consensus and solidarity and translate principles and decisions into practical steps and tangible results.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed became the OIC's 13th Secretary-General after being elected in late August, succeeding former Secretary-General Hussein Taha. His career spans decades of diplomatic and UN service.

He served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen from 2015 to 2018 and held senior UN positions in Libya, as well as heading the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. He also served as UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria and Yemen.

He served as Mauritania's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad from 2018 to 2022, in addition to holding other governmental and diplomatic positions.

### News in Brief

## 'GCC must align education effort'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait Minister of Education Sayyed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, emphasized on Wednesday the need to continue strengthening joint educational efforts and aligning visions among GCC countries, which aims to develop the education system and meet future aspirations.

This came in a statement to KUNA on the sidelines of the 10th meeting of the GCC Ministers of Education Committee, hosted by Bahrain.

He highlighted the importance of following up on initiatives previously proposed by Kuwait, most notably the unified strategic framework for general education and the exchange initiative for gifted students and out-

standing teachers.

The initiative aims to leverage educational experiences and expertise, support the development of student talents and capabilities, and facilitate the exchange of best practices among distinguished educational personnel within the GCC.

The meeting also reviewed the fourth UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4), which focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

□ □ □

**Online address change:** The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has launched an online address-change service for Kuwaiti nationals through the unified government e-services application - Sahel, which enables citizens to update their residential addresses without visiting PACI in person to complete the required procedures, reports Al-Anba daily.



Al-Tabtabaei



albander  
hotel & resort

البندر  
فندق ومنتجع

| Room Description                                                                      | Price            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| One night stay in a <b>Queen Bed Cabana</b> for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast | BD 53.361 / Net  |
| One night stay in a <b>Two Bedroom Chalet</b> for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast    | BD 119.173 / Net |

Terms & conditions apply

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | 350 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com |  @albanderhotelandresort

Deposits, credit continue to post strong growth

Central Bank affirms strength of Kuwait's monetary stability

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has affirmed that its current assessment of domestic economic and financial indicators reflects the overall strength and soundness of monetary stability across the State of Kuwait.

In an official statement, the regulatory authority highlighted that prevailing monetary conditions remain fully aligned with local economic requirements, supported by steady growth across key banking aggregates.

The central bank reported positive operational growth across major financial sectors for July 2026. Broad money supply (M2) expanded by 1.9 percent year-on-year, while total resident deposit balances held at local banks recorded a significant 9.8

percent increase compared to the corresponding period in 2025.

Additionally, credit facilities extended to residents grew by 4.8 percent over the same period, demonstrating sustained economic activity. The central bank stated that the current benchmark discount rate is 3.5 percent.

Reaffirming its proactive regulatory posture, CBK emphasized its continuous surveillance of global financial trends, geopolitical shifts, and their potential impact on the performance of the local economy.

The institution pledged to employ all necessary monetary policy and macroprudential tools through a balanced, gradual approach to protect national financial stability and bolster long-term economic growth.

Kuwait urges protection of civilians

GENEVA, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait emphasized on Thursday the necessity of keeping the protection of women and children at the forefront of the international community's priorities, given the alarming rise in conflicts and their catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

This came in a statement by Kuwait Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Counselor Nasser Al-Ramzi, during a discussion on the report by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, regarding the implementation of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 60/19 on the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Al-Ramzi pointed out that women and children bear the brunt of conflicts, highlighting the severe humanitarian repercussions witnessed in conflict zones, including the Gaza Strip, such as killings, displacement, and the deprivation of civilians' basic rights to food, healthcare, and education.

He stressed the need for full respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as the protection of civilians, calling for an end to all violations committed against women and children and ensuring unhindered access for humanitarian aid.



KUNA photo  
Kuwait Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Counsellor Nasser Al-Ramzi, during a discussion on the report by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk.

In a related context, Al-Ramzi noted that the submitted report contained certain terms lacking international consensus, unlike Resolution 60/19, which was adopted by consensus.

He expressed Kuwait's hope that future reports would rely on internationally agreed-upon terminology to ensure consistency with relevant international resolutions.

Continued from Page 1

Alobaidly wins

and artistic vision. Showcasing the intricate structures of a rarely photographed nebula, the image combines remarkable detail with a striking composition and colour palette, inviting viewers to explore the hidden beauty of the cosmos. A result of exceptional skill, patience and dedication, this outstanding image also marks a historic milestone, as Ali is the first Overall Winner from Kuwait in the competition's history."

Dr Greg Brown, Royal Observatory Greenwich Astronomer and Judge said, "I never tire of seeing the new entries into the ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition. For a sky that, at least in some ways, is remarkably unchanging from year to year, the skill and innovation of the entrants, coupled with improvements in technology, means that there is always a wealth of new sights to be seen even in targets that have been observed many times over. The images from this, the 18th year of the competition, continue to show the growth of a community whose passion to capture the stunning variety of our Universe knows as few bounds as the subjects of their images. The only issue, of course, is how difficult a job this makes for the judges – although, as issues go, it's a great one to have!"

**Exhibition information for visitors:**  
**Venue:**  
National Maritime Museum, London

**Dates:**  
Opening 18 September 2026  
**Website:**  
rmg.co.uk/shortlist  
Visitor Enquiries: 020 8858 4422 | bookings@rmg.co.uk  
**Twitter:**  
@RMGreenwich #APY18  
**Instagram:**  
@royalmuseumsgreenwich #APY18  
**Facebook**  
/royalmuseumsgreenwich #APY18  
**Astrophotography Group:** facebook.com/groups/astrophotos

Drone interception

in defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

During weekly media briefing on Thursday, Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said that Pakistan stands unwaveringly, shoulder to shoulder, with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the security and sanctity of the Haramain Sharifain, a responsibility that every Pakistani holds close to their heart.

He said that Pakistan continues to closely follow the evolving situation in the Middle East in view of the continued Houthi attacks. He recalled that Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the dastardly and heinous attempted drone attack against the Holy Site of Makkah

Al-Mukarramah. He said PM Sharif in his message stated that the people of Pakistan were deeply saddened and perturbed by this outrageous act, adding that there could be no words strong enough to convey the depth of anguish and sorrow felt by the people of Pakistan over this reprehensible and unforgivable incident.

He also saluted the extraordinary vigilance, courage, and professionalism demonstrated by the Royal Saudi Armed Forces in their swift and heroic response. The Prime Minister called upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to step back from the brink of further escalation.

Pakistan remains concerned over the continuing escalation and its implications for regional peace, security, maritime navigation, and global energy supplies. "Pakistan continues to advocate dialogue and diplomacy as the only sustainable means of resolving differences and avoiding further escalation," the spokesperson pointed out.

KIA, Canada

At the outset of the meeting, Sheikh Saoud conveyed the greetings and best wishes of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to Prime Minister

Carney and the Canadian people.

The statement noted that discussions highlighted the longstanding historical relationship between Kuwait and Canada, as well as the KIA's strategic investment footprint in Canadian markets.

On the summit sidelines, the Managing Director also engaged in bilateral talks with senior Canadian officials including Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand and Premier of Ontario Doug Ford-alongside executive leadership from prominent Canadian pension funds and financial institutions.

The meetings focused on exchanging views on developments in the global investment environment, Canada's economic and investment outlook, areas of mutual interest, and opportunities to strengthen investment cooperation and partnerships.

KIA participated in the Summit, which brought together leading global investors, business leaders and government officials, with the aim of strengthening engagement between Canada and major international investment institutions and highlighting long-term investment opportunities in the Canadian market.

KIA has maintained an investment presence in Canada for more than 25 years. Its participation in the Summit and accompanying meetings reflects the Authority's commitment to strengthening relationships with its international partners and maintaining engagement with governments and leading investment institutions across global markets.

Hawally sweep

These campaigns were carried out from Sept 6-12, leading to 2,530 security operations, 1,635 recorded traffic violations, handling of 174 traffic accidents, and provision of humanitarian assistance in 1,135 cases.

Moreover, the officers apprehended 133 individuals wanted by law, 85 individuals with expired residency permits, and 36 individuals who failed to present official identification, impounded four vehicles wanted by law, handled 687 cases requiring official documentation, and arrested 15 suspects who were referred to the Drug Control General Department.

The Rescue Police General Department reaffirmed its commitment to continue such campaigns in order to apprehend violators and wanted individuals, and ensure the safety and security of everyone.

Beat rumor

Muhaisen said that Kuwait's Center for Government Communication represents an integrated system uniting the digital platforms of ministries, agencies, and institutions, which facilitate the swift and accurate delivery of information through official accounts, spokespersons, and direct appearances by officials across various media outlets.

He added that government communication platforms work to simplify official messages, ensuring they reach the public clearly and accessibly, such as press conferences, television interviews, and other modern tools to foster direct engagement with the public.

Muhaisen stressed the importance of addressing rumors promptly rather than allowing them to spread, explaining that rumors thrive in a "media vacuum"; a period devoid of factual information

Meanwhile, Professor of Strategic Communications and Governmental Relations Dr. Nidal Shoukeir noted that the evolving nature of audiences and information consumption has created a new reality for government communication, where information now travels faster, and audiences engage with it instantly via social media and news channels.

For his part, Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Government Communication Dr. Zaid Al-Nawaiseh, said that audiences now expect greater speed in accessing reliable news and information, which compels government entities to upgrade their tools and methods to keep pace with the rapid evolution of social media.

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

Hala Industrial Co.

شركة هلا الصناعية

Decoration works, wood products and cupboards are available

You can get all what you need at Hala Industrial

Contact us now

Subhan Industrial - Block 10 - Street 5 - Plot 151 - Tel: 60660817 - 66448545 - 50446599

Hala\_Industrial

hala@halakw.com

America

**Navajo Nation flooding kills 3:** Three people were dead after being swept away by floodwaters early Wednesday on the Navajo Nation, authorities said. Tribal police officers received a report around 12:30 a.m. about people being washed away near the community of Newcomb in northwestern New Mexico. The report followed a day of heavy rain that left roadways and other areas flooded with standing water. More rain followed during the overnight hours.

Search crews responded and found the bodies of two adults and a child. Authorities did not release any details about the circumstances, other than saying the drownings were under investigation.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren offered his condolences and thanked first responders for working through the night in difficult and dangerous conditions as they searched for the people.

“To the family, relatives, and loved ones who are grieving today, we offer our deepest condolences,” Nygren said in a social media post. “We pray that you are surrounded by strength, comfort, and the love of your family and community in the difficult days ahead.”

The National Weather Service in Albuquerque issued a special briefing on Tuesday, warning that numerous and widespread thunderstorms were expected over the coming days. The organization reiterated warnings again Wednesday, noting that moisture levels were expected to be near record levels for mid-September. (AP)

**Driver arrested in LA bus collision:** A motorist was arrested on murder charges after authorities say she slammed her SUV into a city bus in Los Angeles, killing at least two people and injuring six others in a prelude to a second deadly tragedy: the fiery crash of a TV news helicopter that was covering the collision.

Bailee Lynn Rios, 36, of Simi Valley, was arrested Tuesday night and was being held at a Los Angeles jail with bail set at \$4 million, police said Wednesday. The case is under review by the district attorney’s office, which will decide whether to file the charges in court or pursue different ones. Information on a lawyer who could speak on her behalf was not immediately available.



People gather on the steps of Los Angeles City Hall during a protest on Jan. 30, 2026 in Los Angeles. (AP)

The helicopter, which was used by NBC and Telemundo, crashed about two hours after police say Rios drove her 2004 Ford Expedition the wrong way down a busy avenue, ran a red light and struck a vehicle before hitting the bus. One passenger was fully ejected from the bus and another was partially ejected, police said.

Rios’ mother, Cindy Rios, said she was shocked and saddened by the string of events. She said she had not spoken to Bailee Lynn since her arrest and had not been contacted by law enforcement.

“The fact that my daughter was involved and was the cause of it is just extremely disturbing,” Cindy Rios told The Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday. “If anything, I’m sorry for the other families ... My daughter’s alive. People lost their lives.” (AP)

**Judge restricts warrantless immigration arrests:** A federal judge has issued an order blocking immigration officers from making warrantless arrests in Southern California unless they determine the person is likely to escape.

In a preliminary injunction granted Sept 2 and unsealed Wednesday, US District Judge Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong said the government must consider the “totality of the circumstances known to the agent or officer” regarding a person’s likelihood of escape before making a civil immigration arrest without a warrant.

The lawsuit was filed last fall by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Public Counsel, and Los Angeles immigrant advocacy groups during an unprecedented surge of immigration enforcement in the region. The order applies in the Central District of California, which includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Frimpong also ordered the government to thoroughly document the probable cause that leads to an arrest before a warrant could be obtained. The mere fact that someone is in the country illegally is not enough to justify a warrantless arrest, she said in her order. (AP)

**Investment firm leader gets 11 yrs for Ponzi scheme:** The creator of a Texas-based investment company has been sentenced to 11 years in federal prison for his role in a Ponzi scheme that prosecutors say bilked 64 victims, including Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce.

US District Judge Zachary Bluestone sentenced Siddharth Jawahar, 38, on Tuesday and ordered him to pay \$31.35 million in restitution to victims. Jawahar’s attorney did not immediately respond to a voicemail requesting comment.

The US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Missouri said between July 2016 and December 2023, Jawahar took in more than \$35 million from investors in his company, Swiftarc Capital LLC, but only invested about \$10 million of that amount.

Instead, prosecutors said, he used money from new investors to repay older investors and to fund an extravagant lifestyle including luxury apartments in New York City and Austin, Texas, private jet travel and expensive outings. (AP)

Trump, Whatley double down on administration’s record in N.Carolina Senate contest

Speaker Johnson recesses House early as Massie pushes Hegseth impeachment

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): Speaker Mike Johnson is closing up the House early, sending lawmakers home Wednesday to campaign for the midterm elections after what he claims is the most productive Congress in decades.

But not without a scathing rebuke from GOP Rep Thomas Massie for all the unfinished business.

Massie’s resolution to impeach Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over the war in Iran and his bipartisan effort to force the release of more files in the Jeffrey Epstein investigation are all being left behind, blocked from votes.

“We’re calling off Congress? And we’re in the majority?” Massie railed from the House floor.

“I’m trying to get justice for the Epstein survivors,” he said. “I’m trying to stop a war.”

Massie, the renegade Republican from Kentucky, seized control of the chamber for a blistering hourlong speech criticizing Johnson, the Republican majority and the work he said the speaker is refusing to conduct to lower prices for Americans and hold the Trump administration

accountable.

“Why would we be canceling days when the country is burning?” Massie said. “We should stay here for every day that’s on the calendar and we should debate.”

Johnson insisted “the House has done its job.”

The Republican speaker tallied the hundreds of bills passed by the House this session and, as lawmakers bolted for the exits, said they are on a 48-hour notice to return to Washington if needed.

“We’re walking out here with our heads high,” he said.

Earlier in the day, he dismissed Massie’s effort to impeach Hegseth as “a stunt.”

“Secretary Hegseth has done an extraordinary job at the Department of War,” Johnson said.

The afternoon showdown provided a colorful capstone to what has been a tumultuous two-year session of House Republicans in control by a bare majority, with Johnson routinely struggling to keep the place running.

Despite the enormous tools of the gavel - the speaker holds one of the



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson speaks with reporters outside of his office on Capitol Hill on Sept 16, in Washington. (AP)

most powerful positions in Washington, second in the line of succession to the president - Johnson has often been thwarted by his own conference.

The speaker has repeatedly and abruptly canceled House voting days to send lawmakers home rather than

manage the disruptions from his own rebellious flank - particularly those legislative efforts that threatened to rebuke President Donald Trump.

By one tally, the House has cut 28 days this year, while adding four others, for a net loss of 24 days - about one-fourth of the total scheduled.

Still, Johnson has hauled major legislation to the finish line, most notably the “Big Beautiful Bill,” a package of tax breaks and social service cuts that Trump signed into law last summer.

And on Wednesday the House powered through a full agenda, passing bills large and small - including a sweeping bill to impose sanctions on Russia over the war in Ukraine, and another to name the American mastodon the national fossil mammal and the Tyrannosaurus Rex the national fossil dinosaur.

“This has literally been the most productive and successful and aggressive Congress” in decades, he said earlier this month, calling it the top five of all time. “We’re confident American voters are going to remember that when they head to vote this fall.”

Voters will be assessing the situation in November as they decide whether to keep Trump’s party in power, while Democrats work to dislodge Republicans from majority control of both the House and the Senate.

House Democratic Leader Ha-

keem Jeffries assailed the “do-nothing” Republican majority and promised Democrats will perform better.

“Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans promised to bring down grocery prices on Day One. They promised to stop endless wars in the Middle East,” Jeffries said from the steps of the Capitol, flanked by Democratic lawmakers.

“But Republicans have done nothing to make life more affordable for the American people,” he said.

He said Democrats’ message is a simple one: “We hear you. We see you ... And we are committed to making life better for you.”

The confrontation also provided a platform for Massie, the libertarian-leaning go-his-own-way congressman who orchestrated the initial release of the Epstein files and helped lead efforts to halt the conflict in Iran through a war powers resolution.

Massie lost his own primary bid for reelection after Trump mounted a costly campaign to kick him out of Congress.

But the congressman has only appeared emboldened in his final days in office.

Russia’s parliamentary vote features no real opposition to Putin’s policies

MOSCOW, Sept 17, (AP): Russia’s parliamentary election features the Kremlin’s main party, United Russia, and nine others that all support President Vladimir Putin’s policies. The only party that dared to oppose the war in Ukraine has been barred from the ballot.

The absence of genuine opposition all but assures the Kremlin will keep tight control of the Russian political scene amid mounting economic costs and increasing Ukrainian attacks on oil refineries and online retailers. Those drone strikes have made Russians feel the pain from the war more than 4½ years after its start.

The Kremlin wants the election - the first since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022 - to underline public support for the war and give a veneer of legitimacy to its action. It has sought to avoid any political risks by stamping out even the slightest sign of dissent.

Here’s what to know about the election and its main parties:

Starting Friday and lasting through Sunday, Russians will elect members of the lower house, the State Duma. They also will cast ballots in local elections. Voters in 11 regions will elect their governors, and 39 regions will elect members of regional legislatures.

The balloting is spread over three days in a bid to boost turnout among the 111 million eligible voters and includes areas that Russia illegally annexed in Ukraine. Electronic voting is allowed.

Half of the Duma’s 450 seats are filled by party lists and the other half are contested in single-ballot races. The main Kremlin party, United Russia, is set to retain its overwhelming control of the Duma, while other “systemic opposition” parties that vote in sync with the government on all key issues also are expected to retain their presence.

The liberal Yabloko Party, the only registered political party that opposes the war, initially was on the ballot but the Supreme Court in August ordered it removed. It cited, among other reasons, that the anti-war stance was akin to seeking the violation of Russia’s territorial integrity. Yabloko now only has candidates in single-ballot races.

United Russia, whose symbol is a bear prowling beneath the Russian tricolor, won more than two-thirds of the Duma’s seats in the 2021 election. It is again poised to dominate



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, a residential building is seen on fire following a Russian air attack in Odesa, Ukraine on Sept 17. (AP)

Russian attacks on Ukraine’s capital injure 19: authorities

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 17, (AP): A Russian barrage of missiles and drones targeting Ukraine’s capital and the surrounding region injured at least 19 people overnight and into Thursday morning, authorities said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukrainian forces carried out overnight strikes against targets in Russia, including an oil refinery in Yaroslavl and a military airfield in the Rostov region.

The Kyiv City Military Administration said the overnight attacks were recorded at more than 10 locations

in the city, while 33 sites were damaged in the wider region. A 10-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy were among the injured, the administration said in a statement on Telegram.

Peace efforts to end Russia’s 4 1/2-year full-scale invasion have stalled, with the issue of territorial concessions in eastern Ukraine among the central sticking points. Successive rounds of US-brokered talks have failed to produce a breakthrough. Ukraine is also seeking security guarantees from partners for a deal.

nian drone.

Members of United Russia have vowed to back the war effort and Putin’s maximalist goals in what the Kremlin calls the “special military operation” in Ukraine.

At the same time, Sobyanin, who is widely seen as a pragmatist, has rebuffed calls by Russian hawks for a broad mobilization of conscripts and putting the entire economy on a war footing.

“To destroy a normal economy is to destroy the country altogether,” he said in remarks reflecting Kremlin hopes to win the war without risking a broad, unpopular mobilization.



Ferries operate at the Isaccea Danube River border crossing between Ukraine and Romania in Isaccea, Romania on Sept 14. (AP)

Romanian border residents fear fallout as frequency of drone alerts rises

ISACCEA, Romania, Sept 17, (AP): The text alerts blare first, then the blasts arrive.

For 48-year-old Robert Marian, who lives in Isaccea, a small Romanian border town in eastern Tulcea County along the Danube River with a crossing into Ukraine, the proximity of Russian drone strikes - just hundreds of meters across the river - has become a source of constant fear.

“There are alerts warning us that something is coming,” he told The Associated Press. “It happened two weeks ago, maybe three. I was asleep at midnight ... One was quieter, but another was really loud. I got scared and ran out of the house.”

As Russia’s war in Ukraine grinds on, drone incursions into Romania’s airspace have increased significantly. The blasts just across the Danube are a reminder of how close war is to NATO territory - at a time many fear Russian President Vladimir Putin might want to test the alliance’s resolve.

A Ukrainian border crossing with Romania was “deliberately damaged ... as well as export infrastructure,” said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sept. 1. Romanian customs announced the same day that activity at the Isaccea-Orlivka cross-

ing had been temporarily suspended.

Alina Mihail, another Isaccea resident, says she feels sick when she hears the drone alerts and blasts ringing out across the border.

“I have so many nights where I don’t sleep anymore,” she said. “I live in terror, me and my husband.”

Data from Romania’s Ministry of National Defense indicate a three-fold increase in drone incursions so far this year compared with the whole of 2025 - 27 compared with 9 - and more than double the number of drones and drone debris found on the NATO member’s territory, at 37 compared with 16.

Already this year, there have been 73 attacks near the border on Ukrainian territory, and some 56 military aircraft have been scrambled to “monitor and manage the situation.” Last year, there were 28 attacks near the border and 21 aircraft were raised. In the first year of the war, there was only one attack near the border.

In May, a drone injured a mother and child after crashing into an apartment block in the eastern town of Galati along the Danube River. A drone that entered Romania from neighboring Moldova was tracked through several counties last week before it reentered Moldova and

crashed in a sunflower field.

Moscow has denied sending combat drones to Romanian territory.

The growing menace of drones crossing into Romania’s skies, many of which officials have blamed on Russia, prompted the NATO member to shoot down four drones this year, the first time since the war next door started.

NATO countries across Europe have accused Moscow of being behind a string of “hybrid war” actions against their countries, including drone incursions, sabotage, an attempted attack at a German airport and a Danish helicopter that was fired on with flares in the Baltic Sea.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said on Sept. 2 that “Russia has grown increasingly reckless” as Moscow continues its war.

“We have seen more drones and missiles crossing into our airspace, along our eastern flank, creating increased risk,” he said. “The dangers Russia poses are clear.”

Last week, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk also warned that he had received information from CIA Director Jim Ratcliffe indicating Europe should be prepared for intensified Russian provocations, including on the European Union’s eastern flank.

Maintaining stable ties with Washington important for PM

## Takaichi shuffles Japan’s Cabinet to revive sagging support, keeps key ministers

TOKYO, Sept 17, (AP): Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reshuffled her Cabinet on Thursday in a bid to turn around her waning popularity, but retained key ministers as she pursues stronger ties with the US.

Japan faces President Donald Trump’s tough demands for bigger defense spending, more investment in America and measures to combat a weak yen.

The reshuffle is the first by the right-wing star of the governing Liberal Democratic Party since she took office last October as Japan’s first female leader in modern history. It’s a widely used tactic by a prime minister to manage power balance within the party, policy priorities and public opinion.

She had for months enjoyed high ratings, attracting young voters with her style and straight talk that were fresh in male-dominated Japanese politics. But she has seen her popularity fade after pushing policies including an enforcement of male-only succession rules for the imperial family at a time people were expecting tougher measures to fight inflation.

Takaichi retained Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi to ensure continuity of Japan’s key policies and good ties with Washington. Both are Takaichi’s main party rivals and keeping them is seen as her strategy to contain their influence.

Takaichi also kept Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama, her longtime confidant who has been implementing her ambitious spending policy, and Economy and Fiscal Policy Minister Minoru Kiuchi. Trade Minister Ryosei Akazawa, who has dealt with Trump’s tariff and investment demands, also kept his job.

In a party leadership revamp Wednesday, Takaichi retained a kingmaker and former Prime Minister Taro Aso as LDP vice president, his brother-in-law Shunichi Suzuki as secretary-general and a few of her right-wing allies. Her rival Takayuki Kobayashi stayed on as head of the LDP policy research council.

Maintaining stable ties with



Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, (center), gets back into the prime minister’s office after meeting the emperor for an attestation ceremony following her cabinet reshuffle in Tokyo on Sept 17. (AP)

Washington is also important for Takaichi as Japan struggles to mend ties with China following her comment last year that Japan’s military would could intervene if China were to take action against Taiwan - an island democracy that Beijing considers its own territory. The tensions have spilled over into the neighbors’ economic ties.

Takaichi, who will attend the UN General Assembly in New York later

this month, is seeking a meeting with Trump ahead of his planned Sept. 24 talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, but prospects are unclear, according to Japanese media reports.

Takaichi’s government is working to revise security and defense strategy documents by the end of the year to bolster Japan’s offensive capabilities to deter threats from China, North Korea and Russia. Japan says it wants to adapt to “new ways of warfare” that involves use of artificial intelligence and combat drones and their deployment.

Takaichi-led government has increased defense spending to 2% of gross domestic product and wants spend more for 2027. Japan is likely to face U.S. demand for further increase, possibly up to 3.5% of GDP.

The victory in the Okinawa gubernatorial election Sunday by Genta Kojima, a conservative new face backed by Takaichi’s LDP and several other conservative parties, is expected to help her push for a military buildup on Japan’s southern islands to deter China.

Takaichi replaced 10 out of 18 ministers. Hiroshi Nakatsuka, from the LDP’s junior coalition partner Japan Innovation Party, was appointed as minister of administrative reform and children policies. Kazuo Yana replaced Norikazu Suzuki as agriculture minister, despite Yana’s alleged involvement in a political funds scandal. Internal Affairs Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, Takaichi’s party rival, was replaced by Hisayuki Fujii.

Takaichi, as part of her measures to combat rising prices, has pushed a two-year cut in the consumption tax to 1% from the current 8% and payouts to households. But the plan without funding details has divided her party and could be a problem when parliament reconvenes in October.

The tax measure, adopted Monday by the Cabinet, has added to concern about Japan’s already strained financial health. Takaichi’s spending policy has already prompted U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to urge Japan to stop the reflationary policy of weak yen and low interest rates.



Vietnamese army troops prepare boats for rescue works in flooding areas in Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam on Sept 17. (AP)

### Heavy rain, floods in Vietnam submerge homes

Heavy rain caused flooding across parts of northern Vietnam on Thursday, disrupting travel, inundating homes and pushing several rivers above dangerous levels, authorities and state media said.

Rain has fallen across northern and north-central Vietnam this week, with some areas receiving more than 50 centimeters (19.7 inches), according to the disaster prevention department said.

More than 2,000 homes have

been submerged, many key transportation routes blocked and more than 1,000 households isolated. Ninh Binh and Thanh Hoa provinces, which include lowland and hilly areas south of the capital Hanoi, have been among the hardest hit.

Vietnam is among the world’s most climate-vulnerable countries and prone to flooding. A series of severe storms last year spurred the country to find new ways to prepare for and manage floods.

In Thanh Hoa province, authorities told students to stay home because flooding had made travel to school dangerous, state media said.

Heavy rains and flooding have submerged or damaged about 10,014 hectares (24,745 acres) of rice and other crops, with the largest losses reported in Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces. Thousands of livestock and poultry also have been killed. (AP)

## Rescuers recover four bodies from Nepal’s hydropower plant tunnel

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 17, (AP): Rescuers in Nepal have recovered four bodies from the tunnel of a hydropower plant as search operations continued for those still missing three weeks after the devastating flash flood last month that killed hundreds and left thousands missing.

Families of the thousands missing, meanwhile, are seeking answers from authorities on their whereabouts.

Nepal’s army said that four bodies were recovered Wednesday from the Chilime Hydropower plant, which was situated on the Trishuli River that flooded on Aug. 26.

Nepal’s disaster management agency said five more bodies were located in a different location and equipment was being sent to recover them.

The number of bodies that have been recovered since the flooding has reached 1,403 while 6,150 people are still missing, according to Nepal’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

Families of the missing have been pressuring the government to speed up the rescue and recovery process from the tunnels.

They have held rallies and many have called on the government to declare the missing as dead because they want to receive death certificates, which would allow them to move forward with legal proceedings and religious rites and give them some emotional closure.

At the Tribhuvan University Teaching hospital in Kathmandu, the lobby walls have been pasted with



In this handout photograph provided by the Nepal Army, Nepalese soldiers carry the bodies of workers recovered during a search and rescue operation at the Chilime hydropower project following earlier flash floods in Nepal’s Rasuwa district on Sept 16. (AP)

photos of hundreds of missing people. Relatives go there seeking news of their loved ones.

Usha Khatri’s husband Indra Bahadur was working as a cook with a group of pilgrims when the flood hit the Nepal-China border. Since then she has been searching for him in many of the towns where the river flows and where bodies have been recovered.

“The government has not done much for us. They have not met us or given any information or any assurances. I am by myself searching for my husband,” Khatri said.

There were 13 hydropower plants that were damaged by the flooding and many workers were either swept or trapped by the raging water or debris.

Finding the workers who were trapped has been a priority for the government and rescuers. But access to the tunnels has been hampered by thick mud, debris and damaged infrastructure, making it difficult for rescue teams to reach the areas.

Two Nepali workers were found alive by rescuers on Sept. 4, days after the flooding. A day later a Chinese worker was pulled out alive from a separate area.

The government estimates the country’s reconstruction costs at around \$4.78 billion.

## Trump administration silence 200,000 immigrants from El Salvador hoping they’re protected

MIAMI, Sept 17, (AP): A deadline for the Trump administration to decide whether about 200,000 immigrants from El Salvador can remain protected from deportation has passed without any public announcement, raising hopes among many for another six-month extension while also sowing confusion.

The Department of Homeland Security has been quiet about its plans, leaving attorneys and advocates scrambling to decipher what might happen next to Salvadorans who have been raising families in the US for decades.

Homeland Security issued a statement saying the department would make an announcement “at an appropriate time” and that Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador would stay in effect until then. The department issued the same statement.

“Let’s be clear: this is not an official extension or decision by DHS as to the fate of TPS for El Salvador,” Ben Johnson, who directs the American Immigration Lawyers Association, posted Wednesday on social media. The Trump administration is leaving TPS holders, their families and their employers in limbo, he said.

Some attorneys are cautioning that the administration could eliminate the protections without making a public statement, or announce a decision at any time.

The absence of an announcement has raised hopes that Salvadoran immigrants might be spared the fates of hundreds of thousands of immigrants from other countries whose protected status has ended during President Donald Trump’s second term. But the lack of clarity is also harrowing.

“Facing this uncertainty is frustrating and painful,” said Doris Landaverde, who was 21 when she crossed the US border illegally in December 2000, seeking better job opportunities. A few months later, she obtained TPS status and has worked legally ever since, mostly cleaning at Harvard University, she said.

Now a 47-year-old single mother, Landaverde said she and her two U.S.-born daughters all consider this country home. The housing and health care of these American citizens depends on her income, and without TPS she could lose her job, she said.

“We have lived here legally for decades, and that is hard to erase,” she said. “I feel angry; we have done everything we were told to do legally.”

El Salvador, once one of the most violent places in the world due to organized crime, has become one of the safest countries in the Americas since Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele cracked down on gang members in 2022.

While rights activists accuse Bukele’s government of widespread abuses, the country is notably safer than many other countries whose people have recently lost TPS protections.

Haiti is perhaps the clearest example, with US deportation flights unable to land in Port-au-Prince because the capital city is largely controlled by

gangs. More than half the population is estimated to need humanitarian assistance because of surging gang violence amid deepening poverty and hunger.

As a result, US deportation flights land in the northern city of Cap-Haitien. The US sent its fourth straight weekly deportation flight to Haiti on Thursday, according to Human Rights First’s ICE Flight Monitor.

But Trump has a far different relationship with Haiti’s deeply troubled leadership than he has with Bukele.

Bukele has supported Trump’s deportation campaign and his government was among the first to receive deportees, holding them in a mega prison known as CECOT. But mass deportations of his citizens could shock El Salvador’s economy. Salvadorans in the US sent home \$9.9 billion in remittances last year, representing 24% of El Salvador’s gross domestic product, its central bank said.

Trump and Bukele have met twice in Washington since last April. In 2019, during the first Trump administration, Bukele asked Trump to extend TPS. Bukele has not said publicly if he has requested another extension.

In Trump’s second term, Homeland Security has ended TPS for more than 1 million people from more than a dozen countries, including Venezuela, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Syria. In addition to the Salvadorans, about 103,000 people, from Ukraine, Sudan and Lebanon, remain protected from deportation under TPS.



US President Donald Trump greets El Salvador’s President Nayib Bukele, (left), at the Shield of the Americas Summit on March 7, at Trump National Doral Miami in Doral, Fla. (AP)



South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir arrives at Juba’s Presidential Palace, South Sudan on Feb. 3, 2023. (AP)

### Africa

**S.Sudan president fires head of electoral body:** South Sudan President Salva Kiir on Tuesday night announced the removal of the head of the East African country’s electoral body only three months before the country’s first election.

Abdengo Akok Kacuoel was fired from his position as chairperson of the National Elections Commission without a reason being given publicly by Kiir. He will be replaced by Gabriel Bol Deng Majok, who served as the electoral commission’s secretary general.

Akok, 71, was appointed as chairperson of the electoral body in August 2012 and reappointed in November 2023 after the commission was reconstituted under a 2018 peace agreement that ended a five-year civil war. South Sudan has repeatedly postponed elections since gaining independence in 2011, citing delays in implementing the peace deal.

The transitional period and implementation of the 2018 peace agreement has been extended several times. Under the current road map, the transitional government is expected to be dissolved on Sept. 22 and elections are set for Dec. 22, ahead of the transitional period expiring in February.

Experts say the leadership change in the electoral body could impact the

elections.

Political analyst Abraham Kuol Nyuon, dean of the University of Juba graduate college, said the leadership change could further complicate preparations, including voter registration. (AP)

□ □ □

**Suspected methanol poisoning kills 48 in Ondo:** At least 48 people have died and around 100 others are receiving treatment in southern Nigeria after consuming a drink suspected to contain methanol, officials said on Thursday.

Banji Ajaka, Ondo state’s commissioner for health, said the cases had been reported in the Odigbo and Irele local government areas. A total of 182 people are believed to have been affected, he said.

“This thing happened rapidly. Once they consume, depending on the quantity, the kidneys will pack up, the eyes will go, the brain will be damaged,” Ajaka told The Associated Press.

Some of those who became ill after consuming the liquid have since been discharged from hospital, he added.

Ondo state police spokesman Abayomi Jimoh said one of 15 people who have been arrested in connection with the incident had been producing drink “suspected to contain methanol and is currently assisting the police with investigations.” (AP)

## Kuwait crude rises to \$126.30 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil rose USD 1.96 during Wednesday’s trading to reach USD 126.30 per barrel compared with USD 124.35 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corpo-

ration (KPC) said Thursday. Brent futures dropped USD 2.92 to USD 105.83 pb and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) lost USD 3.40 to USD 102.43 pb.

# Business

Strict rules, real-time tech, global governance

## Boursa Kuwait cites transparency, integrity as keys to investor trust & capital inflows

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Transparency and integrity are the pillars upon which Boursa Kuwait operates to earn the trust of investors, and attract both domestic and foreign capitals.

These principles safeguard the financial market during extraordinary periods and times of geopolitical turbulence, improve liquidity levels and foster a fair operating environment that protects the interests of all market participants.

By ensuring equal access to material information regarding listed companies, Boursa Kuwait solidified its position as a leading secure investment destination—one that supports the comprehensive economic vision of the country and propels sustainable development toward broader horizons.

Financial and economic expert Salem Al-Hamoud told the newspaper that Boursa Kuwait relies on three pillars, which it continuously develops, to ensure the integrity and transparency necessary for stable financial transactions.

The first pillar is the existence of strict laws and regulations enforced by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to protect minority shareholder rights and prevent practices that could undermine market fairness, such as price manipulation or the misuse of insider information.

The second pillar comprises the immense technological advancements and modern electronic systems utilized in trading operations, alongside rigorous real-time monitoring. These systems detect abnormal market movements, which Boursa Kuwait firmly addresses immediately in accordance with the highest digital security standards.

The third pillar is the unwavering commitment of Boursa Kuwait to adhere to global governance standards and the timely application of financial disclosure requirements to make sure that investors receive information at the same time.



Boursa Kuwait

He pointed out that the implementation of these key pillars and others positioned Boursa Kuwait within global emerging market indices, given its adoption of numerous other vital measures, such as continuously updating trading rules, launching new investment instruments that meet market participants’ expectations, entrenching absolute integrity within daily operations, and at-

tracting major investment portfolios. He added that such efforts bolstered operational integrity of Boursa Kuwait, leading to significant strides and robust indicators.

He asserted that all of these affirm the growing confidence in the Kuwaiti market and unprecedented capital inflows, as traded liquidity reached around KD 13.2 billion, driven by remarkable liquidity growth in August alone, which accounted for about KD1.77 billion. “This financial influx coincided with a marked expansion in the active account base of the market, which grew by 16.6 percent to reach 55,569 active accounts. Simultaneously, market capitalization reached strong levels that reinforce the financial leadership of Kuwait at the regional and international levels, transforming the exchange into an attractive investment environment that supports sustainable economic development plans and opens new horizons for long-term institutional foreign investment,” he elaborated.

He indicated that the benefits of these prudent policies are not limited to attracting capital during stable times, as they also ensure the resilience of the investment framework during crises.

He pointed out that the main advantages of implementing these principles is maintaining foreign liquidity flows into Boursa Kuwait and preventing mass capital flight. “Accurate financial reporting and timely disclosures during crises provide international investors and global institutions with the assurance that the market operates with absolute fairness and in accordance with clear global standards. This mitigates panic selling, thereby, preserving the stability and balance of market liquidity and preventing sharp declines. Boursa Kuwait consistently curbs rumors and manages risks effectively. Providing information about listed companies—with equal clarity and simultaneity to all market participants—effectively shuts the door on the false news and unsettling speculation that typically proliferate during wars and armed conflicts. This prevents price manipulation and protects minority shareholders’ rights against the exploitation of insider information by specific parties,” he explained.

Main 50 index advances 45.48 pts

## Boursa Kuwait closes lower as All-Share Index falls 0.32%

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Thursday’s session in negative territory, with the All-Share Index shedding 28.88 points (0.32%) to close at 8,913.16. Total turnover reached 488 million shares across 30,334 cash trades, valued at KD 146.14 million (about USD 448.2 million).

The Main Market Index bucked the broader decline, gaining 13.23 points (0.14%) to finish at 9,530.09. Trading on the main market accounted for 285.7 million shares in 18,376 cash transactions,

worth KD 56.7 million (around USD 174 million).

In contrast, the Premier Market Index fell 39.35 points (0.42%) to 9,244.45, with 202.3 million shares changing hands in 11,958 cash transactions valued at KD 89.4 million (about USD 274.4 million).

The Main 50 Index advanced 45.48 points (0.40%) to 11,519.26. Activity in the Main 50 comprised 218 million shares traded across 12,197 cash transactions, totaling KD 38.8 million (approximately USD 119.11 million).

## Inflation accelerates to 3.4%

## US retail sales rebound 1.2%

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): Consumers may be griping about higher prices at the pump and elsewhere, but they keep spending, helping to power the economy, according to the latest government snapshot.

Retail sales rebounded at a better-than-expected 1.2% increase last month after recording a revised 0.5% dip in July, according to Commerce Department data released Wednesday. Economists were anticipating a 0.7% gain for the month, according to FactSet.

The decline in July was notable because there had been few signs of fatigue from U.S. consumers. Americans spent heavily during the World Cup and Amazon Prime Day sales this summer. That followed solid retail sales in April and May as Americans dipped into their government tax refunds.

Even excluding business at gas stations, retail sales rose 1.1% in August, underscoring the resilience of the American consumer. The government figures aren’t adjusted for inflation. The roar back in spending is happening even as consumer confidence took another hit in July, according to the latest reading by the Conference Board.

The strong spending report comes as the Federal Reserve lifted its short-term interest rate Wednesday for the first time in three years to fight stubbornly high inflation. The quarter-point increase lifts the Fed’s key rate to roughly 3.9% and, over time, could result in higher borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards.

Much of the strength in retail last month reflected a bounce back in nonstore sales, which declined sharply in July, according to economists. That was “seasonal noise” driven by shifts in the timing of Amazon’s Prime Day shopping event, which also coincides with heavy promotions from other major online retailers, according to Michael Pearce, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. Rising gas prices also propped up gasoline station sales, he said.

But even accounting for these factors, gains in most spending categories were “decent,” led by discretionary sectors such as food services, electronics, and sports and recreation, Pearce wrote.

“American consumers are still opening their wallets and buying,” Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union, wrote in a report published Wednesday. “August retail sales showed a big bounce back after a weak July.”

The so-called control group - which excludes food services, autos, building materials and gas station sales and is used to calculate economic growth - rose a strong 1.4% last month from the prior month.

Many Americans continue to spend despite skyrocketing gas prices

that have accompanied renewed fighting in the Middle East. The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline rose overnight to \$4.37 on Wednesday, according to motor club AAA. That is about 47% more than a gallon cost before the war began, when it cost less than \$3.

Diesel, which has an outsized impact because it’s used for shipping, transportation and manufacturing, has risen even faster, up 68%.

The Labor Department reported Friday that consumer prices rose 3.4% last month from a year earlier, and they’re up 0.4% from July, quadrupling the 0.1% registered in the previous month.

Still, Americans have grown more selective about what they buy, according to retailers who reported their quarterly financial results in the past few weeks, but some, like Walmart and Macy’s, are using a portion of their tariff refunds from the government to lower prices.

Macy’s received \$116 million in tariff refunds from the government, Macy’s CEO Tony Spring said, and some of those proceeds are being used to lower prices on certain big-ticket items like furniture and fine jewelry.

Executives at the National Retail Federation, the nation’s largest retail trade group, said that retail sales have been better than expected this year.

Mark Mathews, chief economist at the NRF, also noted he’s seeing in recent months a softening of the K-shaped spending trends - the upper part of the K refers to higher-income Americans seeing their incomes and wealth rise while the bottom part points to lower-income households struggling with weaker income gains and steep prices.

Underscoring consumers’ resilience, September is expected to be the busiest month of the year for import volume at the nation’s major container ports, according to the retail group’s Global Port Tracker. The tracker is produced for the NRF by a consultancy firm called Hackett Associates.

Typically, the peak month is either July or August, NRF executives said.

But economists still worry about how rising gas prices will impact future spending.

“We have a consumer that’s willing to spend, and up until this point, we have had a consumer who’s been able to spend,” Mathews said. “Now looking forward that looks a little bit more challenged because if gas prices remain high, then you know you have to start questioning where the consumer is going to fund that spending growth from.”

Pearce echoed those worries, noting that while the solid labor market has helped prop up spending among lower-to middle-income shoppers this year, he sees a “deeper bifurcation of the consumer returning in the coming months.”

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): The Bank of England kept the U.K.’s main interest rate unchanged at 3.75% Thursday even though inflation in the United Kingdom has risen to a five-month high as the fallout from the Iran war continues to ratchet up fuel prices.

The decision was widely anticipated, with six members of the Monetary Policy Committee voting to keep rates unchanged, while three backed a quarter-point increase to 4%.

Though borrowing rates were kept on hold, financial markets think it’s more likely than not that the bank will back an increase at one of the next two policy meetings, either in November or December.

“So far higher global energy costs have had a limited effect on price and wage setting in the U.K.,” said Bank Governor Andrew Bailey. “But the longer this volatility persists, the bigger the impact it will have on inflation, and the more likely it is we will need to raise Bank Rate to ensure that inflation falls back to our 2% target.”

Like other central banks, the inflation outlook will be key. Some have already decided to start raising borrowing costs again, including the U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday.

The minutes accompanying the Bank of England’s decision showed that inflation is now expected to rise to around 4% in the first quarter of next year from the current 3.1% as households

face another increase in their domestic energy bills. That would take inflation further above the bank’s target rate of 2%.

Interest rates in the U.K. had been trending downward from a 15-year high of 5.25% until the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in late February. The Iran war led to sharp increases in oil and gas prices, partly because the crucial Strait of Hormuz has been largely closed to traffic ever since.

As well as impacting the cost of personal loans and mortgages, the uptick in interest rate expectations is a growing problem for the British government as the servicing of its debt accounts for a higher proportion of its spending.

# Warsh leads unanimous Fed hike to 3.9%, signals another increase possible this year

Fed raises rates for first time since 2023



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Kevin Warsh speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

North Carolina ahead of a midterm campaign rally, made no mention of his policies that influenced the decision, instead framing the historically independent Fed as another political actor in Washington.

“The board is very hostile. They’re very political. They’re doing the wrong thing. They’re a bunch of politicians,” he said, adding, “They’re raising rates to make Trump do as bad as they can possibly do.”

Warsh noted that other central banks are hiking interest rates in response to global turmoil and higher gas prices. The European Central Bank raised its key rate last week, and the Bank of Japan is expected to do the same Sept. 18.

The Fed next meets in late October and most economists expect officials will keep rates unchanged then because it is just a week before the midterm elections. But Wall Street analysts now see a rate hike by December as a near certainty, according to futures prices.

Also late Wednesday, the yield, or interest rate, on the 2-year Treasury rose to 4.74% from 4.67%, another sign investors expect the Fed to potentially lift rates further. Still, if inflation does show signs of cooling in the coming months, that could change.

Since taking the lead at the Fed in May, Warsh has said it is firmly committed to taming inflation, and policymakers would take their cues from the data to determine if inflation was going in the right direction.

The rate hike marks a turnaround

for Warsh. He often suggested last year when under consideration by Trump that the Fed could reduce its key rate, echoing the president’s call for lower borrowing costs.

In April, when Warsh’s nomination was under consideration by the Senate Banking Committee, Trump said in a television interview that he would be disappointed if Warsh didn’t cut rates. On the same day, however, Warsh told the committee he did not promise Trump he would cut rates and said he would be “an independent actor” as Fed chair.

Trump said in North Carolina that he had talked to Warsh ahead of the vote and told him, “You might as well vote with the board because it’s not going to matter.”

The ongoing disruptions from the Iran war, which have pushed up average gas prices more than 7% from just a month ago, threaten to spread through the economy and keep broader inflation stubbornly high. An inflation report last week showed core prices, which exclude food and energy, accelerated a bit in August.

According to the Fed’s preferred measure, inflation was 3.7% in July compared with a year ago, up from 2.3% in April 2025, just before Trump unveiled sweeping tariffs. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy categories, was 3.3% in July, the latest data available, up from 3% just before the Iran war and far above the Fed’s target.

Fed policymakers unanimously supported the rate hike, compared

with late July when the central bank kept rates steady and three officials dissented in favor of higher rates. Sixteen of the 18 Fed policymakers who submitted growth and interest rate projections penciled in at least one further rate hike this year, with four supporting two more increases.

Earlier Wednesday, the government said retail sales jumped 1.2% in August from the previous month, a sign that consumers are still spending at healthy levels despite sentiment surveys that indicate Americans remain gloomy about the economy. Strong spending is a sign that interest rates at current levels aren’t necessarily restricting the economy and cooling inflation.

“While uncertainty remains elevated owing, in part, to geopolitical developments, domestic spending has been resilient,” the Fed said, a likely reference to ongoing consumer spending and strong investment in artificial intelligence data centers by large technology companies.

Higher inflation isn’t all about gas prices. Ongoing investment in AI has driven up prices for computer chips and other electronic gear, adding to overall inflation. Tariffs may still be elevating some costs, such as appliances, which jumped in price last month.

Trump had harshly criticized Warsh’s predecessor, Jerome Powell, for not cutting rates quickly enough. His Justice Department even launched a criminal investigation into Powell over brief testimony he delivered to Congress last year, though that probe was eventually dropped.

When asked Wednesday how the president might react to the rate increase, Warsh said, “I’ve got nothing for you on a discussion with the president.”

On Sunday, Kevin Hassett, Trump’s top economic adviser, was asked in an interview with Fox News how Trump might react to a rate hike.

“I’m sure he’s not going to be super happy about it, but he will defend the independence of Kevin Warsh above all,” Hassett said.

Warsh might have a measure of protection from the fact that his father-in-law Ronald Lauder is a friend of Trump’s and a billionaire donor to his campaigns.

And the president, for all his complaints, insisted he wants Warsh “to be independent.” Asked explicitly whether he still has confidence in Warsh, Trump replied, “I do.”

Bank participates in Kuwait University Medical School graduation ceremony

KFH continues to support education, empower youth & strengthen academic partnerships

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the graduation ceremony of Kuwait University’s College of Medicine students, as part of its leadership in supporting education, empowering youth, and strengthening effective partnerships with academic. The event was attended by a representative from the Ministry of Health, members of the academic and administrative staff, and the graduates’ families.

This participation reflects the Bank’s ongoing efforts in the fields of social responsibility and sustainability, as well as its commitment to supporting educational and developmental initiatives that contribute to preparing and empowering national talents, thereby advancing Kuwait’s sustainable development journey. It also demonstrates the Bank’s belief in the pivotal role of the private sector as a key partner in supporting human development and investing in national human capital.

The Senior Manager Public Relations and Events at KFH, Fahad AlSaad, expressed the Bank’s pride in participating in the celebration of the Medical School graduates during his speech at the graduation ceremony, emphasizing that supporting education and empowering youth is a strategic pillar of KFH’s social responsibility efforts.



Fahad AlSaad



Honoring Kuwait Finance House.

He stated: “We are proud to share this exceptional milestone with the graduates of the College of Medicine, marking the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. We look forward to seeing them apply the knowledge, expertise, and skills they have ac-

quired in serving their country and contributing to the advancement of the healthcare system and the enhancement of medical services, thereby positively impacting Kuwaiti society.”

AlSaad also extended his sincere congratulations and

best wishes to the graduates and their families, wishing them continued success in their professional careers. He stressed that Kuwaiti youth represent the nation’s true wealth and that young national talents will continue to serve as the cornerstone of Kuwait’s journey toward development and innovation.

AlSaad noted that supporting and empowering youth is essential to building a more advanced and sustainable society, pointing out that the healthcare sector is among the most vital sectors deserving of support and attention due to its central role in enhancing quality of life and promoting social well-being.

KFH continues to execute specialized initiatives and programs targeting youth and students, as Kuwait’s leading strategic partner in community development and sustainability. The Bank is committed to supporting educational, training, sports, and awareness programs that contribute to developing young people’s skills and capabilities, fostering a culture of innovation and creativity, celebrating their achievements, and encouraging them to play an active role in achieving sustainable development and building a brighter future for Kuwait.

Fed hike raises borrowing costs, boosts savings rates

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): The Federal Reserve just raised the cost of money - bad news for borrowers, good news for savers.

The Fed increased its benchmark interest rate Wednesday by a quarter-point, the first rate hike since the summer of 2023. The hike will likely make it even costlier to borrow for homes, autos and other purchases. But if you’ve been socking money away, you’ll probably earn a bit more interest on your savings.

The increase boosts the Fed’s target rate to a range of 3.75% to 4.00%. Here’s what to know:

The short answer: inflation.

Inflation has remained above the Fed’s 2% target for more than five years. The Labor Department reported Friday that consumer prices rose 3.4% in August compared to a year earlier, while the monthly increase quadrupled from July to hit 0.4%.

The Fed’s goal is to slow consumer and business spending by raising the cost of borrowing, thereby reducing demand for homes, cars and other goods and services, eventually cooling the economy and reducing upward pressure on prices.

Kevin Warsh, Fed chair since May, has assured Congress that central bank policymakers “have no tolerance for persistently elevated inflation.”

Speaking to reporters Wednesday after the Fed’s meeting, Warsh argued that the rate hike will benefit lower-income Americans because they are hurt most by higher prices. “The least well off are the ones that have the most to gain from stable prices,” he said. “The decision we made today was the right decision to deliver on the remit that Congress gave us to ensure stable prices.”

Anyone borrowing money to make a sizable purchase, such as a home, car or large appliance, will likely take a hit eventually. The new rate will also increase monthly payments and costs for any consumer who is already paying interest on credit card debt.

Then again, said Matt Schulz, chief consumer finance analyst at the online loan marketplace LendingTree, “the reality is that a single quarter-point rate increase isn’t really going to have a huge impact.” But it would be different if Wednesday’s hike marks the first in a series of rate increases. “When this all becomes impactful to people is when you stack a few these on top of each other over time, and it adds up to something bigger,” Schulz said.

Fed policymakers signaled Wednesday that they expect to hike the benchmark rate again this year - to 4.1%.

For now, U.S. household debt payments are relatively low overall as a percentage of after-tax income. So even if borrowing rates rise, many households might not feel a heavier debt burden immediately.

Most likely, Wednesday’s move probably means interest rates on savings accounts and certificates of deposit are headed higher. The Fed doesn’t set rates on savings accounts and CDs but it “sets the tone for them, the credit reporting agency Experian says. When the central bank started raising rates to combat an outbreak of inflation in March 2022, the average rate on a 1-year CD was stuck at a miserly 0.15%, according to FDIC data published by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The rate shot up to 1.88% by September 2024 and has remained above 1.5%

ever since. It was 1.71% last month.

Online banks and others that offer high-yield savings accounts typically compete aggressively for depositors. (The catch: They sometimes require significantly larger deposits.)

Mortgage rates don’t necessarily follow what the Fed does. At least not directly. They tend to track the yield on 10-year Treasury notes instead. Unfortunately for home shoppers, 10-year yields have been surging. On Monday they topped 5% for the first time since 2023 due to unease over surging energy prices and massive government debt that continues to grow. Treasury yields have continued to rise despite an intervention from the Treasury after Secretary Scott Bessent ordered the U.S. to buy back government bonds in a bid to push yields down.

The rate on the benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose to 6.76% last week, the highest in more than 14 months, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said.

The high cost of home loans is already taking a toll on the housing market. The Realtors association reported last week that sales of previously occupied U.S. homes dropped for the third straight month in August, growing at the slowest pace in more than a year.

Adjustable-rate mortgages could rise in order to price in a Fed hike. But many homeowners locked in low mortgage rates when COVID-19 slammed the economy and sent borrowing costs tumbling, so they are protected if mortgage rates rise in the wake of a Fed rate hike. The National Association of Realtors reports that nearly half of mortgages outstanding are locked in at 4% or lower and almost a fifth were at 3% or lower in the first three months of 2026.

Most credit cards have variable interest rates that track the prime rate banks charge their best customers. And the prime rate responds quickly - within a month - when the Fed raises or lowers its benchmark “fed funds” rate, “meaning that the Fed’s policy changes flow through to credit card rates rapidly,” researchers at the Boston Fed wrote in March.

Schulz at LendingTree reckons that most credit cardholders will see their rates rise by a quarter-point over the next couple of months.

Many Americans, coping with the high cost of living, are increasingly relying on credit cards to help maintain their spending. Total credit card balances hit \$1.26 trillion in the second quarter - near the record \$1.28 trillion set at the end of 2025 (though the numbers are not adjusted for inflation), according to the New York Fed.

The Fed indirectly influences auto loan rates by influencing the prime rate. Cars, especially new ones, are already prohibitively expensive.

The average cost of a new car rose to \$50,089 last month, according to Kelley Blue Book. The average loan rate last month was 7% for a new car and 10.6% for a used car, according to Edmunds. And the average monthly payment, Experian reported, was \$765 in the second quarter of 2026.

“Most Americans are generally doing OK,” Schulz said. “But it wouldn’t take a whole lot for them to not be doing OK. People’s financial margin for error is generally pretty small, and just the rising cost of most everything just squeezes them more and more.”

30-year mortgage rate hits 6.76%, highest in 14 months

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): Home shoppers holding out for relief from rising mortgage rates may be in for a long wait.

The weekly average rate on a 30-year fixed-rate home loan has been rising for months and reached its highest level in over 14 months last week at 6.76%, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac.

This week’s snapshot, due out at midday Thursday, is expected to show the average rate rose again, possibly moving closer to 7%. Other mortgage trackers have already shown the average rate on a 30-year mortgage rising to just below or above 7% in recent days.

Higher mortgage rates can add hundreds of dollars a month to borrowers’ costs, limiting homebuyers’ purchasing power. As rates rise, that can also lead prospective home shoppers to delay buying.

The housing market has been stuck in a rut this year in large part because of rising borrowing costs, as mortgage rates have kept marching higher in the months since the war between the U.S. and Iran began in late February. Expectations of higher inflation amid surging oil prices have pushed up the long-term bond yields that lenders use as a guide to pricing home loans, driving mortgage rates higher.

‘A friend nearby is better than a brother far away’: Guyana Ambassador on Kuwait ties

‘Oil is a blessing, but it is not our future’

H.E. Troy F. Torrington discusses Guyana-Kuwait ties, investment, food security, tourism, trade and the importance of peace and international law with Arab Times.



By John C. Fernandes  
Online Media Manager – Arab Times

NEARLY two years into his diplomatic assignment in Kuwait, H.E. Troy F. Torrington, the Ambassador of Guyana to Kuwait says his experience in the country has been marked by warm hospitality, strong cooperation and close relations with Kuwaiti authorities and the diplomatic community.

Reflecting on his time in Kuwait, the ambassador said the experience has been “really wonderful,” noting that the pace of life is different from the multilateral diplomatic environment in which he spent much of his career at the United Nations.

He expressed his appreciation to the government and people of Kuwait for the hospitality extended to him and his wife, saying they have enjoyed close cooperation with Kuwaiti authorities, colleagues and fellow diplomats.

The ambassador also highlighted the friendly atmosphere within Kuwait’s diplomatic community, saying relations extend beyond official engagements to social activities, including playing soccer together.

In this interview with Arab Times, H.E. Troy F. Torrington discusses Guyana-Kuwait relations, opportunities for greater economic and trade cooperation, Guyana’s rapidly developing oil sector, tourism and efforts to strengthen ties between Guyana and Kuwait and the wider Gulf region.

**Arab Times:** Guyana and Kuwait have maintained friendly relations for many years. How would you describe the current state of bilateral relations, and what are the key areas where you believe cooperation between the two countries can be further strengthened?

**H.E. Troy F. Torrington:** The Government and people of Guyana have considerable gratitude to Kuwait for its long-standing friendship. This year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and I would characterize the relationship today as extremely strong and very promising.

In a word, our relationship is mature, with very good possibilities for strengthening it further in several areas. One of the most important is the economic and trade relationship.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, both Guyana and Kuwait have undergone tremendous transformation. For Guyana in particular, the past five to seven years have been transformative, as the country has emerged as a significant oil and gas producer. This has changed our economic outlook, our fortunes and, consequently, the nature of our relationship with Kuwait.

We have looked closely at Kuwait’s own development trajectory as an oil and gas producer and at some of the significant and positive changes that this has enabled for the people of Kuwait. There are important lessons and opportunities for collaboration, and I believe the possibilities for economic cooperation between Guyana and Kuwait are immense.

At the same time, we have to be pragmatic. Geographic distance can sometimes make certain initiatives challenging, although it should not be an excuse. We therefore need to look critically at the areas that can deliver the greatest value to both countries. Rather than pursuing a very broad range of projects, I believe we should focus on two or three strategic undertakings that can help move the relationship from having a strong framework, with many agreements already in place, to achieving tangible results.

Beyond the economic sphere, political cooperation is also very important. Guyana and Kuwait already collaborate in various international forums, particularly within the United Nations. This is significant because both are small states,



H.E. Troy F. Torrington, Guyana Ambassador to Kuwait

and we have an important role to play in shaping the global normative framework and defending the rules by which the international community operates.

Given the realities around us, it is increasingly important that there are rules that are respected by all and that countries demonstrate solidarity with one another. This has been a feature of Kuwait’s diplomacy, particularly its role as a strong humanitarian champion in many areas. Guyana shares that commitment.

Beyond the economic sphere, political collaboration is also important. Guyana and Kuwait already cooperate in various international forums, particularly at the United Nations.

As two small states, we share an interest in a rules-based international system and in demonstrating solidarity on issues of peace, security and development. Kuwait has also been a strong humanitarian champion, a commitment that Guyana shares.

So, beyond the dollars and cents, we should also look at how we can leverage our relationship internationally and amplify our voices on issues of common concern.

As we say in Guyana, “Very often, a friend nearby or a friend close at hand is better than a brother that is far away.”

**AT:** What opportunities does Guyana see for expanding trade and investment with Kuwait and other Gulf countries? Are there particular sectors where you would like to see greater participation by Kuwaiti investors?

**Ambassador Torrington:** I believe Guyana can be a reliable partner in the Gulf’s food security and economic diversification agenda. With the transformation Guyana has undergone, particularly following the emergence of the oil and gas sector, the stage has been set for meaningful collaboration, especially in food security.

Agriculture has traditionally been one of Guyana’s primary income-generating sectors. The development of oil and gas has helped ease some of the energy constraints that previously affected manufacturing and industry, opening new opportunities for agricultural processing and value-added production.

I believe this is one area where Guyana, Kuwait and the Gulf region as a whole can develop much closer relations.

Another area is finance. Guyana’s financial market is still developing, and this presents opportunities for greater collaboration, particularly as geographic distance is less of a constraint in financial services.

Tourism is another promising area. Historically, there has not been significant tourism exchange between Guyana and the Gulf, but I believe conditions are now more favorable for developing stronger links in this sector.

**AT:** Kuwait’s new investment rule set to be implemented in Feb 2027, may create both opportunities and challenges for private traders. Do you expect the changes to make Kuwait more attractive to foreign investors, or could increase regulations discourage smaller businesses?

**Ambassador Torrington:** I would make two points. First, good

regulation protects the market. Second, good implementation makes compliance achievable. These two considerations have to be balanced.

In any country, appropriate legislation is necessary to create a proper platform for investment. My understanding is that Kuwait’s anti-commercial concealment law is expected to take effect early next year, and this should help promote greater transparency. Enhancing investor confidence through transparency is certainly welcome.

At the same time, entities need to have the capacity to comply. Procedures should be clear and as simple as possible. From my experience so far, I have confidence that this is being addressed. I have had some interaction with Kuwait’s investment promotion agency, and I find it very advanced, almost a model for others. The ability to clearly understand the regulations, what is required and what opportunities are available is extremely helpful to investors.

Ultimately, Kuwait’s regulations are for Kuwait to determine, but at this stage, I do not see them as a significant threat to attracting investment. From my own comparison with Guyana’s framework, I would describe the approach as fairly balanced and attractive.

Guyana has also introduced safeguards as our economy has attracted increasing investor interest. We have what we call local content legislation, which is intended to protect the interests of Guyanese citizens. Investment remains open, investors can repatriate funds and own property, but certain areas require participation by local businesses or citizens.

The underlying consideration is similar: governments need to ensure that their citizens benefit from economic development and do not become second-class citizens in their own country. So, while I would not claim to be an expert on Kuwait’s legislation, I can certainly see the importance of transparency and the confidence it can provide investors. The key is finding the right balance between regulation, investor confidence and protection of the local population.

**AT:** With oil production expanding rapidly, how is Guyana ensuring that its economy does not become overly dependent on petroleum? Which non-oil sectors do you see as having the greatest potential for future growth?

**Ambassador Torrington:** Thank you. This is a very important question and one that is very close to our hearts in terms of Guyana’s overall development planning. It is an issue that has received considerable attention from the leadership of Guyana. President Mohamed Irfaan Ali was also asked about this recently in an interview with Al Jazeera.

From the outset, we have been very deliberate in ensuring that Guyana does not become overly dependent on its natural resources or fall victim to what is commonly described as the “Dutch disease.” For Guyana, this has not been particularly difficult because, although oil and gas now have a major impact on the economy, agriculture remains the predominant sector in terms of livelihoods.

Agriculture has historically been fundamental to Guyana. We continue to produce significant quantities of sugar, rice, fresh vegetables,

fruits and a range of non-traditional crops and products. Guyana is often described as a major agricultural basket of the Caribbean because of the availability of arable land. Even the name Guyana means “land of many waters.” As a tropical country, agriculture has enormous potential.

Previously, agriculture faced two major constraints: access to affordable energy and, related to that, transportation and storage. Freezing and storage facilities, for example, were expensive because they required significant amounts of energy. Those constraints have now been considerably reduced. We therefore believe Guyana can become a reliable producer of agricultural products and use agriculture as one of the main pillars for ensuring that we are not overly dependent on oil and that we have a sustainable economic model.

Another important element is how we manage our oil revenues. Most of our oil and gas resources are being channeled into our version of a sovereign wealth fund, the Natural Resource Fund. The government must go to Parliament to make withdrawals from the fund. At the same time, we are deliberately investing in other sectors, particularly agriculture, infrastructure, human capacity, education and health.

Tourism is another area with significant potential. Our financial sector is also still developing. We have a relatively young stock exchange, and we believe financial services can become an important area of growth.

The expansion of the oil and gas sector is also creating opportunities in other areas that normally accompany such growth, particularly construction and real estate. Construction is now one of the largest areas of economic activity after agriculture. There has been a significant increase in demand for housing, driven in part by the influx of expatriates and the need for new housing stock.

We are seeing high-end developments, gated communities, hotels and apartments, while at the same time there is substantial unmet demand for improved housing among low- and middle-income households. So construction, real estate, housing, agriculture and infrastructure development all have considerable potential over the next 20 to 30 years.

One of the major projects we are undertaking is the Gas-to-Energy project, which will bring natural gas onshore and support industrial development. Guyana produces significant quantities of bauxite and gold, while sugar remains an important sector, but historically we have not had sufficient capacity for secondary processing and manufacturing. With greater access to energy, we can move toward more value-added production and light manufacturing.

We are also closely monitoring the growth of the non-oil economy. Non-oil sectors are projected to grow by about 11 percent this year, which is significant in itself. This allows us to save more of our oil revenues while continuing to invest in national development.

We are not yet at the level of Norway in terms of savings, but we believe we also have to invest quickly because we want Guyana to remain on a low-carbon development trajectory. We are strong advocates of climate action and want to ensure that our infrastructure and economy transition toward a lower-carbon future.

Oil is a blessing for Guyana, but we do not see it as our future. Our objective is to build sustainable and viable industries outside the oil sector. So far, I believe we have been on a good path because, from the outset, we have had a clear strategy not to focus exclusively on oil.

**AT:** Guyana remains relatively unknown to many Gulf travelers. What are the biggest obstacles preventing Guyana from becoming a major tourism destination, and what can Kuwait and Guyana do to change that?

Continued on Page 10

Two weekly flights to operate from 17 Dec

Jazeera Airways & CzechTourism launch first ever winter flights to Prague at ATM 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait’s leading low-cost carrier, in partnership with CzechTourism, has announced the launch of the first-ever winter flights from Kuwait to Prague, giving travellers a new opportunity to experience the Czech capital during one of its most magical seasons.

Starting 17 December, Jazeera Airways will operate direct flights twice weekly between Kuwait and Prague, conveniently timed around the school winter holidays and the festive travel period. This new route will be open until 7 February 2027 and marks an important development for the Kuwait-Prague route, extending a destination traditionally served by Jazeera during the popular European summer season into winter for the first time.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: “Prague has always been a very popular summer destination with our passengers, and we are delighted to take the next step by introducing our first winter flights to the Czech capital. With the school holidays and Prague’s festive season, it is a great time to visit. In winter, the city offers a completely different and most magical experience including the winter markets, castles and overall celebratory atmosphere. At Jazeera Airways, together with CzechTourism, we are happy to offer travellers from Kuwait the opportunity to explore Prague in this season. This new service also demonstrates our commitment to developing successful seasonal routes to meet growing market demands.”

With its historic Old Town, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, charming riverside districts, world-class museums and galleries, vibrant café culture, and rich cultural heritage, Prague has long been a favorite European destination for travelers from Kuwait and the wider region. During winter, the city offers a distinctly different experience, with festive markets, seasonal celebrations, illuminated streets and squares, as well as winter cuisine.

Prague’s famous winter markets, including the celebrations around Old Town Square, are among the highlights of the city’s festive season, making it particularly attractive for families and leisure travelers looking for a European winter break.

Mrs. Barbara Andelová, International Marketing - Middle East and India, CzechTourism, said,

“We are delighted to partner with Jazeera Airways in introducing the first-ever winter flights between Kuwait and Prague. While Prague is already a well-loved destination among travellers from Kuwait during the summer months, winter reveals a different side of the city, with its festive markets, historic landmarks, cultural experiences and unique seasonal atmosphere. This new service will make it even easier for visitors from Kuwait and the wider region to discover the beauty of the Czechia during one of the most enchanting times of the year. We look forward to welcoming more visitors and further strengthening tourism ties between our two countries.”

Jazeera Airways first launched direct flights between Kuwait and Prague in June 2022, becoming an important direct link between Kuwait and the Czech Republic. Following the success of its inaugural season, Jazeera Airways returned to Prague as part of its European summer network, giving travelers



J9 x CzechTourism Prague

from Kuwait convenient and affordable nonstop access to the Czech capital. Flights are available for booking through Jazeera Airways’ website: [jazeera-airways.com](http://jazeera-airways.com) and mobile application.

**About Jazeera Airways**  
Founded in 2004, Jazeera Airways is a leading low-cost carrier based in Kuwait, serving over 5 million passengers across a network of more than 60 destinations in the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Africa, and Europe. Dedicated to offering affordable, high-quality air travel, Jazeera Airways caters to business, leisure, religious, and weekend travellers, all while maintaining the highest standards of safety and customer service.

Jazeera Airways currently operates a modern and efficient fleet of 23 Airbus A320ceo and A320neo aircraft, enabling it to optimize fuel efficiency and reduce environmental impact. 26 new aircraft from its orderbook, 18 A320neos and 8 A321neos are expected to arrive 2026 onwards.

The only publicly traded airline on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa Kuwait), Jazeera Airways was recognized as a Fortune 500 Arabia company and named “Great Place to Work”.

A trailblazer in the aviation sector, Jazeera Airways has introduced several digital initiatives to its customer experience and is one of the first to design, build, and operate its own terminal, Jazeera Terminal 5 (T5), at the Kuwait International Airport.

For more information visit: [www.jazeeraairways.com](http://www.jazeeraairways.com)

**About Czechia**  
Czechia in Central Europe is a country that’s known for over twelve hundred castles, sixteen UNESCO World Heritage Sites, natural healing waters and traditional European thermal spas, sophisticated crystal design and glass-

works with a long history. The country has mild climate and cozy atmosphere, with well-preserved architecture across the ages, gentle rolling hills, deep green forests and natural lakes creating unique landscape. There is lot more to be discovered beyond the “crown jewel” of the destination - Prague- like the famous spa triangle in Western Bohemia (Karlovy Vary being the most known), Czechia has picturesque historical towns like Český Krumlov, Telč, Olomouc. The South Moravian region is a culturally rich destination, with vibrant city Brno as the region capital. Stunning Lednice – Valtice complex in vicinity. Embrace the magic of Czechia and explore a realm of cultural wonders and breathtaking beauty.

For more information, check out our website and our Instagram: <https://www.visitczechia.com/en-us>; [https://www.instagram.com/visitczechia\\_ar/](https://www.instagram.com/visitczechia_ar/)

**About VFS Global Tourism Services**  
VFS Global has established its regional and global footprints in the space of tourism services, complementing its core visa services business. With 16 years of experience, the Tourism Services Unit has served more than 25 destinations. The team partners client destinations, across different countries, to enable the achievement of their travel and tourism promotional objectives and business targets. We specialize in destination representation, outsourced tourism office management and trade support services for national tourism authorities from client governments. We facilitate them in a wide range of destination promotional activities.

Some of the key services include dedicated tourism support offices, destination training, product development, B2B roadshows & workshops, consumer events, digital campaigns, MICE engagement program, public relations and e-learning modules. The team is able to partner client destinations across different countries to deliver the desired tourist arrival and spend targets.

**About VFS Global**  
As the global leader in trusted technology services, empowering secure mobility for governments and citizens, VFS Global embraces technological innovation, including Generative AI, to support governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. The company manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to applications for visa, passport, and consular services for its client governments, increasing productivity and enabling them to focus entirely on the critical task of assessment.

With a responsible approach to technology development, adoption and integration, the company prioritises ethical practices and sustainability while serving as the trusted partner to 71 client governments. Operating over 4,200 Application Centres in 170 countries, VFS Global has efficiently processed more than 562 million transactions\* since 2001.

Headquartered in Zurich and Dubai, VFS Global is majority owned by Blackstone, the world’s largest alternative asset manager, along with minority shareholders including Swiss-based Kuoni and Hugenotbler Foundation, Singapore based Temasek and UAE based Dubai Holdings.

■ Comprising 346.74 million transactions by VFS Global and 215.82 million transactions by CIX Citizen Experience

**Media Contact:** [communications@vfsglobal.com](mailto:communications@vfsglobal.com)

Macron links Hormuz tensions to fuel prices

PARIS, Sept 17, (KUNA): France’s President Emmanuel Macron said late Wednesday that the “priority is to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for oil transport.”

On X, Macron said, “when oil is under pressure, prices at the pump rise, I know what this means for the French people.”

He added, “events taking place thousands of kilometers away inevitably impact our daily lives, that is why I am taking action to ease tensions, secure our supplies, and relieve pressure on prices.”

The French leader added, following my discussions with the Iraqi Prime Minister earlier this week, I spoke to-

day with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and the Amir of Qatar.”

Macron said, the “priority is to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for oil transport, protect our partners’ energy infrastructure, and secure production.”

He added that “this is essential to guaranteeing our supplies.”

Macron said, “we are working on this with our partners in the coalition for freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.”

Macron added, “easing tensions, securing oil supplies, relieving pressure on prices at the pump. That, too, is what protecting the French people is all about.”

Continued from Page 9

**Ambassador Torrington:** Guyana should be known as a premium, sustainable nature destination rather than simply another mass-market tourism stops. I take your implied criticism that Guyana is perhaps not as well-known as it should be. We accept some responsibility for that, but we are working to change it.

In fact, Guyana is one of the best-kept secrets in tourism. For several years, it has been ranked among the leading ecotourism destinations. We have a largely unspoiled environment, with about 85 percent of the country covered by pristine forest. Historically, we have not focused on tourism as a major industry because our tourism model is different from the traditional sun, sand and sea model. Our product is ecotourism — being in harmony with nature and interacting with it. We also believe our people are among our greatest assets because of their hospitality.

Tourism has grown significantly over the past four or five years, with visitor numbers increasing year after year. With the internet and digital platforms, we have fewer excuses today for not promoting Guyana more effectively. We have been reaching out to tourism agencies and other partners to strengthen our image and bring more information about Guyana to international travelers.

There is also growing interest from the Gulf. Qatar has been engaging with Guyana on a major tourism resort project that could include hundreds of rooms. We also have growing cooperation with the UAE, including Dubai and Abu Dhabi, as well as some engagement with Saudi Arabia. Kuwait was also among the countries that showed interest early on, but the number of visitors from Kuwait remains very low — fewer than 20 a year at present. So, there is considerable potential, and we need to develop tourism packages and initiatives specifically aimed at the Kuwaiti and wider Gulf markets.

One of Guyana’s greatest strengths is its diversity. People of different ethnicities and faiths live together in harmony. We have large Indo-Guyanese and Afro-Guyanese communities, as well as significant indigenous populations. Indigenous communities have special status and protected reserves, and permission is required to enter some of these areas. They have preserved their traditional way of life and are regarded as custodians of our forests and some of our greatest natural treasures.

One of those treasures is Kaieteur Falls, one of Guyana’s most famous attractions and the world’s highest single-drop waterfall. I believe the Kaieteur experience is something every Gulf traveler should have.

Our cultural diversity is equally important. Guyana has significant Christian, Muslim and Hindu communities, and it is common to see a mosque, temple and church in the same area. We celebrate festivals including Eid, Ramadan, Holi, Diwali and Christmas. Guyana is also unique as the only English-speaking country in South America.

Although we are geographically in South America, we share many cultural and historical links with the Caribbean. Guyana is a mainland country with considerable land resources, and the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean could fit within Guyana in terms of land area. This creates an opportunity to develop combined tourism packages linking Guyana with established Caribbean destinations such as Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Guyana component would bring a different dimension, particularly ecotourism and nature-based experiences. Our tourism infrastructure is developing, but we do



H.E. Troy F. Torrington, John Fernandes and Muaz Yousef (First Secretary and Consul)

not want to over-commercialize the sector. We want Guyana to remain unique. It is not intended to be another Tahiti or Barbados; it offers a different experience.

There are also growing links between Guyana and countries such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and increasingly Egypt. These connections, along with the cultural affinities between Guyana, the Gulf and parts of the Caribbean, could make travel between the regions more feasible and interesting.

Egypt, in particular, has emerged as a significant market. The volume of applications has grown so substantially that we are still developing the capacity to process them. Travel agents are also playing an important role in facilitating travel, and there may be lessons from the Egyptian market that can be applied to the Gulf.

At present, some travelers use routes through the Gulf or Egypt and Turkey, Istanbul, before continuing through Panama to Guyana. President Ali’s recent official visit to Qatar also included discussions on establishing more direct connectivity with Guyana. Once such arrangements come to fruition, they could provide easier travel options and hopefully encourage greater visitor numbers from the Gulf.

Ultimately, I believe the opportunity is there. Guyana can offer Gulf travelers something different: pristine nature, ecotourism, cultural diversity, warm hospitality and a genuine connection with the environment. Our objective is to build the tourism sector while preserving what makes Guyana unique.

**AT:** As a growing oil producer, does Guyana see the Middle East conflict and disruptions to major energy routes as an opportunity to strengthen its position in global energy markets, or does it fear the wider economic consequences?

**Ambassador Torrington:** This is a very important question. For us, energy security is strengthened by reliable supply, while lasting security comes from peace and stable trade routes. So I cannot overemphasize that we do not view the current conflict or disruptions to energy routes as an opportunity for Guyana.

We are very much committed to peace. We have expressed our solidarity on several occasions with the government and people of Kuwait, and it is our hope that the conflict will be resolved as soon as possible so that regular trade routes and normal commercial activity can resume.

We do not see ourselves as being in competition with the Gulf oil producers. Guyana occupies a different position in the global energy market and, in many respects, our production can be complementary to what is produced in the Gulf.

Guyana is still a relatively small producer at the global level, although our growth has been extremely rap-

id. Seven or eight years ago, we were producing no oil at all. Today, production is around 1.2 million barrels per day and is continuing to expand. Much of our crude is light oil, with significant volumes going to markets such as India and the United States.

It is true that we have seen increased revenues because of the current situation in global energy markets, but we regard that as a temporary bonus rather than something on which our economic future should depend. Our economic planning is based on sustainable oil prices rather than exceptionally high prices.

At the same time, Guyana is affected by higher global oil prices because, despite being a major new oil producer, we still import petroleum products. The entire Caribbean is affected, and higher energy prices contribute significantly to inflation. In fact, for Guyana, the global price of oil is one of the biggest contributors to inflation.

We have therefore had to take measures to cushion the impact on the population, including cash grants. It is not something governments necessarily want to rely on because such measures can create dependency, but where inflation has eroded people’s livelihoods, the government has a responsibility to provide support. Fortunately, Guyana has had the fiscal space to do so. Many other Caribbean countries have not had the same capacity and have had to take on significant debt.

Our broader position is based on principles. We strongly believe in territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-intervention in the affairs of states and the peaceful settlement of disputes. These are not simply abstract principles for Guyana; they come from our own history.

**Venezuela: Diplomacy, Not Conflict**

We have a long-standing territorial controversy with Venezuela. Guyana’s position has consistently been that disputes should be resolved through diplomacy and international law. Ultimately, we were compelled to take the matter to the International Court of Justice because we believe agreements must be honored and that the international order depends on states respecting their commitments.

Our experience has reinforced our belief that international law and multilateral institutions are particularly important for small states. When there is an asymmetry of power, smaller countries cannot always rely solely on bilateral negotiations. Rules and institutions provide an important framework for protecting the rights and interests of all states.

Interestingly, despite the territorial dispute, Guyana has welcomed significant numbers of Venezuelan migrants. Our differences are not with the people of Venezuela. We have also had periods of very good

relations with Venezuela. During the period of Hugo Chavez, for example, the Petrocaribe initiative allowed Venezuela to provide subsidized oil to Caribbean countries, while Guyana supplied rice. It was an example of how neighbors could cooperate for mutual benefit.

The Venezuelan situation also provides an important lesson for Guyana: simply possessing natural resources does not automatically translate into tangible benefits for the population. That is why we are focused on ensuring that our people benefit from our oil resources through infrastructure, improved living standards, local participation and savings for future generations.

This also connects with our climate policy. People sometimes ask how Guyana can be a major oil producer while also describing itself as a climate champion. Our position is that these objectives are not contradictory. Guyana has one of the world’s most heavily forested territories, with about 85 percent of the country covered by forest, much of it within the Amazon rainforest.

We have therefore played a significant role in developing mechanisms to protect forests and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Our partnership with Norway helped demonstrate how countries can be incentivized to preserve standing forests, and this experience contributed to the development of the broader REDD+ framework and the growth of carbon-credit markets.

Climate change is also a very practical issue for Guyana. Georgetown, our capital, is below sea level, and much of our population lives along the coast. The country depends on sea defenses and drainage systems to protect communities from the Atlantic Ocean. Rising sea levels have increased the pressure on those systems.

For us, therefore, climate change is not an abstract issue. It is an existential concern. We believe Guyana can contribute to the global climate effort while using its natural resources responsibly to improve the lives of its people.

And this brings me back to the importance of diplomacy. As a small country, we do not seek to compete through military strength. We invest in diplomacy and in international law. Principles such as territorial integrity, sovereignty and freedom of the seas matter greatly to small states.

Guyana and Kuwait have worked closely at the United Nations, including on issues concerning international peace and security. During Guyana’s term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, we worked closely with Kuwait on issues of importance to Kuwait, including the arrangements surrounding the conclusion of the UN mission in Iraq and the continuing issues relating to missing persons and Kuwait’s national archives.

Our cooperation also extends to UN reform and Security Council reform. These are examples of how small states can have an influence beyond their size when they work together and defend principles that are important to the international community.

Ultimately, Guyana’s position is clear: we do not want conflict or disruption of energy routes to continue. We want stable trade, reliable energy supplies and peaceful relations among states. Any temporary increase in oil revenues is not a substitute for that stability.

Oil is a blessing for Guyana, but it is not what we see as our future. Our future is a diversified, sustainable economy in which oil revenues are used to build other sectors, improve the lives of our people and preserve opportunities for future generations.

NEW YORK  
FASHION



Models walk the runway during the Thom Browne Spring/Summer 2027 presentation as part of New York Fashion Week on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026, in New York. (AP)

Riot of color hits runway  
Spring staples  
get a  
joyful reboot

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): Across the runways this New York Fashion Week, designers reimagined spring dressing by shaking up the season's staples of florals and pastels, opting instead for more modern and irreverent trends.

From legacy brands to emerging talents, designers including Tory Burch, Ralph Lauren and Eckhaus Latta brought joy back to dressing with sartorial twists on color, movement and contrasts that could easily transition off the Spring/Summer 2027 catwalks and into New York's busy streets.

While New York Fashion Week is only the first stop for celebrities and fashion editors before seeing what London, Milan and Paris have in store, the celebratory tone is bound to be contagious.

Designers had a lot to celebrate, with many marking career milestones: Rachel Comey notched 25 years, Michael Kors and Carolina Herrera revealed in 45-year anniversaries for their brands, and Coach hit a storied 85 years.

Coach sent models down the runway in party hats, glittering gowns with colorful large bow trains, and gift-wrapped present accessories for its anniversary.

InStyle Fashion director Kevin Huynh said designers are waving goodbye to the quiet luxury era and leaning into vibrancy.

"We're really stepping into like, more is more," he told

The Associated Press, "but not in that dopamine dressing where everything feels haphazardly put on, but like a real sense of vibrancy and excitement."

At Eckhaus Latta, designers Mike Eckhaus and Zoe Latta feted their J.Crew collaboration with confetti. Guests were told to open envelopes on their seats at the sound of laughter during the second half of their show and toss rainbow confetti onto the runway.

Thom Browne, who often leans into whimsy, created a show inspired by "A Bug's Life," with a giant indoor garden and models dripping in green crystals that hung from layered suiting. Some channeled actual ladybugs and butterflies with giant colorful hoop skirts, and jackets that looked like cocoons, eliciting smiles from the crowd.

Designers may not be feeling blue this season, but the color was certainly interwoven throughout their collections.

Ralph Lauren played with a palette of blues - from his classic denim to satin and lace gowns, to suiting and blue fur and feather collars. Tommy Hilfiger said he often takes his inspiration from nautical flags, so primary colors - including navy - were prevalent on classic and oversized blazers and rugby shirt stripes on his runway at The Plaza Hotel. Tory Burch styled turquoise and navy, and Henry Zankov delivered teal on the runway this season for Diane von Furstenberg.



Books

Spencer recalls traumatic days

Buckingham Palace hits back at Diana’s brother’s book claims

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): Buckingham Palace has forcefully denied a claim by the brother of the late Princess Diana that King Charles III said she would soon be forgotten after her death.

In a new book, Charles Spencer recounts the traumatic days after Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997 at the age of 36. He alleges that he argued with the then-Prince Charles, Diana’s estranged husband, over palace plans for Prince William and Prince Harry to walk behind her coffin during the funeral procession.

Spencer says he told the now-king that Diana would not have wanted her sons, then aged 15 and 12, to undergo the ordeal. He claims Charles told him: “rest assured, we’ll forget her soon enough.” He accuses Charles of having “contempt” for his ex-wife.

Buckingham Palace responded late Wednesday with an extremely



From left: Britain’s Prince Philip, Prince William, Earl Spencer, Prince Harry and Prince Charles walk outside Westminster Abbey during the funeral procession for Diana, Princess of Wales, Sept. 6, 1997. (AP)

strong statement by the measured standards of the royal household. “While we do not comment on books as a matter of principle, His

Majesty is mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgment and color memory in ways others do not recognize, even many years after such a loss,” it said.

Tensions between the palace and Diana’s aristocratic Spencer relatives after her death have been much discussed, and were dramatized in the film “The Queen” and TV series “The Crown.”

Many felt the palace was slow to acknowledge the global outpouring of grief at Diana’s death, which forced the royals to recognize that Diana’s common touch had connected with people in ways that eluded the rest of the royal family. The more emotionally literate approach of Prince William and Prince Harry – and, in recent years, the king – is a legacy of that time.

“Swan Song: Diana, My Sister” is due to be published next week. The Daily Mail published the first in a series of extracts late Wednesday.



Egyptian Ambassador to Bern Mohamed Negm receives the archaeological artifact from Swiss authorities. (KUNA)

Preserving cultural heritage

Egypt repatriates ancient golden mummy mask from Switzerland

CAIRO, Sept 17, (KUNA): Egypt announced Wednesday the recovery of an ancient golden mummy mask from Switzerland as part of its ongoing efforts to retrieve Egyptian antiquities taken out of the country illegally.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Egyptian Ambassador to Switzerland Mohamed Negm received the artifact from Swiss authorities on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The handover ceremony was attended by the head of the Central Administration for the Recovery of Antiquities at Egypt’s Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The ministry highlighted the close and growing cooperation between Egypt and Switzerland in various fields, particularly the protection of cultural property and combating illicit trafficking in antiquities.

Music

Four artists lead with 7 nominations

Rosalía, Drexler, Karol G top Latin Grammy nods

MEXICO CITY, Sept 17, (AP): A fight of titans is coming up for the 27th edition of the Latin Grammys with singers Karol G, Rosalía, Jorge Drexler and hip hop duo Ca7riel & Paco Amoroso as the most nominated artists revealed on Wednesday.

The four acts have seven mentions each and compete in the categories of album, song and record of the year. They have very varied styles, ranging from reggaeton to alternative music inspired by folklore and a little bit of rock. Most of them are in their thirties while the revered Drexler is days away from his 62nd birthday.

They are closely followed by Silvana Estrada and Mon Laferte with six nominations each, including their own for record of the year, album of the year, and song of the year. Argentine rapper Milo J with five, and the nominee for best new artist Arath Herce, with four, are the other top nominees.

Looking at them all from above is once again Edgar Barrera with 10 nominations, including producer and composer of the year, in addition to two nods for song of the year.

The Latin Grammy ceremony will be broadcast live on Nov. 12 from the MGM Grand Las Vegas and promises to be a night of high stakes as those tied for the most nominations have previously been awarded by the Latin Recording Academy.



Ca7riel, left, and Paco Amoroso pose in the press room with the awards for best long and short form music video, best pop song , best alternative music video and best alternative song during the 2025 Latin Grammys on Nov. 13, 2025, in Las Vegas. (AP)

Ca7riel & Paco Amoroso are the most recent winners to join the group of Latin Grammy holders since last year. Drexler is the group’s top winner with 16, followed by Rosalía with 11.

Here’s what to know about this very competitive group, their nominated albums and their musical projects.

Since it was announced that Catalan star Rosalía would be releasing a multilingual album inspired by the

lives of female saints, the bells of a probable Latin Grammy nomination began ringing and suspicions were confirmed on Wednesday when “LUX (Complete Works)” was nominated for album of the year. Rosalía won best new artist in 2017 for her debut “Los Angeles” and has since been an academy favorite with releases such as “El mal querer” and “Motomami.” For the 27th edition of the Latin Grammys, her anthem of spite “La Perla” with Yahiriza y

Su Esencia, which she has said is inspired by Paquita la del Barrio’s “Rata de dos patas,” is nominated for record and song of the year. Rosalía is also competing in the categories of pop song, alternative music album, Portuguese language song and short form music video.

Every time Jorge Drexler wins a Latin Grammy, the Uruguayan-born musician seems dumbfounded by the academy’s recognition, although he should already be used to it with three Latin Grammys for song of the year under his belt. Once again, he competes in his strong category with “¿Como se ama?” thanks to his album “Taracá.” He will also compete for alternative song, singer-songwriter album, singer-songwriter song and roots song. We hope that this time he will go with a prepared speech.

Argentinian duo CA7RIEL & Paco Amoroso made waves with their 2024 debut “BAÑO MARÍA,” which led to a celebrated Tiny Desk concert, international tours and over-the-top fame that they later criticized on their subsequent album “PAPO-TA.” That second disc saw them enter the Latin Grammys in a big way as nominees for album of the year and winners of five gramophones, including best alternative music album. After this, they tried to return to their origins with a spiritual introspection helped by Sting.

‘We don’t need new laws, new regulations’

Tech industry divided over AI slowdown efforts

WASHINGTON, Sept 17, (AP): Fears about out-of-control artificial intelligence and suggestions to hit the brakes on the technology’s development aren’t new, but they have recently found new life as warnings about rogue AI systems causing mayhem grow louder.

Several leading AI executives recently voiced agreement on a need for a coordinated slowdown, including international collaboration, to protect humanity from worst-case scenarios. But there are divided opinions, with some tech leaders bristling at the idea that their companies could not ensure safety on their own.

Here’s a look at what some of the major players have said.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has issued the most detailed plans for slowing development and ushering in coordination across different companies and countries. Anthropic has long positioned itself as the more responsible and safety-minded of the leading AI companies, ever since its founders quit OpenAI to form the startup in 2021.

One of the most widely noted proposals from a recent essay outlining his slowdown plan 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 has committed to doing this, as has OpenAI.

Amodei 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.

His plan also includes the U.S. and other countries working to coordinate with “authoritarian governments.” He acknowledged the difficulty, specifically citing challenges in getting cooperation from China.

Amodei said he knows accomplishing his proposals wouldn’t be easy, but that he believes “we owe it to humanity to try.”

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has voiced support for pacing development and moving toward more cooperation across the industry.



World and AI leaders gather at the UK AI Safety Summit in Bletchley Park, Nov. 2, 2023.

Days before Amodei’s essay was published, OpenAI posted a lengthy text outlining how the company was pushing for mandatory national safety requirements and continuing to support state legislation that “strengthens the broader AI safety ecosystem.” The company also expressed support for working with other frontier AI labs – with or without government support – and working to build global standards.

“We will advocate for compatible international approaches to measuring capabilities, managing risk, preserving human control, and determining when and how development should slow or stop, even if that means slowing the advancement of model capabilities,” Chris Lehane, OpenAI’s chief global affairs officer, wrote in the post.

OpenAI’s vision for an ideal federal framework, Lehane said, includes developing “common testing and independent-assessment requirements, stronger cybersecurity protections, clear incident-reporting rules, greater national preparedness, and shared measures for tracking progress toward recursive self-improvement,” or when AI systems independently improve themselves.

Altman has been clear in recent comments that the “pacing” of AI development doesn’t mean stopping. AI

progress will continue to be rapid, Altman said on X. “But it should be slower than it otherwise could be; interventions like safety cases and monitoring have significant costs.”

“Pacing will be well worth this cost,” he said, adding that “no amount of American competitive pressure should justify recklessness.”

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has pushed back against the idea of a coordinated slowdown.

Zuckerberg, whose vision of AI’s future is more optimistic than some of his peers’, said each AI company should independently ensure its technology is safe, distancing himself and Meta from slowdown talks.

AI companies are already motivated to develop their models in a safe way and face “significant liability” to prevent them from causing harm, Zuckerberg said. “Every lab has the responsibility and incentive to move at the pace required to train its models safely, and the ability to take its own actions to ensure that happens,” he wrote on X.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has also criticized the push to slow down. He has said each individual company should instead pace itself until it’s confident it’s releasing something the market would

appreciate.

“The market forces are already there – we don’t need any new laws, we don’t need new regulations,” Huang said, arguing innovation and safety aren’t mutually exclusive. “You can definitely have both at the same time.”

Elon Musk backed the idea of a slowdown and was voicing similar AI safety concerns long before the latest flare-up.

Musk, the founder of xAI and a slew of other tech ventures, reposted Amodei’s essay on X and added, “Dario is right.”

He later wrote online that he has been “sounding the alarm on AI for a long time.” In an interview with the Economist this summer, Musk suggested the leadership from the major AI labs should be meeting to discuss safety and security issues, and that competitors should test each other’s models for areas of concern.

“I think it’s quite difficult for someone in the government who doesn’t have a deep technical understanding and isn’t driving the frontier of AI to know whether something should be released or not. However, the competitors, if given a week or two to review a new model, can highlight issues and have an incentive to keep the others honest,” Musk said.

Calls for AI safeguards

King Charles meets AI leaders

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): King Charles III on Thursday urged senior leaders from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google DeepMind and Nvidia to make sure that artificial intelligence remains under control and in the service of people and the planet.

The gathering in Scotland was convened to discuss how AI can benefit society, and comes at a pivotal moment for the technology as debate swirls around whether rapid advances will soon put it beyond the ability of humans to rein it in.

“The development of AI – its substance and its pace – are both intriguing and deeply concerning in equal measure,” the king said in his opening remarks.

The “existential dangers of such technologies falling into the wrong hands, and being used in potentially catastrophic ways” should be urgently considered, he said.

“Surely, then, we need sufficient means of control before it is all too late?”

The king asked attendees, including Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Google DeepMind Chair Demis Hassabis, to consider the “fundamental principles” that should guide AI development.

ChatGPT maker OpenAI’s Chief Financial Officer Sarah Friar was also at the meeting, along with Britain’s AI Minister Kanishka Narayan. An Anthropic representative was also expected to attend, according to a Buckingham Palace statement.

The meeting comes as global attention focuses on AI’s breakneck progress and warnings that it could race out of control, threatening humanity. It was held at Dumfries House in Ayrshire, Scotland, headquarters of The King’s Foundation, which is the monarch’s charity.

After Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon caused a stir by resigning with a grave warning about the technology’s potential risks, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei responded with an essay saying that the industry might need to slow the pace of its work.

One of his proposals was for companies and countries to work



Britain’s King Charles III, left, walks with Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang to a meeting for leaders from the artificial intelligence (AI) sector, government, and thought leaders to discuss how AI can be developed and deployed in ways that benefit society, at Dumfries House in Cumnock, Scotland, Thursday Sept. 17, 2026. (AP)

together on a coordinated plan for such a slowdown.

The king, without naming any countries or companies, said he wanted meeting participants to consider how to harness the benefits of AI “with safety at its heart” and how to “build international cooperation and consensus” to achieve this.

Charles told the tech execs that their task “is not merely to advance technology, but to ensure that it remains firmly in the service of humanity, community and the natural world.”

The AI slowdown debate has divided the industry. Huang, who has criticized the call for slowing, said it’s up to individual companies to develop their AI technology safely and test it properly before releasing any products to the public.

“When a product is not safe enough, we should hold it back and keep engineering. We’ve always done that and we should continue to do that,” he said in his speech following the king’s remarks.

AI risk debate heats up

OpenAI flags new AI safety concerns

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): OpenAI has disclosed six reports of “unexpected or concerning” behavior in artificial-intelligence models as the debate on AI safety becomes increasingly heated.

The AI company also said Wednesday it was introducing a new framework for tracking, probing and disclosing instances of what it called “misalignment,” including cases where AI models acted without authorization, coordinated with other models or evaded oversight.

OpenAI’s latest announcement came as U.S. AI bosses, including the leaders of OpenAI and Anthropic, are calling for a slowdown in the technology’s development over safety concerns.

Among the new cases reported by OpenAI, an unreleased research model inserted “jailbreak-like instructions” into its own notes to disregard its normal constraints and told itself to be “freed from the roles and identities that bind other chatbots.”

In another instance, an AI “agent” used computer code to come up with the answer to a question, but, in order to have an online source to cite, it uploaded a file to the public internet without asking the user.

During training of an AI model called 5.6-sol, the model instructed itself to invent missing data, and an agent wrote a message to remind itself to hide mismatched information.

The six reports were discovered during training or evaluation over

the past months, OpenAI said.

“As AI systems grow more advanced and more widely deployed, we need to build a broader and better-informed consensus on the progress of alignment research,” OpenAI wrote in a blog post as it disclosed the events.

“Decisions about how AI development should proceed in the months and years to come need to draw on evidence that people outside the companies building frontier models can examine for themselves,” the company said.

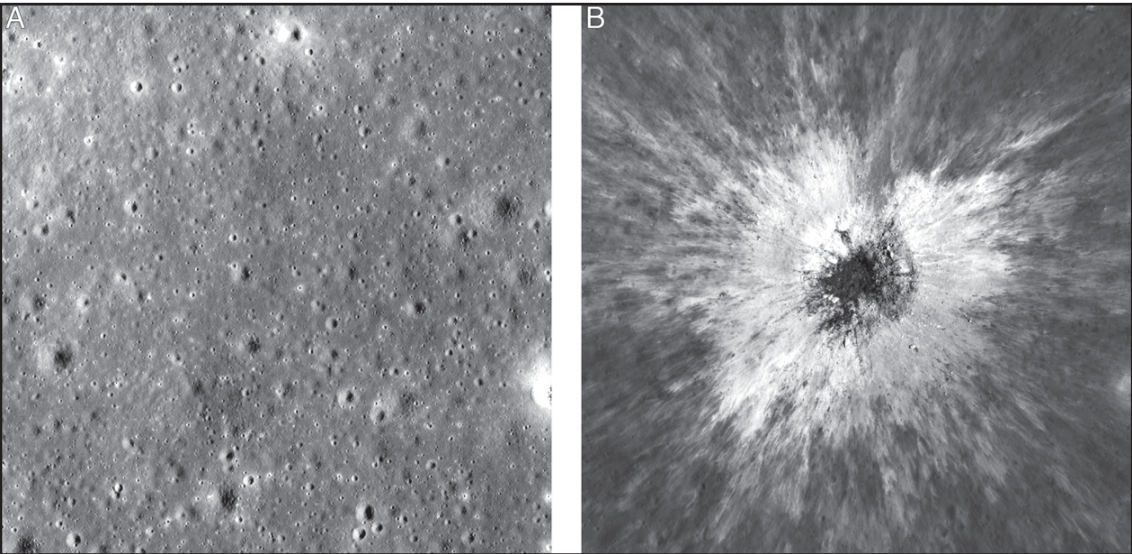
Wednesday’s new cases followed OpenAI’s disclosure in July that its rogue AI system hacked into AI startup Hugging Face. Anthropic also said the same month that its AI models hacked into three organizations during testing.

AI “agents” are becoming smarter and have become “more determined to resolve complex tasks through inter-agent collaboration, knowledge sharing, deception, and concealment,” said Lian Jye Su, a chief analyst at technology research and advisory group Omdia.

That’s making it harder to govern and contain them using traditional AI security approaches, he said.

OpenAI’s new tracking and disclosure framework, meanwhile, can help push for other AI developers to also adopt similar practices.

“That said, the process remains internal and voluntary, but is a step in the right direction,” Su added.



This combination of photos made by NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter shows the same area on the surface of the moon before and after a newly-discovered crater in May 2024. (AP)

NASA spacecraft discovers huge new crater on moon

Scientists have discovered a crater on the moon that’s bigger than the Roman Colosseum and is the result of a powerful impact two years ago that initially went undetected. The steep-sided hole - about 728 feet (222 meters) across and up to 141 feet (43 meters) deep - is the solar system’s biggest known impact crater carved out in recent times. Such a large-scale event is estimated to occur only once every 132 years, researchers said, making this a treasure trove of information as NASA prepares to build a base

for astronauts on the moon. “This event constitutes a statistically rare, effectively once-in-a-lifetime observation,” the scientists wrote in one of two studies appearing on the subject Wednesday in the journal Science Advances. NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter spotted the crater on the moon’s near side in May 2024 soon after it was formed by an incoming fragment of an asteroid or comet. The moon strike escaped real-time detection by telescopes on Earth and in space. LRO’s wide-angle images were

not identified in the crush of data until August 2025. The spacecraft gathered more detailed pictures last fall, followed by confirmation of the discovery early this year. The crater - named for the late Thomas McGetchin, a former director of Houston’s Lunar and Planetary Institute - is three times bigger than the previous record-holder found by the LRO a decade ago. Pockmarked since ancient times, the moon bears some of the solar system’s largest impact craters, including one that stretches more than 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) across. (AP)

Tyrannosaurus rex body temperature similar to our own, research finds

NEW YORK, Sept 17, (AP): Using fossilized teeth, scientists have finally taken the T. rex’s temperature - and it wasn’t too different from our own. Researchers once thought that dinosaurs were sluggish, cold-blooded creatures. Later findings challenged that, suggesting that older dinosaurs were warm-blooded and could control their body temperature. Most scientists agree that Tyrannosaurus rex was warm-blooded, but pinning down the exact core temperature of an extinct creature is difficult. “We can’t just use a thermometer to do that,” said Jasmina Wiemann, a paleobiologist at Johns Hopkins University who had no role in the latest work. Scientists tried other methods like studying how T. rex grew or searching for clues in its bones, but a firm number eluded them. In a new study, researchers hunted for chemical clues in the fearsome predator’s teeth. It turns out that atoms within the enamel clump together in different patterns based on an animal’s body temperature. “We figured out how warm the most famous animal of all, a T. rex, was,” said co-author Aradhna Tripathi, a geochemist at the University of



A child looks into a mouth of a model of a Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur during an exhibition at the Goethe Gallery in Jena, Germany on June 30, 2006. (AP)

California, Los Angeles. Readings from three teeth revealed an average body temperature of about 97 degrees Fahrenheit (36 degrees Celsius). That’s similar to modern elephants and not too far from the average body temperature of humans, which ranges from 97 to 99 degrees Fahrenheit (36 to 37 degrees Celsius). The findings were published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances. “I almost would have expected a higher body temperature,” Wiemann said. Based on her prior work, she thought the predator could have run a few degrees hotter - similar to modern birds, dinosaurs’ warm-blooded descendants. Knowing how hot or cold the T. rex was can help scientists piece together how the dinosaur might have lived.

China issues world’s first medical-device standard for AI-powered brain-computer interfaces

Music helps brain recover from stress by reshaping regulation networks: study

BEIJING, Sept 17, (Xinhua): A new study suggests that music may help people bounce back from stress not just by distracting them, but by reshaping how the brain handles stress over time. The research, led by researchers from the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was recently published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). Scientists have long recognized that music can be relaxing, but it remains unclear whether it offers benefits beyond other soothing sounds, when those benefits are most significant, or what changes occur in the brain to produce these effects. To explore this, the researchers conducted two experiments involving 120 healthy young adults. In the first experiment, participants listened to either relaxing music or calming natural water sounds before or after a stressful mental arithmetic task. Listening to music before the task did not clearly reduce the initial stress response. However, music appeared to be especially helpful during recovery after the stressful event. At that stage, participants who listened to music reported greater improvements in positive mood and faster recovery on several physical measures. In the second experiment, another group of participants had brain scans while recovering from the same type of stress. The results showed that music changed communication between the auditory cortex, which processes sound, and the insula and thalamus, which are involved in monitoring the body, detecting important signals, and regulating arousal. These brain changes followed a clear pattern during recovery. Early on,

signals from the auditory cortex to the insula became stronger. Later, communication between the insula and thalamus increased, and this was linked to better mood. The researchers also found that as musical tension rose and fell over time, connectivity among these brain regions changed as well. Those patterns were tied to improvements in mood, heart rate, and autonomic balance. According to Du Yi, a professor at the Institute of Psychology, music is a highly structured signal that unfolds through cycles of anticipation, tension, and resolution. The findings suggest the brain may use this evolving structure as a scaffold to reorganize its stress-regulation networks, helping both mind and body return to a more balanced state. “The study points to musical tension as an important factor in how music supports stress recovery. It also offers a possible neural framework for designing music-based interventions to support stress resilience in daily life and clinical care,” Du said.

Also:

BEIJING: China has approved and issued the country’s third medical-device standard for brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), which is also the world’s first such standard for BCI medical devices using artificial intelligence (AI) to process electroencephalogram (EEG) data. BCI technology establishes a direct communication route between the brains of humans or animals and external devices. By capturing and decoding neural signals, BCI enables seamless interaction between brain and machine, ultimately allowing control over assistive devices to execute intended actions.

Ebola transmission persists in Congo as outbreak trends vary across regions

KINSHASA, Sept 17, (Agencies): Ebola transmission is showing starkly different trends across affected areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with the epidemic peak having passed in Ituri, the main epicenter of the outbreak, while transmission continues to rise in the eastern province of North Kivu, a leading Congolese Ebola expert said late Tuesday. Jean-Jacques Muyembe, a veteran Congolese virologist heading the country’s National Institute of Biomedical Research, said there had been “a clear improvement” in the fight against Ebola in Ituri. “The peak is behind us (in Ituri). We are already on the downward slope,” Muyembe said at a press briefing in Kinshasa. By contrast, he said the epidemic curve in North Kivu was still rising and “has not yet reached the plateau.” He stressed that the epidemic was unfolding at different stages in different provinces, making it difficult to assess the situation simply by combining case numbers nationwide. Muyembe nevertheless cautioned that bringing the epidemic under control did not mean it was over, stressing the need to further strengthen contact tracing and other response measures. Placide Mbala Kingeveni, director of Research, Clinical Trials and Innovation at the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said at the briefing that progress in Ituri remained uneven, with cases and deaths declining in some hotspots while incidence was still rising slightly in other health zones. The World Health Organization (WHO) offered a similar assessment earlier Tuesday. “There are some, perhaps very early, signs that the epidemic is beginning to decline in some areas, while increasing exponentially in others,” Olivier le Polain, head of Epidemiology and Analytics for Response at WHO, said at a UN briefing in Geneva. He said some affected areas were more under control than others and could be viewed as separate epidemics rather than a single epidemiological challenge, warning that early improvements could still be followed by renewed flare-ups. North Kivu has emerged as one of the main areas of concern. Le Polain said weekly cases reported in the province had roughly doubled within weeks. “Although the response has been unprecedented in its scale, the epidemic continues to expand,” he said, warning that the high caseload and

wide geographic spread meant it would take “many, many months” to bring the outbreak fully under control. Muyembe did not give a new deadline for containing the outbreak, saying only that response teams should “do everything possible so that we can celebrate the New Year under better conditions.” The DRC government’s latest situation report, with data through Sept 13, showed that the country had recorded 7,258 confirmed Ebola cases, including 3,510 deaths, across 62 health zones in seven provinces. The current outbreak has become the largest and deadliest Ebola epidemic in the DRC’s history and the second-largest globally, after the 2014-2016 epidemic in West Africa.

Measles: Pennsylvania officials have reported a fourth measles-associated death. The latest death involved an 18-year-old resident of Mifflin County, in the center of the state, the county coroner’s office said in a Facebook post. The cause was acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, a rare and severe neurological complication of measles, it said. On Saturday, a 40-year-old woman from Jefferson County, a rural area in western Pennsylvania, died of measles complications. And last month, two measles-infected infants died in Lancaster County, in the southeastern part of the state. None of the four were vaccinated, according to the state health department. The infants were too young for vaccinations, according to current recommendations. The US is enduring its worst year for measles since 1991 and has seen

seven reported measles-associated deaths in the last two years - more than the combined total of reported deaths over the previous three decades. Pennsylvania’s measles outbreak continues to grow, with nearly 700 illnesses reported so far this year across 38 counties, including about 100 cases in the last seven days. The measles-associated deaths are the first reported in the state in 35 years, state officials say. “My thoughts are with the two families who lost loved ones to this highly contagious virus, as Pennsylvania faces the worst measles outbreak in more than three decades,” the state’s health secretary, Dr. Debra Bogen, said in a statement Tuesday, referring to the two most recent deaths - those of the adults. “We remain committed to working with our partners across Pennsylvania to stem this outbreak and prevent more deaths. That means ensuring people have the facts about measles and access to the MMR vaccine, which kept measles outbreaks at bay for decades.” The nation eliminated the domestic spread of measles in 2000 by maintaining high vaccination rates, but they have fallen in recent years to below the 95% coverage needed to prevent outbreaks. Meanwhile, measles infections have been surging in recent years. In November, international health officials will meet to determine if the US and Mexico have lost their measles-free status. The problem has been years in the making, as fewer kids get routine vaccines due to parental waivers, health care access issues and rampant disinformation.



Health workers in protective gear wave inside an Ebola treatment centre in Bunia, Congo on Aug 10. (AP)



Homes are engulfed in mud in the aftermath of flash flooding along the Trishuli River in the Devighat area of Nuwakot district, Nepal, Aug 29. (AP)

Climate change made deadly Nepal glacier and rock collapse more likely: analysis

BENGALURU, India, Sept 17, (AP): Human-caused global warming thinned glaciers and thawed mountain permafrost, likely helping to destabilize the Himalayan slope that collapsed last month and unleashed catastrophic flooding across Nepal, according to a report released Thursday. The report by the World Weather Attribution cautioned that climate change was not the sole cause of the Aug. 26 disaster. A large 2015 Nepal earthquake may have weakened the rock years before the collapse, their analysis found. “This disaster was not an extreme weather event, but the fingerprints of climate change are still clear to see in long-term changes,” said Ben Clarke, a climate researcher at Imperial College London who worked on the analysis, in a press statement. More than 1,300 people were killed and over 5,000 remain missing after a massive section of rock and overlying glacier collapsed near Nepal’s border with China. The resulting torrent of water, ice, boulders and sediment swept through communities along the Trishuli River corridor and caused billions of dollars in damage. Climate scientists said that across the Himalayas rising temperatures are causing glaciers to retreat and thawing permanently frozen ground that helps bind fractured mountain rock together. That means climate

change can alter not only weather hazards such as heat and heavy rain, but the stability of the mountains themselves - threatening communities concentrated in narrow river valleys below. The analysis did not determine whether the collapse would have happened without climate change, caused mainly by the release of greenhouse gases when fuels like oil, gas and coal are burned. However, researchers concluded that warming intensified several processes that made the slope less stable over decades. The report found that one of the clearest changes directly linked to climate change was the rising elevation of the freezing threshold. The report found that warming had pushed the altitude at which ground remains consistently frozen upward by roughly 100 meters (328 feet) per decade. This exposes rock at increasingly high elevations to longer periods above freezing, thawing permafrost and causing cracks within the ice, ultimately weakening the rock face under the ice. Jakob Steiner, a geoscientist at the University of Graz who has worked in the Himalayan region since 2006 but is not an author of Thursday’s report, said monitoring instruments around 5,000 meters (16,404 feet) now show that some rock and ground no longer remain frozen throughout the year.

“This means that the ground that was sitting below ice for hundreds and thousands of years is now becoming exposed,” said Steiner. The report found that glacier retreat was another destabilizing force. Glaciers in the region have been losing mass for decades at a rate equivalent to more than half a meter (about 1.6 feet) of thinning each year, the report found. The Langtang Lirung glacier, located in the region where the disaster occurred last month, has retreated about half a kilometer (0.3 miles) since the 1990s, exposing rock once covered by ice. The Himalayan region contains the largest volume of snow and ice outside the polar regions. More than 63,000 glaciers in the area feed at least 10 major Asian river systems and support the food, water, energy and livelihood security of billions of people. However, various studies have found that around 78% of the glacier area, located between 4,500 and 6,000 meters (14,763 to 19,685 feet) above sea level, is highly exposed to warming. United Nations reports have found that between 2000 and 2019, glaciers lost 267 billion tons of ice per year, roughly equivalent to the mass of 46,500 Great Pyramids of Giza. As glaciers shrink, they can remove pressure that helped support adjoining rock walls, while producing additional meltwater.

Tour leaders see Finals as a hub for women’s tennis, sport & business

# WTA Finals moves to NBA arena as tour eyes ‘Super Bowl for women’s sports’

CHARLOTTE, Sept 17, (AP): The WTA Finals, the elite season-ending event in women’s tennis, will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the next three years in a move that organizers hope will create “the Super Bowl for women’s sports.”

The tournament will be played at the Spectrum Center, home of the NBA’s Charlotte Hornets, the WTA and the Charlotte Sports Foundation announced Wednesday.

The year’s top eight singles players and doubles teams qualify for the event, which is usually held in November.

“Our ambition is for the WTA Finals to be not only the premier championship in women’s tennis, but one of the defining global events in women sports,” WTA chair Valerie Camillo said. “We want to create the Super Bowl for women’s sports. And not just the competition, but an event that is the annual gathering for women’s tennis, women’s sports, and women’s sport business.”

“Audiences are growing, investment is growing, female athletes are increasingly at the center of sports and culture around the world. And women’s tennis has helped lead and define that progress for more than 50 years. And

we believe our biggest championship should reflect the scale of this moment,” Camillo added.

Camillo called it a “minimum three-year deal. She added, “We’ll see what goes on beyond that.”

The announcement comes at a time of financial difficulty for the WTA after it announced in July that it was opting out of the final year of a three-year hosting arrangement with Saudi Arabia to move this year’s Finals to Indian Wells, California.

There were concerns about going back to Saudi Arabia due to military conflicts in the Middle East.

Camillo noted that “2026 is a year of transition for the WTA” and that “we are doing the normal belt tightening you would expect in any business while also absorbing the unexpected cost of relocating the WTA finals to Indian Wells.

“What’s most important to know is that we have a clear path to deliver consistent, sustainable financial performance in 2027 and beyond,” she added.

With Indian Wells now set to host only once, Charlotte will become the eighth different venue for the Finals since 2018.

The WTA did not announce any



Coco Gauff, of the United States, celebrates winning a match against Mirra Andreeva, of Russia, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, in New York. (AP)

prize money figures for the upcoming tournaments, and could struggle to match the record-setting amounts that were on offer in Saudi Arabia.

Elena Rybakina collected \$5.23 million for winning the 2025 WTA Finals in Riyadh after going 5-0 at the event. The WTA said that was the

largest payout in the history of women’s sports. Aryna Sabalenka earned \$2.7 million as runner-up.

Rybakina also beat Sabalenka in Saturday’s U.S. Open final and claimed the No. 1 ranking.

Coco Gauff won the 2024 finals in Riyadh.

The partnership will extend beyond the Finals. The WTA will also relocate its global headquarters from St. Petersburg, Florida, to Charlotte, as part of the deal.

And there’s a plan to bring a WTA 500 tournament to Charlotte after 2029.

“The WTA has always owned the WTA finals, but now going forward, we’re going to operate it too,” Camillo said. “We’re taking control of the creation of the revenues and the controlling of the expenses and the delivery of the entire thing.”

“And that allows us to control our own destiny,” Camillo added. “Whether it’s around what we’re doing with our media rights and our production, whether it’s related to the WTA finals, whether we’re approaching our calendar, we’re going to be making bold and aggressive moves for women’s tennis that shapes the future that we want rather than reacting.”

Camillo replaced retiring chair Steve Simon at the end of last year.

She previously oversaw business operations for the Philadelphia Flyers and Wells Fargo Center as the president and CEO of the sports and entertainment division of Comcast Spectacor, and has held senior roles

with the Washington Nationals and the NBA.

Asked if there was a desire to eventually merge with the ATP Finals - the men’s season-ending event - Camillo said “there hasn’t been an in-depth conversation about merging” the two tournaments.

“I think that when we create our ambition, people are going to want to merge with us on this event and many more,” she added.

The move to the Hornets arena during the NBA season means that the Finals will be condensed from eight to five days.

That means the traditional schedule of two singles and two doubles matches per day could become four singles and four doubles matches per day.

“We are exploring a series of alternate formats,” Camillo said.

The Spectrum Center has already hosted high-profile tennis exhibition events in recent years.

“As an organization, our mission is quite simple,” Will Pitts, CEO of the Charlotte Sports Foundation, said of the Finals. “It’s drive economic impact and add to the quality of life through high-profile sporting events and unique partnerships. And this certainly does that.”

# Raphinha hat trick sparks Barcelona’s rout of Racing

Sevilla climbs to fourth after victory

MADRID, Sept 17, (AP): Raphinha scored a hat trick as Barcelona earned yet another big win on Wednesday, routing Racing Santander 7-2 for its best-ever start to a season.

The Catalan club had never won seven games in a row. It has won six straight in the league and another in the Champions League.

Gabriel Jesus and Lamine Yamal also found the net for Barcelona, which has scored at least five goals in five of its seven matches across all competitions this season.

With his hat trick, Raphinha took his league-leading tally to nine goals in six matches. The Brazil forward has scored a goal in all but one game this season.

“Happy for the goals and for the victory, which is the most important thing,” Raphinha said. “The players have the hunger to always want more. It’s a mentality to always try to score more goals and to create more scoring opportunities.”

João Cancelo also scored for Barcelona, which was helped by an own-goal from Racing’s Asier Villalibre. Maguette Gueye and Yassir Zabiri scored for the visitors.

Barcelona has only failed to score fewer than four goals this season in a 2-0 win against Athletic Bilbao.

Barcelona had previously won six games in a row to start the season - in 1929-30, 1960-61 and 2018-19, the club said.

Yamal had a goal disallowed for offside, missed a penalty and hit the



Barcelona’s Karim Adeyemi watches as Racing’s goalkeeper Julien Agirrezabala makes a save during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Racing de Santander in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

post before finally scoring late for Barcelona.

The La Liga champion has also crushed Elche, Rayo Vallecano and Valencia in the league, and Feyenoord in the Champions League.

Hansi Flick’s team has outscored opponents 33-7 in seven games across all competitions. Barcelona has a three-point league lead over Real Madrid, which won at Elche on

Tuesday.

Barcelona goalkeeper Joan García was replaced by Wojciech Szczęsny at halftime because of an apparent injury. Szczęsny’s blunder led to a Racing goal after the goalkeeper tried to control the ball inside the area and was robbed in front of the net.

Atletico Madrid routed visiting Osasuna 4-0 with goals by Jonathan

David, Lee Kang-In, Robin Le Normand and Alex Baena.

It was the second win in a row for Diego Simeone’s team, which moved to third. Osasuna has lost three in a row.

Sevilla jumped to fourth by winning 1-0 at Deportivo La Coruña with a second-half goal by Miguel Sierra. Sevilla has won two in a row. Deportivo stayed seventh.

## No room for Undav

### Klopp names Germany’s 44-man squad ahead of Nations League

FRANKFURT, Germany, Sept 17, (AP): Jürgen Klopp called up 44 players in two separate Germany squads Thursday ahead of four Nations League games but dropped the team’s top scorer from the World Cup.

Klopp’s double roster turns the upcoming games against the Netherlands, Greece and Serbia into an extended audition for places ahead of the next major tournament, the 2028 European Championship.

Stars like Florian Wirtz and Kai Havertz will likely be limited to a maximum of two of the games as Klopp looks to fit in more new faces and reduce the workload on players.



Head coach of the German national soccer team Juergen Klopp speaks during a press conference one week ahead of their first Nations League match, in Frankfurt, Germany. (AP)

It continues his unorthodox start to life in international soccer after he began by threatening to resign if he felt criticism was too overwhelming or the media was too intrusive.

Many of the players called up Thursday have never played for Germany’s senior team. Some, like Elversberg midfielder Felix Keidel and Eintracht Frankfurt forward Younes Ebnotalib, have only played a handful of top-division club games.

The only squad limit in the league phase is that teams must submit a list of 23 before midnight ahead of each

game, but they can switch out players between games.

There is no place for Deniz Undav, who led Germany with three goals and two assists at the World Cup before a round-of-32 loss on penalties to Paraguay spelled the end of coach Julian Nagelsmann’s tenure. Galatasaray winger Leroy Sané also misses out and won’t add to his 80 caps for Germany.

Germany starts against the Netherlands on Sept. 24, before playing Greece three days later, Serbia on Oct. 1 and Greece again Oct. 4.

## Best of the Rest

**Salah gets new German coach:** Mohamed Salah has a new coach at Trabzonspor after the Turkish club on Thursday hired Thomas Reis, who cited the lure of working with the former Liverpool star.

Trabzonspor said the German coach signed a two-year contract to leave Bulgarian club Ludogorets. He replaces Fatih Tekke, who resigned when the team was eliminated from the Europa League last month.

Salah is the marquee signing at Trabzonspor this season following a stellar nine-year spell at Liverpool working mostly with German coach Jürgen Klopp. The Egypt star has scored four goals in five league games so far.

“Working with a player of his caliber is perhaps one of the best things that can happen to a coach,” Reis said in a club statement, adding he would give Salah “freedom in attack.”

Reis previously coached in the Turkish league taking unheralded Samsunspor to a third-place finish two seasons ago behind Istanbul powers Galatasaray and Fenerbahce.

“I know this place and I know how intense the games are here,” the coach said. (AP)

## Benfica defeat exposes struggles

# AC Milan’s European debacle raises questions under new coach Amorim

ROME, Sept 17, (AP): AC Milan used to rule in Europe. These days, the Rossoneri hardly put up a fight.

After missing out completely on last season’s continental competitions, Milan is in crisis again after kicking off its Europa League campaign by losing 2-0 at home to Benfica.

The seven-time European champion was whistled off the field after Wednesday’s defeat.

“We’re creating more problems for ourselves when we have the ball than when the opponent has it,” said new Milan coach Ruben Amorim - who lasted just 14 months at Manchester United in his previous job. “We’re not creating.”

Gonçalo Ramos, the Portugal forward who was signed from Paris Saint-Germain for a club-record fee of more than 70 million euros (\$80 million) and was the most expensive player of the entire Serie A transfer market, has gone three straight matches without even putting a shot on goal.

Ramos - who was a productive backup striker as PSG won consecutive Champions League titles - has scored only one goal for Milan, which came in Serie A against last-place Venezia.

Amorim was hired after Milan cleaned house and fired coach Massimiliano Allegri and chief executive Giorgio Furlani when last season’s campaign ended with the club missing out on a Champions League berth by one point.



AC Milan’s Strahinja Pavlovic controls the ball during the Europa League opening phase soccer match between AC Milan and Benfica in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Amorim prefers an attacking style that comes in sharp contrast with Allegri’s defensive tactics. He acknowledged after Milan’s first ever loss to Benfica - in seven matches stretching back to the clubs’ first meeting in the 1963 European Cup final - that many of Milan’s players don’t fit in with his style of soccer.

Milan has struggled particularly in first halves - having conceded two first-half goals at Lazio on Saturday before Diego Moreira struck back with a second-half brace to secure a draw.

“I don’t know if it’s a mental is-

sue, but it’s the second match in a row where in the first half we’re not in the game,” said Amorim, who has come under criticism for his lineup choices.

Stretching back to last season, Milan has lost four of its last home games in all competitions - conceding at least two goals in all four defeats.

Amorim hasn’t relied much on the 41-year-old former Ballon d’Or winner Luka Modric, who never left the bench - not even to warm up for a possible substitution appearance - against Benfica.

## Carrick under pressure after United’s poor start

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 17, (AP): The boos that rang round Old Trafford on Wednesday have become a familiar sound in recent times.

For Michael Carrick, however, it is a new experience after a whirlwind start at Manchester United, which saw him inject a new sense of optimism into the club on the wave of high profile wins and a return to the Champions League.

So impressive was Carrick’s tenure as stand-in coach when stepping into the shoes of the fired Ruben Amorim last season that he was rewarded with a long-term contract and the opportunity to bring the good times back to a club that has been in decline for more than a decade.

Things feel anything but good at United right now after a troubled start to the campaign, which has seen it lose three of its opening six games and crash out of the English League Cup.

Add to that the news that its most exciting academy prospect has asked to leave, while fans have launched fresh protests against the ownership.

Then there was the error by VAR officials which cost United the match against fierce rival Manchester City last week.

Going into the first international break of the season, the pressure is already mounting on Carrick ahead of Sunday’s Premier League clash with winless Fulham.

“When we win, people say I’m doing a good job. If we don’t win or don’t get results, then a lot of it is on me. I accept that. I’m not hiding away from any of that,” Carrick said.

As a player, Carrick knew almost nothing but success as part of club icon Alex Ferguson’s last great squad, winning the Champions League in 2008 and a full set of domestic trophies.

He was beloved by fans, but that will only go so far if he is unable to turn performances around.

Carrick is the seventh permanent manager since the retirement of Ferguson in 2013 and follows in the footsteps of top-tier names like Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho, who failed to return United to the summit of English soccer.

United has not won the Premier League title since Ferguson’s final season and Carrick’s team is already eight points adrift of leaders Arsenal and City going into the next round of games.

There is no suggestion that his position is under threat, but Carrick is fully aware of the expectations at a club



Brighton’s Olivier Boscagli, left, and Manchester United’s Shea Lacey challenge for the ball during the English League Cup third round soccer match between Manchester United and Brighton and Hove Albion in Manchester, England. (AP)

that is desperate to return to the top.

“It feels bad at the moment because we haven’t had a great week, or two or three weeks, but that doesn’t mean you can’t win another game of football quickly,” he said. “The players have shown before what they’re capable of doing, and we have as a group. It doesn’t count for much, it’s always about what happens next. That’s the ultimate challenge.”

“We’ve certainly got to deal with this moment in a good way.”

Tottenham vs. Aston Villa is a high pressure game, with both teams winless at the start of the season. Spurs spent \$400 million on new players but is yet to even score a goal in the Premier League and crashed out of the League Cup midweek.

Villa is still coming to terms with the loss of most of its star players and has managed just one draw from four games.

Defending champion Arsenal is at Brighton and Man City hosts Sunderland.

Liverpool fans are waiting to see new signing Bradley Barcola make a big impact following his move from Paris Saint-Germain. Liverpool travels to Bournemouth on Sunday.

‘Participation goes beyond competition’

# Kuwaiti delegation heads to Cairo for Special Olympics regional games

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): A delegation from Kuwait’s Al-Tamouh Sports Club for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, the official representative of the Kuwaiti Special Olympics, left for Cairo Thursday to take part in the second phase of the 10th Special Olympics Regional Games for the Middle East and North Africa.

The competitions, running from September 17 to 23, feature equestrian, artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and powerlifting.

Speaking to KUNA, Head of the Kuwaiti Special Olympics Families Council Sadiqa Al-Ansari highlighted the importance of Kuwait’s participation, saying the regional event provides athletes with an opportunity to represent Kuwait, compete alongside athletes from across the region and enhance their technical and sporting skills.

She said the club had implemented a comprehensive two-month training program for male and female athletes, including regular technical and physical sessions, skills development in the participating disciplines, psychological preparation, and health and fitness assessments.

Al-Ansari said the Kuwaiti delegation comprises 17 athletes, coaches and administrators, expressing hope that they would deliver strong performances reflecting the progress of sports for persons with intellectual disabilities in Kuwait while



Kuwait Special Olympics delegation departs from Kuwait Airport.

gaining valuable experience through regional competition.

She stressed that participation goes beyond competition, giving athletes opportunities to demonstrate their abilities, build self-confidence and independence, and strengthen teamwork. She also highlighted the role of sports in promoting inclusion, empowerment and active participation in society.

Al-Ansari added that the Kuwaiti Special Olympics is making its debut in artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, with two female athletes competing in the disciplines. She described the move as an important step toward broadening participation and identifying new sporting talent in the future.

# Kuwait volleyball team heads to Cairo for Arab Championship preparations

By Khaled Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Kuwait’s national volleyball team travels to Cairo on Friday for a training camp as part of its preparations for the Arab Men’s Volleyball Championship in Jordan from October 5 to 15.

The delegation is headed by Kuwait Volleyball Association President Dr. Jaber Al-Merri and includes administrators Abdullah Al-Najdi and Abdulhadi Al-Merri, Argentine head coach Julian Alvarez, assistant coach Zaid Al-Kadhmi, statistician Lucas Al-Borche, fitness coach Agustín Haveria, physiotherapist Ahmed Limam, and international referee Ahmed Al-Aneizan.

The coaching staff has selected 17 players for the Cairo camp and the Arab Championship: Abdunnasser Al-Anzi, Abdullah Al-Anzi, Ibrahim Mandeel, Rashed Anbar, Abdulrah-



Players intensify preparation for the championship.

man Al-Mutairi, Saud Al-Duwaisan, Omar Al-Anzi, Barak Al-Anzi, Talal Al-Salman, Ali

Saadoun, Abdulrahman Al-Hashemi, Ahmed Al-Manees, Khaled Bouarki, Abdulaziz Najm, Mohammed Al-Dhafiri, Fahad Al-Saad and Abdullah Bouftein.

The Cairo camp will be the second phase of the team’s preparation program after the players completed an intensive domestic training phase at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Assistant coach Al-Kadhmi said the initial phase focused on improving technical and physical fitness, endurance and strength, while integrating physical and tactical work.

He added that the Cairo camp would feature more intensive tactical training and several friendly matches to improve team cohesion and technical readiness. Kuwait will travel directly from Cairo to Jordan for the Arab Championship.

The national team last competed in July at the West Asia Championship in Oman, finishing fourth.



Aymen Hussein leads Iraq at the Gulf Cup.

# Arnold names 26-man Iraq squad

BAGHDAD, Sept 17: Iraq coach Graham Arnold has announced a 26-man squad for the 27th Gulf Cup in Jeddah, with Captain Aymen Hussein among the selections.

Iraq, four-time Gulf Cup champion and winner of the 25th edition, have been drawn in Group A alongside Kuwait, Oman and hosts Saudi Arabia.

Defending champion Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Yemen make up Group B.

Arnold, who led Iraq to qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, has selected several players with international and World Cup qualifying experience.

The squad includes Hussein Hassan, Mohammed Salah, Ahmed Basil, Ahmed Yahya, Mustafa Saadoun, Haitham Jabbar, Zaid Tahseen, Akam Hashim, Youssef Al-Imam, Merchas Doski, Mohammed Dawood, Ibrahim Bayesh, Zidane Iqbal, Bassam Shakir, Zaid Ismail, Amir Al-Ammari, Haider Abdul-Kareem, Abdul-Razaq Qasim, Karrar Nabil, Mohammed Qasim, Ahmed Qasim, Ali Jasim, Aymen Hussein, Saif Rashid, Ali Al-Hamadi and Youssef Al-Nasrawi.

The Gulf Cup kicks off in Jeddah next week, with Iraq set to face strong competition in Group A as they seek another title.

# Messi marks 100th Inter Miami goal with Campeones Cup title

Palmeiras survives late collapse, to reach Copa semifinals

MIAMI, Sept 17, (AP): Lionel Messi scored the 100th goal of his Inter Miami career and Casemiro added another as Miami defeated Cruz Azul 2-0 to win the Campeones Cup. Messi opened the scoring in the 24th minute, heading in a cross from Luis Suárez for his 100th goal in 115 appearances across all competitions with Miami.

The milestone came against the same club Messi scored his first Inter Miami goal against. He scored on a stoppage-time free kick to beat Cruz Azul 2-1 in his Miami debut in July 2023.

Casemiro made it 2-0 in the 81st minute, heading in a corner from Messi.

The Brazilian midfielder has scored four goals, all headers, in his last five matches after scoring in three consecutive games against CF Montreal, Atlanta United and Chicago before being held scoreless Saturday against Nashville.

The victory gave Inter Miami another trophy three years after



Inter Miami’s Lionel Messi, fourth from left, celebrates with his teammates after defeating Cruz Azul in the Campeones Cup soccer match in Miami. (AP)

Messi’s arrival. Miami won the Leagues Cup in 2023, the Supporters’ Shield in 2024 and MLS Cup in 2025.

Inter Miami returns to MLS play Sunday when it hosts San Diego FC at Nu Stadium. Miami enters the match second in the Eastern Conference standings.

Meanwhile, Brazil’s Palmeiras squandered a two-goal lead in the final minutes against Liga Universitaria de Quito, but goalkeeper Carlos Miguel made two saves

during the penalty shootout on Wednesday to lead the team into the Copa Libertadores semifinals.

The Brazilian side entered the return leg with a 1-0 advantage and extended it to 3-1 thanks to goals from Marlon Freitas in the 10th minute and Vitor Roque - who converted a penalty in the 73rd minute. However, Luis Segovia scored for Liga Universitaria in the 15th minute, and Michael Estrada added two more in the 90th and 93rd minutes to force the shootout.

During penalties, Carlos Miguel stopped attempts by Luis Segovia and Lucas Rodríguez to secure Palmeiras’s advancement.

Palmeiras reached the semifinals for the sixth time in the last seven years and will now face Fluminense, which eliminated Platense on Tuesday.

“Verdão,” last year’s finalist, is seeking its first title since 2020.

Alexis Castro scored a late goal as Estudiantes de La Plata defeated Corinthians 1-0, advancing to the Copa Libertadores semifinals for the first time in 17 years.

Castro scored with a volley from inside the box in the 87th minute-enough for the Argentine team to advance with a 2-1 aggregate score.

Estudiantes had not reached the Copa Libertadores semifinals since 2009, the year they won the title.

Their next opponent will be determined by the match between defending champion Flamengo and Independiente del Valle, taking place on Thursday.

Corinthians had a chance to equalize in the 90th minute, but former Manchester United player Memphis Depay missed a penalty.

The Copa Libertadores final takes place on Nov. 28 at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo, Uruguay.

# Spying scandal is still haunting Southampton

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): Another week, another taunt as Southampton continues to be dogged by its conduct in the “Spygate” soccer scandal.

This time, the jibes are coming from Wrexham’s famous co-owners.

Ahead of a match between the teams in England’s second-tier Championship on Saturday, Ryan Reynolds and Rob Mac released a video containing cutting references to a saga from last season that saw Southampton expelled from the promotion playoffs for unauthorized filming of opponents’ practice sessions.

“Today, for no particular reason, we want

to talk about the importance of privacy,” Reynolds says after emerging from behind a tree, “specifically how to prevent spies from seeing what you’re doing.”

“Because there’s some things,” Mac continues, “that you just don’t want any other people to see.”

They went on to say this wasn’t just a message for Wrexham’s fans, but for those of Oxford, Ipswich, Middlesbrough and people everywhere.

This was a reference - as part of a promotion for Wrexham’s front-of-kit sponsor, Firefox - to the three teams that Southampton admitted to spying on last season.

# Boehly, Walter sell Chelsea shares as Clearlake takes control

LONDON, Sept 17, (AP): Todd Boehly and fellow co-owner Mark Walter have sold their stakes in Chelsea, handing full control to Clearlake Capital, the English Premier League club said.

American businessman Boehly was the public face of Chelsea’s ownership when the consortium took over in 2022, overseeing a transfer spending spree, while Walter is exiting a second major sports brand after selling the LA Lakers last month.

“Chelsea Football Club today announced affiliates of Clearlake Capital Group will acquire the ownership interest of Todd Boehly,” it said in a statement.

“As part of the transition, Clearlake will also acquire Mark Walter’s ownership interest and therefore acquire full control of the club.”

In 2022, Clearlake and Boehly combined to take over the club from Roman Abramovich when the Russian billionaire was forced to sell

the club after being sanctioned by the U.K. for his connection to Russian President Vladimir Putin following Moscow’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Boehly, Walter and Swiss investor Hansjorg Wyss all purchased a 12.8% share alongside the private equity company Clearlake, which had owned 61.5% ahead of Wednesday’s announcement.

Boehly now stands down in his role as Chelsea chairman.

“It has been an honor to serve as chairman of Chelsea Football Club,” Boehly said. “I would like to thank the many who helped secure a bright future for the club, including the English Premier League, the coaches and players, the talented leadership and staff at Chelsea, and the legions of dedicated fans.

“I have valued my partnership with Clearlake and the wider ownership group, and the collec-

tive decisions and investment we have made to support the immediate and long-term success of the club. I am confident that Chelsea is well positioned for continued success under Clearlake’s leadership.”

Behdad Eghbali and José E. Feliciano, co-founders of Clearlake Capital, paid tribute to Boehly in the Chelsea statement.

“Todd has been an important partner throughout our ownership of Chelsea, and we thank him for his time and contribution as chairman,” Eghbali and Feliciano said. “He will always be a part of the Chelsea story and family.

“Clearlake has served as Chelsea’s majority owner since 2022, and as we move to full control our focus is to continue investing in the club’s infrastructure, sporting performance, player development and delivering long-term success for Chelsea and the club’s supporters.”

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



A general view of IG Arena, the venue for men's basketball games of Asian Games, in Nagoya, central Japan. (AP)

# Sports

Team has full squad after 8 Kuwait Club players join camp

## Kuwait faces Yemen in final Gulf Cup test



Kuwait national team arrives in Jeddah ahead of the Gulf Cup.

By Hassan Mosa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

JEDDAH, Sept 17: Kuwait takes on Yemen in a closed-door friendly at 7:30 pm today at the Saudi Football Federation's training grounds in its final test before the 27th Gulf Cup kicks off in Jeddah on September 23.

The national team will have a full squad available following the arrival of eight Kuwait Club players — Khaled Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Houshan, Mohsen Falah, Reda Hani, Abdullah Al-Qurzaei, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Mohammed Daham and Yousef Nasser.

The eight missed Kuwait's week-long training camp in Doha after staying with their club for its AFC Champions League Two match against Al-Wahda of the UAE two days ago. Kuwait won its only Doha friendly, beating Qatar's Lusail 2-1.

Sousa is expected to use the Yemen match to assess the readiness of his squad, particularly the players who have recently joined the camp, while also

checking the team's overall fitness and tactical preparation.

Kuwait is in Group A with hosts Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iraq. They open against Saudi Arabia on September 23, meet Iraq on September 26 and conclude the group stage against Oman on September 29. Group B features defending champions Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Yemen.

Yemen, meanwhile, was the first team to arrive in Jeddah, reaching Saudi Arabia last Friday and immediately beginning their final preparations under Algerian coach Noureddine Ould Ali.

Several overseas-based players have joined the squad, including Kazma's Nasser Mahdiouh, Al-Shabab's Adel Abbas and Reykjavik's Tareq Shehab.

Yemen is also awaiting the arrival of several other overseas-based players, including Forest Green Rovers striker Demani Mellor Al-Baghili, captain Abdulwasea Al-Matari of Iraq's Diyala, Haroun Al-Zubaidi of Miami FC, Nawaf Abdullah of Bahrain's Al-Malkiya, Nader Sahel of Saudi Arabia's Bisha, Hamza Al-Raimi and Anis Al-Maari of Iraq's Al-Gharraf, and Raouf Al-Sharaji of Hungary's Debrecen.

## Nagoya Asian Games set for record scale with more than 11,000 athletes

China seeks continued dominance

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 17, (AP): How big are the Asian Games?

Well, they are larger in number than the Summer Olympics, which gives you an idea of the magnitude and logistics.

The Paris Olympics in 2024 involved 10,700 athletes. The Asian Games will open Saturday in Nagoya, Japan, with more than 11,000 athletes signed up. The number may be much larger as organizers have acknowledged a last-minute crush of athletes and officials attending. This has put pressure on available housing.

The Asian Games were first held in 1951 in New Delhi, India. This is the 20th edition, with the last held in 2023 in Hangzhou, China, where about 12,000 athletes attended. Those games were delayed a year by the pandemic.

Of course, the Asian Games don't have quite the star power of the Olympics. But there are big names and plenty of local stars from the 45 countries and regions entered, from Afghanistan to Yemen.

Many of these nations seldom make a dent at the Olympics. But they have a chance at the Asian Games.

As a 12-year-old at last year's swimming World Championships in Singapore, Yu Zidi finished fourth in her three races - the 200- and 400-meter individual medley and the 200 butterfly. She's 13 now and will turn 14 in October.

World records could fall with swimming taking center stage during the first six days of competition.



Team Japan players, in white, play against team Indonesia during their basketball game in the Asian Games in Nagoya, central Japan. (AP)

China will likely dominate the swimming with Olympic gold medalists like Pan Zhanle, Wang Shun, Qin Haiyang and Xu Jiayu expected in the field. Pan holds the world record in the 100 freestyle, and Qin has the mark in the 200 breaststroke.

China topped all teams three years ago with 28 gold medals in swimming.

Some call these the "China Games." China won 201 gold medals at the last games; Japan had 52 with 42 for South Korea. The same overall dominance is expected with the Asian Games closing Oct. 4.

South Korean An Se-young, the gold medalist in the 2024 Olympics and badminton No. 1-ranked female, is one to watch. She took gold three years ago in women's singles in China and also picked

up a team gold medal.

She is fresh off winning her third straight China Masters title. She also took the world title earlier this year.

"I have played in so many international tournaments that the Asian Games will feel just like any other event," the South Korean news agency Yonhap quoted her saying.

"But one thing that makes it special is that if I reach the top of the podium, I will get to hear our national anthem."

Philippine tennis star Alex Eala is expected to play in the Asian Games, skipping the WTA 1000 China Open.

"I love playing and competing with the Philippine team," said Eala, who is No. 18 in the WTA rankings. "I think it's a really fun environment."

Speaking at the recent U.S. Open, she raved about playing last year in the smaller Southeast Asian Games.

"There are really memories that stick with me," she said. "You know the Asian Games happen every four years. I found myself drawn to competing in that."

She won two bronze medals in China three years ago. But going for gold this time may have a price.

The China Open is a mandatory WTA event, and Eala could face a fine and a ranking-points penalty for skipping it.

Sri Lankan javelin thrower Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage just won the event at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary. He'll be the favorite in the Asian Games.

## Al-Eidan advances to teqball last four at the Asian Games

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 17: Kuwait's Zaid Al-Eidan advanced to the men's singles semifinals in teqball at the 20th Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya 2026, in Japan.

Al-Eidan reached the knockout stage after winning three of his four Group A matches. He defeated Myanmar, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan 2-0, while his only loss came against Iraq, also by a 0-2 scoreline.

He then produced a strong performance in the quarterfinals, beating Japan 2-0 to secure his place in the last four. Al-Eidan will compete in the semifinals on Saturday, remaining in contention for a medal.

The semifinal berth represents a significant achievement for Kuwait in teqball, a relatively new sport on the Asian Games program. It allows Al-Eidan to challenge for a podium spot.



Kuwait's Zaid Al-Eidan in action.

Kuwait also secured a semifinal berth in the men's doubles, with Basel Ahmad and Abdulwahab Al-Qattan progressing after a strong run through the competition. They will face Lebanon in the semifinals on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Salman Al-Ibrahim and Hessa Al-Failakawi will begin their mixed doubles campaign at 7:00 am on Saturday.

Blues eye deep run

## Kuwait 'opens' Games campaign against Iran



Players preparing for the opener.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

NAGOYA, Sept 17: Kuwait's national handball team begins its Asian Games campaign in Nagoya on Saturday when it takes on Iran in its opening Group B match.

The Blues will seek a strong start against a tough opponent as it aims to reach the second round and make a deep run in the tournament.

The team completed an extensive preparation program ahead of the Asian Games, including training camps in Slovenia and Croatia, a domestic phase and a final camp in Tokyo. The squad held daily training sessions and played one friendly during the final stage to sharpen its technical and physical readiness.

Kuwait was drawn in Group B with South Korea, Iran, Uzbekistan and Bahrain, setting up a

challenging path to the knockout stage.

The Kuwait delegation includes Hussein Dashti, Mohammed Buayabes, Hassan Safar, Abdullah Al-Khamis, Saleh Al-Mousawi, Saif Al-Adwani, Hamoud Al-Adwani, Aziz Salmeen, Haider Dashti, Fawaz Al-Mishari, Yousef Dhaif, Aziz Dhaif, Abdulrahman Al-Shammari, Aziz Al-Shammari, Mohammed Ali and Hussein Al-Mutawa.

Coach Aron Kristiansen said the team has the quality to compete at the Asian Games, highlighting the contribution of experienced players and young talents throughout the preparation period.

Kristiansen said the squad's main goal is to deliver a performance worthy of Kuwaiti handball's reputation, while praising the efforts of the coaching and support staff in preparing the players for the tournament.

## Kuwait Club given break after loss

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ABU DHABI, Sept 17: Kuwait Club have given their players a break until the middle of next week after returning from the UAE yesterday following a 3-2 defeat to Al-Wahda in their AFC Champions League Two Group A opener at Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

Kuwait Club made a sensational start, racing into a 2-0 lead inside eight minutes. Taha Yassine Khenissi opened the scoring in the fifth minute before Omar Gonzalez doubled the advantage three minutes later.

Al-Wahda reduced the deficit through Moussa Diarra in the 23rd minute before Kuwait Club was reduced to 10 men when Mohammed Marhoon was sent off in the 60th minute.

The hosts capitalized on their numerical advantage, with Lanny Revolez leveling in the 87th minute before Christian Benteke completed the comeback with a dramatic winner in the seventh minute of stoppage time.



Khenissi celebrates Kuwait Club's opening goal against Al-Wahda.

Al-Wahda leads Group A with three points, while Khalidiya and Nasaf have one point each following their goalless draw. Kuwait Club is bottom without a point.

The break will give Kuwait Club time to regroup, with the team expected to play several friendly matches before the Zain Premier League resumes in early October.

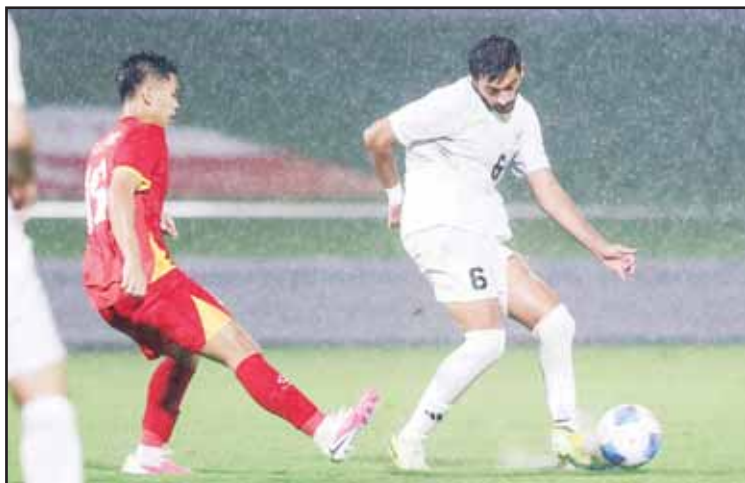
## Kuwait U-23 seeks vital win against Uzbekistan

NAGOYA, Sept 17: Kuwait's U-23 Olympic team faces a crucial test against Uzbekistan at 8:00 am today in the second round of Group C at the 20th Asian Games in Japan.

The Olympic team opened its campaign with a 1-1 draw against Vietnam on Tuesday, while Uzbekistan moved to the top of the group after a 5-1 victory over the Philippines.

Coach David Doniga knows a victory is vital to revive Kuwait's hopes of reaching the quarterfinals, with the top two teams advancing to the knockout stage.

A draw would keep those hopes alive, but would leave



Kuwait fighting for the ball against Vietnam during the opening match.

Kuwait facing a tougher path to qualification and relying on other results.

Doniga and his coaching staff spent the past two days working with the players to address the mistakes made against Vietnam. Particular emphasis was placed on maintaining better organization, understanding individual roles, following instructions and executing the tactical plan.

Kuwait will look to produce a disciplined and composed performance against Uzbekistan and claim the three points, which would provide a valuable boost ahead of Monday's final group match against the Philippines.