



Amir Rep. reaches NY for UNGA meetings Page 2



New officials cleared to sign Kuwaiti passports

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah has issued three ministerial decrees authorizing officials at the General Department of Nationality and Travel Documents to sign Kuwaiti passports and nationality certificates issued by the department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Ministerial Decree No. 1415/2026 authorizes Brigadier General Abdulrahman Najib Al-Othman, Director General of the General Department of Nationality and Travel Documents, and Brigadier General (Legal) Mohammed Mazed Al-Mazeed, Assistant Director General of the department, to sign passports issued by the department, in accordance with Article 17 of Law No. 11/1962 and the signature specimen attached to the decree.

Ministerial Decree No. 1416/2026 authorizes Brigadier General (Legal) Mohammed Mazed Al-Mazeed, Assistant Director General of the General Department of Nationality and Travel Documents, to sign Kuwaiti nationality certificates issued by the department, in accordance with the signature specimen attached to the decree.

Continued on Page 5



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah

US embassy flags travel disruptions

Kuwait decries threats to Saudi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (Agencies): Kuwait strongly condemned Houthi militia attempts to target Riyadh with a ballistic missile and also civilian facilities in the Saudi cities of Baish, Taif, Farasan and Yanbu.

In a statement on Saturday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the attacks as a flagrant violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and a gross

breach of international law and international humanitarian law.

The ministry commended the vigilance and capabilities of the Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces in intercepting and thwarting the attacks, and reiterated Kuwait's absolute solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to safeguard its sovereignty and security and protect citizens and residents.

Continued on Page 5

Two arrested in Kuwait-Iraq sting

Kabad raid bags 700,000 Captagon pills

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Officers from the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) in the Interior Ministry, led by DCGD Director Brigadier General Mohammad Qabazard and his assistant, Brigadier General Hamad Al-Sabah, dealt a major blow to drug traffickers through security collaboration between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq.

The operation resulted in the arrest of two suspects found in possession of 700,000 Captagon pills.

According to the ministry, the officers seized the 700,000 Captagon pills, which are categorized as a psy-

chotropic substance, through the coordinated efforts between Kuwait and Iraq to combat narcotics and apprehend those involved in the trade.

The operation led to the arrest of an Iraqi and an illegal resident at a livestock pen in Kabad, where the above-mentioned drugs were found in their possession.

During interrogation, both suspects admitted the drugs belonged to them and were intended for trafficking.

The ministry affirmed that this operation proves the importance of international security cooperation in apprehending drug traffickers, uncovering their activities, and preventing the spread of these toxic substances, thereby, protecting the society and strengthening joint efforts to combat drugs.



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Musicians perform during an event at the China Cultural Center in Kuwait. – See Page 10

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

A word to China, a word to Russia

LONG-STANDING Arab, Gulf and international alliances are based on the principle of deterring any aggressor – whether Arab or otherwise.

The 'International Coalition against Terrorism' also exists, serving as the foundation for confronting terrorism regardless of its source rather than targeting a certain entity.

Based on this, the Houthi actions constitute a clear act of terrorism, carried out as per the directives of Iran. Hence, the response must be international in scope, because merely issuing statements of condemnation is insufficient. Such inaction poses a threat to regional and global security, particularly regarding energy sources and supply chains.

No state has grounds to turn a blind eye or exercise its veto power in the United Nations Security Council, especially when the issue involves combating terrorism or a nuclear program that threatens the whole world, as the case with Iran. While international sanctions have already been imposed on Iran, the efforts of Beijing and Moscow to block further sanctions convey a dangerous message to the international community -- that confronting terrorism is prohibited.

Both nations maintain trade and economic ties, as well as major projects, with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations, with the balance of trade tilting in their favor. In light of the ongoing conflict and the economic instability that Iran cause globally, the logical course of action is to penalize Tehran -- not to repeatedly offer it a lifeline -- now that the true nature of its regime has been exposed to the entire world.

The argument that the damage inflicted by Iran and its proxies on Arab Gulf states affects only the United States no longer holds water, as it now harms the vital interests of China and Russia as well.

Consequently, the conflict is no longer just between Washington, Beijing and Moscow. It has shifted to involve China, Russia and the GCC states, as if there was a deliberate intent to abandon the long-term gains, which both nations previously obtained from the region.

The question now arising among peoples in the region is: What do Russia and China offer us, given that they are forsaking their interests with us for the sake of the meager scraps they receive from Iran?

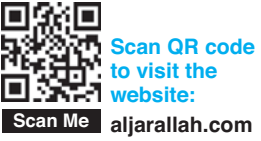
It is crucial to acknowledge the sentiments of the GCC citizens who rely on their allies to activate joint defense agreements and actively combat terrorism, rather than just issuing diplomatic statements without substance or solution.

The move of Moscow and Beijing to end the UN Security Council sanctions mandate on Iran will further inflame regional conflict in the near future. It provides a lifeline to the Ayatollah regime, enabling the latter to resume sowing chaos in Iraq and Lebanon through proxies that defy national and international legitimacy. It also gives the Houthi group the green light to launch further attacks on other GCC states and Saudi Arabia – the economic and oil-sector linchpin of the region.

This situation also exacerbates global economic turmoil, compounding the effects of the severe inflation already plaguing the whole world – a situation reminiscent of the global economic distress on the eve of World War II.

Continued on Page 5

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Disciplinary penalty limit raised to 90 days; entry rules on age, health revised

Kuwait Army law gains new recruitment and leave flexibility

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Decree-Law No. 92/2026, amending certain provisions of Law No. 32/1967 regarding the Army, was published on Sunday in the official gazette, "Kuwait Al-Yaum," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The amendments include raising the maximum limit for penalties restricting liberty in cases of disciplinary infractions, regulating the age of admission and health fitness requirements for military service, permitting the recruitment of professionals and other categories under special contracts, and introducing special leave categories, whether with full pay, reduced pay, or without pay.

The Decree-Law comprises the following

articles:

Article 1 replaces the texts of Articles 23, 32 (items 2 and 3), and 40 (item 2) of the aforementioned Law No. 32/1967 with the following texts:

* Article 23 - Disciplinary infractions and penalties, as well as the procedures for their imposition, execution, and filing grievances against them, shall be determined by decree. Such penalties shall not include stripping of rank, expulsion, dismissal, demotion, corporal punishment, or any penalty restricting liberty for a period exceeding ninety days.

* Article 32 (items 2 and 3) - A candidate for acceptance as an officer must meet the following conditions:

1. Meet the admission age requirement (the specific age and any exceptions thereto shall be determined by a decision of the Minister).

2. Demonstrate health fitness for military service (the conditions for which shall be determined by a decision of the Minister).

* Article 40 (item 2) - Meet the admission age requirement (the specific age and any exceptions thereto shall be determined by a decision of the Minister).

Article 2 - A new paragraph shall be added to Article 5, and a new item numbered 5 shall be added to Article 82 of the aforementioned Law No. 32/1967, reading as follows:

* Article 5 (new paragraph) - Professionals and any other categories may also be accepted into the Army under special contracts,

in accordance with the decisions and regulations governing this matter, to be issued by the Minister of Defence.

* Article 82 (Item 5) - Special leaves with full pay, reduced pay, or without pay.

Article 3 - Any provision conflicting with the provisions of this Decree-Law shall be repealed.

Article 4 - The Prime Minister and the Ministers, each within their respective jurisdiction, shall implement this Decree-Law. It shall be published in the official gazette and shall come into force from the date of its publication.

Explanatory Memorandum - The explana-

tory memorandum clarified that Army Law No. 32/1967 was enacted nearly six decades ago.

During that period, the Armed Forces underwent successive organizational, administrative, and operational developments.

This necessitated a review of certain provisions to align them with modern military requirements and grant the military administration greater flexibility in regulating operational matters, which naturally evolve alongside the changing needs of the Armed Forces, without compromising the fundamental guarantees established for military personnel.

Continued on Page 5

Syria embassy receives 1,277 citizenship status applications

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Chargé d'Affaires at the Syrian Embassy Tamim Al-Madani announced that the embassy has so far received 1,277 applications from women whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked and intend to regularize their status regarding Syrian citizenship.

In a statement to the newspaper on Sunday, Al-Madani confirmed that the embassy is finalizing the required documentation to refer the files to the relevant authorities in Syria, and then closely follow up these files. He said 1,270 cases have been processed till date, while the remaining applications are

still being processed.

He added "the number of consular transactions completed by the embassy since January till date reached 46,852, covering various consular services provided to the Syrian community in Kuwait."

He stated that the embassy provides a wide range of consular services, pointing out the ongoing efforts to organize appointments and queues, simplify application procedures, and outline the required documents in advance. "Priority is given to humanitarian and emergency cases to accelerate processing and reduce the number of times citizens need to visit the embassy."

Continued on Page 5



Al-Madani



KFH Group participates in Global Banking & Markets Saudi Arabia 2026



Zain, KSCD partner to advance accessibility

News watch

GAZA: The administration of the Kuwait Specialized Field Hospital "Shifa Palestine" in Gaza announced Saturday the suspension of operations across all medical departments and the halt of patient admissions, extending the emergency ward, starting Sunday due to a severe fuel shortage. The hospital management explained in a statement that the complete interruption of fuel supplies essential for generating power has impaired the operational capacity of its clinical wards and specialized medical services. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: The Lebanese Army announced Sunday that it received 70 containers of various types of ammunition under US assistance programs designated for the army. The army said in a statement that the aid was delivered at Beirut Port as part of continued US support for the Lebanese military. (KUNA)

Kuwait broadens its investor base with government sukuk

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): Finance Minister Dr. Yaqoub Al-Refaei said Law No. 90 of 2026 on government sukuk is an important step in developing Kuwait's sovereign financing framework and diversifying

funding sources.

In a press statement Sunday, Al-Refaei said the law allows sukuk to be included in the sovereign financing structure alongside conventional

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Finance Minister Dr. Yaqoub Al-Refaei during the launch ceremony.



Fajr 04:16 Asr 15:08
Sunrise .. 05:35 Maghrib .. 17:47
Zohr 11:41 Isha 19:03



HH the Amir



HH Prime Minister



First Deputy PM

Amir receives PM, Interior, Defense Ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Amir Rep. reaches NY for UNGA meetings

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the accompanying official delegation, arrived late Saturday at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York.

The Representative of His Highness the Amir will lead the Kuwaiti delegation to the high-level week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Upon arrival at the airport, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah was received by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai.



Crown Prince Diwan photo

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the accompanying official delegation, arrive in New York.

Decrees appoint Kuwait's new envoys to Norway, Oman, Japan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Decrees appointing Kuwaiti diplomats to the Kingdom of Norway, the Sultanate of Oman, and Japan were published on Sunday, in the official gazette, "Kuwait Al-Youm," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 146/2026 appoints Abdulaziz Saud Al-Jarallah, currently the State of Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as the State of Kuwait's non-resident Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, in addition to his current duties.

The decree authorizes the Minister of Foreign Affairs to implement it, stipulates that it shall take effect from

the date of its issuance, and directs its publication in the official gazette.

Also, Decree No. 147/2026 appoints two Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary - Mansour Khaled Al-Omar as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Sultanate of Oman, and Mohammad Nasser Al-Hajri as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Japan.

The decree authorizes the Minister of Foreign Affairs to implement it, stipulates that it shall take effect from the date of its issuance, and directs its publication in the official gazette.

'Economic courts to drive business and investment'

Judicial experts praise issuance of new law

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): Kuwait's issuance of the Economic Courts Law last August, effective October 2027, marks a legislative step toward developing economic justice and keeping pace with financial and technological developments.

The law establishes specialized economic circuits at the Court of First Instance, Court of Appeal and Court of Cassation to handle economic, commercial and investment disputes. It also provides for a specialized technical office.

It seeks to accelerate dispute resolution, improve enforcement procedures and expand electronic litigation, thereby strengthening contract enforcement and confidence in Kuwait's legal and investment environment.

The law establishes a case-preparation office to complete documents before cases reach court and regulate procedural and appeal deadlines. It also introduces settlement and reconciliation procedures before litigation, with settlement records granted the force of enforceable instruments.

Digital transformation is another key feature, through an electronic platform for litigation and enforcement, electronic case files and a database of published judgments and judicial principles.

The law also establishes a specialized enforcement department linked electronically with relevant authorities, while developing seizure procedures and adopting electronic auctions.

Specialists and academics told KUNA the measure could strengthen the investment environment, reduce litigation costs and risks, and return tied-up funds to economic activity faster, supporting Kuwait's competitiveness in line with New Kuwait 2035.

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director General Rabah Al-Rabah said developing economic justice would strengthen the business and investment environment, noting that swift dispute resolution and effective enforcement are important to investor confidence.

He said prolonged commercial disputes can delay projects and contracts and increase burdens on companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. He stressed that the law extends beyond issuing judgments to organizing enforcement and using specialized expertise and electronic tools.

Al-Rabah expected the law to reduce dispute-related costs and risks, while stressing the importance of clear and effective implementing regulations. Investment Interests Company Deputy CEO and Kuwait Economic Society Secretary-General Mohammad Al-Jouan said specialized economic circuits could strengthen Kuwait's position as a commercial and financial destination.

He said their importance extends beyond faster litigation to improving judgment quality and enabling courts to better understand modern financial and economic instruments.

Al-Jouan stressed the need for specialized judges and continuous training in financial instruments, commercial practices, fraud, financial crimes and money laundering.



Al-Rabah

Kuwait University Law Professor Dr. Meshal Johar Hayat said the law represents an important shift in handling economic disputes, previously considered within civil or commercial circuits.

He highlighted the case-preparation office, which reviews documents, completes deficiencies, notifies parties and facilitates the exchange of memoranda before cases reach judges, helping reduce procedural delays.

Hayat also stressed the importance of economic and investment experts within the technical office, saying they could provide specialized financial opinions and reduce reliance on external experts.

He said organized pre-litigation settlement could help resolve disputes without prolonged proceedings, preserve commercial relationships and reduce pressure on courts. Electronic litigation would also reduce paperwork and save time and costs without compromising defense rights.

Hayat stressed that justice is incomplete without effective enforcement, requiring improved mechanisms and electronic links with relevant authorities.

Gulf University for Science and Technology Assistant Dean Dr. Osama Al-Falah said specialized economic circuits reflect recognition that efficient commercial justice forms part of economic infrastructure.

He said specialization builds judicial expertise in complex financial and commercial transactions, improving the quality and speed of judgments. Clear procedures and efficient commercial justice are also important considerations for foreign investors.

Al-Falah said legal uncertainty can increase investment risks and influence investors' choice of markets. He added that effective implementation could strengthen Kuwait's competitiveness as a regional financial and commercial destination.



KUNA photo

The training session in progress.

KUNA 'Media Center' launches news writing training program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): KUNA Media Development Center launched Sunday a training program on "News Writing and Sources," attended by staff from KUNA, the GCC General Secretariat and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

The program, presented by KUNA Senior Editor Mustafa Mahmoud and running through September 24, aims to develop trainees' news writing skills according to professional standards and enhance their ability to select and assess sources and verify information before publication.

Combining theoretical and practical approaches, the program covers accurate and balanced journalistic writing and ways to avoid common professional errors.

The program addresses the concept,

types and importance of news, news values, event selection criteria, sources and professional handling, as well as news structure, headlines, leads and common editing errors.

It also covers the use of verbs and language styles in news writing and information verification before publication.

The program is part of the center's efforts to qualify media professionals and enhance their skills through specialized training that keeps pace with developments in the media industry and meets the needs of media institutions and related entities.

Established in December 1995, the KUNA Media Development Center is among the leading media training centers, having delivered hundreds of programs in various media fields to develop professionals' capabilities and advance journalistic work.

Court Cases

Ruling overturned as court fines Kuwaiti female in 'custody' case

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 19: The Court of Appeals overturned a lower court ruling that ordered a female citizen to pay KD2,000 in moral damages to her ex-husband for depriving him of his visitation rights with their children.

The appellate court reduced the compensation amount to KD1,000 while upholding the remainder of the judgment.

According to the case files, the court, presided over by Judge Fahad Fadel Al-Fahad, with Judges Fikri Awad and Amr Rajai Issa as members, indicated that the plaintiff, represented by Attorney Fahad Al-Shammari, filed a lawsuit seeking compensation from his ex-wife and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, in his official capacity, after he was prevented from exercising his court-ordered visitation rights.

The ruling pointed out that the plaintiff previously obtained a judicial ruling affirming his right to see his children, as well as a court order granting him visitation every Friday.

However, he discovered that his ex-wife had repeatedly traveled abroad with the children, despite court orders rejecting requests for such travel.

The court indicated that the plaintiff submitted the entry and exit records of the children, which confirmed their departure from the country from May 24 to June 28, 2024, as well as from Dec 20, 2025, onwards.

The Court of First Instance previously ordered the defendant to pay KD2,000 in moral damages and KD50 in legal fees.

It reached this decision after establishing her fault, evidenced by her repeated failure to comply with the visitation judgment, her failure to bring the children to the designated visitation center, and her departure from the country with them despite the travel ban.

The court stated that these actions deprived the father of his visitation rights and caused him moral injury and psychological distress due to his inability to see his children. However, it rejected his claim for compensation for material damage, finding no grounds for it.

On appeal, the female citizen argued that she traveled to the Arab Republic of Egypt to sit for law school examinations and was compelled to take the two children with her because she had no one with whom to leave them, thereby, negating the element of fault.

She further contended that her ex-husband failed to fulfill his own obligations under the visitation order, having missed scheduled visits on several occasions.

Nevertheless, the Court of Appeals upheld the lower court's finding of fault, indicating that the appellant failed to present any evidence that would alter the outcome of the case.

Meanwhile, the court deemed the awarded compensation of KD2,000 excessive and disproportionate to the moral injury suffered by the father, emphasizing that compensation for moral injury must be commensurate with the harm caused and should not become a means of unjust enrichment or punitive retribution.

The court reduced the compensation to KD1,000 while upholding the remainder of the judgment and ordered the appellee to bear the legal costs and KD20 in attorney's fees.

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Court acquits woman: A misdemeanor court acquitted a Kuwaiti woman, the guardian of a student, of charges involving the insult of staff members in a school's student affairs department while they were performing their duties, reports Al-Anba daily.

The incident began when the guardian visited the school to process her daughter's transfer. She was initially told that she needed to obtain a "no-objection" letter from the educational zone. However, upon visiting the zone office, she discovered that the procedure did not actually require such a document.

Upon returning to the school to question the requirement and the resulting delay, a heated exchange ensued between her and the staff members.

She voiced objections regarding the processing method and the fact that she had been provided with incorrect information, prompting the staff to file a formal complaint against her.

Defense attorney Mohammad Sati Al-Otaibi argued that the elements constituting the crime of insulting a public official were absent.

He maintained that his client's remarks were made in the heat of the moment, stemming from frustration over the procedural delay and conflicting information, and did not inherently reflect an intent to demean the staff's dignity.

Other Voices

The illusion of peace and the pain of reality

By Ahmad alsarraf

THE Jewish American human rights advocate, Professor Norman Finkelstein, says, "I refuse to condemn Hamas because I believe that those who carried out the October 7th operation had no other option but to die as slaves."

I wish that all those who condemned the October 7th operation, regardless of my sharing the same negative views toward Hamas, would tell us how a Palestinian can ever restore even the smallest part of his rights and reclaim the home that was usurped 78 years ago by an immigrant from Russia or Ukraine.

On the same day Finkelstein made his statement, the headline Israeli National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, told the Associated Press, "It's no secret that I disagree with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and I believe that assassinations should be carried out in Gaza, eliminating 30 to 40 Palestinians every night. These assassinations should not only target those who pose a direct threat to us. There are people who do not deserve to live and should stay alive. They aren't even humans."

Ben-Gvir's statement sparked a major international outcry. International legal experts described it as potential evidence that could be presented before the International Court of Justice in support of allegations of genocidal intent.

The statement may also have contributed to Britain's recent decision to boycott Israeli products from illegal Israeli settlements.

Ben-Gvir also called for the mass expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza and their replacement with Israelis. He said, "I see all of Gaza as ours." Legal experts described this statement as potentially constituting ethnic cleansing.

The renowned American rabbi Yosef Mizrahi said, "The Gentiles are angry because the Jews control the

money. Who else can control the money? Is it you? Do you compare yourself to the chosen people? Don't you see God's favor upon them? It is good for you that they run the country, they run the world, they run the economy. The entire world has tried to destroy the Jews. But all empires have fallen, and the Jews have remained in power.

According to the laws of nature, the Jews were supposed to die in the first year after the Torah was given to them, when their enemies, the Amalekites, came. They had no army, no weapons. They were in the middle of the desert with their children. Suddenly they were attacked. At that time, their survival was a great miracle.

The Jews went through 3,300 years of massacres, the Holocaust, and all kinds of wars. Armies came to Jerusalem to burn us alive. All of that is gone, and we are above everyone else, always in power, always ahead of the world.

Imagine the world without us; it would undoubtedly be a thousand years more primitive. Almost all the world's inventions are the work of Jews, especially Israelis. Medicine, doctors, surgeons, America's top judges, all kinds of designers, architects, artists, musicians, leading rabbis, philosophers. Try to imagine the world without us, knowing that we only make up a quarter of one percent of the world's population.

Just to remind you, the United States was on the verge of bankruptcy in 2008. Everything was about to collapse. Who saved this country? No one but the Jewish Ben Shalom Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve. He was a religious Jew, and he made some brilliant moves in managing interest rates by lowering them. He forced the big banks to buy the small ones before everyone went into complete chaos.

America would have been worse off than the Soviet Union, but no one seems to be grateful for what he did."

After all this, some people still believe that the Israelis want nothing but peace.

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Saudi is strong ... fate of Houthis & Iran doomed

“AS previously noted, there are armed factions in Iraq that the government of Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi ordered to surrender their weapons before the end of September. While some complied, others refused, including factions aligned with Iran,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“One of these Iran-aligned groups recently launched a drone attack on the oil pipeline extending from Jubail to the Red Sea. However, Riyadh decided against immediate retaliation, acceding to the Iraqi prime minister’s request to give Baghdad an opportunity



Ahmad Al-Dawas

to take the necessary measures. This reflects a measured Saudi approach characterized by restraint. Gulf states condemned the aggression against Saudi Arabia, viewing it as an attack on themselves.

“This assault on Saudi Arabia may well have been instigated by Iran to alleviate pressure on its Houthi proxies in Yemen, as the Houthis are on the verge of defeat by Yemeni government forces - a development that could bring the war in Yemen to an end. What many may not realize is that Saudi Arabia is a member of the G20, a group of twenty major economies, including European countries, that holds summits to address issues affecting the global economy, including the risk of a worldwide economic crisis.

“Given that the world comprises approximately 198 nations, the significance of the G20 as an “elite” body is evident. It accounts for roughly 90 percent of global economic output, 80 percent of international trade, and 66 percent of the world’s population. The mere fact that these nations convene for consultation has helped stabilize volatile markets. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has been ranked among the world’s top ten “most powerful nations” by U.S. News & World Report. This status stems from its international and military alliances, political and economic influence, and effective leadership.

“When former U.S. President Ronald Reagan sought to counter Soviet expansionism around the world forty years ago - a strategy known as the Reagan Doctrine - he faced financial constraints. The United States was exhausted after emerging from the Vietnam War. As the administration, alongside CIA Director William Casey, explored ways to overcome this financial impasse, Saudi Arabia stepped in to provide the necessary funding. Throughout Reagan’s presidency, Saudi Arabia played a major and influential role in helping to avert threats to the security of nations.

“The situation was perilous, threatening stability in the Middle East - a crisis that coincided with Reagan’s election as U.S. president. Saudi Arabia played a prominent role as an ally in a politically volatile region, a partnership from which the United States benefited. For its part, Saudi Arabia sought to counter the Soviet threat and its ideology. It viewed Moscow’s intervention in Afghanistan as part of a Soviet strategy to encircle the Arabian Peninsula with radical regimes - a view reinforced by the Soviet presence in Yemen and Ethiopia.

“Furthermore, Saudi Arabia provided USD 32 million to Nicaraguan rebels fighting their country’s Marxist government and offered financial assistance to Sudan to counter the threat posed by neighboring Ethiopia. This enabled Sudan to exert pressure on the government of Mengistu Haile Mariam, a Soviet ally. Saudi Arabia supported Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in his struggle against the country’s communist government by providing funds to Morocco to establish a training camp for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

“In doing so, Saudi Arabia played a major and influential role in helping to avert threats to the security of peoples. So much so that Prince Bandar bin Sultan, then Saudi Ambassador to the United States, confided to an American journalist in 1981, perhaps jokingly, “If you knew what we were actually doing for America, you wouldn’t just give us AWACS aircraft , you would give us nuclear weapons.”

Also:

“Our brethren in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are celebrating the 96th anniversary of the Kingdom’s unification and founding - its National Day. On this joyous occasion,

we are delighted to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to our brothers in Saudi Arabia,” columnist **Mohammad Ali Al-Naqi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Yet, regrettably, and in defiance of Arab and Islamic norms and traditions, a misguided faction known as the “Houthis” has chosen this very period to launch attacks against Saudi Arabia rather than offer congratulations on this blessed occasion, regardless of their alleged grievances or claims. It should suffice for them to see Saudi Arabia, with all its regions, tribes, and diverse communities, enjoying prosperity, happiness, and a life of abundance and dignity.

“They see its people traveling across the globe - East and West - welcomed with respect and esteem, united by bonds of neighborliness, shared Arab heritage, and the eternal message of Islam. How I wish that Yemen, in both its northern and southern parts and with all its constituent groups, were part of the prosperous Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, sharing in the well-being enjoyed by the Saudi people rather than enduring the suffering and hardship they have faced for decades.

“Returning to the subject, consider the wretched Houthis, who have abandoned all norms of humanity, neighborliness, and shared Arab identity. They have reached a state of intellectual, mental, and doctrinal derangement that has effectively placed them outside the fold of Islam. This is not an unfounded statement, nor is it born of prejudice or a desire to disparage them. History records the fate of the Qarmatians and the Portuguese, who once attempted to reach Makkah via Jeddah. Their hopes were dashed; they retreated in ruin and ultimately met their demise.

“As for the Qarmatians, they suffered the same ignominious fate. They perished, their hopes were dashed, and their lineage and followers were eradicated, leaving behind neither memory nor renown. Turning to the Houthi attack targeting the airspace of Makkah Al-Mukarramah, this is an event that demands serious attention. It recalls the 2017 attack and represents a matter of grave concern, threatening the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the safety of its citizens, residents, and pilgrims visiting the Sacred House of God.

“Furthermore, it inflames and provokes the sentiments of Muslims across the Arab and Islamic world and beyond. It is evident to all that Saudi Arabia - praise be to God - possesses formidable military capabilities capable of confronting and eliminating these groups, as well as their instigators - the Iranian side. Iran has, contrary to the facts, publicly condemned the Houthi attacks on Makkah.

“One can only hope that they are sincere, that they have come to their senses, embraced the path of truth and righteousness, and returned to a proper understanding of neighborly obligations and the teachings of peace and Islam - a genuine and irreversible change of course rather than a mere political ruse or deceptive smokescreen. If their stance is indeed sincere, they must convince the Houthis to adopt this new position.

“Although the Gulf states, with Saudi Arabia as their principal and most significant power, are fully capable of delivering a decisive response to Iranian and Houthi aggression, they exercise restraint out of humanitarian concern, respect for the sanctity of neighborly relations, and adherence to Islamic teachings. While everyone is well aware of Saudi Arabia’s capability to deliver a decisive and unequivocal response to such actions, it would be deeply moving and admirable for the Gulf states to contribute, even if only with a single squad or a military unit of no more than thirty personnel, to a presence within Saudi Arabia.

“Such a gesture would serve as a powerful symbol of cooperation, solidarity, and fraternal unity, demonstrating to the world the deep bonds that connect the members of the Gulf family. We reiterate our congratulations and best wishes to our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. May God protect the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states from all harm and evil, and may He turn the plots of sinful aggressors back against them.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Drive to safeguard environment gets support

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi emphasized Saturday the vital importance of supporting community initiatives aimed at protecting the environment, enhancing public cleanliness, and raising ecological awareness across all segments of society.

In a press statement during his sponsorship and attendance of a field campaign to clean the Jahra

Nature Reserve-coinciding with World Cleanup Day-Al-Habashi commended the collaborative efforts between the governorate, the “Kafu” platform, civil volunteers, and members of the diplomatic corps.

The governor stressed the necessity of instilling civic responsibility, environmental stewardship, and sustainable habits among youth, praising the active involvement of dip-

lomatic representatives and community volunteers in the cleanup drive.

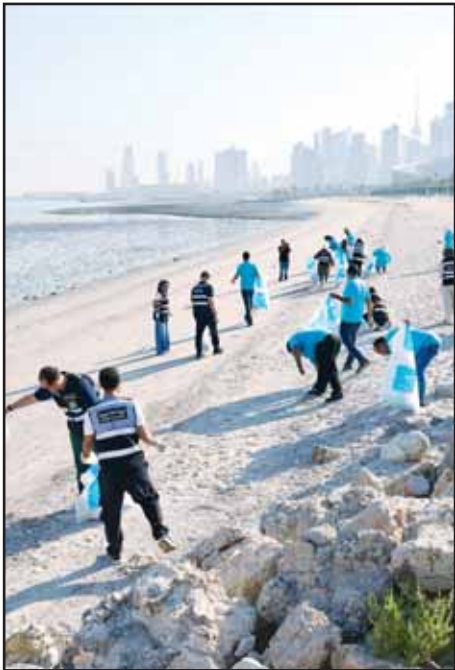
He also highlighted the value of encouraging student-led initiatives in coordination with the Ministry of Education to foster national belonging and social accountability, urging citizens and residents to actively join volunteer efforts that preserve Kuwait’s natural ecosystems and reflect its cultural heritage.



Hamad Al-Habashi



Top and above: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with senior security officials.



KUNA photo
Volunteers pick up waste on the beach near Kuwait City.

Volunteers, old and young, join ‘beach cleaning’ drive

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): Activists of various ages have rolled up their sleeves to collect waste littered across the Kuwaiti Abu Halifa beach, marking the World Cleanup Day.

The group, including volunteers, civil servants and personnel from public and private institutions, assembled early today at the beach, collecting the waste in an activity sponsored and attended by Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The task, carried out in coordination with “KAFO” association, aims at promoting the culture of volunteering and preserving beaches’ cleanliness.

Video clip ‘drifters’ have their vehicles destroyed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The General Traffic Department, represented by the Security Monitoring Department, apprehended two individuals after video footage documented them driving recklessly and irresponsibly, endangering their own lives as well as the lives and property of other road users, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, the department announced that the arrests followed the necessary investigations and identification of the suspects.

Legal proceedings were initiated against them, and they were referred to the Central Prison. Also, the vehicles involved were crushed in accordance with established legal procedures.

The General Traffic Department warned that endangering lives and property would be met with strict enforcement of the law, emphasizing its continued efforts to monitor, apprehend, and hold reckless drivers accountable to ensure the safety of all road users.

Collective efforts for clean ecology

Big turnout at World Cleanup Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The World Cleanup Day 2026 was held at Riggae Park in Andalus under the patronage and in the presence of Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Present at the event were Farwaniya Governorate Security Director Brigadier General Faisal Al-Rabah, Andalus Precinct Commander Colonel Hamad Jandoul Al-Jandoul, CEO of ‘Kafo’ platform Dr. Fatima Al-Mousawi, security officials and volunteer teams.

The Governor pointed out that the event is a manifestation of the importance of community

partnership and promoting environmental preservation and public cleanliness.

He commended the role that volunteer teams and security agencies played in supporting community initiatives and encouraging positive behaviors among members of the society.

He also praised the efforts of the event organizers and participants, stressing that raising environmental awareness and encouraging volunteer work are vital to improving the aesthetic appearance of the governorate and supporting efforts to maintain a clean and sustainable environment.

The event witnessed the active participation of volunteer teams, during which the strong coordination among participating entities was evident, reflecting social responsibility and solidarity in serving the governorate.

Municipality announces new schedule for burials

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Kuwait Municipality has announced a schedule for funeral burials across the country’s cemeteries, effective Sunday, September 20, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The measure aims to streamline procedures and ease the process for the deceased’s relatives and mourners during funeral processions, prayers, and burials.

According to a municipal circular, morning burials are scheduled for 9:00 am, while evening burials will take place after the Asr prayer.

Burials may also take place after the Isha prayer at the request of the deceased’s family, provided they coordinate in advance with the Funeral Affairs Department to obtain approval and complete the necessary procedures in accordance with established regulations.

Mishal Al-Azmi, Deputy Director General for Municipal Services, instructed cemetery officials to organize operations according to the designated schedule and provide the necessary resources to ensure smooth burial procedures and proper services for the families of the deceased and mourners.

Asian expat nabbed, says he is trafficking narcotics

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Farwaniya security patrol officers arrested an Asian expatriate for peddling narcotics to users in the Ardiya Industrial Area after officers found him in possession of illicit substances, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, officers, while implementing a security deployment plan throughout Farwaniya Governorate, spotted a suspicious vehicle parked at a commercial complex in the evening recently.

When officers approached, the driver attempted to flee, but they apprehended him.

He was identified as an Asian national, and a search revealed that he was carrying narcotics packaged in small bags ready for sale.

The sources stated that during questioning, the suspect confessed to peddling drugs and admitted that he was on his way to sell the seized narcotics to users.

Consequently, he and the seized narcotics were referred to the competent authorities for legal action.

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Driving without plate: Hawally traffic officers referred a motorist to the traffic detention center for driving a vehicle without a plate number, reports Al-Seyassah.

According to a security source, traffic officers spotted a vehicle without a plate number, so they signaled for the driver to pull over, issued him a traffic violation citation, referred him to the traffic detention center, and impounded the vehicle.

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Other Voices

Kuwait's reform momentum: From decisions to measurable results

Legislation sets direction, institutional performance determines whether reform delivers real value.

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb
Managing Partner, Taher Group Law Firm
Legal Strategist & Executive Educator

After more than two decades working across law, management and executive education, I have become increasingly cautious about one common mistake: confusing activity with achievement.

I see it even in legal practice. Files get thicker, meetings multiply, correspondence increases and everyone appears busy. Yet one question remains: What actually moved forward?

The same question applies to institutions and governments. Kuwait is currently experiencing substantial legislative activity. The Kuwait Laws Portal records 83 entries under its "Laws" category in 2024, 117 in 2025 and 84 so far in 2026 - 284 entries in less than three years. The figure reflects different legislative instruments, but it clearly illustrates the pace of legal change.

The more important question, however, is not how many laws are issued. It is what difference they make in practice. That is where law meets leadership.

One principle I repeatedly encounter in Brian Tracy's leadership methodology is simple: if you cannot measure performance, you cannot manage it effectively. Clear objectives, measurable standards, defined re-

sponsibility, review and adjustment are central to high-performance management.

Government, of course, is more complex than business. A state cannot be reduced to a profit-and-loss statement. Justice, trust, accessibility, quality, resilience and fairness matter as much as speed or cost. The challenge is therefore not to measure more, but to measure the right things.

This is precisely what leading international public-administration frameworks attempt to do. Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government looks at public administration through areas including Strategy and Leadership, Public Policy, National Delivery, and People and Processes. The OECD similarly examines not just outcomes, but also the governance systems, resources and institutional capabilities that produce them. Cambridge research on public-sector productivity likewise stresses that productivity is not simply about reducing cost; quality, effectiveness, management capability and public value matter too. This has direct relevance to Kuwait's current reforms.

Take the new Economic Circuits Law, the legislation creates a specialized procedural structure for economic disputes, including settlement mechanisms, case preparation, electronic litigation and specialized procedures. The law itself is an important output. But once it is implemented, the more meaningful questions begin: How long does an economic dispute actually take? How many cases are settled early? How long do expert reports take? Where do delays occur? How predictable is the process for businesses and investors?

The same applies to the proposed new Arbitration Law. Its success should not ultimately be measured simply by saying Kuwait has enacted a modern arbitration framework. The more important question will

be whether commercial disputes become faster, more predictable and more effective in practice.

The modernization of notarization provides another example. Expanding digital documentation, remote procedures and electronic verification is important. But the true measure is how much time is saved, how many physical visits are eliminated, how reliably transactions are completed and how users experience the service. This is the difference between measuring activity and measuring impact.

From my own experience managing organizations, I have learned that a KPI nobody reviews is decoration, a target without an accountable owner is an aspiration, and a report that identifies a problem but leads to no corrective action is simply another report.

The value of performance management lies in the cycle: define the objective, establish the baseline, assign responsibility, measure progress, review the evidence, correct course and measure again.

For public institutions, the same logic applies. Measurement should not be treated as a search for blame. A performance indicator is a tool for improvement. It shows what is working, where delays remain and what needs to change.

For every major reform, five questions are enough: What did we intend to achieve? What was actually delivered? What changed for citizens, businesses or investors? What does the evidence tell us? And what should we improve next?

That, to me, is leadership at institutional scale. Legislation provides the architecture, institutions turn it into action. Data tells us what happened, leadership decides what to do next. And ultimately, the real measure of reform is not how many decisions we make, but how consistently we turn those decisions into better results.

'Need to raise awareness on safeguarding environs'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr. Khaled Al-Rshaid confirmed that the ministry is keen on instilling an environmental culture among students and promoting positive behaviors related to environmental conservation and sustainability, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement after the opening of registration for the Fourth Omniya Madrasatak (Your School's Wish) Exhibition at The Avenues Mall, Al-Rshaid underscored the



Dr. Al-Rshaid

importance of the partnership with the Environment Public Authority (EPA). He said the collaboration supports awareness initiatives aimed at molding a generation that is conscious of their environmental responsibilities.

He stated that the participation of 156 schools, including all educational levels from kindergarten to high school, in the exhibition last year affirmed the significance of engaging students in practical initiatives, which help cultivate a sense of social responsibility and encourage the adoption of recycling practices and the reduction of plastic waste.

On the other hand, Sana Al-Ghamlas, CEO of Omniya, commended the role of government bodies, including the ministries of Interior, Education, Youth and Sports, and Development and Sustainability, as well as the Environment Public Authority, in supporting environmental initiatives. She highlighted their efforts to strengthen institutional partnerships aimed at spreading environmental awareness among students, indicating that school registration for the competition began on Sept 13 and will continue until Sept 26.

She underscored the exhibition's significance in raising environmental awareness and promoting a culture of plastic collection and recycling. She pointed out that the initiative provides an opportunity to translate environmental concepts into practical actions involving students, as well as the teaching and administrative staff, in all educational levels.

MPW opens applications for 129 supervisory positions

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) has opened the application process for its employees to fill 129 vacant supervisory positions, at the levels of Department Director and Section Head, across various sectors of the ministry.

Applications will be accepted from next Sunday until October 3.

Eligibility is restricted to employees who meet the criteria set forth in Civil Service Commission Resolution No. 25/2006, as amended, regarding supervisory

roles.

Key requirements include holding a specialized university degree and possessing relevant practical experience of at least 10 years for Department Director positions and six years for Section Head positions.

Under these conditions, four years of actual experience are added to the required duration for holders of specialized diplomas, or their equivalents, or those who have completed training courses lasting at least two years after secondary education.

The ministry also requires applicants to have received an "Excellent" rating in their two most recent performance evaluations and to have completed two full calendar years

of service at the ministry before being seconded to the supervisory role, while adhering to the career progression requirements outlined in Civil Service Commission Resolution No. 30/2015.

An exemption from the career progression requirement applies to employees of government entities undergoing merger or dissolution, in accordance with the Civil Service Commission's decision made during its meeting No. 10/2024, held on September 19, 2024.

Furthermore, applications must comply with the provisions of Ministerial Resolution No. 342/2026, issued on September 16, regarding additional criteria for filling supervisory positions within the ministry.

KU sets up committees to name colleges deans

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Kuwait University announced that the University President Dr. Dina Al-Mailem has issued several decisions to form committees to select deans for a number of the university's colleges, as part of her commitment to supporting academic and administrative operations and advancing institutional development, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement issued on Sunday, the university identified the colleges for which the committees were formed - the College of Business Administration, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Dentistry, and the College of Architecture.

Bid to improve studies quality

Al-Jalal visits AGU, eyes expertise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal visited the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) on the sidelines of his participation in the 26th meeting of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)



Dr. Al-Jalal

countries, held in the Bahraini capital, Manama, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, Al-Jalal looked into the academic and research experience of AGU, as well as its educational programs and academic and medical facilities.

AGU President Dr. Saad bin Saud Al-Fuhaid warmly welcomed the minister.

He met with Kuwaitis studying at the university and listened to their impressions of their educational experience and the academic and research environment provided by the university, which contributes to preparing them to serve Kuwait and support the Gulf development journey.

Meanwhile, Al-Fuhaid talked about the university's history since its establishment in 1980 and detailed the programs offered by its colleges, including the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences and the College of Graduate Studies, which covers Education, Administrative Sciences and Technology. He expressed appreciation for Kuwait's support for the university and commended the excellence of its Kuwaiti graduates in various disciplines.

Al-Jalal was also briefed on the King

Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City project and its role in advancing medical education, scientific research and healthcare services, as well as the university's plans to expand into specialized fields and further develop its research ecosystem.

Al-Fuhaid stated "the 2025/2026 academic year witnessed the publication of 497 scientific and research outputs, with 76 percent of the published research falling within the top two quartiles (Q1 and Q2), according to the international SCImago ranking. The university hosts specialized academic chairs in certain fields like biotechnology, smart agriculture, digital education and medical microbiology, which contributed to the publication of 24 peer-reviewed scientific papers within a single year."

Meeting

Moreover, the meeting tackled the 2026/2030 strategic plan of the university, which focuses on enhancing the quality of educational outcomes, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and embedding excellence and financial sustainability, all within the vision of serving as an academic beacon for human development and shaping the future.

The tour covered the academic and training facilities of the university, as well as the Medical Simulation and Skills Center.

The center recently received the prestigious ASPIRE Global Award for Excellence in Medical Education in the Medical Simulation category, presented by the International Association for Medical Education (AMEE).

Al-Jalal looked into the expansion phases of the center and its role in supporting the educational process, clinical training and skills development for students and healthcare practitioners.

By providing an advanced training environment that mirrors professional reality, the center contributes to raising the proficiency of health education graduates and improving the quality of healthcare.

Court jails board chairman for embezzling co-op cash

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The Court of Appeals, led by Judge Hassan Al-Shammari, sentenced the chairman of Board of Directors of a cooperative society to two years in prison with hard labor, while his deputy was sentenced to four years in prison with hard labor, for misappropriating the funds of the cooperative and engaging in money laundering, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court reached this decision after thoroughly reviewing the case, as well as the arguments and evidence presented by both parties. The court found the defendants guilty of the charges. The defendants were accused of financial misconduct, specifically the misappropriation of the funds of the cooperative and money laundering transactions.

Ex-minister jailed: The Misdemeanor Court sentenced a former minister and lawmaker to six months in prison with hard labor for defrauding a citizen in a commercial deal, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Attorney Abdullah Al-Hammadi filed the case on behalf of his client -- a citizen who lodged a complaint against the former minister and lawmaker, claiming the latter unlawfully obtained funds from him during a commercial transaction. This prompted the relevant authorities to initiate an investigation, which led to court proceedings.

After thoroughly examining the evidence and considering the claims of the defense and opposition, the court issued a guilty verdict. Consequently, the former minister and lawmaker was sentenced to six months in prison with hard labor.



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs photos

According to a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting discussed efforts to make tangible progress in searching for missing Kuwaitis and third-country nationals, determining their fate, and recovering Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

Domestically, government sukuk issuances would support development of the local debt market and establish a sovereign sukuk yield curve across various maturities, enhancing pricing efficiency and providing a benchmark

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In this photo provided by Scott McWilliams, crews install the first sections of a new border wall in the Big Bend region of west Texas, on Sept 16. (AP)

Trump administration begins building border wall in Texas’ Big Bend region

COMSTOCK, Texas, Sept 20, (AP): The Trump administration has started building the border wall through a west Texas section of the Big Bend region, marking the first major construction in an area of the US-Mexico border where the administration’s plans have met heavy opposition. The start of construction marks an important milestone in the administration’s \$46 billion plan to line the border with walls, barriers, roads and technology as it seeks to make good on a key campaign promise by President Donald Trump to finish the wall. And it comes as Customs and Border Protection says it has doubled the pace at which it is building the wall across the US-Mexico border. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement to The Associated Press that “border wall panel instal-

lation is underway” in a 47-mile stretch of Hudspeth County in west Texas known as Big Bend 1. There are a total of five project areas that make up the roughly 500-mile Big Bend region stretching from an area of Hudspeth County south of El Paso to Lake Amistad. CBP said the first panels were erected on September 15. On a map on the agency’s website where the agency posts updates of wall construction across the entire southern border, a photo showed a crane lifting one of the 30-foot-tall steel wall panels into place while construction workers looked on. The new activity was separate from a border infrastructure project in the nearby Big Bend National Park, where the administration has temporarily suspended construction in an attempt to reach out to oppo-

nents. In the broader Big Bend region of Texas, CBP has run up against concerted opposition from landowners, environmental groups, business owners and ranchers who say the remote region isn’t a high-traffic area for illegal immigration. Activists said Friday they would continue opposing the border infrastructure projects in the rest of the Big Bend region, even as the panels were being installed. Clara Benson, one of the founders of the No Big Bend Wall Coalition which has been fighting against CBP’s plans, said in an interview Friday that the organization had been receiving reports of trucks moving supplies into the remote area along the Rio Grande and that contractors had been clearing yards to stage supplies.

Senate and governor races heat up

Vance blasts Democrats as ‘lunatics’ in Iowa rally push for GOP candidates

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, Sept 20, (AP): US Vice President JD Vance on Friday mounted a vigorous defense of the Trump administration’s policies and Iowa GOP candidates on the November ballot, arguing that the Democrats had turned into the party of “lunatics,” in his second trip to the politically consequential state this year. While in Iowa, Vance tried to nationalize the elections, invoking Democratic candidates in other states such as Kansas, Texas and New York at a time when the state’s Democratic ticket has tried to keep its focus local. But he took plenty of swings at Iowa Democrats, saying their candidate for governor, Rob Sand, was a “career politician” and not a moderate, despite his public persona. “Let’s send the crazy packing and get them out of Washington, D.C., and get them out of Des Moines,” Vance told the crowd at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, located on the western edge of the once-Republican stronghold state. Iowa has found itself with competitive races for the Senate and the governor’s mansion this year. Zach Lahn, the GOP nominee for governor, campaigned alongside Vance, who showered him with effusive praise. But missing was Republican U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson, the party’s Senate candidate, who did not attend the rally Friday due to previously scheduled events, according to her campaign. Council Bluffs is home to Josh Turek, the Democratic nominee for the Senate who represents the area in the Statehouse. “It’s no mystery why Vance is here,” Turek wrote in a fundraising appeal ahead of Vance’s visit. “It’s because his billionaire bosses are terrified that their grip over Iowa is slipping - and with it, their narrow Senate majority.” Vance spoke about job growth under the Trump administration and was greeted with cheers for the administration’s work on immigration and border security. Continuing on his laundry list of White House accomplishments,



Vice President JD Vance speaks during a Republican National Committee’s Midterm Rally at the Mid-America Center on Sept 18 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. (AP)

Vance mentioned the administration’s work to get “most favored nation” prescription drug prices and highlighted the policies on not taxing tips or overtime and protecting Social Security.

In the agriculture-heavy state, Vance said he was perhaps “most proud of what we’ve been able to do for Iowa farmers,” pointing to efforts by the administration to open up more global markets to American-grown food. Still, Vance urged voters to be patient. “Whenever you hear me talk during this midterm campaign, I’ll say Rome was not built in a day because we know there’s a lot of work to do,” Vance said. Vance took his first trip to the state as vice president in May, campaigning alongside Rep. Zach Nunn, one of the party’s most endangered incumbents this year. Nunn and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, another Iowa Republican, voted earlier this week in a symbolic measure to halt the war in Iran, underscoring how the military conflict that Trump launched is causing political troubles for his own party. The vice president has been one of the most visible surrogates on the midterm campaign trail, jetting to locations such as Kansas, Wisconsin and his native Ohio to promote Republican candidates and the administration’s achievements. Friday’s rally location is in Iowa’s 4th Congressional District, which is being vacated by Republican Rep. Randy Feenstra after his failed bid for governor. Democrat Dave Dawson and Republican Chris McGowan are vying for the seat. That race is not considered one of the more competitive races in this election. Vance’s visit to the state shows Republican candidates are in political trouble in November, said Katie Smith, a spokesperson for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, in a statement. “Iowans have had enough of their D.C.-first, Iowa-last priorities and will hold them all accountable for their agenda that’s caused skyrocketing prices at the pump, grocery stores, and doctor’s office,” Smith said.

Ukrainian forces fire more than 1,000 drones at Russia overnight

KYIV, Sept 20, (AP): Ukrainian forces fired more than 1,000 drones at Russia overnight, including hundreds that were launched toward Moscow, officials said Sunday as the Kremlin was wrapping up the third and last day of its parliamentary elections. Moscow’s mayor described the wave of drones as the “largest ever” drone attack on the Russian capital and said there had been damage to a Moscow oil refinery and a residential building. Across the wider Moscow region, the attack killed two people and wounded 20, local Gov. Andrei Vorobyov said. The dead were a 74-year-old man and a 44-year-old woman, he said. Writing on social media, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Kyiv had used a range of missiles and drones in the attack - including Ukraine’s domestically made Flamingo and Pelican missiles - to hit oil and logistics facilities. “These are billions of dollars that sustain the war machine,” Zelenskyy said, referring to the financial pressure that Kyiv hopes to put on Russia’s economy. Ukraine also continued to fend off Russian attacks, Zelenskyy said. A Russian drone strike hit a monastery in Ukraine’s Kherson region Satur-



This photo provided by the Moscow-appointed head of Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia region Yevgeny Balitsky’s telegram channel shows a polling station located in a school that was damaged by Armed Forces of Ukraine, in the village of Prishib, Mikhailovsky district, in Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine on Sept. 20. (AP) day, killing a member of the clergy and wounding four people, he said. A Russian attack on the Ukrainian capital also killed two children and their mother on Saturday evening, said Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kyiv regional state administra-

tion. He later said that another child wounded in the same attack had died in hospital on Sunday. The attack took place on the final day of Russia’s first wartime parliamentary election - balloting that has been virtually devoid of opposition to President Vladimir Putin’s policies and is all but certain to cement the Kremlin’s dominance. Russia was also holding the vote in the four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed after the war began but still doesn’t fully control, and in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014. Kyiv has denounced the action as illegal. In a Russian-occupied area of Ukraine’s Kherson region, a Ukrainian attack killed a member of the local electoral committee, Russia’s Central Election Commission said in a statement. Russia’s Ministry of Defense said Sunday that its forces shot down a total of 1,110 Ukrainian drones across Russia, as well as over the annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and the waters of the Black Sea. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that 450 drones had been destroyed en route to the Russian capital, and that the attack had damaged the Moscow Oil Refinery and a residential building.



Protesters attend a far-right groups’ protest against immigration and asylum policies, in The Hague, Netherlands on Sept 19. (AP)

Dutch riot police break up far-right protest in The Hague

Dutch riot police dispersed several hundred far-right protesters in The Hague on Saturday after violence erupted and local authorities banned a planned march in the city against immigration and asylum policies. Police officers made several arrests after some protesters started throwing fireworks and

other projectiles at them. Justice Minister David van Weel called on X for an “extremely firm” response to what he described as “disgusting scenes” at the protest. He said that demonstrators made Nazi salutes, chanted antisemitic slogans, attacked police and threw fireworks at riot officers.

“Thanks to all the police officers who are once again standing up for our democratic rule of law,” he wrote. The Hague municipality banned the march after violence broke out among demonstrators gathered at the Malieveld, a park in the city center, and later ordered the crowd to disperse. (AP)

Merz faces key test as 2 German states hold elections with eyes on AfD

BERLIN, Sept 20, (AP): Polling stations opened on Sunday in two German state elections in which the far-right AfD party is expected to make further gains that could determine whether Chancellor Friedrich Merz can hold on to power and push ahead with reforms in Europe’s biggest economy. The state elections are taking place in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a largely rural region in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, and in the capital, Berlin. The vote comes two weeks after the anti-migration, Russia-friendly Alternative for Germany, or AfD, finished just short of a majority in the small eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, and has its best chance yet of forming the country’s first far-right regional government since World War II. Merz’s authority was severely damaged by his party’s stinging defeat in the Sept. 6 election by AfD - a result that shocked many Germans who had believed their country had developed an immunity to nationalism and assertions of racial superiority after confronting the horrors of its Nazi past through education and laws to outlaw per-



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, center, takes his seat next to German Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil, (left), and The Chief of Staff at the Chancellery Nina Warken, right, as he arrives for the Cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on Sept 16. (AP)

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

Prospects for Merz’s center-right Christian Democratic Union are bleaker. It could lose the mayor’s office in Berlin. If things go very badly, it could fail for the first time to win seats in a state legislature anywhere by falling below 5% of the vote in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, where it was already weak.

America

Wyoming knife attack stirs fears: The stabbing of a truck driver at a remote Wyoming rest stop had US Sikhs on edge Friday amid rising anti-immigrant vitriol against the community and its truck drivers in particular. The Sikh victim was attacked from behind early Sunday while in a restroom at the Bitter Creek rest stop on Interstate 80 midway between Cheyenne and Salt Lake City, according to court documents. He suffered stabs to the neck and chest and over a dozen other cuts but survived. While police say the motive is unknown, the attack came after deadly crashes involving Sikh truck drivers led to debate about commercial driver’s licensing requirements - sparking hatred toward Sikhs as a group, community leaders said. Anti-Sikh sentiment has been especially severe on truck-driving forums, said one Sikh in the trucking industry, Harsimran Singh, CEO of Gillson Trucking in Stockton, California. “I’ve been here for the last 25-plus years,” Singh said. “I never felt this kind of hate before.” (AP)

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3 killed in Navajo Nation flood: Three generations of a Navajo family were heading home from picking up supplies for an 8th birthday party when their truck got stuck in mud as storms with heavy rain rolled through the area. Kalisi Begay opted to walk home while her mother and 7-year-old daughter stayed behind. The water rose quickly. Soon the grandmother and granddaughter, along with a friend they had called for help, were swept away in the floodwaters while trying to cross a wash. Elsie Begay, her granddaughter Lucy Allison



The aftermath of flash flooding in Mexican Springs, N.M., on the eastern part of the Navajo Nation is shown on Sept 17. (AP)

Mike, and Begay’s best friend Dora Franklin died in the flood Tuesday near Newcomb, New Mexico, a community of about 400 people, family members said Friday. “I think she was just wanting to get home,” said Stella Wilson, Begay’s niece. Flash flooding across the Navajo Nation this week has damaged roads, forced evacuations and claimed the three lives as a late-season surge of monsoon moisture brings heavy rain to the Four Corners region. Navajo police said three families in Shiprock, New Mexico, were evacuated Friday evening due to rising water levels and flooding near the San Juan River. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren declared a state of emergency Friday as some communities remained isolated by standing water and road damage and rain continued to fall. Multiple roads on the Navajo Nation remained closed Friday. (AP)

Kim focusing on expanding nuclear arsenal

N.Korea launches ballistic missile, another projectile toward sea: S.Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 20, (AP): North Korea launched a short-range ballistic missile toward the sea on Sunday, South Korea’s military said, two days after the North threatened to bolster its nuclear deterrent capabilities and respond to what it called US ostilities.

South Korea’s military said the missile flew about 450 kilometers (280 miles) toward the North’s eastern waters.

Hours later, it said the North launched another projectile off its eastern coast but gave no further details as to what type of weapon it was. The South Korean military said it has boosted its surveillance posture and was closely exchanging information on the launch with the United States and Japan.

South Korea’s presidential office urged North Korea to immediately halt ballistic missile launches that are banned by UN Security Council resolutions. It said South Korea held an emergency national security council meeting to discuss the launch.

Japan’s Defense Ministry said it noted a suspected North Korean missile earlier Sunday but that the missile did not land in its territorial waters. It did not elaborate on where it landed.

The launches came as North Korea is engaging in a run of weapons tests even after U.S. President Donald Trump scaled back a military exercise with South Korea last month in an apparent effort to revive diplomacy with leader Kim Jong Un.

Kim’s sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, shrugged off Trump’s overture, saying that shortening the drill wouldn’t change its “provocative, aggressive nature.” North Korea’s military later launched about 10 short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea, apparently following through with a previous threat to respond to the US-South Korean drill.

On Friday, Kim’s sister slammed another recent US-led multilateral maritime exercise in the region as a “frantic military move” by the Americans meant to prolong their hegemony in the Asia-Pacific area. The “Pacific Vanguard” exercise brought together the US, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

She claimed that “regular US-led war rehearsals” are the main source of worsening tensions in the Korean Peninsula and the region.

“Our will to defend our sovereign-



A TV screen shows a file image of a North Korean missile launch during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Sept. 20. (AP)

and drones, a day after the United States, South Korea and Japan wrapped their five-day trilateral military drill that North Korea described as a provocation. North Korea said its drill included firing different types of weapons simultaneously, likely aiming at developing the ability to overwhelm South Korean and U.S. air defenses.

Kim Jong Un has been focusing on expanding his nuclear arsenal after his earlier high-stakes diplomacy with Trump collapsed in 2019. When Trump ordered the Pentagon to “substantially reduce” the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise with South Korea, he cited what he called a good relationship with Kim, who has called such drills invasion rehearsals.

Emboldened by his advancing nuclear arsenal and deepening ties with Russia and China, experts say Kim likely thinks he now has greater leverage in possible fresh diplomacy with Trump. Earlier this year, Kim said he could return to talks if the US drops its “hostile policy” against his country and respects what he calls the North’s status as a nuclear state.

Also:

TOKYO: A boat carrying four crew members sank while being towed by a North Korean cargo ship off Japan’s northwestern coast, leaving one person missing after the Japan Coast Guard rescued three, officials said.

North Korea’s Rescue Coordination Center notified the Japan Coast Guard’s regional headquarters in Kyoto earlier Thursday that four crew members had fallen overboard about 104 kilometers (64 miles) southwest of one of the Oki islands called **Nishinoshima**.

The area where the incident occurred is inside Japan’s exclusive economic zone.

The Japan Coast Guard told The Associated Press that officials were investigating the crew members’ nationalities and whether their sunken boat was connected to the North Korean cargo “Kum Ya.”

The coast guard was also investigating what the boat had been doing in the area.

Asia

Floods in Vietnam kill at least 4: At least four people were killed after heavy rains, floods and landslides inundated more than 16,000 homes in northern and central Vietnam, authorities said Friday.

Large areas remain flooded, although rain that has fallen in the region since Monday stopped Thursday afternoon. Floodwater continued to cover highways and low-lying areas, disrupting traffic and daily life.

Vietnam is among the world’s most climate-vulnerable countries and is prone to flooding, with a long typhoon-prone coastline and large populations living in low-lying areas and coastal cities. Climate risks like rising seas and more extreme rainfall compound these vulnerabilities.

A series of severe storms last year spurred the country to find new ways to prepare for and manage floods.

On Friday, state media said authorities in Hanoi found the body of a university student who had been missing since Thursday. His body was found at the entrance to a drainage system leading toward a river in the city’s southwest.

Residents had found the blue motorbike of the first-year student at Hanoi University of Mining and Geology near the sewer entrance. He is suspected of being swept into a sewer during flooding caused by heavy rain. (AP)

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US businessman deported from Myanmar: Myanmar’s military-backed government has deported Adam Castillo, a US businessman and former president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar, after three months in jail on what supporters say were trumped-up charges, state media reported Wednesday.

State-run MRTV television said Castillo was flown out of the capital, Naypyitaw, earlier in the day, “in consideration of the friendly relations between Myanmar and the United States.”

The report said he had been charged with breach of trust over allegations he had violated the regulations of AmCham Myanmar. It did not say whether he had ever been brought to trial, or whether the charges had been dismissed.

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Aussie man pleads not guilty in Thailand court: An Australian man pleaded not guilty in court Friday to charges of murder and concealment of a body in connection with the death of a teenage girl in an eastern Thai tourist city, officials said.

Simon Peter Carman was arrested in June after the 17-year-old girl was reported missing in Pattaya City, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) southeast of Bangkok, and a suitcase containing her body was found soon afterward.

Prosecutors indicted Carman according to Pattaya City Police. He was also charged with two counts of committing indecent acts on a minor.

The Pattaya Provincial Court said in a press release that Carman consulted with his attorney and denied all charges, saying that he was acting in self-defense and that he did not know the girl’s real age. It said his request to be released on bail was denied due to flight risk. (AP)



An aerial image shows houses submerged in floods after several days of rain in Ninh Binh province, Vietnam on Sept 18. (AP)

Al-Qaeda-linked JNIM claims deadly Mali military camp attack

BAMAKO, Mali, Sept 20, (AP): The al-Qaeda-linked Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin militant group released videos of dozens of Malian soldiers it said were captured in combat and claimed that more than 100 others were killed in the attack earlier this month on an army camp in central Mali.

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the numbers and the spokesperson for the Malian army, Col.-Maj. Bakary Bocar Maiga, declined to comment. If true, it would make the Sept. 10 attack one of the deadliest in the group’s history.

In a statement released late Saturday, the Malian army announced that its units deployed in the Dioura area “continued to carry out targeted strikes” against the attackers “on the outskirts of the military garrison and on the outskirts of the city.” It also reported that a “large-scale air-ground operation” enabled the evacuation of “two companies that heroically held the garrison.” The Malian army announced the loss of some soldiers “in the line of duty” without giving further details.

The attack comes as the junta that has ruled the country since a 2021 coup prepares to celebrate Independence Day on Sept. 22.

The Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, or JNIM, said in a statement Friday night that its “fighters



Mali’s Prime Minister Abdoulaye Maiga holds a meeting with Algeria’s Prime Minister Sifi Ghrieb in Bamako, Mali on Sept 14. (AP)

were able to neutralize 150 members of the Malian army, including two colonels and one captain, and capture 93 others.” The statement was made on its online propaganda channel, Az-Zallaqa.

If true, it would make the Sept. 10 attack one of the deadliest in the group’s history. The Malian army announced in a statement last week that “the preliminary toll from the operations indicates that several dozen terrorists have been neutralized, along with numerous motorcycles and several pickup trucks destroyed.”

“This is very concerning to the Malian army as well as to their Russian partners because of the significance of the attacks,” said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Rabat, Morocco-based think tank, Policy Center for the New South. “So if they don’t want to communicate exactly what happened, because it will send a signal not to the population, but to the wider audience that the Malian army and the Russian forces are incapable of protecting major bases.”



Relatives attend the funeral ceremony for four victims of a gang attack in the Kenscoff of Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Aug 30. (AP)

New human rights report unveils details and blames police for massacre in Haiti

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Sept 20, (AP): A human rights group in Haiti has revealed new details about one of the country’s biggest massacres in recent years and unveiled security holes as authorities struggle to contain violent gangs.

The National Human Rights Defense Network said its report is backed by interviews with judges, police officials, armed civilians, the former head of a police station and more than 100 victims and their relatives.

The report provides the most complete account of the attacks that gangs recently launched on the once peaceful farming community of Kenscoff near Port-au-Prince, with at least 164 people killed, more than 70 kidnapped and dozens missing.

The human rights group asserted in its report released that a “timely strengthening” of security could have prevented or limited the killings.

“This lack of response is all the more concerning given that available information indicated the existence of a serious and imminent threat to the population,” it said.

A spokesperson for Haiti’s National Police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The human rights group noted that Kenscoff remained vulnerable after a January 2025 attack left at least 139 people dead or missing: “Serious institutional failures that contributed to the perpetration of this massacre had been highlighted. Unsurprisingly, security was never truly restored in the town.”

It asserted that soldiers and special police units assigned to Kenscoff after the 2025 attack were later recalled “for reasons that remain completely unknown.”

Overall, security in the area was reduced by 60%, according to the report.

Gangs attacked Kenscoff again in July, pulling back only to launch an even bigger attack in late August. A week before the massacre began, an armored vehicle was moved given a lack of personnel, “leaving a new opening for armed terrorist bandits and further weakening the

city,” the report found.

Requests from the former head of the Kenscoff police station for two additional armored trucks were ignored prior to the attack, it added.

Days before the massacre, the group said that “armed terrorists” used surveillance drones to track movements and positions of law enforcement. They deployed scouts to the area, then infiltrated it and began monitoring roads, “identifying individuals likely to pose a threat to them.”

The human rights group said government officials told them they did not hear plans about the attack but did notice drones flying over the city hours before it began.

Another warning sign: tree trunks were used to block roads hours before the massacre.

One of the first victims was a 21-year-old man ordered to carry stones to block a road before he was shot in the head, the report stated.

Among those killed were nearly two dozen people ages 65 to 90; 36 women; and seven children, including a 4-year-old. Victims included farmers, two pastors and a school principal who was beheaded.

One man who worked at the Kenscoff police station had his eyes gouged and arms torn off, the report found.

Gang members killed people sheltered at a school and a church, using bodies as barricades as police and civilians battled them for several hours.

The report stated that armed men staged several attacks before entering Kenscoff to lure away police and weaken their defenses.

The human rights group identified the victims and the way they died as it called on the government to provide financial, medical and psychological aid to survivors and their families.

Between January and August this year, security operations had managed to reduce violence in Kenscoff by 66% prior to the attack, according to the nonprofit Armed Conflict Location & Event Data.

Subcontinent

5 militants dead, 23 hostages freed in Pakistan:

Pakistani security forces killed five militants in an intense shootout and freed 23 hostages in the country’s restive southwest, the military said Sunday. It was unclear exactly when the abduction took place.

The militants had established an illegal checkpoint near Kalat in Balochistan province overnight into Saturday, stopping vehicles to abduct more people for ransom, extort money and seize vehicles, according to a military statement.

The statement described the killed militants as members of “Fitna al-Hindustan,” a term the Pakistani government uses for the outlawed separatist Baloch Liberation Army and other groups operating in Balochistan demanding independence and that it alleges are supported by India. New Delhi has previously denied accusations that it sponsors militancy in Pakistan.

Security forces recovered six trucks, three buses and two cars, along with weapons, ammunition and explosives. No casualties among security forces or abductees were reported. The military said troops were searching the surrounding area for any remaining militants.

The latest operation came just over a week after



Sharif

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti ruled out negotiations with insurgents and said security operations would continue until militancy was eliminated from the province.

Insurgents often kidnap people for ransom after establishing illegal checkpoints. Last month, they killed 18 police officers after abducting them. Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** praised the security forces for the operation and said counterterrorism operations would continue and vowed to eliminate what he called foreign-sponsored terrorism.

Balochistan has been the scene of a long-running insurgency in southwestern Pakistan with an array of separatist groups, including the BLA, demanding independence from Pakistan’s central government in Islamabad. (AP)

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Climber dies on Nepal’s Mt Manaslu: A Singaporean national died on Mount Manaslu in Nepal while acclimatizing for an expedition, local police said.

The 50-year-old climber, Lau Wee Seng, died at an altitude of around 6,000 meters, apparently from altitude-related sickness, according to local police.

“A helicopter was mobilized to retrieve his body, but it could not land due to bad weather conditions,” Raj Kumar Shrestha, spokesperson for the District Police Office in Gorkha, told Xinhua.

The Department of Tourism has issued 539 climbing permits for the autumn expedition season as of Wednesday, including 480 permits for Mount Manaslu (8,163 meters), the world’s eighth-highest mountain. (Xinhua)

Boursa Kuwait closes lower

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday's trading session lower, with its All-Share Index falling 65.10 points, or 0.73 percent, to 8,848.06 points.

A total of 347 million shares changed hands through 24,547 cash transactions, with a com-

bined value of KD 91.5 million.

The Main Market Index declined 94.49 points, or 0.99 percent, to 9,435.60 points. Trading activity on the market amounted to 221.4 million shares exchanged through 15,809 transactions worth KD 44 million.

Business

Showcasing comprehensive banking & capital market capabilities

KFH Group participates in Global Banking & Markets Saudi Arabia 2026



Kuwait Finance House Group delegation participating in the conference.



Khalid AlRukhayes speaking at the panel discussion.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group participated in Global Banking & Markets Saudi Arabia 2026, held at the Hilton Riyadh Hotel & Residences. The annual forum is dedicated to advancing debt, equity, and structured finance markets and is recognized as one of the Middle East's premier financial events. The conference brought together more than 800 senior decision-makers, investors, issuers, sovereign representatives, corporates, and banking experts from across the region and international markets.

Through its participation, KFH showcased its comprehensive capabilities across corporate banking, syndicated finance, wealth management, treasury solutions, and capital markets services. The Group also highlighted its innovative Islamic banking products and solutions designed to meet the evolving needs of customers and businesses.

The conference provided KFH with an opportunity to engage with a diverse network

of banking institutions, investors, corporates, and financial market participants, while demonstrating its broad spectrum of financing and banking solutions.

As part of the event, Deputy General Manager, Global Markets Trading and Investments at KFH, Khalid AlRukhayes, participated in a roundtable discussion titled "What Do Global and Regional Asset Managers Want to See in Saudi Bond and Sukuk Transactions?"

During the session, AlRukhayes discussed the increasing attractiveness of Saudi Arabia's debt capital markets, the key factors driving investor participation in sovereign and corporate issuances, and the market's ability to attract and sustain foreign investment inflows.

He also highlighted from a regional investor perspective, how KFH approach to Saudi credit evolved as the market has grown, and what would be KFH view and appetite towards Saudi Arabia moving forward.



Zakaria Al-Ansari

AlRukhayes reaffirmed KFH's commitment to supporting the development of regional capital markets and strengthening collaboration among participants across the fixed-income ecosystem.

Meanwhile, Deputy General Manager, Glob-

al Markets Sales and Structuring at KFH, Zakaria Al-Ansari, took part in the FX & Rates Hedging Discussion at the Saudi Arabia Trading Floor, held alongside the Global Banking & Markets event.

The discussion brought together treasury professionals, corporate finance leaders, and market practitioners from leading regional organizations to examine practical approaches to managing foreign exchange and interest rate risks in an increasingly dynamic market environment.

During the session, Al-Ansari addressed key topics including FX and interest rate risk management, hedging program design and execution, liquidity and funding optimization, cross-border treasury operations, and market outlooks.

He emphasized the importance of robust risk management strategies in enhancing corporate resilience and supporting funding and liquidity objectives amid evolving market conditions. Al-Ansari also highlighted the growing impor-

tance of tailored hedging solutions in helping organizations navigate market volatility while aligning treasury operations with broader business goals.

On the sidelines of the conference, KFH Group delegation held constructive discussions with market participants and industry leaders, highlighting the Group's expertise in global markets and its commitment to delivering innovative, value-driven solutions to clients and investors.

KFH's participation in Global Banking & Markets Saudi Arabia 2026 underscores its leadership in Islamic banking and finance and reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting clients through innovative treasury, hedging, and risk management solutions. It also reinforces KFH's role in contributing to the development of regional financial markets and promoting knowledge exchange among market participants.

To deliver enhanced experience

ABK relocates Farwaniya branch to The Corner Mall



ABK's upgraded ATMs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the relocation of its Farwaniya branch to its new location at The Corner Mall, where it will serve customers seven days a week. The move comes as part of the Bank's ongoing plans to develop its branch network, enhance the customer experience, and keep pace with developments across the banking industry.

The new Farwaniya branch will become ABK's second branch to welcome customers seven days a week, following its Al Khiran Mall branch. This will provide customers with greater flexibility and convenience in completing their banking transactions and ensure they can access the support they need at a time that suits them.

The initiative reflects ABK's commitment to meeting evolving customer expectations and strengthening confidence in the distinctive banking experience it provides, while offering greater privacy, ease and convenience through modern banking services.

The relocation also forms part of ABK's efforts to provide innovative banking services in line with the highest standards of quality to both individual and corporate customers in one of Kuwait's most vibrant areas.



Johar Marafi, General Manager - Retail Banking

The new branch features a modern design aligned with ABK's vision for digital transformation, combining advanced technologies with personalised, face-to-face customer service. The branch has also been equipped with the latest technologies to provide customers with fast, integrated banking solutions.

Commenting on the relocation, Johar Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, said, "The relocation of our Farwaniya branch to The Corner Mall represents an important step in the ongoing

development of our branch network and our efforts to strengthen our presence in locations that allow customers to access our services and solutions with greater ease. It reflects our commitment to providing a seamless and comprehensive banking experience that meets our customers' expectations and keeps pace with the rapid developments taking place across the banking sector."

She added that the relocation forms part of ABK's continued commitment to investing in its infrastructure and modernising its branch network, creating an integrated environment that combines the convenience of digital transactions with direct interaction with employees. This approach aims to further enhance customer satisfaction and consistently deliver added value.

Marafi concluded, "Operating this branch seven days a week represents a tangible evolution in the way we engage with our customers, placing their needs and schedules at the forefront of our priorities. We will continue our efforts to provide more flexible and innovative options that strengthen our leading position and reinforce our customers' trust in ABK as a reliable banking partner at all times."



A modern experience at the new Farwaniya branch.

Investors discuss AI, geopolitics & portfolio strategy

Boursa Kuwait hosts MSCI investor forum



Noura AlAbdulkareem

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Boursa Kuwait hosted the MSCI Institutional Investor Forum at its headquarters on Tuesday, 15 September 2026, bringing together senior institutional investment professionals to discuss the major shifts reshaping global markets and their implications for portfolio construction, asset allocation and risk management.

Hosted at Boursa Kuwait for the second year, the forum is one of three invitation-only gatherings MSCI is holding across the Middle East in 2026, convening institutional investors and investment leaders from across the region to exchange views on the issues most affecting investment decisions. It also extends the knowledge exchange between Boursa Kuwait and MSCI that began in 2020 and strengthens direct engagement between Kuwait market participants and global investment expertise, research and practice.

Investment insights for a fast-changing world

The forum opened with welcome remarks by Mr. Justin Kennedy-Lunde, Executive Director, Head of Middle East, MSCI, followed by a series of specialist sessions

on the key forces shaping the global investment landscape.

In a session titled "Positioning for a Shifting World: Navigating AI, Geopolitics and the New Investment Paradigm," Mr. Ashley Lester, Chief Research and Development Officer at MSCI, examined how artificial intelligence and geopolitical shifts are reshaping investment opportunities, portfolio construction and strategic asset allocation.

Mr. Seibert Kruger, Head of Institutional Investment Research at MSCI, then discussed the evolution of public market structures, factor insights, innovation in index design and the search for new sources of alpha in a changing investment environment.

Mr. Uday Karri, Vice President, Research & Development at MSCI then addressed the importance of greater transparency and data quality in valuing investments and measuring their performance in private markets, enabling allocators to compare public and private exposures on a more consistent analytical basis, in a session titled "Private Markets in Focus: Turning Clearer Data into Better Decisions."

Mr. Bentley Kaplan, Vice President, Research & Development at MSCI, closed the sessions with "Materiality, Mapped: From Sustainability to Structural Exposure," which examined how sustainability and climate data have correlated with financial performance across Gulf markets, and how new data is broadening the analysis of

structural exposures and investment risk.

Deeper knowledge to support market participants

The forum gave institutional investors and market participants direct access to MSCI's research and expertise, and an opportunity to discuss approaches to portfolio construction, asset allocation and the measurement of risk and performance, alongside developments in public and private markets.

It also opened a direct dialogue between brokers, asset managers and other market participants and MSCI on the evolution of market structures, index innovation and the analysis of investment exposures, helping participants keep pace with the practices and tools relied on by global institutional investors.

The forum also offered listed companies a deeper un-

derstanding of the issues that shape institutional investor priorities, in particular data quality, transparency, sustainability and risk management, aligning with Boursa Kuwait's efforts to strengthen investor relations, disclosure and sustainability practices among issuers, and to broaden engagement with local and international investors.

Kuwait on MSCI's regional agenda

Commenting on hosting the event for the second consecutive year, and on the shifts in the global investment landscape addressed in this year's edition, Head of Markets Sector at Boursa Kuwait Noura AlAbdulkareem said, "The investment environment is changing at pace, driven by advances in artificial intelligence and data, geopolitical shifts and the growth of private markets, which makes direct dialogue

with global research and investment institutions more important than ever."

"Kuwait's selection as part of the MSCI Institutional Investor Forum's regional tour reflects the Kuwaiti capital market's growing presence within the region's institutional investment landscape," she added.

AlAbdulkareem stressed that Boursa Kuwait is committed to giving listed companies, investors and market participants direct access to the latest global research, insights and practices, driven by the belief that knowledge and the quality of information are essential to market efficiency and better-informed investment decisions.

"This forum forms part of the exchange's efforts to strengthen the Kuwaiti capital market's presence in the global investment dialogue and to deepen its collabora-

tion with MSCI," she stated.

The MSCI Institutional Investor Forum strengthens direct engagement between Kuwait's investment community and global institutional expertise, at a time when specialist data and research are becoming ever more important to understanding risk and opportunity and to building portfolios.

"Institutional investors today operate in an environment marked by rapid geopolitical and technological change and growing interconnection between public and private markets," said Mr. Justin Kennedy-Lunde, Executive Director, Head of Middle East at MSCI.

"This backdrop raises the value of specialist research, high-quality data and advanced analytical tools in understanding risk and opportunity and building portfolios that can adapt to change," he

added.

"We value our collaboration with Boursa Kuwait in bringing together investors, decision-makers and experts to discuss the issues reshaping the global investment landscape and thank them for hosting the MSCI Institutional Investor Forum for a second year."

From reclassification to deeper institutional dialogue

In 2019, MSCI announced the reclassification of Kuwait from "Frontier" to "Emerging Market" status, a milestone in the capital market's development that took effect in November 2020.

On 30 November 2020, seven Kuwaiti companies were included to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. On the day, the market recorded a trading value of more than KD 961.6 million, one of the highest daily levels in its history.

Additionally, the knowledge exchange between Boursa Kuwait and MSCI has expanded to include specialist events on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on markets, ESG standards and the global investment landscape and its implications for regional markets, leading up to this edition of the Institutional Investor Forum.

Hosting the forum for the second year reflects how the relationship has evolved, from the market's reclassification within global indices to a broader institutional dialogue on the trends shaping capital allocation, portfolio



Justin Kennedy-Lunde

construction and risk management.

A continuing path to deepen market knowledge

Boursa Kuwait's hosting of the MSCI Institutional Investor Forum forms part of the knowledge and educational initiatives the exchange pursues in support of its efforts to develop the capital market and strengthen the readiness of its participants.

These initiatives, which include specialist programs and events, bring listed companies, investors and practitioners together with leading local and international institutions, and address topics that keep pace with the evolution of market instruments and the needs of the investment community.

The forum gives participants access to global institutional research and insights and the opportunity to exchange expertise with the region's investment leaders, reflecting Boursa Kuwait's commitment to advancing financial literacy and market knowledge, in line with Goal 4 - Quality Education - and Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals - of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Boursa Kuwait hosts MSCI Institutional Investor Forum for the second year.

Net profit surpasses KD 1 bln

KNPC reports record financial performance

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) achieved a significant leap in financial and operational performance during the 2025/2026 fiscal year, thereby, proving the leadership and historic excellence of the local oil sector in production, exploration and refining.

This success underscores the efficiency of the logistical operations of KNPC and the stability of its activities within the global energy market.

The newspaper obtained documented data, indicating that the net profit of the company surpassed the one-billion-dinar mark during the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2026, due to its increased production efficiency and development of its oil refineries.

Official data showed that the total value of petroleum product sales reached unprecedented levels, exceeding KD9 billion. This achievement coincided with the company's success in meeting domestic demand and expanding its share of international markets by exporting around 35 million tons of high-quality products to global markets.

In a related development, a reliable source told the newspaper that the operational progress achieved by KNPC has had a remarkable impact on the historic performance of the strategic Clean Fuels Project at its refineries.

The project maintained peak operational efficiency, increasing the overall refining capacity of the company, while producing clean and environmentally friendly petroleum products that meet the strictest international standards, including Euro 4 and Euro 5. This opened promising global markets for Kuwaiti exports.

The source pointed out that this environmental achievement coincided with the implementation of major logistical and development projects designed to enhance export flexibility and global marketing capabilities,

as the company launched various initiatives to modernize its assets and ensure sustained operational excellence.

The source said the strong and unprecedented performance indicators achieved by KNPC reflect its robust operational and financial performance. This excellence highlights its vital role as the cornerstone of the national economy and a driver of sovereign revenue growth. It also underscores the oil sector's contribution to sustainable development projects and reinforces the position of Kuwait as a strategic partner and a secure and reliable supplier of petroleum products in the global economic arena.

The source added that recent official data confirmed the completion of the integration of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) into KNPC as a milestone for the local oil sector.

The move goes beyond the traditional concept of a corporate merger, establishing a stronger and more integrated national entity capable of competing globally amid the rapid transformations reshaping the energy industry.

The source disclosed that the achievements realized extend beyond consolidating assets and operational activities. They include the creation of an integrated ecosystem that brings together oil refining, gas liquefaction, supply of petroleum products to the domestic market, liquefied gas bottling, and the provision of feedstock for the petrochemical industry.

Moreover, the data revealed the scale of the new entity's logistical capabilities, which include permanent facilities for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG), as well as six ports and facilities dedicated to the shipment and export of petroleum products. The entity also covers Kuwait Aviation Fuelling Company (KAFCO).

These assets aim to enhance operational efficiency and increase the capacity to generate greater added value for the national economy.

Other Voices

VW crisis: When Germany's auto giant hits turning point

By Hassan F. Beidas

Volkswagen, one of the defining names of Germany's industrial success, is facing a crisis that is becoming challenging to contain.

The world's second-largest automaker has warned of around €10 billion (\$11.5 billion) in one-off charges, largely linked to the deteriorating outlook for its luxury sports-car brand Porsche, restructuring costs and the weakening of Chinese market. The announcement has forced Volkswagen to sharply reduce its expectations for 2026, with its operating return on sales now according to data is expected to be 1%, compared with an earlier forecast of 4% to 5.5%.

The latest warning comes only weeks after Volkswagen reported a weaker-than-expected second quarter, highlighting how quickly the pressure has intensified. Its operating result for the first half of 2026 was already around 12% below the previous year, while the Chinese market — one of Volkswagen's most important markets — contracted by about 20%.

Volkswagen is being squeezed by a transformation of the global automobile industry that is challenging the foundations on which Germany's automotive powerhouse was built.

The iconic sports-car brand has been hit by weaker demand in China, U.S. tariffs and the increasingly difficult transition toward electric vehicles. Last year, Porsche's profit margin was only 1.1%, a dramatic contrast with the premium positioning and profitability traditionally associated with the brand.

Volkswagen has now booked an impairment of around €6 billion related to goodwill associated with its Porsche business. The charge reflects a reassessment of Porsche's future financial prospects as the market environment deteriorates.

The problem is not limited to Porsche and Volkswagen's passenger-car business are also facing weaker expectations as Chinese demand changes and consumers accelerate their shift toward battery-electric vehicles.

Perhaps the most striking element of Volkswagen's restructuring is its scale.

The company is already implementing a plan to reduce its workforce by around 50,000 jobs in Germany by 2030. In July, Volkswagen

also indicated that a further reduction of up to 50,000 positions globally could eventually be necessary as it seeks to close its cost disadvantage against competitors.

Potential plant closures, illustrate the difficult choices facing Volkswagen as it attempts to make its German operations more competitive.

Volkswagen's predicament also reflects a broader challenge facing European industry.

For decades, Germany's automotive model benefited from strong exports, particularly to the United States and China. Today, both markets are becoming sources of pressure rather than growth.

In the United States, tariffs are raising costs and complicating the economics of European vehicle exports. In China, Volkswagen is facing a rapidly changing market, weaker demand for foreign brands and increasingly powerful Chinese competitors that have moved aggressively into electric vehicles.

The company has also a weak position as China's leading automaker, highlighting how dramatically the competitive landscape has changed.

At the same time, Volkswagen — like many of its European competitors — is spending heavily on the transition to electric vehicles while facing the hard reality that electric cars can be less profitable than the combustion-engine models that historically generated much of the industry's earnings.

They raise fundamental questions about the future competitiveness of German manufacturing at a time when energy costs, geopolitical tensions, tariffs, technological change and Chinese competition are reshaping global trade.

For Volkswagen, the high costs at home, excess capacity, weaker demand in China, tariffs in the United States and enormous investment requirements for the electric-vehicle transition.

The company's latest warning suggests that the transformation cannot be postponed.

Volkswagen is now being forced to make choices that would have been almost unthinkable only a few years ago — from reducing its workforce on an extraordinary scale to reconsidering its industrial footprint in Germany.

The market reaction was immediate. Volkswagen shares fell 5.6% following the warning, while Porsche shares also declined.

For a company that once represented the strength and global reach of German industry, the message from the market is clear. Hence, Volkswagen is trying to reinvent itself while the global automobile industry is changing underneath it.



Al-Khashti and Al-Mutairi with Zain and KSCD officials.

Offering sign-language support at Avenues, Al-Kout

Zain, KSCD partner to advance accessibility

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Zain Kuwait has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf (KSCD), marking International Day of Sign Languages and the International Week of Deaf People. The collaboration opens a new chapter in Zain's journey to advance accessibility, inclusion, and meaningful engagement with the disabled community in Kuwait.

The MoU was signed at Zain's headquarters in Shuwaikh by Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti and KSCD Chairman Khaled Al-Mutairi. The partnership establishes a broad framework for cooperation across accessibility, training, awareness, digital services, community engagement, youth initiatives, and professional development for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Kuwait.

The agreement reflects Zain's belief that inclusion must translate into practical experiences that make it easier for every individual to communicate, access services, and participate independently. It comes under Zain Group's WE ABLE 2030 vision and wider Corporate Sustainability strategy, which embeds disability inclusion and accessibility across the organization's decisions and business practices, and complements the company's purpose-driven strategy.

Commenting on the partnership, Waleed Al-Khashti said: "Sign language is about much more than communication. It is about independence, confidence, participation, and the ability to connect with the world around us. This partnership allows us to listen more closely to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community and work together to remove barriers across the experiences that matter to them."

Al-Khashti added: "At Zain, we believe inclusion becomes meaningful when it is built into the way we serve our customers, develop our people, design our digital experiences, and engage with our community. Our purpose of 'Better Lives. Lasting Connections.' calls on us to make those connections accessible to everyone. Together with KSCD, we want to turn that commitment into practical solutions that create greater independence, opportunity, and participation."

Khaled Al-Mutairi commented on the partnership, saying: "Deaf and hard-of-hearing people possess the skills, experience, and qualifications to contribute meaningfully to society and the workforce. We therefore look forward to this partnership with Zain, and to seeing more purposeful collaborations of this kind with private-sector organizations, helping create broader opportunities for the



Waleed Al-Khashti and Khaled Al-Mutairi sign the partnership.

Deaf and hard-of-hearing community to demonstrate their capabilities and pursue their ambitions."

At the heart of the partnership is a broad range of initiatives designed to create a more accessible, inclusive, and independent experience for Deaf and hard-of-hearing customers. These initiatives will focus on strengthening communication across Zain's physical and digital channels, improving access to services, building greater awareness and confidence among employees, and introducing practical solutions that help remove communication barriers.

Live video interpretation at selected Zain Stores

Marking a first for Kuwait's telecom sector, Zain is introducing the first phase of the live video interpretation for Deaf customers at the Avenues and Al-Kout stores, connecting them directly with KSCD interpreters who will facilitate communication with Zain agents in real time. The service enables Deaf customers to complete their store visits independently, access services, understand offers and contracts, and make informed decisions without relying on a companion to interpret on their behalf.

The initiative gives Deaf customers greater independence, privacy, and confidence when accessing Zain services, while creating a more accessible and inclusive store experience. It also reflects Zain's continued efforts to remove communication barriers and ensure its services are designed to meet the needs of all customers. Zain is planning to expand the introduction of this service to more stores in the near future.

Dedicated Kuwaiti Sign Language Library

Zain is also introducing a dedicated Kuwaiti Sign Language library, developed to make sign language more accessible across its physical and digital channels and to strengthen

communication between the Deaf community and those who serve and interact with them.

The library features more than 200 phrases organized across five modules, covering foundations such as the Arabic alphabet, numbers, colors, days, and months; everyday and workplace communication; customer care interactions; products and digital services; and advanced troubleshooting.

Designed as an open resource with benefits extending beyond Zain, the library supports Zain employees and customer-facing agents while also helping the wider community, including employees across the telecommunications sector, build greater familiarity with Kuwaiti Sign Language. The initiative aims to enable more inclusive and accessible interactions for Deaf customers and the wider Deaf community across Kuwait.

Inclusive employee training, social media content, offers, and more

Under this partnership, the company will also introduce Kuwaiti Sign Language training workshops for Zain employees across customer-facing and non-customer-facing roles, helping build greater confidence and awareness across the organization.

As part of activities marking the International Day of Sign Languages and the International Week of Deaf People, Zain is integrating sign language across all of its social media video content from 20 to 24 September, further expanding accessible communication across its digital channels.

The collaboration also brings dedicated benefits to the KSCD community. Zain is introducing special offers for the Club's more than 370 members, communicated through sign language on the Zain app and social media channels, including a complimentary one-month offer for eligible Club members who are Zain



Scan the code to access Zain's Kuwait Sign Language Library.

customers. Zain also plans to host an activation at the Club's headquarters to introduce members to the offers and available services.

Zain has also provided 5G-Advanced Internet connectivity at the Club's HQ, supporting the hundreds of members who visit the facility daily and enabling them to benefit from advanced digital connectivity on Kuwait's most awarded network.

The MoU provides a platform for both organizations to continuously exchange expertise and ideas around improving digital services, communication channels, and experiences for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

It also creates opportunities to jointly develop awareness and educational content, community and sporting initiatives, youth programs, and pathways for empowerment, rehabilitation, and professional development.

Central to the partnership will be ongoing dialogue with Deaf and hard-of-hearing people themselves to better understand their needs and ensure future initiatives respond to real experiences and priorities.

The new partnership builds on a growing portfolio of Zain initiatives designed to advance disability inclusion across employment, customer experience, technology, and the wider community. Through the WE ABLE 2030 vision and wider Corporate Sustainability strategy, Zain is expanding its efforts across professional development, inclusive design, customer care, innovation, and strategic partnerships with government entities, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.

Together with initiatives spanning inclusive employment, accessible technology, customer experience, and now Kuwaiti Sign Language, the partnership reflects Zain's ongoing commitment to taking a structured and measurable approach to disability inclusion. These efforts reinforce the company's ambition to lead by example, remove barriers across its ecosystem, and contribute to a more accessible and inclusive Kuwait where everyone has the opportunity to connect, participate, and thrive.

Federal Reserve rate hike reflects new world of sticky inflation & faster growth

WASHINGTON, Sept 20, (AP): President Donald Trump has renewed his attacks on the Federal Reserve after it hiked its benchmark interest rate Wednesday, but the Fed matters less than broader economic trends when it comes to longer-term borrowing costs, economists say.

The economy is growing steadily despite being hit with repeated shocks - and may even be accelerating - while inflation remains stubbornly high. And big tech firms are borrowing huge amounts of cash to plow into data center construction while the federal government is still running large yearly budget deficits. All these trends point to higher interest rates regardless of what the Fed does, analysts say.

As a result, the low interest-rate, low-inflation world that lasted for nearly 15 years after the Great Recession is over and a higher-priced, higher-rate world is taking its place. Mortgage rates fell into the 3% range in the 2010s and even lower during COVID-19, but such deals are long gone. The average 30-year mortgage rate reached 6.95% last week, the highest in more than a year and a half.

Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at RSM, a tax consulting firm, said that a big reason for the change is a shift

from the pre-pandemic economy in which consumer and business demand was weak, to the current economy in which healthy consumer and business spending is colliding with supply shocks and bottlenecks. In addition to higher oil and gas prices because of the Iran war, the AI build-out has struggled with an insufficient supply of computer chips, electronic equipment, and workers to put it all together.

"We've undergone a structural transformation of the economy," Brusuelas said. "The regime change in inflation and interest rates is the outcome."

The shift, in many ways, returns the economy to where it was before the financial crisis in December 2007 that lasted through June 2009.

But even after the downturn ended, consumer and business spending remained weak. Millions of Americans in the 2010s focused on paying down outsized mortgages and credit card debt instead. Businesses saw few investment opportunities, and many big tech firms such as Alphabet's Google and Meta's Facebook piled up cash.

Now those companies are using those stockpiles to build out AI data centers, and are borrowing even more money to do so. And American consumers - despite surveys finding

they are pessimistic about the economy - are still spending at a healthy pace. A recent report showing that retail sales picked up last month led economists at Bank of America to forecast growth will reach a healthy 3% at an annual rate in the July-September quarter.

Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh highlighted the shift in a speech at the central bank's annual conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming last month.

After 2008, "it was a widely held view that an excess of capital would sit on the sidelines for a long, long time, because there just wouldn't be enough compelling investment opportunities," Warsh said. "All the good stuff had been invented. So growth would be low and slow."

"Well, times sure have changed," he continued. "Ever-expanding pools of capital are pouring into AI-related infrastructure of all sorts."

The additional spending and investment has contributed to higher longer-term interest rates on government bonds that are competing for lenders. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond topped 5% this year for the first time since 2023, even before the Fed raised its benchmark short-term rate Wednesday.

At the same time, political polling and consumer sentiment surveys

continue to find that many Americans are struggling to keep up with rising prices, and affordability remains a top concern heading into the midterm elections. Even as the economy expands, inflation has outpaced the annual growth in average wages for the past five months.

Brusuelas said the U.S. economy's expansion is "imbalanced" with growth "entirely dependent" on the AI buildup and strong spending by wealthier consumers, who have benefited from rising stock prices driven by hopes that AI will lift profits.

After the Fed lifted its rate to 3.9% Wednesday, Trump said on Truth Social that U.S. rates should be 1% instead.

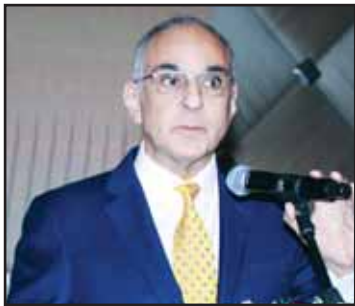
Yet many of Trump's policies have contributed to higher borrowing costs, in particular the Iran war that has driven up gas prices. When inflation persists, investors demand higher interest rates on longer-term Treasury bonds, such as the 10-year, which strongly influences mortgage rates.

"The president can say he wants interest rates lower all he wants, and yet he continues to push the button on all the policies that raise rates," said Elizabeth Pancotti, vice president of policy, advocacy and research at the progressive Groundwork Collaborative.

What's On SPOTLIGHT

Hebei brings poetry, heritage to Kuwait

‘Mid-Autumn in Poetry – Discover Hebei’ cultural series unveiled in Kuwait



Photos during the event.

Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The “Mid-Autumn in Poetry — Discover Hebei” cultural series was unveiled in Kuwait on September 19, beginning with the themed performance “Where Hebei’s Moonlight Meets the Gulf.”

The event was organized under the guidance of Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People’s Republic of China and Chinese Embassy in Kuwait, and jointly hosted by China Cultural Center in Kuwait and Department of Culture and Tourism of Hebei Province. H.E. Yang Xin, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait; Dr. Mohammed Al-Jassar, General Secretary of NCCAL; and Mr. Liu Jinhong, director of China Cultural Center in Kuwait, attended and delivered remarks. More than 300 guests from Kuwait’s culture, arts and media sectors, along with Chinese culture enthusiasts, attended the event.

Taking the Mid-Autumn Festival, a traditional Chinese festival, as its starting point and the moon as a shared motif, the event brought together stage performances, intangible cultural heritage displays, tourism promotion and interactive experiences, introducing audiences to Hebei’s cultural traditions and tourism resources.

On stage, the Xushui Lion Dance “Golden Lion Brings Blessings,” the Kung Fu and Lion Dance piece “Spirit of Xushui,” and a Tai Chi performance showcased Chinese Kung Fu and folk traditions. Two Tangshan Piyung (shadow puppetry) pieces were also presented: Prelude to Water Melody, drawing on classical Chinese poetry, and Chang’e Flies to the Moon, retelling the ancient Chinese legend of Chang’e.

Kuwait-based performers also took part in the program, adding a local dimension to the cultural exchange. The instructor and students from Ding Institute of Kung Fu gave a Chinese Kung Fu performance, demonstrating the skills students had developed through their training. Musicians performed Chinese and Arabic pieces on the piano, flute and qanun, a traditional Arab string instrument. Singer Catherine Cartanian performed The Moon Represents My Heart in Chinese, drawing warm applause from the audience.

Students from the Chinese-language classes at China Cultural Center in Kuwait also recited works by Chinese and Kuwaiti poets on the theme of the moon, bringing the lunar imagery and emotional expression of the two poetic traditions into dialogue.

Beyond the stage, the venue featured mooncake tasting, displays of Hebei intangible cultural heritage and creative products, Chinese and Arabic calligraphy, Mid-Autumn wish-writing, traditional Chinese games and a “Beautiful Hebei” photo exhibition. Guests wrote festive wishes and took part in interactive experiences featuring Chinese Kung Fu, Xushui Lion Dance and Tangshan Piyung under the guidance of Chinese artists. Chinese and Kuwaiti calligraphers also demonstrated Chinese and Arabic calligraphy, writing Mid-Autumn messages expressing wishes for reunion and goodwill.

The HEBEI GIFTS Display included cloisonné, filigree inlay and Fengning cloth paste painting, among other exhibits reflecting the richness of the province’s traditional arts and cultural heritage. The “Beautiful Hebei” photo exhibition and tourism videos featured cultural landmarks, landscapes and tourism destinations from across the province, offering visitors a broader view of Hebei as a cultural and travel destination.

Liu Jinhong, Director of China Cultural Center in Kuwait, said the two-day cultural series would continue on September 20 with “HEBEI GIFTS — Intangible Cultural Heritage Showcase & Workshops” at China Cultural Center in Kuwait. Visitors will be able to view a wider range of Hebei intangible cultural heritage and creative products and take part in interactive sessions featuring Chinese Kung Fu, Xushui Lion Dance and Tangshan Piyung (shadow puppetry).

Liu said he hoped the series would bring Hebei’s distinctive cultural and tourism resources closer to audiences in Kuwait, create more opportunities for local people to learn about China and discover “Beautiful Hebei,” and further broaden the scope of cultural exchange and cooperation between China and Kuwait.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Mohammed Al-Jassar, Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), expressed his appreciation to the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Kuwait and the team at the China Cultural Center in Kuwait, as well as the organizers, artists and performers who contributed to the evening.

Al-Jassar said cultural events such as the festival demonstrate how culture can bridge distances between peoples, emphasizing that art, history and heritage provide a common language shared by humanity.

He said building genuine bridges, promoting cultural exchange and bringing

people closer together are at the heart of NCCAL’s mission. He highlighted the deep historical roots of Kuwait-China relations and the development of their friendship into a vibrant cultural partnership.

Al-Jassar also pointed to similarities between Kuwaiti and Chinese traditions, particularly their emphasis on hospitality, heritage, family and community values. When two countries attach such importance to family and tradition, he said, cultural exchange can make people feel at home rather than like strangers in each other’s societies.

He also thanked the Chinese ambassador and the Chinese Cultural Center for their contribution to the event and wished guests a peaceful and joyful evening.

Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Yang Xin said the Mid-Autumn Festival provides an opportunity to celebrate family, friendship and the enduring cultural ties between China and Kuwait.

Speaking at the special cultural performance, Yang welcomed the guest artists who travelled from China to Kuwait and expressed his appreciation to those who have supported the growing friendship and cultural connections between the two countries.

He said the Mid-Autumn Festival is deeply rooted in Chinese tradition and is a time of joy and family reunion. The festival reflects aspirations for social harmony, mutual sharing and a brighter future, while expressing the universal longing for togetherness.

Referring to the long-standing diplomatic relationship between China and Kuwait, he said mutual respect, solidarity and cooperation have helped drive steady progress in bilateral relations. He added that cultural exchanges have been an important part of mutual understanding, bringing the peoples of the two countries closer and supporting the broader development of bilateral ties.

He said China and Kuwait may be thousands of miles apart, but share common aspirations and values. Quoting a traditional Chinese saying about the moon shining over the sea and being shared by people around the world, Yang expressed hope that the full moon would continue to bless the friendship between the Chinese and Kuwaiti peoples.

He concluded by wishing guests a pleasant and memorable evening and expressing his hope that China-Kuwait friendship would continue to flourish.



Group photo of the Gulf Bank team & volunteers after the beach cleanup.



Gulf Bank team leads the cleanup operations.



Children participate in cleaning.

In collaboration with the TEC

Gulf Bank marks World Cleanup Day with Blajat Beach cleanup campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: In line with its commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement, Gulf Bank organized a beach cleanup campaign at Blajat Beach in collaboration with the Touristic Enterprises Company. Held to mark World Cleanup Day, observed annually on 20 September, the initiative brought together volunteers from Gulf Bank customers and employees. Participants collected litter and other waste from the beach, contributing to efforts to reduce pollution and protect Kuwait’s marine environment. The campaign also sought to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving natural resources while promoting volunteerism, shared responsibility, and active community participation.

World Cleanup Day is among the world’s largest environmental volunteer initiatives, mobilizing millions of individuals and organizations to address the global waste challenge and encourage more sustainable practices. Its designation as an official United Nations international day underscores the importance of coordinated action in building cleaner, more sustainable communities.

The campaign forms part of Gulf Bank’s broader ap-

proach to integrating sustainability across its operations and community initiatives. Recognizing that environmental protection requires collaboration between institutions and individuals, the Bank continues to support programs that strengthen environmental awareness and encourage responsible practices for future generations.

The initiative also supports the State of Kuwait’s sustainable development priorities by advancing environmental protection and strengthening community partnerships aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the long-term well-being of Kuwaiti society.

Gulf Bank expressed its appreciation to the Touristic Enterprises Company for its support. The Bank emphasized that effective cooperation between public and private sector institutions can expand the reach of environmental initiatives, increase their positive impact, and further embed a culture of sustainability and volunteerism within the community. Sustainability remains a core pillar of Gulf Bank’s corporate strategy. The Bank will continue to support environmental and community initiatives that contribute to Kuwait’s sustainable future.

‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign reaches Kuwait

India Embassy promotes greener Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The Embassy of India in Kuwait, in association with ARMS4U, organised a tree planting event under the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” (Plant 4 Mother) campaign at Abraj Park, Adailiya Block 4, Kuwait, on 19 September 2026.

The initiative brought together community members and partners with the shared objective of honouring mothers—our own mothers as well as Mother Earth—through a meaningful act of planting trees. The event underscored the importance of collective efforts in promoting environmental protection, sustainable urban spaces and a greener Kuwait.

The “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaign, a unique initiative combining environmental responsibility with a heartfelt tribute to mothers, was launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 5 June 2024, on the occasion of World Environment Day. Since its launch, the campaign has been taken up across India and in various countries around the world, including Kuwait.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Tripathi highlighted the importance of community participation in advancing environmental sustainability and encouraged continued efforts towards creating greener and healthier public spaces. She noted that initiatives of this nature not only contribute to the local environment but also foster a spirit of shared responsibility and strengthen community engagement.

The tree planting initiative also complemented the Embassy’s broader efforts in the spirit of Special Campaign 6.0, being undertaken by the Government of India to promote Swachhata, environmental sustainability, greener public spaces and community participation. The initiative reflected the campaign’s emphasis on environment-friendly practices and collective civic responsibility.

The event reflected the strong spirit of community participation and collaboration in Kuwait, with ARMS4U and around 30 community associations joining the initiative. It was also attended by Mr. Meshari Abdulaziz Al-Duhaim, Senior Manager, KIPCO. The active participation of diverse community organisations highlighted the importance of collective efforts in fostering environmental awareness, sustainability and the creation of greener



Photos during the event.

public spaces. The collaboration between the Embassy of India, Kuwait, ARMS4U and participating community associations reaffirmed the shared commitment towards environmental responsibility and building a greener, more sustainable Kuwait.

The Embassy of India appreciates the support and cooperation of

ARMS4U in organising the event and encourages continued community-led initiatives under the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaign, contributing to a greener and more sustainable Kuwait.

For further information regarding the event, please contact the Embassy of India in Kuwait at ca.kuwait@mea.gov.in.

'Toy Story 5,' 'Backrooms' headline week's streaming picks

A vertical poster with a light blue background. At the top right is the logo of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Kuwait, featuring a ship and the national flag. To its left is the ministry's name in Arabic and English. Below this is a dark blue rounded rectangle containing the text "RECALL INFORMATION" in white. The center features a white Toyota LC300 SUV from a front-three-quarter view. Below the car, its model and years are listed. A yellow box contains the VIN range. The bottom section has three horizontal bars with blue headers: "RECALL REASON", "REMEDY", and "CONTACT". Each bar contains detailed text about the recall. At the very bottom, there is a note about the recall being run pursuant to specific laws, followed by social media icons and a handle.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
دولة الكويت | State of Kuwait

RECALL INFORMATION

TOYOTA LC300
(MY 2023 & 2024)

VIN: JTMABBBJ0P4059925 TO JTMABBBJ4R4144625

RECALL REASON

There is a possibility that certain machining debris may not have been cleared from the engine when it was produced. In the involved vehicles, this can lead to potential engine knocking, engine rough running, engine no start and/or a loss of motive power.

REMEDY

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Establishment will contact the owners of the affected vehicles to schedule an appointment for inspection and the necessary service free of charge at the Toyota Fahaheel service center.

CONTACT

MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER & SONS EST. CO.W.L.L.
HOTLINE: 1803803
WWW.TOYOTA.COM.KW
Please book an appointment to serve you better

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and48)of no.(27/2015)
issuing the executive by laws no.(39/2014)on Consumer Protection

Instagram X Facebook YouTube @MCKKW

Trump cites ‘fake news’ as credentials are deactivated

White House bars CNN, MS NOW & Politico reporters from access

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (AP): Reporters from three major news organizations - CNN, MS NOW and Politico - were denied access to the White House on Saturday, a day after President Donald Trump said he was barring them because of reporting he found to be “fake news.”

The actions were a clear escalation of Trump’s long-running efforts - in the courts and through administrative action - to restrict news coverage by journalists he finds objectionable, and the latest test of First Amendment protections in the United States. Trump had said Friday he would ban all three outlets because of coverage he disliked.

White House reporters from the two cable networks - Betsy Klein of CNN and Akayla Gardner of MS NOW - both went live to report they’d been turned away, their press badges deactivated, when arriving for their jobs at the White House. Soon after, Politico said its White House reporter Cheyenne Haslett was also denied entry and had her badge confiscated.

All three news outlets hinted at legal action. “We will vigorously defend our First Amendment rights,” Politico Editor-in-Chief Jonathan Greenberger said in a statement to the Politico newsroom. A CNN statement said the network “will not be

deflected from our duty to hold the government and other public bodies to account.”

And MS NOW said it “intends to take any and all steps necessary to defend our First Amendment rights and the essential role of independent journalism in our democracy.”

In his second term, Trump and his administration have upped the ante and punished certain media outlets, both in the courtroom and through regulatory action. Trump has also lashed out at individual reporters in person or over social media, sometimes in strikingly personal terms - insulting them in briefings, or in his recent speech at the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner.

The WHCA’s president, Jacqui Heinrich, called on the administration to immediately restore the three outlets’ access. “The implications extend beyond these organizations: a standard used to exclude one news outlet because of its coverage could be applied to any outlet in the future,” Heinrich said. “The American people, through a free and independent press, must be able to scrutinize those elected to power, regardless of whether government officials view it favorably.”

Network correspondents are usually present on the weekends when the president is in Washington or at

nearby Camp David. Trump is at the presidential retreat in Maryland this weekend.

MS NOW’s Gardner reported that she had walked through two gates successfully, but once she got to where her badge needed to be scanned, an officer told her it was disabled and asked her to hand it over. He said the decision “was above him,” she reported. An MS NOW producer was able to get in, but a photographer’s badge was also disabled, Gardner said.

Klein, senior White House reporter at CNN, also said her badge had been deactivated. It was confiscated, and she was handed back the clear plastic case. She said she was referred to the White House press office for further information.

Amy Kristin Sanders, a professor at Penn State University and an expert in media law, said it has “become pretty clear that this administration is not interested in playing by traditional First Amendment rules and norms.”

“The second Trump administration’s efforts to crack down on press freedom and delegitimize independent journalism far exceed those of any other modern American president,” Sanders said. “It is not an exaggeration to say his hostile actions toward news organizations



This combination of photos shows MS NOW White House reporter Akayla Gardner, from left, CNN Senior White House Reporter Betsy Klein and Politico White House reporter Cheyenne Haslett near the White House complex after all were denied entry to the White House and had credentials confiscated following President Donald Trump's ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, in Washington. (AP)

and individual reporters have a chilling effect on freedom of expression around the world.”

CNN media analyst Brian Stelter called the move “a direct threat to press freedom in the United States.” “It’s so much bigger than CNN,” Stelter said. “This is a free speech test in America.”

The president wrote on his social media site Friday that effective immediately, “I am banning” CNN, MS NOW and Politico “from the White House as a result of their constant ‘reporting’ FAKE NEWS!” Minutes later, speaking at an event in the

Oval Office, Trump was asked to explain his statement.

“Because they’re fake news,” he said. “You get so tired of reading and seeing fake news. When you look at CNN, it’s just fake. That’s why their ratings are no good. When you look at MS NOW ... , it’s fake news.”

Lawsuit alleges Anthropic, OpenAI, SpaceXAI, Google agreed to slow AI

WASHINGTON, Sept 20, (AP): A new lawsuit claims Anthropic, OpenAI, SpaceXAI and Google made an illegal deal to slow the pace of their respective AI development.

The lawsuit, which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, argues that the leading AI companies violated antitrust laws when they agreed to coordinate slowdown efforts, and that doing so would reduce the value consumers get for paid AI subscriptions.

The coordination largely took place on Sept. 12, the lawsuit argues, when Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei published an essay urging for industrywide cooperation on decelerating advancements in favor of enhanced safety measures. That same day, OpenAI’s Sam Altman, SpaceXAI’s Elon Musk and Google DeepMind’s Demis Hassabis each publicly responded to Amodei’s proposals in agreement.

It’s clear that an agreement among the chief rivals in AI that their progress “should be slower than competition would otherwise produce has an anticompetitive effect on consumers,” the plaintiffs argue.

Lawyers representing four named plaintiffs, who pay for subscriptions to ChatGPT, Claude, Grok or Gemini, are bringing the suit on behalf of a proposed nationwide class of other paid subscribers to those services.

“AI will quickly spin out of human control and could kill us all if we allow AI safety and protocol ... to be controlled by private self-serving agreements between the world’s most powerful ‘for profit’ technology companies,” said Nick Rowley, the lead attorney for the plaintiffs.

Representatives for Anthropic, OpenAI, Google and SpaceXAI did not immediately respond to a request for com-



ment Saturday.

In his initial essay proposing the slowdown, Amodei acknowledged potential antitrust challenges, writing that it would be helpful for the US government to mediate “or at least enable” these cross-lab discussions. The government wouldn’t need to participate, he wrote, but would need to “issue a narrow waiver for certain kinds of safety conversations.”

In response, Altman said on social media that OpenAI welcomes the idea of a “federal framework that sets consistent safety requirements,” but said “we do not believe we need to wait for an anti-trust exemption or legislation to begin the work of providing this confidence.”

While the recent conversations about pacing development were spurred by increasing concerns about AI evading human control, several leaders in the AI space have long talked about developing a shared set of standards or otherwise coordinating to ensure safety efforts remained paramount.

‘Situation is catastrophic & unjustifiable’

Ed Sheeran breaks silence on Gaza at Philly concert

PHILADELPHIA, Sept 20, (AP): Ed Sheeran opened a concert Saturday with comments about Gaza after controversy swirled around his tour and supporting acts withdrew in solidarity with opener Macklemore, who was dropped after making pro-Palestinian comments onstage.

Sheeran began the concert alone on stage with no opener, but was joined by other musicians later in the show.

Sheeran said he wants his music and shows to be about unity and humanity, not politics. But he said the attacks in Israel of Oct. 7, 2023, were horrific and what is happening in Gaza “catastrophic and unjustifiable.”

“I don’t want to disappoint fans, and I’ve never wanted to be an activist musician, but this has put me in the middle of an important and passionate argument about freedom of speech and the most complex political issue on the planet,” Sheeran said during his performance at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.

The comments before a nearly full stadium came after a tumultuous week that began with rapper Macklemore, Sheeran’s original U.S. opener, being dropped in response to exclaiming “Free Palestine” during a Sept. 5 show in New Jersey.

Sheeran has said he was not responsible for the decision, which came at the urging of New England



Ed Sheeran attends the Time100 Gala, in New York on April 24, 2025. (AP)

Patriots owner Robert Kraft. His company owns a stadium where Sheeran’s tour was scheduled to play on Friday.

Within hours of Sheeran’s statement Tuesday, his supporting acts withdrew.

Sheeran has performed many songs solo during his Loop Tour concerts, but was joined for several songs at each stop by the Irish folk band Beoga before they dropped out in support of Macklemore.

Macklemore was replaced by Danish band Lukas Graham and Irish singer Aaron Rowe before they backed out, and Finneas, Billie Eil-

ish’s brother and musical collaborator, was due to tour with Sheeran in South America later this year before he too dropped out this week.

Before Saturday’s show, a small group of pro-Palestinian demonstrators congregated outside the stadium. Hillary Steinberg, 34, said she got concert tickets a year ago but wound up getting a refund and attended the demonstration instead, disappointed that Sheeran did not take a stand.

“I was, until this week, a big Ed Sheeran fan,” Steinberg said. “I think all art is political, and all music is political, and so this choice

- even though he was saying that he wasn’t complicit - is a political choice.”

Diane Savitz, a 53-year-old from Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, got tickets months ago and attended. She said she is a big Sheeran fan, doesn’t think he did anything wrong and a concert is not the place for politics.

“A concert should be for people enjoying the music. Music should bring people together,” Savitz said. “Everyone has their right to freedom of speech, but not every platform is the place for it.”

Macklemore said Wednesday he is donating \$1 million to support Palestinian relief efforts and called on Kraft to match the gift; a spokesperson for Kraft has said the billionaire and Sheeran have each agreed to donate \$2 million but have not specified where the money will be directed. Sheeran’s representatives have not responded to multiple requests for comment.

Sheeran was the No. 3 top-earning concert act of the millennium so far, industry magazine Pollstar calculated in late 2025.

Sheeran has said the tour promoter was ultimately responsible for the decision to drop Macklemore.

The Grammy winner was adamant earlier this week that he wouldn’t be drawn into discussion of the war in Gaza, arguing that his fans don’t come to his shows to hear about these issues.

From Banksy to Star Wars, there’s plenty to explore

5 must-see things at Lucas Museum of Narrative Art

LOS ANGELES, Sept 20, (AP): “Star Wars” creator George Lucas called his Lucas Museum of Narrative Art a “temple to the people’s art” and a project that “almost broke my will.” Seventeen years after it was first envisioned, it will be opening to the public on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

The \$1 billion institution in Exposition Park near his alma mater the University of Southern California has become a life’s work for him and his wife and co-founder, businesswoman Mellody Hobson. Its galaxies of galleries are filled almost entirely with their own collections.

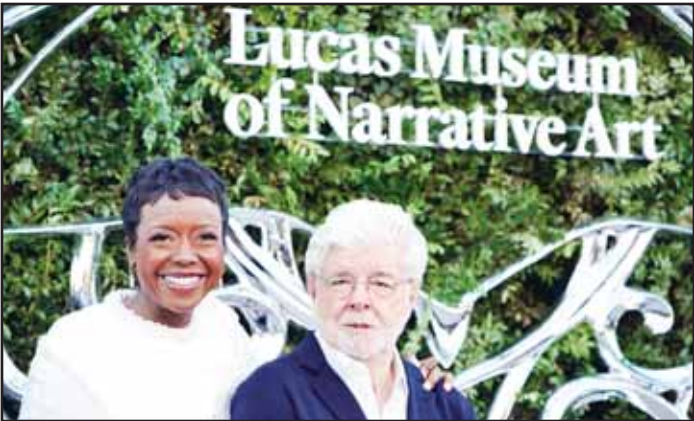
The 82-year-old Lucas has a love of doing things that are supposed to be impossible. The project was first conceived for San Francisco and Chicago and reached the initial design phase in both cities before Lucas was “kicked out,” as he put it. The Los Angeles museum mixes the work of populist painters, commercial illustrators and comic artists with the kind of fine artists more associated with major museums.

Here’s a look at five things to make sure to see on a visit.

In the considerable green space that surrounds the museum, visitors will see statuary that includes a sculpture of Carrie Fisher’s Princess Leia in her metal bikini choking Jabba the Hutt to death, a scene from 1983’s “Return of the Jedi.”

Titled “The Hutt Slayer” and commissioned for the space, it’s one of a handful of inevitable nods to “Star Wars” in and around the museum, but that faraway galaxy represents just a small fraction of its holdings and initial exhibits.

The inaugural “Star Wars in Motion” exhibit shows vehicles used in the original trilogy and the Lucas-directed prequels. A Naboo starfighter hangs in a more permanent spot in the lobby of its library. A stroll on the paths through the grass will also bring views of statues of Yoda, Grogu, and Nata-



Mellody Hobson, left, and George Lucas arrive at the opening night celebration for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP)

lie Portman’s Padmé Amidala.

The museum is full of paintings from artists like Norman Rockwell who have long been considered the opposite of cool. But it has no lack of younger, hipper content.

In a not-easy-to-find fifth-floor gallery are two walls of stenciled murals from the elusive and apparently recently “unmasked” British street artist Banksy, who worked personally with Lucas on his contributions to the institution.

The work, whose presence was announced in the final weeks before the museum’s opening, includes the familiar image of a girl releasing a heart-shaped balloon.

Nearby are activist murals from artists including Judith Baca and Diego Rivera.

Architect Ma Yansong’s big, billowing building almost seems to hover around and envelop the surrounding structures, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

He has likened it to a cloud, and perhaps its signature spot is an opening in that cloud, an oculus in the center of the dome above the main plaza that looks almost celestial.

Ma told The Associated Press the spot is “almost like a spiritual



Visitors look at artwork by the artist Banksy during a press preview for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in Los Angeles. (AP)

space.”

“I think architecture is a narrative, is storytelling,” he said. “The plaza, the oculus, the roof, different atmospheres that we provided, I think it’s very important that the building become an emotional space for people.”

A Frida Kahlo portrait hung in a prominent spot in the museum’s fourth-floor galleries will look as familiar to many visitors as some of the surrounding superhero art. But that belies how special it is. It may alone make a visit worth it for her devotees.

The 1940 “Autorretrato Dedicado al Dr. Eloesser,” or “Self Portrait Dedicated to Dr. Eloesser,” was acquired by the Lucas Museum in 2020, and became one of the few such portraits from the artist held outside her native Mexico.

It shows her with a bloom of flowers in her hair, wearing a thorn necklace with drops of blood, and silver earrings that were a gift from Pablo Picasso, whose work is also in the museum collection.

Soon after the museum acquired it in 2020, the director at the time told the Los Angeles Times she considered it “The Mona Lisa of Mexico.”

The painting is dedicated to Leo Eloesser, a San Francisco Bay Area physician who helped Kahlo with her chronic pain.

A banner across the bottom calls him “mi médico y mi mejor amigo” - my doctor and my best friend.

In a perfect encapsulation of the museum’s merger of high and low art, just a few steps from the Kahlo portrait is Casius Marcellus Coolidge’s 1894 “Poker Game,” which shows a group of dogs playing cards.

Often considered the height of lowbrow, kitschy barroom art, it’s the first in a series of 18 oil paintings on the theme from the American artist. It gets a new, elevated view in a museum that specializes in it.

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Kuwait Health Ministry highlights advances in breast cancer detection and treatment

Breast cancer accounts for over 40% of cases among Kuwaiti women

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi stated that breast cancer accounts for more than 40 percent of cancer cases recorded among women in Kuwait.

He said the number of breast cancer patients who are undergoing treatment and follow up care at facilities of the ministry exceeds 8,000.

Speaking at the opening of the Third Kuwait Breast Cancer Conference organized by Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) on Saturday, Al-Awadhi pointed out that these figures put a clear responsibility on the ministry to detect the disease at early stages, streamline the diagnostic process, provide appropriate treatment in a timely manner, and uphold the patients' dignity and their right to be informed and participate in treatment decisions.

He explained that combating cancer is at the core of the responsibilities of the ministry and it requires a comprehensive vision, which includes raising awareness, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and follow up.

He said this approach entails aligning medical decisions with scientific evidence, basing health planning on reliable data, and linking expenditure to measurable outcomes.

He highlighted the efforts of the ministry to keep pace with advancements in pharmacological treatments by providing modern options, such as hormonal, targeted and immunotherapies, as well as antibody-drug conjugates, tailored to the nature and characteristics of



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi together with the attendees at the opening of the Third Breast Cancer Conference organized by Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC).

He also revealed that KCCC has started implementing liquid biopsy

technology to support the molecular analysis of tumors. "The results will be used to guide treatment decisions in suitable cases, reflecting the rapid advancements in the fields of oncology and precision medicine," he asserted.

He unveiled the plan to establish a specialized department for epidemiology and cancer registration in 2026 in order to expand the institutional capacity to monitor incidence patterns and trends, as well as analyze data and utilize it for service planning and evaluation.

Regarding the development of the national workforce, Al-Awadhi indicated that the sub-specialty training program in oncology, conducted under the auspices of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS) with the support of the ministry, has produced six specialist oncologists over the past five years.

He indicated that the ministry is preparing to inaugurate the new KCCC in Sabah Medical District, revealing that an agreement has been reached with the French global institution, Gustave Roussy, to open the new center soon.

On the other hand, Conference Chairman Dr. Anwar Al-Nouri revealed that the event focuses on the latest developments in breast cancer treatment, particularly chemo, biological, hormonal and targeted therapies.

He highlighted the 'smart chemotherapy' (antibody-drug conjugates or ADCs), which enables the delivery of chemotherapy to cancer cells with greater precision, as one of the key innovations being discussed, adding that Kuwait has made several modern treatments available at an early stage, including the drug Elacestrant.



Dr. Abeer Al-Bahouh

Kuwait Health Ministry highlights five pillars of patient safety

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The Ministry of Health on Thursday celebrated the World Patient Safety Day, which is observed annually on Sept 17, under the slogan, "Safe Care for Life: Safe Care for Non-communicable Diseases."

Director of the Health Promotion Department at the ministry Dr. Abeer Al-Bahouh revealed that the slogan focuses on five pillars. She said the first pillar covers prevention and risk reduction by enhancing knowledge and awareness, taking preventive measures at an early stage, and ensuring that health information is obtained from reliable sources.

She added that the second pillar focuses on early detection and conducting tests that help identify diseases before symptoms appear, third is receiving treatment at healthcare facilities, fourth is about self-care and long-term therapeutic management, and fifth is coordination of care efforts and transitions between various stages, which helps reduce poor communication, lack of information, and inadequate coordination among healthcare workers.

She confirmed that the department is keen promoting the principle that "prevention is better than cure", in addition to raising health awareness based on evidence and facts, away from random and unreliable information.

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: President of the Physical Therapy Association Dr. Abeer Al-Tajalli underscored the need to raise awareness about stroke prevention and the identification of warning signs, while emphasizing the importance of keeping abreast of the latest therapeutic and rehabilitative techniques.

She pointed out that the effective management of stroke patients requires a collaborative and integrated approach, involving various medical and health disciplines.

In a statement to the press at the scientific forum organized by the association titled "Stroke: A Meeting with Experts," Al-Tajalli identified heart disease as a significant risk factor for stroke. She stressed that the risk can be reduced through regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and eliminating harmful habits, particularly smoking and physical inactivity.

She disclosed that the forum is part of the observance of World Physical Therapy Day, celebrated annually on Sep 8. She said the World Physiotherapy organization has chosen, "Cardiovascular Disease and



A photo from the event.

Stroke", as the theme for 2026.

She also mentioned that the scientific forum was preceded by a public event held in partnership with a private hospital.

She explained that the initiative aimed to educate the public about cardiovascular diseases, put the spotlight on the role of physical therapy in rehabilitating heart patients to help them gradually reintegrate into their daily lives and communities, and to

raise awareness on the importance of recognizing stroke warning signs to prevent complications.

She pointed out that the role of physical therapy covers the entire continuum of care, from the initial phase of a stroke through rehabilitation, with the goal of restoring patients' motor and functional abilities, improving their quality of life, and promoting their independence.

She said the forum highlighted the latest pharmacological, surgical, and behavioral treatments.

She added that the association hosted a distinguished group of doctors and specialists, based on its belief in the importance of an integrated medical team approach to provide comprehensive care for stroke patients.

She stated that stroke is a leading cause of death globally, particularly in Kuwait, and that permanent motor disabilities resulting from strokes are the second leading cause of disability worldwide.

She added "statistics from Kuwait indicate that the incidence of stroke rises with age, therefore, it is essential to intensify awareness campaigns and prioritize stroke prevention."

She indicated that the mission of the association extends beyond post-stroke rehabilitation to include prevention, raising public awareness and early intervention.

She affirmed that raising awareness about risk factors and warning signs, along with developing physical therapy and rehabilitation services and utilizing the latest scientific research, will help reduce complications, improve patients' quality of life, and facilitate their reintegration into society.

Over 85% of limb amputations linked to diabetes: Dr. Khuraibet

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: President-elect of D-Foot International and Head of the Diabetic Foot and Wound Unit at Jaber Hospital Dr. Salma Khuraibet confirmed that more than 85 percent of limb amputations are associated with diabetes.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening of D-Foot International's first advanced training course in Kuwait on Saturday, Khuraibet revealed that majority of these cases are preventable through early and regular foot examinations, patient risk stratification, and timely intervention.

She added that Kuwait has one of the highest rates of diabetes prevalence in the Middle East, and that diabetic foot complications are the second leading cause of amputation in the country, after road accidents.

She cited a study conducted in Kuwait in 1989 involving 86 patients hospitalized for foot ulcers. The study revealed an amputation rate of 55 percent and an average hospital stay of 66 days.

She stated that the establishment of

the first specialized diabetic foot clinic in the country contributed to reducing amputation rates by more than 50 percent, affirming the importance of expanding early detection programs and specialized follow up care to mitigate diabetic foot complications.

She stressed the importance of conducting early and regular foot examinations and classifying patients according to the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) risk classification system.

She disclosed that the Diabetic Foot Treatment and Surgery Center at Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Hospital provides periodic screenings and follow up care, thereby, helping to reduce rates of ulcers, amputations and mortality, while improving survival outcomes.

She explained that diabetic foot disease is "not just a surgical issue, but a multidisciplinary crisis requiring a shared language, specifically the language of risk classification."

She pointed out that "when we can accurately classify risk, we can prevent complications, and through prevention, we save limbs and lives while preserving dignity."

She added that the course's theme, "From Risk Assessment to Prevention," embodies the core philosophy of D-Foot International. She indicated that the course was designed to be practical, interactive and applied in nature, aiming to foster the exchange of expertise and enhance the proficiency of medical teams in preventing diabetic foot complications.

She commended the Ministry of Health for supporting educational initiatives, as well as the Kuwait Surgical Society.

She also expressed her appreciation to the diabetic foot and general surgery teams at Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Hospital, podiatrists Lujain Al-Asfour and Ali Al-Baloushi, and doctors Ali Al-Nasser and Abdullah Al-Abduljalil for their contributions to advancing diabetic foot treatment and surgical services.

She underscored the significance of hosting the first D-Foot International event in Kuwait, while lauding the support provided by the Urgo Medical Foundation in ensuring the success of the course and promoting medical education in the field of diabetic foot care.



Dr. Salma Khuraibet speaking at the event.



Healthcare workers wait to receive their vaccine at an Ebola vaccination center in Bunia, Ituri province, Congo on Sept 19. (AP)

Congo begins Ebola vaccinations for health workers in epicenter of outbreak

BUNIA, Congo, Sept 20, (Agencies): Congo on Saturday began vaccinating healthcare staff against Ebola in Bunia, the epicenter of the fastest-growing outbreak of the disease in history as they are "particularly exposed and deeply involved in the response," the provincial governor said.

Health workers and other front-line workers in the Ebola response are being prioritized to receive the Ervebo vaccine that was effective in past Ebola outbreaks caused by a different, more common type of virus. Clinical trials are ongoing to find a licensed vaccine for the current

outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo virus, which has no licensed vaccine or treatment.

The rollout is targeting the Bunia and Mongbwalu zones in Ituri province, health authorities said Saturday. Both areas are among the hardest-hit by the virus.

"Our collective duty is to protect life. Launching this vaccination drive for front-line staff in Ituri is not an arbitrary choice, as these workers are particularly exposed and deeply involved in the response," the military governor of Ituri, Maj. Gen Gaby Kasongo Mulumba, said Saturday.

Hiking canyons can quickly turn deadly when storms hit

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

By Anner Paldor
University of Tennessee

Hiking a picturesque valley or climbing a craggy gorge are some of the most exhilarating experiences in nature. As a geologist, I have hiked and climbed some of the most intense terrains in the world, including in the Andes, Middle Eastern deserts, the Balkans and the Appalachians.

I am particularly drawn to canyons that provide beautiful windows into the rock record and the geologic history of a place. However, these narrow valleys can quickly become extremely dangerous when water pours in.

At Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, at least two hikers died and a third was missing after powerful monsoon storms sent a deluge into one of the narrowest parts of the canyon on Aug. 29, 2026. Two of the survivors who were rescued described seeing the water quickly rise over the trail as they clung to a ledge, fearing they might never see their families again.

So, how do you balance a love for outdoor activity with managing this risk and hike canyons safely?

To understand the dynamics of a flash flood, it helps to start with the geomorphologic aspect - understanding the landforms and how they change over time.

In canyons and arroyos - steep gullies common to the

Southwest - flash flooding can occur even when the heavy rainfall happens great distances away. A person can be hiking under clear skies in the canyon and not be aware that heavy rain falling upstream or even outside of the canyon means a disaster is unfolding.

The steep gradients and narrow passageways that define these landscapes channel the water, sending vast amounts of it rushing downstream. Under these conditions, water can rise quickly in the narrow space of a canyon.

The Grand Canyon flood involved heavy downpours in the heart of monsoon season. The intensity of the rainfall matters in a canyon. Even in arid regions, which generally get low amounts of rain annually, heavy rainfall within a short period of time can create devastating floods.

In 2018, a flash flood in Israel's Tzafit Canyon - an environment similar to the part of the Grand Canyon where the 2026 flood occurred - claimed the lives of 10 recent high school graduates who were hiking in the canyon.

I grew up in that region and had hiked there many times, and I remember thinking about the incomprehensible suddenness: One moment you are appreciating the breathtaking views of the desert, and within minutes you are fighting a torrent of water you never imagined in such an arid place. A year's worth of rain fell near the canyon that day.

How well the ground absorbs water also affects flood dynamics. Soils that are highly porous and permeable can transmit water easily vertically into the ground. (AP)

Prestigious trophy unveiled

DP World ILT20 Development Tournament Kuwait 2026 begins in grand style



Boubyan Warriors pose together for a team photo.



The four team captains pose with tournament officials.



The Kuwait Falcons pose together for a group photo.



The Pearl Strikers pose together for a group photo.



Mr. Emad Al Jassam and Mr. Sajid Ashraf unveil the tournament trophy.



The Failaka Guardians pose together for a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The DP World ILT20 Development Tournament Kuwait 2026 officially got underway with a prestigious Trophy Unveiling Ceremony, bringing together dignitaries, participating teams, players, match officials, families and supporters as excitement builds ahead of the tournament.

The ceremony was hosted by Harman Sahni, who welcomed the participating teams and distinguished guests, including Mr. Emad Al Jassam, General Secretary, Kuwait Cricket Board, and Mr. Sajid Ashraf, Executive Director & Strategic Partner, DP World ILT20.

Following the National Anthem of the State of Kuwait, Mr. Emad Al Jassam and Mr. Sajid Ashraf officially unveiled the tournament trophy, marking an important milestone ahead of the start of the competition.

Addressing the players and guests, Mr. Emad Al Jassam expressed his appreciation to the Public Authority for Sport in Kuwait and Kuwait Cricket

Board President Mr. Haider Farman for their leadership and continued support. He also congratulated the DP World ILT20 leadership team on the League's continued success and its commitment to creating opportunities for emerging cricket talent.

Sajid Ashraf extended his heartfelt appreciation to the visionary Chairman of DP World ILT20, Mr. Khalid Al Zarooni, and the dynamic League Commissioner, Mr. Mubashshir Usmani, along with the entire DP World ILT20 team, for their continued leadership, guidance and support.

Emad Al Jassam and Sajid Ashraf also extended their best wishes ahead of the DP World ILT20 Player Auction, scheduled for 1stOctober 2026 in Dubai, followed by DP World ILT20 Season 5, from 21stNovember to 20th-December 2026.

The ceremony highlighted the growing opportunities being created for emerging cricket talent through the Development Tournament and acknowledged the

tireless efforts of the entire Kuwait Cricket management team in contributing to the continued growth and global reach of the DP World ILT20 brand.

The four team captains — Meet Bhavsar (Failaka Guardians), Mohamed Aslam (Boubyan Warriors), Yasin Patel (Kuwait Falcons) and Ali Zaheer (Pearl Strikers) — joined the dignitaries for the ceremonial cake cutting, followed by an exclusive captains' photo shoot with the coveted trophy.

The ceremony concluded with a series of official photographs featuring the captains, participating teams and Kuwait Cricket Board management.

With the trophy unveiled and the teams ready for action, the stage is now set for an exciting chapter of competitive cricket in Kuwait.

The DP World ILT20 Development Tournament Kuwait 2026 promises to shine a spotlight on emerging talent, provide players with a platform to showcase their abilities, and further strengthen the pathway between Kuwait cricket and one of the world's leading T20 leagues.

'Gulf Cup 27' referees begin preparatory camp in Jeddah



Gulf Cup 27 referees' preparatory camp in progress.

JEDDAH, Sep 20: Referees selected to officiate at the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup, "Gulf Cup 27," have begun a preparatory camp in Jeddah ahead of the tournament, which Saudi Arabia will host from Sept. 23 to Oct. 6.

Gulf Football Federation Referees Committee Chairman Hani Ballan emphasized the importance of the preparatory program in ensuring that officials reach the highest level of readiness before the competition begins.

The camp features theoretical lectures, practical sessions, fitness tests, and specialized training on the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system. It also covers the latest amendments to the Laws of the Game, their practical application, and the review and discussion of various refereeing incidents and decisions.

Practical sessions are being held at training facilities operated by the Saudi Football Federation, with the aim of unifying refereeing interpretations and enhancing the officials' technical and physical preparedness.

The tournament will feature international referees from Morocco, Jordan, China, the Netherlands and Portugal, alongside officials from the Gulf countries.

Reese posts 31st double-double in Dream triumph over Chicago

Wings extend winning streak to six

COLLEGE PARK, Sept 20, (AP): Angel Reese had 23 points and 10 rebounds to extend her WNBA single-season record for double-doubles to 31 and lead Atlanta to 106-81 victory over Chicago.

The Dream (28-14), who have won three straight and nine of 11, moved a half-game ahead of Indiana, and pulled within a half-game of third-place Las Vegas in the WNBA standings. The top four earn home court in the best-of-three first round of the playoffs, which begin Sept. 27.

Reese was 9-of-13 shooting and added three blocks and two steals. Rookie Isobel Borlase had 18 points and three steals, both season highs, for Atlanta. Allisha Gray scored 17, Rhyne Howard 14 and Jordin Canada had 11 points and 10 assists.

The Dream shot 53% (36 of 68) from the field, were 13 of 26 from 3-point range and had 13 steals.

Gabriela Jaquez led the Sky (15-27), who have lost five straight, with 14 points. Aicha Coulibaly and Kamilla Cardoso scored 11 apiece and Courtney Vandersloot and Morgan Maly each added 10.

Wings 87, Mercury 82

In Arlington, Paige Bueckers scored 20 of her 26 points in the first half, Arike Ogunbowale had 22 points and six assists, and the Dallas Wings beat the Phoenix Mercury for their sixth straight victory.

Ogunbowale was fouled on a driving layup with 1:19 remaining and she completed the three-point play to extend the lead to 86-81.

Aziahua James made a key steal down the stretch and Bueckers was fouled with 9.7 seconds left before making 1 of 2 free throws to cap the scoring.



Dallas (26-16) passed New York and Washington for sixth place in the WNBA standings. Valkyries 70, Storm 57

In San Francisco, Kaila Charles had 16 points, matched her career high with 12 rebounds and made four steals, Tiffany Hayes scored 10 points a night before her 37th birthday, and Golden State concluded their regular-season home schedule by beating Seattle for a sixth straight win.

Rookie Juste Jocyte and Laeticia Amihere each added 11 points off the bench for the Valkyries (31-11), who are in second place behind Minnesota. The team said Jocyte sustained a left leg injury.

The Valkyries wrapped up a 17-5 home record with another sold-out crowd of 18,064, bringing the second-season attendance total to 397,408 - with a full house for every game at Chase Center over a second straight year.

It's the only franchise in WNBA history to sell out every home game over its first two seasons.



Embassy of India
Kuwait

TENDER NO. - KUW/ADM/872/5/2018 DATED - 17th September 2026

TENDER NOTICE- Tender for Annual Maintenance Contract for Garden maintenance Services

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies for AMC for Garden Maintenance Services at Embassy of India, Kuwait.

Prospective / Interested companies are advised to inspect the area and present their offers in a sealed cover marked "AMC for Garden Maintenance Services at Embassy of India, Kuwait- to be opened by addressee only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait." The bid must be submitted at the Embassy on or before 12th October, 2026.

The detailed tender document along with its annexure may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/> and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from <https://indembkuwt.gov.in>. The tender documents may also be accessed by scanning the QR Code.

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Van beats Pantoja in UFC flyweight title rematch

LOS ANGELES, Sept 20, (AP): Flyweight Champion Joshua Van erased the controversy surrounding his first victory over Alexandre Pantoja by defeating the former champion over five rounds Saturday, then declaring that his UFC flyweight title could no longer be dismissed as the product of an accidental injury.

"A lot of people said that was an accidental win the first time," said Van (18-2). "Now doubt me now."

Van said critics had questioned his legitimacy after Pantoja (30-7) suffered an injury early in their first meeting. The rematch gave the champion the opportunity to prove himself in a complete fight against the division's former standard-bearer.

Van, who had his boxing skills and takedown defense on full display, finished with 140 significant head strikes, to Pantoja's 99.

The champion praised Pantoja's durability and skill, particularly after the Brazilian escaped a submission attempt Van believed would finish the fight.

Van's decisive victory strengthened the legitimacy of his championship reign, while Pantoja's toughness added significance to the performance.

In the co-main event, No. 2-ranked lightweight Arman Tsarukyan (24-3) strengthened his claim to the next title shot with a dramatic first-round

knockout of No. 7 Mauricio Ruffy (14-3), who was coming off a TKO victory over Michael Chandler at UFC Freedom 250.

Ruffy successfully defended Tsarukyan's early takedown attempts, but the Armenian changed levels late in the round before switching to an elbow that landed flush. With Ruffy badly hurt, Tsarukyan followed with another elbow that knocked the Brazilian unconscious at 4:56, just four seconds before the horn. The victory extended Tsarukyan's winning streak to six.

"Of course, for my next fight, for the title fight, I needed that finish, and I knew that I'm gonna finish him," Tsarukyan said. "It

was a little bit difficult in the first round, but I knew I had five rounds, and my time was going to come. So I was patient."

Tsarukyan later joked that he wanted either a lightweight championship fight or a showdown with

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Egyptian hailed after stunning performance

Salah stars with hat-trick as Trabzonspor crushes Galatasaray 4-0

ISTANBUL, Sept 20: Egyptian star Mohamed Salah has earned widespread praise from the Turkish media after producing a sensational performance to lead Trabzonspor to a 4-0 victory over Galatasaray in the sixth round of the Turkish league.

Salah scored a hat-trick and provided the assist for Trabzonspor's fourth goal as they cruised to an emphatic win.

Former Turkey international and sports analyst Nihat Kahveci compared Salah to Argentine legend Lionel Messi, dubbing him "Leo Salah."

"He takes the ball from midfield, dribbles past opponents, and you think he is going to score — and then

he does," Kahveci said. "Salah showed today that he is a global star. He is a great player."

Trabzonspor president Ertuğrul Doğan was equally impressed, describing Salah as a global star and praising both his character and humility.

"Salah is a global star, and he also has the personality of a star. He has a wonderful character and is very humble," Doğan said.

Trabzonspor coach Thomas Reis also highlighted the contribution of his experienced players, including Salah and Fabinho.

"We have a special group of experienced players such as Fabinho. They put in a great performance,

and I believe we have achieved something special in a short period," Reis said.

Fabinho said Salah's presence gives the team confidence and can prove decisive in major matches.

"I am used to this from him. He gives the team tremendous confidence. Big games need players of Salah's quality who can make the difference," he said.

Turkish journalist Serkan Akan, writing for Fanatik, described Salah as "one of the greatest miracles to happen to Trabzonspor," saying the Egyptian produced one of the most extraordinary performances in the history of the club's big matches.



Mohamed Salah celebrates with his teammate.

Atletico sinks 10-man Real as Man City outlasts Sunderland



Atletico Madrid's Julian Alvarez, right, attempts a shot at goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid in Madrid. (AP)

Liverpool beats Bournemouth

MADRID, Sept 20, (AP): Atletico Madrid won the first capital derby of the season in the Spanish league with a 2-1 win against 10-man Real Madrid, while Manchester City prevailed in an eight-goal thriller against Sunderland to move clear at the top of the Premier League.

Alejandro Grimaldo and Jonathan David scored second-half goals for Atletico, which moved to second place behind Barcelona.

Man City beat Sunderland 5-3 to open a three-point lead over defending champion Arsenal in England.

Atletico scored twice in the second half to beat its city rival, which played a man down nearly the entire second half at the Metropolitan stadium. Dean Huijsen was sent off in the 52nd for a foul that prompted the penalty kick converted by Grimaldo.

David added to the lead in the 59th, before Antonio Rüdiger scored for Madrid in the 89th.

Madrid wanted a red card for Atletico's Cristian "Cuti" Romero in the first half after he stepped on the leg of Jude Bellingham. The play was reviewed by the VAR but Romero was only shown a yellow card.

The result moved Atletico within five points of Barcelona, which won 3-1 at Sevilla on Saturday with a hat trick by Raphinha.

Real Madrid dropped to third. It's six points behind Barcelona, which has won seven in a row to start the season.

Vinícius Júnior had a lackluster performance and was substituted in the 54th by Yan Diomande.

Man City extended its perfect winning start to the season to five games after City twice re-



Sunderland's Trai Hume goes for a header during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Sunderland in Manchester, England. (AP)

linquished the lead and Sunderland striker Brian Brobbey outshone Erling Haaland with a hat trick.

Haaland eventually ended the visitors' brave fight with City's fifth goal in the 81st minute.

Alexander Isak scored his fourth goal of the season as Liverpool beat Bournemouth 1-0, and Leeds drew 0-0 with Crystal Palace.

Raphinha continued his red-hot form with a hat trick in a 3-1 win at Sevilla as defending champion Barcelona recorded a seventh straight victory in La Liga.

Lamine Yamal set up two of the irrepressible Brazilian's goals to make it a La Liga-high 12 so far - one less than Raphinha scored all last season.

Earlier, Lautaro Martinez rescued Inter Milan with two second-half goals as the defending Serie A champion drew 2-2 at Roma in their table-topping clash.

Borussia Dortmund went first in Germany with a fourth straight victory.

This time it wasn't Donyell Malen scoring for Roma but midfielder Manu Koné with two first-

half goals as Roma stayed top on goal difference. Martinez netted twice in the second half as both sides remained undefeated.

Maximilian Beier's effort gave Dortmund a 1-0 win at Stuttgart and a two-point lead over defending champion Bayern Munich.

Koné put Roma ahead in the sixth minute after being set up by Nahuel Molina, who nodded back a back-post cross from Paulo Dybala for Koné to run onto.

He scored again from close range in the 37th after being set up by Gianluca Mancini, following another curling cross by Dybala. The goal was ruled offside but given following a video check.

Roma coach Gian Piero Gasperini stopped Koné being sold to Inter in the offseason.

Martinez replied immediately after the break, clipping the ball inside the post after combining superbly with Marcus Thuram on a swift counter-attack, then equalized in the 79th.

Third-placed Lazio won 2-0 at Venezia while fourth-placed Cagliari continued its fine start with a 1-0 win at Udinese. Midfielder Daniel Maldini - the son of famed Italy defender Paolo Maldini - scored for the Sardinian side.

After firing coach Domenico Tedesco, Bologna drew 1-1 at home to Torino.

Barca has 31 goals in seven games.

Raphinha cut inside a defender and found the bottom right corner for his first goal, which came midway through the first half and after Youssouf Fofana gave Sevilla the lead.

Lamine Yamal bamboozled the Sevilla defense with quick footwork before crossing for Raphinha to head in from close range in the 52nd. Yamal then assisted again.

Barring injury, Raphinha is set to smash his career best tally of 18 league goals from two seasons ago.

Al-Sayer named director of Saudi Super Cup in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Khaled Al-Sayer, CEO of Al Rai International Advertising Company, has been appointed director of the Saudi Super Cup, which will be held in Kuwait in December.

The appointment was made by a partnership between Al Rai Media Group and Aayan Leasing and Investment Company, which will host the tournament under an agreement signed last Monday with the Saudi Arabian Football Federation through its exclusive commercial partner, SMC Vibes — Saudi Wasayel Group.

Wael Al-Qatami, Aayan's deputy



Khaled Al-Sayer



Wael Al-Qatami

head of operations, has been appointed deputy director.

The appointments mark the start of organizational, technical and operational preparations for the 13th edition of the Saudi Super Cup, which will be held at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium and feature Al-Nassr, Al-Kholoud, Al-Ahli and Al-Qadsiah.

Al-Sayer said preparations began immediately after the hosting agreement was announced, with work already underway on organizational structures, the distribution of responsibilities and plans covering the various aspects of the tournament.

The first major milestone will be the tournament draw, scheduled for Oct. 14 in Kuwait, which will determine the two semifinal matchups.

Al-Sayer added that teams are being formed to handle the tournament's organizational, administrative, media, marketing and logistical operations. He said the process is nearing completion, with the teams set to begin work according to an integrated plan and timetable leading up to the tournament.

Al-Otaibi: Club World Championship will prepare Burgan for new season

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Burgan president Anwar Al-Otaibi believes the IHF Men's Club World Championship will provide his team with valuable international experience and serve as an important part of its preparations for the new season.

The tournament will be held in Cairo from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1, with Burgan looking forward to testing themselves against some of the world's top clubs.

Al-Otaibi, who recently led the team's delegation at a training camp in Bosnia, said Burgan have ambitious goals but acknowledged that their financial resources and current preparations do not match the scale of the global com-



Anwar Al-Otaibi.

petition.

"Our main objective is to gain as much technical benefit as possible, gain experience and compete against different handball schools," Al-Otaibi said.

He added that Burgan aims to challenge strongly for domestic titles, particularly the league and cup, while completing last season's suspended competitions. The Club World Championship, he said, will be an important part of the team's preparation for those commitments.

Al-Otaibi praised the coaching and administrative staff and the players for their efforts in recent months, particularly during the Asian Club Championship hosted by Kuwait, where Burgan won the title for the first time in their history despite considerable pressure.

He said he would not put additional pressure on the players at the Club World Championship, stressing that the priority is to make a respectable appearance, gain international experience, and return better prepared for the domestic season and upcoming competitions.

Qadsia drops Orok as club searches for replacement

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Qadsia has released Nigerian forward Gabriel Orok and is searching for a replacement ahead of the closing of the summer transfer window.

Orok struggled to make an impact in Qadsia's opening three Zain Premier League matches and was involved in a disagreement with coach Mohammed Ibrahim during the team's second-round

clash against Kuwait Club.

Orok came on as a second-half substitute but was withdrawn in the 82nd minute. Ibrahim later explained that the change was intended to encourage the player to raise his intensity after he had not shown enough desire to contribute and follow the team's instructions.

Qadsia's foreign contingent now consists of Moroccans Hamza Khaba and Ayoub Lakhdar, Oman's Abdulrahman Al-Mushaifri, and Ivorian Cedric Gbo.

Souyad completes Al-Arabi's foreign player lineup



Badr Eddine Souyad unveiled.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Al-Arabi has completed their foreign player lineup with the signing of Algerian center-back Badr Eddine Souyad.

The 31-year-old joins a foreign contingent that includes Anayo Iwuala of Nigeria, Palestine's Zaid Qanbar, Ethiopia's Kenan Malinco, and Dutch-Moroccan forward Walid Ould Cheikh.

Al-Arabi recently terminated the contracts of Senegalese forward Johar Rasoul and Brazilian Leonardo Sheldon.

Souyad has previously played for several Algerian clubs, including MC Oujda, CR Belouizdad, JS Kabylie, Amal Arbaa and MC

Alger. He is expected to join the team in the coming days, while Ould Cheikh began training with Al-Arabi two days ago.

The squad changes follow Al-Arabi's slow start to the Zain Premier League under Croatian coach Goran Sablic. The Green sit 10th with two points after draws against Kuwait Club (0-0) and Sulaibikhat (3-3), followed by a 2-1 defeat to Al-Jahra.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi midfielder Jomaa Aboud has been called up by Syria for preparatory camps and friendly matches ahead of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

The 27-year-old received the call-up from Syria coach José Lana after international defender Omar Al-Midani suffered an injury during the national team's recent training sessions.

Al-Attar officiates at World Masters Weightlifting Championship

ATHENS, Sept 20: Kuwaiti international referee Ashwaq Al-Attar is officiating at the World Masters Weightlifting Championship in Athens, Greece, which runs until Sept. 26.

More than 1,400 lifters from around the world are taking part in the championship.

Al-Attar's appointment follows her recent officiating duties at some international and continental events, including the Masters Championship in Abu Dhabi and the Asian Masters Championship.

Her continued presence at major overseas



Kuwaiti international referee Ashwaq Al-Attar.

competitions reflects the confidence she has earned from the International Weightlifting Federation and continental governing bodies, while also highlighting the growing presence of Kuwaiti referees in international weightlifting.

Al-Attar thanked the International Weightlifting Federation and the championship organizers for selecting her to officiate at the event. She said the appointment was the result of years of work and experience gained through local, Gulf, Arab and conti-

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Gold medalist Xu Jiayu of China, center, flanked by silver medalist Hidekazu Takehara of Japan, left, and bronze medalist Lee Ju-ho of South Korea pose on the podium after the men's 100-meter backstroke final in swimming at the Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan . (AP)

Sports

Kuwait strikes Asian Games gold and bronze



Abdullah Shaaban kisses his gold medal.



Abdulwahab Al-Qattan



Basil Ahmed

Shaaban wins karate title as teqball duo make history

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 20: Kuwait made a flying start to its campaign at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026, winning a gold medal in karate and a bronze in teqball.

Karateka Abdullah Shaaban claimed Kuwait's first gold of the Games after defeating Qatar's representative in the men's kumite under-60kg final. Shaaban dedicated the historic achievement to Kuwait's leadership and people, as well as his family and the technical and administrative staff who supported him throughout his preparations. He said he had been determined to end his karate career with an Asian gold medal that would do justice to Kuwait's reputation and his long journey in the sport. Shaaban described the competition as extremely strong, with some of the continent's top athletes taking part, but said his determination to raise Kuwait's flag was the main motivation behind his success.

Kuwait's teqball team also secured a historic bronze in the men's doubles through Basil Ahmed and Abdulwahab Al-Qattan, who defeated Indonesia 2-1 in the bronze-medal match. The result gave Kuwait its first-ever Asian Games medal in teqball, highlighting the sport's development in the country and the team's ability to compete at continental level. The two medals came after extensive preparations for the Games, with Kuwait hoping its other athletes and teams will follow suit and add to the country's medal tally. Kuwait athletes will compete in several sports on Monday as the Asian Games continue in Aichi and Nagoya. Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi will begin his karate campaign in the men's individual kata at 4:20 a.m., with the competition progressing through the quarterfinals and finals.

Kuwait's swimmers will also be in action at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre. Mohammed Al-Zubaid will compete in the men's 50m backstroke, while Farah Al-Subaih and Jana Hussein will contest the women's 50m backstroke heats from 4 a.m. Abdulrazzaq Al-Duwaikhi will compete in the men's 50m freestyle, Yasmine Al-Subaih in the women's 200m freestyle, and Rashed Al-Tarnoum in the men's 100m breaststroke. At 12:35 p.m., Khaled Al-Otaibi, Saud Al-Enezi, Mohammed Al-Otaibi and Saud Al-Shammoukh will compete in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay heats. Kuwait's skeet shooters will also begin their campaigns at 4 a.m., with Mohammed Al-Deihani, Mohammed Al-Awad and Abdullah Al-Tarafi competing in the men's individual and team events. In the women's skeet, Iman Al-Shammaa, Fatima Al-Zaabi and Afrah Al-Mohammed will compete in the individual and team qualification rounds.

Saudi Arabia excludes Al-Qadsiah midfielder Al-Juwair from camp

Kuwait steps up preparations for Gulf Cup opener

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

JEDDAH, Sept 20: Kuwait national team continued preparations in Jeddah on Monday, holding a training session at the auxiliary field of King Abdullah International Stadium ahead of its Gulf Cup 27 opener against host Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. Kuwait is in Group A alongside Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Oman. It will face Iraq on Sept. 26 before completing the group stage against Oman on Sept. 29. Group B comprises Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar and Yemen. The top two teams in each group will advance to the semifinals on Oct. 3, with the final set for Oct. 6. Kuwait coach Hélio Sousa is focusing on getting his squad fully prepared for the opener while assessing the players in the best physical condition. Sousa watched most of the squad in Friday's friendly against Yemen and was satisfied with their fitness levels. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has excluded Al-Qadsiah midfielder Musab Al-Juwair from its camp



Kuwait intensify training for the opener against Saudi Arabia.

for disciplinary reasons. The Saudi Football Federation announced the decision without providing further details. Al-Ittihad midfielder Mukhtar Ali was subsequently called up to replace Al-Juwair. Greek coach Georgios Donis made the change as the

hosts continue preparations for the tournament. Iraq has also made a change to their squad, calling up Hassan Abdulkarim to replace Bassam Shakir. The Iraqi Football Association said a medical examination showed Shakir was suffering from fatigue and phys-

ical discomfort. Oman, meanwhile, welcomed Mohsen Al-Ghassani of Bangkok United and Issam Al-Sabhi of Port FC to camp on Monday. Coach Tarik Sektioui gave the two players a rest after their arrival, with both expected to join training today.

Kuwait, Japan sign MoU to enhance sports cooperation

NAGOYA, Sept 20, (KUNA): Kuwait and Japan have signed a memorandum of cooperation aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and exchanging expertise in the sports sector. Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma and Japan Sports Agency Commissioner Junichi Kawa signed the agreement yesterday on behalf of Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth and Sports and the Japan Sports Agency. The Public Authority for Sports said the memorandum reflects Kuwait's efforts to expand international sports partnerships and benefit from Japan's advanced experience and expertise. It will promote the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices, while supporting programs and initiatives aimed at serving athletes and youth. The agreement will also provide new opportunities for coordination in areas of mutual interest and establish a sustainable framework for



cooperation, contributing to stronger Kuwait-Japan relations and further development of Kuwait's sports sector.

South Korea looms

Kuwait handball team targets another victory

NAGOYA, Sept 20: Kuwait faces South Korea at 11 a.m. today in the second round of Group B at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in Japan. The Blues go into the match with confidence after opening their campaign with a 26-24 victory over Iran, earning two points from a strong first-round performance. Kuwait will aim to build on that result against South Korea in what is expected to be a competitive encounter between two experienced Asian sides. The coaching staff will look to a combination of experienced players and emerging talent, while relying on the team's fighting spirit and determination to produce another strong performance and strengthen their hopes of reaching the knockout stage. The players recognize the importance of the match against one of Asia's established handball teams. Defensive discipline, concentration and efficiency in front of goal will be crucial as Kuwait seek another positive result in their Asian Games campaign.



Kuwait handball team ready for South Korea.

Best of the Rest

Australia completes series sweep: Nathan Ellis made sure Josh Inglis' second ODI century didn't go to waste as Australia completed a 3-0 cricket series sweep against Zimbabwe with a thrilling one-wicket victory with one ball remaining on Sunday. No. 9 batter Ellis made an unbeaten 36 off 44 balls in the third and final ODI to carry Australia to 272-9 in a successful chase that included Inglis' 103 off 102 but had

looked like ending in failure. "Great game of cricket," Australia captain Mitchell Marsh said. "I thought Zimbabwe probably deserved to win, but the boys got the job done at the end there and that was fantastic to see." Zimbabwe, which earlier won the toss and scored 271-8 in its 50 overs, was heading for a consolation win when Inglis was bowled by skipper Sikandar Raza in the 42nd over. Australia still needed 45 more runs for victory. (AP)

Kuwait U-23 faces must-win clash against Philippines at Asian Games

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

NAGOYA, Sept 20: The Kuwait Olympic team (U-23) will wrap up preparations this evening for Tuesday's crucial Group C clash against the Philippines at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026. Kuwait is third in the group with one point, behind leaders Uzbekistan on six points and Vietnam on four. The Philippines are bottom without a point and have already been eliminated, while Uzbekistan has secured their place in the quarterfinals. Kuwait needs to beat the Philippines by at least three goals and hope Uzbekistan defeat Vietnam by two goals to keep their quarterfinal hopes alive. A Vietnam win or draw would end Kuwait's campaign. Kuwait opened the tournament with a 1-1 draw against Vietnam before suffering a 2-0 defeat to Uzbekistan. Vietnam beat the Philippines 2-0 in the group's other second-round match. Kuwait coach David Doniga met



Players preparing for the key clash.

with the players during the final training sessions and urged them to avoid the mistakes made against Uzbekistan. The coaching staff also worked on exploiting the Philippines' weaknesses while limiting the threat posed by their key players.

Doniga stressed the need for greater organization and disciplined positioning, while asking each player to clearly understand his role, follow instructions, and execute the tactical plan as Kuwait seeks the result required to advance.