



Amir receives invitation to attend EU-GCC Summit in Riyadh Page 2



Kuwait Amir Representative calls for UN action to 'defuse' tensions

FM joins security talks

NEW YORK, Sept 21, (KUNA): 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, held a series of meetings on Sunday in New York on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

At his official residence, His Highness the Crown Prince received UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, conveying the greetings of His Highness the Amir.

His Highness the Crown Prince underscored Kuwait's commitment to active participation in the 81st session, noting the sensitivity of the current phase and the need for concerted international efforts to de-escalate tensions. He called for activating the UN's role and upgrading its mechanisms to address successive crises, reinforce international and regional security and stability, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guterres commended Kuwait's historic and leading support for international organizations, its diplomatic efforts to promote dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and its continued backing of humanitarian initiatives to alleviate the suffering of affected peoples.

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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, receives UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



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, receives President of the 81st session of the UNGA, Dr. Khalilur Rahman.

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Minister of Justice ... A bounced check is not a felony

EVERYONE recognizes the efforts and tireless work of Justice Minister Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait to modernize the laws of the state. While some laws were amended in the past, many have remained unchanged since the independence of the country. The Minister deserves credit for the tremendous effort he has invested since assuming office, including the modernization of around 300 laws.

Since the enactment of the Constitution in 1962 and the commencement of the legislative process, more than 930 laws have been ratified. Despite the social changes and the evolution of societies worldwide—which made modernizing this legislation a pressing necessity—the laws unfortunately remained static, because certain parties benefited from existing loopholes and opposed any changes.

We must therefore say: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your efforts to modernize Kuwait's progressive image. The true character of a state is reflected in its legislation, not just in its urban development and infrastructure.

To fully realize this progressive vision for Kuwait, certain laws that hinder the drive for national development must be amended or repealed. There are unjust decisions and laws that undermine the authority of the legal system and prevent judges from applying the rule of law in various areas. Legislative reform is undoubtedly required to align these laws with modernity.

One such example is the law criminalizing the issuance of bounced checks. This issue creates social and familial distress and imposes unnecessary costs on the state, putting an undue burden on public

funds.

Given that Islamic Sharia is the primary source of the positive law of the state, the criminalization of the issuance of bounced checks is a legislative flaw. It is inconsistent with constitutional philosophy. Consequently, most nations have amended their laws to decriminalize this practice, recognizing it as a financial matter rather than a criminal offense, unlike the current practice in Kuwait.

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Change passwords: Mol

Don't leave home cameras exposed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: In an awareness post published by the Ministry of Interior on its X account, the ministry recommended several essential steps to enhance the security and protection of home surveillance cameras, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that securing home surveillance cameras relies on four main elements - the password, the home internet network, remote access services, and the camera's source, along with the need to reset its settings periodically.

It stressed the importance of regularly changing the default password, using a combination of symbols and numbers, and connecting the camera to a reliable and secure home internet network.

The ministry also stressed the need to change the password for the ONVIF service, which can be used for remote access and monitoring login history, in addition to purchasing cameras from well-known and trusted companies.

Kuwait posts 'high' Type 1 diabetes rate

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Chairman of the Kuwait Diabetes Society Dr. Waleed Al-Dhahi announced that 28,739 individuals in Kuwait have Type One diabetes, indicating the country is among those with the highest rate of this diabetes type in the region.

Al-Dhahi made the announcement at a specialized scientific event, under the auspices of the Society, focusing on the latest developments in Type One diabetes treatment, particularly smart insulin pumps.

He discussed the Omnipod 5 smart insulin pump, which is among the latest technologies available for treating Type One diabetes patients. He emphasized that rapid advancements in medical technology transformed insulin delivery and blood sugar management, enabling patients to better control their condition. He pointed out that smart pumps provide a more flexible and accurate method of insulin delivery. "These devices enhance blood

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Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait honors participants in the fourth "Take the Initiative with Us" project.

Minister of Justice honors 'Take the Initiative with Us' participants

PAMA empowers 344 youth for future

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait honored the participants in the fourth "Take the Initiative with Us" project, organized by PAMA as part of the Family Protection Program of the government.

Al-Sumait affirmed that the project is in line with the commitment of PAMA to invest in the capabilities of minors under its care, providing

them with opportunities to acquire experience and skills that will enable them to build their future with confidence and competence. He said PAMA supported the project through the charitable endowments it manages, in accordance with the

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Day by Day

KUWAIT'S streets need skilled engineers and designers to upgrade them to match those of other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Water scarcity is not a valid excuse. Desalinated water is readily available and inexpensive. Water covers three-quarters of the Earth's surface.

Only God knows when the Day of Judgment will come. In the meantime, let us beautify Kuwait's streets, where we have spent the best years of our lives. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



8 KFH promotes the culture of robotics, programming, & innovation among students



9 Zain marks successful conclusion of 'Kuwait Codes'

Kuwait-France cultural ties deepen through new accord

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin said the continuous cooperation between Al-Amal Group Holding Company and the French

Institute in Kuwait greatly contributes to ongoing efforts to promote the French culture and cultural dialogue, while praising the deep-rooted human and cultural ties between Kuwait and France.

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Kuwait Embassy warns citizens over Saudi National Day rules

Kuwait, Saudi step up security, maritime coordination

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21, (KUNA): Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed by phone on Monday with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan the latest regional developments.

The Foreign Minister said in a statement that the two ministers also discussed diplomatic efforts to enhance regional security and stability and ensure safe and free maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib headed Monday Kuwait's delegation at a meeting of the Military and Security Coordination Committee,

affiliated with the Kuwait-Saudi Coordination Council, held via video-conference.

The Ministry of Interior said in a press statement that the meeting was attended by representatives of relevant authorities from both sides, along with security leaders and representatives of the ministries of defense and foreign affairs, the National Cybersecurity Center and the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha).

The meeting discussed several joint topics and initiatives on the agenda, as well as ways to strengthen military and security cooperation and coordination, in addition to developing mechanisms for exchanging information and expertise to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of joint efforts.

The meeting comes within the framework of the longstanding fraternal relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and their shared commitment to strengthening military and security integration and coordinating efforts in support of the security and stability of the two countries and the region.

In other news, Kuwait's Embassy in Saudi Arabia urged Kuwaiti citizens visiting or transiting the Kingdom during Saudi National Day on Sept 23, 2026, to comply with regulations governing related celebrations.

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French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin witnesses the signing of a new agreement with the French Institute in Kuwait.



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:17 Asr 15:08
 Sunrise .. 05:36 Maghrib .. 17:45
 Zohr 11:41 Isha 19:07



His Highness the Amir



President of the UAE

Amir sends condolences cable to UAE Pres. & Prime Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, and to the Emirati Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, over the passing of Sheikh Ahmad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy, and prayed for mercy upon the deceased and for patience and solace upon his family.

Crown Prince concedes

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, and to the Emirati

Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, over the passing of Sheikh Ahmad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

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Prime Minister concedes

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, and to the Emirati Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, over the passing of Sheikh Ahmad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, expressing his sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy



From (R-L): Fahad Al-Muajjal, Egyptian Military Attache Colonel Muhammad Abdulwahid, Abdullah Al-Yahya and Ahmad Al-Aqab

Egypt Military Attaché visits Al-Muajjal Diwaniya in Faiha

By Bassam Al-Qassas

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Fahad Abdulrahman Fahad Al-Muajjal, Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti Diwanias and Chairman of the Kuwaiti Diwanias Association, received the Egyptian Military Attaché to Kuwait, Colonel Muhammad Abdulwahid Abduljawad, at his diwaniya in Faiha.

Al-Muajjal welcomed Colonel Muhammad Abduljawad, emphasizing that Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations are deeply rooted in history and characterized by affection, cooperation, and integration.

Colonel Muhammad Abduljawad received a warm welcome from the diwaniya's attendees, most notably former Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, who affirmed the depth and strength of Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations.

Former pilot Captain Saud Al-Hazza also welcomed the guest, proudly recalling his participation with the Kuwaiti Air Force in the October War of 1973.

He emphasized that Kuwait's participation in that war represents a shining chapter in the history of Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations, embodying Kuwait's support for its sister nation, Egypt, in the battle to defend its land and dignity.

The attendees exchanged friendly conversation and reminisced in an atmosphere of warmth, affection, and joy, emphasizing that such meetings reflect the



Mohammad Al-Muajjal and Colonel Muhammad Abdulwahid

depth of popular ties.

At the conclusion of the visit, Al-Muajjal stressed the importance of repeating such visits and meetings, given their role in strengthening communication and solidifying fraternal relations.

Colonel Muhammad Abduljawad expressed his pleasure at the meeting and promised to visit Al-Muajjal Diwaniya again.

Customs arrest Asian traveler, confiscate different narcotics

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) inspectors assigned at the Terminal Five of Kuwait International Airport thwarted an attempt to smuggle narcotics and psychotropic substances, which were found in the possession of a passenger arriving from Bangladesh.

The operation was conducted in the presence and under the supervision of Deputy Head for Ports, Search and

Customs Investigation at KGAC Saleh Al-Omar.

The inspection resulted in the seizure of three bags containing marijuana with a total weight of 4.75 kilograms, six bags of methamphetamine weighing 319.3 grams, and 31 bags containing 6,211 ecstasy pills -- a hallucinogenic drug listed on the psychotropic substances table.

KGAC affirmed the continuous efforts of its inspectors to tighten control over customs entry points and foil drug smuggling attempts in order to ensure the safety of the public.

Amir receives invitation to attend EU-GCC Summit in Riyadh

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday a letter from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, inviting His Highness to attend second EU-GCC Summit in Riyadh, to take place on Saturday October 24.

Handing His Highness the Amir the letter was Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kuwait Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud.

Attending the meeting was Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of His Highness the Amir's office Jamal Al-Theyab, Amiri Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Abdulaziz Meshal Al-Sabah and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan, Mazen Essa Al-Essa.



Amiri Diwan photo
 His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the invitation, delivered by Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kuwait, Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud.

Kuwait Amir Rep. meets Estonia and Austria presidents



Left: 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 meets the Austrian President. Right: Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets the Estonian President.

NEW YORK, Sept 21, (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 received Estonian President Alar Karis and his accompanying delegation at his presidency in New York on Sunday, on the sidelines of the 81st high-level session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir to the president, wishing him everlasting good health, and Estonia and its people permanent progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince and the Estonian president discussed relations between Kuwait and Estonia and ways to develop them in a manner that serves the interests of the two countries and their peoples, alongside the latest developments on both regional and international arenas.

The meeting included Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director-General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai and head of His Highness the Crown Prince's office Maj. Gen. Ahmad Al-Daie.

Austrian President

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 met with Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen at his presidency in New York on Sunday, on the sidelines of the 81st high-level session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown

Prince conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir to the president, wishing him everlasting good health, and Austria and its people permanent progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince and the Austrian president discussed relations between Kuwait and Austria and ways to develop them in a manner that serves the interests of the two countries and their peoples, alongside the latest developments on both regional and international arenas.

The meeting featured Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director-General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai and head of His Highness the Crown Prince's office Maj. Gen. Ahmad Al-Daie.

Youth protection eyed as drive to fight drugs starts

'Awareness, prevention, treatment vital pillars'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs Dr. Eng. Suleiman Al-Suwailem on Monday inaugurated the national awareness campaign, "Be Aware," organized by the Rehabilitation and Evaluation Department at the College of Life Sciences in Sabah Al-Salem University City.

Acting Dean of Student Affairs at Kuwait University Dr. Salem Al-Shammari attended the inauguration ceremony as the representative of University President Prof. Dina Musaed Al-Mailem.

In his speech, Al-Suwailem pointed out that

the campaign was launched due to the importance of raising awareness, preventing the dangers of drugs, and establishing the principle of shared responsibility in protecting the youths

and the whole society. He stressed that awareness is not limited to knowing the dangers of drugs, as it also aims to improve the ability of individuals to make good decisions and reject behaviors that threaten their safety, their family and their community. He highlighted the role of the Rehabilitation and Evaluation Department in implementing awareness and rehabilitation programs in correctional institutions and youth care centers.

He explained that the campaign focuses on three main pillars: awareness, prevention and

treatment, in order to raise young people's awareness of the dangers of drugs and strengthen their ability to cope with pressure and risky attitude.

He praised the university, as well as the participating and supporting organizations, and individuals for their efforts and contributions to ensure the success of the campaign.

The campaign is part of a series of events, panel discussions and awareness lectures being held at various colleges in the university to reach the largest possible number of students. It features an awareness presentation, with the participation of several supporting organizations and institutions, such as the Drug Control General Department at the Ministry of Interior and Ghiras Association.

It includes an awareness session for students, moderated by Director of the Addiction Treatment Center Dr. Hussein Al-Shatti and Prof. Adel Al-Mutairat, to inform them about the dangers of addiction and methods of prevention.



Dr. Al-Suwailem

MoE launches program for new and qualified teachers

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The Ministry of Education launched the National Program for Preparing and Qualifying New Teachers as per Decree Law No. 86/2026 and issued a ministerial decision on creating the job title "Trainee Teacher" with the aim of ensuring the professional and pedagogical readiness of the educational staff.

The ministry stated that the project is the result of educational studies and meetings that Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei held with senior teachers and specialists, in addition to teams that studied the needs to support the objectives of the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

According to the ministry, the program is mandatory and extends for a full academic year in schools -- 45 percent for theoretical training and 55 percent to field training.

A minimum grade of 75 percent is required to pass the program. Individuals who fail will be appointed to administrative positions commensurate with their university degree in education.

The program is guided by international InTASC model core teaching standards, focusing on the learner, content, teaching practice and professional responsibility, which includes teaching performance, core knowledge, professional values and respecting national values.

The target group includes graduates from other colleges and universities, according to the needs and regulations of the ministry, under the title, "Trainee Teacher."

The training program aims to develop skills in planning, implementation, classroom management, assessment, dealing with individual differences and special needs, psychological readiness, professional resilience, teamwork and leadership.

It includes the adoption of the 'Dal' platform and the creation of an electronic portfolio (E-Portfolio) for each teacher to monitor their performance and progress, and document their qualification stages, under the title, "Trainee Teacher Guide."



Farwaniya Governorate photo
 Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah is presented a plaque.

Farwaniya Governor attends mosque opening in new area

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The Jaza Saad Al-Rajhi Mosque in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak City was inaugurated on Monday under the patronage and in the presence of Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Present at the opening ceremony were Dr. Jaza Al-Rajhi, Director of the Center for Promoting Moderation Dr. Abdullah Mutair Al-Shuraika.

Commander of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Police Station Colonel Mohammad Saleh Al-Enezi, and a number of imams and preachers from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The ceremony began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by the presentation of a commemorative plaque to the Governor in appreciation of his efforts and support for community and religious initiatives.

The Governor highlighted the important role that mosques play in promoting Islamic values and serving the community.

He commended Dr. Jaza Al-Rajhi's initiative and his contribution to the construction and development of mosques.

Meanwhile, those present at the event expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation to the Governor for his attendance and patronage of the opening of the mosque.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Child Protection Office ... a crisis that requires review

“THE widespread response to the previous article regarding the Ministry of Health’s Child Protection Office revealed that the issue is neither isolated nor fleeting. Numerous calls, messages, and comments were received from parents and families who had endured similar experiences over the years, a situation that demands that the relevant authorities pause to examine the matter with seriousness and transparency,” columnist **Bassam Fahad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

“The response went beyond mere agreement with the article. It included various accounts, experiences, and complaints. Some individuals expressed reluctance to speak publicly, fearing repercussions for their legal cases or relationships with their children, or because they had previously believed their ordeal was an isolated incident unique to them. However, the recurrence of these incidents raises a crucial question - Does the office need to rectify specific procedures, or does the situation call for a comprehensive review of its operational methods, mandate, and oversight mechanisms?”

“Testimonies revealed recurring concerns regarding the professionalism and impartiality of certain reports, as well as concerns that they may exacerbate family conflicts, particularly when they become influential documents in the enforcement of visitation rulings, custody disputes, and the father-child relationship. The Child Protection Office is no ordinary administrative body, as the reports it issues can profoundly affect a child and an entire family and may be used in judicial or enforcement proceedings.

“Consequently, there must be an independent mechanism to review these reports and verify the integrity of the procedures used to prepare them, as well as the scientific and professional foundations upon which they are based. Recurrent complaints indicate that some custodial parents use the child as a pawn in family disputes, by coaching or influencing the child, undermining the relationship with the other parent, and fostering a negative attitude, only to relay the child’s statements to the office.

“These statements then form the basis of a report that could lead to reduced visitation rights or hinder their enforcement, all without adequately examining the circumstances under which those statements were formed. In such instances, the office risks becoming, intentionally or otherwise, an additional instrument of conflict if its staff lack the expertise to detect the influence exerted on the child and distinguish between the child’s genuine wishes and views shaped by coaching or the ongoing family dispute.

“Treating a child’s statements as absolute fact without examining their environment can lead to grave consequences. Consequently, there is a clear need to establish a procedure for challenging these reports and having them re-evaluated by an independent, specialized committee, particularly when they affect the enforcement of court rulings or the parent-child relationship. Furthermore, the office’s operations should be subject to judicial oversight and effective legal scrutiny, alongside coordination with the Public Prosecution and the Ministry of Interior, within their respective jurisdictions.

“A report that influences the enforcement of judgments and the future of the child-parent relationship is no less sensitive than the work of the Experts Department, which is subject to judicial review and professional oversight. Therefore, an independent body should examine the report’s methodology, evidence basis, and the scope of authority of its author, thereby preventing it from becoming an unchecked, quasi-absolute authority in family disputes.

“It is also necessary to restructure the office, review the qualifications and experience of its staff, and implement specialized training and periodic evaluations. Furthermore, staff rotation is required to prevent individuals from remaining in the same positions for extended periods - a situation that could foster relationships with lawyers or parties who stand to benefit from the office’s reports. There is also a need to examine the scope of activities undertaken by some staff members beyond their core mandate, such as visits to schools, shopping malls, and other venues. These are tasks that should properly fall under the purview of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

“The widespread public interest in this matter necessitates addressing the issue transparently by reviewing reports from previous years and publishing statistics on cases, complaints, and recommendations, as well as their impact on visitation and custody arrangements. If the procedures are sound, a review will confirm this. On the other hand, if systemic errors or transgressions are uncovered, identifying and rectifying them would provide the true safeguard for the child and the family.

“An entity capable of influencing a

father’s relationship with his children through a single report cannot operate without oversight commensurate with such significant authority. Child protection must not become a cause for depriving a child of a parent or exacerbating family breakdown.”

Also:

“Project management has become one of the most vital tools organizations rely on to transform ideas into tangible results, whether the project involves constructing a building, developing an electronic system, launching a new product, or improving an existing service,” Kuwaiti writer Engineer **Dawood Al-Dousari** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

“By nature, a project is a temporary endeavor with a defined beginning and end, aimed at producing a specific outcome within the constraints of time, cost, and quality. This creates a need for organized management that balances these constraints, directs resources efficiently, and prevents haphazard decisions that could lead to delays, waste, or failure. Project management typically begins with the initiation phase, during which the project’s genuine need and feasibility are assessed, and its overall objective, beneficiaries, and decision-maker are identified. This is followed by clearly defining the scope of work, specifically, what the project includes and what it does not.

“Controlling the scope is crucial. The continuous expansion of requirements without assessing their impact can inflate the budget and extend the timeline. Therefore, requirements must be documented, stakeholder approval obtained, and a formal mechanism established to manage any subsequent changes. Planning serves as the backbone of project management, breaking down large-scale work into smaller, manageable tasks that can be estimated and tracked.

“The planning process involves creating a schedule that outlines the sequence of activities and their interdependencies, identifying the necessary human, financial, and material resources, and establishing a realistic budget, quality standards, and procurement and communication plans. A good plan does not mean perfectly predicting the future; rather, it creates a logical framework that helps the team understand priorities and respond effectively to changing circumstances.

“The more estimates are based on historical data and expert experience, the more realistic decisions become and the fewer surprises arise during execution. A project cannot succeed on the strength of the plan alone, as execution depends fundamentally on people. The project manager must lead the team, clearly assign responsibilities, resolve conflicts, foster collaboration, and track commitments, all without becoming bogged down in micromanagement.

“Regular communication is also a critical success factor, as the right information must reach the right person at the right time. Focused meetings, concise progress reports, decision logs, and clear escalation channels help minimize misunderstandings and ensure that everyone works toward shared goals. Risk management is another essential aspect of project management. It is a proactive process that begins by identifying potential events

that could affect the project, assessing their likelihood and potential impact, and selecting an appropriate response for each risk.

“Risks can be avoided by altering the plan, mitigated through precautionary measures, transferred to another party, or accepted alongside a contingency plan. Similarly, quality must be built into processes from the outset rather than waiting to discover errors at the delivery stage. Quality is achieved through clear standards, periodic reviews, appropriate testing, and the early correction of deviations. During execution, actual results are compared against the baseline plan to assess performance levels.

“Completion rates alone are insufficient. Duration, cost, output quality, outstanding risks, and stakeholder satisfaction must also be considered. When a deviation arises, the manager should identify its root cause before taking corrective action. A delay, for example, might stem from an inaccurate estimate, a shortage of resources, or an unresolved decision. While performance indicators, dashboards, and digital software provide faster visibility, they cannot replace professional judgment.

“Data becomes valuable only when it is interpreted within the context of the project and translated into a responsible decision. Project management concludes with an organized closeout process that includes the formal acceptance of deliverables, contract settlement, documentation handover, resource release, and the recording of lessons learned. This step is not merely a formal administrative procedure, but it is an opportunity to transform experience into knowledge that benefits future operations.

“A successful manager does not stop at merely completing tasks but ensures that the outcome delivers genuine value to the beneficiary.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Al-Ghanim

CID services in tackling crime win praise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with Director of the Farwaniya Governorate Criminal Investigation Department Colonel Abdullah Al-Shatti and Deputy Director Colonel Abdullah Dali Al-Khamsan at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate on Sunday, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

They talked about security matters of mutual interest and efforts to maintain security and stability in order to boost operational readiness and effectively handle security issues.

The Governor commended the efforts of the security agencies in the governorate, while underscoring the importance of continuous coordination between the governorate and Criminal Investigation Department. He wished the security officials continuous success in performing their duties.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the visiting security officials expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the Governor for the warm reception, acknowledging his commitment to support security agencies and solidify coordination to guarantee security and stability of the governorate.



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

Syrian, Indian held for selling, ‘producing’ sexual stimulants

Theft of 25,000 liters diesel under probe

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Jahra Investigation Department, arrested two individuals - a Syrian and an Indian - for promoting, selling, and manufacturing unlicensed sexual stimulants, supplements, and nutritional products, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the arrests followed investigations confirming that the first suspect was promoting these products through social media, selling them, and delivering them to customers without a license.

The first suspect was apprehended in Al-

Mutlaa Residential Area in possession of several products and KD 82 in sales proceeds. He confessed to obtaining the products from the second suspect.

The second suspect was arrested in Farwaniya, where it was discovered that he was manufacturing and preparing various stimulants and nutritional supplements at his residence by mixing and grinding tablets and other materials.

A total of 151 packages of various stimulants and supplements were seized, along with KD 226 in sales proceeds.

The ministry clarified that all necessary legal measures were taken against the violators, who were referred to the concerned authorities.

□ □ □

Diesel theft under probe: Security authorities began investigating the theft of approxi-

mately 25,000 liters of diesel fuel from several company locations in Jahra Governorate, valued at approximately KD 3,000, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

A lawyer acting as the company’s representative filed a report at a Jahra police station, explaining that the defendants entered several company sites after cutting through the barbed-wire fences, breaking the iron locks, and stealing large quantities of diesel.

The thefts occurred in the month of June and resulted in material damage to the sites, including cutting, breaking, and other destruction, in addition to the loss of fuel.

The lawyer told the Public Prosecution that he was not accusing anyone specifically.

The competent authorities launched investigations to determine the circumstances of the thefts and identify those responsible.

□ □ □

Drugs seized: An Arab expatriate was arrested in Farwaniya in possession of drugs, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

Patrols from the Farwaniya Security Command spotted him near a building early Sunday morning and approached the suspect, who attempted to flee. He was pursued and arrested.

A precautionary search uncovered two bags, one containing methamphetamine and the other containing hashish.

During questioning, the suspect confessed that he was waiting for someone to purchase the drugs from him. He was subsequently referred to the Drug Control General Department for further legal action.

Kuwaiti and 13 expats jailed for running ‘brothels’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The First Circuit of the Court of Cassation rejected the appeal in the case involving a prostitution ring operating within massage parlors and upheld the sentences issued against the defendants, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The court upheld the seven-year prison sentence and a fine of KD 7,000 against a Kuwaiti citizen, and it also upheld five-year prison sentences for 13 expatriates. Another defendant received a two-year sentence. The case involved charges of operating and exploiting massage centers for immoral activities.

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Father wins girl’s custody: The Family Division at the Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of a lower court that cancelled the custody of a mother over her daughter and granted it to the father, in addition to the termination of the mother’s entitlement to maintenance payments, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

This ruling is due to the ongoing obstruction of the mother and her failure to comply with custody conditions set forth by the Sharia and statutory laws.

The decision was based on evidence that the

mother intentionally denied the father of his right to visit the daughter for several years and repeatedly failed to attend the designated visitation center, as documented in official incident reports.

The case was also supported by final criminal convictions for the mother related to denying the father visitation rights and for psychologically abusing the child, which is a violation of the Child Rights Law.

Attorney Hamad Al-Roumi, lawyer for the father, emphasized that the obstructive action of the mother regarding visitation orders and the use of vindictive tactics are beyond procedural violations. He asserted that such behaviors negatively affect the nurturing environment essential for the healthy development of children.

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PAFN detects many violations: The Jahra Inspection Department of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) conducted routine inspection campaigns at several warehouses and factories to ensure compliance with approved laws, regulations, and health requirements, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

Minister key as decree on transfer of judges issued

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Decree No. 149/2026 regarding judicial transfers was issued, stipulating the transfer of Counselor Badr Abdullah Al-Masad to serve as senior counselor at the Court of Cassation, effective Sept 3, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

Article Two of the decree stipulates that the Minister of Justice shall implement its provisions and publish it in the official gazette.

After a thorough review of the Constitution, the Amiri Order issued on May 10, 2024, and laws and decrees governing judicial affairs, including the ranks, salaries and allowances for judges, public prosecution members, and the Legal Advice and Legislation Department, as well as decrees concerning the judicial allowance, secondment and ministerial assignments.

The Supreme Judicial Council approved the decree during its session No. 21/2026, held on Sept 6, and upon the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and the approval of the Council of Ministers.

2 expensive AC units stolen from Mishref transformer

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: An unknown individual stole two condensing air-conditioning units worth approximately KD 1,200 from an electrical transformer belonging to the Ministry of Electricity and Water in Mishref, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

According to a complaint filed by the ministry’s legal representative, the suspect broke the lock on the transformer door and entered the facility before stealing the two units.

The Public Prosecution ordered an inspection of the scene and summoned forensic experts to collect evidence that could help identify the perpetrator.

The authorities were also directed to conduct the necessary investigations to identify and apprehend the suspect. A theft case has been filed.

□ □ □

Girl hit, driver detained: A Bangladeshi girl was critically injured after being struck by a vehicle while crossing the coastal road, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

Emergency medical teams and security authorities responded immediately to the scene. The injured girl was airlifted to Al-Adan Hospital in critical condition and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit.

The driver, a Syrian woman, was detained at the local police station for further investigation.

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Kuwait: Need to trace funds, recover assets in graft issues

‘Nazaha’ takes part in Doha anti-corruption convention



Kuwait, represented by the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), took part in the States Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, held in the city of Doha in the State of Qatar.

DOHA, Sept 21: The State of Kuwait, represented by the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), took part today in the Ninth Meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Governmental Experts and Representatives of Independent Bodies in the States Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, held in the city of Doha in the State of Qatar. The meeting was convened as part of the Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, taking place from 21 to 23 September 2026, and organized by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

The meeting was held in preparation for the work of the Sixth Session of the Conference, with the Committee reviewing the draft resolutions scheduled for submission to the Conference ahead of their transmission. It came as a continuation of the preparatory sessions held virtually on 8, 9 and 15 September 2026. The Committee's deliberations covered several draft resolutions, including the mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention; the Doha Declaration on strengthening preventive anti-corruption measures; and the enhancement of international co-operation through expediting responses to mutual legal assistance requests. Among the draft resolutions was one submitted by Nazaha on behalf of the State of Kuwait on enhancing beneficial ownership transparency and identifying the beneficial owners of legal persons and legal arrangements,

which aims to support the ability of States Parties to uncover the structures used to conceal the proceeds of corruption and to facilitate the tracing of funds and the recovery of assets, in line with the provisions of the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention and the relevant international standards. The Nazaha delegation affirmed that Kuwait's participation in the work of the Committee reflects its commitment to implementing the provisions of the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, as well as its keenness to strengthen joint Arab action in preventing and combating corruption and to exchange expertise and best practices among the competent Arab authorities. The activities of the Sixth Session continues tomorrow, Tuesday 22 September 2026, with the convening of the Arab Forum on Strengthening Corruption Prevention Efforts in the Public Sector, while the official session of the Conference of the States Parties will be held on Wednesday 23 September 2026.



Amir congrats Belize, Malta, Armenia heads on Nat'l Days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to the Governor General of Belize Froyla Tzalam, congratulating her on her country's Independence Day. His Highness the Amir wished the leader and her people more welfare and development. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent on Monday a cable to the Governor General of Belize Froyla Tzalam, congratulating her on the occasion of her country's Independence Day. His Highness the Crown Prince wished continued welfare to the leader. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent on Monday a congratulatory cable to the Governor General of Belize, Froyla Tzalam, on the occasion of her country's Independence Day.

MALTA

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to the President of Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono, congratulating her on her country's Independence Day. His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and well-being, and to Malta and its people progress and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah then sent Monday a cable of congratulations to President of Armenia, Vahagn Khachatryan, on his country's Independence Day.

Sabah also sent on Monday a cable to the President of Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono, congratulating her on her country's Independence Day. His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president good health and well-being. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to the President of Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono, on her country's Independence Day.

ARMENIA

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable of congratulations to President of Armenia, Vahagn Khachatryan, on his country's Independence Day. His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and Armenia and its people further progress and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent Monday a cable of congratulations to President of Armenia, Vahagn Khachatryan, on his country's Independence Day. In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president good health. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent Monday a cable of congratulations to President of Armenia, Vahagn Khachatryan, on his country's Independence Day.



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Jahra Governorate photo
Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi personally took part in the cleaning campaign.

Jahra Gov. participates in campaign to clean garden

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Jahra Governorate, in collaboration with the ‘Kafo’ platform organized a campaign to clean Jahra National Park, under the patronage and in the presence of Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The campaign is held on the occasion of World Cleanup Day, with the participation of numerous volunteers and members of the diplomatic corps. The Governor affirmed that the governorate fully supports community initiatives aimed at environmental preservation and maintaining public cleanliness. He highlighted the importance of raising environmental awareness and instilling

civic behavior and social responsibility among all segments of society. He also commended the volunteer and diplomatic participation in the campaign, while stressing the importance of embedding environmental stewardship in younger generations and encouraging student initiatives—in coordination with the Ministry of Education—to promote the values of belonging and responsibility. At the end of the campaign, the Governor urged all members of society to continue participating in national and volunteer initiatives that preserve the environment and maintain the civilized image of the country.

Kuwait: IAEA Board of Governors membership sign of global clout

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21, (KUNA): Membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Board of Governors was tantamount to a “vote of confidence” in Kuwait's growing presence on the international stage, the country's delegation to the United Nations (UN) said on Monday. Expressing its gratitude after Kuwait had been elected as member and chair of the UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors for the 2026-2028 term, the delegation said in a statement that the responsibility that lies ahead is an “honor” and a testament to Kuwait's commitment towards the “peaceful use of nuclear energy.” Presiding over the UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors, Kuwait looks forward to bolster “cooperation and consensus” across the board in a bid to bring forward the IAEA's objectives and push sustainable development goals to fruition, the statement underlined. Such teamwork and dedication reflect Kuwait's firm belief in bolstering “joint global work” and ratcheting up cooperation within the 35-member UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors, added the statement. Kuwait expressed gratitude for the confidence placed in it by member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, which unanimously endorsed Kuwait's assumption of the Board's chairmanship for the 2026-2027 term, representing the Middle East

and South Asia (MESA) group. In a statement on Monday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the unanimous endorsement reflects Kuwait's standing and active role in supporting international efforts to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It also expressed appreciation to MESA member states for their support for Kuwait's nomination to represent the group in chairing the Board. The ministry affirmed Kuwait's commitment to carrying out its responsibilities with impartiality and transparency, while continuing to work in a spirit of consensus and cooperation, promoting constructive dialogue among member states and supporting the IAEA's role in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It stressed Kuwait's support for strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Agency's safeguards and verification system, and the highest standards of nuclear safety and security, as well as promoting the peaceful and developmental applications of nuclear science and technology in areas including health, food, water and energy. Such efforts, it said, would contribute to preserving international peace and security, strengthen the Board's ability to fulfill its responsibilities, and support the Agency in implementing its mandate in accordance with its Statute and international law.

Appointees face stricter performance monitoring

Kuwait introduces new framework for cooperative societies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The official gazette, “Kuwait Al-Youm,” published Ministerial Decision No. 314/2026 in its Sunday issue, concerning the conditions, regulations, and procedures for the selection, appointment, and performance monitoring of appointed members, interim managers, and interim boards of directors for cooperative societies and unions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision establishes a comprehensive framework for selecting, evaluating, and ranking candidates for appointment, and defines their duties, obligations, performance monitoring mechanisms, and procedures for terminating their appointments.

It also mandates the establishment of a permanent committee and an electronic database of qualified candidates.

The ministerial decision, issued by Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, includes the following articles:

Article 1 – Definitions
Defines key terms including Ministry (Social Affairs), Minister, Law (Decree-Law No. 24/1979 as amended), Society, Union, Appointee, Interim Board of Directors, Interim Director, Competent Authority (General Department of Cooperative Affairs), and Conflict of Interest as per anti-conflict legislation.

Article 2 – Permanent Committee
Establishes the “Committee for Reviewing Candidates for Appointment to Cooperative Societies and Unions,” chaired by the Assistant Undersecretary for Financial, Administrative, and Cooperative Affairs, with 10 members from cooperative affairs, HR, legal, IT, and



Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah

ministerial offices; the Undersecretary’s decision will set its duties, operating rules, meeting procedures, and term, and the chair may invite non-voting experts.

Article 3 – Committee Tasks
The committee reviews and evaluates candidates where the law allows appointment, and shall: prepare and periodically update an electronic candidate database; receive and review CVs and documents; verify legal and administrative requirements; rank candidates per Article 7; submit an updated qualified-candidates list every three months; and evaluate past appointees for future nominations (database registration confers no automatic right to appointment).

Article 4 – Confidentiality
Committee members must keep all data, evaluations, and deliberations confidential and may use or disclose them only for the decision’s purposes or as required by law.

Article 5 – Database Contents
The database must include per-

sonal data, academic qualifications, professional experience, previous positions and memberships, prior cooperative/union appointments, and any other data the committee determines.

Article 6 – Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must: be Kuwaiti; be at least 30; not be responsible for caring for a person with a disability; be of good conduct with no final felony/misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or breach of trust (unless rehabilitated), subject to ministry security clearance; not reside in the society’s operational area; hold a university degree with relevant experience (legal, financial, accounting, administrative, economic, etc.); not have been dismissed from a cooperative/union board or served on a board dissolved for gross violations; have no disciplinary sanction (salary deduction or higher) in the past three years; have “Excellent” ratings for the last two years; not hold concurrent board duties/memberships; not hold a supervisory post in the ministry’s cooperative sector; not be an employee of the Cooperative Oversight and Inspection Department if a specific manager is being selected; and pass the ministry-approved training test with at least 80% (in necessity cases, this may be fulfilled within three months of appointment or the appointee is replaced). Selection must consider task nature, appointment circumstances, and candidate suitability; interim boards should, as far as possible, reflect balanced, diverse expertise.

Article 7 – Ranking Priorities
Eligible candidates are ranked by: highest academic qualification; most years of experience; then eldest can-

didate.
Article 8 – Anti-Corruption and Conflicts of Interest

Appointees are subject to anti-corruption, financial disclosure, and conflict-of-interest laws and must: submit required disclosures on time; disclose existing or emerging conflicts; take legally required steps to resolve conflicts and provide proof; abstain from deliberations/decisions where they have a direct or indirect interest and record this; and not exploit their position or information for personal or others’ benefit, without prejudice to other legal liabilities.

Article 9 – Duties During Appointment

Appointees must: safeguard funds, assets, rights, and documents; manage per laws/regulations, ensure continuity, address appointment grounds, and avoid long-term or exceptional actions outside ordinary management except when necessary and approved; act independently, impartially, and with due care in the society/union’s best interests; maintain confidentiality of sensitive information; avoid acts/omissions harming interests or disrupting operations; and hand over all funds, documents, data, and assets at assignment end per procedures.

Article 10 – Action Plan
Within 30 days of starting, the interim director or board must prepare an action plan covering: the society/union’s financial and administrative status at takeover; urgent measures; proposed fixes for shortcomings; priorities and timeline; and measures to address the appointment’s grounds; a copy goes to the competent authority for monitoring.

Article 11 – Quarterly Reporting
Interim managers/boards must submit quarterly progress reports detailing key decisions/measures, financial and administrative status, work-plan completion rate, violations/observations addressed vs. remaining, obstacles, and proposed solutions; the ministry may request additional reports/documents at any time, and periodic reporting does not remove the duty to immediately notify the authority of serious incidents threatening funds, interests, or operations.

Article 12 – Monitoring and Evaluation

The competent authority monitors and evaluates performance, may issue observations and require rectification within set timeframes, and refers matters to the Assistant Undersecretary for presentation to the Minister; evaluation considers implementation of the appointment decision and work plan, rectification of violations, safeguarding of funds/interests, and compliance with laws/regulations; termination does not bar accountability for unlawful acts, decisions, or omissions.

Article 13 – Final Report

At assignment end, the interim manager/board must submit a final report including: financial and administrative status; work accomplished; violations/observations addressed; uncompleted work and reasons; existing contracts and obligations; pending cases/disputes; and matters needing follow-up with recommendations.

Article 14 – Termination Grounds

Appointments may be ended early for: failure to meet condi-

tions; breach of legal or decision duties; breach of integrity/financial disclosure/conflict rules affecting suitability; exceeding authority or appointment purpose; unjustified refusal to carry out obligations; proven material performance deficiencies harming the society/union; or if public interest requires, without prejudice to legal penalties or liabilities.

Article 15 – Implementation and Templates

The competent authority oversees implementation and prepares templates for work plans, periodic/final reports, handover minutes, and other forms, without prejudice to forms/procedures under anti-corruption and disclosure laws.

Article 16 – Transitional Provisions

Those appointed before this decision’s effective date continue until their term ends or a termination decision is issued; from the effective date, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, reporting, and handover rules apply to them consistent with their appointment nature and remaining term, without prejudice to existing legal obligations.

Article 17 – Repeal

Ministerial Decision No. 97/T/2022 and its amendments on appointing interim managers and board members to unions and cooperative societies are repealed, as are any contrary provisions.

Article 18 – Publication and Entry into Force

The decision is published in the official gazette and takes effect on the publication date, with competent authorities implementing it within their jurisdictions.

Continued from Page 1

Minister of

Modern legislation should aim to ease matters for society rather than impose additional burdens. While a person in need, who lacks the means to pay a debt, needs a charitable solution, users often exploit such desperation to overburden the debtor. They inflate usurious interest rates—sometimes to multiples of the original amount, coerce the debtor into signing checks without sufficient funds, and then take legal action when payment is delayed.

Because Kuwaiti law still criminalizes the issuance of bounced checks, offenders face a three-year prison sentence and this term extends if multiple checks are issued. Hence, some prisoners serve up to 15 years behind bars, imposing significant financial, social and economic burdens on the state.

Although the Ministry of Justice carries out an annual fundraising campaign to settle debts for insolvent individuals, the assistance is capped at KD10,000. While this offers some relief, it is insufficient, considering more than 120,000 people have faced punitive measures—a staggering figure for a small society.

Criminalizing the issuance of bounced checks will allow the insolvent debtor to work and pay the debt. In contrast, imprisonment renders the individual unproductive, exacerbates his financial hardship, and forces the state to bear the costs of their custody, care and maintenance—all for the benefit of the usurious creditor.

Other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, as well as most Arab and European nations, have decriminalized the issuance of a bad check. In Kuwait, modern standards call for the repeal of the articles criminalizing this type of financial transaction, taking into consideration that the party who suffered the loss is the one who was negligent with their own money.

Your Excellency, the Minister of Justice, justice among people is an act of mercy, and Islam commands absolute justice.

Kuwait Amir

The two sides reviewed the latest regional and international developments, with a focus on efforts to end tensions in the region, and exchanged views on strengthening joint cooperation to tackle growing global challenges.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Director-General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi; Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafie; Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bana; and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister’s Office Affairs, Minister Plenipotentiary Abdullah Al-Obaidi.

His Highness the Crown Prince also met the President of the 81st session of the UNGA, Dr. Khalilur Rahman, at the presidency’s headquarters in New York, conveying the Amir’s greetings and congratulating him on his assumption of office.

His Highness the Crown Prince affirmed Kuwait’s full support for the presidency’s efforts to enhance action among member states and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The two sides discussed items on the session’s agenda and the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; KDIPA Director-General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi; Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq

Al-Bana; and Head of His Highness the Crown Prince’s Office, Maj. Gen. Ahmad Al-Daie.

At the headquarters of Kuwait’s Permanent Mission to the UN, His Highness the Crown Prince received members of Kuwait’s supporting delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participating in the 81st session, in the presence of the Foreign Minister.

He conveyed the Amir’s greetings and instructions to uphold Kuwait’s leading role and civilized image at international forums, urging them to perform their duties accordingly.

The gathering was attended by KDIPA Director-General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi; Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafie; Kuwait’s Ambassador to the US Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah; Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bana; Head of His Highness the Crown Prince’s Office Maj. Gen. Ahmad Al-Daie; and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Foreign Minister’s Office, Minister Plenipotentiary Abdullah Nasser Al-Obaidi.

Later, His Highness the Crown Prince received the heads of technical offices and members of Kuwait’s Permanent Mission to the UN at the mission’s headquarters, praising their sincere efforts in representing Kuwait and defending its vital interests.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Jassem Al-Budaivi; KDIPA Director-General Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Mohammad Marafi; Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi; Kuwait’s Ambassador to the United States Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Saud Al-Sabah; Kuwait’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Mohamed Al-Banna; Director of the Office of His Highness the Crown Prince Major General Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Daie; and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister’s Office Affairs, Minister Plenipotentiary Abdullah Nasser Al-Obaidi.

Separately, Kuwait’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah took part in the 21st Ministerial Working Dinner on the Middle East, hosted by the International Peace Institute (IPI) on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly, in New York on Sunday.

The annual event was convened under a joint invitation by Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, IPI President Zeid bin Ra’ad Al-Husseini and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas.

The attendees exchanged views on a range of challenges facing the Middle East region and the related international developments with emphasis being placed on the efforts to de-escalate regional tensions and promote security and stability.

Kuwait posts

sugar control and decrease the frequency of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) episodes. Omnipod 5 connects blood sugar readings to the insulin delivery system, using internal algorithms to adjust insulin doses based on individual patient needs,” he explained.

He added that some modern patch-style pump systems only need to be replaced every three days, significantly alleviating the need for frequent injec-

tions. “Traditionally, a Type One diabetic patient may require four to five insulin injections daily. Minimizing needle insertions is beneficial for patients, especially children and young adults who need continuous insulin. Modern technologies help reduce hypoglycemia episodes, limit hyperglycemic spikes, and improve overall diabetes management,” he revealed.

PAMA empowers

will and wishes of the benefactors.

He stated that the success of the project reflects the extent of cooperation between PAMA and the participating and supporting entities, as well as the importance of concerted efforts in the provision of a training and practical environment for participants to gain work life and real-world experience during the summer break.

He added that the project provided 344 trainees with the opportunity to assume responsibility, meet deadlines, complete tasks, navigate the work environment, effectively communicate with others, and work as part of a team.

He expressed his gratitude to all the entities, partners, sponsors and trainers who contributed to the success of the project.

On the other hand, acting Director General of PAMA Alia Al-Sager disclosed that the project aims to invest in the potential of young men and women by giving them the opportunity to gain work experience and acquire skills and expertise.

Al-Sager confirmed that the participants demonstrated excellence and commitment, indicating that the fourth season witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of participating entities – reaching 20, and individuals compared to the previous years.

She commended the efforts of the participating and supporting entities, while emphasizing the importance of continuous cooperation and community partnership to provide opportunities for developing the skills of young people.

Kuwait-France

Gauvin made the statement during the signing of a new agreement between the two institutions. Vice Chairman of the company Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah and Advisor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy and Director of the institute Soraya Saa signed the agreement in the presence of the ambassador.

Gauvin expressed his gratitude to Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah and the company for their unwavering support for the institute, stressing that the close relationship linking the family and the company with France and French culture over the years is an affirmation of the depth of the ties between the two countries.

Meanwhile Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah said he is proud of the company’s continuous support for the institute as a platinum sponsor, asserting that he is keen on supporting its events and activities continuously.

He pointed out that the institute has witnessed remarkable development since his last visit, and that its importance extends to its staff and their role in promoting French and Francophone culture. He added that the institute is a long-established cultural institution, serving successive generations. He disclosed that his mother was one of its patrons when it was known as the Voltaire Institute.

Saa affirmed that Kuwaiti-French cultural relations are based on a deep-rooted friendship and long-standing co-operation. She indicated that the support of the company as a platinum sponsor greatly contributes to organizing concerts, cultural events and Francophone

activities, as well as supporting French language programs, tests and accredited certificates.

She revealed that the cultural agreement between the two countries dates back to 1969, and that thousands of students have learned French through the institute since then.

She said the institute currently hosts hundreds of Kuwaiti students and its alumni network includes doctors, lawyers and military personnel.

She added that one French language course began on Sept 6th, while another course will commence in November.

She pointed out that cooperation between Kuwait and France extends to scientific research and archaeology, exemplified by archaeological missions, particularly on Failaka Island. She revealed that two French archaeological missions will return to Kuwait within days to continue archaeological and research cooperation between the two countries.

Kuwait, Saudi

In a statement Monday, the embassy urged citizens not to raise foreign flags, display vehicle stickers bearing sectarian or tribal slogans or images, or organize unauthorized rallies, to ensure their safety and avoid legal action by Saudi authorities.

Kuwait welcomes more skilled Indonesian workers: Al-Yaseen

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21, (KUNA): Kuwait welcomes the recruitment of more qualified and trained Indonesian workers in line with the needs of the Kuwaiti labor market, Kuwait Ambassador to Indonesia Khaled Al-Yaseen said Monday.

Speaking to KUNA, Ambassador Al-Yaseen said Kuwait has adopted a range of legislation guaranteeing workers’ rights and regulating the work environment, calling for discussions on mechanisms to regulate the recruitment of Indonesian workers in a manner that safeguards the rights of all parties.

Al-Yaseen made the remarks following a meeting with Indonesian Minister of Migrant Workers Protection Mukhtarudin, during which they discussed bilateral cooperation in labor affairs and ways to support and develop it.

In turn, Minister Mukhtarudin said in a press statement that Kuwaiti-Indonesian relations are deep and friendly, expressing his



Kuwait Embassy photo
Kuwait Ambassador to Indonesia Khaled Al-Yaseen with Indonesian Minister of Migrant Workers Protection Mukhtarudin.

country’s readiness to cooperate with Kuwait in providing professional cadres and skilled, trained workers for both the public and private sectors.

He affirmed the Indonesian government’s keenness to ensure and protect the rights of its citizens and Indonesian workers abroad.



SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC)

KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)

JOINT OPERATIONS



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company) announces the below-mentioned Public Tenders for the procurement of materials. Kuwaiti and Saudi merchants registered with either company wishing to participate in any of the below-mentioned Tenders should submit their bids electronically through "SMART BY GEP" <https://smart.gep.com>.

For first-time registration, please contact TLQX@Chevron.com - BHSJ@Chevron.com for support and guidance.

A non-refundable fee is stated against each tender. Tender fees must be deposited, and bidders must attach proof of payment as follows:

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IN KUWAITI DINAR		IN KUWAITI DINAR	
		RIYADH BANK	
		IBAN: SA2620000003100019949901	
		IN SAUDI RIYAL	

The start date for the following Tenders will be on **TUESDAY, 22 SEP 2026** and closing date will be on **TUESDAY, 20 OCT 2026 @ 09:00 A.M.**

S. NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS CLOSING DATE	FEES (KD)	CLOSING DATE
1	061410	ELECTRICAL CABLES, 2 LI, 4Cx185-300 SQMM, GULF/DUBAI/SAUDI CABLE, AL ZOUR, WJ104	5	20 / 10 / 2026
2	061405	GATE & WEIR GATE VALVES, 2 LI, 4IN & 1550×550MM, APPROVED MFR, WAFRA, PD-1105	15	20 / 10 / 2026
3	061402	TWO-PHASE SEPARATORS, 2 LI, 2504×8763MM, APPROVED MFR, WAFRA, SC-18/19	25	20 / 10 / 2026
4	061397	CONTROL VALVE, 1 LI, 2IN CL300 RF, FISHER, WAFRA, WJ44	25	20 / 10 / 2026
5	061382	PIPE FITTINGS, 14 LI, 1-36IN, APPROVED MFR, MINA AL ZOUR, WJ104	5	20 / 10 / 2026
6	049857-R1	SHIPPING PUMP	50	20 / 10 / 2026
7	059058-R1	9 LI OMNI 7000 Flow Computer & PLC Modules/Boards Spares for ACT Unit, Wafra	5	20 / 10 / 2026
8	059050-R1	8 L VFD Power Units, Boards, Breakers, Contactors & Fans - WOLONG PS&D Wafra	5	20 / 10 / 2026

Future of United Nations will also definitely be on agenda

World leaders meet at UN as planet grapples with war, runaway AI and climate shocks

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 21, (AP): Under a global cloud of wars and bitter divisions, world leaders meet at the United Nations this week facing new fears that runaway artificial intelligence could threaten humanity even as climate shocks and escalating prices are already making life much tougher for hundreds of millions of people.

The annual high-level gathering at the UN General Assembly will also be consumed with major wars in Iran, Gaza, Ukraine,

Sudan, Congo and Myanmar and a persisting question: Can the leaders do anything to end them?

And what can they do about the relentless rise of global warming threatening the future of the planet, the growing inequalities within and among nations, and shocks to the global economy as blocked shipping routes and supply chains increase the cost of living and slow growth?

The future of the United Nations will also definitely be on the agenda. At 81, its powers are still the victorious nations from World War II, not the 21st century's major global players. The UN's 193 member nations have agreed to a wide-ranging reform package that includes updating key institutions such as the pow-

erful UN Security Council, where the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France hold inordinate sway because of their veto power. Reform, however, is easier said than implemented.

Behind the scenes, there will be speculation about who will lead the United Nations next. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' second five-year term ends Dec. 31 and no clear successor has emerged.

There is still no question that the UN remains THE gathering place for its 193 member nations and their leaders. Some 130 heads of state and government are expected to speak at the General Assembly starting Tuesday along with dozens of ministers.

Among the headliners will be US President Donald Trump and French President Emanuel Macron. Both will speak Tuesday after Guterres' opening "state of the world" address. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speak Wednesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - whom New York Mayor Zoran Mamdani wanted arrested for his treatment of Palestinians in Gaza until he learned he has no such authority - will address the assembly on Thursday. For a second year, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas



The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during an interview with The Associated Press at the United Nations headquarters on Sept 17. (AP)

won't be coming to the UN because the US has refused to give him a visa. He will nonetheless address the assembly by video the same day.

The United States, under its agreement with the U.N. to host the organization, is required to allow diplomats from all member nations to attend meetings.

Equally telling is who else isn't coming. China's President Xi Jinping is meeting Trump in Washington on Wednesday, yet he is skipping - some diplomats say snubbing - the UN gathering and sending a vice president instead. Russian President Vladimir Putin isn't coming either, and Indian President Narendra Modi

has backed out.

France's UN ambassador, Jerome Bonafont, said it is "extremely critical" for world leaders this week to support the UN as the place where the world's nations meet - especially at a time of such polarization.

"We believe in multilateralism," he said, "and we believe that the high-level week is the occasion for countries in the world to reaffirm that they prefer cooperation and dialogue to confrontation."

There is no doubt it's been a tough year for the world body. It has been pushed to the sidelines when it comes to its key responsibility of ensuring international peace and security and trying to end major conflicts in the Mideast and Ukraine. The US failure to pay billions of dollars in outstanding arrears has left the organization's finances in rocky shape.

But veteran UN watcher Richard Gowan, the International Crisis Group's global issues and institutions program director, says 2025 was even worse.

A year ago, he said, people were contemplating that Trump would use his U.N. speech to announce that the United States would leave the world organization. Trump didn't announce a pullout last September and

the UN muddled through the past 12 months with financial troubles that forced cutbacks to its peacekeeping operations and humanitarian aid.

In recent days, the US paid \$725 million of its dues to the U.N.'s regular operating budget for this year, enough to keep the Trump administration from losing its vote in the General Assembly. The payment was a strong indication Trump will keep the US in the United Nations.

The UN is no longer "in freefall," Gowan said, but it "is stuck in an open-ended or permanent crisis." Put more graphically, he said, "The UN may not be in emergency care like it was last year, but it does seem to be trapped in a trauma center for the foreseeable future."

Former UN deputy secretary-general Mark Malloch-Brown, a United Nations Foundation board member, said, "While the world still trusts the UN, the global public is eager for change."

The future of artificial intelligence has pushed to the forefront of global concerns, with its speeding advances and the dawning recognition that there are no industry controls, let alone any global guardrails for a technology that has many advantages but also many disadvantages and unknowns.

Republican Rogers courts Michigan Democrats, Trump voters as GOP hopes to hold Senate

DETROIT, Sept 21, (AP): Mike Rogers stood outside Cody High School on Detroit's west side on a recent drizzly morning and decried Michigan's decline in reading achievement.

"This is the civil rights issue of our lifetime," said the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate in the open-seat race in November.

It had the look and sound of a Democratic campaign policy event, set in one of the nation's Democratic-voting strongholds.

The contest has quickly become a focal point in the fight for Senate control, and Rogers is working to appeal to segments of Michigan's Democratic electorate. It's a key to what the former congressman sees as his path to defeating progressive Democrat Abdul El-Sayed this fall.

Rogers lost his first bid for Senate two years ago by barely 19,000 votes out of more than 5.5 million cast. This time, he is betting he can win over some Democrats and independents, particularly Black and Jewish voters who may be turned off by El-Sayed's positions, which are to the left of his party's establishment, notably on US-Israel relations. At the same time, Rogers must

rally Donald Trump loyalists to turn out to vote, even though the president isn't on the ballot.

"He is threading a needle," said Bobby Schostak, Rogers' campaign finance chairman.

Rogers' event outside Cody was part of his promotion of a nonprofit program to boost literacy in Michigan's largest city. A few days later, he promoted a home construction plan in downtown Detroit, where many thousands of lots remain vacant almost 20 years after the Great Recession.

Rogers' campaign sees opportunity in racially and culturally diverse Wayne County, home to Detroit, where roughly three-quarters of the population is Black.

In the 2024 Senate race, then-US Rep Elissa Slotkin, a Democrat, won the county by more than a 2-to-1 margin over Rogers, or 264,000 votes. Squeezing even a couple more percentage points there in November could be enough for Rogers to win. His team is optimistic in part because in this year's Democratic primary, US Rep Haley Stevens beat El-Sayed in the county.

El-Sayed has faced resistance from some of Detroit's older and

more establishment-aligned Black Democrats, who favored Stevens' longer-standing ties to Black churches and work on the Obama administration's auto industry rescue plan.

Some local Black activists also faulted El-Sayed, who if elected would be the first Muslim senator, for supporting the "uncommitted" campaign in the 2024 Democratic presidential primary. Some Black Michigan Democrats believe the effort, aimed at pressuring the Biden administration over Gaza, cost then-Vice President Kamala Harris in her campaign as the first Black woman to be a major party presidential nominee. Trump beat Harris by 1.4 percentage points in the state.

Harris plans to campaign with El-Sayed in Michigan on Tuesday, and the Congressional Black Caucus has endorsed El-Sayed.

Democratic leaders have dismissed Rogers' efforts at inroads.

"I don't think anyone's buying it," the state party chair, Curtis Hertel, said of Rogers' efforts to court Black voters in Detroit. "I don't think (Rogers) has a connection in those communities, I think he's go-

ing to have a hard time."

Rogers has also leaned into the defections by some Democratic Jewish voters, an influential group particularly in Oakland County, Michigan's second most-populous county.

A day after the August primary, a prominent Democrat, Detroit-area business leader Brian Hermelin, called Schostak, Rogers' campaign finance chairman, asking how he could help. Within 10 days, Rogers was headlining a fundraiser hosted by the Hermelin family and attended by about 130 people, mostly Democrats, Schostak said.

El-Sayed opposes US military aid to Israel and has called the U.S. ally's military campaign in Gaza a "genocide," an accusation rejected by the Israeli and US governments.

El-Sayed's suggestion that "hurt people hurt people" was interpreted by some as justification for the attack. El-Sayed later apologized for his response, but the remark helped push some influential Jewish Democrats toward Rogers.

Oakland County commercial real estate broker Benji Rosenzweig, who is Jewish and tends to vote for Democrats, plans to vote for the Republican.



Republican Senate candidate Mike Rogers speaks at Universal Contracting and Urban Tree Trimming on Aug 31, in Sterling Heights, Mich. (AP)



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, chairs a meeting of the military-industrial commission in Moscow on Sept 18. (AP)

Main Kremlin party keeps control of Russia's parliament, say officials

MOSCOW, Sept 21, (AP): The main Kremlin party retained its majority in Russia's parliament, election officials said Monday, after a carefully orchestrated balloting that excluded most opposition candidates and helped the government maintain its tight grip on power.

Results from over 95% of the polling stations gave the Kremlin's United Russia party just under 58% of the vote for the 225 seats apportioned by parties, according to the Central Election Commission. Another 225 lawmakers were chosen in single-ballot races, and the results showed United Russia candidates leading in 208 of those races.

Central Election Commission chair Ella Pampfilova said the preliminary results indicated that United Russia would get 355 seats out of 450, a record high for the party, if confirmed.

It was the first parliamentary election since President Vladimir Putin launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and the first to include residents of four regions of that country that were seized and illegally annexed by Moscow later that year. Voting also was held in Crimea, which was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.



Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman and the head of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev, (center), and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, (center right), stand with other party members as they watch preliminary voting results for Russian parliamentary elections at the United Russia's headquarters in Moscow, Russia, on Sept 20. (AP)

Kyiv denounced the voting in those regions as illegal.

The Kremlin tightened its crackdown on opposition ahead of the election, including barring Russia's only liberal, anti-war party from the ballot and allowing it to compete only in single-ballot races.

Along with United Russia, several other parties that almost always vote for Kremlin initiatives also won

seats in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament. A handful of seats will go to several candidates who ran without a party affiliation in single-ballot races, according to preliminary results.

The Kremlin has sought the parliamentary election to showcase popular support for the war, and strove to avoid political risks by stamping out any dissent.

Germany's Merz struggles to stay on track after regional election defeat

BERLIN, Sept 21, (AP): German Chancellor Friedrich Merz faced a struggle to stabilize his position and keep his agenda on track Monday after voters inflicted two more defeats on his party, ejecting it from a state legislature for the first time in its eight-decade history.

The unpopular Merz vowed to stay on and push through reforms to Germany, Europe's biggest economy, minutes after polls closed Sunday in regional elections in Berlin and in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a largely rural eastern region on the Baltic Sea coast.

Still, final results underlined the extent of what Merz conceded was a "disaster" in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. His center-right Christian Democratic Union fell just below the 5% of the vote needed to keep seats in the regional parliament, the first time that has happened in 77 years of modern Germany's federal republic, after losing more than half its support.

The CDU also dropped to second



Chancellor Friedrich Merz (CDU) speaks at the Konrad Adenauer House following the elections in Berlin and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, in Berlin on Sept 20. (AP)

place in Berlin behind the hard-left Left Party, which is in pole position to lead the next city government - though Merz's party could, depending on how coalition talks go, still

retain city hall.

Neither state is one of Germany's political heavyweights. The CDU's 2023 win in Berlin was its only one in the past 25 years in the capital, which has tended to lean left, and the party was already weak in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

But the manner of its defeat in the latter in particular adds to the headwinds Merz faces after a stinging defeat by the far-right Alternative for Germany two weeks ago in Saxony-Anhalt, another region in the formerly communist east, damaged his authority and set off speculation that he might be replaced.

Alternative for Germany, or AfD, emerged as the strongest party in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, but the center-left Social Democrats - the junior party in Merz's national governing coalition - were fairly close behind after a campaign focused squarely on the state governor, Manuela Schwesig, as a bulwark against the far-right party.

Prime Minister Meloni plans to ban burqas, niqabs in Italian schools

ROME, Sept 21, (AP): Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Sunday she'll soon introduce a measure to her government that would cap the number of foreign students in classrooms and ban the wearing of burqas and niqabs in schools.

Meloni told the youth wing of her nationalist conservative Brothers of Italy party that the measure would also make Italian language lessons compulsory for parents of foreign students having "serious difficulties integrating into the school system."

"For us, anyone who comes to Italy and wants to build their future here must learn our language, understand our culture, and respect our rules," she said to a standing ovation at the Gioventù Nazionale national festival in Rome. "It is the only serious way to welcome them."

Meloni specifically referred to a ban on the burqa, an all-covering dress worn by some Muslim women, and the niqab, the veil worn by the most conservative Muslim women, in which, at most, only the eyes show. But Meloni didn't mention the hijab, the headscarf worn by some Muslim women.

Once approved by the government, the measure would need parliamentary approval within 60 days to pass into law.

Meloni, who has political roots in the far-right, has consistently been hawkish on migration. But she has evolved politically over her tenure as prime minister,



shifting from a nationalist outlier to an establishment figure among European Union politicians.

However, she's also keen to boost her popularity before a general election next year and is introducing a string of policies that achieve that aim, including an exemption from a hated property tax on small- and medium-sized cars and scooters.

Earlier this month, Meloni's conservative administration became Italy's longest-serving uninterrupted government since World War II.



South Korean army soldiers patrol along the barbed-wire fence in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, on Feb 18, 2025. (AP)

Explosion injures 3 S.Korean military officers inside DMZ bordering N.Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 21, (AP): An explosion injured three South Korean military officers Monday inside the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone separating the Koreas, officials said.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said the explosion occurred during an unspecified operation near the military demarcation line in the western section of the border buffer zone, commonly known as the DMZ.

The cause of the blast was not immediately clear, the ministry said.

South Korean officials did not say whether it was possible the explosion was caused by a land mine planted by North Korea, which has added mines, anti-tank barriers and other front line fortifications in recent months as relations between the war-divided rivals have sharply deteriorated. Seoul's Defense Ministry didn't immediately respond when asked by The Associated Press whether the incident prompted

the military to enhance border security.

Two of the officers were airlifted from the site by helicopter, while the third was transported by land before being airlifted, according to the ministry. The officers are being treated at a military hospital near the capital Seoul.

The DMZ, which is 248 kilometers (155 miles) long and 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) wide, is one of the world's most heavily armed borders. An estimated 2 million mines are peppered inside and near the border, which also is guarded by barbed wire fences, tank traps and combat troops on both sides. The zone is a legacy of the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, which ended with an armistice but not a peace treaty.

North Korea has dialed up animosity with a run of military displays this month, including short-range ballistic missile launches on Sunday, live-fire missile and artillery exercises, and the commissioning of a new warship, as leader Kim Jong Un flaunts

his growing nuclear program despite U.S. calls to revive diplomacy.

There have been growing concerns in South Korea about increased activity by North Korean soldiers near the military demarcation line as the North strengthens its border defenses during prolonged tensions between the countries. The South Korean military has not officially confirmed media reports that North Korean soldiers crossed the demarcation line more than 20 times during front line operations in August alone.

The South's military fired warning shots to repel some 10 North Korean soldiers who crossed the demarcation line at the eastern section of the DMZ in April 2025. The North Korean soldiers retreated after the South broadcast audio warnings and fired the shots and there were no clashes. In June 2024, North Korean troops crossed the border three times, prompting South Korea to fire warning shots.

We condemn this aggression and oppression: Mujahid

Pakistan airstrikes kill 28 militants in Afghanistan; Kabul reports 3 dead

ISLAMABAD, Sept 21, (AP): Pakistani jet fighters carried out airstrikes Monday on what security officials described as suspected militant hideouts in eastern Afghanistan, and claimed 28 of them were killed.

Authorities in Kabul said at least three people were killed.

The strikes near the frontier between the two countries marked a renewed escalation between Pakistan and Afghanistan, raising the prospect of further cross-border hostilities and threatening to complicate efforts by regional countries including China to mediate between Islamabad and Kabul.

They came after Pakistan warned it could target militants inside Afghanistan following two deadly attacks in recent days on its security forces near the border.

Militant attacks targeting Pakistan's police and security forces have surged in recent years. The escalation follows months of military action. Hundreds of people have been killed in cross-border fighting since February, when Afghanistan launched retaliatory strikes after Pakistan carried

out airstrikes inside Afghan territory. Authorities in Islamabad have blamed the Pakistani Taliban and allied militant groups for most of the violence. The Pakistani Taliban are separate from but allied with the Afghan Taliban that returned to power in 2021.

Two Pakistani security officials said 28 suspected militants were killed in Monday's airstrikes. Afghanistan's government, however, said the strikes killed three civilians and wounded four others. The claims from either side could not immediately be independently verified.

The Pakistani officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Pakistan's military did not immediately issue a statement on the strikes.

In a post on X, Afghan Taliban government spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid condemned the airstrikes and said there would be a response.

"We condemn this aggression and oppression, regarding it as a repetition of such crimes. Pakistani military circles have once again commit-



Residents inspect the rubble of a house destroyed in a strike in Patan village, Kunar province, eastern Afghanistan on Sept 21. (AP)

ted such a crime to divert attention from their country's security failures," he wrote.

Afghan deputy government spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat said the strikes occurred around 3 am in Nurgal district of Kunar province

and Barmal district of Paktika province. Citing preliminary information, Fitrat said a home belonging to a villager named Noor Ahmad in Nurgal's Pathan village was destroyed, killing Ahmad and two members of his family and wounding four other

relatives.

Fitrat said strikes in the Rakhah and Tor Kundi areas of Barmal destroyed a shop and an unoccupied house, but caused no casualties.

The strikes came a day after six Pakistani security personnel, including two army officers, were killed in a shootout with militants in Hangu, a district in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near the Afghan border.

They also followed a deadly attack Friday in the Pakistani city of Kohat, where a suicide bomber struck a mosque inside a police compound and eight gunmen stormed offices, setting off a 20-hour gunbattle. At least 21 people, most of them police officers, were killed and more than 100 were wounded, Pakistani officials said.

Pakistan's Information Ministry warned Saturday that the country could strike militants inside Afghanistan in response to attacks in Pakistan. The ministry blamed the Kohat attack on militants it said were based in Afghanistan and accused the Afghan Taliban govern-

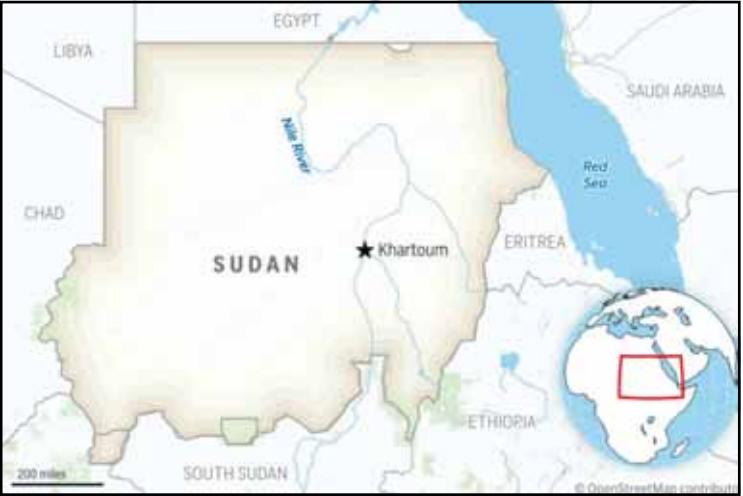
ment of sheltering and supporting groups that carry out attacks in Pakistan.

"Pakistan has both the will and the capability to eliminate terrorist threats wherever they are," the ministry said.

The ministry also called on Kabul to take "credible, verifiable and sustained measures" to dismantle what Pakistan says are militant sanctuaries and recruitment and training networks in Afghanistan.

No group had claimed responsibility for the Kohat or Hangu attacks by the time of Monday's strikes. Suspicion fell on the Pakistani Taliban, formally known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, which has intensified attacks on police and other security forces in Pakistan in recent years.

The TTP is separate from but allied with Afghanistan's Taliban, which returned to power in 2021. Pakistan has repeatedly accused the Taliban government in Kabul of sheltering TTP leaders and allowing militants to launch cross-border attacks. Afghanistan's government denies the allegations.



This is a locator map for Sudan with its capital, Khartoum. (AP)

Sudan gold mine collapse kills 11

A gold mine shaft collapsed in northeastern Sudan, killing at least 11 miners and injuring 30, a state official said Sunday, while a search continued for the missing under the debris.

It was the second collapse of an informal gold mine in Sudan in a week.

The mines are among thousands of small-scale and informal mines scattered across Sudan, which has been engulfed in a war that has at times pushed parts of the country into famine.

Last Sunday, at least 82 people were killed when a series of mine shafts in another gold mine collapsed in the country's west, in an area controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces that have

been fighting the Sudanese military for over three years.

Abdallah Kharif Abakar, who worked in the area, said the collapse in Oni, a remote area in the northeastern Red Sea state, began Saturday night.

An official from the state-owned Sudanese Mineral Resources Co. said 11 bodies had been recovered by Sunday and 30 were rescued. The search for the missing continued, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

In a statement, the company expressed condolences for lives lost in the mine collapse, but didn't give details about the casualties. (AP)

Trinidad and Tobago ends lengthy state of emergency as anger mounts over mass arrests

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Sept 21, (AP): Trinidad and Tobago ended a lengthy state of emergency with authorities on alert for a possible surge in violence as activists and lawyers decried the mass arrests stemming from the measure.

The state of emergency allowed the government to detain people who were deemed threats to security, including a well-known businessman and his wife who were accused of involvement in a plot to kill the prime minister. They were never charged and were later released.

The measure was initially approved in December 2024 and was extended several times, most recently in early March. More than 5,800 people were arrested after that extension, with 2,250 suspects yet to be charged, according to Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. It's unclear whether those not facing charges would be released.

Credible threats against law enforcement that led to the emergency declaration were "substantially reduced," the prime minister told Parliament on Wednesday.

Trinidad and Tobago has spent roughly 16 of the last 20 months under a state of emergency. In 2024, police reported a record 624 killings in the country of some 1.4 million people. While the number of report-



The country's coat of arms hangs on the facade of a government building in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on Aug 20, 2024. (AP)

ed killings fell to 369 last year, police said in 2025 that they had uncovered a plot to kill key government officials and attack public institutions.

The latest police statistics showed 255 reported killings so far this year, compared with 268 for the same period last year.

Local attorney Criston J. Williams said he expected some of those detained to sue the government as he called on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to visit Trinidad and Tobago to investigate

what he described as infringements upon people's rights "under the guise of a state of emergency."

Williams also denounced the treatment of his clients and the conditions at the military base where he met with them.

"They are transported to us blindfolded, shackled, hands behind their backs, a gray knapsack over their heads," he said. He said their meetings typically took place in the presence of five armed men from law enforcement "who refer to themselves

as operator one, two, three, four, five. There's a camera above, so guess what, there's nothing like attorney-client privilege."

Homeland Security Minister Roger Alexander did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

"They have had several emergency orders, which doesn't bode well with regards to the criminal activities that's been occurring for a number of years, and that is something that needs to be addressed," U.S. ambassador nominee Jennifer Johnson-Carroll said at her confirmation hearing in Washington D.C. in July.

Meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago's main opposition party has described the state of emergency as a failure.

"Having spent months oppressing the freedoms of our people and exercising extraordinary powers in the name of national security, we have yet to see any clear evidence that the (state of emergency) has helped with the detection or fighting of crime," opposition leader Pernelle Beckles said in a statement.

Tricia Richards said she hopes that the end of the state of emergency will mean getting to see her imprisoned husband, Earl Richards, again. She said she hasn't seen or spoken to him since July 2025.

Lat/Am

Tropical storm forms off SW Mexico: Tropical Storm Polo formed late Sunday off southwestern Mexico.

Polo had maximum sustained winds near 40 mph (65 kph) and was forecast to strengthen rapidly over the next few days, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

Polo was expected to become a major hurricane by midweek.

Polo was moving toward the east-northeast near 5 mph (7 kph). A turn toward the east was expected Tuesday and a sharp turn toward the north and northwest on Wednesday.

Heavy rain was forecast for the Mexican states of Michoacán, Colima and Jalisco through Thursday.

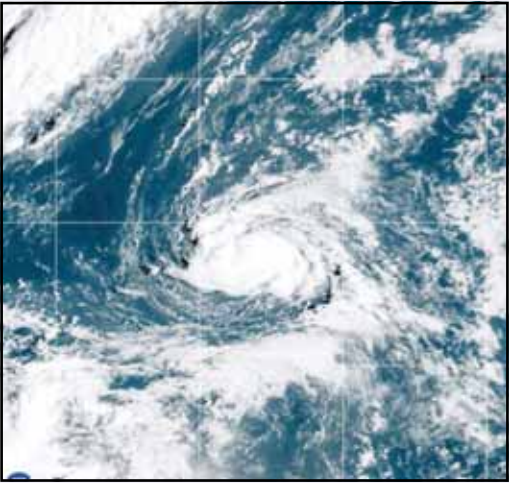
Polo was centered about 270 miles (435 kilometers) south of Manzanillo, Mexico, and 270 miles (435 kilometers) southwest of Zihuatanejo, Mexico.

A tropical storm also formed Sunday in the northern Atlantic Ocean, and another in the Pacific, but both were far from land.

Tropical Storm Fay had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph) and was centered about 385 miles (620 kilometers) southwest of the Azores. It was near hurricane strength but was forecast to weaken. (AP)

□ □ □

US army strikes drug boat, 4 dead: The US military attacked a boat suspected of being used to smuggle drugs in the Caribbean Sea on Saturday, killing four people, as the Trump administration continues its monthslong campaign against alleged traffickers in Latin America.



This satellite image from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows Tropical Storm Fay on Sept 20. (AP)

The latest attack brings the number of people who have been killed in boat strikes by the US military to at least 231 in 69 strikes since the Trump administration began targeting those it calls "narcoterrorists" almost a year ago. As with most of the military's statements on strikes in the eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea, US Southern Command said it targeted the alleged drug traffickers along known smuggling routes.

The military did not provide evidence that the vessel was ferrying drugs. A video posted on X showed an image of what appeared to be a moving boat followed by a flash. (AP)

18 suspects accused in July '21 killing of Moïse being extradited from Haiti to US

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Sept 21, (AP): Eighteen suspects who were arrested in the July 2021 killing of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse were being extradited to the U.S. on Sunday, marking the end of a drawn-out judicial process in Haiti for a killing that shocked the troubled Caribbean country.

The suspects will face justice in Florida, according to Jason Reding Quiñones, US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida.

"Today marks the next major phase in our pursuit of accountability for the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse," he wrote on X. "We will follow the evidence wherever it leads, to those who financed it, facilitated it, supported it or committed crimes to make it possible. Five years later, we are still bringing defendants before American courts, and we are not finished."

Quiñones did not identify the suspects, and a spokesperson for the US Department of Justice did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Sunday.

The suspects who remained in



Colombians and Haitians who were accused of involvement in the 2021 assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse are escorted in handcuffs to their court hearing in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 26, 2025. (AP)

Haiti awaiting trial included 17 Colombian soldiers and Joseph Badio, a former Haiti Ministry of Justice employee who was part of an anti-corruption unit. Badio, considered a key suspect, was arrested in Haiti in

October 2023 after being on the run for more than two years. Defense attorneys in the U.S. for other suspects have asserted Badio was the mastermind behind a plan to use the president's arrest to assassinate Moïse.

Boursa Kuwait closes mixed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Monday's trading session mixed, with its General Index falling 1.61 points, or 0.02%, to 8,846.45 points.

A total of 303.3 million shares changed hands through 22,016 transactions, valued at KD 89.3

million (approximately USD 291 million).

The Main Market Index declined 14.78 points, or 0.16%, to 9,420.82 points. Trading activity in the index reached 169 million shares through 13,035 transactions worth KD 41.6 million (approximately USD 135.5 million).

Business

Launching 'Education Leaders Challenge' in strategic partnership with WRO

KFH promotes the culture of robotics, programming, & innovation among students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched the "Education Leaders Challenge" in strategic partnership with the World Robot Olympiad (WRO), attracting broad participation from more than 100 school leaders, teachers, and administrators from both public and private schools. The initiative reflects KFH's leading role in supporting education and innovation, while promoting a culture of digital transformation and technology adoption within the education sector.

The Executive Manager Corporate Relations and CSR at KFH, Faisal Alsarayye, stated that the launch of this initiative stems from the Bank's belief in the importance of investing in education as the cornerstone of building a sustainable future. He emphasized that supporting educational institutions and empowering educators with technological and innovative tools constitute a key pillar of KFH's social responsibility and sustainability strategy.

Alsarayye added: "At KFH, we are proud of our partnership with the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) in launching this distinguished challenge, which brings together educators, school leaders, curriculum teams, and student life specialists in an interactive environment aimed at exchanging expertise and developing innovative ideas that keep pace with the requirements of the digital era. We firmly believe that advancing education begins with empowering educational talents and providing them with oppor-



Faisal Alsarayye with the participants.

tunities to explore and effectively utilize modern technological solutions within the learning environment."

He noted that the rapid developments in technology, AI, and programming highlight the need to strengthen digital capabilities across all components of the educational ecosystem. He explained that the Bank is committed to supporting high-im-

pact initiatives that contribute to preparing generations capable of innovation, competitiveness, and future leadership.

Alsarayye further affirmed that the strong turnout for the initiative, with the participation of more than 100 educational and administrative professionals, reflects the growing awareness of the importance of innovation in advancing the educational process. It also underscores the need for more programs that foster collaboration among all stakeholders in the education sector and open new horizons for knowledge and experience sharing.

Furthermore, Alsarayye extended his appreciation to the organizers and team of WRO-Kuwait for their outstanding efforts in organizing and delivering the event successfully, commending their role in promoting the culture of robotics, programming, and innovation. He noted that such efforts positively contribute to enhancing educational outcomes and strengthening the readiness of educational institutions to meet future requirements.

KFH will continue to support educational and technological initiatives aimed at building national capabilities and developing digital skills, as he added. The initiatives are in line with the Bank's social responsibility commitments and its dedication to contributing to sustainable development and fostering a knowledge-based economy in the State of Kuwait.

Faster transfers, approvals

Warba enhances BEYOND digital banking ecosystem

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Warba Bank announced a series of updates to services and features across its "BEYOND" ecosystem, including Business Online Banking and the Business Mobile Banking app. The updates aim to provide companies and business owners with more flexible digital tools to manage daily banking transactions.

The enhancements are part of the bank's continued expansion of digital solutions for startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with a focus on simplifying processes, improving operational efficiency, and strengthening security and governance.

"BEYOND": A Digital Ecosystem Evolving with Business Needs

Hamad Tayseer Al-Mutawa, Director of Business Banking at Warba Bank, stated:

"We view the development of business banking as a continuous process directly linked to the evolving needs of clients and the nature of their businesses. The latest BEYOND updates provide a more integrated digital experience, making it easier and more flexible for business owners to complete transactions and manage their accounts."

Al-Mutawa added: "We focused on features that support the daily operations of businesses, including transfers and approval management, transaction tracking and notifications, as well as options that allow business owners to manage multiple companies through the app."

MEED Recognition

The updates follow BEYOND receiving the "Best for Start-Ups" award at the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Awards, recognizing the platform's focus on supporting entrepreneurs, startups, and SMEs. The award also marks Warba Bank's first recognition from MEED.

The MEED Awards evaluate submissions according to criteria established by the organizer, including the nature and impact of the initiative or project, the effectiveness of the solution in meeting the needs of the target segment, execution quality, and achieved results.

Commenting on the recognition, Al-Mutawa said: "Winning this award is an important milestone for BEYOND and provides further motivation to enhance the services we offer entrepreneurs and business owners. We want the platform to support our clients across different stages of business growth through solutions that combine flexibility, efficiency, and ease of use."

Advanced Tools for Managing Financial Operations

The updates provide business banking users with greater control over their transactions through a range of features, including:

- Processing various types of bank transfers quickly and securely.
- Setting up to five transaction approval levels with dual-approval requirements to strengthen control and security.
- Generating digital balance and IBAN certificates.
- Managing accounts across multiple companies, with access to up to five companies through the



Hamad Al-Mutawa

Business Mobile Banking app.

- Creating and sending bill payment links and receiving notifications across transaction and approval stages.
- Processing bulk and multiple transfers in a single step.
- Issuing and delivering multiple cards with specialized features.

Digital Solutions Beyond Traditional Banking

Through the Marketplace page in the application, BEYOND also provides access to integrated business solutions and allows customers to link their Oasis Club account to earn travel miles using the BEYOND prepaid card.

Users can customize their home screen according to their priorities, creating an experience more closely aligned with their needs and how they use banking services. These features are designed to reduce the time and effort required to complete transactions while supporting governance and internal controls.

Focus on Customer and User Experience

Warba Bank has also enhanced the customer experience (CX) and user experience (UX) within BEYOND through simplified interfaces designed to make services easier to access and navigate.

The new features are available to clients upon updating the mobile application through official app stores.

Al-Mutawa said: "Development is not limited to introducing new features; it also includes how clients interact with the service. We are committed to making the BEYOND experience clear and seamless, helping users access what they need and complete transactions with minimal complexity."

Supporting Business Growth

Through BEYOND, Warba Bank continues to develop business banking solutions for startups and SMEs at different stages of growth, helping entrepreneurs manage daily operations and financial requirements more efficiently.

Al-Mutawa concluded:

"Innovation is one of the key pillars of business banking development at Warba Bank. We will continue updating BEYOND and developing solutions that align with client needs and developments in the business environment. Our objective is to provide an integrated digital ecosystem that combines efficiency, flexibility, and security while supporting business owners as they grow and expand."

A strategic milestone in the Company's continued evolution

Kamco Invest board recommends Burgan Capital rebranding

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced that its Board of Directors, at a meeting held today, recommended to the Company's General Assembly the change of the Company's name from "Kamco Investment Company" to "Burgan Capital Investment Company", subject to the approval of the General Assembly and the completion of the necessary regulatory and legal procedures.

The proposed name change follows Burgan Bank's indirect acquisition of a majority stake in Kamco Invest through United Gulf Bank and represents a strategic milestone in the continued development of the relationship between the two entities. It further reflects the natural progression of a collaboration that has evolved over the past years, with Kamco Invest and Burgan Bank working together to strengthen synergies and offer more integrated banking and investment products and services to their respective client bases.

More than a change in corporate identity, the proposed rebranding is intended to reinforce the Company's position within the broader Burgan Bank ecosystem and create a stronger platform for future growth. By bringing the complementary capabilities of both entities, distribution channels and client relationships closer together, the strategic alignment is expected to support the development of more connected financial solutions, improve accessibility to investment opportunities and enhance the overall client experience.

The proposed name change also reflects the Company's ambition to build on its established investment platform while benefiting from the opportunities created through closer integration with Burgan Bank. This includes exploring further collaboration across wealth management, asset management, investment banking, brokerage, and other investment-related services, while continuing to serve the needs of institutional, corporate and individual clients.

Furthermore, the proposed rebranding does not change the Company's established governance structure or its commitment to its shareholders. Following the change, the company will continue to operate as an independently managed, publicly listed company on Boursa



Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah



Faisal Sarkhou

Talal Al-Ali: The Company will continue to operate under its established governance framework while remaining listed on Boursa Kuwait

Sarkhou: The proposed rebranding is a natural next step in this journey and provides a platform to further develop these opportunities under a more unified identity

Kuwait, with its own Board of Directors and management team. The board and management will remain committed to safeguarding the rights and interests of all shareholders, including minority stakeholders, while ensuring that the Company continues to operate in accordance with the applicable regulatory and corporate governance framework.

Commenting on the announcement, Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Chairman of Kamco Invest, said, "The proposed name change marks an important milestone in the Company's continued evolution and reflects the progress achieved through our relationship with Burgan Bank. It provides a stronger platform to build on our established capabilities, pursue sustainable growth and create long-term value for our shareholders and clients."

Al-Ali added, "The Company will continue to operate under its established governance framework, with its own Board of Directors and management, while remaining listed on Boursa Kuwait. We remain committed to protecting the rights and interests of all shareholders and upholding the principles of transparency, accountability and sound corporate governance."

Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer of Kamco Invest, said, "Over the past years, Kamco Invest and Burgan Bank have made meaningful progress in developing synergies and connecting banking and investment expertise to deliver greater value to clients. The proposed rebranding is a natural next step in this journey and provides a platform to further develop these opportunities under a more unified identity."

He added, "Our focus is on translating this strategic alignment into tangible benefits: a more seamless client experience, broader access to financial solutions, stronger distribution capabilities and the continued development of products and services that respond to evolving client needs. It also creates opportunities to leverage our combined capabilities more effectively, enhance operational efficiencies and support sustainable business growth."

It is worth noting that the proposed name change remains subject to the approval of the Company's General Assembly and the completion of the applicable regulatory and legal procedures. Further announcements will be made in due course regarding the implementation timeline and related brand transition.

Central Bank highlights monetary policy flexibility

Kuwait keeps rates steady after Fed hike

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The monetary policy of the country has once again demonstrated its remarkable flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances.

This was most evident in the recent strategic decision of the Central Bank of Kuwait not to raise domestic interest rates.

This measured move by Kuwait followed the decision of the US Federal Reserve to raise its benchmark interest rate, for the first time in more than three years, by 0.25 percent, bringing it to a range of 3.5 percent to 3.75 percent.

The divergence highlights the differing economic approaches of the two parties and underscores the independence of Kuwait's financial decision-making, which is grounded in a meticulous assessment of domestic needs.

In a related context, a financial and legal advisor told the newspaper that the decision of Kuwait not to mirror the US monetary policy of raising interest rates stems from the Central Bank of Kuwait's system of pegging the Kuwaiti Dinar to a diversified basket of global currencies, rather than exclusively to the US dollar.

He clarified that this integrated system affords the monetary policy of Kuwait considerable flexibility and independence in formulating decisions based on local inflation indicators, domestic economic growth rates, and liquidity levels within the banking sector, thereby, avoiding automatic reliance on decisions issued by Washington.

He cited the major competitive advantage of the Kuwaiti economy — the deep understanding of the Central Bank of Kuwait of the local market's unique characteristics and the safeguards it



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

employs.

He added that the robustness of the banking sector and abundant local liquidity stand out as key pillars of this stability. He said a significant portion of the massive deposit base held by Kuwaiti banks consists of low- or zero-cost current and savings accounts.

He indicated that this gave the Central Bank of Kuwait considerable flexibility to maneuver without being compelled to match high US interest rates solely to prevent capital flight.

He pointed out that maintaining the discount rate at 3.5 percent in 2026 while supporting development efforts contributed to decoupling the currency from its exclusive link to the US dollar.

He explained that this approach aims to protect the purchasing power of the Kuwaiti Dinar. "Consequently, the Central Bank of Kuwait focused on

curbing domestic inflation without stifling credit directed toward the private sector or hindering the economic cycle. This strategy is corroborated by the latest official monetary data for 2026, which showed the discount rate holding steady at 3.5 percent. Such monetary stability has fostered the growth of credit facilities and supported various business sectors. The Kuwaiti experience demonstrates a proven ability to balance domestic growth requirements with the need to navigate geopolitical and global shifts through a cautious and measured approach. This has steered the national economy toward a phase of robust financial and monetary stability," he elaborated.

He stated that despite the temporary 4.6 percent contraction in gross domestic product (GDP) during the first quarter, driven by adherence to oil production quotas, international estimates point to the national economy's high resilience. He revealed that GDP growth is projected to reach 2.8 percent, bolstered by anticipated improvements in crude oil production rates and increased business momentum.

He asserted that the Central Bank's decision not to mirror the successive hikes in US interest rates has effectively spared local businesses and companies in Kuwait from bearing massive additional financing burdens. "Had the Central Bank raised rates at the same pace as the US, borrowing costs for commercial firms, service providers, and local manufacturers would have surged to record levels. Such a scenario would have prompted these companies to pass financing costs on to consumers by raising the prices of final products and services. Instead, maintaining a stable discount rate kept production and operating costs within normal limits, resulting in clear price stability for essential food items, construction materials and services," he concluded.

The Conversation

Prices hit record \$6.28 per gal

Diesel prices up 78% since Iran war began

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



By Morgan Bazilian

Colorado School of Mines

Diesel fuel prices in the U.S. continue to break all-time records, hitting \$6.28 a gallon as a national average on Sept. 14, 2026, and they aren't likely to come down anytime soon. Because diesel is the fuel for freight transportation, farming and construction - and is related to a key heating fuel - the effects are set to spread across the entire U.S. economy.

The inflation-adjusted price of diesel in late August was about as high as it was in 2022 and has likely risen further. There are still three factors that we, scholars of U.S. and global energy markets and supply chains, see that set the stage for prices to remain high and potentially climb even further.

Two of these elements - environmental protection regulations on oil refineries and Russia's war with Ukraine - have been building tension for years. But the situation has been pushed into a crisis by the U.S. war against Iran, which has closed the Strait of Hormuz to a large percentage of oil and refined products shipments for more than six months.

Amid that crisis, U.S. oil refineries are making lots of money.

In mid-September 2026, diesel prices were up 67% over September 2025's monthly national average of \$3.75 a gallon, and they have risen sharply since. In January 2026, before the U.S. and Israel first attacked Iran in late February, the average diesel price in the U.S. was lower, at \$3.52 a gallon - meaning that diesel prices have jumped more than 78% since the war began.

In part, that's because the country, and the world, have been losing diesel refining capacity for many years and can't just ramp up production to fill the shortages.

Starting in 2006, U.S. federal regulations were phased in that required refiners to produce diesel fuel with far less sulfur than had previously been allowed. The regulations were intended to reduce air pollution and acid rain precursors mainly from trucks and buses. The resulting fuel was much cleaner. In 2014, the rules were applied to locomotives and marine vehicles.

U.S. refineries had to install expensive equipment to comply, which took years and billions of dollars. This, in turn, increased costs between 5 and 9 cents per gallon. And the fuel contains slightly less energy per unit of volume - so a larger quantity of low-sulfur diesel is required to meet the demand.

Only one refinery, in Galveston, Texas, has been built in the past 50 years, and at 45,000 barrels per day it meets less than 0.2% of U.S. demand. In 2025, two refineries shut down due to poor economic performance. And since 2020, more than a dozen others have converted to producing renewable diesel to take advantage of federal and state biofuel incentives, but that conversion can cut the amount of actual fuel they produce at least in half, according to our estimates.

As a result, the remaining refineries are running flat out. Crude going into refineries reached about 17.5 million barrels a day in late August, and refineries were operating at nearly 98% of their maximum capacity - the highest level since 2018. Even so, output of distillate, which includes diesel and related fuels such as heating oil and jet fuel, was lower than in 2025.

Distillate inventories held by refiners, distributors and retailers fell to about 103 million barrels by late August, the lowest for that point in the calendar since 1951.

As U.S. inventories of diesel fell in August, the country's diesel exports hit a record high as the global market sought to fill supplies normally provided by Russia.

Historically the world's second-largest diesel exporter after the United States, Russia banned exports of diesel on July 9, 2026, to ensure supplies for its military. In September, the country extended the export ban until the end of 2026 in the wake of Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian refineries.

Middle Eastern refiners, also key to global diesel supplies, have scaled back production because of disruptions from the war with Iran.

Together, these forces mean the supply for diesel is very tight.

On Sept. 15, 2026, U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune proposed the U.S. ban diesel exports to increase domestic availability.

Even before the crisis in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported several factors were pushing diesel prices upward, including large exports to Europe, a cold winter in the Northeast in 2025-26 and high freight demand.

With the war continuing, refinery companies are taking advantage of the low supply - and their inability to make a whole lot more diesel - to charge more than ever for diesel fuel.

By late August, short-term profit margins for making diesel - called "crack spreads" in the industry - surpassed \$100 per barrel for the first time ever, clearly showing demand for the fuel is well outpacing supply, as well as demand for crude oil itself.

What this means is that truckers, drivers and shipping companies are paying more for diesel - costs that are passed on to consumers. At the same time, refinery companies are seeing large profits.

The vast majority of the diesel fuel used in the U.S. is for transportation, mostly trucking. Other significant users are the railroad, agriculture, construction and marine industries.

A congressional Joint Economic Committee analysis in September 2026 found that higher diesel prices added more than \$1.4 billion to the cost of planting major U.S. crops in 2026 versus 2025, a 63% increase, with Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota hit hardest. Because nearly every retail item travels by truck at some point, the diesel spike also feeds slowly into broader consumer inflation.

And there's one more hit coming: Heating oil, which is chemically closely related to diesel, is a key heating fuel in the northeastern U.S. The latest projection from the Energy Information Administration expects national distillate inventories to fall below 100 million barrels in September and stay at that level through much of 2027. That's lower than it has been since 2021, and heating oil prices for the coming winter are already up 30% or more.

The Middle East conflict is having wide-reaching implications. While crude oil prices are now above \$100 per barrel, it is diesel, the fuel that much of the economy runs on, that is feeling the greatest stress.

And as refiners run flat out, any interruption would reduce production, as happened after a power outage at a Mobil refinery in Illinois on Sept. 13.

With falling stockpiles, even a sudden end to the Iran war is unlikely to yield significantly lower prices anytime soon. (AP)



Al-Musaibeeh delivers Zain's remarks at the closing ceremony.



Group photo of the Zain team with the honored students.



CODED Academy Co-Founder Ahmad Marafi recognizes Al-Musaibeeh for Zain's support and partnership.



Hamad Al-Musaibeeh recognizes the winner of the Zain Youth and Community Award.

Celebrating future young digital innovators

Zain marks successful conclusion of 'Kuwait Codes'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Zain Kuwait celebrated the successful conclusion of the latest season of the 'Kuwait Codes' program, held in strategic partnership with CODED Academy. The closing ceremony took place at Al Shaheed Park, where students showcased their projects and winners and outstanding participants across the program's different tracks were recognized.

During the ceremony, Zain joined in honoring the students behind the winning projects and presented the Zain Award for Youthand Community in recognition of the project that most effectively applied technical skills and digital tools to deliver an innovative idea serving the community and young people. The award reflects Zain's commitment to encouraging participants to transform the knowledge they have gained into practical solutions and ideas with tangible impact.

The conclusion of this season marks another milestone in the five-year partnership between Zain and CODED Academy, through which the impact of 'Kuwait Codes' has reached more than 5,500 students. The initiative provides hands-on learning experiences designed to introduce young people to technology at an early stage, develop their skills, and help them explore their interests and future academic and career paths.

Zain's partnership with 'Kuwait Codes' forms part of its corporate sustainability strategy, which places youth em-

- Company honored the winners at the closing ceremony and presented the Zain Award for Youth and Community
- Five-year partnership with CODED Academy has digitally empowered more than 5,500 students

powerment and digital education among its key priorities. The company continues to support initiatives that build national capabilities and prepare a generation equipped with the skills and knowledge required to participate effectively in the digital economy and the future workforce.

Speaking at the ceremony, Corporate Relations & Communications Director at Zain Kuwait Hamad Al-Musaibeehsaid: "Today, we celebrate the conclusion of another successful season of 'Kuwait Codes'. We do not see this occasion as the end of a training program, but rather as the beginning of a new stage in these young people's journey toward excellence and creativity in technology and digital innovation."

He added:"At Zain, we are proud of our five-year partnership with CODED Academy, through which we have built an ongoing story of empowering Kuwaiti youth in digital fields. The initiative has now reached more than 5,500 students, a figure that reflects the growing passion among Kuwait's youth for technology and their readiness to play a role in shaping the future of the digital economy."

Al-Musaibeeh continued:"For us, the value of the program is

not measured simply by the number of participants, but by what they take away with them: practical skills, greater confidence in their capabilities, and a clearer understanding of the opportunities and specializations they can build on in the future."

He also highlighted that the accelerating pace of artificial intelligence development makes it increasingly important to move beyond simply becoming familiar with these technologies toward acquiring the skills needed to use them responsibly and effectively.

He noted that the role of private sector organizations is not limited to providing access to tools, but also extends to equipping young people with the knowledge and capabilities that enable them to innovate and make productive and positive use of technology. This approach continues to drive Zain's partnership with 'Kuwait Codes'.

The 2026 season delivered a predominantly hands-on learning experience to nearly 1,000 young participants through three main tracks: cybersecurity, Python programming using AI, and AIweb development. Participants progressed from learning fundamental concepts to applying them through challenges, workshops, and practical projects that

were showcased at the conclusion of the program.

The program also gave participants the opportunity to gain closer exposure to real working environments and explore how technology is applied across different sectors. As part of the season's accompanying activities, Zain welcomed nearly 200 students to its headquarters in Shuwaikh, where they gained practical exposure to AI, cybersecurity, and customer service, as well as the responsible and informed use of emerging technologies.

The partnership between Zain and CODED Academy extends beyond the 'Kuwait Codes' program to encompass a range of specialized initiatives in technology education and innovation. These include Academy X, which focuses on digitally empowering young women, alongside other specialized training programs. Together, these initiatives reflect an ongoing collaboration aimed at expanding opportunities for technology learning and preparing national talent to compete for the jobs of the future.

Zain concluded by reaffirming its commitment to continuing to invest in Kuwait's youth and the skills their future requires, while strengthening community partnerships with academic institutions to support impactful initiatives that create greater opportunities for younger generations to learn, experiment, and innovate, and prepare them to contribute to shaping Kuwait's digital future.

Interest-free financing of up to KD 25,000 & discounts of up to KD 800

Gulf Bank showcases auto financing at Auto World Show

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Gulf Bank is welcoming customers and visitors to its booth at the Auto World Show 2026, taking place at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref from 21 to 26 September. Throughout the exhibition, the Bank will showcase a range of flexible auto financing solutions and exclusive benefits designed to make purchasing a new vehicle simpler, more convenient, and more rewarding.

In partnership with several of Kuwait's leading automotive dealerships, Gulf Bank is offering interest-free vehicle financing at a 0% rate, with financing amounts of up to KD 25,000 and repayment periods of up to five years. Customers can also enjoy discounts of up to KD 800 at a number of participating dealerships, giving them greater choice and added value when selecting their next vehicle.

Gulf Bank's team will be available throughout the show to guide visitors through the available options, answer their questions, and help them identify the financing solution that best suits their needs and budget. This hands-on support reflects the Bank's customer-first approach



MOCI's Ahmad Almutairi with the Gulf Bank team.

and its commitment to delivering a smooth experience at every stage of the vehicle-purchasing journey.

The Bank is also highlighting financing options for electric and environmentally friendly vehicles, supporting customers who wish to make more sustainable mobility choices. This focus forms part of Gulf Bank's broader sustainability strategy, which integrates environmental considerations into its products

and services while encouraging the adoption of cleaner and more efficient technologies.

Beyond the exhibition, Gulf Bank continues to bring its services closer to customers through its presence at automotive dealership showrooms across Kuwait. Customers can submit financing applications, receive preliminary approvals, and complete the required procedures directly at the point of sale, helping them save time and move forward with

greater ease and confidence.

By combining attractive offers, flexible repayment options, accessible service, and personalized support, Gulf Bank continues to respond to customers' evolving needs and make important milestones easier to achieve. The Bank invites everyone considering a new car to visit its booth, meet the team, explore the exclusive offers, and find a financing solution tailored to their needs.

Celebrating creativity & promoting financial literacy

Weyay Bank launches exclusive Jeel Card for American Baccalaureate School students



Photos during the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: Weyay Bank, in collaboration with the American Baccalaureate School (ABS), celebrated the launch of an exclusive Jeel Card designed specifically for ABS students, featuring the winning design from a student competition created to foster creativity while encouraging financial awareness through a unique educational experience.

The competition invited students to showcase their artistic talent and imagination by designing their own version of the Jeel Card while the initiative reflects Weyay Bank's ongoing commitment to supporting young talent and advancing financial literacy among younger generations. By combining creativity with practical learning opportunities, the Bank aims to introduce students to essential financial concepts while encouraging innovation and self-expression.

Jeel is Kuwait's first dedicated banking experience for children and young teens aged 8 to 14. The product helps young users develop responsible money management habits, understand key financial concepts, and build a foundation for saving and financial planning from an early age, all under the supervision of parents through the Weyay app.

The launch also highlights the strong partnership between Weyay Bank and ABS, which has included a series of interactive workshops and educational initiatives designed to translate financial concepts into engaging, real-world experiences for students.

Commenting on the occasion, Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank, said: "We are proud to launch this special edition of the Jeel Card in collaboration with ABS. This initiative reflects our vision of empowering the next generation with the financial and life skills they need for the future. What makes this project especially meaningful is the opportunity it gave students to see their creativity transformed into a real product that reflects their identity, talent, and imagination."

She added: "At Weyay, we believe that financial literacy starts at an early age. That is why we continue to develop innovative experiences that combine learning with practical application, helping young people build healthy financial habits while strengthening their confidence in their abilities and potential."

Areej Al-Ghanim, General Director of ABS, added: "We are proud of our

ongoing partnership with Weyay Bank and the meaningful initiatives we have developed together to enrich our students' educational journey and connect learning with practical experiences. The exclusive Jeel Card design competition provided our students with an exciting opportunity to apply their artistic talents to a real-world project that reflects their creativity and individuality. Initiatives like these help foster innovation, build self-confidence, and introduce students to important financial concepts that support responsible decision-making from an early age."

Students who participated in the competition were recognized and celebrated for their creativity and efforts, with special recognition given to the winning designers. Weyay Bank also extended its appreciation to the ABS administration, art teachers, and parents for their invaluable support in encouraging students to develop and showcase their talents.

Through initiatives such as the Jeel Card Design Competition, Weyay Bank continues to invest in empowering young generations with the knowledge, confidence, and skills they need to become financially aware, capable, and future-ready.

Trump, Xi expected to discuss global AI risks

HONG KONG, Sept 21, (AP): U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, leaders of rival nations in a race to dominate artificial intelligence, are expected to meet this week against a backdrop of rising concerns about the threats that rogue AI could pose to humanity.

The hopes for finding common ground on concerns around global AI safety are clouded by competition between the two countries. As China narrows the technology gap with the U.S., each country has expressed concern over how AI in the other's hands could hurt them.

"The U.S.-China conversation in AI is getting caught in the ups and downs in the broader U.S.-China relationship," said Scott Singer, co-director of the China AI Initiative at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

On Sunday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said after talks in New York with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng ahead of the meeting between Trump and Xi that the two countries discussed the setting up of a mechanism on AI dialogue and proposed a new "notification mechanism" for AI incidents that could impact national security.

Here is a look at some topics that may - or may not - come up for discussion around AI.

The agenda could focus on AI risks that could harm both countries, such as AI-enabled cyberattacks, biological misuse, major model failures or loss of human control, said Sun Chenghao, a senior fellow at the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University in Beijing. In that case, "there is still meaningful room for cooperation," Sun said.

"It would be a mistake to dismiss the entire safety debate as geopolitical competition," Sun said. "China itself is paying growing attention to loss-of-control risks, malicious use, cyber threats and the safety of AI agents."

Bessent said after his meeting with He that the U.S. proposed a notification mechanism between the United States and China, such as when there are incidents that rises up to the national security level from AI. "We want a shared vision of common goals and common threats," he told reporters.

Michael Kratsios, Trump's science and technology adviser, told Fox News Sunday it's important to have conversations with China about AI. "The key thing that we want to talk to them about is avoiding shared risks, and that's something that I think we can have a fruitful conversation on," Kratsios said.

Both governments are concerned about how AI could be used to attack critical infrastructure. In China, AI governance documents identify finance, electricity, telecommunica-

tions and transportation as areas potentially exposed to frontier-AI risks, Sun said.

The Chinese side has shown real interest in discussing issues like AI and cyber incident information sharing with U.S. experts, said Samm Sacks, a senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies' Institute for America, China, and the Future of Global Affairs.

If the two countries can discuss how to report and communicate in the event of an AI-related emergency, said Xiao Qian, vice dean of the Institute for AI International Governance at Tsinghua University, "it can help the two countries to build technical confidence over time."

Trump has repeatedly said "whoever wins AI, wins." He has insisted the U.S. needs to keep a technological edge over China and downplayed calls by American tech leaders to slow AI's development over safety concerns. Beijing, in turn, has accused the U.S. of pursuing an AI monopoly as it curbs China's AI growth including in restricting its access to the world's most advanced chips.

At the meeting, any loosening of U.S. export controls on advanced technologies related to AI is likely to be off the table, said Alfredo Montufar-Helu with the consultancy Ankura. With each country seeking competitive advantages in so many areas, Montufar-Helu said the room for U.S. and China to collaborate on AI is "quite narrow."

In his essay this month calling for an AI slowdown, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei called on the U.S. to continue seeking ways to limit Chinese AI development. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Amodei's warnings about China were confrontational and a form of "fearmongering" and that all parties should work together on AI.

Despite the restrictions, Chinese AI models increasingly challenge American frontier models. Chinese AI models led by Moonshot AI and DeepSeek this year have shown they can be, by some measures, as powerful as those of U.S. rivals like Anthropic and OpenAI, often at a lower cost. Many of them are making inroads globally, including in the U.S.

"Export controls have not stopped China from developing frontier-competitive models, but they slow its rate of expansion by limiting the compute it can use to serve users," said professor Will Cong of Nan-yang Technological University in Singapore.

Despite the constraints, China's chip developers have been catching up with the U.S., and companies in China are turning more to domestic chips. That's giving Xi more confidence in his talks with Trump, George Chen with The Asia Group said.

Global markets were driven by a busy central bank week as policymakers stepped up their response to energy-driven inflation. The Federal Reserve raised rates for the first time in over three years to 3.75-4.00% and signalled another increase before year-end. The decision was backed by a higher than expected CPI print, as core CPI increased 0.3% MoM, exceeding the 0.2% MoM consensus and underscoring persistent underlying inflation pressures. The Bank of Japan followed with a split-vote hike to 1.25%, while the Bank of England held at 3.75%. Three MPC members again backed a hike, though, as UK inflation climbed to a five-month high of 3.1% on higher fuel costs. The widening policy gap supported the greenback. EUR/USD slipped below 1.15, GBP/USD fell to its weakest level since late July, and the dollar index held around the 100 mark. Oil eased from its highs as Saudi Arabia rerouted exports while repairing its East-West pipeline, but Brent remained above \$100 and the physical market stayed tight. In Asia, Japan's exports extended their growth streak on strong semiconductor demand, whereas China's retail sales slowed to 0.4%, highlighting persistently weak household consumption. Looking ahead, oil supply developments and the pace of further tightening by major central banks will remain the key drivers for rates and currency markets.

United States

Federal Reserve Raises Rates for the First Time in Over Three Years

The FOMC voted 12-0 on September 16 to raise the target range for the federal funds rate by 25 basis points to 3.75-4.00%, its first hike in more than three years, with the Fed under Chair Kevin Warsh signalling another increase before year-end. The unanimity stands out after the July meeting, when three members dissented against the decision to hold in favour of a quarter-point hike. The statement said inflation remained elevated and that the move would support a timelier return to the 2% goal, while describing economic activity as expanding at a solid pace with resilient domestic spending, strong productivity growth, robust capital investment and little change in unemployment, even as geopolitical developments keep uncertainty elevated. Looking further ahead, the committee is divided on 2027, with eight officials projecting another hike, six seeing rates on hold and four expecting cuts. Markets had been pricing in higher rates well before the decision, with the 10-year yield up about a quarter point since Warsh's Jackson Hole remarks on August 28 and roughly a full percentage point above its February low, while the 2-year rose even more sharply. Treasury yields eased after the announcement, a sign that investors were reassured by the Fed's resolve on inflation.

US Retail Sales Rebound Strongly in August

US retail sales rose 1.2% month-over-month in August 2026, the strongest increase in five months and well above expectations of 0.8%, following a revised 0.5% decline in July. The rebound was broad-based, led by gasoline stations, where sales climbed 3.1%, followed by nonstore retailers at 2.6%, while electronics, restaurants, sporting goods, furniture and clothing also recorded gains. Building material and

UK inflation hits five-month high of 3.1%

Fed & BoJ hike as energy shock keeps central banks on guard

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1590	1.1450	1.1599	1.1483	1.1350	1.1560	1.1528
GBP	1.3518	1.3332	1.3528	1.3393	1.3200	1.3470	1.3404
JPY	153.37	153.29	158.05	156.86	155.25	158.10	155.72
CHF	0.8156	0.8151	0.8265	0.8218	0.8130	0.8350	0.8138

garden equipment stores were the only major category to post a decline. More importantly, core retail sales used in GDP calculations surged 1.4%, significantly exceeding the 0.4% forecast, pointing to resilient consumer spending and stronger underlying consumption momentum in August.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 100.222.

United Kingdom

Bank of England Holds but Leans Toward Tightening

The Bank of England held Bank Rate at 3.75% on September 17 in a 6-3 vote, with three members favouring a rise to 4% as UK inflation reached 3.1%. The split mirrors July's meeting, when Huw Pill, Megan Greene and Catherine Mann voted for a hike over concern that higher energy prices could embed more persistent inflation. The Bank said higher global energy costs have so far had a limited effect on UK price and wage setting, but warned that the longer the volatility persists, the more likely it will need to raise rates to bring inflation back to 2%. The tone marks a shift from earlier in the month, when Governor Andrew Bailey told MPs on September 8 that the Bank had no secret plan to raise rates. The MPC cut rates six times between August 2024 and December 2025, taking Bank Rate from 5.25% to 3.75%, and has now held for six consecutive meetings. Markets see a better-than-even chance of a hike at either the November or December meeting, with the next decision scheduled for November 5.

UK Inflation Rises to Five-Month High

UK annual inflation increased to 3.1% in August 2026 from 2.9% in July, reaching a five-month high and matching market expectations. The rise was largely driven by transport costs, where inflation accelerated to 4.6% as petrol and diesel prices increased sharply, pushing motor fuel inflation to 23.0%. Inflation also picked up across housing and household services, communication, and recreation and culture, while food inflation remained unchanged at 1.3%. Core inflation held steady at 2.6%, with goods inflation rising to 2.7% and services inflation unchanged at 3.4%. On a monthly basis, consumer prices increased 0.5%, the strongest rise in four months and in line with forecasts.

The GBP/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3393.

Asia-Pacific

Japan's Exports Maintain Strong Growth

Japan's exports rose 19.3% YoY in August, moderating from 23.2% YoY growth in July but exceeding the 18.4% consensus forecast and marking the 12th consecutive month of expansion. Electronic component exports, including

semiconductors, increased 52% YoY, supported by strong demand from China, where shipments more than doubled; meanwhile, semiconductor manufacturing equipment exports to the US and EU rose over 100%. Exports to the US, China, and Europe increased 24.9%, 20.6%, and 11%, respectively. Imports grew 28% YoY, above the 26.3% forecast, widening the unadjusted trade deficit to JPY 1.1 trillion from a revised JPY 638.3B in July. Crude oil import values increased 59% YoY, while the yen averaged JPY 160.64 per dollar in August (8.7% weaker YoY), driving up import costs.

Bank of Japan Hikes to 1.25% in a Split Vote

The Bank of Japan raised its short-term policy rate by 25 basis points to 1.25% from 1.00% on Friday, in line with expectations, though board members Asada and Sato dissented in a 7-2 vote. The decision comes as the BOJ faces mounting inflation risks and unusually explicit calls from Washington for further policy normalisation. In its statement, the Bank said underlying inflation is approaching 2%, and pledged to keep raising rates in response to economic, price and financial developments while weighing the timing and pace of further moves against the likelihood of its baseline scenario. The Bank noted that real interest rates remain low, corporate demand for funds has increased and lending attitudes remain proactive, and judged it appropriate to reduce the degree of monetary accommodation to achieve its 2% target sustainably, while expecting financial conditions to stay accommodative after the change. The basic loan rate will move to 1.5%, and the new guideline takes effect from September 24.

The USD/JPY currency pair last seen trading at 156.86.

China's Retail Sales Growth Remains Weak

China's retail sales grew just 0.4% year-on-year in August 2026, slowing from 0.6% in July and falling short of expectations for a 0.8% increase. Automobile sales dropped 18.5%, while furniture and building materials recorded declines of 7.9% and 11.8%, respectively, highlighting weakness in major purchases. Excluding automobiles, sales increased 2.5%, with communication equipment providing a bright spot as sales surged 27.3%. Retail sales also declined 0.13% month-on-month, while growth over the first eight months of the year stood at 1.1% compared with the same period in 2025. Overall, the figures suggest household spending remains subdued, with gains in selected categories offering limited support to broader consumption.

The USD/CNY currency pair last seen trading at 6.6975.

Kuwait

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30735.



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Austin Abrams, left, with director Zach Cregger on the set of "Resident Evil." (AP)

Video game adaptation puts horror back in spotlight

‘Resident Evil’ bites into box office with \$60 million

Zach Cregger’s “Resident Evil” gave the North American box office a shot in the arm in its first weekend in theaters. The Sony Pictures release earned \$60 million in ticket sales from 3,684 locations in the U.S. and Canada, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That’s a best for the video game inspired franchise, of which there have been seven prior movies dating back to 2002, and for the filmmaker behind “Weapons” and “Barbarian.” It’s also more than most of the previous films made in their entire domestic runs. The only exception is “Resident Evil: Afterlife,” which was released in 2010 and netted out

with \$60.1 million, not accounting for inflation.

Cregger’s “Resident Evil” stars Austin Abrams (who also played a pivotal role in “Weapons”) as a medical courier whose last job of the night finds him battling infected creatures in Raccoon City. Reviews were overwhelmingly positive; it currently boasts a 95% on Rotten Tomatoes.

The audience was primarily male (66%) and under 35 (75%), according to PostTrak exit polls, and gave it a B+ CinemaScore. Cregger’s previous films have defied a lot of box office logic when it comes to horror movies, whose earnings tend

to be front-loaded and drop sharply after the first weekend. “Barbarian” grossed over \$46 million on a budget under \$5 million. “Weapons” made \$270 million on a \$38 million budget.

“Zach Cregger is a household name in the world of horror,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the head of marketplace trends for Rentrak. “There are certain directors who become the star of the movie.”

“Resident Evil” cost a reported \$75 million to produce, which does not include marketing and promotion expenses. Internationally, it earned \$48.3 million, bringing its global launch to \$108.3 million.

“Zach Cregger plus big franchise equals big bucks,” Dergarabedian said. “And he made it feel fresh and new.”

According to Rentrak, horror movies this year, including hits like “Obsession” and “Backrooms,” have generated over \$1.1 billion at the domestic box office.

Second place went to “Practical Magic 2,” which fell about 59% from its lackluster opening weekend with \$12.2 million from 4,163 theaters in North America. An additional \$7 million from international showings brings its running global total to \$76.8 million.

“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” landed in third place with \$6.5 mil-

lion in its eighth weekend, pushing its domestic total to \$944.5 million. “The Odyssey,” in its 10th weekend in theaters, added another \$4.9 million to take fourth place. “Coyote vs. Acme” rounded out the top five with \$4.5 million.

One notable limited release was “The History of Concrete,” a documentary from comedian John Wilson, which earned \$90,000 from one screen (the IFC Center in New York). The only film to make more in a single weekend at that venue was “Parasite,” which made \$119,407.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday

through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak:

1. “Resident Evil,” \$60 million.
2. “Practical Magic 2,” \$12.2 million.
3. “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” \$6.5 million.
4. “The Odyssey,” \$4.9 million.
5. “Coyote vs. Acme,” \$4.5 million.
6. “Runner,” \$3.2 million.
7. “Daniel and the Fiery Furnace,” \$3.1 million.
8. “Transformers: The Movie” (40th anniversary re-release), \$3.1 million.
9. “The Weight,” \$2.3 million.
10. “Buddy,” \$1.9 million. (AP)

Variety

WASHINGTON: CNN, MS NOW and Politico said Monday they’ve notified President Donald Trump’s administration that they’re filing a lawsuit over being denied White House access.

Reporters from the three major news organizations were blocked from the White House on Saturday, a day after 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 were 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 - 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 had hinted at legal action, saying they would vigorously defend their First Amendment rights. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Presley Gerber, the son of supermodel Cindy Crawford and businessman Rande Gerber, died on Sunday at age 27, a family representative said.

Gerber died at a rehab facility, according to online records of the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner.

The death was confirmed by Allie Jenkins, a representative for Crawford and Rande Gerber, who were married in 1998.

“The family is asking for privacy during this very difficult and painful time,” Jenkins said in an email Sunday night.

Gerber was a model and the older brother of model and actress Kaia Gerber. (AP)



Presley Walker Gerber attends an event, June 3, 2019, in New York. (AP)

Books

Robinson’s climate nightmare begins with 20 million dead

Written in fiction, too real for its author

NEW YORK, Sept 21, (AP) Kim Stanley Robinson, author of one of the most famous novels on climate change, says he has done more than 600 speaking events since “The Ministry for the Future” was published in 2020 - but he won’t read the first chapter out loud.

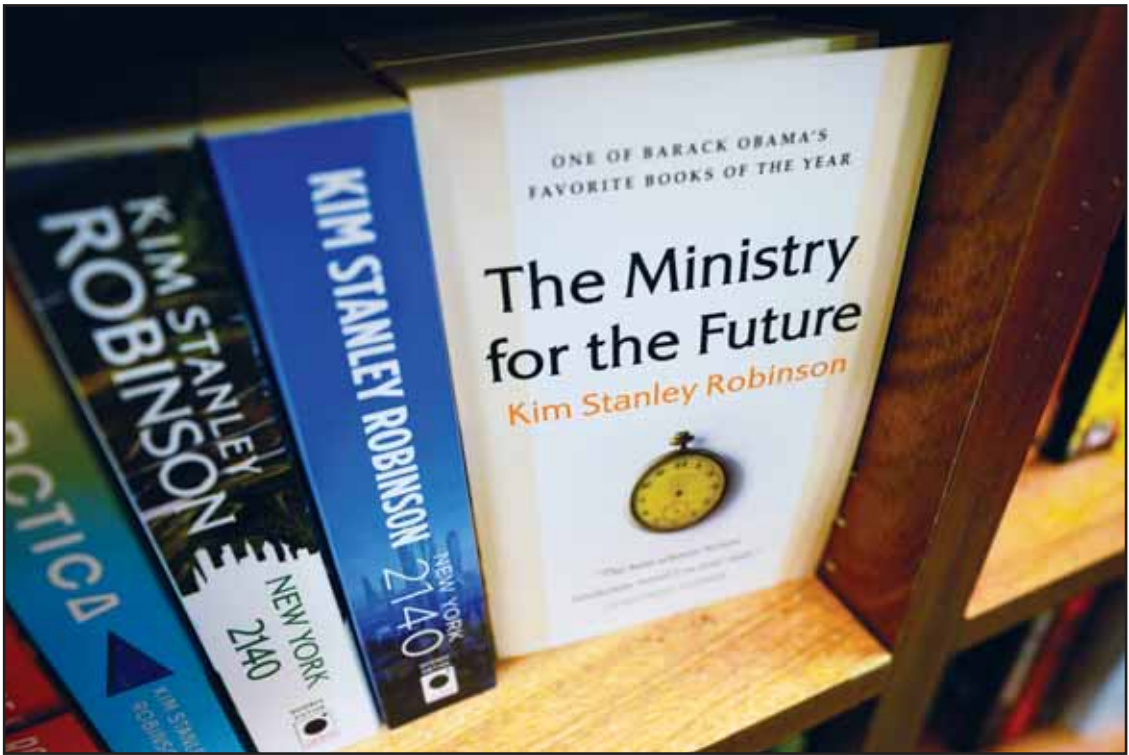
In those opening pages, a prolonged heat wave grips a large swath of northern India. Told from the perspective of an aid worker named Frank, the book starts with a breakdown of the electrical grid, generators that run out of fuel and high temperatures combined with high humidity that lead to death everywhere. Unable to get relief, people die on rooftops, on the streets and in a lake. In the end, the heat kills 20 million people.

“I just have this instinctive sense, no, this is too harsh,” said Robinson during an interview with The Associated Press last month. “This is too ... I’m not willing to read this one aloud.”

The first chapter struck a nerve with many readers because it brought to the forefront the very real fear of unchecked climate change, caused mainly by the release of greenhouse gases from the burning of fuels like oil, gas and coal. Greenhouse gases build up heat in the atmosphere, which manifests on Earth as both higher temperatures and an intensifying of extreme weather events.

“The Ministry for the Future does a better job than any other book I’ve read of playing out, in a dramatic but realistic way, how high temperatures can literally kill people,” wrote Bill Gates, philanthropist and climate expert, in his Gates Notes blog in 2022.

For Robinson, an American



Kim Stanley Robinson’s “The Ministry for the Future” sits on a shelf of a bookstore Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, in New York. (AP)

science-fiction writer, the environment, and how humans interact with it, have been consistent themes in many of his novels. “2312” and “New York 2140,” both published before “The Ministry for the Future,” show how the devastating effects of climate change have altered life on Earth. Some of his terms and concepts - like “the Dithering” in “2312,” referring to the time period between 2005 and 2060 with little climate action - have been adopted by journalists, environmentalists and climate scientists.

The opening scene of “The Ministry for the Future” has also uniquely captured the imagination of people concerned about climate change. That may be because, while Robinson’s cataclysm is clearly fiction and an extreme weather event beyond anything we have seen in modern history, the scale and frequency of extreme weather disasters makes an unprecedented extreme event feel possible one day.

After the book published, Robinson says he faced criticism in India, with some calling it “disaster porn”

and arguing he should have set it in his own country. Robinson says he believes a similar heat wave could happen in the U.S., which has recorded very high wet bulb temperatures, or a combination of air temperature and humidity, a key factor in the lethality of the book’s heat wave. However, he also wanted to explore the combined factor of a weakened electrical grid and thought northern India was a good setting because of its population density, humid sub-tropical climate and vulnerability to extreme weather.

Elisabeth von Trapp honors film & family

'Sound of Music' museum opens in Salzburg

SALZBURG, Austria, Sept 21, (AP): An Austrian museum is alive with "The Sound of Music," a first-ever venue devoted to the classic 1965 singalong movie starring Julie Andrews.

The Sound of Music Salzburg museum, situated in an Austrian city famed for music and perhaps best known as the home of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, opened Sunday.

The attendees included Elisabeth von Trapp, granddaughter of Georg and Agathe von Trapp, whose family story inspired the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical and Hollywood blockbuster. She continues to give guided tours of movie sites in Salzburg today.

"It is intimate enough so you really have a beautiful sense of the storyline of both the Sound of Music and the Trapp family singers - my relatives. I'm very proud of that," Elisabeth von Trapp said of the new museum.

Her father, Werner, was one of the original Trapp Family Singers - although moviegoers know his character by another name. "My father is depicted in the movie as Kurt; his name was Werner von Trapp. Just to set the record straight," von Trapp said.

Housed in the 17th-century Hell-



In this photo taken with a smartphone, records with the film score of the musical film "The Sound of Music" are displayed in the exhibition of the new "Sound Of Music Salzburg" museum in Salzburg, Austria, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026. (AP)

brunn Palace, where many scenes from the film were shot, the museum distinguishes the real-life story of the von Trapp family from that of the 1959 Broadway musical and later the Hollywood blockbuster.

Set against Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938, the story

centers on a governess named Maria who teaches seven children in the von Trapp family to sing and love music - before falling in love with their father and her employer, widower Georg von Trapp.

Museum officials note the real von Trapp, a submarine commander in the

Austro-Hungarian navy, was "not a strict paternalist" - as he was depicted by the film's leading man, Christopher Plummer - but "a considerate, albeit much-burdened, father."

Visitors are treated to nearly 450 objects including props and costumes from the film, cinema posters and recordings of the music. A centerpiece is the gazebo where teenagers Liesl von Trapp and her suitor Rolf sing the courtship duet "Sixteen going on Seventeen."

Fans of the film - which collected five Oscars including best picture - have long flocked to Salzburg: Several hundred thousand visit the city each year.

John and Terry Combs, a couple from Dayton, Ohio, were accompanying von Trapp on her walking tour through Salzburg.

"I love the combination of it being much about the movie, of course, but about the real von Trapp family, which I've read much about over the years," said Terry Combs. "And having met and known Elisabeth a little bit - it just brought it full circle."

The new exhibition is open daily until Nov. 1. After a brief bidding of "So long, farewell" to visitors late this year, the museum is scheduled to reopen next March.



U.S. rapper Macklemore performs on the Main Stage at the 42th Gurten-festival edition in Bern, Switzerland, Wednesday, July 16, 2025. (AP)

More than just money

Macklemore's \$1m pledge draws attention to Palestinian aid efforts

NEW YORK, Sept 21, (AP): For the Palestinian relief nonprofits behind a \$1 million pledge from rapper Macklemore, the Grammy winner's latest contributions offer more than just money.

Macklemore committed to donate his net earnings from Ed Sheeran's Loop Tour after he was dropped for making pro-Palestinian comments onstage at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium. The goal, he wrote in a Wednesday post on social media, was to "bring the conversation back to where it belongs" - the Palestinian people - after a 48-hour period that saw four supporting acts quit in solidarity and confusion over who held responsibility for the decision.

The six donation recipients included Medical Aid for Palestinians, Palestine Children's Relief Fund and UNRWA USA, the U.S. nonprofit that raises money for the U.N. agency that serves Palestinian refugees. In addition to the funding windfall, their leaders welcomed the renewed public awareness of the perilous living conditions faced by the Palestinian people they treat regularly.

"Even if you don't see bombs falling every night, the rubble is still there," said Alicia Phillips Mandaville, the acting CEO of Anera, another beneficiary. "And the traumatized children are still traumatized."

Tareq Hailat, the director of strategic engagement at Palestine Children's Relief Fund, said his phone rings "all the time" with calls from people in Gaza "bleeding and asking for help."

"There's this notion that there's a ceasefire. But it's not true. There are children dying every single day. There's our team that is constantly in danger on the ground every single day. There's people we have to feed," he said. "So to have this attention on it is incredible."

Israeli operations have killed more than 1,000 Palestinians since a fragile ceasefire took effect last October. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians struggle to get healthcare in the West Bank. Palestinians say water shortages persist. The world's leading authority on food insecurity warned in July that most Gaza families still weren't getting nearly enough to eat even as Israel allowed more aid.

The Palestinian Children's Relief Fund medically evacuates children who can't get the care they need because of crumbling healthcare infrastructure and flies outside physicians in to treat others inside Gaza.

The nonprofit will put its share of Macklemore's gift into an unrestricted fund, according to Hailat. The donation allows leaders to more fluidly direct money based on the evolving circumstances inside Gaza.

Anera - a humanitarian aid group working in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan - noted its donation also came with no requirements for how to use the money. Mandaville said that flexibility is important when "the way people live" and "the rules we work inside" change on a monthly basis.

"If there's flooding again this year like there was last year, we can deal with that. If there is an acute hunger crisis again, like there has been in the past, we can meet that," she said. "We can buy more blankets because people want their grandparents to be warm at night."

This week's gift wasn't the first time Macklemore has donated to some of the recipients.

The rapper has long advocated for the plight of Palestinians. He previously pledged the proceeds and streaming royalties from his protest anthems "Hind's Hall" and "Hind's Hall 2" to UNRWA USA.

More than \$509,000 in support has come through those royalties, according to UNRWA USA CEO Mara Kronenfeld.

"He has been contributing to saving probably hundreds of thousands of lives in Gaza through his contributions already," she said.

This latest donation is already catalyzing more gifts. Ms. Rachel, a YouTube star and music teacher, announced Thursday that she would donate \$1 million to the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund and called on others to match the gift.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft - whose Kraft Group also owns Gillette Stadium, where Sheeran is scheduled to perform later this month - said in a Wednesday Instagram post that he would match Sheeran's own \$2 million donation for aid "in the region." The post did not specify the gift's recipients.

Macklemore has said his removal was the result of an effort led by Kraft. Kraft said in a statement Monday that the decision to cancel Macklemore was a result of the rapper's recent comments "and a broader history of antisemitic rhetoric and imagery." Macklemore has asserted that criticism of the Israeli government should not be conflated with antisemitism.

Everyday donors appear to be joining efforts like Ms. Rachel's. Online progressive influencers have helped raise more than \$72,000 more for the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund.

Anera reported that the donations it received Wednesday through social media platforms were more than triple this month's daily average. The nonprofit has also gained more than 8,000 followers since Macklemore tagged its account in his post. Mandaville hopes that exposure will introduce new, younger audiences to the nonprofit's work.

"I would guess that our traditional donor does not know the lyrics to 'Thrift Shop,'" she said, referencing Macklemore's breakout 2012 hit.

UNRWA USA's Kronenfeld said the spike reflects an existing trend. Her organization has gained 203,000 donors since October 2023, she said, allowing them to send more than \$117 million.

"The contributions keep coming in because Americans care," she said. "It will increase that much more with Macklemore's extremely humane gesture."

Stage

Training turns talent into paid work

Joburg circus puts township youth in spotlight

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 21, (AP): Clutching an aerial hoop on a Johannesburg circus stage, a young performer pauses for a split second before launching into the air and gliding, drawing cheers from the crowd below.

For 29-year-old Brian Ngobese, who grew up in South Africa's impoverished Alexandra township, moments like this mean more than applause. The circus has given him a stage, a livelihood, and a way to turn his talent into work.

"We just want to show people that we can make it out of the township," Ngobese told The Associated Press. "What you want to accomplish, you can actually make it."

Behind the colorful spectacle is a social program that helps performers from under-resourced communities turn talent into opportunity and paid work.

Alexandra is one of Johannesburg's most densely populated townships, marked by high poverty and unemployment despite being just a few kilometers from Sandton, a major financial district dubbed the "richest square mile in Africa."

For many young South Africans, missing out on training opportunities often means spending years on the fringes of the labor market. Many tend to stay unemployed rather than move into informal work, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said.

Michelle Fok, an organizer of the social program, says the goal is to create pathways into professional circus to help jobless young people. Unemployment among 18 to 34-year-old South Africans was about 45% in 2025, according to Statistics South Africa.

"There's so much talent and so much skill in this country. We just need a platform to launch," she said.

Performers train for years to build the strength, flexibility and discipline needed to work professionally. Some become instructors, while others take paid work with production companies or The Cirk, a profession-



Circus performer Brian Ngobese performs in The Cirk's "Worlds Away" show in Johannesburg, Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. (AP)

al Johannesburg circus company.

The program is designed to sustain itself through training, performances and other circus work rather than relying entirely on outside funding.

Fok said South African performers bring a distinctive rhythm and flow to circus, shaped by the country's mix of cultures and backgrounds.

Ngobese's older brother first introduced him to South African street and social dancing. He later moved into contemporary, hip-hop and other styles, building on a love of performing that began in childhood.

He found circus almost by accident after auditioning as a dancer for a Joburg Theatre production in 2019. What began as a short job became a career when The Cirk invited him to stay and train.

Ngobese received support for training and transportation through Jozi Circus School's youth development program. The school partners with The Cirk, where he now works.

"Cirk was like an adventure," he recalled. "When I saw people flying, I was like, 'Is this what they're doing here?' Okay, this is life. I'm like,

'Let's go for it.'"

Years later, Ngobese would quickly mend a tear in his costume, his eyes streaked with red and yellow makeup, as he prepared to go on stage. The animal-free circus show blends choreography with gravity-defying acrobatics on silks and hoops. Ngobese plays a "little star" journeying through oceans, fantastical lands, and fiery fortresses in search of what will make him shine.

The role reflects Ngobese's own journey into a world he had never imagined for himself.

Circus also brought Ngobese together with Zenzele Letsoela, a fellow dancer from Alexandra.

"I'm grateful to Cirk for bringing me another brother I didn't know I actually needed in my life," Ngobese said.

Together, they combined dance with circus skills and began attracting attention beyond the school. "People were like, 'Where are those guys? We want those guys. We want to see more,'" he said.

Letsoela, 38, trained in ballet and pantsula, a fast-paced South African

township dance style. Moving into aerial acrobatics brought an unexpected challenge: he is terrified of heights.

"I wouldn't say I've learned to overcome my fear of heights, but I've learned to work around it," he said.

Hoisted about two meters above the stage as a magical tree, Letsoela stays in character despite the nerves.

"People don't see that I'm actually nervous going into the air. I look very comfortable," he said. "And I'm like, if only you guys knew, I am dying inside."

Megan Nielsen, 22, sprays her hair with water and conditioner, braids it into a tight bun, clips a carabiner into the knot, and attaches herself to a five-meter rope.

She lifts off the ground, swinging into a dizzying routine, her full weight suspended by her hair as she moves through a pencil spin, an arabesque, and a pike pose.

"When you start, you literally cry," Nielsen said. "It's not even because of the pain; it's because of how much tension it releases afterward."

Her mother is proud - but refuses to watch.

But the program cannot accommodate everyone who wants to join. It can only fully support four participants a year, Fok said.

"You only have a certain number of slots," Fok said. "You have to turn people away."

Co-founder Orlando Vargas said the program grew out of a need to develop performers in a country with relatively few opportunities for formal circus training.

"If you want to do something for the continent, for the world, it's from Johannesburg," Vargas said. "I really believe it's from here."

On stage, that ambition was embodied in one little star.

By the end of the show, Ngobese, glittering in gold as the little star who has finally found where he belongs, was back in the air - hanging from an aerial silk by one arm as gasps gave way to more cheers.

UNESCO says ancient ruins lie beneath Tyre's coast

Tyre's underwater ruins draw divers to Lebanon's ancient city



People visiting Roman-era columns stand at an archaeological site in the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026. (AP)



Manager of the Lebanon Diving Center, Youssef Jundi, takes video of pieces of ancient pottery at an archaeological site near the coast in the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026. (AP)



Roman-era columns stand at an archaeological site in the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026. (AP)

TYRE, Lebanon, Sept 21, (AP): Beneath the Mediterranean waters off the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, divers swim past stone walls, ancient structures and a submerged road - remnants of parts of a city that once stood above the water.

With a shaky ceasefire in place after the latest Israel-Hezbollah war, visitors are returning to Tyre, a city known for its Roman ruins and its much older Phoenician history. Diving operators say interest in the underwater archaeological sites is increasing, though the number of visitors remains below prewar levels.

"The diving season is not like it used to be before, but the number of people coming to dive to see the ruins is increasing day by day," said Youssef al-Jundi, manager of the Lebanon Diving Center.

The remains underwater are part of Tyre's wider archaeological landscape. UNESCO says substantial archaeological remains of the ancient city are submerged, while underwater archaeological research has documented walls, harbor structures and other remains along the former island and coastline.

"This is the identity of this city, which tells us how old this city is and what its history is," al-Jundi said. He said the underwater sites attract divers from around the world who want to see what is commonly described as Tyre's "sunken city."

Tyre was one of the major Phoenician maritime cities of antiquity, with trading networks that extended across the Mediterranean. The city was also famous for its purple dye and later became an important Greek and Roman

center. Its archaeological remains were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1984.

The war raised concerns over the preservation of those remains, both on land and underwater.

"We were worried about the archaeological sites on land, which were affected by the war and the strikes, but at the same time we were also worried about the archaeological sites underwater, but thank God they were not affected," al-Jundi said.

Before the ceasefire in late June, Tyre came under intense Israeli airstrikes, with neighborhoods in the coastal city heavily damaged during the fighting. UNESCO's World Heritage Committee placed Tyre on its List of World Heritage in Danger in July 2026, citing the threat and damage caused by the ongoing hostilities.

Ali Badawi of Lebanon's Directorate General of Antiquities said protecting the underwater sites remains a challenge.

"They're not very well protected," Badawi said, adding that "encroachments" sometimes happen. "But we are trying very hard through surveys and research that we're conducting, and we're trying to develop laws to ensure their safety in the future."

Badawi said the authorities also want to expand research and investment in underwater tourism, including the creation of underwater archaeological parks that would allow more visitors to see the sites.

The effort comes as Tyre seeks to rebuild its tourism sector after the war, while preserving archaeological remains that reflect thousands of years of the city's history.

Dr. Al-Sabah stresses need to regularly test readiness, train teams in emergency response

Kuwait advances health sector with robotic and remote surgery

KUWAIT, Sept 21, (KUNA): Kuwait’s healthcare system has witnessed significant advances in recent years through the integration of modern and smart technologies, particularly robotic and remote surgery.

Robotic surgery uses advanced control platforms that allow surgeons to perform highly precise procedures while providing high-definition, three-dimensional views of internal tissues.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah told KUNA that developing surgical services depends on sustainable national capabilities combining medical expertise, quality equipment and safe practices.

He stressed that medical progress should be measured by its contribution to healthcare quality and patients’ lives.

He said robotic surgery is currently performed across several specialties at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, Farwaniya, New Jahra, Chest Diseases and Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Urology centers.

At Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, the robotic surgery program began in 2019 and expanded across several specialties, reaching 1,145 procedures by Sept 4, 2026.

The procedures covered urology, bariatric surgery, upper gastrointestinal surgery, hernia repair, colorectal and liver surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, and ear, nose and throat surgery.

The hospital’s orthopedic surgery department began robot-assisted procedures in January 2024, with more than 115 cases performed using the technology.

At New Jahra Hospital, the robotic surgery program began with its first procedure on April 27, 2025, reaching 155 operations by Sept 6, 2026.

One hundred procedures were completed within six months of launching the program, reflecting growing expertise and coordination between surgical and nursing teams.

At Chest Diseases Hospital, robotic technology has been used in



Expanding the integration of modern and smart technologies into the medical sector has contributed to the modernization of healthcare.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah.



Healthcare system in the State of Kuwait is achieving a progressive, qualitative leap.

thoracic and cardiac surgery, with 30 thoracic and 25 cardiac procedures performed.

Al-Sabah said the technology can enhance visualization, instrument control and precision, and may enable less-invasive procedures for suitable cases.

He noted that assessing its impact on hospital stays and recovery requires monitoring outcomes by procedure and patient condition against alternatives using clear scientific indicators.

“Technology selection should be based on the patient’s interests, supported by documented and reviewed outcomes,” he said.

The Ministry of Health has also expanded its experience into remote surgery, enabling specialized expertise to reach patients through connections between locations inside and outside Kuwait.

The Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Urology Center began remote robotic surgery on Dec 20, 2024, performing 15 successful procedures, including 12 international and three domestic operations.

The international procedures included eight conducted remotely from

Shanghai, China, two from Strasbourg, France, and one each from Muscat, Oman, and Padua, Italy.

Patients remained at the center in Kuwait under the direct care of the medical team present alongside them.

Among the documented cases was a radical prostatectomy led by a Kuwaiti surgeon from Strasbourg for a patient in Kuwait, broadcast during an international conference in July 2025.

The procedure demonstrated national expertise while facilitating knowledge exchange on remote surgery applications.

Al-Sabah said these experiences demonstrate the ability of national medical teams to use advanced connectivity to provide specialized surgical services while maintaining direct patient care.

Cross-border cooperation also involved Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital and Scola Center at Cruz Vermelha Hospital in Brazil.

A Kuwaiti medical team performed surgery on a patient in Brazil, an achievement documented by Guinness World Records on Sept 23, 2025, over a distance of 12,034.92 kilometers.

The cooperation also included a procedure performed by a Brazilian team on a patient in Kuwait, demonstrating reciprocal cross-border surgical collaboration.

Domestically, the gynecologic oncology unit at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital and the obstetrics and gynecology department at Jahra Hospital conducted three remote procedures for uterine cancer patients in October 2025.

In November 2025, Farwaniya Hospital’s surgery department cooperated with Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Urology Center to treat a patient requiring gallbladder and left kidney removal.

The gallbladder procedure was performed remotely from Farwaniya Hospital while the patient remained at the center, followed by kidney surgery by the center’s urology team.

Al-Sabah said a surgeon from Farwaniya Hospital remained beside the patient to intervene if necessary, stressing the importance of clearly defined roles, emergency preparedness and team coordination.

He described these achievements as the result of collective efforts and stressed the need for continuous

training, scientific evaluation and stronger institutional cooperation.

He said developing robotic surgery requires greater integration between healthcare services and digital infrastructure, while ensuring reliable connectivity, data protection and sustainable system operation.

Investment assessments should cover equipment, training, maintenance and supporting infrastructure, with resources directed according to clinical needs, utilization efficiency and outcomes.

Regarding regulation, he stressed the importance of clear requirements for training, professional responsibility and informed consent, particularly in cross-border surgery.

He said continuous regulatory development is essential to protect patients’ rights and define the responsibilities of participating parties.

Al-Sabah also emphasized progressive training, simulation, skills assessment and knowledge exchange involving surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and technical teams.

Regarding equipment failures or communication disruptions, he said remote surgery programs should have clear emergency plans, quali-

fied personnel beside the patient and the ability to switch to appropriate alternatives.

He stressed the need to regularly test readiness and train teams in emergency response.

Patient confidence, he said, begins with clearly explaining the surgeon’s role and control of the robotic system, as well as the benefits, risks and alternatives.

He added that patients should receive clear information about the surgeon’s location and responsible care team, while their privacy and experiences must be respected.

Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait’s ambition to establish national medical capabilities combining science, expertise and responsibility, while using technology and cooperation to serve patients.

He said the continued development of robotic surgery is supported by a strategic vision focused on investing in national medical personnel and training them to international standards.

Through expanding remote surgical applications, Kuwait seeks to strengthen its position as a regional center for advanced medical services.



Prenatal check-ups, no place to pump: Navigating pregnancy and postpartum needs at work

NEW YORK, Sept 21, (AP): The ambulance dispatch station where Heydi Fernandez waited for calls as an emergency medical technician didn’t have a private place to pump breast milk when she returned to work three months after giving birth to her son.

So she expressed her milk sitting at a dining table when none of her colleagues were eating meals there.

One day, the CEO of the private ambulance company she worked for paid a surprise visit to the station and introduced himself to Fernandez while she was pumping.

“This is his first impression of me, and I was in a panic,” Fernandez said, recalling how she told the CEO she could not shake his hand because hers probably had milk on it. She worried the awkward exchange might have career consequences. “Am I going to get fired? Or is this going to impact my future here if I move up within the company?” she thought.

Many women encounter discrimination during pregnancy and after

childbirth, despite state and federal laws designed to protect them. As a result, pregnant and postpartum workers often worry about how hiring managers or employers will view them if they disclose a pregnancy or request job modifications as new mothers.

“Their employer is required to provide them accommodations, if those are available, and see if there’s a different job that they can do while they’re pregnant,” said Courtney Shegerian, co-founder of Shegerian Conniff, a Los Angeles law firm that represents workers alleging pregnancy discrimination and breastfeeding rights violations. “That oftentimes is seen by the employer as a big inconvenience, as something that they just don’t want to deal with.”

These are suggestions from legal experts and workers for ensuring pregnancy-related employment needs are respected before and after a baby is born.

Under a U.S. law that took effect

in 2023, employers with at least 15 workers are required to make reasonable health and safety accommodations so employees who are pregnant or have recently given birth can remain in their jobs.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act entitles women to seek a wide range of changes at work, including help with physically demanding tasks like lifting heavy objects, flexible scheduling to attend medical appointments and reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals, according to guidance published by A Better Balance, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that promotes gender and racial equality in workplace policies.

The law also protects those who are trying to get pregnant through in vitro fertilization and pregnant workers with medical conditions such as severe nausea and vomiting. A Better Balance President Inimai Chettiar said. Some religious employers were exempted in federal court from the re-

quirement to accommodate workers’ fertility treatments.

For nursing mothers, the law guarantees breaks and a private space other than a bathroom for lactation needs.

“Your employer cannot force you on leave or retaliate against you for requesting accommodation,” Chettiar said. “And the employer has to prove that it would be an undue hardship for them to deny the accommodation, and that’s a really high legal standard. They have to prove it would cause them significant difficulty or expense.”

Deciding when to tell a manager or a potential employer about a pregnancy is one of the first considerations for most women.

“The sad reality is that pregnant workers still need to tread really carefully, and in our experience pregnancy discrimination is still insidious and rampant,” Chettiar said. “But I want to also emphasize that you do have rights as a pregnant worker.”

How Africa’s biggest cities grappling with mounting waste, shrinking space

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 21, (AP): Two men sit on top of a hill at the end of a narrow road in Johannesburg’s industrial suburb of Kya Sands. But the hill is no natural feature - it is a mountain of illegally dumped trash, piled so high it now swallows the road beyond.

“When I started as a ward councillor in 2021, this mountain was very small. I could even drive my vehicle down this road,” municipal councillor Devon Steenkamp told The Associated Press. “It’s now quite a high, big mountain; there are always constant fumes.”

The mound is only the edge of a dumpsite that mushroomed after the municipal landfill reached capacity and closed in 2010. Adjacent to it, waves of waste spread across a valley as smoke rises and trucks unload more trash.

Johannesburg’s mounting waste problem reflects a broader challenge across Africa. Rapidly growing cities, including Lagos, Dakar, and Accra, are generating waste far faster than many municipalities can collect, recycle, or safely dispose of it.

Africa’s urban population is projected to double by 2050 to 1.4 billion people, according to a joint report last year by the OECD, African Development Bank, Cities Alliance and United Cities and Local Governments of Africa.

The United Nations Environment Program estimates that more than 90% of waste generated in Africa is disposed of at uncontrolled dumpsites and landfills, often with associated open burning. The World Bank projects that waste generation in sub-Saharan Africa will increase by 124% between now and 2050 - the fastest growth of any region.

In Johannesburg’s densely populated Alexandra township, goats forage through piles of household waste as residents navigate sidewalks strewn with plastic, food scraps, and construction debris.

Local resident Linda Makole, 75, is especially concerned about children, many of whom live in one-room homes and rely on sidewalks and a few parks for space to play.

“Small children can’t possibly be healthy living in this environment,” Makole told the AP. “Weekly, my landlord takes all his tenants’ garbage in a van and goes to dispose of it,” she said. “I don’t know where he dumps it.”

Pikitung, the city’s waste company, has identified more than 2,000 illegal dumping hot spots and allocated 115 million rand (\$6.4 million) in 2025/26 to tackle the problem.

Some residents said their gar-

bage went uncollected for up to four weeks. The Johannesburg Crisis Alliance has blamed the disruptions on labor disputes, financial constraints, and an aging fleet.

Unreliable waste collection has driven demand for informal waste haulers.

“If the municipality is not collecting the general waste, then of course people are going to phone anybody with a truck to come and collect,” said Carmen Jordaan, who co-runs Whole Earth Recycling.

Jordaan said that legal disposal required registration and landfill fees, prompting some informal haulers to dump waste illegally in areas like Kya Sands.

Bryce McCall, a former South African equestrian show jumper, has watched a separate dumpsite sprawl alongside his home, where he runs a stables and beekeeping business.



Workers sort recyclable items in a pile of garbage at the Whole Earth Recycling in Johannesburg, South Africa on July 28. (AP)



A Lijian-1 Y18 carrier rocket carrying nine satellites blasts off from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in northwest China on Sept 20. (Xinhua)

China launches new group of satellites

China successfully launched nine satellites into space from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in northwest China at 12:03 p.m. Sunday (Beijing Time).

The satellites were carried by a Lijian-1 Y18 carrier rocket and have entered their planned orbits.

They will mainly be used for space environment monitoring, disaster prevention and mitigation and scientific experiments.

The launch mission was a complete success.

This was the 17th flight mission conducted by the Lijian carrier rocket series, which were devel-

oped by commercial spaceflight company CAS Space. The Lijian series have so far successfully sent one spacecraft and 121 satellites into space, with a total payload mass in orbit exceeding 21 tonnes, according to the company.

The launch schedule for Lijian-1 carrier rocket has been set through the second half of 2027.

CAS Space is China’s commercial space company that has launched the largest number of satellites and the heaviest payloads in the country’s private space sector, the Science and Technology Daily reported Sunday. (Xinhua)

Al-Tamouh Club riders sweep Category C podium

Kuwait dominates Special Olympics equestrian events in Cairo



Kuwait sweeps the podium in equestrian at the Special Olympics Cairo 2026.



Members of Kuwait's equestrian team celebrate with officials following their achievement at the concluded 10th Special Olympics Middle East and North Africa Regional Games in Cairo.

CAIRO, Sept 21: Kuwaiti riders from Al-Tamouh Club for Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities swept the top three places in the Category C English riding competition at the 10th Special Olympics Middle East and North Africa Regional Games in Cairo.

Nawaf Al-Qassar claimed first place, followed by Maryam Theyab in

second and Abdullah Al-Ali in third, deputy head of the Kuwaiti delegation Sadiqa Al-Ansari told KUNA.

Basma Al-Bsaily also competed in the show jumping event and received a participation ribbon after her horse failed to clear three courses.

Al-Ansari expressed hope that the Kuwaiti delegation would achieve further positive results in the Games. She also thanked the Government of Kuwait, the Kuwait Embassy in Egypt, the Public Authority for Sport, parents and supporters of sports programs for their support of the athletes and their participation in the event.

Spaun claims BMW PGA title, Bridgeman wins in Asheville

Johnson wins 6th Pure Insurance trophy

VIRGINIA WATER, England, Sept 21, (AP): J.J. Spaun responded to his disappointment of being left off the U.S. Presidents Cup team by winning the BMW PGA Championship on Sunday, making four birdies on the last five holes for a 5-under 67 and a two-shot victory in his debut at the European tour's flagship event.

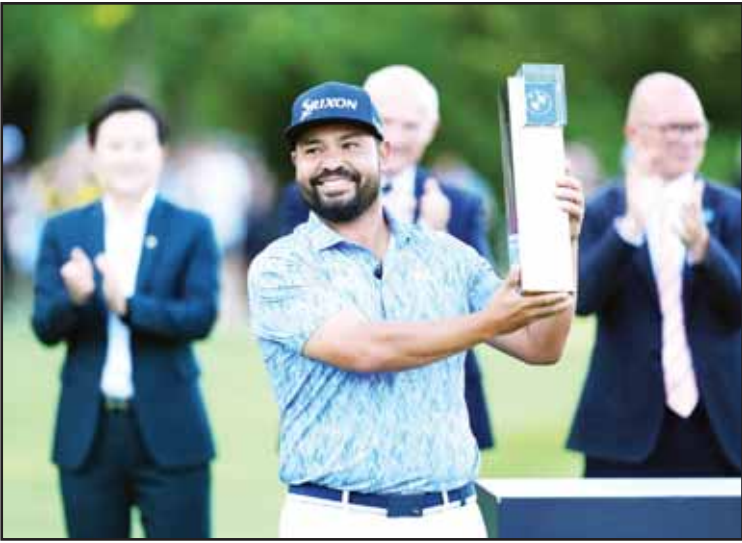
Spaun, the U.S. Open champion last year at Oakmont, made it three Americans winning at Wentworth in the last six years. It was his second victory of the year.

As well as he finished, Spaun needed plenty of help from Manuel Elvira.

Jacob Bridgeman rallied from a five-shot deficit with the lowest round of his young PGA Tour career, a 10-under 61 that carried him to a two-shot victory in the Biltmore Championship Asheville.

His victory came several hours after J.J. Spaun won the BMW PGA Championship on the European tour, making a statement that perhaps he deserved consideration as a Presidents Cup pick for the U.S. team. Bridgeman's victory was a reminder why he was one of the U.S. picks for the event next week outside Chicago.

Zach Johnson won the Pure Insurance Championship on Sunday at



J. J. Spaun of United States lifts the trophy after winning the PGA Championship at Wentworth Golf Club in Virginia Water, England. (AP)

foggy Pebble Beach for his second straight PGA Tour Champions victory and the sixth in his first season on the 50-and-over circuit.

Johnson broke a tie with Stewart Cink for the tour victory lead, closing with a 7-under 65 for a two-stroke victory over former LIV player Henrik Stenson, Steven Alker and early starter Rory Sabbatini. Johnson, the Sanford International winner last week in South Dakota, had a 14-under 202 total.

Sandy Scott of Scotland rallied from a four-shot deficit with a 6-under 65 for a one-shot victory over John Marshall Butler in the Nation-

wide Children's Hospital Championship on Sunday.

The victory moved Scott to No. 2 on the Korn Ferry Tour points list and assured he will be among the top 20 players who earn PGA Tour cards for the 2027 season.

Charlie Crockett of England won the ATB Classic in Edmonton, Alberta, for his first PGA Tour Americas title. He closed with a 4-under 66 to finish at 18 under - two strokes ahead of three players in the regular-season finale. The top 60 players on the points list qualified for the season-ending Dominican Republic Tour Championship. The final top

10 players will earn Korn Ferry Tour membership next year.

Kary Hollenbaugh won the Epson Tour's Murphy USA El Dorado Shootout in Arkansas for his first tour title, beating Kate Smith-Stroh with an eagle on the second hole of a playoff. Juniper Jang dropped out on the first extra hole.

Pavit Tangkamolprasert holed a 4-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot victory over defending champion Kazuki Higa in the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship on the Asian Tour.

Hirotaro Naito closed with a 6-under 66 for a five-shot victory in the ANA Open on the Japan Golf Tour.

Charlotte Health held on for a two-shot victory in the La Sella Open with a 1-over 73 in the final round of La Sella Open in Spain on the Ladies European Tour.

Sebastian Friedrichsen closed with a 9-under 62 for a three-shot victory in the Portugal Open on Europe's Challenge Tour.

Johan Edfors rallied from four shots behind with an 8-under 64 to win the European Legends Cup in Spain on the Legends Tour.

Shuri Sakuma won for the third time this year on the Japan LPGA when she closed with a 6-under 66 and defeated Sora Kamiya in a playoff at the Sumitomo Life Vitality Ladies Tokai Classic.

Minsun7 Kim shot 4-under 68 to win the Hana Financial Group Championship on the Korea LPGA.

Ogwumike joins 8,000-point WNBA club

Lynx closes in on top seed after Sun win

UNCASVILLE, Conn., Sept 21, (AP): Napheesa Collier scored 23 points, Olivia Miles added 21 and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Connecticut Sun 101-89 to get closer to clinching the top seed in the WNBA playoffs.

The Lynx (32-10) moved within one win or Golden State loss from earning home-court advantage throughout the postseason. Minnesota closes with a home-and-home set against Indiana.

A big reason for the Lynx's success this season has been the play of Miles. She broke the WNBA rookie record for points in a season that was held by Caitlin Clark. Miles got her 770th point on a free throw with 9:31 left in the second quarter. Clark finished with 769 points for Indiana in 2024.

The Lynx, who had lost three straight games, jumped out to an 11-2 lead in the first 3:30 as Collier had the game's first four points. Courtney Williams, who starred for the Sun for five seasons, had five points during the opening spurt. Minnesota led 27-12 after the first quarter, when Collier had 10 points.

Collier helped extend the advantage to 45-26 on a layup with 3:44

left in the half before the Sun used a 15-4 spurt to get within eight. Collier had a 3-point play with 25.2 seconds left to restore the double-digit advantage.

Sparks 105, Fire 84

In Los Angeles, Nneka Ogumike had 20 points, 12 rebounds and five assists to help the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Portland Fire.

Ogwumike became the fourth player in WNBA history to reach 8,000 points, joining Diana Taurasi (10,646), Tina Charles (8,396) and DeWanna Bonner (8,217). The 2016 WNBA MVP has 8,013 points and her 18 double-doubles are the most she's had in a season.

Los Angeles native Lisa Leslie was honored with the unveiling of her statue outside Crypto.com Arena and a halftime ceremony. Leslie, a three-time WNBA MVP, played for the Sparks from 1999-2007, helped the team to back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2015.

Aces 98, Storm 77

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson scored 30 points and to help the Las Vegas Aces beat the Seattle Storm.

The four-time WNBA MVP made 16 of 18 free throws and had her 49th career 30-point game, second-most in history (Diana Taurasi, 54).

The Aces (29-13) have won five in a row and have a one-game lead over Atlanta for third place. The top four teams earn home-court advantage in the best-of-three first round of the playoffs.

Mystics 93, Fever 77

In Indianapolis, Kiki Iriafen scored 21 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to help the Washington Mystics beat Indiana and pull within a game of the fifth-place Fever.

Shakira Austin added 20 points with 10 boards for the Mystics (26-16), who are one of three teams just a game behind Indiana (27-15) with two regular-season games remaining. The Fever finish with a home-and-home series on Tuesday and Thursday against the Minnesota Lynx, owners of the WNBA's best record at 32-10.

Sonia Citron scored 16 points and just missed a double-double with nine assists. Georgia Amore had 11 points with three 3-pointers.

The Mystics jumped out to a 34-19 lead at the end of the first quarter. They led by as many as 26 before

closing the half with a 51-30 advantage. Washington was up 77-61 entering the fourth and never were threatened.

Liberty 106, Tempo 69

In Toronto, Breanna Stewart scored 27 points to help the New York Liberty rout the Toronto Tempo and stay in the hunt for homecourt in the opening round of the playoffs.

New York (26-16) could finish anywhere from fourth to eighth in the playoff standings with two games remaining. The Liberty host Atlanta on Monday and Wednesday.

Stewart moved into eighth place in the WNBA's all-time scoring list, passing Cappie Pondexter's 6,811 points. She had six points in the first five minutes to move up on the career list. Stewart scored 24 to pass her former Seattle Storm teammate Sue Bird (6,803) in the Liberty's 93-81 road victory over the first-place Minnesota Lynx on Friday.

The Liberty star, who earned MVP honors of the women's FIBA World Cup, played only 22 minutes and made 10 of 14 shots and all seven of her free throws for the Liberty. The nine-year veteran has 6,833 points - next up is Candice Dupree with 6,895.



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal, left, challenges for the ball with Sevilla's Giorgi Kochorashvili during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Sevilla and Barcelona in Seville, Spain. (AP)

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Mancini seeks to win back angry fans ahead of Nations League

MILAN, Sept 21, (AP): New Italy coach Roberto Mancini is hoping to win back the fans who are still upset with him for bolting on the national team three years ago, as he prepares for his first matches back in charge.

Mancini was reappointed in July and again tasked with revitalizing an Italy team in crisis, after the Azzurri missed out on the World Cup for a third successive time.

Mancini led Italy to the European Cham-

pionship title in 2021 but shockingly resigned as Italy coach in August 2023, taking over Saudi Arabia's national team two weeks later.

"I'm not in credit (because of the trophy) because that's in the past, it doesn't count for anything," Mancini said on Monday.

"I think that when a fan feels betrayed, he has the right to be upset, and you have to accept it. I think to win them back, we must do things well and bring the national team back

to where it belongs so things will settle."

First up for Mancini is four Nations League matches. Italy starts at home to Belgium on Friday before playing Turkey three days later, then France on Oct. 2 and Turkey again on Oct. 5.

Mancini has called up 34 players and his squad includes a mix of experienced players - some of who were part of the Euro 2020 winning run - and eight potential debutants.

Two of those experienced players have

already withdrawn from the squad, with Federico Dimarco and Bryan Cristante being replaced by Matteo Ruggeri and Samuele Ricci.

"I think it's right to have young players so we can get to know them directly, because that's the most important thing to have a very strong squad in the future," Mancini said. "So we have to be quick to understand who could be the players that could be with us for the next four years."

In partnership with the Kuwait Football Association to support Al-Azraq and enhance the fan experience

talabat is the official Platinum Sponsor of Kuwait National Football Team for the 2026–2027 Season



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Football Association, and Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait, following the signing of the sponsorship agreement.



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Football Association, and Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait, during the signing ceremony.



Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait, and Dr. Saleh Naser Al-Majroub, Secretary General of Kuwait Football Association.



Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait.



Attendees at the press conference announcing the official sponsors of the national team.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: talabat, the leading everyday app in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA), has announced its Platinum Sponsorship of the Kuwait National Football Team for the 2026–2027 season through a partnership with the Kuwait Football Association (KFA). The partnership reflects talabat's commitment to supporting Kuwaiti sports and standing behind the national team in its upcoming fixtures, while introducing new experiences and benefits that bring fans closer to the national team, widely known as "Al-Azraq".

The partnership takes on particu-

lar significance as the national team enters its next phase, with upcoming regional and continental competitions. Through the sponsorship, talabat will stand alongside the national team and the athletes representing Kuwait, while reinforcing the role of the private sector in advancing national sports and contributing to the development of Kuwaiti football. Football holds a special place within Kuwaiti society, bringing fans, families, and friends together around a shared passion. With this in mind, talabat aims to take its sponsorship beyond the pitch through initiatives, offers, and fan-focused

experiences throughout the season. Commenting on the partnership, Abdullah Al-Mansour, Director of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait, said: "We are proud to join the Kuwait National Team as a Platinum Sponsor and to stand behind the athletes who represent our country across major competitions. Football is an important part of life in Kuwait, creating moments of excitement, pride, and belonging. Through this partnership, we have an opportunity to support our national team while sharing the fans' passion for the game and being closer to them during the moments that matter most."

Al-Mansour added: "We want this sponsorship to go beyond talabat's presence on matchdays and translate into initiatives and experiences that give fans new ways to engage and connect with the national team." Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Football Association, said: "We are delighted to welcome talabat as a Platinum Sponsor of the national team and value the contribution of leading private sector companies in supporting and developing Kuwaiti football. Partnerships such as this play an important role in supporting

the Association's efforts to create the right environment for the national team and its athletes, while strengthening the presence of Kuwaiti football at the regional and international levels." Through its Platinum Sponsorship, talabat Kuwait is providing comprehensive support to the national team, while working to create a more engaging experience for fans. talabat customers will benefit from dedicated in-app campaigns and exclusive matchday offers, alongside a range of community activations that provide new ways to engage with football and cheer on the national

team. The sponsorship builds on talabat's approach to developing partnerships that connect with the interests of the communities it serves. Sports, and football in particular, provide a platform that brings together different segments of society and strengthens a shared sense of participation and belonging. Through its partnership with the Kuwait Football Association, talabat aims to combine its support for the national team with tangible value for its fans, while being present alongside them throughout the 2026–2027 sporting season.



The team celebrates on the podium.

Kuwaiti jiu-jitsu team wins five Asian gold medals

ABU DHABI, Sept 21: The Gracie Barra Al-Ahmadi team added another achievement to Kuwait's sporting record by winning five gold medals at the Asian Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The championship, which recently concluded, brought together more than 2,000 male and female athletes from various countries around the world. Kuwaiti fighters Mishari Al-Obaid, Nawaf Al-Bahdali, Abdullah Al-Asfour, Obaid Al-Rafidi and Abdullah Al-Rafidi each claimed first place

and gold in their respective age categories after strong competition from athletes representing several countries. The team's success came under the supervision of national coaches Abdullah Salim and Nasser Abdulkarim, who worked extensively to prepare the athletes physically, technically, and mentally for the continental event. Their efforts were reflected in the athletes' strong technical performances and fighting spirit throughout the championship.

Kuwait ice hockey league opens new season, Stars top Warriors

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 21: The 2026-27 Kuwait National Ice Hockey League for men got underway the day before yesterday with six local teams competing in the tournament, organized by the Kuwait Winter Games Club at its rink in Bayan. The league will continue until May. Stars, last season's runners-up, opened their campaign with a 12-9 victory over defending champions Warriors. The league features six teams — Stars, Warriors, Mushahads, Camels, Ice Stars and Falcon — with two matches scheduled each week until the end of the season.



Players vie for the puck.

KUNA photo

Kuwait Winter Games Club President Fahad Al-Ajmi told KUNA that the league marks the start of the new season, which will also feature tournaments across the various sports overseen by the club for men and women in different age groups. Al-Ajmi said the league has attracted a larger number of professional players this season, allowing Kuwaiti players to gain valuable experience and improve their level. He added that the experience would benefit the national team as it prepares for the Division IV World Championship, which Kuwait will host next March.

Best of the Rest

Juventus condemns fans: Juventus has strongly criticized its own supporters who disturbed a minute's silence in honor of former Italy and Inter Milan star Sandro Mazzola. The tribute was being held at all Serie A matches over the weekend after Mazzola, widely considered one of Italy's greatest ever players, died on Friday. He was 83. The minute's silence was interrupted in Turin, ahead of Sunday's match against Atalanta, as a section of Juventus fans turned their backs on the field and chanted songs about their own club legends instead. Inter and Juventus are fierce rivals. The chants were drowned out by applause from other supporters in the stadium - both home and away fans. (AP)

Switzerland captain admits error: Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka acknowledged errors Monday and withdrew from the national team squad after facing scrutiny for allegedly using fake documents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 33-year-old Xhaka is suspected of getting a fake vaccination certificate years ago from a doctor under investigation by prosecutors in Lucerne, Swiss media reported at the weekend. "It was a mistake. I am sorry," Xhaka said Monday in a post on his Instagram account, adding he will cooperate with authorities. Switzerland's most capped player, with 152 games for the national team, will not join the squad ahead of four games in the Nations League. (AP)

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NEWS



Yu Zidi of China competes in the women's 200-meter individual medley final in swimming at the Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan. (AP)

Sports

Al-Mousawi wins karate bronze for Kuwait

Zidi claims second gold medal in pool

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 21, (Agencies): Kuwait added another medal to its tally at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games after Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi won bronze in the individual kata event.

The medal takes Kuwait's total to three at the Games, following Abdullah Shaaban's gold in the men's under-60kg kumite and the bronze secured by Basel Ahmed and Abdulwahab Al-Qattan in teqball doubles.

Al-Mousawi expressed his pride at winning the bronze, describing it as a valuable achievement in his career after a series of tough preliminary contests, including a bout against Japanese world No. 1 Kakeru Nishiyama.

He said the medal was a positive



Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi kisses his bronze on the podium.

start for Kuwait in the kata events, with the focus now shifting to the team kata competition on September 23.

Kuwait's shooters also began their skeet qualifying campaign. Abdullah Al-Rashidi hit 48 of 50 targets, Mohammed Al-Daihani 47 and Mohammed Al-Awad 45 in the men's event. Among the women, Fatima Al-Zaabi hit 46 targets, Eman Al-Shammaa 43 and Afrah Al-Mohammad 39.

In swimming, Khaled Al-Otaibi set a new Kuwaiti record in the 200m individual medley with a time of 2:07.14.

In karate, Esrar Al-Jassem will compete in the women's under-55kg kumite round of 16 at 6:40 am, followed by Omar Al-Janai in the men's under-75kg kumite round of 16 at 8:25 am.

Yu Zidi, the 13-year-old Chinese swimmer, on Monday won her second gold medal at the Asian Games as she points to much larger things at the Los Angeles Olympics in two years and a showdown with Canadian Summer McIntosh.

That head-to-head could come even earlier in next year's swimming world championships in Budapest, Hungary.

Yu took the 200-meter individual medley in 2 minutes, 6.10 seconds in the Tokyo Olympic pool. That is just off the world record of 2:05.70 held by McIntosh. Yu also won the 200 butterfly on Sunday, and she'll swim the 400 IM later in the week.

She said winning never gets old. "I felt the same. I'm just as excited today," Yu said. "The result reflects all the hard work I've put in during training with my coaching team."

She said she got many congratulatory messages after Sunday's victory, but she had to keep her focus. "I don't want to get too confident,"



Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi celebrates with members of the Kuwaiti delegation at the Asian Games

KUNA photos

she said. "I'll just keep working hard."

McIntosh won three gold medals in the Paris Olympics in 2024, all in the same races that Yu contests. McIntosh also holds the world marks in all of those events: the 200 fly (2:01.65), the 200 IM (2:05.70) and the 400 IM (4:23.65).

As a 12-year-old at the World Championships a year ago in Singapore, Yu finished fourth in her three events, and won a bronze medal in

a relay.

She made more headlines earlier this year when she defeated American Regan Smith in the 200 fly in a meet in China. Smith was the silver medalist in the event in the 2024 Olympics.

Asian Games officials said it was unclear if Yu is the youngest gold-medal winner at the event, which dates from 1951 in New Delhi, because records are incomplete.

She's not even the youngest con-

testant entered this time. That is believed to be 11-year-old Yuki Kurihara, who competes for Japan in esports.

China won six of the seven gold medals on Sunday. It was not quite as commanding on Monday, but still won gold in five of seven events. In the 100 breaststroke, China's Dong Zhihao and Shin Ohashi of Japan tied with the same first-place time (58.64).

China won 28 gold medals in

swimming in the Asian Games three years ago in Hangzhou, China, with South Korea getting six and Japan with five. It looks set to at least match that mark.

Siobhan Haughey of Hong Kong, the two-time Olympic silver medalist in the 100 and 200 free, repeated her Asian Games titles in the 200 free.

"I am very happy to win another gold medal," she said. "That's a really precious moment. Just happy to be here."

Blues face Kazakhstan

Kuwait seeks rebound from South Korea loss



Kuwait tries to break through South Korean defensive wall.

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

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 21: Kuwait's national handball team will aim to bounce back from its defeat to South Korea when it faces Kazakhstan at 9:00 am today in the third round of Group B at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in Japan.

Kuwait lost 26-23 to South Korea but produced a competitive performance, staying level with their opponents for much of the game before the Koreans pulled away in the closing minutes to secure a three-goal victory.

The Kuwait team began its campaign with a 26-24 win over Iran, but the loss to South Korea has increased the importance of today's encounter, with the teams closely matched in the group and qualification for the second round still up for grabs.

Coach Aron Kristjansson will look to rectify the mistakes made against South Korea, particularly during the crucial final stages, while demanding greater concentration and efficiency in attack and maintaining defensive discipline throughout the match.

Kuwait will be seeking a victory over Kazakhstan to restore confidence and gain momentum ahead of its final preliminary-round game against Bahrain.

Messi scores 101st goal for Inter Miami

MIAMI, Sept 21, (AP): Lionel Messi scored his 101st goal for Inter Miami, but Anders Dreyer scored twice for San Diego FC, as the teams played to a 2-2 draw.

It was Inter Miami's fourth consecutive tie in MLS play.

Dreyer gave San Diego a 1-0 lead in the 12th minute, capitalizing on a through ball from Jeppe Tverskov before chipping over goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair.

Messi answered in the 24th with his 20th league goal of the season. His free kick from the right side went untouched through the penalty area and into the far side of the net, four days after he scored his 100th goal for Inter Miami in a 2-0 win over Mexican side Cruz Azul in the Campeones Cup.

Luis Suárez put Miami ahead in the 74th minute, but Dreyer scored his second of the night eight minutes later.

Miami is now 12-4-10 with 46 points.

Kuwait Consul General visits national team

Kuwait at full strength for Gulf Cup opener against Saudis

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

JEDDAH, Sept 21: Kuwait enters its Gulf Cup 27 opener against host Saudi Arabia tomorrow with a full squad after Yousif Nasser and Mohsen Falah returned to training in Jeddah.

The duo joined the team's sessions at the auxiliary pitch of King Abdullah Sports City after recovering from muscle strains. Their participation against Saudi Arabia will be determined by head coach Hélio Sousa and his technical staff.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will meet in the opening round of Group A, while Iraq and Oman face each other in the other group match.

Sousa closed yesterday's training session to the media as he focused on putting the finishing touches to his preparations. Journalists will be allowed to attend today's final training session in line with tournament regulations.

The Portuguese coach will use the session to assess the players' readiness and work on tactical details before deciding on his starting lineup and match approach.

Saudi Arabia coach Georgios Donis also closed his team's training session yesterday. Al-Ahli players Rayan Hamid, Saleh Abu Al-Shamat, Zakaria Al-Hawsawi, Ziyad Al-Jahni and Firas Al-Buraikan joined the Saudi camp after completing their club's participation in the FIFA



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Kuwait's Consul General in Jeddah and Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Yousuf Al-Tunaib, accompanied by members of the consulate, visit the Kuwait delegation at its training ground.



Kuwait holds its final training session.

Al-Matar posts Kuwait's best 100km time at Ultramarathon Worlds



Kuwaiti runner Mohammed Al-Matar raises the national flag.

AMES, Spain, Sept 21: Kuwaiti runner Mohammed Al-Matar represented Kuwait at the 2026 IAU 100km Ultramarathon World Championships, held in Ames, in Spain's A Coruña province, alongside elite ultradistance runners from around the world.

Al-Matar completed the 100km race in 9 hours and 25 minutes, recording the best time by a Kuwaiti runner over the distance and marking another milestone in his endurance-running career.

The championship featured 248 athletes from 43 countries. The race, which started at 8:30 am, was held on a relatively challenging course in Ames.

Al-Matar described his participation as an important milestone and said it would motivate him to continue improving and target better results and times in future competitions.

He also expressed hope that Kuwait's participation in international ultramarathon events would grow to include a full national team capable of competing on the international stage.

Mbappé brushes off talk of tension with Dembélé

PARIS, Sept 21, (AP): Kylian Mbappé has dismissed talks of tensions with Ousmane Dembélé as the France teammates feature among the top contenders for the men's Ballon d'Or.

With the winners to be announced at a ceremony in London on Oct. 26, clubs and players have been campaigning actively for the prestigious award.

During a recent interview with France Football, which organizes the trophy, Mbappé said he believes he can win it this year.

The Real Madrid striker also compared himself with Dembélé, who won the accolade last year. When told that 10 years ago only a few observers would have thought that Dembélé would win the Ballon d'Or before him, Mbappé replied:

"But he has always been seen as a talented player. I, on the other hand, have always been seen as the chosen one. I was at the top right away, from a very young age. He had a different journey, with injuries, but he has caught up really well!"

Mbappé's comments reportedly created tensions between the pair.