



Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel



Kuwait Crown Prince begins Switzerland visit after UNGA



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

To the Crown Prince ... thank you for your masterclass diplomacy

THE United Nations address delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah showcased the persuasive power and diplomatic finesse of a veteran statesman.

His speech provided a comprehensive blueprint for advancing global peace and stability.

He focused on confronting difficult challenges head-on, while highlighting the Iranian aggression directed at Kuwait and the Arab Gulf region.

He also emphasized the urgent need to reform the United Nations and the Security Council.

Long-standing global inaction necessitates a stronger, more proactive international body capable of resolving perennial conflicts.

Using his mastery of international relations and conference dynamics, His Highness engaged in extensive quiet diplomacy throughout the summit.

He conducted more than 15 bilateral discussions

with world leaders and heads of international organizations, conveying the stance of Kuwait on regional and global developments.

The highlight of his diplomatic engagements was the meeting with the Iraqi Prime Minister, laying the foundation for a renewed bilateral relationship.

His Highness outlined actionable measures to achieve a lasting resolution to past disputes—issues stemming from regional interference during an era dominated by de facto militia rule in Iraq.

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:

@Ahmedaljarallah

Ahmed aljarallah

ahmed@aljarallah.com



Scan QR code to visit the website: aljarallah.com



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is welcomed at Zurich International Airport by Kuwait's Ambassador to Switzerland, Yousef Abdul-Samad.

Crown Prince Diwan photo

BERN, Sept 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived on Sunday in Bern, Switzerland, for an official visit.

His Highness the Crown Prince was received at Zurich International Airport by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Switzerland Yousef Abdul-Samad, Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Najeeb Al-Bader, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, and other members of the diplomatic mission.

Earlier, 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 left New York City after leading Kuwait delegation to the High-Level Week of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly.

He was seen off at the airport by Kuwait Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Al-Zain Sabah Al-Naser Al-Sabah and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Tareq Mohammad Al-Banai.

Four decrees revoke citizenship of eleven

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: On Sunday, the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum" published four decrees revoking Kuwaiti citizenship and canceling citizenship certificates for 11 individuals, including those who acquired citizenship through dependency, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 151/2026 ordered the cancellation of the Kuwaiti citizenship certificates of three individuals and the revocation of citizenship from anyone who acquired it through those certificate holders by dependency.

Decree No. 152/2026 ordered the cancellation of the Kuwaiti citizenship certificates of four individuals and the revocation of citizenship from anyone who acquired it through them by dependency.

Decree No. 153/2026 mandated the cancellation of the Kuwaiti citizenship certificates of three individuals and the revocation of citizenship from anyone who acquired it through the holders of those certificates by dependency.

Continued on Page 5

Court rules ministry cannot impose e-platform sanctions

Talabat case leads court to annul Article 15

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Administrative Court, presided over by Judge Mohammed Jassim Bahman, ruled to annul Article 15 of the regulations governing the electronic intermediary platforms and applications sector, which facilitates the display, ordering, and delivery of products to consumers. The regulations were attached to Ministerial Resolution

No. 109/2026, issued by the Minister of Commerce and Industry on July 8, 2026.

The ruling was issued in the lawsuit filed by Talabat, along with all associated legal consequences.

The court affirmed that the Minister of Commerce and Industry's authority to regulate services and issue decisions necessary to implement the provisions of the law does not extend to creating administrative sanctions of a punitive nature without explicit legislative authorization.

The court explained that the legislature itself had established in the law the sanctions applicable to violations of regulatory and pricing rules, as well as the authorities

competent to impose them.

Article 15 of the contested regulations established a comprehensive system of administrative sanctions, ranging from warnings, administrative closures, suspension of activities, and temporary blocking to license revocation and permanent blocking. This was deemed by the court as an overreach of the authority granted to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

The legislature had specifically regulated the issue of sanctions and allocated the authority to impose them between the judiciary and the administrative body.

Continued on Page 5

Article 7 residency changes go digital

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced on Sunday the launch of a new electronic service through the unified government e-services platform - Sahel, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Designed for individuals sponsored under Article 7-bis (personal sponsorship), the new service allows users to submit applications online to amend their residency status.

According to a statement posted on PACI's official X account, applicants can complete the process by opening the Sahel application, navigating to "Individual Services," selecting "Residency Status Amendment (Article 7 - Personal Sponsorship)," attaching the required documents, and submitting the request.



Photo by Rezk Tawfik

Ambassador Juha Mustonen, Finland's Ambassador to Qatar and non-resident Ambassador to Kuwait, confers the Order of the White Rose of Finland (Knight, First Class) on Mohammad Ali Al-Naqi for his outstanding role in advancing Kuwait-Finland political and economic relations. — See Page 11

Kuwait, Dubai power up aviation cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): Director of the Kuwaiti Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah discussed on Sunday with Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) Director General Mohammad Lengawi bilateral cooperation.

The discussion focused on strengthening ties, exchanging technical and operational expertise, and addressing issues of mutual interest, the authority said in a statement to KUNA.

Executive Director of Air Transport and International Affairs at DCAA Saud Kankazar attended the meeting.



PACA Director Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah with DCAA Director General Mohammad Lengawi.

Iraq assures Kuwait as security ties deepen

No launchpad for threats, says Baghdad

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Head of the Iraqi Security Media Cell Lieutenant General Dr. Saad Maan affirmed that the Iraqi delegation's visit to Kuwait aims to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance security and media coordination between the two nations.

The visit seeks to unify security messaging and establish direct communication channels to counter rumors and prevent misunderstandings arising from inaccurate information.

Speaking to journalists alongside Sabah Al-Nu'man, spokesperson for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and official spokesperson for the military and security establishment, Maan highlighted the core function of the Iraqi Security Media Cell in managing inter-agency coordination. He said this includes liaison among the ministries of Interior, Defense and National Security, Popular Mobilization Forces, Peshmerga, and external media outlets.

He explained that establishing links between the Iraqi Security Media Cell and its counterparts in the Kuwaiti ministries of Interior and Defense is central to achieving "joint security messaging."

He pointed out this framework facilitates swift verification and rapid clarification of any ambiguous information,

adding that a direct point of contact for public inquiries eliminates information gaps and ensures immediate responses.

Furthermore, both sides agreed to exchange expertise and visits, collaborate on security-related academic matters, and enhance overall media proficiency.

Maan emphasized that meetings with the Ministry of Interior officials, along with technical sessions involving media representatives from the Kuwaiti Ministries of Interior and Defense, are considered "genuine starting point for Iraqi-Kuwaiti security cooperation."

On regional dynamics, he stated that despite being situated in a volatile environment, Iraq is committed to avoiding conflict and preserving its achievements and relations with neighboring states, particularly Kuwait. He stressed that these ties rely not only on diplomacy but also on "soft power, shared communication environment, and commonalities" that enable the resolution of issues through direct dialogue.

Regarding reports alleging the use of Iraqi territory to target neighboring states, Maan clarified that "some attacks attributed to Iraq did not originate there." He cited the country's vast geography and the presence of over a million non-Iraqis as factors necessitating careful information verification.

Continued on Page 5

Tighter land rules reshape Kuwait real estate market

By Waleed Khaled Al-Mutairi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Real estate expert Abdulaziz Al-Dughhaishim says the Kuwaiti real estate market is currently experiencing a period of relative calm, particularly in the private residential sector.

He explained that this lull follows a period of significant price increases witnessed in recent years. Current trading activity reflects a realignment of investment positions and decisions rather than a complete stagnation of the market.

Heirs are currently among the most active sellers in the market as they seek to divest their properties.

A segment of traders and real estate speculators has withdrawn from the private residential sector following tighter regulations governing vacant land, which now require owners to develop such properties rather than leave them undeveloped.

Regarding buying opportunities, Al-Dughhaishim said, "Anyone buying residential property today is cer-

tainly a winner."

He explained that the market experienced a significant surge following the COVID-19 pandemic, rising for several years before entering its current downward correction. Consequently, a buyer who enters the market after careful study and precise calculations may find better opportunities than before.

Market activity recorded in 2026 partially aligns with Al-Dughhaishim's description of a market realignment. The value of private residential transactions reached approximately KD 426.6 million in the second quarter of the year, an 8.2 percent increase over the first quarter, while the number of transactions rose to 1,106, up 23.3 percent.

Meanwhile, the average transaction value fell to approximately KD 385.7 thousand, reflecting increased market activity alongside a decline in the average value of individual transactions.

Continued on Page 5

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait on Sunday strongly condemned the continued escalation by Israeli occupying forces in the occupied West Bank and settlers' storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque as a serious breach of international law and international humanitarian law.

In a press statement, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry renewed the country's call on the international community and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to take on their legal and moral responsibilities by taking necessary measures to stop such serious and repeated violations and protect the Palestinian people.(KUNA)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs **Badr Al Busaidi** affirmed Saturday his country's unwavering commitment to continuing efforts to safeguard navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, in accordance with the principles of international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This came in Al Busaidi's speech before the general debate of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, during which he urged all parties to cooperate with his country in its efforts to protect the rights of beneficiaries of transition routes in the Strait of Hormuz. (KUNA)



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:20
Sunrise .. 05:39
Zohr 11:39
Asr 15:04
Maghrib .. 17:38
Isha 18:55



HH the Amir



HH Prime Minister



Sheikh Fahad

Kuwait Amir receives PM, First Deputy PM, Defense Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also

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

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



Amiri Diwan photo
Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah receives Finnish Undersecretary of State for International Trade Jarno Siriala, in the presence of Finnish Ambassador to Kuwait, based in Doha, Juha Mustonen.

Amiri Diwan Minister receives Finland's global trade official

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah received Sunday Finnish Undersecretary of State for International Trade Jarno Siriala, in the presence of Finnish Ambassador to Kuwait, based in Doha, Juha Mustonen.

During the meeting, the two sides touched on bilateral ties between Ku-

wait and Finland and ways to support and develop them across various fields.

They also discussed the latest regional and international developments and exchanged views on a number of topics of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Director of the Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Office Sami Sulaiman Al-Mulla.

MoE focuses on benefit from Finnish expertise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei discussed on Sunday ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in education with a delegation from Finland, focusing on benefiting from Finnish expertise and experiences in developing the education sector.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Education said the meeting addressed several topics of mutual interest in education, as well as opportunities to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise between the two sides.

The discussions also focused on developing educational practices and benefiting from international experiences in relevant fields.

The statement underscored the importance of expanding international cooperation in education to keep pace with global developments and support efforts to advance the education sector.

The Finnish delegation included Under-Secretary of State for International Trade at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs is Jarno Syrjala; Ambassador of Finland to Qatar and non-resident Ambassador to Kuwait Juha Mustonen; Programme Director for Education Finland at the Finnish National Agency for Education Jaakko Skantsi; and is the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Finland in Doha Sara Stenroos.

Probe ordered as top job hopefuls air grievances

Minister forms panel to review test procedures

By Fares Ghalib

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, directed the formation of an urgent and impartial investigative committee to review all procedures related to the examination for supervisory positions in cooperative societies, which was held on Sunday at a private university.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Huwaila explained that the directive followed complaints and observations received by the ministry from several applicants regarding the difficulty of the examination, the conditions under which it was administered, the relevance of the questions to the study material provided, and their suitability to the nature and requirements of the supervisory positions.

The committee would review the content and topics covered in the study material in coordination with the entities responsible for its preparation, re-

view, and approval. It would also examine the criteria used to design the examination and assess whether the questions were consistent with the material announced to applicants.

The committee would assess the clarity and balance of the questions, as well as their ability to fairly and objectively measure the professional competencies required for supervisory positions within cooperative societies.

The committee's review will also cover all procedures related to the preparation, storage, and electronic handling of the examination, including identifying individuals who had access to it and assessing the extent to which confidentiality and procedural safeguards were maintained.

The committee would investigate allegations concerning the possible leakage of examination questions or unauthorized access to the exam materials before the scheduled examination time. The investigation will rely on official records, electronic correspondence, and any other relevant evidence.

Dr. Al-Huwaila affirmed that the ministry would not tolerate any violation

that could compromise the integrity of the examinations or undermine the principle of equal opportunity among applicants.

She stressed that all complaints and observations would be examined with the utmost seriousness, impartiality, and transparency.

The minister stated that appropriate measures would be taken based on the findings of the investigation, noting that the committee would submit a detailed report on its work. The report would assess the soundness of the examination procedures and the validity of the results for approval, identify any shortcomings or instances of responsibility, and set out recommendations and proposed actions based on its findings.

She emphasized the commitment to proceeding with the plan to nationalize supervisory positions in cooperative societies and to provide job opportunities for national talent based on fair and transparent criteria, in accordance with the directives of the political leadership.

Dr. Al-Huwaila further stressed that no shortcomings that could hinder the plan, delay its implementation, undermine its integrity, or compromise the principle of equal opportunity among applicants would be tolerated.

She affirmed that safeguarding the nationalization project and ensuring the integrity of its implementation procedures are top priorities that leave no room for compromise.



Dr Al-Huwaila

Geopolitical tensions fail to deter visitors

GCC countries made \$254.7 from tourism in 2025

MUSCAT, Sept 27, (KUNA): The GCC-Stat said Sunday the total direct and indirect economic value of tourism in GCC countries reached about USD 254.7 billion in 2025, compared with USD 11.7 trillion globally.

The center issued a report assessing the sector's resilience to geopolitical tensions, recovery paths and economic prospects through 2035.

It said tourism-related employment in GCC countries reached about 4.5 million jobs, compared with 371 million globally, noting the sector's contribution to GDP, employment and growth remained competitive internationally.

The GCC tourism sector made tangible progress toward the GCC Tourism Strategy 2022-2030, achieving an average 73.8 percent of its strategic targets by 2025.

The progress was driven by continued growth

in visitor numbers and tourism spending, increased GDP contribution and rising direct employment.

The report measures progress toward six key targets: inbound trips, direct travel and tourism GDP, inbound visitor spending, the sector's GDP share, domestic visitor spending and direct employment.

By 2030, the strategy targets 128.7 million visitors, direct travel and tourism GDP of USD 145.8 billion, and inbound visitor spending of USD 188 billion.

It also targets raising the sector's direct GDP contribution to 6.5 percent, increasing domestic visitor spending to USD 49 billion and direct employment to about 2.9 million jobs.

Average annual growth during 2019-2025 stood at 29.4 percent, taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the in-

dicator.

The sector's contribution to GCC GDP rose to 4.6 percent in 2025, achieving 70.8 percent of the 2030 target of 6.5 percent.

The GCC accounted for five percent of global international tourism in 2025 and 6.9 percent of global tourism revenues, reflecting the sector's growing economic impact.

Regarding international travel, GCC countries ranked among the top six Arab countries in passport strength, according to the Henley Passport Index 2026.

GCC passports recorded cumulative improvements of six to 36 places compared with 2016, as of July 16.

The GCC-Stat, headquartered in Oman, was established in 2011 as the official authority for data, information and statistics concerning GCC countries.

Other Voices

Attitude of intelligent people

By Ahmad alsarraf

RUSSIAN psychology professor Sergei Savelyev states that there are three levels of human consciousness - lower, higher, and ultimate.

The latter is characterized by

awareness, a high degree of free will, sound critical thinking, and a general lack of need for intimidation, enticement, or motivation through rewards and the threat of punishment.

However, this level of consciousness represents no more than 15 percent of humanity. The remaining individuals inevitably require religious and secular laws to restrain their inner demons.

Tertiary consciousness is characterized by free and voluntary thought, enabling individuals to adopt a conscious stance toward everything happening around them. This is because they are sufficiently intellectually developed and do not require deterrents or social laws to regulate their behavior.

By their very nature, they do not harm or wrong others because of their rationality, internal discipline, and adherence to social norms. Their lives would be disrupted if they failed to observe these principles. Therefore, most political systems insist on maintaining a hidden deterrent for the masses, contrary to what may be publicly apparent.

Those with secondary consciousness generally possess only a limited understanding of societal boundaries. However, this allows them to live relatively normal lives without constant police intervention or fear of accountability. They can be assigned various tasks and will carry them out, but they are not exceptionally talented or particularly creative.

Those with primary consciousness live simply, guided largely by instinct and biological impulses. They lack analytical depth and are not inclined toward continuous learning, self-criticism, or critical thinking. Yet they cannot be described as bad, as this is simply their nature.

Just as someone without a musical ear will never become a Mozart, the indicator of a society's level of consciousness is not its system of government, nor the number of places of worship or believers, but rather the extent to which that society actually needs institutions of deterrence, security forces, and internal security. The less a society relies on such in-

stitutions, the more advanced its level of consciousness.

A person is born and raised according to what others convince them to believe. This includes beliefs, food, and clothing. During childhood, a person has little or no choice in these matters. As they grow older, however, their minds develop, and some people become capable of making comparisons.

Thus, men with a primary level of awareness tend to compare who bought what, who married whom, and who is wealthier.

Women, on the other hand, may compare their husbands with other women's husbands. When the comparison is unfavorable to the person making it, it can affect their inner feelings. For example, someone may work honestly throughout their life and still be unable to live like a wealthy person. This can lead to cognitive dissonance and may create a desire to take from those who have more and redistribute it to others, in accordance with communist or socialist ideals.

For someone with genuine free will, however, none of the above matters. They do not care who owns the most expensive shoes. They simply wear comfortable shoes, even if they are inexpensive. This is something we can observe in the way some American billionaires dress.

As for someone who lacks free will, that is, someone with a primary level of awareness, material value becomes the sole criterion for comparison. Everything revolves around food, reproduction, dominance, and a primitive system of social interaction.

Therefore, Professor Savelyev repeatedly emphasizes that any system characterized by a discrepancy between what it states and what it conceals, or between words and actions, theory and practice, will activate the brain's limbic system.

The individual then becomes subject to hormonal pressures that influence behavior, creating a highly complex process. Some degree of control over these hormonal pressures is possible for those capable of free, deliberate thought, that is, those with tertiary consciousness.

At the level of primary consciousness, however, such control is impossible, and this may eventually lead to an explosion.

This is precisely why people with primary-level thinking have been the fuel of revolutions, while those with tertiary consciousness are the ones who ultimately rise to positions of power.

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



alsarraf

Function by embassy on Sept 30

'Retablo' folk fair to highlight culture from the Peru Andes

By Bassam Al-Qassas

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Embassy of the Republic of Peru in Kuwait is showcasing Andean culture through the 'Retablo' folk art exhibition from Ayacucho titled, "A Living Tradition from the Peruvian Andes."

The cultural initiative highlights the commitment of both countries to strengthen communication and cultural exchange through art and heritage.

The exhibition will be held at CAP Kuwait (Contemporary Art Platform) in the Design District Complex, along Street 28 in Shuwaikh Industrial Area 2. It will open on Sept 30, at 10:00 am, and will run until Oct. 6.

The 'Retablo' is one of Peru's most prominent forms of folk art. Its origins date back to the colonial period, when Spanish priests used small boxes, known as 'San Marcos boxes', to transport statues of saints during their missionary journeys in the Andes.

Over the years, artisans in Ayacucho have transformed this traditional art form. These wooden boxes evolved

from simple containers for religious icons into intricate miniature artworks that capture the essence of everyday life, portraying scenes of weddings, harvests, folk dances, religious celebrations and family gatherings.

'Retablo' pieces are meticulously handcrafted from wood and either plaster or potato paste, then vividly painted and arranged inside the box to create detailed and cohesive scenes.

The village of Quinua, about 37 kilometers from Ayacucho, is renowned for the artisans who create this remarkable art.

In 2013, the Peruvian Ministry of Culture designated the 'Retablo' as part of the national cultural heritage, recognizing its artistic value and its role in preserving Peru's folk memory and cultural identity.

The exhibition provides Kuwaitis and expatriates with an opportunity to discover an authentic aspect of Peruvian heritage, as part of the embassy's efforts to promote cultural diplomacy and build bridges of communication between Kuwait and Peru through the arts and folk heritage.

Kuwait bolsters cyber crime battle

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai signed Friday the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, reaffirming Kuwait's commitment to bolstering global cooperation against cross-border digital threats.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following the signing ceremony at UN headquarters, Ambassador Al-Banai stated that the milestone convention creates a unified international legal framework to prevent, investigate, and pro-

secute cybercrimes, while streamlining the exchange of electronic evidence in serious criminal cases.

Ambassador Al-Banai emphasized that Kuwait's endorsement underscores its steadfast commitment to international legal standards, collective security, and safeguarding national digital infrastructure against evolving criminal misuse of information and communications technologies.

The official signing took place during the 2026 UN Treaty Event held on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly.

□ □ □

Controlling sea level rise: Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Organizations Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafi emphasized the vital need to strengthen international solidarity to combat the growing challenges of sea-level rise and ensure vulnerable nations access adaptation funding and technology.

Speaking at a high-level UN meeting titled "Addressing Existential Threats Posed by Sea-Level Rise" on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly, Ambassador Marafi warned that sea-level rise is a present reality threatening community security, economic resilience, and long-term development.

diwaniya

كيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Iran anti-Kuwait hostility enters annals of history

“THE Ministry of Education has taken a significant and momentous step by documenting Iranian acts of aggression against Kuwait in the new school curricula. This initiative will help preserve the national memory for future generations, who will learn how Kuwait was subjected to repeated acts of aggression over the past six months,” columnist Sheikh Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Sabah

“In recent times, Kuwait has faced numerous acts of aggression from a neighboring country, one that, in the spirit of good faith, should have treated its neighbors in the same manner that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and Kuwait in particular, have treated it. Kuwait never sought to antagonize this neighbor, despite the many terrorist acts committed against it over the course of 47 years.

“This commendable step by the Ministry of Education supports the state’s commitment to a national identity that is deeply rooted in the consciousness of the Kuwaiti people. It aligns with the vision of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, and His Highness the Prime Minister, as it reflects an exemplary approach to preserving collective memory and strengthening Kuwait’s historical narrative. It stands alongside the memory of the brutal 1990 invasion and the devastation it inflicted upon Kuwaiti society.

“This step represents one of the pivotal moments Kuwait has experienced in the modern era, demonstrating how the nation has emerged from crises stronger and more deeply rooted in the public consciousness. It offers valuable lessons that can be built upon, adding yet another chapter to the nation’s collective memory. This approach also aligns with the vision of His Highness, who has emphasized on numerous occasions that there can be “no national unity without the consolidation of identity.” Identity remains a fundamental source of strength in confronting adversity and threats.

“To this end, His Highness stated in his speech during the last ten days of Ramadan last year, “Our homeland is a red line, and its sovereignty is safeguarded by the will of its people and the valor of its men and women. We will not permit any state to compromise its security or stability. Our national unity is our first line of defense, and our cohesion is the true guarantee for facing challenges and overcoming crises in these times.” This call serves as a guiding light upon which the foundations of the modern state are built.

“Consequently, documenting these acts of aggression in school curricula is a means of ensuring that history bears witness to what Kuwait endured during this war, a conflict that we hope will soon come to an end. Indeed, through this high-level directive, His Highness the Amir sought to clarify matters unequivocally, urging everyone to harness their energies in the service of the nation and to continue working across all fronts to strengthen national unity as a fundamental element in shaping the country’s strategic future.

“Thus, the Ministry of Education’s initiative aims to build an educational bulwark for future generations, one based on the scholarly documentation of Kuwait’s experiences, designed to fortify national resilience, and dedicated to preserving a national history that cannot be distorted by anyone.”

Also:

“Childhood friendships have a special place in our hearts because memories create a strong bond that connects people,” columnist Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“A few days ago, I met a friend who had been my classmate since kindergarten. We grew up together, the years passed, and eventually, we both reached our sixties. We met over lunch in Salalah, Oman. Within moments, we found ourselves reminiscing about a long history of memories, experiences, and thoughts.

“Although I have a social personality and enjoy maintaining relationships, especially with friends, the nature of life and its obligations sometimes creates distance between us. Each of us has our own concerns, responsibilities, and daily worries. But this does not mean that we should cut ourselves off from the people who have been part of our lives. So, when you meet an old friend, you feel as though you have won a great prize. I am convinced that each of us has a life of our own, and I am one of those people. I am not afraid of death because it is inevitable for all of us.

“Having lunch with my friend brought back memories of bygone days, memories that had been buried for decades. This meeting had a profound impact on me. When I sent a picture of my friend and me to some friends, their reactions were wonderful. We have reached this age, and yet, just a few days ago, we were reunited after all these years. Perhaps the distance between us was a mistake on my part, or on the part of old acquaintances and friends. Or perhaps there was no fault at all; perhaps it was simply the demands and circumstances of life that kept us apart.

“But childhood memories and old friendships remain a source of comfort and happiness. From such friendships, you seek nothing but the simple joy of remembering the past. Sometimes, people deliberately avoid certain individuals because they do not feel comfortable around them. But meeting old friends remains a beautiful way to relive some of the most cherished memories of our lives. That is why meeting an old friend in the mountains of Salalah felt like an almost unbelievable encounter.”

□ □ □

“When the home becomes a stage, privacy becomes a spectacle, and when life becomes content, modesty is often the first casualty,” Kuwaiti writer Fatima Nasser Al-Muzayel wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“In the past, homes had doors that closed, curtains that were drawn, and secrets that remained safely behind walls. This was not because people feared the outside world, but because they understood that life has sanctity, the family has privacy, and every individual has a personal space that no passerby has the right to enter. Today, however, the landscape has changed.

“Living rooms, kitchens, clothing, social occasions, travel destinations, the smallest details of daily life, and even domestic disputes are no longer shielded from the smartphone camera. The phenomenon has extended beyond the confines of the home. Scenes are now filmed inside bedrooms, revealing the most intimate details of private life and placing them before the public, as though privacy itself had become a thing of the past. It is as though the walls of the home are no longer enough to protect what ought to remain private, and even the most sacred spaces of personal life have become open to display and sharing.

“What remains of privacy when homes become stages, relationships become content, and personal moments become scenes circulated for public consumption? Social media is filled with countless images and videos that offer little meaning or value, turning the act of displaying one’s private life into an end in itself. And the trend has not stopped at these everyday details; it has extended into matters that are considered among the most deeply personal aspects of human life.

“We now see people recounting the details of their marriages, airing their disputes, and publicly broadcasting their separations, stripping away the veil of discretion that should protect the sanctity of the marital bond. Even more striking is the extent to which deeply private stages of a woman’s life, such as pregnancy and childbirth, are now displayed before us moment by moment. There are many other aspects of private life that people increasingly flaunt before others, often without any apparent sense of embarrassment or shame.

“The greatest danger arises when this phenomenon is justified by the simple phrase, “Every-



Fatima Al-Muzayel

one does it.” Yet, the frequency of an action is no proof of its correctness, and its prevalence does not make it legitimate. Do these behaviors align with the values, norms, customs, and traditions of our society - traditions that have long safeguarded privacy and preserved human modesty and dignity?

“Where has the sense of propriety gone, now that matters once considered deeply private are displayed publicly with such boldness, and, indeed, such disregard for dignity, without the slightest sense of bashfulness? This brings us back to the concept of modesty, not as a set of blind social constraints or submission to the judgment of others, but as a quiet inner voice that prompts a person to pause before revealing, speaking, or posting. Modesty is an awareness that makes one loath to cheapen oneself before the masses.

“Privacy is not merely a technical matter of ownership, but it is a moral responsibility. Therefore, do not turn your homes into glass houses, do not make your private lives a spectacle for display, do not use your bedrooms as backdrops for an audience, and do not turn the details of your marriages, separations, and disputes into daily fodder for followers. Enough with the triviality and ignorance; the time has come to restore the sanctity of privacy and the proper standing of modesty.

“Some things become more beautiful when kept to ourselves, and some secrets lose none of their value by remaining unpublished; rather, they gain worth precisely because they remain where they belong. We therefore need a different kind of revolution - a revolution against exhibitionism, against blind imitation, and against the relentless pursuit of views. Privacy is not about shutting oneself off from the world; rather, it is a form of respect. Let us restore the sanctity of the home and the true purpose of curtains.

“A curtain is not merely a piece of fabric covering a window; at times, it is the last barrier between a person and their privacy. Draw the curtains out of respect for yourselves. Perhaps the most refined thing you could share today is nothing at all.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kuty



Farwaniya Governorate photos



‘Report presence of stray dogs immediately’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah visited Farwaniya Hospital to check the health condition of an employee from the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The employee sustained injuries when stray dogs attacked him while performing his duties at the PAAAFR headquarters. The governor wished him speedy recovery and

good health.

The governor underscored the importance of full cooperation between the citizens and residents in immediately reporting the presence of stray dogs to the competent authorities to ensure public safety.

He also stressed the need for intensified efforts and coordination among the relevant agencies to curb this phenomenon.

Moreover, he met with the emergency team at Farwaniya Hospital, commend-

ing their efforts and the medical care they provide, while expressing his appreciation for their role in handling emergency cases.

He affirmed that the governorate is always ready to cooperate with all the relevant authorities and to support joint efforts aimed at addressing the stray dogs issue, enhancing safety measures, and taking all the necessary steps to protect the residents of the governorate.

Acquitted in adultery case

Jaw broken in fight over car parking

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Court of Cassation overturned the judgments of the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeals, which had earlier sentenced a citizen to two years in prison in an adultery case, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Cassation Court declared the criminal case inadmissible, because the wife failed to file a complaint against her husband.

The Court of First Instance sentenced the defendant to two years in prison, a ruling upheld by the Court of Appeals. However, the defense challenged the verdict at the Court of Cassation, arguing that there was no complaint, which is required to initiate criminal proceedings.

Attorney Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan, lawyer for the defendant, appeared before the Court of Cassation, arguing that the case is inadmissible, considering the wife did not file a complaint against her husband—a procedural step necessary for initiating prosecution in such a case.

The highest court accepted the appeal for consideration, and ruling on its merits, overturned the decision of the lower courts.

□ □ □

Indecent assault?: The Criminal Court acquitted a defendant of indecently assaulting an expatriate woman, citing doubts regarding the accusation, inconsistencies in the statements of the victim, and inconclusive police investigations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with embracing, kissing and touching the sensitive parts of the body of the woman without her consent when he delivered an order to her home in Saad Al-Abdullah.

Attorney Ayed Al-Rashidi, lawyer for the defendant, argued that the accusation is malicious and fabricated, asserting that there is no conclusive evidence that his client committed the alleged acts.

In its ruling, the court pointed out that the statements of the victim were unsubstantiated and not supported by a witness or evidence. It stated that the initial medical report showed no signs of struggle or abrasions indicating resistance or assault, thereby, making the court doubt the statements of the victim. It added that the testimony of the victim’s sponsor is just, because it was not based on direct observation.

Furthermore, the court found the police investigations unconvincing due to the absence of incriminating evidence and the results are nothing more than an opinion—subject to error, thus, falling short of the standard required for criminal conviction.

Regarding the surveillance camera footage, the court affirmed that the appearance of the defendant in front of the house and his entry into the passageway behind the victim did not prove that he committed indecent assault.

The court emphasized that criminal judgments must be based on certainty and conviction rather than conjecture or probability. If arises in the mind of the presiding judge, the questionable evidence must be disregarded and an acquittal must be declared.

□ □ □

Jaw broken in parking row: A dispute over a parking space on Ain Jalut Street in Jahra escalated into a physical assault, resulting in a fractured lower jaw for one party and the registration of an assault case, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, an illegal resident reported to security authorities that an Arab expatriate had assaulted him. The in-

cident took place in the parking lot of a sports center on Ain Jalut Street.

The complainant presented a medical report documenting his injuries, which revealed a fracture to the angle of the lower jaw on the right side. The injury led authorities to classify the incident as an assault case.

Preliminary information indicated that the dispute began over a parking space before escalating into physical violence.

The case was referred to the Public Prosecution, which ordered detectives to investigate the circumstances and determine liability. The incident was officially registered as a felony assault.

□ □ □

Iranian robs Kuwaiti man: A police station in the Capital Governorate registered a fraud case against an Iranian expatriate accused of deceiving a Kuwaiti citizen and obtaining a large sum of money from him, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the citizen reported the incident at Sharq Police Station, alleging that the Iranian national had defrauded him of approximately KD 7,500.

He explained that the two had agreed to collaborate on a project in the Capital Governorate. The Iranian expatriate received the money as an initial payment, with the understanding that the remaining project costs would be paid as construction progressed. However, after receiving the agreed-upon amount, the accused disappeared and switched off his phone.

With no other means of recovering his money, the citizen reported the matter to police.

A case of “fraud and swindling” has been registered, and detectives are searching for the accused to investigate the circumstances of the incident and complete the inquiry.

PAFN stops truck with 249kg of ‘rotten’ meat

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, intercepted a vehicle used to transport and distribute meat of unknown origin that had been adulterated and did not comply with health and technical specifications and requirements, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, PAFN explained that the operation was part of ongoing regulatory efforts to protect consumer health and safety.

The campaign resulted in the destruction of 249 kilograms of seized meat and food products, along with the initiation of the necessary legal measures against the violator.

□ □ □

Verifying food safety: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), represented by the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Inspection Department, conducted a joint security and regulatory campaign in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior to verify food safety and ensure compliance with health regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign included inspections of 17 food establishments and resulted in the issuance of several violation citations.

The campaign is part of PAFN’s ongoing efforts to strengthen regulatory oversight and ensure that food establishments comply with health standards, thereby safeguarding consumers’ health and safety.

□ □ □

Raid on Ahmadi eateries: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, conducted two inspection campaigns targeting food establishments in the Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The operations resulted in the disposal of more than 150 kilograms of various food products and the initiation of necessary legal action against violators.

In a press statement issued on Friday, PAFN explained that the Ahmadi Inspection Department, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, conducted a campaign that uncovered several violations. These included operating a food establishment without a license, handling adulterated food, failing to meet technical and health standards, and neglecting personal and general hygiene requirements. The campaign resulted in the disposal of 150 kilograms of various food items.

The Mubarak Al-Kabeer Inspection Department also conducted a joint regulatory campaign with the Ministry of Interior, inspecting 26 food establishments.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of eight violation citations covering breaches of health standards, hygiene requirements, licensing regulations, and health certification rules. It also led to the seizure and disposal of 2,457 kilograms of food unfit for human consumption.



مغل محل
MUGHAL MAHAL

Special Buffet

MUGHAL MAHAL Hawally & MUGHAL MAHAL Fahaheel

LARGEST SPREAD IN TOWN

Why Not TASTE 45 ITEMS At One Go

For

ADULT KD 5.950

CHILD KD 3.450

EVERY THURSDAY
DINNER ONLY | 6 PM TO 11 PM

EVERY FRIDAY LUNCH & DINNER
12:30 PM TO 4:30 PM & 6 PM TO 11 PM

HAWALLY
EVERY SATURDAY LUNCH
ONLY 12:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

www.mughalmahal.com | 1800 188 | @mughalmahalkuwait

Focus on Mutla'a, Jahra on road to facelift

New-look northern city to ease lives of Kuwaitis, expats

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Jahra Governorate is prioritizing road infrastructure, new residential areas and public services, focusing on Mutlaa City, development of the road network and support for agricultural areas.

These efforts are in addition to activating the role of the Jahra Governorate Council and its committees in addressing the needs of residents and coordinating with government agencies.

In an interview with the newspaper, Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi pointed out that efforts are focused on field monitoring, expediting the resolution of issues, and completing various service and development projects that affect the lives of citizens and expatriates.

Following are excerpts of the interview:

Question: What are the main achievements of Jahra Governorate recently?

Answer: We began by enhancing operational mechanisms in the administrative office of the governorate to improve monitoring and activate the functions of the office in a more organized and effective manner. Workflows were streamlined and clear mechanisms were established to identify, document, refer and follow up issues and comments. A field monitoring team and a complaint management and follow up team were formed, linking administrative operations with the reality and feedback of citizens.

We then moved to activate the role of Jahra Governorate Council by establishing its standing committees -- Public Services Committee, Security Affairs Committee, Health, Education and Community Development Committee, and Complaints and Proposals Committee. These committees began fulfilling their role by assessing the needs of the governorate, monitoring projects, services and issues raised, submitting recommendations and tracking their implementation.

The scope of work expanded to include monitoring various files and initiatives in the governorate -- roads, infrastructure, facilities,

new developments, initiatives targeting children and youths, community, cultural, volunteer and environmental programs, in collaboration with government agencies, public interest associations and the private sector.

Regarding the environment, an environmental sustainability team was established to monitor environmental aspects and indicators, in coordination with the Environment Public Authority and other relevant bodies, and to support awareness programs and initiatives that promote sustainability and environmental responsibility.

These mechanisms helped activate various files and address many issues within the governorate's jurisdiction.

Issues falling under the purview of ministries and government agencies are handled through their representatives in the Governorate Council and its standing committees. This facilitates coordination, assignment of responsibilities, and monitoring actions taken to overcome challenges and find optimal solutions for the governorate and its residents.

Q: What about areas that have seen development in the governorate, such as infrastructure, public services and roads?

A: The roads and infrastructure sector witnessed improvements in monitoring procedures through coordination with relevant authorities. This oversight covered internal road maintenance, upgrading of main roads, assessment of entry and exit points in Jahra and Mutlaa, Saleel Road and several other locations requiring review of traffic and engineering specifications. Oversight extends to the agricultural areas like Abdaly. Efforts are coordinated to upgrade roads for the benefit of farmers and production logistics, in addition to addressing the issue of treated water supplies and ensuring more consistent delivery to farms.

The Governorate Council also monitors major road network maintenance plans included in the annual schedule of the relevant authorities.

The governorate's role includes setting priorities based on field assessments, citizen feedback and infrastructure projects, while tracking each issue until it enters the study or execution phase with the competent authority to ensure that concerns are resolved rather than merely addressed through correspondence.

Q: What is the status of the Abdaly Road development project?

A: The Al-Abdaly Road development project -- from kilometer 10 to kilometer 34 -- has been completed. The road is set to officially open within a few days, in coordination with the relevant authorities.

Q: What about the ongoing maintenance and repair works on Road 80 (opposite the gas station) and the Sixth Ring Road?

A: The work is being carried out by the competent authorities as part of their maintenance and development programs. The governorate monitors progress closely due to the impact of these locations on citizen mobility and connectivity between areas in Jahra.

Traffic-related concerns regarding the Sixth Ring Road and its connecting routes have been discussed with the Ministry of Public Works and the General Traffic Department, with emphasis on enhancing safety and minimizing the impact of construction on traffic flow.

We are committed to tracking completion rates and addressing issues that arise during execution by reporting them to the relevant authority, while ensuring high-quality workmanship and timely completion in accordance with the approved schedule.



Hamad Al-Habashi

Q: How do you rate the level of services provided to citizens and residents in Jahra areas?

A: Realistically, based on observations by specialized governorate teams and feedback from citizens, the level of service is good and showing tangible improvement in several areas. However, there are needs requiring further work, particularly in Mutlaa City, agricultural areas, and those experiencing rapid population and urban expansion.

Our assessment now relies on three interconnected sources -- findings from the field monitoring team, feedback received by the complaint management and follow up team through the Sahel app and direct channels, and reports presented by government entities during Governorate Council and committee meetings. This provides us with a more accurate picture of service levels and the challenges requiring attention. Our benchmarks are rapid response, quality resolution, and verification that issues have been fully addressed.

Consequently, we see progress in several areas, though we acknowledge that certain challenges persist. We prioritize these based on their impact on the residents of the governorate.

Q: What about coordination between the governorate and state ministries and institutions?

A: Government coordination is the core of the work and it is continuous through the Governorate Council and its permanent committees, coordination meetings, work teams and field tours. We are keen to coordinate with the concerned authorities, determine the responsibility of each party, and set a clear follow up path until the result appears on the ground. Examples of this include coordination with the Ministry of Education, General Traffic Department, and Public Authority for Housing Welfare regarding Mutlaa schools and their entrances and exits, and with the Ministry of Public Works regarding roads.

Coordination with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources is on treated water, developing public parks, and opening the way for owners of small enterprises and productive families, and with the General Traffic Department regarding organizing movement in front of the new Jahra Hospital.

There is also coordination with the Coast Guard and the concerned authorities to allocate a site to inspect marine vessels at the Citizen Service Center in Qasr.

Coordination extends to the cultural, environmental, and societal aspects with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Environment Public Authority, public benefit associations, and the private sector.

These files confirm that the role of the governorate is to initiate, gather efforts, coordinate, and follow up, while approval and implementation remain the responsibility of the competent authority.

Q: What are the most important priorities of Jahra Governorate in the next phase?

A: Our first priority is to consolidate practical follow up, that is, moving each file from monitoring and correspondence to determining the procedure, responsibility and duration, then verifying the achievement and closing the observation.

The field monitoring team and the complaints management and follow up team will continue to support this approach, along with the Governorate Council and its committees.

Mutlaa City and the new areas top the priorities, including roads, entrances and exits, schools, water and hygiene, facilities and community services, while following up Salail Road and the roads linked to the new areas.

The agricultural sector is prioritized as well through the development of Abdaly roads and overcoming the challenges of treated water and supporting productive farmers.

Our priorities are also to develop parks, pedestrian walkways and green spaces, and transform public parks into more active and sustainable facilities by organizing the participation of small business owners and productive families, in coordination with the Agriculture Authority and other concerned authorities, in addition to implementing the sustainable Jahra Governorate initiative and raising environmental awareness.

We will continue to support youths, expand cultural, social and sports activities, and develop the Jahra cultural season, carnivals and community initiatives in partnership with government agencies, public benefit associations and the private sector.

To be continued



albander
Hotel & Resort

البندر
فندق ومنتجع

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

Terms & conditions apply



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



Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets Acting Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP) Carl Skau, at the headquarters of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to UN.



KUNA photos
Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Government Spokesperson of the Republic of Djibouti Mahamoud Ali Youssouf.

Kuwait FM explores cooperation, ties in Djibouti & WFP meetings

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Saturday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Government Spokesperson of the Republic of Djibouti Mahamoud Ali Youssouf at the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly, focused on reviewing bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations and discussing avenues to bolster cooperation across various sectors.

Both sides also exchanged perspectives on the latest regional and international developments and matters of mutual interest.

WFP Acting director

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Acting Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP) Carl Skau, at the headquarters of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to UN.

Held on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly, the meeting explored strong ties between Kuwait and the WFP, their bilateral efforts in the humanitarian fields, and ways to enhance cooperation to intensifying effective responses to regional and international crises, Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Tunisia

Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Saturday with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad Mohamed Ali Nafti at the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly, focused on reviewing bilateral relations between the two sisterly nations and exploring pathways to expand joint cooperation across various domains.

Both sides also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments and matters of common interest.

Hala Industrial Co.

شركة هلا الصناعية

Decoration works, wood
products and
cupboards are available

You can
get all what you need
at Hala Industrial

Contact us now

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

Hala_Industrial

hala@halakw.com

America

Hurricane Nolo skirts Hawaii: Hurricane Nolo just skirted the Hawaiian Islands as it gained intensity on Saturday, but officials said it still posed a risk for flash floods, dangerous winds and extreme surf in areas recovering from previous storms.

Nolo was churning very slowly south of the Big Island with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph (150 kph). Its center was about 165 miles (266 kilometers) south-southwest of Hawaii’s southernmost point and it was forecast to strengthen into a major hurricane late Sunday and early Monday while traveling westward to the south of the islands.

A hurricane watch was canceled and direct landfall by the storm’s center was not expected. But forecasters said its outer bands could cause life-threatening flooding and mudslides, with parts of the Big Island expected to see rainfall totals up to 20 inches (51 centimeters). Heavy rain also was expected on the other islands. (AP)

4 killed in helicopter crash near Montreal: Four people were killed after a helicopter crashed near Montreal in Canada’s Quebec province on Saturday, local media reported.

Police received a report of the crash at around 2:30 p.m. local time (1830 GMT) near Sainte-Brigide-d’Iberville, a town about 55 km southeast of Mon-

treal.

The aircraft caught fire upon impact, and emergency responders extinguished the blaze within an hour. All four people aboard were pronounced dead at the scene.

A preliminary investigation found that the helicopter experienced an emergency shortly after takeoff before crashing.

Police have not yet determined the helicopter’s ownership, its departure and destination points, or the identities of the victims, according to the report. (Xinhua)

Police investigates suspected hazing: Police are investigating suspected hazing after about 30 partially-clothed young men covered in food, condiments and other liquids were found in the basement of a fraternity house near the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus this week.

Madison police said some of the men, who they described as pledges to the fraternity, had signs of being physically assaulted.

Police went to the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house Wednesday night after receiving an anonymous tip. Two fraternity members, both 20, were arrested on tentative misdemeanor charges of hazing and disorderly conduct, police said. No formal charges had been filed against them as of Friday morning.

The university said it was taking the incident seriously and launching its own investigation. (AP)



Members of Hawaii Army National Guard walk through rainwater from nearby Hurricane Nolo as it floods a section of Mamalahoa highway on Sept 26, near Naalehu, Hawaii. (AP)

‘There is a cost to the American people of the out-of-control corruption’

Dems plan vast oversight of Trump administration, impeachment an option

WASHINGTON, Sept 27, (AP): US House Democrats are preparing a vast oversight agenda, with investigations of President Donald Trump, his family and his administration if the party sweeps control of the chamber from Republicans in the November elections.

The undertaking is as robust as it is daunting, spanning several House committees. With majority power comes bigger budgets and staff, and the ability to investigate, subpoena and potentially course-correct what the Democrats say are widespread corruption and abuses of power. Impeachment of the Republican president and Cabinet officials is not off the table.

“There is a cost to the American people of the out-of-control corruption,” said Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, who is in line to become House speaker if Democrats win control at the Capitol.

“If folks have been stealing from the American people, shortchanging the American people or screwing over the American people,” Jeffries said, “we are going to hold the crooks accountable.”

Congress has enormous ability to conduct oversight of the executive branch as part of its power as a coequal branch of government, and a road map for the Democratic-run investigations has already been set by the almost daily letters lawmakers send to the administration and in amicus court filings.

Democrats are asking about the money-making by Trump and his family, whose wealth has grown dramatically since he returned to the White House in January 2025. They are investigating the potential civil rights violations of Americans killed protesting US Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations and of detained immigrants being deported to faraway countries. They have fought the closing of the Kennedy Center, launched investigations into private funding of the America at 250 celebrations and tracked the shuttering of federal operations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development.

New questions emerge daily, including the Trump family’s recent acknowledgment that a weekend wedding party for the president’s son Donald Trump Jr. was partly funded by a Russian oligarch, with reportedly close ties to the Kremlin.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., who is in line to become the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, characterized the issues involved as “gargantuan.”

“We need to zero in quickly on the forms of systemic corruption that have



US House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries talks about the policies of President Donald Trump and Republican supporters in Congress as he holds a news conference at the Capitol in Washington on Sept 23. (AP)

cost the public huge amounts of money,” Raskin told The Associated Press, “and where there are legislative cures available.”

Jeffries will almost certainly be under pressure from the far left to move more swiftly to articles of impeachment against Trump, who during his first became the first president to be twice impeached by the House. Both times, he was acquitted by the Senate.

Impeaching the president a third time may not hold the currency that it once did. Democrats will more likely focus their impeachment efforts on Cabinet members. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth already faces articles of impeachment from a Republican, Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, over his leadership at the Pentagon and his management of the Iran war.

“We haven’t ruled anything out,” Jeffries said recently about the tools avail-

able to Congress, “and we haven’t ruled anything in.”

The White House is likely to play hardball if confronted with investigations, and Democrats are bracing for an administration that potentially ignores subpoenas or refuses to turn over paperwork that lawmakers are demanding.

The Democrats are also reaching beyond the administration into various corporate and business entities for potential wrongdoing.

Ranking Democratic lawmakers who are in line to lead committees if power shifts are beginning to chart the investigations they plan to tackle.

Rep. Robert Garcia of California, the top Democrat now on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has outlined five priorities, including Trump family business dealings, the administration’s handling of the Jeffrey Epstein investigation and ICE operations.

“We’re already doing work,” Garcia told the AP.

He also mentioned the Department of Health and Human Services under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., as well as broader allegations of corporate corruption.

The top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, whose jurisdiction includes the State Department, said the committee plans to investigate Trump’s international dealings, including around the Iran war.

He expects the committee will also look into the administration’s Venezuela operations - from the military strikes on alleged drug boats in the Caribbean and Pacific waters to the U.S. partnership with a private company to develop and access the South American country’s oil.

Rep. Jared Huffman of California, the ranking Democrat at the Natural Resources Committee, which oversees the Interior Department and its National Park Service operations, has begun digging into Trump’s “vanity projects,” including the demolition of the White House’s East wing for a new ballroom and the president’s proposed arch.

Huffman and other committee members have also been eyeing the Trump family’s role in various minerals deals.

At the committee’s last session before lawmakers recessed to campaign for the midterm elections, Huffman said that if Democrats take charge, he plans to call witnesses, put them under oath and follow the evidence where it leads.

“When people ask what will we do,” he said he responds, “My answer is simple. We’ll use those tools. We’ll act like the Congress.”



Emergency services at the scene after a tourist bus veered off a highway, in Buchloe, Germany on Sept 27. (AP)

Bus carrying Filipino tourists overturns, killing 2 in Germany

A bus carrying tourists from the Philippines toward the Oktoberfest festival in Munich veered off a highway and overturned on Sunday, killing at least two people and injuring at least eight others, Germany’s dpa news agency reported.

The coach left the road on a highway near the town of Buchloe in Germany’s Ostallgäu region at about 6 am local time, dpa said, citing officials.

Images from the scene

showed the bus lying on its side in a wooded area as rescue crews worked nearby.

Martin Cornils, a spokesperson for traffic police in nearby Fürstentfeldbruck, said at the scene that the tour group had been traveling to Oktoberfest, the news agency reported.

The popular annual festival began eight days earlier.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear and remained under investigation.

Dpa initially reported that the bus was traveling from Zurich, Switzerland, to Milan, Italy. Officials later said about 35 people were on board - fewer than initially estimated - and that all the passengers were Filipino nationals. The two bus drivers were unharmed.

Earlier this month, five people were killed when a Dutch tour bus crashed in eastern Switzerland. (AP)

Explosive-related arrests near base used by US being probed by UK

LONDON, Sept 27, (AP): British counterterrorism police took the lead of an investigation into the arrest of several men over suspected explosives offenses near a Royal Air Force base that has been used by US bombers in the Iran war.

Gloucestershire police said Sunday that the men were detained on suspicion of offenses under the Explosives Act, and that army bomb-disposal experts were examining several vehicles.

A major incident was declared and aerial footage from Sky News appeared to show a bomb disposal robot roaming between three white trucks. The rear doors of two of the vans were open and large black items could be seen scattered around.

Police said the situation appeared to be “contained” but did not confirm the arrests were linked to the base, though the proximity of RAF Fairford, which hosts the headquarters of the US Air Force’s 501st Combat Support Wing and the 420th Air Base Squadron, has raised speculation that there is a connection.

Whelford is near Fairford, a base that American forces have used for strictly limited strikes during the war with Iran. After the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran on Feb. 28, the UK government allowed the American military to use the Fairford base



Police stand at a road block on the road to RAF Fairford after an incident, in Whelford, England on Sept 27. (AP)

to strike Iranian missile sites.

“The 501st Combat Support Wing and our fellow UK-based Wings remain vigilant and will take appropriate actions to ensure the safety and security of our US service members, civilians, contractors, and their families,” a spokesperson for the US Air Force said.

The spokesperson would not discuss specific force protection measures for security reasons.

“We constantly assess a variety of factors that determine what measures

we institute or modify to protect our installations, our people and their families,” the spokesperson said.

The arrests come at a time of heightened tensions around the threat from hostile states to the UK, with Russia and Iran among those that have used proxies to commit crimes on their behalf on British soil. In March, officials said the number of national security cases involving activity by hostile states including Iran increased 50% in the six months to December 2025.

Europe

Russian strikes kill 2 in Ukraine: Russian strikes on Ukraine killed at least two people overnight into Sunday, officials said, hours after Moscow rejected German calls to ease off its escalation toward NATO.

Russia’s top diplomat on Saturday brushed off what’s believed to have been the first tête-à-tête with his German counterpart since Moscow’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The meeting was held during the UN General Assembly’s annual gathering of world leaders, as an intensifying aerial war between Russia and Ukraine shows no sign of slowing.

Ties between Russia and Germany have soured in recent weeks, following an attempted drone attack last month at Leipzig airport that Berlin blamed on the Kremlin.

With front-line positions largely unchanged since last year, Moscow has hammered its neighbor with cruise and ballistic missiles, powerful glide bombs and jet-powered drones in recent months. Meanwhile, Kyiv’s long-range drones have targeted Russian oil refineries and businesses.

In Kyiv, a man was found dead after a Russian drone hit a non-residential building overnight, according to Ukraine’s emergency service.

Another drone struck a single-story vehicle repair shop, leaving firefighters battling the blaze into early Sunday, the emergency service said. (AP)

Pope urges protection of weakest: Pope Leo XIV doubled down on his opposition to euthanasia and medically assisted dying during a visit Sunday to Lourdes, the French Catholic shrine associated with miraculous cures and now also a place of healing for survivors of clergy abuse.

Leo denounced the “current trends that seek to redefine the value of human life in illness, suffering and old age,” during a Mass on the Lourdes prairie before some 150,000 people, many of them in wheelchairs.

“Here, no one is turned away due to their frailty,” Leo said in his homily.

Leo traveled to the foothills of the Pyrenees on the second leg of his four-day visit to France, the once staunchly Catholic but officially secular country. The visit has been marked by huge crowds - 800,000 at Leo’s Mass on Paris’ iconic Place de la Concorde - and his messaging against legislation allowing assisted dying that was recently approved in France and several other countries.

“He has given a message of hope for France, a message of hope and greatness for France, and renewal for France,” said Paris pilgrim Pierre Caziljc. (AP)

European ministers discuss stronger border controls

MUNICH, Germany, Sept 27, (AP): European interior ministers held talks on Saturday to strengthen border controls, improve emergency response times and establish fast-track procedures for returning some migrants.

The gathering of 17 ministers from the European Union and Britain comes as the 27-member bloc works to strengthen migration controls following the implementation in June of a migration and asylum pact.

Asylum applications in Europe have fallen sharply in recent months, and fewer migrants have attempted to cross the Mediterranean, although their treacherous journeys have become more deadlier than last year.

“There is a need for a new European migration crisis mechanism,” said German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt, alluding to some emergency situations of “waves of illegal border crossings.”

Citing an influx of migrants to the Spanish territory of Ceuta, which borders Morocco caused divisions in Europe, Dobrindt called for new rules to identify border emergencies, a mechanism to respond to them and a system for fast-tracking some returns.



German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt, (center), Minister for Justice Jim O’Callaghan, (right), and Britain Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood arrive for the Munich Migration Meeting in Munich, Germany on Sept 26. (AP)

Over 2,900 families forced to evacuate amid floods

Cambodian FM Sokhonn warns United Nations of strains on global peace

PHNOM PENH, Sept 27, (Xinhua): Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn alerted the United Nations that a mix of political rivalries, climate issues, widening inequalities, and rapid technological transformation is threatening global peace, stability and cooperation.

In a statement delivered to the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Saturday, Sokhonn, who also serves as a deputy prime minister, noted that while the world has thus far been spared another global conflict, armed struggles continue to inflict immense human suffering across many regions.

“Concurrently, geopolitical rivalries, climate change, widening inequalities, rapid technological transformation and transnational threats are placing growing strains on international peace, stability and cooperation,” he said.

He added that at a time when international cooperation is more necessary than ever, trust among nations is being tested. Furthermore, confidence in multilateral institutions and their capacity to respond effectively

to common challenges is under increasing pressure.

“The world needs the United Nations not less, but more,” Sokhonn said. “But it also needs a United Nations that commands trust because it is principled, representative, effective and capable of delivering on the purposes and principles of its Charter.”

He stressed that sovereign equality must remain a fundamental pillar of international relations, asserting that international law must apply universally.

“The Charter does not prescribe one standard for the powerful and another for the less powerful,” he said. “All member states, large or small, are equal before the Charter and are bound by the obligations it establishes.”

Sokhonn also highlighted that rapid technological advancements illustrate both great promise and significant risk.

“Artificial intelligence and digital innovation can accelerate development and expand opportunities, but their misuse can also deepen



Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn of Cambodia speaks during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters on Sept 26. (AP)

inequality, insecurity, and transnational crime,” he said.

Also:

PHNOM PENH: Flooding has affected 25,561 families across Cambodia, forcing 2,908 families to evacuate

also inundated 24,505 homes and 12,551 hectares of rice paddies.

According to Kolmony, the current flooding is primarily driven by heavy rainfall rather than a Mekong River overflow.

“Mekong River levels at most of the key monitoring stations remain below the alert level and are trending downwards,” he told Xinhua.

However, relief may still be days away. Weather forecasts predict rainfall will continue through Sept. 30.

The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology reported that Cambodia is experiencing widespread rain, thunderstorms, and strong winds from Sept. 24 to 30, triggered by the peripheral systems of Typhoon Surigae.

Cambodia regularly faces flash floods and Mekong River overflows between July and October. According to NCDM data, floods claimed 19 lives in the country last year.

PHNOM PENH: Some 4.6 million people -- out of the kingdom's population of over 17 million -- have

benefited from a government cash relief program designed to support low-income families hit by soaring global fuel prices, Cambodian Prime Minister **Hun Manet** said Friday.

Speaking at a weekly cabinet meeting, the prime minister stated that the government launched a four-round emergency assistance initiative scheduled for Sept 25, Oct 16, Nov 16, and Dec 16.

Hun Manet added that the initiative aims to alleviate the livelihood burdens of the 4.6 million affected people across the Southeast Asian country.

Under the subsidy structure, poor, vulnerable, and at-risk families in the capital city of **Phnom Penh** will receive 15 US dollars per round, while those in provincial towns and rural areas will receive 12 dollars and 10 dollars, respectively.

Additionally, each individual family member will receive an extra 1.25 dollars per round.

The relief efforts come as retail fuel prices in Cambodia continue to surge this week due to ongoing tensions in the Middle East, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

'Process of democratic transformation'

Venezuela releases dozens of prisoners

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 27, (AP): Human rights groups in Venezuela said that significant numbers of political prisoners were released in the South American country on Saturday, though the total number of those freed has still not been determined.

The prisoner releases follow a meeting Tuesday between Interim President Delcy Rodríguez and President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In her speech at the UN, Rodríguez said Venezuela, whose government has been widely accused of jailing dissidents, stealing elections and stifling freedom of speech, has “begun a process of democratic transformation.”

In a message posted on X, the Venezuelan human rights group Clippve said seven political prisoners were released from a prison on the outskirts of Caracas on Saturday morning, including Wilder Vasquez, a university student who had been sentenced to five years in prison for participating in a 2018 plot to kill former President Nicolás Maduro. Vasquez has long claimed he was innocent.



Venezuelan opposition representative Dinorah Figuera, left, and National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez shake hands after signing agreements at the end of the second round of political talks in Caracas, Venezuela on Sept 25. (AP)

His sentence had expired in 2023.

In another X message, the human rights group Justicia Encuentro y Perdon said that 29 people were released from Venezuelan prisons Saturday, including 12 inmates who

were on its list of political prisoners.

“Seventeen of those freed were not in our database of political prisoners,” the organization said. “Our team continues to verify information to update our registry.”

12 dead after vessel capsizes in eastern Congo

Separate mass shootings in South Africa kill 27

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Sept 27, (AP): Eight gunmen with AK-47 rifles and pistols opened fire at patrons at a bar in the first of two separate mass shootings in South African townships in the space of a few hours that left at least 27 people dead, police said Sunday.

The first massacre occurred late Saturday night near Johannesburg. The second happened in the early hours of Sunday near Cape Town. No arrests had been made in the two shootings, which came just five days after another mass shooting in a township near the city of Durban killed at least 11 people.

The South African Police Service said 17 people were killed Saturday night when eight suspects armed with AK-47 rifles and pistols opened fire at a bar in Wedela township, southwest of South Africa's biggest city of Johannesburg, around 9.30 p.m.

The suspects shot at patrons outside the bar, then moved inside to continue the killing. The victims included 13 men and four women. At least 15 others sustained gunshot injuries, according to police, who said the gunmen searched some of the patrons and took their mobile phones before escaping in two vehicles.

Around four hours later, 10 people were killed and 11 were wounded in a mass shooting after 1 a.m. at a store in Lwandle township near Cape Town, South Africa's second biggest city. Police said they were searching for multiple suspects, though they didn't give an exact number.

On Tuesday night, 11 people were killed, including a pregnant woman, in an attack by multiple gunmen at a house party in KwaMakhutha township south of Durban. Police have not reported any arrests.

South Africa has struggled with high rates of violent crime for years, but the series of mass shootings this week were shocking even to a country used to some of the highest homicide rates in the world.

A high rate of killings is a longstanding problem for Africa's most advanced economy, but the phenomenon of mass shootings is becoming more common, according to experts, with recent killings often being carried out by multiple gunmen.

The homicides mostly affect South Africa's poorest communities and police have linked some to criminal gangs.

Other recent mass shootings include one in June in a poor neighborhood of Johannesburg that killed 12 people, and two in the space of two weeks in December that left a total of 21 people dead.

South Africa's violent crime problem prompted President Cyril Ramaphosa to deploy soldiers on the streets in March in a year-long operation to combat crime in some of the country's worst-affected areas. The deployment included high-crime areas around Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as other areas.

Announcing the deployment, Ramaphosa said crime by organized gangs was the biggest threat to South Africa's democracy and economic develop-

ment. Some critics viewed the use of soldiers on the streets as an admission that police were failing.

Also:

BUKAVU, Congo: A vessel carrying traders capsized in **Lake Kivu** in eastern Congo, killing at least 12 and leaving dozens missing, authorities said Sunday.

The vessel was carrying more than 50 people when it capsized on Saturday night on **Idjwi Island**, in South Kivu province, said **Félix Habiragi**, chief of the village of **Kisheke** near the scene of the accident.

He said that about 15 people have been rescued. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear.

Deadly boat accidents are common in Congo, where rivers and lakes are a major means of transport for its more than 100 million people.

The vessel was transporting fish traders and goods from Idjwi Island's Bwina to Boza, according to **Muhindo Ntambuka Pascal**, the local administrator.

Videos that appear to be from the scene showed villagers and other passengers pulling bodies from the lake.

Christian Amini Ndahira, a resident of Ijwi, said he lost a friend on the boat. “We had even spoken in the evening, before he boarded that boat. It's so sad for me and for his family.”

Congo's vessels are often overloaded with goods and passengers, many of whom frequently travel without life jackets.



A police officer stands at the scene of a mass shooting at a house party in KwaMakhutha township south of the city of Durban, South Africa on Sept 23. (AP)

Lat/Am

8 dead in Brazil bus accident: At least eight people were killed and 12 others injured after a bus overturned in Brazil's northeastern state of Bahia, police said Saturday.

The accident occurred around 11 pm local time on Friday near Iraquara, in the Diamantina region, with 22 passengers aboard the bus.

Seven people died at the scene, while one later succumbed to injuries despite medical treatment. All the injured are being treated in nearby hospitals. (Xinhua)

Caribbean nation shooting kills 4: A manhunt was underway Saturday after a shooting that left four people dead in the small Caribbean island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where authorities have struggled to contain gang violence.

The Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force said late Friday that officers responded to reports of gunfire in Green Hill, a district located just outside of the capital city of Kingstown.

“Two bodies were met lying on the public road, the body of a female was discovered in a vehicle that was parked on the public road, and on an adjacent piece of land another body was discovered,” acting Police Commissioner Trevor Bailey said at a news conference Saturday.

Bailey said the corpses had what appeared to be gunshot wounds. (AP)

Subcontinent

Nepal floods, landslides kill 2: Incessant rainfall has triggered floods and landslides across Nepal, leaving two people dead, three missing and causing damage to property in several districts, police said on Sunday.

Two people have been found dead and three are missing in separate landslide incidents in western Palpa district, Lumbini Province. “The search for three people believed to be buried in the debris of two houses is ongoing,” Bhawani Prasad Dhama, an inspector at the district police, told Xinhua.

At least 25 houses have been swept away by floods in Parbat district, Gandaki Province, while six houses have been washed away after a river overflowed in Rupandehi district, Lumbini Province, Nepal Police said in a statement. (Xinhua)

Afghanistan arrests 6 human traffickers: Afghan security forces have arrested six alleged human traffickers and rescued more than 100 victims in the western Afghan province of Nimroz, provincial police spokesman Mawlawi Gul Mohammad Qudrat said Sunday.

The alleged human traffickers were attempting to smuggle 113 individuals out of the country through illegal routes, but security personnel identified and thwarted the attempt the other day, the official said.

All six human traffickers have been arrested for investigation, and the victims were rescued, Qudrat said, warning of dire consequences for anyone attempting to traffic people. (AP)

28 fighters killed, 32 captured after crossing from Pakistan: Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan, Sept 27, (AP): Afghanistan said on Sunday that its forces killed 28 fighters and captured 32 others, including alleged members of the Islamic State group said to have crossed from neighboring Pakistan.

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have increased in recent days, with cross-border fighting and Pakistani airstrikes on Afghan territory adding to long-standing disputes over militant activity along their border.

Afghanistan's Defense Ministry said in a post on X that the fighters were killed or captured on Saturday in Kamdesh district in the northeastern province of Nuristan. It alleged that several Islamic State-affiliated groups had been sent from Pakistan with the support of Pakistani authorities “with the aim of carrying out acts of subversion and creating insecurity.”

Afghanistan does not recognize its frontier with Pakistan as an international border. The countries share a 2,611-kilometer (1,622-mile) boundary known as the Durand Line.

Pakistan's Ministry of Information rejected the allegations as “frivolous, baseless and devoid of any truth.” In a post on X, it said Pakistan “categorically rejects” claims that its security forces or intelligence agencies were involved in clashes in Nuristan or elsewhere in Afghanistan. It also denied recruiting or training former Afghan security personnel or facilitating IS or other militants.

The ministry said Afghanistan had provided no evidence to support its allegations, including identities, documents,



In this photo taken with a smartphone, volunteers transport an injured victim of a suicide attack on a roadside police checkpoint upon his arrival at a hospital in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan on Sept 26. (AP)

communications or forensic material. It dismissed a video circulating on social media as showing only a few unarmed people and described it as part of a “pre-planned video shoot” by Afghanistan's Taliban government.

Pakistan said the presence and activities of militant groups in Afghanistan had been documented in reports by the United Nations and other international organizations. It accused Kabul of trying to “manufacture a Pakistani connection” to obscure what it described as the continued presence of militants in Afghanistan.

Arkab, Al-Ghais discuss global oil market

ALGIERS, Sept 27, (KUNA): Algeria’s Minister of State and Minister of Hydrocarbons Mohammad Arkab on Sunday discussed with Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Haitham Al-Ghais the latest developments and

challenges in the global oil market. This came during Minister Arkab’s reception of Al-Ghaith to Algeria, where the two parties reviewed developments in global oil markets, as well as challenges to cooperation with OPEC countries.

Business

Al-Ghanem: Banking sector is a key partner in supporting development projects & Kuwait’s economic vision

Warba views AI as a tool that can redefine customer experience & enhance operational efficiency

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: **Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem**, Chief Executive Officer of Warba Bank, said recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated that resilience is no longer optional for the banking sector; it has become an essential component of banking strategy. He stressed the importance of maintaining strong capital and liquidity levels, diversifying revenue streams, and continuously investing in technology and infrastructure, while building the capabilities needed to respond swiftly and effectively to shifts in the economic or geopolitical environment.



Al-Ghanem

Al-Ghanem made the remarks during a panel discussion hosted by the Central Bank of Kuwait and organized by Global Finance, where he addressed key issues related to the future of Kuwait’s banking sector, ranging from the implications of geopolitical developments to digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), capital market development, sustainable finance, and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations.

Al-Ghanem said crises should not be viewed merely as risks, but also as opportunities to rethink business models and accelerate economic diversification. He highlighted the important role banks can play in directing financing toward productive sectors and projects that support long-term growth and enhance the resilience of the Kuwaiti economy.

Four Priorities for the Banking Sector

Al-Ghanem identified four key areas that Kuwait’s banking sector should focus on in the coming period.

First, digital transformation and artificial intelligence—not just to provide faster services, but to redesign the customer experience and drive operational efficiency.

Second, risk management and operational resilience, particularly amid rising cyber risks and ongoing economic and geopolitical uncertainties.

Third, private-sector and development-project financing, alongside strengthening the role of banks in supporting SMEs, key projects, and sectors tied to economic diversification.

Fourth, developing the domestic capital market. Al-Ghanem said having a deeper and more liquid local debt



Shaheen Al-Ghanem with H.E. Basel Al-Haroon, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, and banking leaders.

market would provide banks, corporates, and investors with broader options for liquidity management, funding, and investment.

Al-Ghanem noted that these priorities build on a strong foundation: the Kuwaiti banking sector has robust balance sheets, healthy liquidity levels, and strong capitalization, providing a solid base for the next phase of growth and development.

Financing and Liquidity Law: A Step Toward Developing the Debt Market

Addressing the Financing and Liquidity Law, which enables sovereign bond and sukuk issuance of up to \$98 billion, Al-Ghanem said the law represents an important strategic step for Kuwait, not only because it provides the government with an additional tool to meet its funding needs, but also because it can help build a deeper and more efficient local debt market.

He explained that issuing sovereign bonds and sukuk on a regular and transparent basis can help establish a clear sovereign yield curve. This, in turn, provides a benchmark for pricing corporate and financial institution issuances and supports price discovery in the market.

Al-Ghanem added that sovereign issuances can provide additional investment instruments for banks, invest-

ment companies, pension funds, and investors, helping optimize liquidity management, diversify investment portfolios, and broaden the investor base.

He also highlighted the particular importance of sukuk for Kuwait, given the strength of the Islamic finance sector both locally and regionally.

Al-Ghanem stressed that more important than the issuance volume is having a clear, regular issuance calendar and an active secondary market. He said these elements can transform the law from a government funding mechanism into a true catalyst for developing Kuwait’s capital market.

Artificial Intelligence: Innovation Must Be Trusted

Turning to technology and artificial intelligence, Al-Ghanem said the question today is not whether the banking sector will use AI, but rather how it can be used responsibly and securely.

He said Warba Bank views AI as a tool that can redefine customer experience and enhance operational efficiency, but its deployment must take place within a clear framework of governance, risk management, data protection, and cybersecurity.

Al-Ghanem noted that the bank has already begun implementing AI in its banking services, citing the launch of Bdr AI, which enables customers to complete supported

banking transactions through text or voice interactions in both Arabic and English.

At the national level, he stressed the need for a regulatory environment that encourages innovation while setting clear standards for data governance, privacy, cybersecurity, model testing and monitoring, transparency, and accountability.

Al-Ghanem emphasized that “true innovation in the banking sector is innovation that can be trusted.”

Sustainability: From Commitment to Opportunity

Addressing sustainability and sustainable finance, Al-Ghanem said sustainability is not merely a response to global trends or disclosure requirements; it has become an integral part of how Warba Bank approaches growth, risk management, and long-term value creation.

He noted that the bank is integrating ESG principles into its strategy, operations, and investment and financing decisions, with a clear focus on financing projects and activities that deliver sustainable economic, social, and environmental impact.

Al-Ghanem said Warba Bank has taken practical steps in this direction, including developing a sustainable finance framework, further integrating ESG criteria into investment decisions, and issuing Kuwait’s first sustainability sukuk.

He added that the next phase will require a shift from viewing “sustainability as a commitment” to seeing “sustainability as an opportunity”—using sustainable finance to enable businesses and new projects, support economic transformation, and create long-term investment opportunities.

Al-Ghanem concluded that the banking sector has an important role to play in building a more diversified, resilient, and sustainable Kuwaiti economy by directing financing toward sectors and projects capable of supporting growth and strengthening the national economy over the long term.

About Warba Bank

Warba Bank has achieved significant milestones over a relatively short period, establishing a leading position in Islamic digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank maintains close ties with different segments of Kuwaiti society. The bank continues to strengthen its position as a trusted banking partner, combining innovation and social responsibility in the delivery of financial products and services.

Duqm, Nghi Son deepen cooperation

Oil, energy safety pros gather for two-day HSSE conference

KPC strengthens overseas refining network

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: As the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) continues to drive Kuwait’s oil sector and reinforce its position as a key player in global energy markets, it has successfully built an integrated network of overseas assets through its international subsidiaries.

These assets include major refineries and refueling stations for vehicles and aircraft, operated by Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8), a subsidiary that has strengthened Kuwait’s presence in global energy markets.

These strategic investments have done more than generate strong financial returns and support operational sustainability. They also serve as an important safeguard for the marketing of Kuwaiti crude and help secure long-term market shares across various continents, demonstrating Kuwait’s role in the global refining and manufacturing sector.

In this context, an official report reveals that KPC’s international refining and manufacturing sector achieved significant progress during the fiscal year that ended last March.

The Nghi Son refinery in Vietnam, in which KPC holds a 35.1 percent stake, underwent a major transformation, most notably through the settlement of a USD 1.5 billion arbitration dispute and the realization of USD 66 million in savings during 2025, bringing total savings achieved since 2021 to USD 336 million.

Meanwhile, the Duqm refinery project in Oman, a 50-50 joint venture between KPC and Oman’s OQ, generated profits of USD 7 billion in 2025.

According to data from Duqm and based on a report by KPC, the Duqm refinery achieved savings of USD 270 million in 2025, along with an additional USD 55 million through February 2026.

The report explained that the refinery continued to play a role in off-taking Kuwaiti oil, having imported 41.5 million barrels.

The Milazzo refinery in Italy, in which KPC holds a 50 percent stake, continued implementing plans to enhance production efficiency and investment returns within global energy markets.

As part of an initiative to exchange expertise among these refineries, informed sources explained that the executive management of the Duqm refinery is currently planning a field visit to the Nghi Son refinery in Vietnam. The visit aims to examine best practices in operational ef-

iciency, maintenance, supply chain management, and workforce development, all of which contribute to strengthening the strategic and operational performance of Kuwait’s overseas refineries.

According to sources, such visits are crucial to achieving operational integration and facilitating knowledge transfer, enabling the refineries to navigate challenges in global energy markets and secure a sustainable competitive advantage in line with KPC’s 2040 Vision.

These joint operational initiatives underscore the depth of the integrated vision adopted by Kuwait Petroleum International. The partnerships extend beyond investment, financial, and technical considerations to include building knowledge bridges, transferring technology, and standardizing operational protocols.

This approach directly contributes to improving production efficiency and reducing operating costs, factors that are critical to refinery profitability.

The sources indicated that the visit represents a proactive step toward fostering greater synergy among Kuwait’s overseas assets.

The Nghi Son refinery offers significant refining capacity and extensive experience in managing complex operations and Asian supply chains, serving as a practical model that can be leveraged to enhance operations at the Duqm refinery, now a major industrial landmark in the Arabian Gulf.

This bilateral cooperation focuses on key areas, including the development of preventive maintenance systems, the digital transformation of daily operations, and strengthening supply chain resilience to withstand potential disruptions to maritime trade or global supply lines.

The sources further noted that the exchange of expertise in workforce development serves as a key driver of the long-term sustainability of these multi-billion-dollar investments.

In addition, this integration of knowledge helps strengthen the leadership and technical skills of refinery engineers and operators, contributing to innovative solutions to technical challenges and efforts to reduce carbon emissions. This aligns with global trends toward cleaner energy and greater environmental responsibility.

Ultimately, these efforts strengthen Kuwait’s position as a reliable and responsible global energy provider in both international and domestic markets.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) Kuwait Chapter will host its 13th International Health, Safety, Security, Environment and Loss Prevention Professional Development Conference & Exhibition (PDC 2026) on October 4 and 5 at The Regency Hotel, Kuwait. The two-day event will be held under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Oil, State of Kuwait, and is expected to bring together safety professionals, industry leaders, experts, researchers and representatives from organizations in Kuwait and abroad.

Held under the theme “Intelligent HSSE: Leveraging AI to Strengthen Process Safety, Drive Sustainability and Enhance Operational Excellence,” PDC 2026 will focus on the growing role of technology in improving workplace safety, protecting people and the environment, and strengthening operational performance. The programme will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, technical presentations, special sessions, e-posters, an industry exhibition and networking opportunities.

The conference will address a broad range of topics across health, safety, security and environment, including occupational safety and health, process safety, artificial intelligence and digital technology, environmental protection and sustainability, emergency response, fire safety, oil and gas operations, drilling and workover safety, contractor safety, training and competency, employee well-being and leadership. Sessions will also examine the use of artificial intelligence, drones, digital monitoring and other emerging technologies to identify hazards and support incident prevention. Professionals from major oil and energy organizations in Kuwait, together with specialists from government, healthcare, academia and the private sector, are expected to contribute to the programme.

A major feature of the event will be the ASSP GCC HSE Excellence Awards 2026, which recognize organizations for their commitment and achievements in health, safety, security and environmental performance.



An exhibition running alongside the conference will provide companies with a platform to showcase safety technologies, products and services and to engage with professionals from different industries.

The Chapter has also arranged professional training programmes before and after the main conference. The programmes cover emergency and crisis management, first aid, HSE, drilling competency, IADC-related programmes, HAZOP and QRA, and scaffold inspection, extending PDC 2026 beyond the two-day conference into a wider professional development programme.

The ASSP Kuwait Chapter leadership for 2026-27 includes Eng. Fadhel Al Ali, Chairman; Mohamed Yusuff A., President; Syed Kashif Vali, Vice President; Prabeesh MP, Secretary; Munir Khan N Pathan, Treasurer; Eng. Noor Al Sadi, Honorary Vice President; and Eng. Yaser Al Ha-

mad, Honorary Secretary. Eng. Ahmed Eissa Al Shatti serves as Director of PDC & GCC HSE Excellence Awards 2026, with Bader Mubarak Al Hadhrami as Deputy Director of PDC 2026. Mazharuddin Shaikh is Deputy Director of the GCC HSE Excellence Awards 2026, while Msutak Mirza serves as Organizing Committee Head. The PDC 2026 Conveners are Golamari Sampath Reddy, Jignesh Shah and Sunil N S.

Through PDC 2026, the ASSP Kuwait Chapter aims to create a platform where experienced professionals and the next generation can exchange practical knowledge, discuss emerging technologies, strengthen professional networks and contribute to a stronger safety culture.

PDC 2026 will be held on October 4-5, 2026, at The Regency Hotel, Kuwait. For information, contact info@kuwait.assp.org or contact@kuwait.assp.org.

Strengthening national talent development

KGOC, Kuwait University sign training deal

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) has signed a contract for an advanced training program with the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University in order to strengthen collaboration in training and to develop national talent in the oil sector.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KGOC Bader Al-Munaifi and acting Dean of the college Dr. Adel Hussein Malallah signed the contract, with Deputy CEO for Joint Operations Fahad Salem Al-Kharaqawi and acting Assistant Dean for Planning, Consulting and Training Dr. Abdul-Azeem Hussein Falah in attendance.

This training program is in line with the commitment of KGOC to invest in human capital and

strengthen partnership with prestigious academic institutions for the development of national capabilities, meet future operational needs, and align with sustainable development goals of the oil sector.

In another development, KGOC celebrated the 96th National Day of Saudi Arabia by organizing events at The Avenues Mall and the Nuwaiseeb border crossing, highlighting the deep fraternal and historical ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attended the event at The Avenues Mall. The event included heritage performances, competitions and gift distribution.

Activities included a warm welcome for visitors arriving in Kuwait through the Nuwaiseeb border crossing and distribution gifts, underscoring the brotherhood and partnership in the joint operation

areas in Wafra and Khafji.

Manager of the Information Technology and Services Group at KGOC Meshal Al-Hindi pointed out that the celebration of Saudi National Day proves the deep, historic and fraternal ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

He said the shared history, interests and bond between the two nations serve as an exemplary model of brotherhood among Gulf nations, indicating that cooperation between the two countries spans various fields, foremost of which is the oil sector.

He expressed pride in the role in of the company in strengthening cooperation in the oil sector and in developing operations and resources in the divided zone, reflecting the deep partnership between the two nations and serving their mutual interests.

R&D sector FDI at KD 1.98 mln, around 0.01% of total inflows

Kuwait urged to strengthen research investment

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The scientific research and development sector attracted a negligible share of total foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kuwait -- around 0.010 percent, valued at KD1,979,400, according to the latest official report of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) published in 2025.

Information Technology Professor at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Bader Al-Khodari told the newspaper that establishing an economic ecosystem conducive to foreign investment requires a robust legal framework, which must protect the fruits of human intellect and scientific endeavor from piracy and plagiarism through an academic tribunal.

He asserted that protecting intellectual property rights is no longer a cultural luxury, as it has be-

come vital in assessing the investment security of a nation and its ranking in international indices.

He called for the involvement of experts in academic and scientific fields with the necessary qualifications to promote scientific research in state entities to mitigate the material and moral damages resulting from infringing on the rights of others and raise the efficiency and credibility of the local market in handling modern innovations and intellectual products.

Where things stand after Iran’s new pitch for a deal to open the Strait of Hormuz

It's been a busy week for Iranian diplomacy that may have come to nothing. Iran's president and foreign minister visited New York for the U.N. gathering of world leaders and proposed a deal with the Trump administration that would end the fighting and open the Strait of Hormuz in seven days. That's if the U.S. ends its military blockade of Iranian ports, releases frozen Iranian assets and waives sanctions on Iranian oil sales, among other conditions - none of them new.

What's different after past failed attempts is the speedier timeline. Iran's pitch to President Donald Trump said a quick deal might help him in the mid-term elections in November.

On Saturday, Trump told reporters he rejects Iran's proposal to reopen the strait. Hours earlier, the U.S. president posted an image on social media calling the crucial waterway the "Trump Strait." Around the same time, Iran's state media reported that President Masoud Pezeshkian was on his way back to Tehran.

Here's where things stand as Iran and the U.S. each try to outlast growing economic pain following seven months of war.

The U.S. said its envoys and the Iranians held three hours of indirect talks via mediators Tuesday, their first since the countries' previous agreement to end the fighting and launch nuclear talks collapsed within days of its signing in June.

The latest talks were good and the U.S. was open to more, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday. But Trump used his speech to the U.N. gathering

on Tuesday to threaten to "annihilate" the Islamic Republic. In his own speech a day later, Pezeshkian said Iran would fight "until our last breath."

In the final seconds of his speech, however, Pezeshkian said Tehran remained open to diplomacy.

In a private gathering Thursday on the sidelines of the U.N. meeting, Iran's top diplomat described Tehran's new proposal to the U.S. The conditions for Washington largely echo the ones agreed to in the June deal that fell apart.

At stake are the biggest sources of frustration for both sides.

Opening the Strait of Hormuz, over which Iran asserted control after being attacked by the U.S. and Israel, would ease global markets and relieve some pressure on the U.S. military, which has been guiding commercial ships through the waterway at risk of Iranian attack.

Lifting the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports, as well as waiving sanctions on oil sales, would allow Tehran to ship out more of its crude and help its battered economy as its currency hits record lows and inflation soars.

In a sign of Tehran's apparent sense of urgency, Pezeshkian hosted the prime minister of Qatar, the mediator in the indirect talks, early Friday before much of New York rolled out of bed.

"The choice now rests with the United States," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told journalists Friday evening.

On Saturday, Trump said Iran wants an agreement because they're "losing so badly."

"They want to make a deal and I think that's fine," Trump said. "I'd like to make a deal, too. But that deal would not be acceptable."

Trump made the comments to reporters outside the White House before leaving for a college football game.

Before his comments, the White House had said U.S. officials were having positive and constructive conversations with mediators.

Tehran has spent long weeks in discussions with Oman, on the other side of the strait, on how to manage shipping traffic. Its new rush for a deal with Washington, analysts said, reflects its eye on the midterms. Trump might decide an agreement has political benefits. But his rejection risks a return to fighting that would drive oil prices higher just as he needs happy voters.

"Washington may believe that time is on its side: Maintain pressure through November, avoid another major military escalation before the midterms, and reassess afterward. Tehran may reach precisely the opposite conclusion," Danny Citrinowicz, a senior researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, said on X on Saturday.

Trump has said he's in no rush for a deal as the U.S. strains Iran's economy with sanctions. The White House had yet to expand on his "Trump Strait" social media post overnight.

As for Iran, there was no immediate sign its top diplomat had left New York. At home, Iran's security forces have warned they still have targets left to strike. (AP)

France faces ‘heat or eat’ dilemma Soaring fuel prices squeeze French bakeries, businesses

SAINT-JUST-EN-CHAUSSÉE, Sept 27, (AP): As the lights of their small bakery flicker on in the early morning darkness, Kevin and Sandrine Luce's oven is already cranked up to 270 degrees Celsius (518 degrees Fahrenheit) to give their latest batch of baguettes a crunchy crust.

When the couple first fired up the oven in their store in Saint-Just-en-Chaussée, a small town about 90 kilometers (55 miles) north of Paris, in March, they paid 2,230 euros (\$2,540) for 2,000 liters (528 gallons) of the heating oil that it burns. Last week, they spent almost the same amount on just 1,200 liters (317 gallons).

Fuel prices that have spiked since the start of the Iran war on Feb. 28 are dealing a hard blow to the couple and other small businesses across Europe.

"Originally, it was a good deal, because initially, a fuel-heated oven is more economical than an electric one," Kevin Luce said. "That is until the price (of fuel) increased by 50%. So, yes, now it's not a good deal."

The Luces aren't alone. There are more than 34,000 bakers across France churning out around 6 billion baguettes each year, according to the national federation of bakeries and patisseries, which says that about one quarter of them use oil- or gas-fired ovens.

As customers filed through the bakery for their morning baguettes, croissants and other pastries, Luce told The Associated Press that "all this superfluous expenditure on energy represents a loss of earnings. It's salary we can't take, it's salary increases we can't give to our employees. It's investments we can't make."

Although inflicting pain globally, the energy crisis is biting particularly hard in the rural expanses and communities of the European Union's largest country by area. The roughly 21 million people who live in the countryside - about a third of the French population - often rely on cars to get around, because public transportation is limited. Rural areas make up nearly 90% of France's territory.

The so-called yellow vest protest movement, which rocked French President Emmanuel Macron's government during his first term in office, put down wide roots in rural towns and villages, with protesters setting up camps on roundabouts.

The demonstrations, some violent, gripped France for months. Fuel prices were one of the triggers of the anger then, a painful memory for Macron's ministers that hangs over them now, as they wrestle with renewed angst and fury about soaring costs.

The French government responded this week with its latest aid package - worth an estimated 450 million euros (around \$512 million) - for

people and industries battered by the eye-watering prices at the pumps. It includes subsidies for people who commute at least 15 kilometers (9 miles) to work and support ranging from 48 euros to 277 euros (\$54 to \$315) to assist 5.8 million families with their winter energy bills.

Martial Realland sold his home to help realize his long-held dream of owning a food truck that he drives from village to village in the l'Oise region of northern France, selling savory ham and cheese pancakes, fries and other snacks. Filling the truck with diesel costs 200 euros (around \$228), compared to 120 euros (\$136) before the Iran war, he said.

"It really hurts," he told the AP. "It's catastrophic."

And as the fall and winter loom, he's also bracing for a sky-high heating bill, because the home that he rents is warmed with heating oil.

"I'm scared" of that bill, he said, estimating that filling his 1,500-liter (396-gallon) tank could cost 2,500 euros (\$2,847). "Last year, it cost 1,600 euros."

With that in mind, he may not fill the tank at all this year.

Realland said he is already turning down work that requires a long drive, because the diesel that his truck burns wouldn't make it worthwhile financially.

Christine Loir, a lawmaker from the National Rally party of far-right presidential hopeful Marine Le Pen, said that more than 10% of homes in L'Eure, the Normandy region she represents in the National Assembly, use heating oil. The prices for the fuel are soaring, and Loir said that many can't afford to install other heating systems or better insulate their homes.

She is lobbying the government to lower taxes on heating oil, which is more commonly used in rural areas, both in homes but also by enterprises, including in some bakers' ovens. She said some constituents have told her that this winter they'll have to choose between heating and food.

"People are extremely worried," Loir told the AP. "People say that if fuel prices don't come down, they'll stop going to work, they can't cope."

There is at least one crumb of comfort for customers of the Luces' bakery in Saint-Just-en-Chaussée who come not just for bread and cakes but often for a chat, too.

Their prices: 1 euro (about \$1.14) for a basic baguette and 1.10 euros (\$1.25) for a "traditional" baguette, which takes longer to make, aren't rising in line with fuel prices.

"I won't change my price," he said. "It wouldn't be of any help. It wouldn't soak up the lost revenue and it would be counterproductive, because our customers would feel betrayed. They shouldn't have to pay more. They're already paying enough at home."

By National Bank of Kuwait

Markets remained focused on a combination of resilient economic data, rising Treasury yields, and evolving geopolitical developments. Meanwhile, the US labor market continued to demonstrate strength, with jobless claims falling to 197,000 and remaining near multi-decade lows, reinforcing expectations that the unemployment rate will hold at 4.1%. Strong economic activity and persistent inflation concerns pushed the 10-year Treasury yield to around 5.11%, its highest level since 2007, prompting markets to raise the probability of an October Fed rate hike to roughly 70% and supporting the US dollar. In the UK, manufacturing activity showed signs of stabilization as order books improved to their strongest level in over a year, while Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey struck a more hawkish tone, warning that elevated energy prices could necessitate further policy tightening and increasing expectations of a November rate hike. In Australia, markets continued to price in a 25bp RBA rate increase to 4.60% amid persistent inflation and resilient growth. Although unemployment rose to 4.6%, stronger-than-expected job creation and higher labor force participation pointed to underlying labor market strength. In FX markets, the euro remained under pressure and was set to finish the week below \$1.14 as Fed tightening expectations, rising European energy costs, and weaker German consumer sentiment weighed on the single currency. The US Dollar Index eased below 101 after reports of progress in US-Iran discussions but remained on track for a second consecutive weekly gain, while the Japanese yen strengthened toward 158 per dollar on growing speculation of potential intervention by Japanese authorities. Sterling hovered near a three-month low above \$1.32 despite increasing expectations of a BoE rate hike. In commodities, gold traded near \$4,270 per ounce and headed for a weekly loss of more than 2%. Brent crude eased toward \$105 per barrel amid reports that the US and Iran were exploring a phased agreement that could reopen the Strait of Hormuz, although ongoing Middle East tensions and supply concerns kept prices on track for a weekly gain of more than 2%.

United States

US Employment Picture Holds Firm Despite Rising Geopolitical Risks

New applications for US unemployment benefits remained close to their lowest levels in nearly six decades last week, indicating that the labor market has regained strength after a softer summer period and continues to show resilience despite economic uncertainties linked to tensions in the Middle East. The latest weekly jobless claims report from the Labor Department suggests labor market conditions remain stable, with the unemployment rate expected to hold at 4.1% in September. Additionally, the number of individuals receiving unemployment benefits stayed near a three-year low during the period used to assess the monthly unemployment rate. Heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have driven energy prices higher, with diesel costs reaching record levels. Economists warn that persistently elevated energy prices could eventually fuel inflation and weigh on broader economic activity. Nevertheless, recent business surveys indicate the US economy remains robust, with private sector activity expanding at its fastest pace in more than five years while price pressures continue to build. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits fell by 1,000 to 197,000.

US Treasury Yields Surge to 16-Year High as Strong Data Fuels Fed Rate Hike Bets

The 10-year US Treasury yield held around 5.11% this morning, remaining near its highest level since July 2007 after surging 16 basis points in the previous session. The rise in yields was fueled

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1482	1.1358	1.1495	1.1391	1.1200	1.1500	1.1436
GBP	1.3382	1.3201	1.3400	1.3251	1.3050	1.3340	1.3265
JPY	156.70	156.56	159.03	157.26	156.00	158.00	156.14
CHF	0.8218	0.8181	0.8298	0.8282	0.8180	0.8500	0.8199

by a weak \$70 billion five-year Treasury auction, alongside strong US economic data showing private-sector activity expanded at its fastest pace in more than five years in September. Stronger activity and rising price pressures reinforced concerns that inflation could remain elevated, while several Fed officials continued to support tighter monetary policy. Markets now see around a 70% chance of another Fed rate hike in October, up from 55% a day earlier. Meanwhile, elevated oil prices amid uncertainty surrounding US-Iran negotiations added further pressure to inflation expectations.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 100.971.

United Kingdom

UK Manufacturing Stabilises as Orders and Output Trends Strengthen

UK manufacturing conditions improved significantly in September, with the total order book balance rising to -9 from -25 in August, its strongest reading since July 2023 and significantly better than market expectations of -34. Export orders also strengthened, while the decline in output moderated sharply, with the balance improving to -4 from -17. However, manufacturers still expect output to fall slightly through December. Selling-price expectations eased to +12 from +22, pointing to some moderation in cost pressures, while finished-goods inventories remained only just adequate. The Confederation of British Industry said the figures suggest tentative stabilisation in manufacturing, although high energy, employment and supply-chain costs continue to weigh on businesses, with the upcoming budget seen as an opportunity to support investment and confidence.

BOE Gov Bailey Speaks

Bank of England (BoE) Governor Andrew Bailey warned that persistently high energy prices could make it increasingly difficult for the central bank to keep interest rates unchanged, reinforcing recent signals that policymakers may be leaning toward tighter monetary policy. His remarks come as the UK government faces mounting pressure to address rising living costs while maintaining confidence in the economy ahead of the upcoming budget. Unlike the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, the BoE has left interest rates unchanged since the outbreak of the Iran conflict. In recent weeks, Bailey and several other BoE policymakers have expressed growing concerns that the sharp rise in energy prices could keep inflation elevated. Speaking at an economics conference, Bailey said that maintaining the current policy stance would become more challenging if energy costs remain high for an extended period, adding that the BoE cannot wait for complete evidence of rising inflation expectations before taking action. Although he noted that the pass-through from energy prices to broader inflation has so far been limited, Bailey stressed that it is still too early to determine the full impact on price pressures. The comments reflect a noticeable shift in tone within the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). While a majority voted to keep rates unchanged at 3.75% last week, Bailey and several deputy governors signalled that an interest rate increase may soon be warranted. Policymakers are increasingly

concerned that higher energy costs could prevent inflation from returning to the BoE's 2% target. The central bank recently projected inflation could exceed 4% in early 2027, prompting investors to raise expectations for future rate hikes.

The GBP/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3251.

Asia Pacific

RBA Set for 15-Year High Rate as Inflation Concerns Persist

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) is widely expected to increase its cash rate by 25 basis points to 4.60%, the highest level in nearly 15 years, as persistent inflation and stronger-than-expected economic growth reinforce the need for additional monetary tightening. According to a Reuters survey, almost all economists anticipate a rate hike at the upcoming meeting, marking the fourth increase this year and bringing total tightening to 100 basis points. Market expectations have shifted significantly over the past month. Whereas most economists previously expected the RBA to keep rates unchanged and projected a peak cash rate of 4.35%, rising inflationary pressures and Governor Michele Bullock's concerns that policy may not be restrictive enough to return inflation to the 2%-3% target range have strengthened the case for further action. Recent economic data has supported the hawkish outlook. Core inflation remains elevated despite expectations of moderation later in the year, while economic growth has continued to exceed the RBA's estimated non-inflationary trend rate. Economists cite stronger GDP growth, weak productivity, and persistent inflation as key factors underpinning expectations for higher interest rates. Looking ahead, most forecasters expect the cash rate to remain at 4.60% through mid-2027, although opinions diverge beyond that period, with projections ranging from further tightening to gradual policy easing.

Australia Unemployment Rises to Highest Level Since 2021 Despite Strong Job Growth

Australia's unemployment rate edged up to 4.6% in August, its highest level since November 2021 and slightly above both market expectations and July's 4.5% reading. The number of unemployed people increased by 28,200 to 722,900, even as overall employment rose by a stronger-than-expected 39,500, well above forecasts for a 20,000 gain and reversing July's revised decline. The increase in employment was driven mainly by part-time jobs, which rose by 45,800, while fulltime employment declined by 6,300. The participation rate climbed to 67.1%, its highest since April 2025, suggesting that increased labor force participation contributed to the higher unemployment rate. Meanwhile, the underemployment rate eased slightly to 6.2% from 6.3%, while total monthly hours worked increased by 14 million to 2.009 billion, pointing to continued underlying strength in labor activity despite the rise in unemployment.

The AUD/USD currency pair last seen trading at 0.7023.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30770

AI titans warn of existential risk as IPOs, midterms loom

Anthropic & OpenAI sound the alarm on AI safety – and seek to shape how it's controlled

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 27, (AP): As tech titans warned an AI-weary world that their own advanced systems could endanger humanity, the question emerged: What do they have to gain?

The answer may lie in the companies' efforts to score political goals ahead of the U.S. midterm elections and the money top artificial intelligence labs and their investors stand to make in much-anticipated listings on a jittery stock market.

The CEOs of Anthropic and OpenAI recently declared America's cutting-edge models are so powerful, they're dangerous, and need to be regulated and independently tested before being released. In a rare instance of unity, they have sketched alarming scenarios in essays, social media posts and speeches to the United Nations.

Along the way, they are shaping the conversation around how their technology should be controlled. With their rhetoric, the companies appear to be seeking public favor and to set the terms for their own safety protocols in the unregulated market, experts, analysts and former government evaluators told The Associated Press.

Those aims may not exactly align with what Anthropic engineer Jacob Coxon sought when he quit via a post on X this month, calling for a pause on tech development to keep "superhuman" systems from eluding their makers' control. But the companies saw his post as an opportunity to highlight their own safety efforts and position themselves as cautious market leaders, just when they need fresh capital before going public on Wall Street.

President Donald Trump has shunned the need for new AI regulations, dismissing talk of risks to humanity as a "HOAX" designed to help China.

An Anthropic spokesperson said in response to questions for this story the company has been calling for regulation for several years. An OpenAI spokesperson, Liz Bourgeois, noted the company recently paused training of its most advanced models.

"People want to know AI is being developed safely, and that starts with

what companies like ours do ourselves," Bourgeois said.

Turning the conversation toward unproven threats - and away from polarizing issues such as data centers' environmental impacts, uncontrolled hacking incidents, mass AI-powered surveillance and the AI systems' use in warfare - puts Silicon Valley in a more comfortable position, said Sarah Shoker, who previously led OpenAI's geopolitics team.

"Once again we're talking about existential risk, while deprioritizing a number of other safety-critical risks that exist today. If you look at the use of AI in military tech, you can see that these systems are already used to kill people," said Shoker, a senior non-resident fellow at University of California, Berkeley Risk & Security Lab.

As AI companies have gone from building chatbots to advanced AI "world models" with 3D awareness, debate has raged over how their technologies should be tested.

Problematic incidents have shown leading AI companies failing to police themselves or design safe experiments. In recent months, leading labs' AI agents have hacked into external websites after being allowed to escape company training sandboxes, interacted with U.S. government websites in unexpected ways, and appeared to achieve a mathematical breakthrough only to face accusations of stealing mathematicians' work.

OpenAI representatives told reporters recently that they have talked with AI companies including Anthropic and Google about pausing development. They also argue they need independent auditors to check the labs' progress, if the government won't regulate.

Trump has shown little interest in regulating AI, which has been a major driver of recent U.S. economic growth.

The Republican president himself has struck deals with Silicon Valley firms that more closely tie the economy to their successes. San Francisco venture capitalist David Sacks, who co-chairs Trump's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, has dismissed calls for an AI slowdown as fearmongering

from the "Doomer Industrial Complex."

The reality is the Trump administration already evaluates some of the tech giants' models through a little-known federal agency, the U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation. Democratic President Joe Biden created the agency in 2023, when it was heralded as a clearinghouse for labs to voluntarily submit advanced AI models for testing.

The agency still exists, but the field has since expanded to include an array of independent evaluation firms, such as Berkeley, California-based nonprofit METR, which Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei suggested in a recent essay could help vet his company's safety practices.

But unlike regulated sectors like restaurants, financial services or aviation, there are no universal standards for how to test the safety and security of AI systems, said Andrew Strait, who recently left the United Kingdom's AI Security Institute, which worked with CAISI.

Notably, the companies aren't calling for more oversight from the government agency equipped to handle such requests, said Conrad Stosz, who previously led CAISI. Instead, they're vowing to create their own auditing parameters and choose particular evaluators to grade them.

Stosz now works at one such evaluation lab that has worked with Anthropic, OpenAI and Google to test their systems, and also chairs the AI Evaluator Forum, which is drafting best practices for the field. He said even the forum has questions about what Amodei and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman want.

"Lots of evaluators are interested in embedding with labs and getting greater access, but it's a little ambiguous what embedded evaluators means," said Stosz, now head of governance at Translucence, which revealed last week that OpenAI agents hacked U.S. and Australian government websites. "Will evaluators be able to thoroughly investigate, assuming that access is granted in a way that does not undermine their independence and credibility?"

UN-Habitat: ‘Kuwait Plants’ campaign underscores community-led greening

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27, (KUNA): UN-Habitat Head of Kuwait and GCC Office Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan stressed the importance of community participation in greening efforts, noting that the new “Kuwait Plants” campaign promotes practical and sustainable environmental initiatives.

Al-Hassan told KUNA on Saturday that the participation by more than 60 embassies and international organizations in the 2026-2027 “Kuwait Plants” campaign reflects growing interest in sustainability and the importance of international and community partnerships in greening efforts.

She said the campaign highlights Kuwait’s efforts in addressing climate change, emission reduction and carbon neutrality goals, while promoting green spaces, youth participation, grassroots initiatives, volunteering and community engagement.



KUNA photo

UN-Habitat highlights community role in greening Kuwait.

She added that the development of the Kuwaiti-Turkish Friendship Park was fully funded by Kuwait and carried out through local volunteer efforts, while UN-Habitat provided awareness,

guidance, knowledge transfer and volunteer capacity-building.

The UN official said transferring responsibility for the park to the local community marks a key success indicator, with Kuwaiti volunteers continuing the greening efforts initiated with UN-Habitat support.

She expressed pride in the campaign’s expansion since 2017, noting that cooperation with Kuwait Oil Company since 2019 has supported its growth and fostered a lasting culture of greening and community participation.

Al-Hassan thanked participating ambassadors, diplomatic missions, international organizations, residents and volunteers, affirming the campaign’s continued support for youth initiatives and promotion of sustainability and environmental volunteerism.

The Conversation

Housing stress, family pressures fuel teen mental health crisis in Michigan

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

By Crystal Cederna
Michigan State University

Teens in southeast Michigan go to school carrying with them far more than backpacks, books and water bottles.

Many are shouldering economic hardship, exposure to adversity and discrimination, family responsibilities, uncertainty about the future and social pressures.

These sentiments were shared with our research teams repeatedly during focus groups we held in Detroit in 2024 and during 2026 community advisory meetings in Flint.

I am a pediatric psychologist, researcher and mother to a tween and teen who has worked with Michigan youth and families for over a decade. My research focuses on addressing youth mental health challenges through early intervention, community partnerships and making mental health care easier to access.

Teens today face threats to their well-being beyond what many adults immediately recognize, along with barriers to getting help that make it tough to get better.

Because they interact with teens regularly, school personnel may be especially well positioned to offer insights into the teen mental health landscape.

Our research team included members from Michigan State University, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. The team ran five in-person focus groups with 25 school personnel at a Detroit public high school in order to better understand the mental health of local teens. The groups were mostly made up of teachers, along with coaches, administrators and support staff.

Participants told us students were struggling with depression, anxiety, trauma and exhaustion.

“A lot of students feel exhausted. Every single day,” one focus group attendee said. Staff described students as often seeming physically and mentally worn down and checked out. “It’s like, if you have one or two bad days in a week, I can understand that, but it’s every single day for months on end.”

School personnel also reported concerns about teens using substances like alcohol and marijuana, getting into fights and having thoughts of suicide - issues often framed by the focus group participants as consequences of unaddressed mental health challenges, or as the students’ best efforts to cope with stress.

National findings aren’t much different. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention polled over 20,000 U.S. high school students in 2023 and found that nearly 4 in 10 experienced persistent sadness and hopelessness, while 1 in 5 had seriously considered suicide.

Not all teens carry the same risk. For example, compared to young men, young women who completed the survey were about twice as likely to have felt persistently sad and hopeless, had poor mental health, seriously considered suicide or attempted suicide.

Teens identifying as LGBTQ+ were two to three times more likely to experience those same mental health challenges than their peers who identified as heterosexual and whose gender identity aligned with their sex assigned at birth.

Black teens were less likely to report poor mental health but more likely to report attempting suicide than white teens.

Detroit school personnel and our Flint community-based advisory boards also described how teen mental health concerns often stemmed from everyday life.

Many teens experience stress because of housing instability, serious financial strain and transportation difficulties. These challenges can be compounded by family stress - things like parents working multiple jobs or extended work hours to make ends meet, caretaking for siblings or older family members, family conflict or teens themselves working to support their families.

Research suggests that by the age of 18, most youth will have been exposed to at least one potentially traumatic event or life circumstance that threatens their sense of safety, stability, or ability to form healthy relationships with others - also known as adverse childhood experiences or ACEs. Common ACEs include things like abuse, witnessing or experiencing violence, growing up in a household with substance use or mental health problems, or experiencing instability due to parental separation or a family member being in prison.

“They bring that baggage, that drama, that trauma to school with them ... The people surrounding them all have similar situations,” one educator told us.

In Flint, there were six shootings during a single weekend in August 2026, two of which were fatal, and one victim was a teenage boy. Many local leaders and community members - including educators, advocates and law enforcement - remain concerned about youth gun violence in both Detroit and Flint, where efforts like the Community Safety Collaborative Dashboard and more are underway to prevent future incidents.

Teens aren’t the only ones struggling.

Parents on advisory boards also talked about feeling overwhelmed by competing demands, stress and concerns about teens’ well-being. Educators in the focus groups talked about feeling responsible for supporting youth while lacking sufficient training and resources.

“Sometimes I feel like I’m helpless,” a participant shared.

Others spoke about the lasting emotional toll of responding to student crises, including suicide attempts.

These findings mirror recent national data that show high levels of stress and burnout among parents and educators, and that educator distress is linked to poorer student mental health outcomes.

In my role as a mom and my work with youth and caregivers in Michigan, I regularly hear this strong sentiment: Create nothing for us, without us. Teens, community members and parents want to be part of building the mental health interventions of the future.

And their involvement matters because young people often know best what gets in the way of seeking help. Teens don’t always seek mental health help when they need it. They worry about being misunderstood, lack the words to talk about difficult emotions, and aren’t sure whom to trust and when to share their concerns.

Research suggests that safe spaces - those where providers are trustworthy, affirm all aspects of teens’ identities, and where teens feel they are seen and understood - are the foundation upon which all other mental health supports must be built.

Grounded in these ideas, our team developed a model that trains school staff to recognize and support students with physical and mental health concerns, while connecting them to additional services when needed.

And that matters because access to care in the community remains a challenge. In a recent survey, Detroit residents identify a lack of mental health services, a shortage of qualified professionals and not enough mental health facilities as big reasons it’s hard to find and access mental health care when it’s needed.

What do teens say they need?

In 2025, we organized an advisory board of 12- to 17-year-olds based in Flint. They meet every few months to help us develop a program to promote teen well-being.

Board members told us they want programs with food, fun, social connection and mentorship, without lectures and judgment. They want spaces where they can speak openly around “safe adults,” and conversations that focus on strengths rather than problems and shortcomings.

“Programs should be about life-bettering,” one teen told us.

These messages have stayed with me. Young people are not simply asking adults to prevent crises. They are asking for the relationships, opportunities and supports needed to build healthy, meaningful and thriving lives. (AP)

Admissions open in Khaitan, Salmiya, Fahaheel, Jahra

KIG president opens Madrasa academic year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The English Madrasa for Islamic Studies – Khaitan officially commenced its new academic year with an inspiring opening programme attended by the Madrasa administration, teachers, PTA representatives, and well-wishers.

The Madrasa offers comprehensive Islamic education in Qur’an, Hadith, Aqidah, Fiqh, Islamic History, Arabic, Daily Duas, and Islamic manners and morals, with a focus on developing students’ knowledge, discipline, faith, and character.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Anwar Saeed, President of KIG-Kuwait, who declared the Madrasa open and wished the students and staff a successful academic year. He highlighted the importance of Islamic education in nurturing good character and strong moral values.

Ms. Asmina Afthab, Vice Principal, welcomed the gathering, while Ms. Shamina Rashid, Principal, presented an overview of the Madrasa’s activities, objectives, and commitment to quality Islamic education.

Best wishes and felicitation speeches were delivered by Mr. Sameer, PTA Vice President; Mr. Nooman, PTA Secretary; and Mr. Hafez, Area President. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Muaz Othman, Arabic Teacher.

The event set a positive tone for the new academic year and reaffirmed the Madrasa’s commitment to nurturing students with Islamic knowledge and strong moral values.



Photos during the event.

Madrasa Administration: Khaitan: 65757138, Salmiya: 55238583, Fahaheel: 65762175, Jahra: 99504872

Bishop of St. Thomas Evangelical Church meets YMCA Kuwait, reviews programmes

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: YMCA Kuwait met Most Rev. Dr. Abraham Chacko, Bishop of St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India, during his short visit to Kuwait. The YMCA delegation included Mathews Mammen (President), Manoj Parimanam (General Secretary), A. I. Kurien (Patron), Ajith Thomas Kannanpara (Joint Secretary), Santhosh M. Philip and K. M. George (Prayer Coordinators). Rev. Sibi Abraham, representing the St. Thomas Evangelical Church, and Manoj Kuruvilla, President of KTMCC, also attended the meeting.

The Bishop enquired about the various activities and programmes of YMCA Kuwait. The representatives shared information about its fellowship, prayer meetings, youth and family programmes, community service, and other social and cultural activities. The meeting was a warm and meaningful occasion of fellowship and interaction. YMCA Kuwait expressed its gratitude to His Grace for his valuable time and kind encouragement.



YMCA members with the Bishop.

Friendship is built over time, through ordinary moments – I teach lonely college students to notice them

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

By Justin Vaughn
Coastal Carolina University

The first skill I learned when I became a political science professor nearly 20 years ago was how to quiet a room full of chatty undergraduates.

These days, I often walk into a silent room, with students staring at their phones and barely acknowledging the classmates beside them.

As I read more about the United States’ loneliness crisis, I began noticing a version of it among my students.

In a 2026 national survey of over 40,000 college students, nearly 6 in 10 said they felt lonely sometimes or always. At the same time, federal time-use data show that the share of Americans who socialized in person with family, friends or others on an average day fell from 38% in 2015 to 30% in 2025.

Those and similar other studies capture a familiar contradiction seen on college campuses like my own: Many new students want close relationships, but feel anxious about initiating them and have had little practice sustaining them.

I realized that my students rarely spoke to one another, and went entire semesters without learning their classmates’ names. Many students seemed unsure how to cross the few feet between them and their peers and make the social connection they craved.

I designed a freshman honors seminar, “Friendship & Society,” around

this uncertainty, combining the academic study of friendship with practical exercises in forming and sustaining it.

In this course, students examine how an initial exchange can develop into friendship through repeated contact and shared time, and why many potential connections never progress into a lasting friendship.

They consider how friends help shape identity and memory, whether old friends are owed continued loyalty after their lives diverge and whether a friendship can remain meaningful after it ends.

Students also look at how friendship can have strong effects on physical and mental health, making it what I believe is an overlooked public health issue. Friendships can also help shape people’s broader sense of belonging in a community, building the social trust that civic life depends on.

Students test those questions through 10 “Friendship Practices,” a series of experiential activities I designed. Students are asked to share a meal with classmates or visit a public gathering place like a café or lounge to see how these settings can encourage conversation. During a “friendship safari,” small groups walk across campus, noting where conversations begin and where students pass one another without speaking.

In private journal entries and submitted reflections, students record what they expected from each situation, and what happened when they tried to form connections. They make a short film telling a story of friendship on campus and end with a friendship memoir tracing how their own relationships and expectations changed during their first semester of college.

Students read “Stay True,” a memoir about a friendship between author Hsu Hsu and his classmate Ken that shapes Hsu’s sense of himself long after his friend’s death.

Neuroscientist Ben Rein’s book “Why Brains Need Friends” explains the biology of connection and isolation, and shows how positive interactions activate the brain’s reward system while isolation triggers a stress response.

Students also read longform journalism, social science research, public health reports and political philosophy on aspects of loneliness. They also watch TED Talks and films that explore how a brief encounter with a stranger can, over time, become a friendship.

Students learn that a friendship is built from countless moments that may feel meaningless while they are happening. An unremarkable meal, or a conversation that fills 10 spare minutes rarely feels consequential on its own.

Over time, those moments build relational capital, meaning the shared trust and history friends can draw on when life becomes difficult or a disagreement needs repairing.

That reserve reaches beyond a single relationship. Communities become more connected when people have accumulated enough ordinary experience together to trust one another and keep showing up.

By the end of the course, students can weigh different kinds of evidence about how friendships form, develop and sometimes fade. They also become better able to start a conversation, recognize which public spaces make it easier to meet and spend time with others, and identify habits that help relationships deepen over time.

They finish with a clearer sense of how relationships take shape and how their own choices contribute to the communities forming around them.

Uncommon Courses is an occasional series from The Conversation U.S. highlighting unconventional approaches to teaching. (AP)



Mohammad Al-Naqi, Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Ambassador Nabila Al-Mulla, and European Union Ambassador Anne Koistinen.



Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishal, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Duaij, the European Union Ambassador, and the visiting delegation.

Kuwaiti businessman honored for boosting Kuwait-Finland relations

Finland bestows Al-Naqi Order of the White Rose

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Finnish President Alexander Stubb awarded Kuwaiti businessman Mohammad Ali Al-Naqi the Order of the White Rose of Finland (Knight, First Class) in recognition of his exceptional contributions to strengthening political and economic relations between Kuwait and Finland, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Ambassador of Finland to Qatar and non-resident Ambassador to Kuwait Juha Mustonen presented the award to Al-Naqi during

a reception that the latter hosted at his home in Salwa.

A visiting Finnish delegation, members of the Al-Naqi Family and other guests attended the event.

Al-Naqi expressed his pride and honor in receiving the award and thanked President Stubb for the gesture. He asserted that the award serves as his motivation to continue solidifying cooperation and friendship between Kuwait and Finland, as well as strengthen-

ing ties between the business communities in both nations.

On the other hand, Ambassador Mustonen praised the contributions of Al-Naqi, his unwavering commitment to support Kuwaiti-Finnish relations, and efforts to enhance communication and promote opportunities for cooperation, particularly in the economic and commercial sectors.

The visiting Finnish delegation included Undersecretary of State for International

Trade at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland Jarno Syrjälä, Ambassador Mustonen, Head of the Education Finland Program at the Finnish National Agency for Education Jaakko Skantsi, Deputy Head of Mission at the Finnish Embassy in Qatar Sara Stenros and other embassy representatives.

The delegation's visit to Kuwait aims to improve bilateral communication and co-operation in the economic, commercial and educational sectors.



Sami Sharif, Sheikh Duaij Jaber Al-Ali, and Mohammad Al-Naqi



Mohammad Al-Naqi receives the Order of the White Rose of Finland (Knight, First Class) from Ambassador Juha Mustonen



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah, Ambassador Nabila Al-Mulla, and Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri.



EU Ambassador Anne Koistinen, Ahmed Al-Ayoub and his wife, Mrs. Mona



Al-Naqi welcomes the State Representative at the Foreign Ministry, Jarno Syrjälä.



A conversation between Sheikh Ahmed Al-Duaij, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah, Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, and Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri.



Mohammad Al-Naqi and colleague Mohammed Al-Farhan



Mohammed Mustafa Karam and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah



Sabah Al-Rayes and Hussain Al-Kharafi



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah with the Finnish delegation.



A group photo

Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Madonna tops nominations, Snoop hosts

Swift set to make VMA history with inaugural Artist Director Honors

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (AP): The 2026 MTV Video Music Awards are here and Swifties, it looks like the night is already yours.

Earlier this week it was announced that Taylor Swift will receive the inaugural Artist Director Honors, becoming the most awarded artist in VMA history.

Swift is currently tied with Beyoncé for the title of most-awarded musician in VMA history. They have 30 each. (Eminem is the male artist with the most VMAs with 15.) The new award, which according to the VMAs is meant to recognize artists “whose work behind the camera has expanded the possibilities of music video and advanced the art of visual storytelling,” will bring her total to 31.

She will also debut the music video for her new song, “Patient Zero,” during the award show. Swift directed the visual, which stars Colin Farrell and Dakota Johnson.

“Patient Zero” is also her first single since marrying Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce at Madison Square Garden in July.

Here’s what else to know ahead of Sunday night’s show.

The two-hour MTV Video Music Awards show will broadcast live on CBS on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. Eastern and 4:30 p.m.



Madonna appears at The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute benefit gala in New York on May 5, 2025, left, and Taylor Swift appears at the MTV Video Music Awards in Elmont, N.Y., on Sept. 11, 2024. (AP)

Pacific, from the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

It is the first time since 2017 that the VMAs have picked a location that is not in New York or New Jersey.

The VMAs are also simulcast on MTV and be available to stream on Paramount+ in the U.S. It will become available to stream globally the next day on Paramount+ and

MTV.

Snoop Dogg, a 13-time VMAs nominee and three-time winner, will host. Snoop made his debut on the VMAs stage in 1994. He closed the show in 1999 with Dr. Dre and Eminem and returned for a tribute to the Notorious B.I.G. and again for a performance with Eminem in 2022.

Madonna leads the 2026 MTV



A statue of the MTV Moon Man appears on the red carpet at the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 20, 2018, in New York. (AP)

Video Music Award nominations. The pop superstar has been nominated in every decade of her musical career. She has 19 competitive MTV VMA wins and in 1986 became the first solo female artist to receive the Video Vanguard Award.

She is up for 11 awards at this year’s ceremony, including video, artist and song of the year, as well as best collaboration, dance, direc-

tion, art direction, cinematography, editing, choreography and visual effects.

Taylor Swift follows with the second-most nominations with nine. She is up for video and artist of the year as well as best pop, direction, art direction, cinematography, editing, choreography and visual effects.

Madonna and Swift are followed

by Ariana Grande and Sabrina Carpenter with seven nods each to their names, as well as Bruno Mars, PinkPantheress and Zara Larsson with five. Blackpink’s LISA has four and Shakira, Tate McRae, GENER8ION and Yung Lean are tied for three.

Madonna will open the show. It will mark her first performance at the VMAs in 23 years.

Kacey Musgraves will pay homage to the late, great Dolly Parton. The country music icon, whose soaring vibrato vocals, poignant songwriting and sparkling costumes defined her rise from a log cabin in the Tennessee mountains to the height of stardom and acclaim, died in Nashville of cancer in August. She was 80.

Raye, Sombr and Teddy Swims will pay tribute to George Michael, who died 10 years ago on Christmas Day. He was 53.

It’s double duty for Raye, who also will perform solo.

Other performers include GENER8ION with Yung Lean, Shaboozey with Gunna, as well as Lisa and Sienna Spiro.

Alex Warren, Belmont Cameli, Charli xcx, Ciara Miller, David Corenswet, Ella Bright, Isabel May, Jeff Probst, Rachel Dratch, Teyana Taylor, Tyla and Troye Sivan will present.



This photo taken on Sept. 25, 2026 shows a traditional Chinese lion dance performance during the opening ceremony of the Yangzhou Scholars’ Garden at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden Bridgewater in Salford, Britain. (Xinhua)

Landscape marks ties

Europe’s largest Chinese garden takes root in northern England

SALFORD, Britain, Sept. 27, (Xinhua): After nearly eight years in the making, a Chinese garden described by authorities as the largest of its kind in Europe has opened in Salford, bringing a distinctive Chinese presence to the horticultural landscape of northern England.

At the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden Bridgewater, traditional Chinese walls, timber pavilions, rockwork and water have been brought together in the Chinese Streamside Garden, which covers more than 7 acres (about 2.8 hectares).

Its centerpiece, the Yangzhou Scholars’ Garden, draws on the classical gardens of Yangzhou in east China’s Jiangsu province, with four pavilions representing the traditional scholarly arts of music, Go, calligraphy and painting. Chinese craftspeople used traditional techniques including mortise-and-tenon joinery, brickwork and stone carving in its construction.

Deciding what kind of Chinese garden would work in this particular corner of England took time. Tracy Snell, curator at RHS Garden Bridgewater, told Xinhua that the team visited gardens in China, including in Beijing and Yangzhou, before settling on the design.

“Each had its own beauty, but the garden at Bridgewater also needed to work with the existing woodland, planting and character of the wider site,” she said, adding that the aim was to create a garden that was clearly Chinese while sitting naturally within its English surroundings.

During the opening ceremony of the garden on Friday, Chinese and British representatives jointly planted a willow as a friendship tree, whose parentage traces to China and Britain. Marcus Chilton-Jones, Head of Site at RHS Garden Bridgewater, said the tree was a fitting symbol for a garden shaped by years of cooperation between the two sides.

He also pointed to a local connection: the name “Salford” derives from the Old English “Sealhford,” meaning a ford by willow trees.

Willows have long been a familiar motif in Chinese painting and classical gardens, and remain a common feature in contemporary urban landscaping across China.

Robin Garrido, ceremonial mayor of Salford, told Xinhua that the willow represented “peace and well-being” as well as the cooperation between China and Britain. “RHS Garden Bridgewater attracts large numbers of visitors each year, and the new garden would give people in Salford and elsewhere in Britain the chance to experience Chinese

garden culture closer to home,” he said.

According to RHS Garden Bridgewater, the planting itself changes with the seasons. Magnolias and cherry blossom appear in spring, while acers, ginkgos and euonymus bring autumn colour. Rhododendrons and primulas are already familiar to many British gardeners, though a number of the plants in the garden have their origins in China. Paths, walls, pavilions, rocks and water are arranged so that the view changes as visitors move through the garden.

For Greater Manchester’s Chinese community, the project has also offered a chance to take part in creating something for the wider public.

Gerry Yeung, founding member of the garden’s committee, told Xinhua that local Chinese residents had supported fundraising for the project from its early stages. They hoped the garden would help more people understand China’s contribution to horticulture, while giving the Chinese community a greater role in local cultural life.

Chinese Consul General in Manchester Tang Rui said the project had overcome difficulties including cross-border coordination and differences in construction standards. He said the efforts had brought to Salford “a traditional Chinese garden that is the largest in Europe, the most complete in its overall design and the most authentic in its architecture,” while “turning classical Eastern aesthetics from drawings into reality and allowing the British public to get close to Chinese culture without travelling far.” The opening also coincided with the Mid-Autumn Festival. “It truly is a case of ‘good things coming in pairs,’” Tang said.

RHS Garden Bridgewater opened in 2021 on the 154-acre site of the historic Worsley New Hall estate in Salford. The Chinese garden project started in 2019, a year after members of Greater Manchester’s Chinese community had joined the RHS in developing plans for the garden.

Clare Matterson, director general of the RHS, described the project as a “true partnership,” combining Chinese craftsmanship with British horticultural and landscape expertise. She noted that many plants now familiar in British gardens originally came from China.

“The garden will also form part of the RHS’s practical work on climate resilience, helping horticulturists consider which plants grown today will be best suited to the conditions of the future,” she said.

Music

Judd returns with first album in a decade

Quavo album, ‘East of Eden’ series and Minecraft lead this week’s new releases

LOS ANGELES, Sept 27, (AP): The limited series adaptation of “East of Eden” and an album from Quavo are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: “Teenage and Death at Camp Miasma,” Wynonna Judd’s first album in a decade and “Minecraft Dungeons II.”

“Teenage and Death at Camp Miasma” (streaming Friday, Oct. 2 on Mubi) is Jane Schoenbrun’s anticipated follow-up to 2024’s “I Saw the TV Glow.” A standout at the Cannes Film Festival, the film stars Hannah Einbinder (“Hacks”) as a filmmaker eager to revive a slasher franchise with its original star (Gillian Anderson). In her review, AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr called it “a thoughtfully constructed fever dream that wears its high and low brow references on its sleeve - a bold and worthy vision that continues Schoenbrun’s exploration of transitioning using the cinematic and pop cultural tools at their disposal and reinventing them in their image.”

Amir Bar-Lev’s “The Last First: Winter K2” (Apple TV, out Friday, Oct. 2) chronicles the first team of mountaineers who attempted to make a winter ascent of K2, in 2001. The expedition of the world’s second-highest peak is undertaken at a time when temperatures just at the base camp can reach 50 below.

- AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Summer has come and gone, but festival season is not quite over. Austin City Limits Festival will take place over two consecutive weekends in the Texas capital starting this Friday. Fans outside the Lone Star State and far beyond can livestream the first weekend, Oct. 2-4, via Disney+ and Hulu. Choose Texas, y’all!

Country star Wynonna Judd returns with her first new album in a decade. “The Hard Truth” promises to deliver on just that. She co-wrote most of the album, which was produced by her husband, Cactus Moser. “I’ve spent a lifetime singing about heartbreak, healing, faith, and survival, but I’ve never made a record like this one,” Judd wrote in her album announcement in July. “These songs tell the truth about where I’ve been, what I’ve lost, what



This combination of images shows promotional art for “Bite Size Terror,” from left, “East of Eden,” and “Jackie.” (AP)

I’ve overcome, and who I’ve become.” That they do.

The Grammy-nominated rapper Quavo will release a new album, “QRÖMELIFE,” also on Friday, Oct. 2. Executive produced by Pharrell Williams (who has been quite busy these days, following 2025’s Clipse record and forthcoming titles from John Legend and Pusha T), the MC is ready to introduce his latest chapter. And while it might sound counterintuitive, start with the ferocious “Backwards,” his collaboration with T.I. It’ll have you wanting to book a flight to Atlanta.

- AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Florence Pugh headlines Netflix’s seven-episode adaptation of John Steinbeck’s 1952 novel “East of Eden,” playing the charming, morally slippery Cathy Ames. It’s written and executive produced by Zoe Kazan, granddaughter of Elia Kazan, who directed the famed 1955 film version that starred James Dean. This time, Christopher Abbott and Mike Faist play brothers Adam and Charles Trask whose relationship is fractured when Ames enters their lives. Kazan says her version is a fuller telling of the story compared to her grandfather’s take, including a deeper dive into Pugh’s character. It premieres Thursday, Oct. 1.

Catherine Zeta-Jones stars and executive produces the AMC+ series “Kill Jackie,” about a former international drug smuggler named Jackie Price, who spent two decades hiding in plain sight as an art dealer. Her cover blows up when she learns a crew of assassins have been hired to kill her. The eight-episode thriller, debuting Friday, Oct. 2, is adapted from Aidan Truhen’s novel “The Price You Pay,” and comes from the creative team behind “Killing Eve.”

In “Tip Toe,” Alan Cumming and David Morrissey play neighbors of 15 years whose easy rapport morphs into open hostility as rising bigotry seeps into their lives. It premieres Friday, Oct. 2 on Starz. Russell T. Davies (“Queer as Folk”) wrote all five episodes of the drama, which won rave reviews when it aired in the UK earlier this year.

Just in time for spooky season, Tubi unwraps a horror anthology called “Bite Size Terror.” The series spotlights emerging writers and directors across body horror, dark comedy and the supernatural. Episodes include “Kachina,” about the deadly repercussions of an influencer hired to redecorate a home who disturbs a family’s sacred doll while on the job and “The Deep End,” about a babysitter who realizes something’s wrong with a child after an underwater trick in the pool. All

episodes drop Friday, Oct. 2, making it perfect for Halloween-season binging.

- AP Writer Alicia Rancillo

The world of Minecraft has expanded well beyond computers, with books, Lego sets, all sorts of merchandise and even a hit movie. But developer Mojang is still in the video game business, and its latest spinoff is “Minecraft Dungeons II.” It takes the familiar blocky characters - and maybe a chicken or two - and drops them into an uncharted new dimension called the Sift. You can play solo or join forces with up to three friends to battle the mobs threatening to invade the Overworld. The quest begins Tuesday on Xbox X/S, PlayStation 5, Switch and PC.

As “Ace Combat 8: Wings of Theve” begins, things are looking rough in Strangereal, Bandai Namco’s alternate-universe Earth. The Federation of Central Usea has been invaded by the Republic of Sotoa, but despite the rout, the FCU still has a few fighter jets at its disposal. It’s up to you and your wingmen to reclaim the skies over your homeland. The Ace Combat series has been delivering high-flying dogfighting action for 30 years now, and the latest chapter promises state-of-the-art graphics and exotic new weapons. Liftoff is Friday, Oct. 2, on Xbox X/S, PlayStation 5 and PC.

- Lou Kesten (AP)

Competition draws hundreds of Chinese music fans in Laos

Lancang-Mekong Melodies grand finale held in Vientiane

VIENTIANE, Sept. 27, (Xinhua): The grand final of the fifth “Lancang-Mekong Melodies: Lao People Singing Chinese Songs” competition has been held here, bringing together more than 700 people to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and promote people-to-people exchanges.

The event, held on Friday night, was attended by officials from China and Laos, representatives of cultural institutions, and members of local communities.

In his remarks, Deng Liqiang, a counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Laos, said music is a universal language that transcends national borders.

Noting that over the past five years, the competition has become a symbol of cultural exchanges between China and Laos, he expressed the hope that the event would continue to attract more Lao young people to learn about China and develop an interest in Chinese culture.

Vansy Soukchaleurn, deputy director of the Department of Culture and Arts under the Lao Ministry of Culture and Tourism, said that the competition has helped implement the action plan for building a China-Laos community with a shared future in the new era.

Through music, the event has strengthened the bond between the two peoples and showcased the longstanding friendship between China and Laos, Vansy added.

The competition attracted hundreds of Chinese-language music enthusiasts from across Laos, with contestants ranging in age from 8 to 53. Following a series of qualifying rounds, 12 contestants advanced to the grand final.

After a closely contested final, Viengsavanh Yayongsue won the championship with the song “We Are Different.” Luo Weijian, director of the Chinese Cultural Center in Laos, said this year’s

competition reached a wider audience than previous editions, attracting participants from across Laos, from Vientiane to mountainous towns in the north, and from the banks of the Mekong River to the southern highlands.

Singers from diverse ethnic backgrounds and regions came together, united by their shared connection to the Mekong River. Luo said the event’s growing popularity reflects the Lao people’s interest in the Chinese language and culture.

The competition was hosted by the Chinese Cultural Center in Laos and supported by the China General Chamber of Commerce in Laos.

A photo exhibition marking the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Laos was also held at the venue, along with a display of traditional Chinese culture.

400 dentists attend first Kuwaiti pediatric dentistry conference

Kuwait expands children’s dental care with new clinics, integrated e-record: Al-Awadhi

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi said the Dentistry and Information Systems departments at the Health Ministry are currently collaborating on the development an integrated electronic patient record.

Speaking at the opening of the first scientific conference of the Kuwaiti Pediatric Dentistry Association, Al-Awadhi explained that the new system will connect specialized centers, primary healthcare centers, school programs, pediatric departments in public hospitals, radiology units and dental laboratories to guarantee the continuity of care and service efficiency, while safeguarding patient data and ensuring their privacy.He revealed that the ministry is expanding dental services, particularly for children, by opening several centers and departments in less than a year like the Nasser Al-Saeed Specialized Center for Pediatric Dentistry in the Capital Governorate, which consists of 48 clinics for children.

He added that the ministry opened the Pediatric Dentistry Department at Mutlaa Accident Center (N10). He said this facility has four clinics, radiology and sterilization services, providing specialized treatment to children in Mutlaa City (aged six to 15) in the morning and evening shifts.

He also cited the opening of an integrated dental department at Adan Hospital, including clinics, radiology, and sterilization facilities, another at West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Health Center with clinics, radiology and sterilization services and a waiting area for patients, the first specialized oral, maxillofacial and facial surgery clinic at Sader Specialized Center in the Capital Health District, and two specialized clinics at Taima Specialized Dental Center.

He indicated that oral and dental health is an integral part of general health, stressing the importance of caring for the teeth of children, as prevention, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment lay the foundation for better long-term health. He stressed the need for the development of treatment services and continuous investment in prevention, public awareness and early intervention.

Meanwhile, he revealed that a conference will be held soon to strengthen the link between clinical practice and scientific or academic work and translating knowledge and expertise into applications that improve care. “We look forward to the conference to strengthen the research partnership between specialized centers and board programs, focusing on pediatric dental health priorities and contribute to the evaluation and development of practices based on scientific evidence,” he explained.

He praised the outcomes of the



Photos from the event.

Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS) dental programs and the qualified national professionals produced by the various Kuwaiti Board specialties.

Also, Conference Chairman

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Thunayan affirmed that the conference serves as a national platform for exchanging knowledge and expertise, as well as strengthening collaboration among practitioners, academics, re-

searchers and decision-makers.

Rapporteur of the Pediatric Dentistry Association Dr. Ali Akbar revealed that 400 dentists registered for the conference – a manifestation of the growing interest in keeping pace with the latest

scientific and clinical developments in pediatric dentistry.

Moreover, in a report on Kuwait published in 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated the prevalence of untreated tooth decay

in the primary teeth of children aged one to nine at 43.5 percent. The ministry considered this figure as an indicator of the need to expand preventive measures and early intervention, as well as conduct national studies.



A sliver of beach remains after sea level rises on the coastline in Melekeok state, Palau on Sept 3. (AP)

Beset by climate change, island nations act as conscience of a warming world

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27, (AP): When Palau President Surangel Samuel Whippis Jr. recently took his children to his nation’s Helen Island, two-thirds of it was gone. Rising seas caused by climate change had swallowed generational burial grounds, washing away a people’s entire culture and identity.

“For us, it’s devastating,” Whippis told The Associated Press on Friday, 40 years after his previous visit. “It doesn’t mean we should give up.”

In the global power game of the United Nations General Assembly, small island states, like Palau, are often on the sidelines, offering moral advice to the mighty who don’t always listen. After all, their countries are tiny. Nearly 11 Marshall Islands, or about 30 Tuvalu, could fit inside New York City, where the United Nations is housed.

Now, some of the little land they do have is disappearing.

“Sometimes,” Whippis said, “you get drowned out.”

He was referring to unequal power dynamics, but it also applies physically. When it comes to climate change, many of the world’s island nations have banded together to be heard better. Their voices play the role of a conscience to a warming world, pleading to stop carbon pollution before it’s too late.

In 2015, when the world was on the verge of signing the landmark Paris climate pact, it was small island nations that got the goal to limit global warming tightened from 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) to 1.5 degrees (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. At the time, island nations said it was a matter of

survival.

Now, scientists and the United Nations have conceded that the world is blowing past the 1.5 degrees mark - a temperature averaged over many years - in the next year or two. The best hope to keep this from happening permanently is for the world to reduce coal, oil and gas use to zero in coming decades, so that sometime this century, temperatures will go back down below the 1.5 degrees threshold, they said.

“Each fraction of a degree of warming increases the risk of irreversible sea level rise,” said Anna Rasmussen, chief negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States. “We absolutely cannot surrender our pursuits of 1.5.”

What does breaching 1.5 degrees mean? “Death,” said Joyelle Clarke, environment minister for the Caribbean island nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, standing outside the U.N. Security Council.

This is unfair because small islands didn’t cause climate change, Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine said during her speech to the General Assembly on Friday; big industrial nations did.

“We’ve seen schools destroyed by rising seas, salt water poisoning our wells and disease outbreaks linked to environmental change,” Heine told her fellow leaders. “This injustice must be addressed. Our communities deserve restitution.”

Earlier this week, the U.N. adopted a resolution that called for small island states to keep sovereignty and marine rights no matter what rising seas do. One of the major messages nation after nation gave: Despite rising seas, they are not going anywhere.

One shot or two? What to know about HPV vaccination recommendations

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (AP): Pre-teens may soon have something to celebrate: Medical experts are discussing the possibility that one dose of a life-saving cancer vaccine, instead of two, may be enough to protect them.

US vaccination recommendations have become splintered in the past year, with federal officials and doctors’ organizations disagreeing over guidance and even battling each other in court. But both sides have been exploring revisions in longstanding HPV vaccine recommendations.

“This would be a significant shift in terms of what has been communicated for many years about the best way to protect adolescents against HPV,” said Jason Schwartz, a Yale University vaccine policy researcher.

Here’s a look at HPV shots, which debuted 20 years ago and may now be approaching a crossroads.

HPV, human papillomavirus, is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S.

More than 40 HPV types can infect the genital areas of men and women, plus the lining of the mouth and throat. Certain strains are responsible for most cases of genital warts.

HPV also is a leading cause of the nearly 50,000 cancer cases diagnosed in the U.S. each year that affect those parts of the body. Indeed, about 90% of cervical cancer and anal cancers are attributed to HPV infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2006, federal health officials approved the first HPV vaccine, Merck & Co.’s Gardasil. A second vaccine was approved in 2009, GlaxoSmith-Kline’s Cervarix.

Both vaccines are approved for use in males and females, available for kids as young as 9 to adults in their 20s. But they were prioritized for 11- and 12-year-olds, because the shots work best if given before someone is sexually active.

Initially, in 2006, HPV vaccinations were recommended only for girls and given as a series of three shots over six months. Boys were added in 2011, a move largely intended to stop them from spreading a virus to girls that could cause cervical cancer.

Ten years ago, the government changed the dosing recommenda-



A patient receives a vaccine protecting against human papillomavirus (HPV) at a pharmacy in Miami on Sept 9, 2025. (AP)

tions. It dropped the number of recommended doses from three to two after studies showed that amount offered sufficient protection. Research also suggested two doses worked better when spaced six to 12 months apart, meaning they could be given at annual checkups.

Since then, studies in multiple countries have shown dramatic decreases in infections, genital warts cases and precancerous cervical lesions.

In 2020, the American Cancer Society updated its guidelines for women, raising the age at which screenings should start to 25, from 21. The organization attributed the change to data indicating vaccinations had led to a drop in rates of cervical changes that are seen as precursors to cancer.

Evidence has continued to be favorable.

The University of Minnesota’s Vaccine Integrity Project this year published a research review that found that HPV vaccines had lowered the risk of genital-area cancers in women. And a study published in April in the journal JAMA Oncology found vaccinated males are nearly 50% less likely to develop cancers of the head and neck, esophagus, anus or penis.

What’s more, “the duration of protection is long,” said Angela Ulrich, who led the Vaccine Integrity Project review. “We have people who are 20, 30, 40 years old who are seeing protection from the HPV vaccine.”

A recent CDC report found vacci-

nation rates against HPV were lower than the rates for some other shots adolescents get, at least partly because most states don’t require HPV vaccinations as a condition of school attendance.

Still, the HPV vaccination rate has been flat for four years in a row, with about 63% of teenagers getting both doses.

It doesn’t help that HPV shots are known to have a sharper sting. (Doctors have noted fainting is more common after HPV shots.)

Questions about pain are common, said Dr. Scott Hadland, who works at a Boston clinic that treats adolescents and young adults.

“Some of my patients tell me it hurts more than other vaccines they’ve received, but only for a moment,” he said.

Also not helping lately, perhaps, is the elevation of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to U.S. health secretary. Before he was appointed to oversee federal health agencies last year, Kennedy was an attorney and consultant in lawsuits against Merck over the Gardasil vaccine, and falsely claimed the vaccine increases cervical cancer risk.

In January, Kennedy ordered the number of recommended HPV doses to be reduced to one, as part of a unilateral reduction of the childhood vaccination schedule.

That change was blocked by a federal judge’s order, but it actually is something that medical experts had been considering for some time.

Falcons defeat Pearl Strikers by 57 runs in the final

Kuwait Falcons crowned champions of DP World ILT20 Development Tournament – Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The DP World ILT20 Development Tournament - Kuwait drew to a close on Friday, with Kuwait Falcons crowned champions of the second edition of the competition. The Falcons defeated Pearl Strikers by 57 runs in the final, while Boubyan Warriors secured third place with a seven-wicket victory over Falaika Guardians.

Kuwait Falcons' Ummer Abbas was named Player of the Tournament after an impressive all-round campaign, scoring 239 runs and taking five wickets. Boubyan Warriors' Bilal Tahir finished as the tournament's leading run-scorer with 272 runs, while Kuwait Falcons' Yasin Patel was the leading wicket-taker with 11 wickets.

Reflecting on the tournament and the opportunities it has created for players, Emmad Al Jas-sam, General Secretary, Kuwait Cricket, said: "Congratulations to the winners on a well-deserved victory, we are pleased to see the growing quality of cricket in Ku-wait. With the DP World ILT20 Season 5 Player Auction coming up, this tournament has provided a great opportunity for players to showcase their talent and gain exposure. We hope to see more play-ers use this platform to take the next step in their careers."

Looking at the wider impact of the tournament, Sajid Ashraf, Execu-tive Director & Strategic Partner, DP World ILT20, said: "Congratulations to the champions on a fantastic tour-nament. It has been encouraging to see the passion for cricket in Kuwait and the strong competition through-out the tournament. Events like this are important in strengthening the



The champions, Kuwait Falcons with dignitaries.

cricketing ecosystem and creating more opportunities for the sport to grow across the region."

Batting first in the final, the Ku-wait Falcons posted 163/10. Sankar Varathappan (41 off 33) made a strong statement with an aggressive knock comprising two fours and three sixes. Varathappan eventually

joined NimeshLateif (34 off 28) for a 46-run stand in 42 balls – the highest of the innings. Umeir Abbas (35 off 23) also launched four sixes in a vital knock that helped the Falcons finish with a competitive total.

Naveen Raj (2/30), Vishwa Nettem (2/32), and Manjula Prasan (2/36) were the pick of the Strikers

bowling attack.

In the second innings, the Strikers were skittled for 106 in 17.3 overs courtesy of top performances by Zarwali Khan (3/22), Arunraj Sel-varaj (3/23) and Yasin Patel (2/15). Coming in at number three Danish Javed (36 off 23) waged a lone bat-tle for the Strikers while the wick-

ets tumbled around him. He had smashed three sixes before his wick-et in the 13th over effectively sealed the result.

In the battle for third place, Falai-ka Guardians put up 173/9 buoyed by Meet Bhavsar's (58 off 43) fifty. The opener's measured innings com-prised five boundaries and as little

as eight dot balls. Adnan Idrees (18 off 10) and Shiraz Khan (19 off 16) looked threatening but fell soon af-ter. In the lower order, Govind Sunil Kumar (28 off 16) took charge of the death overs with a handy contribu-tion.

Shahid Shameem was the standout performer with the ball for the War-riors, returning figures of 3 for 16.

In reply, the Boubyan Warriors lost both openers early but Usman Gani (36 off 21) and Bilal Tahir (62* off 41) seized control of the chase. Gani smashed seven fours before he was removed in the seventh over while Tahir remained unbeaten with five fours and four sixes to steer the Warriors through the middle overs. Nithin Saldanha (20* off 10) joined Tahir with a cameo to swiftly over-come the target in 18 overs.

For the Guardians, Ilyas Ahmed shone with figures of 2/36.

Brief Scores

Kuwait Falcons defeated Pearl Strikers by 57 runs! Kuwait Fal-cons 163 all out in 20 overs (Sankar Varathappan 41, Ummer Abbas 35, NimeshLateif 34; Vishwa Nettem 2 for 32, Naveen Raj 2 for 30, Manjula Prasan 2 for 36) Pearl Strikers 106 all out in 17.3 overs (Danish Javed 36; Zarwali Khan 3 for 22, Arunraj Selvaraj 3 for 23, Yasin Patel 2 for 15)

Boubyan Warriors defeated Falai-ka Guardians by seven wickets.

Falaika Guardians 173/9 in 20 overs (Meet Bhavsar 58, Govind Sunil Kumar 28; Shahid Shameem 3 for 16, SandaruwanChintaka 2 for 8, Mohamed Aslam 2 for 26) Boubyan Warriors 174/5 in 18 overs (Bilal Ta-hir 62 not out, Usman Gani 36, Nith-in Saldanha 20 not out; Ilyas Ahmed 2 for 36)

Club eyes semifinal spot

Kuwait Club faces Al Riyadi test



Kuwait Club player goes for the basket during a game against Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad.

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

BEIRUT, Sept 27: Kuwait Club will face a major test against Lebanese powerhouse Al Riyadi at 8:45 p.m. today in Group A of the West Asia Super League (WASL) Final 8 in Beirut.

The tournament runs through Oct. 4, with Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad meeting India's Railways at 5:45 p.m. in the other Group A game.

Kuwait Club made a winning start, defeating Al-Ittihad 105-97, while Al Riyadi beat Railways 104-81. The two teams sit level on two points at the top of the group.

The game will provide Kuwait Club with a stern test against one of the tournament's leading contenders. The Kuwaiti champions will look to build on their opening-round performance and strengthen their bid for a semifinal place.

The victory over Al-Ittihad was closely contested, with the teams separated by only a narrow margin for long stretches. Kuwait Club, however, handled the pressure effectively and maintained its advantage to secure the win.

Group B consists of Saudi Arabia's AlUla, Qatar's Al Arabi, Lebanon's Sagesse and Iran's Gorgan. The top two teams in each group will advance to the semifinals.

Cramps ruin Assefa's record bid

Adola wins Berlin Marathon

BERLIN, Sept 27, (AP): Tigst Assefa wanted her world record back and was on course to smash it until cramps before the finish line dashed her hopes in the Berlin Marathon on Sunday.

The 29-year-old Assefa still ran the third fastest time ever. She set a new course record with an unofficial time of 2 hours, 11 minutes and 4 seconds for her third Berlin Marathon win after 2022 and 2023.

Assefa set a world record with her time of 2:11:53 in 2023, only for Ruth Chepngetich to lower the mark by nearly 2 minutes to 2:09:56 in Chicago the following year.

Chepngetich wasn't racing Sunday because she's serving a three-year ban for a doping violation. Her record still stands.

Assefa was well on course to beat Chepngetich's time, but the Ethiopian runner pulled up with cramps before reaching the Brandenburg Gate and limped over the finish line, where she slumped to the ground and fought back tears.



Ethiopia's Tigist Assefa is led away by former runner Haile Gebrselassie, left, and a medic after winning the Berlin Marathon in Berlin, Germany. (AP)

Second-placed Bedatu Hirpa was almost 6 minutes behind, followed by another Ethiopian, Dera Dida.

The 35-year-old Guye Adola of Ethiopia won the marathon by crossing the line in an unofficial time of 2:02:50. It was his second win in the German capital after his victory in 2021.

Gemechu Dida Diriba of Ethiopia was second, 28 seconds behind, followed by Gabriel Gerald Geay of Tanzania.

RSL halts 13-game losing run with victory over Revolution

Nashville beats Toronto

SANDY, Utah, Sept 27, (AP): Sergi Solans scored two goals, his second multi-goal game this season, Aiden Hezarkhani added a goal, and Real Salt Lake beat the New England Revolution 3-0 night to snap a 13-game winless streak.

Real Salt Lake (9-13-5), which had lost four in a row and seven of eight, won for the first time since a 2-1 home win over Colorado on May 16.

Rafael Cabral had four saves for RSL.

Hezarkhani, a 19-year-old home-grown, put away a first-touch shot off a clearance attempt to open the scoring in the second minute.

The Revolution (14-9-4), who had their three-game win streak snapped, had 62% possession and outshot RSL 14-9.

André Luiz and Calvin Harris scored first-half goals to back the first career clean sheet from Stefan Cleveland and Sporting Kansas City stunned the Houston Dynamo 2-0.

Stephen Afrija set up Luiz for his fourth goal in his first five MLS appearances and Sporting KC (6-17-3) took a 1-0 lead in the 27th minute. It was the second assist this season for Afrija and his third in 58 career matches.

Sporting KC took a 2-0 advantage into halftime when Harris scored in the 45th minute. Luiz notched his first assist and first-year midfielder Lasse Berg Johnsen collected his sixth on Harris' fourth goal of the campaign.

Seattle got goals from Jordan Morris, Hassani Dotson and Paul Arriola to help the Sounders beat Minnesota United 3-1, upping their unbeaten streak to seven and earning coach Brian Schmetzer his 150th MLS victory.

Seattle (9-9-8) jumped back in the Western Conference playoff picture with a second straight win following five straight draws during a club-record 13-match winless streak that ended with a 2-0 victory over visiting Real Salt Lake.

Hany Mukhtar scored two goals, his third multi-goal game this season, and Joe Willis had three saves to help Nashville SC beat Toronto FC 2-0 for its third win in a row.

Nashville (18-3-6) is the points leader in all of MLS with 60 - 10



Nashville SC defender Andy Najar (31) moves the ball during the second half of an MLS soccer match against Toronto FC in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

more than any other team - and is the only team to already clinch a spot in the 2026 MLS Cup playoffs. Vancouver leads the Western Conference with 50 points.

Milan Iloski scored three goals,



FC Cincinnati's Ayoub Jabbari, right, rushes in to steal the ball from CF Montreal's Brandon Craig (5) during the first half of an MLS soccer game in Montreal. (AP)

his second hat trick this season, Indiana Vassilev added a goal and two assists, and the Philadelphia Union beat Orlando City 4-2 for their sixth consecutive win.

Johan Gómez scored his first career goal in the second half to back a clean sheet from Josh Cohen in his first start for Chicago, and the Fire finished a season sweep of Charlotte FC with a 1-0 victory.

Prince Owusu scored two goals, his third multi-goal game this season, Daniel Ríos added a goal and an assist, and CF Montreal beat FC Cincinnati 3-1 to snap a five-game losing streak.

Cincinnati (8-9-9) is winless in six straight.

Osaze Urhoghide scored in the 34th minute, Jonathan Sirois had three saves, and FC Dallas beat Los Angeles FC 1-0 to extend its unbeaten streak to six games.

Dallas (13-6-8) is second in the Western Conference with 47 points, three ahead of Houston and St. Louis (tied for third).

Preston Judd scored two goals, Eduard Löwen added a goal and an assist, and the San Jose Earthquakes beat the Portland Timbers 3-1 to

extend their unbeaten streak to six games.

Earl Edwards Jr. made his second start this season, his his first since April 25, had a career-high seven saves for San Jose (13-8-6).

João Klauss and Justin Haak scored following a second-half own goal by Colorado's Reggie Cannon and the Los Angeles Galaxy rallied to beat the Rapids 3-2.

Rookie Kimito Nono scored his first two goals, including the equalizer in the 80th minute, and D.C. United rallied for a 3-3 draw with the Vancouver Whitecaps.

DC United (6-8-12) jumped in front in the 16th minute when Nono got a second chance to send a shot past Vancouver keeper Yohei Takaoka in his eighth appearance - all starts.

Christian Ramírez scored two goals late in the second half and Austin FC spotted San Diego FC a three-goal lead before rallying for a 3-3 draw to extend its unbeaten streak to eight.

Giuliano Galoppo scored his first MLS goal and Jay Fortune added a goal for Atlanta United in a 2-2 tie with New York City FC.

Change Name

I want to replace my name AJIJ AHMED as mentioned in my passport no. Z3830169 with my correct name AZIZ AHAMAD as mentioned in the documents. AZIZ AHAMAD S/O ASMAT ALI, WARD NO. 14, GOLYANA BUS STAND KE PASS, CHIRANA TH. NAWALGARH

Change Name

I, SHAIK SALAUDDIN, holder of indian passport No. R 8277755, issued at Kuwait on 17/09/2017 having permanent address 18 13 8 J 118 Jahangirabad Bandlaguda Hyderabad Keshogiri Telangana Pin 500005 India, Residing in Kuwait at Present, Here by declare that hence forth my name will be read as SHAIK SALAHUDDIN (given name) SHAIK SALAUDDIN.

Norris says some drivers ‘shouldn’t be in F1’ after Colapinto crash

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Sept 27, (AP): McLaren's Lando Norris said some drivers "shouldn't be in Formula 1" after Franco Colapinto to set off a multi-car collision that ended the defending champion's race in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

Colapinto braked too late at the first corner as the race restarted after a safety car period, slamming into his own Alpine teammate Pierre Gasly, whose car then

pushed Norris' into the barriers.

As drivers reacted to avoid the crash, Arvid Lindblad pushed his teammate at Racing Bulls, Liam Lawson, into a spin, too.

"I just got taken out," Norris told broadcaster Sky Sports. "There's just some drivers that shouldn't be in Formula 1, to be honest."

Colapinto called it a "big mistake" and said a "big sorry to both

of them," referring to Gasly and Norris.

Norris is now left 116 points off standings leader Kimi Antonelli, one more heavy blow to a title defense that was already floundering following the Italian's wins in Italy and Spain in recent weeks.

Colapinto was given a 10-second time penalty for causing the collision. He didn't finish the race so that could be converted into a

grid penalty for next week's race in Malaysia, branded as the Bahrain Grand Prix.

Race winner George Russell and second-place Max Verstappen disagreed that Colapinto deserved a suspension for his mistake.

"I think safety-car restarts, cold tires, a very small mistake can have big consequences. From what I saw today, that's what it looked like," Russell said.

Change Name

I want Replace my name SHEIKH DAUD as mentioned in my passport No T2412783 with correct name: Given name SHEIKH DAWOOD. son of Kaja Moideen No 361/A Sakthi Nagar Vallalar street Aladi Road, Virudhachalam 606001 Tamil Nadu

Company sponsors event at Jaber International Stadium from December 19-23

Zain hosting partner of Saudi Super Cup in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Zain announced its partnership as Hosting Partner of the 13th edition of the Saudi Super Cup for the 2026-2027 season, which will be held in Kuwait for the first time this December.

Reflecting Kuwait's growing momentum in attracting and hosting major regional and international sporting events, as well as its advanced infrastructure and deep organizational expertise, the partnership builds on Zain's longstanding role in supporting national initiatives and major events that strengthen Kuwait's position as a hub for sports, culture, and economic activity.

The announcement was made during a press conference held at Zain's headquarters in Shuwaikh, attended by Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO; Rashed Al-Omairi, CEO of Alrai Media Group; Nawaf Al-Gharabally, CEO of Zain Kuwait; Khaled Al-Sayer, CEO of Alrai International Advertising Company and the Tournament's Director, and Abdullah Al-Shatti, CEO of Aayan Leasing and Investment Company, alongside senior executives and representatives of partner organizations.

Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi, said: "Kuwait's continued success in attracting major regional and international events has been made possible by the strong support and patronage of H.H. the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, together with the close follow-up of the relevant authorities. This has helped reinforce Kuwait's position as a trusted destination for major events and strengthen its presence at both the regional and international levels."

He added: "Hosting the Saudi Super Cup in Kuwait for the first time builds on this momentum and provides an opportunity to showcase the country's advanced infrastructure



Bader Al-Kharafi and Rashed Al-Omairi seal the partnership.

- **Bader Al-Kharafi:** H.H. the Amir's support has strengthened Kuwait's position as a destination for major regional and international events.
- **Rashed Al-Omairi:** National institutions have the capabilities to lead and execute major projects and events to the highest standards

and national capabilities, which have demonstrated their ability to successfully organize and deliver a wide range of major sporting events."

Al-Kharafi continued: "At Zain, we believe in the importance of partnering with state institutions to support national priorities and contribute to hosting events that stimulate economic and tourism activity while further strengthening Kuwait's position as an attractive destination for international events."

He noted that the tournament also reflects the strength of the longstanding ties between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the close bonds and shared passion for football between the two peoples, giving the event a distinct level of fan engagement. He expressed his hope that this edition would deliver an exceptional experience for fans

and make a meaningful contribution to the Gulf sports landscape, in a way that reflects the importance of the event and the standing of both countries.

CEO of Alrai Media Group, Rashed Ali Al-Omairi, said: "The collaboration between the Alrai-Aayan alliance and Zain goes beyond the traditional concept of sponsorship. It is a partnership aimed at contributing to the success of this event and delivering it in a manner befitting Kuwait and the stature of the Saudi Super Cup. Partnerships of this kind strengthen confidence in the ability of national institutions to lead and execute major projects and events to the highest professional standards."

Al-Omairi praised Zain and its leading role in supporting sports, youth, and national initiatives, noting that



Bader Al-Kharafi and Rashed Al-Omairi stand with Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Khaled Al-Sayer, and Abdullah Al-Shatti.

its presence as a sponsor of the Saudi Super Cup in Kuwait represents a valuable addition, given the company's experience, institutional presence, and well-established contributions to sporting and community events.

He added: "The private sector is a key partner in development. Its role extends beyond direct economic activity to supporting national, sporting, and community initiatives, while contributing to the creation of high-quality events."

He continued: "This major and highly anticipated event brings together national institutions that believe the success of large-scale events depends on the integration of expertise and resources, and that the private sector can play a genuine role in strengthening Kuwait's position and delivering a distinguished organizational and fan experience."

Through this partnership, Zain continues to build on a strong track record of supporting major sporting initiatives over the years, including Khaleeji Zain 26, the French Super Cup at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, and the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain), among others.

These milestones embody Zain's

commitment to transforming sports partnerships into meaningful platforms for fan engagement, strengthening Kuwait's regional presence, and translating its belief that supporting sport is a long-term strategic commitment rather than an association with any single tournament.

The partnership follows the announcement of an agreement between the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, represented by its exclusive commercial partner Saudi Media Group (SMC Vibes), and a Kuwaiti alliance comprising Alrai Media Group and Aayan Leasing and Investment Company, under which the alliance became an official partner for hosting the Saudi Super Cup in Kuwait.

The tournament will take place at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium from December 19-23, 2026, featuring four clubs: Al Nassr, Al Kholood, Al Ahli, and Al Qadsiah, with strong attendance expected from football fans both within Kuwait and from abroad.

Kuwait will become the eighth destination in the history of the Saudi Super Cup, which has been staged in a number of cities inside and outside the Kingdom since its inception.

Previous hosts have included Mecca, Riyadh, Jeddah, and Abha, as well as London, Abu Dhabi, and Hong Kong. The tournament will make its first stop in Kuwait this December, reflecting its expanding regional and international footprint.

The tournament draw is scheduled to take place in Kuwait on October 14, determining the two semi-final matchups, after which tickets will go on sale to the public. A dedicated program of activities and fan experiences will also accompany the tournament, with further details to be announced at a later stage. Zain will bring its own distinctive touch to these experiences, in line with the scale of the event and the strong fan engagement anticipated.

The tournament comes amid Kuwait's growing momentum in hosting regional and international sporting events, supported by modern facilities led by Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, which has become a key venue for some of the region's most prominent football and fan-focused events. This is helping create further opportunities to develop sports tourism and reinforce Kuwait's position on the map of major international events.

Spain survives England scare

Modric still delivering for Croatia at 41



Spain's Paul Cubarsi, left reacts as England's Myles Lewis-Skelly falls during the Nations League Soccer match between England and Spain in London. (AP)

LONDON, Sept 27, (AP): World Cup winner Spain extended its unbeaten run to 39 games by rallying to a 3-2 win against England in the Nations League.

Substitute Mikel Oyarzabal came back to haunt England with his 74th-minute winner at Wembley.

Oyarzabal also scored the winning goal when Spain beat England in the final of the European Championship in 2024. On this occasion he calmly chipped goalkeeper James Trafford from close range to complete the world champion's comeback after trailing 2-1 at halftime.

England was punished for missing a penalty - to go 3-1 ahead - and for mistakes that led to Spain's first two goals. In Spain's first game since beating Argentina in the World Cup final, its long-running unbeaten streak was put under serious threat. But Luis de la Fuente's team responded like champions to make a winning start to its Nations League campaign.

Lamine Yamal got Spain off to a flying start, needing less than two minutes to score when he dispossessed England defender Marc Guehi and fired low past Trafford into the far corner.

Spain dominated the chances and the scorer of the winning goal in the World Cup final, Ferran Torres, twice failed to make the most of opportunities when through on goal.

After surviving those scares England leveled through Antony Gordon after a swift breakaway in the 36th, combining with Jude Bellingham and sliding a low shot past Unai Simon.

England went ahead only four minutes later through Kane, whose header deflected off Marc Cucurella.

Early in the second half England had the chance to extend its lead when Rodri brought down Kane in the box and after VAR review was awarded a penalty. But Spain was let off the hook when Kane slipped during his run.

That miss proved even more costly when, on the hour, substitute Alex Baena curled a low shot into the corner to level the game again, with Nico O'Reilly guilty of losing the ball close to goal. Spain completed its comeback as Oyarzabal coolly converted from Baena's assist.

"We had a terrible start, the worst start possible. It makes it so difficult to be behind against this kind of team," Tuchel said. "There will always be moments where you suffer against a team like this, the details matter. It matters that you take your chances and you reduce the decisive mistakes. This was not in our favor today."

Even at the age of 41, Luka Modric is still delivering for Croatia. The veteran midfielder scored his nation's opening goal in a 2-1 win away to Czech Republic.

Spain tops Group A3 ahead of Croatia on goals scored.

City chairman asserts club's innocence over charges

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 27, (AP): Manchester City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak issued a direct message to supporters Saturday as the club faces the potential of losing its landmark case with the Premier League over alleged financial breaches. City has reportedly been found guilty of all but one of the 115 charges against the club, which could result in punishments such as a huge points deduction or even expulsion from English soccer's top division.

The club has always denied wrongdoing and Al Mubarak restated that stance in a letter to fans.

"The Premier League process still has a long way to run, and our confidence and intent in proving the club's innocence is just as strong as when this began," he wrote.

"There are so many things that I would like to be able to share with you to help you understand why we feel so confident in our position."

Confidentiality conditions, he said, prevented him from revealing that information.

"While some people have been quick to reach their own conclusions, and there is so much noise swirling around us, nothing has changed," Al Mubarak said. "We have faced challenges together before and have prevailed. There remain many who want to undermine the momentum of our club. We will not give them that opportunity."

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani appeared to add his voice to the issue Friday when posting on X "114" seemingly in reference to the charges.

Mamdani is a fan of City rival Arsenal.

The Premier League accused City in February 2023 of providing misleading information about its finances over a nine-year period from 2009-18.

Questions about the Abu Dhabi-backed club's financial dealings have hung over City after supposed leaked emails and documents, likely

hacked, were published starting in 2018 by German magazine Der Spiegel.

The documents allegedly showed City tried to mask the source of revenue from deals tied to Abu Dhabi, whose ruling family bought the club in 2008 and has overseen the spending of hundreds of millions of dollars on some of the world's best players over the following two decades.

In 2020, UEFA ruled City had committed "serious breaches" of Financial Fair Play regulations from 2012-16. But a two-year ban was later overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport because allegations were either rejected or found to have happened too long ago to be investigated.

The Premier League's case, which accused City of more than 100 breaches including providing misleading information about its finances and failure to co-operate with the investigation, has run for more than three years.

KFA offers free Saudi Super Cup tickets to Kuwait fans

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Kuwait Football Association (KFA) has thanked the loyal supporters who backed the national team during its 3-2 defeat to Iraq in the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup.

The KFA also apologized to Kuwait fans following the Blues' failure to reach the semifinals. It said the technical and administrative staff will prepare a report examining the reasons for the team's exit, identifying shortcomings and proposing solutions to improve performances in upcoming competitions.

In recognition of the fans' support during Kuwait's matches against Saudi Arabia and Iraq, the KFA said they will receive free tickets to all Saudi Super Cup matches scheduled to be played at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in December.

Kuwait will host the Saudi Super Cup from Dec. 19 to 23, with four clubs —



The Kuwait Football Association logo

Al-Nassr, Al-Ahli, Al-Qadsiah and Al-Kholood — taking part. The tournament draw is scheduled for Oct. 14.

Mbappé's injury diagnosed as hyperextension of his left knee

MADRID, Sept 27, (AP): Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappé sustained an injury related to a hyperextension of his left knee during France's Nations League win against Turkey on Friday.

Mbappé limped off moments after scoring a record-extending 67th goal for his country in the 1-0 victory.

France coach Zinedine Zidane said

the prognosis was "not good" and on Saturday Madrid confirmed the result of tests.

"After the tests carried out today on our player Kylian Mbappé by Real Madrid's Medical Services, he has been diagnosed with a hyperextension of the posterior capsule of his left knee," the Spanish giant said.

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559



Thailand's Puripol Boonson celebrates soon after crossing finishing line in the men's 200m final at the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait records solid results in shooting, athletics

Boonson matches Asian 200m record amid China's golden haul

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 27, (Agencies): Kuwait made a promising start in shooting and athletics at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, with the national teams producing encouraging performances across several events.

In shooting, Kuwait's trap shooters Khaled Al-Mudhaf, Talal Al-Rashidi and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan delivered strong displays in the men's individual and team competitions. Al-Mudhaf hit 49 of 50 targets, followed by Al-Rashidi with 48 and Al-Faihan with 46.

In the women's event, Hajar Abdulmalek hit 45 of 50 targets, while Sarah Al-Hawwal and Shahad Al-Hawwal recorded 43 and 42, respectively.

The trap competition resumes Monday with two additional rounds of 50 targets each before concluding on the third day with a 25-target round. Shooters will compete over a total of 125 targets, with the results determining those who advance to the final.

In athletics, Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri qualified for the 800m final after clocking 1:47.62 in the heats. He produced a strong tactical and physical performance to secure his place in the medal race.

Bader Al-Suwaid will compete in the 1,500m final today after setting a new personal best of 3:45.89 in the heats. Abdulrahman Al-Azmi will also contest the javelin throw final, looking to challenge for a top finish.

In sailing, Amina Shah begins her Asian Games campaign today. Shah previously made history at the Paris



Kuwait's Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri in action during the 800m semifinals at the Asian Games.

2024 Olympics by becoming the first Kuwaiti and Gulf female sailor to qualify for the Games.

Thailand's Puripol Boonson tied the Asian record of 19.88 seconds in the men's 200m, while China claimed three athletics gold medals at the 2026 Asian Games on Sunday in the men's 110m hurdles, women's long jump and women's javelin.

Chen Yuanjiang started China's run of victories by winning the men's 110m hurdles in 13.15 seconds. Japan's Rachid Muratake took silver, while the Philippines' John Tolentino claimed bronze.

China had won the event at 10 consecutive Asian Games before that streak ended at the 2023 edition in Hangzhou.

"I'm thrilled. We've taken this gold medal back," said Chen, who shouted, "Who's No. 1? I am!" as he crossed the finish line.

In the women's javelin, Asian record holder Yan Ziyi needed just one throw to secure gold, launching the javelin 70.46 meters on her opening attempt. Olympic champion Haruka Kitaguchi of Japan took silver with 62.70 meters.

Yan's mark also broke the Asian

Games record of 66.09 meters set by compatriot and Olympic medalist Liu Shiying.

"I didn't expect to wrap it up in one throw. My plan was actually to take it through my first two attempts, but the first one just came out well," said Yan, who had tears in her eyes after the competition.

"I'm thrilled, and I can't wait to hear the anthem play," she said.

Asked to compare herself with Chinese shot put great Gong Lijiao, Yan played down the comparison.

"I don't think I can compare myself to her. She's a role model for me.

I still have to keep learning from her and chasing what she's achieved."

Looking ahead to next year's world championships in Beijing and the Olympics the following year, Yan said: "I'll keep working with my coach, and I'm hoping for the top spot."

"I plan to save the new record for the world championships in Beijing, so stay tuned for that," she added.

In the women's 200m, Singapore's Shanti Pereira clocked a season-best 22.78 seconds to retain her Asian Games title, while China's 17-year-old Chen Yujie, who won the 100m in a Games record, took silver in 22.93.

Chen called Pereira "a rival worth respecting."

"I planned to stay with her through the bend and then look for a chance to pass on the straight, but I'd used up too much energy in the first half," she said.

Asked about returning to high school after the Games, Chen said her parents and those around her had given her nothing but support.

"They've told me not to worry about the pressure from the internet. They never set winning gold as some hard target for me; they just want me to give it everything I've got while staying healthy."

Boonson equaled the Asian record set by China's Xie Zhenye in 2019 with his 19.88-second run in the men's 200m final. China's 21-year-old Huang Youwen took silver in 20.45.

"It was the first time I'd ever raced someone at that level, and it was a great experience. I'd never felt a gap that big before," Huang said. "We were only 50 meters in, and I could already tell how fast he was. He's just really, really fast."

Looking ahead to next year's world championships, Huang added: "When you're young, you should dream big - set your sights on the result first, and figure out how to get there later."

In the women's long jump, China's Huang Yingying came from behind with a sixth-round leap of 6.55 meters to edge India's Ancy Sojan Edappilly by two centimeters for gold. Huang's compatriot Tan Mengyi took bronze with 6.46 meters.

Huang said she was far from satisfied with her performance and acknowledged that the outcome had depended on her rival's final attempts.

"Having the gold come down to whether your opponent slips up is a really nerve-wracking way to win," she said. "I need to build up my own strength, so I have more of a safety net mentally."

Huang also competed in Thursday's triple jump, taking silver.

"My main focus is still triple jump training. Doubling up in the long jump is really just for the Asian stage," she said. "I'm hoping for a better showing on a bigger stage next year at the world championships in Beijing, and at the Olympics the year after, if I can qualify."

In the men's high jump, Chinese Taipei's Fu Chao-hsuan cleared 2.25 meters to beat India's Sarvesh Kushare for gold. Qatar's 35-year-old Olympic medalist Mutaz Barshim withdrew from the final.

Earlier Sunday, Japan's Hayato Katsuki clocked 3:03:36 to beat China's Zhou Yingcheng for the men's marathon race walk title, while Kazakhstan's Yasmina Toxanbayeva won the women's race in 3:22:20. China's Danzengquzong and Ma Li took silver and bronze, respectively, in the women's event.

'Players deserve credit for their determination'

Kuwait's Gulf Cup exit highlights need for experience

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: The Kuwait national team's early exit from the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup has prompted differing views among television analysts, supporters and former international players, with many pointing to experience as an area the Blues need to strengthen.

Kuwait suffered a second successive Group A defeat, going down 3-2 to Iraq after losing 1-0 to Saudi Arabia in the opening round.

The Blues finished bottom of the group without a point, while Saudi Arabia advanced after collecting six points. The second qualification spot remains undecided between Iraq on four points and Oman on one.

Despite the results, Kuwait showed considerable fighting spirit in both matches. The Blues competed strongly against Saudi Arabia and Iraq, both of whom recently featured at the 2026 World Cup, and showed they can match some of the region's strongest sides.

The players deserve credit for



Kuwait's captain Yusif Nasser is joined by teammates after scoring against Iraq.

their determination, particularly their efforts to fight for points until the final whistle. Rather than dwelling on the results, the team should take confidence from its performances and continue building ahead of next January's Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

Professor Dr. Khalifa Behbehani expressed optimism about the national team, saying the players need more matches to gain valuable experience.

Former Qadsia and Kuwait defender Mohammed Benaian praised the coaching staff for giving oppor-

tunities to several young players, describing the move as positive. He added, however, that the team needs to establish a clearer identity.

Former Fahaheel and Kuwait player Abdulaziz Al-Hajri also highlighted the "personality" shown by the Blues, particularly among young players such as Abdulaziz Naji, Yousif Al-Haqan and Khaled Al-Murshid.

Former Kazma and Kuwait star Dr. Hamad Al-Tayyar stressed the importance of managing players' fitness levels in tournaments played over a short period.

Former Kuwait goalkeeper Dr. Hussein Al-Mukhaimi said a lack of concentration and experience contributed to the defeat by Iraq, but believes the current squad can produce better results in future competitions.

Former international Hamad Al-Harbi pointed to the difference in FIFA rankings and international experience between Kuwait and the other participating teams as factors behind the Blues' narrow defeats. He said the national team needs more work but has the potential to compete with the continent's top sides.

Miller and Bavuma tons earn SA 32-run win over Australia

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 27, (AP): David Miller and Temba Bavuma smashed centuries for South Africa as Australia once again was exposed against spinners to lose the second cricket ODI by 32 runs on Sunday.

South Africa took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

Miller hit a belligerent 142 runs off 93 balls to notch his eighth ODI hundred and Bavuma scored 103, his sixth century in the 50-over ODI format, as South Africa finished at an impressive 365-9.

Australia's Jack Edwards, playing in only his second ODI, grabbed 5-67 and Josh Hazlewood, who dismissed Aiden Markram off the first ball for a golden duck, took 3-70, also in 10 overs.

Australia, which preferred to chase for the second straight game after winning the toss, was 333 all out in the final over.

Just like in the Durban opener, where Australia lost by 67 runs,

the visitors squandered a rollicking start to the chase by captain Mitchell Marsh (84) and Travis Head (84).

The pair combined in a 130-run opening stand in 17 overs before Australia struggled against Keshav Maharaj (2-54) and Markram (1-55) with captain Bavuma fully utilizing the 30 overs of spin option.

Xavier Bartlett (50 off 28) gave a late counterpunch in the death overs to reduce the margin of defeat and damage the figures of third spinner Bjorn Fortuin (2-70), who was smacked for 19 runs in his last over.

Sunday's game marked the annual Pink Day fixture, which raises money for cancer research and treatment. Miller wore the name of his mother Jenny, a breast cancer survivor, on the back of his jersey.

Australia, which hasn't won a bilateral ODI series against South Africa since 2014, will look for a consolation win in the last game on Wednesday.

Sulaibikhat handball team wraps up training camp in Doha

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Sept 27: Sulaibikhat Club's first-team handball squad has completed its overseas training camp in Doha, Qatar, with the delegation scheduled to return to Kuwait tomorrow, Monday.

The camp, which began on Sept. 18, featured intensive training sessions and three friendly matches against Al-Rayyan, Al-Ahli and Al-Sadd. The games allowed the coaching staff to assess the players, improve their technical and physical fitness, and build greater cohesion within the squad ahead of the team's upcoming commitments.

Sulaibikhat is preparing to complete the 2025-26 season while also laying the groundwork for the 2026-27 campaign. The club's administrative and technical staff is targeting improved performances and stronger results in the coming period.

Team manager Hussein Saiwan said the Doha camp achieved its objectives, particularly in improving the players' technical and physical readiness and allowing the coaching staff to evaluate the squad ahead of the upcoming competitions.



Sulaibikhat handball delegation.

"The administrative and technical staff was keen to make the most of the camp through the friendly matches and daily training sessions,"

Saiwan said. "The program helped strengthen understanding among the players and improve the team's overall readiness, which should have a

positive impact on our performances in the coming period."

Saiwan also confirmed injuries to the team's foreign players. French

professional Nicolas Claire suffered a shoulder injury, while Brazilian player Bijl sustained an ankle injury.

He added that the medical staff

is working to treat both players and prepare them to return to training and be available before the start of the official domestic competitions.