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AMIR TO PATRONIZE AL SHAHEED PARK PHASE II OPENING



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Kuwait holds potential to build a thriving export industry

DURING the 'Excellence Award' ceremony, Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs and acting Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq delivered a speech that struck the core of the economic imperative of Kuwait -- establishing an advanced industrial sector to achieve revenue diversification.

Delving into the same theme, acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Shamlan Al-Juhaidli pointed out that around 120 factories are currently exporting national products. Although this figure is encouraging, it remains far below the true capability of the country.

When Minister Al-Marzouq emphasized that "industry is the foundation of a diversified economy," he accurately pinpointed the main issue. His message echoes the visionary words of HH the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, may God have mercy on him, who uttered the famous statement in the early 1980s, "We want an industry that has neither sound nor smoke."

He was advocating for high-tech precision industries. Yet, more than 45 years later, when manufacturing throughout the globe advanced rapidly, Kuwait continues to lag behind, as it has yet to secure its place among the industrial nations.

To speak with absolute candor, Kuwait possesses all the essential ingredients for industrial success -- ample land, capital, creative visionaries with transformative project ideas, and access to skilled labor from around the world. The missing element is neither resource availability nor talent, but decisive leaders capable of overcoming hesitation and moving beyond half-baked initiatives.

Numerous restrictive policies have constrained not only the manufacturing sector, but also the broader scope of economic diversification. This dampened enthusiasm for new industrial ventures when previous development strategies should have served as a foundation to establish

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His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday at the administrative building in Al-Shaheed Park Phase III.

PM Diwan photo

Cabinet clears abolition of Silk City development body

'Al-Sour' spectacle to lead celebration

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize the opening ceremony of Al Shaheed Park Phase III, represented by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, at 8:00 pm Wednesday.

The ceremony will feature the national artistic celebratory performance "Al-Sour" at Al-Sour Theater in Al Shaheed Park.

In related news, the Cabinet was briefed on the official opening by Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, of Al-Shaheed Park Phase III at 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 30.

The opening includes the national celebratory artistic performance "Al-Sour" at Al-Sour Theatre in Al-Shaheed Park Phase III, with the participation of several prominent artists.

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Kuwait, Saudi Arabia advance water interconnection project

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: A technical meeting between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, represented by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, was held on Tuesday.

The two sides reviewed the progress of the water interconnection project, which is in the agenda for the technical meeting and visit scheduled for Sept 29-30.

They discussed the technical and operational requirements, and evaluated the control, operation and management systems of the water network of Kuwait.

The agenda of the first day of the meeting included a tour of the control room at the National Water Control Center, in which monitoring, control and operational processes were observed. This visit aimed to expand technical discussions and promote the sharing of expertise and co-ordination among the parties involved in the project.

The meeting is part of the ongoing technical collaboration between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia related to the water interconnection project, while ensuring follow up of technical and operational matters, and setting the stage for the next steps in line with the agreements between the two parties.

Kuwait and Ukraine discuss expanding humanitarian aid

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Ukraine's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Maksym Subkh praised Tuesday Kuwait's humanitarian role in supporting people affected by crises and disasters and Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) efforts in providing humanitarian relief to various world countries.

Subkh told KUNA after meeting with KRCS Chairman Khaled Al-Mughamis that his country values the Kuwaiti humanitarian support

provided during the early years of the war, which was appreciated by Ukraine's government and its people.

He added that humanitarian needs in Ukraine are still increasing as the crisis and waves of displacement continue, noting that the energy sector has been severely damaged, creating an urgent need for necessary equipment.

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Kuwaiti military delegation during their visit to military facilities, technical workshops, transport units at the College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, and training and simulation centers.

KUNA photos

Technical cooperation, training exchange eyed

Kuwait, Pakistan boost military logistics ties

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti military delegation, headed by Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics and Supply Maj. Gen. Staff Engineer Salah Al-Azmi and accompanied by Chief of Armament and Equipment Brig. Gen. Staff Khalifa Duaij Al-Sabah, is on an official visit to Pakistan.

The Ministry of Defense said in a statement Tuesday that the visit aims to discuss logistical and technical cooperation

between the two countries, exchange expertise and review capabilities in logistics, supply, armament and equipment.

During the visit, the delegation held a series of meetings with senior Pakistani military officials in logistics and support services to explore avenues of cooperation and exchange technical and logistical expertise.

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Kuwaitization hits 62 more judicial jobs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Awatif Al-Sanad on Tuesday announced the beginning of the second phase of the plan to Kuwaitize judicial support roles, particularly the investigation clerk position at the Public Prosecution, following the completion of the first phase and as part of efforts to increase reliance on national talent within the judicial sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to Al-Sanad, the second phase includes terminating the services of 62 non-Kuwaiti employees from various departments -- Criminal Execution, External Communications, Public Prosecution, Criminal Registries, Notarization, Real Estate Registration, Sharia Notarization, Administrative Development and Planning -- once na-

tional replacements are trained and qualified to take over.

She affirmed that the ministry is keen on implementing the Kuwaitization plan in a gradual and organized manner, ensuring the continuity of operations in the departments, and a smooth and efficient handover of tasks to national staff.

She revealed that the first phase included terminating the services of 54 non-Kuwaitis who worked as hearing clerks, legal researchers and administrative coordinators in the departments of the Court of First Instance, Court of Appeals, Court of Cassation and Constitutional Court.

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KRCS photo

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society during his meeting with the Ukrainian Ambassador at the Society's headquarters.

Day by Day

O MINISTER of Agriculture, a crucial opportunity lies ahead to strengthen our nation's food security.

Our goal should be to transform Kuwait from an importing country into an exporting one. While this is certainly an ambitious aspiration, dreams can indeed be realized.

Rest assured that with adequate financial investment, anything can be accomplished. We already have the land and expertise, and modern farming technology is readily available.

So much can be achieved in Kuwait, Minister. Tour the agricultural facilities and engage directly with those working on the ground, and history will honor you as the champion of food security.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

9 NBK sponsors Al-Sour Theatre opening



stc the platinum sponsor of 'AlShaheed Adventures' in Phase III of AlShaheed Park



8 Zain's Wonderful World races into Alshaheed Adventures



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:21 Asr 15:03
 Sunrise .. 05:40 Maghrib .. 17:36
 Zohr 11:38 Isha 18:53

TALKS REVIEW RELATIONS, WAYS TO BOLSTER COOPERATION ACROSS MULTI-PRONGED FIELDS

HH Crown Prince visit milestone in ties

Kuwait, Swiss discuss latest int'l developments



Swiss President Guy Parmelin and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the Guard of Honor ceremony.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah inspects the Guard of Honor in Bern.

BERN, Sept 29, (KUNA): Official talks between the State of Kuwait and the Swiss Confederation were held in Bern, led by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for Kuwait and President Guy Parmelin of Switzerland.

At the outset, His Highness conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's greetings to President Parmelin and wishes for his good health and continued progress and prosperity for Switzerland and its people.

The talks reviewed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation across various fields and broaden its scope in support of their common interests.

The two sides also discussed key issues of mutual concern, the latest regional and international developments, and exchanged views on them.

The Kuwaiti delegation included Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador Mansour Ayad Al-Otaibi, Kuwait's Ambassador to Switzerland Yusef Ahmad Abdulsamad, Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Najeeb Abdulrahman Al-Bader, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Abdullah Al-Hayen, Crown Prince's Office Director Major General Ahmad Abdulrahman Al-Dai, and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's Office Abdullah Nasser Al-Obaidi.

The Swiss delegation included National Council member and head of the Swiss-Kuwaiti Parliamentary Friendship Group Hans-Peter Portmann, SECO Federal Council delegate for trade agreements and Head of Bilateral Economic Relations Andrea Rauber Saxer, Swiss Foreign Ministry Assistant Director General and Head of Europe and Middle East Affairs Didier Chassot, Head of International Security Gabriel Luchinger, Head of Middle East and North Africa Affairs Monika Schmutz Kirgoz, Swiss

President's Diplomatic Adviser Simon Pidoux, Senior Adviser to the Swiss President Miriam Gurtner, and Acting Head of Bilateral Economic Relations for Africa and the Middle East Alois Passaplan.

The official visit by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Switzerland represents a significant milestone in strengthening and expanding bilateral relations across several strategic fields, Swiss Ambassador to Kuwait Tiziano Balmelli affirmed on Tuesday.

The visit concludes the two countries' celebrations of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties, Balmelli told KUNA.

The Kuwait-Switzerland relations are a long-standing and deep-rooted friendship throughout history, he added, noting that the two countries share main values represented in peace, dialogue and well-established humanitarian traditions.

Ties between the two countries have been developing in some fields, mainly economy, through forums and tourist initiatives and expanding direct flights, he stated.

The ambassador lauded the deep-rooted humanitarian bonds between the two peoples as several Kuwaiti families consider Switzerland their "second country", he pointed out.

His Highness the Crown Princes visit is an opportunity to strengthen bilateral collaboration in several strategic sectors, he said.

The visit came in the wake of launching some initiatives such as Swiss Kuwaiti Business Days and operating



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Swiss President Guy Parmelin.



Tiziano Balmelli

direct seasonal flights to Zurich in a manner that contributes to enhancing trade and investment in the private sector, he noted.

The visit will also contribute to consolidating joint humanitarian cooperation, he said, citing an ongoing joint development project in Sudan implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and co-funded by the development agencies of both countries.

In addition, the ambassador recalled the most prominent milestones in the Kuwaiti-Swiss relations over the past six decades, referring that the 1990 Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait served as a significant moment demonstrating Swiss solidarity with Kuwait.

At that time, the Swiss authorities extended the residencies of hundreds of Kuwaiti families and organizing study for their students, he said, noting that the position has contributed to strengthening confidence ties and mutual respect between the two sides.

He pointed to the two countries celebration of the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations in Bern in 1976, stating that the Kuwait delegation to the celebration was led by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled who served as Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Furthermore, the ambassador referred to the visit of former Swiss President Alain Berset to the State of Kuwait in December 2023 to offer official condolences following the passing of the late Amir, describing it as a

"gesture of true and sincere friendship" that was deeply appreciated.

He pointed out that the former Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis visited Kuwait in October 2025 to inaugurate the new Swiss Embassy, considering the step as a significant investment and a sign of confidence in the future of bilateral relations.

Balmelli stated that the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties began in 2026 with an official visit of the President of the Swiss Federation Guy Parmelin to Kuwait last February.

Cooperation between the two sides over the past years focused on some areas: humanitarian assistance, development, trade and investment as well as scientific research along with tourism and air connectivity, he elaborated.

The ambassador pointed to a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Kuwaiti Danish Dairy Company (KDD) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, alongside the two countries contributions as donors to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Travel movement and cultural exchange have rapidly been developed with operating three Kuwait Airways direct flights to Zurich every week during summer, along with the upcoming flights to Geneva and Milan, he noted.

He voiced Swiss governments support for full a full visa exemption for Kuwaiti passport holders.

The decision-making process in this regard is subject to the applicable procedures within the European Union, he elaborated.

The future of Kuwait-Switzerland relations is extremely promising, he said, expecting a growth in economic partnerships.

He hoped that the Swiss companies would resume projects in Kuwait's public infrastructure.

He further stressed the importance for the two countries - as two small, trade-dependent nations, to continue their joint work to promote dialogue, peace, and justice amid the challenges and instability on the international stage.

Joint humanitarian cooperation is projected to expand in the coming period, he concluded.



Swiss President Guy Parmelin holds a reception in honor of Kuwait's His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation.



Crown Prince Diwan photos

Swiss President holds reception

Kuwait-Swiss ties mark 60 yrs of diplomatic relations

BERN, Sept 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met Tuesday morning at Lohn Estate in the Swiss capital Bern with Swiss President Guy Parmelin, during his official visit.

An official reception ceremony was held for His Highness the Crown Prince, beginning with the national anthems of both countries. His Highness the Crown Prince then shook hands with senior Swiss officials, while President Parmelin greeted members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness.

The visit also featured a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Switzerland, attended by His Highness the Crown Prince, President Parmelin and senior officials from both sides.

The ceremony reflected the depth of the historic relations and close ties between the two countries and friendly peoples over six decades, highlighting their development across various fields.

It also affirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening cooperation and partnership, and advancing bilateral relations to broader horizons in support of their common interests and the aspirations of their friendly peoples.

The official visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Switzerland on Tuesday marks six decades of established diplomatic relations and grow-

ing strategic partnership between Kuwait and the Swiss Confederation.

The visit highlights the depth of bilateral ties, with high-level talks focusing on enhancing coordination on issues of mutual interest and expanding cooperation in various fields.

Swiss President Guy Parmelin visited Kuwait on Feb 1, holding official talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on bilateral relations, cooperation and regional and international developments.

The visit was followed by the Swiss-Kuwaiti Business Days 2026, held in Kuwait on Feb 3-4 with the participation of Swiss companies, highlighting growing economic ties as the two countries marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Kuwait and Switzerland established diplomatic relations in 1966. Switzerland opened its embassy in Kuwait in 1975, while Kuwait opened its embassy in Bern in 2006. A new Swiss Embassy building in Kuwait was inaugurated in October 2025.

The two countries have signed agreements covering investment protection, avoidance of double taxation, visa exemptions for diplomatic and special passport holders, development cooperation, and political and security consultations.

Economic ties have also expanded, with Kuwaiti sovereign investments in Switzerland exceeding USD 15 billion, reflecting strong investment links between the two countries.

By Inaas Awadh
 Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: An economic delegation from Finland, led by Jarno Syrjälä, Under-Secretary of State for International Trade, discussed ways to strengthen economic and trade relations with the State of Kuwait and explored new opportunities for cooperation and investment between the business sectors of the two countries.

The discussions took place during the delegation's visit recently to the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), attended by representatives from nine Finnish companies operating across various specialized economic and technological sectors, as well as KCCI Assistant Director-General Firas Al-Ouda and Finland's Ambassador to Qatar, Juha Mustonen.

At the start of the meeting, KCCI Assistant Director-General Firas Al-Ouda emphasized that geopolitical developments directly affect governments and business sectors, particularly investment decisions, supply chain management, and the selection of partners and markets.

Consequently, diverse and reliable economic relations have become strategic assets for both nations and their companies.

Al-Ouda stated that Kuwait and Finland share stable relations and a mutual commitment to dialogue and long-term development, providing a solid foundation for building a broader economic partnership.

He noted that recent trade data reflects positive momentum in economic ties, with total bilateral trade in goods

recording annual growth of approximately 27.5 percent in 2024.

Al-Ouda explained that the significance of this growth lies not only in the rate of increase but also in what it reveals about existing interest and opportunities for further expansion.

The next phase requires transforming this momentum into a sustainable trajectory by diversifying traded products and services, broadening the base of participating companies, and improving business access to available markets and opportunities in both countries.

The composition of the Finnish delegation provides a practical starting point in this direction, particularly given the advanced expertise of Finnish companies in cybersecurity, secure communications, critical infrastructure protection, advanced engineering, and specialized industrial solutions.

Economic

These sectors are gaining increasing importance in Kuwait as the country seeks to strengthen economic security, modernize infrastructure, diversify its economy, and expand its technology-driven sectors.

Al-Ouda stressed that effective economic cooperation should not be limited to trade exchange alone; rather, it requires a long-term model based on joint investment, technology and knowledge transfer, professional training and qualification, and the local provision of maintenance and technical support services, alongside the development of after-sales services.

He concluded by reaffirming KCCI's commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen economic ties

between Kuwait and Finland.

Al-Ouda expressed hope that the meeting would yield clear, practical opportunities and concrete steps to build upon in the coming period.

Meanwhile, Jarno Syrjälä, Finland's Deputy Minister and Under-Secretary of State for International Trade, emphasized the importance of the visit in fostering direct engagement between the Finnish and Kuwaiti business communities.

He noted that successful economic relations are built not merely on commercial opportunities, but on mutual trust—the foundation upon which Finland establishes its economic ties with nations worldwide.

Syrjälä stressed that the delegation comprises Finnish companies from diverse sectors, reflecting his country's desire to broaden the scope of cooperation with Kuwait beyond a single industry.

He underscored the importance of moving beyond initial introductions and capability showcases toward establishing practical partnerships and actionable projects that serve the interests of both parties.

Syrjälä highlighted Finland's knowledge-driven economic ecosystem, rooted in research, development, and innovation, and noted the growing presence of startups, deep-tech ventures, and digital solutions.

He also pointed to Finland's advanced expertise in clean energy, healthcare, industrial technologies, cybersecurity, and telecommunications, all of which offer numerous avenues for cooperation with the Kuwaiti market.

Syrjälä highlighted the growth po-

tential of economic relations between the two countries, particularly given the interest Finnish companies have in markets offering opportunities for expansion and long-term partnerships.

He emphasized the importance of direct engagement between companies and economic institutions to identify the actual needs of the Kuwaiti market and explore solutions that Finnish companies can provide.

Furthermore, Finland's Ambassador to Qatar, Juha Mustonen, underscored the importance of the visit in strengthening Finland's economic presence in the region, noting that engagement with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the local business community provides a direct opportunity to understand market needs and identify avenues for cooperation.

Ambassador Mustonen explained that Finnish companies possess specialized expertise that can contribute to key sectors prioritized by modern economies, such as technology, innovation, digital transformation, cybersecurity, energy, sustainable solutions, and infrastructure. Developing economic ties requires establishing continuous communication channels between companies and relevant stakeholders in both countries.

He noted that Finland views international cooperation as a means of exchanging expertise and technology and creating shared value.

Ambassador Mustonen expressed hope that direct meetings between Finnish and Kuwaiti companies would translate mutual interest into concrete projects and partnerships.

Kuwait, Finland to expand trade, investment

Finnish trade team visits KCCI

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

His Highness Crown Prince, man of diplomatic acumen

“THE speech delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince at the United Nations was distinguished by the strength of its persuasion and argument,” columnist **Sheikh Fahad Dawoud Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“It comprehensively addressed issues of global concern, which is a hallmark of His Highness’s conduct on international platforms and in meetings with world leaders. Possessing both diplomatic charisma and profound erudition, His Highness ensured that Kuwait’s commanding presence became a defining feature of the current UN session.



Al-Sabah

“His Highness offered a precise analysis of the regional and international landscape and outlined the necessary foundations for reforming the international organization, particularly the Security Council. He emphasized the need for the Council to act more decisively in resolving issues, preventing them from remaining trapped between the conflicting interests of nations that seek to hold the world to ransom. This is particularly critical as the world faces pivotal moments that could trigger unpredictable consequences if left unaddressed.

“By identifying the Israeli occupation of Arab lands as the root cause of the Middle East crisis, His Highness pinpointed the core issue that the international community must resolve through the establishment of a Palestinian state. This has long been Kuwait’s position, as a just resolution to the issue is the surest path to regional, and indeed global, stability. His Highness held numerous meetings with world leaders, representatives of regional organizations, and heads of major corporations to foster comprehensive development in Kuwait and the wider region.

“These engagements underscored Kuwait’s commitment to sustainable development - a process rooted in political and security stability that helps preempt a multitude of potential problems. In his speech on the international stage, His Highness the Crown Prince clearly identified Iran’s hostile behavior toward the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states as the root cause of the problems that have persisted since last February. This is despite the fact that Kuwait declared from the outset that it was not a party to the war - a stance clearly articulated at the United Nations and maintained throughout the past seven months. On this basis, Kuwait reserves the right to self-defense - a position reaffirmed by His Highness the Crown Prince at the UN.

“At the same time, His Highness emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles of good neighborliness, respecting state sovereignty, refraining from interference in internal affairs, and ensuring the freedom and safety of navigation in the Straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab. Any alternative approach would only lead to further problems and instability, jeopardizing the future of the region’s nations and peoples.

“The call to reform the United Nations and the Security Council to keep pace with global changes served as a wake-up call for the international community regarding global stability. Without such reform, the international organization and the Security Council would remain powerless to curb the reckless actions that fuel conflicts among various states. Consequently, His Highness highlighted the urgent need for the Security Council to be more representative, effective, and transparent in discharging its responsibilities to protect peoples from the consequences of conflict.

“The position articulated by His Highness the Crown Prince serves as a compass for future action and underscores Kuwait’s strong international presence.”

Also:

“The recent UN General Assembly session was no ordinary occasion for exchanging diplomatic speeches. The region’s crises raised questions of global significance such as the security of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, the future of Iran’s nuclear program, and the fate of nations whose territories have become battlegrounds,” former Bahraini Minister of Labour and Social Development **Abdulnabi Al-Shu’ala** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“At the heart of these issues, the Iranian regime faces a test that cannot be passed merely by altering its

rhetoric... It requires a fundamental change in behavior. The Strait of Hormuz remains the clearest example of the dangers inherent in tying global security to the dynamics of political confrontation. When navigation is disrupted or threatened, the repercussions ripple outward, affecting transport and insurance costs, as well as energy and food prices, and extending to nations far removed from the conflict’s origins.

“While Iran has the right to defend its security and interests, a vital global economic artery must not be turned into a bargaining chip at the expense of ordinary people. The crisis surrounding the Strait cannot be reduced to the actions of a single party; military operations and mutual pressures only heighten the risk of escalation. Yet this does not absolve Tehran of its responsibility to ensure freedom of navigation, nor does it exempt other parties from the duty to open a serious path toward de-escalation. What is needed are stable arrangements for the safe passage of vessels, insulated from the volatility of negotiations and confrontations.

“Regarding the nuclear file, Iran possesses the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with its international obligations. However, this right is contingent upon transparency and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Agency states that it lacks the necessary information and access to verify the current status of enriched uranium stockpiles, as well as certain activities and facilities. This is a gap that cannot be bridged by religious edicts or political assurances, but rather by effective inspections and the provision of the required data. On the other hand, concerns regarding this ambiguity do not justify unsubstantiated claims.

“Speaking from the United Nations podium, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam addressed the restoration of the state’s national decision-making authority, the consolidation of arms and decisions regarding war and peace within state institutions, and the rejection of turning Lebanon into a bargaining chip for others. He also called for an end to the war and an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory while declaring his country’s solidarity with the Gulf states in the face of Iranian aggression. These positions underscore that sovereignty is indivisible and that Lebanon’s future, like that of other nations in the region, is to be determined by the Lebanese people through their state.

“The fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime shifted the balance of influence in Syria, while various conflicts



Al-Shu’ala

have weakened forces aligned with Tehran. However, the erosion of certain instruments of influence does not equate to their disappearance, nor does it eliminate Iran’s capacity to exert influence. The question remains - does its leadership view these transformations as an opportunity to reconsider its policies of intervention and confrontation, or will it persist with them despite the cost to the Iranian people and their neighbors?

“During the New York meetings, signals emerged from Tehran indicating a readiness for diplomacy, albeit accompanied by conditions regarding military pressure and sanctions. These signals could open a window for a settlement, yet their true value should be measured by verifiable actions - ensuring safe and sustainable navigation, fully cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and respecting state sovereignty.

“Promises alone cannot restore eroded trust. While Iran faces immense pressure, predicting the capitulation or rapid collapse of its regime is not a sound basis for policy; such pressure could drive the regime toward serious negotiations or, conversely, toward greater intransigence. In either scenario, Gulf states must stand firm on their security and maintain a unified stance, supporting a settlement that yields tangible results to protect the region.

“The message to Tehran is clear - no one desires another war, yet the security of neighbors, trade routes, and national decisions must not be used as pawns in its conflicts. If Iran wishes to turn a new page, the starting point lies in actions that its neighbors can perceive and the world can verify.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Syrian jailed 7 years for forging Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Court of Appeals sentenced a Syrian national to seven years in prison, ordered him to re-pay approximately KD 600,000, and fined him double that amount, after convicting him of forging Kuwaiti citizenship by falsely claiming affiliation with a Kuwaiti citizen who had died in 1971, reports **Al-**

Anba daily.

The case stems from an arrangement made by the defendant’s father with the deceased citizen to register his son under the latter’s citizenship file in exchange for a sum of money. This allowed the defendant to unlawfully assume Kuwaiti citizenship and enjoy its privileges, including em-

ployment as a military serviceman at the Ministry of Defense.

The defendant’s Syrian siblings filed a report against him following a dispute. He was subsequently arrested by the Nationality Investigation Department and he confessed in detail to the offense, which he had known about since 2000.

Court: No limit on disability grant recipients per family

Dispute over bank’s refusal to disburse cash resolved

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Court of Cassation resolved a dispute over the Kuwait Credit Bank’s refusal to disburse a KD 10,000 grant to a child with a disability on the grounds that the grant had already been paid to other eligible individuals residing in the same household, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Al-Duwaikh

The court affirmed that there is no maximum limit on the number of grant recipients within a single family.

In its reasoning, the court explained that Law No. 8 /2010 does not establish a limit on the number of grant recipients per household. The previous restriction limiting the grant to only two children had been repealed. Consequently, continuing to apply that restriction without a legal basis is impermissible.

Article 9 of the executive regulations of the Disability Law stipulates that a person with a severe or moderate disability, or their family, is entitled to a KD 10,000 grant. This grant is in addition to the housing loan allocated to non-disabled individuals and is intended to finance the construction of housing that meets specific requirements necessitated by the disability.

Meanwhile, persons with mild disabilities, or their families, are entitled to KD 5,000, payable by the Kuwait Credit Bank in accordance with the agreement concluded between the bank and the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA).

The court clarified that the legislator granted individuals with disabilities, provided they meet the criteria for housing assistance, the right to a KD 10,000 grant in addition to the housing loan allocated to their non-disabled peers.

This right applies regardless of whether their

family members have already benefited from such an increase, and even if the number of children with disabilities receiving the grant exceeds two.

The court clarified that the legal provision was drafted in general and absolute terms; therefore, it cannot be restricted or limited to only two eligible children, in accordance with the principle that an absolute provision is to be applied without restriction, especially following the revocation of the limitation contained in Decision No. 320/2014, which had previously restricted the grant to only two children.

The court held that the contested judgment, which dismissed the appellant’s claim on the grounds that he was ineligible for the grant, awarded in addition to the housing loan, because it had already been paid to his disabled daughter and disabled mother, violated the law and involved a misapplication thereof, thereby necessitating its reversal.

The Court of Cassation ultimately set aside the previous judgment and ordered the Credit Bank to pay the KD 10,000 grant to the eligible claimant, notwithstanding the prior payment of the grant to others. It applied the principle that an absolute legal provision must be interpreted as such and cannot be restricted in the absence of a specific statutory provision to that effect.

For his part, Lawyer Ali Al-Duwaikh praised the ruling, noting that it established a decisive and equitable principle regarding the rights of persons with disabilities to claim the KD 10,000 grant without a cap on the number of eligible beneficiaries, thereby paving the way for many similar cases.

□ □ □

Scribe fined KD 10,000: The Court of Cassation imposed KD10,000 fine on journalist Aisha Al-Rasheed in the case filed by the State Security System, accusing her of inciting sectarian strife and insulting Shiites, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Public Prosecution charged Al-Rashid with insulting a group and inciting sectarian strife based on her statements and content deemed offensive to the Shiites.

The Court of Cassation upheld the ruling issued against the accused, making the KD10,000 fine final.

Man acquitted of threatening, blackmailing woman

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Court of Appeals overturned a lower court ruling that had refrained from imposing a penalty on a citizen and instead acquitted him of charges of threatening and blackmailing a Kuwaiti woman via WhatsApp, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The complainant filed a report with the Public Prosecution accusing the citizen of threatening and blackmailing her via WhatsApp.

During the investigation, the defendant denied the charges, asserting that the complaint

was malicious and stemmed from his refusal to marry her.

Following the appeal of the lower court’s judgment, defense attorney Mohammad Sati Al-Otaibi argued before the court that the accusation was malicious and fabricated, noting that the complaint was filed only after his client had refused to marry her and ended the relationship.

Al-Otaibi also argued that technical evidence was lacking, explaining that the submitted

materials consisted merely of screenshots of WhatsApp conversations that had not undergone technical verification. Consequently, their source and authentic attribution to the defendant could not be established.

He pointed out that a search of his client’s phone yielded no photos, video clips, or conversations substantiating the accusation, emphasizing that the malicious and fabricated nature of the charge was evident in the case files - a position the court adopted in its ruling.

Gold claim rejected, case has already been decided

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Court of Appeals has declared inadmissible a lawsuit seeking more than KD 9,000 in compensation for gold jewelry, citing the principle of ‘res judicata’, or a matter that has already been decided, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The ruling overturned the ruling of the Court of First Instance that had ordered the husband to pay the claimed amount after the plaintiff filed a lawsuit seeking the value of the gold jewelry and took an oath before the court.

The Court of Appeals found that the matter had already been addressed in an earlier judgment, which had dismissed the claim after the plaintiff failed to establish that the husband had received the gold jewelry.

The husband had previously obtained a ruling granting him a divorce on grounds of harm and requiring his wife to return the full dowry. His defense argued that the subsequent lawsuits were frivolous and constituted an abuse of the right to litigate, alleging that they were intended to pressure and retaliate against him.

Lawyer Nawaf Al-Wohaib said his defense team argued before the Court of Appeals that the claim had already been adjudicated and that the earlier judgment had specifically addressed the issue of the gold jewelry.

The court accepted the defense’s argument, ruling the lawsuit inadmissible and overturning the contested judgment.

9 persons arrested with various types of drugs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) arrested nine individuals in five separate cases, confiscating various narcotic and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and personal consumption , reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

According to an official statement from the Ministry of Interior, the operations resulted in the seizure of 708 grams of “Shabu” (crystal methamphetamine), 530 grams of hashish, 320 psychotropic pills, 200 grams of heroin, 120 Captagon pills, 120 sheets infused with synthetic cannabinoids (“Chemical”), five precision scales, three Lyrica capsules, and a quantity of tumbak (chewing tobacco), along with KD 883.5 in cash believed to have been derived from sales.

In one case , the Ahmadi Criminal Investigation Department’s Fahaheel Investigation Office detained two individuals in Fahaheel who were found in possession of tumbak and cash from its sale. One of the suspects was identified as wanted by the Deportation Department.

The case has been referred to DCGD for further processing. All suspects and confiscated items have been handed over to the appropriate authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.



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Vietnam eyes \$12b trade with Kuwait



Ambassador of Vietnam to Kuwait Nguyen Duc Thang and Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan cutting the cake.

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Ambassador of Vietnam to Kuwait Nguyen Duc Thang said his country is aspiring to increase the volume of trade with Kuwait to \$12 billion by 2030. The Ambassador made this statement in a ceremony organized by the Vietnamese Embassy on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Kuwait, as well as the 81st National Day of Vietnam. Present at the event were Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, ambassadors, diplomats, representatives of government agencies and companies, and members of the Vietnamese community. According to the Ambassador both nations have opportunities to solidify cooperation in different sectors, such as energy, food security, digital transformation, finance, logistics, education and tourism. He said Kuwait was the first Gulf state to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam in January 1976. He stressed



Vietnam Ambassador Nguyen Duc Thang with dignitaries.



Vietnam Ambassador Nguyen Duc Thang with dignitaries.

that his country deeply values the supportive stance of Kuwait toward the Vietnamese during the war years, as well as its contributions to the reconstruction and development efforts following the restoration of peace. He expressed appreciation for the loans provided by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to support infrastructure and socio-economic development projects in many Vietnamese provinces and the donation of Kuwait of 600,000 vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said these gestures embody a friendship cemented by various activities within half a century. He added that Kuwait is the largest trading partner of Vietnam in the Middle East and Africa, with the annual volume of trade between the two countries ranging between \$7 billion and \$7.5 billion over the past three years. He then affirmed that the Kuwaiti-Vietnamese relations are based on mutual trust, friendship and interests, hoping for more growth and prosperity in the partnership of the two countries.

2nd Arab Youth Leaders Forum kicks off in Cairo

CAIRO, Sept 29, (KUNA): The second Arab Youth Leaders Forum opened Tuesday with Kuwait participating through its Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi and a Kuwaiti youth delegation. Held under the theme “Generations Preserve the Unity of the Nation,” the

two-day forum addresses the role of youth and civil society organizations in supporting development and strengthening joint Arab action. Arab League officials and youth leaders stressed the importance of empowering young people, promoting cooperation and developing practical initiatives to address regional challenges. The forum includes dialogue sessions, youth and community initiatives, and discussions on development, Arab identity, innovation and entrepreneurship. It will also launch the “Arab Document for Youth and Civil Society Action to Enhance Joint Arab Action.”

begin on Oct 6 at 10 am for Kuwaiti students who have not previously taken the test, before opening to all Kuwaiti students on Oct 8 at 9 am. Registration for all Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti students will open on Oct 12 at 9 am. Students in Grade 12 or equivalent, as well as high school graduates, can

‘Need to spread culture of curtailing food waste’

Don't throw, use leftovers: expert

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Abeer Al-Ramah stressed Tuesday the importance of raising community awareness about reducing food loss and waste, emphasizing that food conservation is a shared responsibility.

Al-Ramah made the remarks in a press statement during an event

organized by the Authority at The Avenues Mall to mark the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, observed annually on Sept 29. She said reducing food waste begins with simple daily practices, including buying appropriate quantities, properly storing food and making use of leftovers



Al-Ramah

instead of discarding them, noting that such practices contribute to the optimal use of food and resources. Food passes through multiple stages before reaching consumers and requires various efforts and resources, she said, making its preservation a responsibility that reflects appreciation of the blessing and calls for conscious consumption as a way of life. Al-Ramah stressed that preserving food means preserving the blessing, national resources and sustainability, urging the public to contribute to spreading a culture of reducing food waste.

Identify jobs, qualifications, co-ops urged

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) has called upon the chairpersons of cooperative society boards to provide a list of approved job titles required within the cooperative sector, along with details regarding the academic qualifications, skills, and competencies required for each role. This initiative aims to align education and training outcomes with labor market needs and support policies for national workforce nationalization. In a letter addressed to the board chairpersons, UCCS

explained that the request is part of ongoing coordination with relevant entities to boost national employment opportunities in the private sector, ensuring alignment between education and training outcomes and labor market demands. UCCS specified the required data for each job title - specialization, academic qualification, job description, necessary skills and competencies, and relevant experience, if applicable. Furthermore, UCCS requested that the cooperative societies review its correspondence regarding the “Executive Framework,” submit any feedback, and provide the requested data.

KU academic aptitude tests set for Nov. 7

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Kuwait University announced Tuesday that online registration for the first session of the National Unified Academic Aptitude Test for 12th-grade students will open in October, with tests scheduled for Nov 7, Nov 21 and Dec 5. The university said registration will

begin on Oct 6 at 10 am for Kuwaiti students who have not previously taken the test, before opening to all Kuwaiti students on Oct 8 at 9 am. Registration for all Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti students will open on Oct 12 at 9 am. Students in Grade 12 or equivalent, as well as high school graduates, can

register through the university’s electronic registration system. The registration fee is KD 10 per test, payable through KNET. The university stressed that registration and amendments must be completed electronically and that test fees are non-refundable.

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‘Build bridge for safe crossing’

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Municipal Council member Abdullah Al-Enezi has proposed constructing a pedestrian bridge over Al-Atraf Street to connect the commercial area with Jahra Hospital. The proposal aims to ensure safe crossing for hospital staff, patients and visitors to reduce accidents. Al-Enezi urged the concerned authorities to study the site and determine the most suitable connection point in accordance with the traffic and technical regulations. He explained that the

proposal addresses the heavy traffic on Al-Atraf Street and the constant pedestrian movement between the commercial area and Jahra Hospital, indicating the risk of accident in crossing the road. He said the proposed bridge will organize pedestrian flow, prevent haphazard crossing, and ensure traffic safety in the area surrounding the hospital and the commercial district. He underscored the importance of making the bridge accessible to the elderly and people with disabilities by equipping it with elevators or other facilities, in compliance with the technical standards.

Other Voices

My name is yours, my identity is your identity

By Ahmad alsarraf

I used to believe that identity cards were a modern phenomenon, but I discovered that they are very old. France pioneered this system as early as the 19th century, initially for tracking laborers. Later, World War I broke out, prompting many European countries to issue identity cards to every citizen for security and regulatory purposes. This trend was reinforced during World War II. The absence of a personal identity system in Britain surprised me when I was there in the mid-1980s. I wondered how anyone could do without carrying an identity card. After inquiring, I discovered that it is generally possible to verify a person’s identity, for example, when opening a bank account, through several other methods. Research revealed that Anglo-Saxon traditions have established a common-law system based on the principle - “Whatever is not explicitly prohibited is permitted.” More importantly, there is the principle that “you don’t have to justify your existence or identity to the state” unless there is a specific legal reason, such as suspicion of a crime. Asking someone for their name is considered a form of government surveillance and intrusion. The situation, however, is different in Europe, where citizens have historically been registered systematically. The government of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair attempted to follow Europe’s example but faced considerable opposition and was forced to abandon the plan. The existing system, which had been in place for seventy years and was also used in the United States, Canada, and Australia, remained in effect, although foreign residents are often required to hold a form of identification card. On the other hand, birth registration was not exclusively a Christian or ecclesiastical phenomenon; it existed in many societies.



alsarraf

Ancient Rome maintained birth records for purposes of lineage and inheritance. Ancient China maintained household registration systems for census and tax purposes for more than two thousand years. This was also the case in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, the correct name for that ancient land. Jewish traditions preserved detailed genealogical records. Several Muslim communities maintained highly accurate genealogical records. Church parish records, used for baptism, marriage, and burial, are perhaps the most accurate records in Christian countries. However, in 1837, England decided to discontinue its reliance on church records, which had been in place since the 16th century, and adopted a civil registration system. It should be noted that genealogy in some Arab societies was historically more accurate than in most of contemporary Christian Europe. Nevertheless, the use of family names, as they are common today, is a relatively recent phenomenon in our region, having been imposed by Turkey on the countries under its domination in 1934. At that time, Atatürk’s government required all citizens to choose a specific family name as part of its secularization and modernization reforms. This led to the standardization of family names. In Christian communities in particular, it is customary to add a middle name between a person’s given name and their patronymic or family name. Usually, a saint’s name or the name of a political ally or prominent figure is used to give the child a certain distinction. This practice spread during the Renaissance and became popular among wealthy European families during baptisms. Upon reaching the United States, it became more entrenched and an integral part of Western naming practices. Similar practices are found in Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and even Egypt, where the name “Muhammad” is added to a male child’s name, such as “Muhammad Marwan.” It is a complex and confusing naming practice that sometimes causes problems for the child. Consequently, its use has declined in recent years.

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Fostering competition, innovation

Kuwaiti education and information ministries launch student program

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Ministries of Education and Information on Tuesday announced the launching of the ‘With Students’ (Ma’a al-Talaba) Program for the 2026/2027 academic year.

The program consists of competitions for Grade 12 students to develop their abilities, showcase their talents, and promote competition and creativity. It continues its legacy, which started in 1975.

Director General of the Educational Support Services General Department at the Ministry of Education Mariam Al-Enezi confirmed that the program is in line with the commitment of the ministry to diversify student activities and programs that complement the educational process. She said it opens more avenues for students to demonstrate their abilities and skills within a stimulating and competitive environment to refine their personalities and encourage innovation and active participation.

She added that the program will boost student participation in various competitions designed to discover and tap their potentials and talents, instill values of positive competition and teamwork, and motivate the students to develop their skills and use their capabilities in different fields.

She underscored the importance of the partnership with the Ministry of Information in ensuring the success of the program and highlighting student participation and achievements. “This collaboration reflects the integration of government efforts to support students and provide platforms where they can express their creativity and showcase their potentials,” she asserted.

She expressed appreciation for the support and sponsorship of the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Award, Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), American Middle East University (AUM), VO Production and others.

On the other hand, Bader Al-Duai, Director General of Television at the Ministry of Information, confirmed that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah fully supports the program in order to encourage the students to participate in scientific and intellectual competitions. He pointed out that the educational program is deeply embedded in the memories of successive generations of students and viewers.

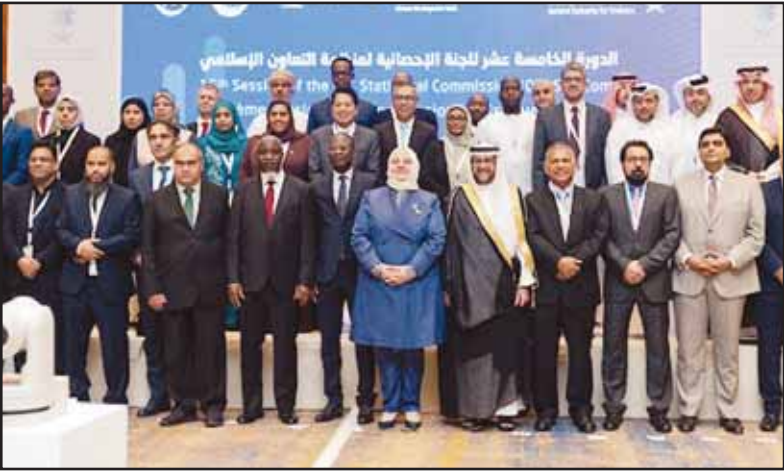
He added that the program is a manifestation of the commitment to enhance student activities and link them to the development of skills and talents. “This approach contributes to shaping the personalities of students and enriching their educational experience, while complementing their academic achievements,” he concluded.

OIC Statistical Commission reviews key data priorities

Kuwait participates in Arab statistical meetings



Rana Al-Saqabi, Head of the Input/Output Tables Department at the Central Statistical Bureau.



A group photo of the participants at the 15th session of the Statistical Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

JEDDAH, Sept 29, (KUNA): The 15th session of the Statistical Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) convened Tuesday in Jeddah with Kuwait’s Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) attending, focusing on exchanging statistical expertise.

Kuwait’s CSB said, in a statement, that its participation, represented by Input-Output Tables Department’s Head Rana Al-Saqabi, aims to strengthen statistical co-operation and expertise exchange among OIC member states.

The session discusses developing statistical work, including the 2026-2030 work program, Sustainable Development Goals, population and housing statistics, the 2025 System of National Accounts, and stronger statistical partnerships.

Kuwait’s Central Statistical Bureau participated in Arab and regional statistical meetings in Jeddah, including the 51st Arab Institute for Statistical Training and Research meeting and the 44th Arab League Permanent Technical Committee for Statistics meeting.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait holds

a thousand factories and modern logistical infrastructure throughout Kuwait.

Unlocking this potential necessitates pushing for progress through adaptable regulations that guarantee individual rights without applying a blanket rule to compliant businesses and violators.

Infractions should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Indiscriminate enforcement causes widespread frustration and impedes overall economic development. Rather than penalizing law-abiding entities for the missteps of others, policies should actively support and motivate those operating on the right track.

The Kuwaiti financial institutions have more than KD70 billion (around \$220 billion) capital, which they intend to invest in industrial, agricultural and service sectors. The nation can spearhead an extensive industrial revival by granting

entrepreneurs access to these funds through financing options.

Supplemented by Kuwait Industrial Bank, this capital can empower innovative leaders who strive for excellence, but need financial and institutional support. Initiating this industrial drive will stimulate activity in land, maritime and air transport sectors, while serving as an impetus to increase demand for essential public services.

At its core, the issue stems from cumbersome and protracted procedures and flawed decision-making. While global development accelerates, outdated bureaucracy, lengthy paperwork and ill-advised—at times punitive—judicial seizures persist, leaving a sharp disconnect between public rhetoric and reality.

Both Professor Shamlan Al-Juhaidli, with his vast first-hand experience in local manufacturing, and Minister Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, with his extensive background in administration and finance, are well-positioned to drive national industrial

growth with high professionalism. An old adage says, “Every man to his trade.”

The fundamental question remains: Will decisive action be taken to spur industrial progress by repealing obstructive regulations and genuinely committing to localizing vital industries?

Regrettably, even basic items, such as tissue paper and cotton swabs, continue to be imported, and inquiries regarding this dependency yield inadequate explanations.

Cabinet clears

This was stated in a Cabinet statement following its meeting Tuesday at the administrative building in Al-Shaheed Park Phase III, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet approved Tuesday a draft decree to abolish Decree No. 240 of 2012 establishing the Silk City (Al-Sabiyah) and Bou-

byan Island Development Body.

In a statement following its meeting Tuesday at the administrative building in Al-Shaheed Park Phase III, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet said it referred the draft decree to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwaitization hits

She said the ministry aims to complete the second phase and fully Kuwaitize the judicial support roles included in the plan by the end of December 2026.

She stressed that the plan is being implemented in accordance with the Royal Directive issued by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the Kuwaitization of jobs in the judicial sector.

Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait is overseeing this

initiative, with the aim of bolstering the presence of national talent and empowering them to perform various roles in the judiciary.

In mid-July, the undersecretary announced the launching of the first phase of the plan to fully nationalize judicial support roles by the end of 2026.

Over the past year and a half, the ministry identified target positions, assessed the needs of judicial support departments, and trained and qualified the required national workforce.

These measures ensure that the nationalization process is based on the readiness of national replacements, rather than being a superficial or ill-considered substitution.

Kuwait and

For his part, Al-Mughamis confirmed in a similar statement to KUNA that Kuwait continues its humanitarian efforts to people affected by wars and disasters, based on its

established approach to alleviate the suffering of those in need.

Both sides discussed a number of topics aimed at improving cooperation, as well as ways to increase humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people in the energy, health, and food sectors.

Kuwait, Pakistan

The delegation also visited military facilities, technical workshops, transport units, the College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, and training and simulation centers to review operational mechanisms and available capabilities.

Al-Azmi said the visit reflects the Kuwaiti Army’s keenness to strengthen military cooperation with friendly countries, exchange expertise and benefit from experience in logistical and technical fields, contributing to the development of capabilities and enhancing the efficiency and readiness of Kuwait’s Armed Forces.

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America

2 Navy aviators eject while landing plane: Two US Navy aviators ejected as they were landing their plane on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier off the coast of Virginia on Monday and four sailors aboard the vessel were injured in what the Navy characterized as a “mishap.”

The two aviators, assigned to Carrier Air Wing 3, successfully ejected as “a mishap occurred during aircraft recovery operations” and were rescued by search and rescue personnel, the Navy said in a short statement.

Both were returned to the ship and were being evaluated by medical personnel, the Navy said. The four shipboard personnel also were receiving medical care, including one who was transported to a hospital in the Norfolk, Virginia, area for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

The Navy did not say which type of two-seater plane was involved in the accident, nor what happened to the plane or what might have caused the accident. The Navy did not immediately answer a request for further details. (AP)

□ □ □

‘8 sailors attempted suicide’: Eight sailors attempted suicide while deployed with the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group, which spent a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea supporting the Iran war, the Navy’s top civilian leader said this week.

Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao provided the information to Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand in a letter dated

Tuesday after the New York Democrat inquired last month about the strike group’s crew. The Lincoln’s extended deployment drew the nation’s attention following reports of crew stress and poor mental health, as well as supply shortages, including food and hygiene products.

Eight attempts in a strike group of 6,000 sailors over 10 months is actually low, experts say. The Navy reported 356 suicide attempts across the service in 2024, while there were more than 1,500 attempts among all active duty personnel that year, according to the latest annual report. (AP)

□ □ □

Toddler pulls out gun at Michigan daycare: A toddler pulled out a loaded pistol Monday at a daycare in southeast Michigan and a police officer who is one of the child’s parents has been taken into custody as the investigation continues, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident in Canton and police praised the daycare staff for acting quickly to make sure all of the children were kept safe, Police Chief Joseph Bialy said during a news conference.

The parent taken into custody is a police officer from a neighboring jurisdiction, though the handgun was not a service weapon, he said.

“I don’t think there was any ill intent by truly anyone involved,” he said. “I think it really falls back on safe security of a firearm, making sure that we know where our firearms are located, that they are not accessible to anyone.” Bialy said he watched video of the child taking the gun out of a backpack and described it as “shocking.” He said it was hard for him to watch even though he knew the outcome. (AP)



In this photograph released by the US Navy, military planes stand on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, July 4, 2024, in the South China Sea. (AP)

Taxpayers funded nearly \$1.5M in pro-Trump ads

‘Nat’l security, military, cyber forces to guard election systems during midterms’

WASHINGTON, Sept 29, (AP): The US National Security Agency and other military intelligence and cybersecurity forces will guard election systems during the November midterms, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Monday.

Military cybersecurity experts have routinely helped monitor systems and deter potential hackers since election equipment was designated “critical infrastructure” in 2017.

But Hegseth’s announcement comes after President Donald Trump gutted the civilian agency specifically created to safeguard election infrastructure, a division of the Department of Homeland Security called the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. That agency last week released an election infrastructure security plan that lays out potential threats to election systems and lists services it would offer to election officials to protect the vote.

Both announcements come just weeks before Election Day on Nov. 3 and with early voting already underway. The short timeline “suggests this is just theater,” said David Becker, a former U.S. Justice Department attorney who leads the nonprofit Center for Election Innovation & Research.

“If the administration was serious about assisting state and local elec-

tion officials, they shouldn’t have dismantled all of the federal government’s election cybersecurity capacity and fired all their experts in early 2025,” he said.

Though cybersecurity assistance from the NSA and US Cyber Command is routine, many elections experts, civil rights groups and Democratic election officials are on guard for signs of meddling in voting or ballot counting by the Trump administration. The president continues to push false claims that elections are rife with fraud while trying to interfere with longstanding election procedures.

The US Supreme Court blocked an attempt by Trump to restrict mail voting but has allowed the use of a federal database to check the citizenship of voters.

In a memo dated Sept. 22 and publicly announced Monday, Hegseth directed defense intelligence officials to mobilize every resource “to defend our election infrastructure from foreign malign influence and ensure that every lawful voter can cast their ballot free from foreign intimidation, coercion, or fear.”

Also:

LOS ANGELES: The White House has spent days fiercely defending three taxpayer-funded advertisements that glorify President Donald Trump and are nearing at least \$1.5 mil-



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks during the POW/MIA National Recognition Day Ceremony at the Pentagon on Sept 18 in Washington. (AP)

lion in public spending, calling them public service announcements like those used in past administrations.

“Don’t let the Fake News get away with their lies about our epic Public Service Announcements that have been running on tv,” White House communications director Steven Cheung posted on X on Sunday.

But the Republican administration’s ads attracted mounting criticism on Monday, including from members of Trump’s own party.

by The Associated Press said the ads appear to run afoul of federal statutes, including a law against congressionally appropriated funds being used for “publicity or propaganda” and a law that limits the partisan political activities of government employees.

They said the new ads, which are airing on network and cable TV and streaming, differ from other administrations’ PSAs because they aren’t designed to help Americans access any specific program.

“You watch all three ads, they’re sheer propaganda,” said Richard Painter, a former White House ethics czar under Republican President George W. Bush. “This is increasingly looking like what authoritarian governments do to promote their leaders.”

The heightened scrutiny comes as the Trump administration has increased spending on the ads and bought time on popular TV shows, including college football and National Football League programming. It remains unclear which part of the government is supplying the funds.

With both chambers of Congress led by Republicans, any oversight would likely have to come from Trump’s allies, decreasing the likelihood of hearings or other accountability efforts before November’s midterm elections.

Multiple legal experts consulted

The first ad in the campaign, which began airing last Wednesday, features clips of Trump talking about defeating communism interspersed with onscreen text promoting the “largest tax cuts in history,” “reigniting American manufacturing” and a call to “defend law and order and police.”

Later in the week, a second ad began running, showing scenic videos of Mount Rushmore at night with quotes and clips from Trump’s Fourth of July weekend speech there honoring the country’s 250th anniversary.

The latest of the ads, a spot first aired over the weekend, is virtually identical to an ad for Trump’s Republican reelection campaign in 2024. It shows him walking down a hallway as his voice can be heard warning of a “final battle” against “globalists” and “warmongers.”

All three ads end with a message that says: “Paid for by the US Government.” The White House hasn’t responded to inquiries about which part of the government is paying.

According to AdImpact, which tracks media spending, the spots have so far cost more than \$1.4 million and run across a wide range of TV networks around the country. The actual amount spent could be significantly more, depending on whether networks classified the ad as a political ad.



Denmark’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Christina Markus Lassen addresses the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters on Sept 28. (AP)

Denmark, at UN, says Greenland pact benefits all parties involved

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 29, (AP): The security agreement signed by the U.S., Denmark and Greenland last week “strengthens the defense of Greenland, the NATO area, and the American continent,” Denmark’s U.N. ambassador told the UN’s annual gathering of world leaders Monday.

“The agreement is good for Greenland, for Denmark, for the United States, for NATO and Europe, and for international peace and security,” Christina Lassen said.

The agreement bolstering the US military presence in Greenland is aimed at strengthening NATO’s security in the Arctic and North Atlantic. It keeps Greenland as part of Denmark and, at least for the moment, eases tensions over President Donald Trump’s repeated calls for the vast island to become part of the United States. The agreement would still apply if Greenland eventually chooses independence.

In brief remarks on the agreement at the end of her speech, Lassen said, “Progress can still be made when we consult the compass.”

Trump expressed his desire to acquire Greenland as long ago as 2019 and, during his current second term, he issued threats to seize the semiautonomous territory from Denmark, a NATO ally. He said the U.S. needed to “take Greenland,” to prevent Russia or China from doing the same, but said he would rather make a deal “for the mineral-rich territory.

Trump’s designs on Greenland strained relations with NATO, with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warning a US takeover would amount to the end of the Atlantic alliance. It also unsettled many of Greenland’s roughly 56,000 people wary of a US takeover and resource grab.

Officials from the US, Greenland and Denmark negotiated for months behind the scenes, searching for solutions to address some of Trump’s security concerns about the island and the president gave a thumbs up to the deal..

Just before last Tuesday’s signing, at the UN, Trump said, “This is tremendous for Europe and for the United States and for everybody. And for Greenland, it’s going to be incredible.” He did not respond to questions about whether a US acquisition of Greenland was off the table.

The United States has had a military presence in Greenland since the end of World War II in 1945, but the numbers decreased from thousands of soldiers on 17 bases and installations to roughly 200 soldiers on the remote Pituffik Space Base in the northwest today. The base supports missile warning, missile defense and space surveillance operations for the United States and NATO.

Addressing world leaders at the General Assembly just before the signing, Trump said the U.S. would “immediately begin the process of developing a large military presence in the appropriate locations,” including “building two very major military bases.”

Russia’s missile and jet-propelled drone blitz keeps Kyiv on edge

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 29, (AP): Russia fired ballistic missiles and dozens of jet-powered drones at Kyiv, Ukraine’s air force said Tuesday, as Moscow seeks to make Ukraine buckle under the pressure of day-and-night bombardment of its capital and other cities.

The Russian onslaught has used new jet-powered drones that fly too fast and too high for Ukrainian ground-based air defenses to shoot down.

Ukraine is scrambling to keep pace by developing faster interceptor drones, in the latest example of how the war has driven military innovation, but making and deploying new weapons takes months.

Russia’s ballistic missiles have also got through as Ukraine is desperately short of U.S.-made Patriot air defense interceptor missiles, which are the only reliable way of stopping Moscow’s ballistic attacks.

Patriot stockpiles are low, largely because of the Iran war, and Ukraine has received only small numbers of them this year despite President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s pleading.



This photo provided by Russian Emergency Situations Ministry on Sept 29, 2026, shows flame and smoke rising over at a pyrotechnics factory in Kubrinsk, Yaroslavl region of Russia. (AP)

Ukraine said that its air defenses shot down two ballistic missiles overnight, which suggested that Kyiv had recently received some more Patriots.

Air defense needs are mounting

with the approach of the bitter winter months, which in the years since Russia’s full-scale invasion began on Feb. 24, 2022 have brought an escalation of strikes on Ukraine’s power grid.

Europe

Pupil stabs teacher, injures 2 in Slovakia: A pupil at an elementary school in northwestern Slovakia fatally stabbed a teacher on Tuesday and injured at least two other people, authorities said.

Authorities did not report the possible motive and it was not immediately clear if the perpetrator was in police custody. However, police said they had the situation under control and there was no further threat to the public.

The teacher who was killed was a 61-year-old woman. The injured included a pupil who was in critical condition and a 41-year-old female teacher who was hospitalized with serious injuries, the Slovak rescue service said. President Peter Pellegrini said he was “deeply saddened by the tragic incident” and offered condolences to the relatives along with Prime Minister Robert Fico. (AP)

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Germany’s foreign minister visits ICC: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl visited the International Criminal Court on Monday in a high-profile show of support for the embattled global tribunal that U.S. President Donald Trump calls a “rogue institution.”

The Trump administration already has slapped sanctions on 13 of the court’s staff members, among them key prosecutors and nine judges including the court’s Japanese President Tomoko Akane. U.S. Sec-



Slovak Red Cross members work at a site following a stabbing attack by a pupil at a primary school in Staskov, Slovakia on Sept 29. (AP)

retary of State Marco Rubio has launched what he called a “sweeping campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the International Criminal Court.”

“The German government completely supports the court,” Wadepuhl said in The Hague shortly before his visit, adding that Berlin is seeking to “enable the court to be workable.”

Officials in the court’s host country, the Netherlands, have been warned that sanctions on the entire court are imminent and are looking at ways to help the tribunal keep operating, including paying staff, protecting witnesses and maintaining the detention facility, diplomatic and government officials with knowledge of the briefings told The Associated Press last week. (AP)

Bangkok floodwaters begin to ease

Thailand’s govt OK’s emergency funding after deadly floods impact millions

BANGKOK, Sept 29, (AP): Thailand’s government approved emergency funds Tuesday for flood victims amounting to \$122 million following a deluge that had battered the country since mid-September, affecting more than 2.6 million people and killing at least 19.

The country’s capital, Bangkok, was recovering after days of torrential rains and widespread flooding, but some disruptions remained. Thailand’s main airport, which had been struck with flight cancellations, was struggling with a major baggage backlog.

According to government spokesperson Ekkapob Pianpises, the approved funds of 4.1 billion baht would be disseminated by the Interior Ministry to compensate people impacted by the floods nationwide.

Rain has largely stopped in Bangkok, but some neighborhoods, particularly in the east, are still inundated. The city’s governor, Chadchart Sittipunt, said traffic should return to normal on most main roads within two days, although in some low-lying areas it could take up to seven days for roads to dry out.

While Bangkok was expected to stay dry, heavy rain was forecast elsewhere in Thailand for Tuesday, the Thailand Meteorological Department said.

Industry Minister Varawut Silpa-archa said the flooding had caused an estimated 22 million baht (about \$655,000) in damage to businesses nationwide. Residents in 29 out of Thailand’s 76 provinces remained impacted by the floods on Tuesday, officials said. Of the 19 deaths, four took place in Bangkok.

Thai Airways, one of the main airlines handling baggage at Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport, apologized to affected passengers for a massive luggage backlog, which the airline attributed in part to staff shortages caused by the flooding.

Hundreds of suitcases were seen lining up at the arrivals area on Tuesday. The Thai Air Force said it had sent personnel to the airport to assist with the luggage problem.

“I sincerely apologize to all passengers for the inconvenience caused. Thai



Rows of undelivered luggage are placed in the arrivals hall at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Samut Prakan, Thailand on Sept 29, after heavy rain and floods in Bangkok prevented airport workers from getting to work. (AP)

Airways is making every effort to ensure that passengers are reunited with their baggage as soon as possible,” said Chai Eamsiri, the airline’s CEO.

The airline also canceled more than 10 of its domestic and international flights on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In Bang Kapi, one of Bangkok’s hardest hit neighborhoods, residents waded through floodwater, and some used small boats to get around.

A makeshift market was set up on a raised walkway just outside a mall shortly after the flooding, and vendors from a nearby market, where the water remained knee-high, had moved there, selling meat, vegetables and herbs. Music blared from loudspeakers and vendors called out to customers who waded through floodwater or walked through the mall to get to them.

Lon Cheng, a Cambodian vendor who has lived in Thailand for over 20 years, cheerfully called to customers and danced along with the music behind his vegetable stall.

He said he had suffered huge losses in the floods.

“The first day ... I spent about 70,000 baht (about \$2,100) and I could sell for only 20,000 baht (about \$600),” he said. “It was a big loss, but with losses I still need to sell.”

Neighboring countries have also been battered by the floods. In Myanmar, at least 10 people were killed and dozens were missing after heavy rain triggered widespread flooding and landslides in the southern coastal region of Tanintharyi, local media reported.

Flash floods also struck at least 10 provinces in Cambodia, affecting 44,889 families and forcing nearly 4,000 people to evacuate, according to disaster management officials. At the centuries-old Angkor temple complex, workers were opening water gates and diversion systems to reduce the risk of flooding at the archeological site.

In neighboring Myanmar, at least 10 people were killed and dozens were missing after heavy rain triggered widespread flooding and landslides in the southern coastal region of Tanintharyi, local media reported.

Dawei township recorded 346 millimeters (13.62 inches) of rain Monday, breaking an 80-year-old record. Myanmar’s Meteorology Department warned that conditions could worsen as the storm front moved closer to Yangon.

North Korea uses UN platform to lament ‘mutual distrust’, tension

PYONGYANG, Sept 29, (AP): North Korea used its yearly UN platform on Monday to warn other world leaders of “a harsh reality rampant with unprecedented mutual distrust and confrontation,” but said that it would endure and, in a multilateral world, “surely attain all that we plan to, relying entirely on our own efforts.”

It was, by Pyongyang’s standards, a relatively mild speech that contained no direct threats.

The annual opportunity for the country, whose formal name is the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, to speak on the world stage fell this year to Vice Foreign Minister Kim Son Gyong. Like many nations, he touted the notion of UN-focused multilateralism, yet repeatedly insisted that North Korea could - and would, if necessary - go it alone.

“Gone are the days when an individual member state unilaterally imposed its will on the rest of the world and dominated the international political arena,” Kim said. “Instead, multilateralism and multipolarization have emerged as an irresistible aspiration and trend of the times based on justice and equity.”

North Korea is frequently at odds with South Korea, Japan and the United States, which are tightly aligned in matters of security in East



North Korea’s Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Son Gyong addresses the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters on Sept 28. (AP)

Asia. Kim asserted once again that his nation, no matter the external threat, is prepared to defend itself.

“No physical conflict has occurred on and around the Korean Peninsula, a hot spot of the world, and the security index is being maintained at a higher level than any other part of the globe,” he said. “We owe it to the fact that the DPRK has a war deterrent in place powerful enough to break anyone’s will to start a war

of aggression against the DPRK and that we are thoroughly containing and managing the hostile forces’ intention to use force.”

As is typical for North Korean speeches at the UN - and, for that matter, for many nations’ speeches - Kim’s remarks ranged across the nation’s priorities and goals, with special emphasis on its ability to defend itself in a volatile security situation in East Asia.

Asia

7 killed in SW China traffic accident: Seven people were killed in a traffic accident involving a car and a semi-trailer truck early Tuesday in Longli County, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, local authorities said.

The accident occurred at 1:42 a.m. when the car carrying seven people, though designed for five, rear-ended the truck parked on the side of Longxi Avenue in the county. All seven people in the car, including the driver, were killed, according to the county’s public security bureau.

A preliminary test showed that the 19-year-old driver, surnamed Wang, had a blood alcohol content of 66 mg per 100 ml at the time of the accident, indicating he was driving under the influence of alcohol.

Police, emergency and medical personnel were dispatched to the scene immediately after the accident was reported. Further investigation and aftermath handling are underway. Enditem

Man hospitalized after Sydney shooting: A man has been hospitalized after he was shot in southwest Sydney on Tuesday afternoon.

A police statement said that emergency services were called to reports of a shooting at a residential unit block in the suburb of Liverpool, 28 km southwest of central Sydney, around 12:40 p.m. on Tuesday.

Officers arrived at the scene and found a 32-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his leg.

Ambulance paramedics treated the man before taking him to hospital.

Police established a crime scene and have started an investigation into the shooting. (Xinhua)

3 dead in truck-car collision near Tokyo: Three people were killed after a truck and a passenger car collided in Chiba Prefecture, near Tokyo, early Tuesday morning, with the passenger car catching fire, local media reported.

Just after 4 a.m. local time, a passerby called emergency services to report that a truck and a passenger car appeared to be on fire at an intersection in Chiba City, public broadcaster NHK reported.

When firefighters arrived, they found that a truck and a passenger car had collided and the passenger car was on fire.

Officials said the fire was extinguished about an hour later, but three people inside the passenger car were confirmed dead.

The 57-year-old truck driver sustained minor injuries, while the 19-year-old man driving the passenger car was also injured and taken to a hospital. He was conscious, the report said, citing police.

Authorities are investigating the circumstances and cause of the accident.

Philippines shooting kills 1, injures 2: A woman was killed while two men were wounded after gunmen riding motorcycles shot at a parked vehicle in Ilocos Sur province, northern Philippines, on Monday.

Two victims, including the woman, were inside the vehicle parked along the road in Bantay Municipality when the gunmen opened fire, according to local police.

The female victim sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was declared dead at the scene by responding medical personnel. The male victim in the vehicle was brought to a local hospital in critical condition.

The third victim was near the vehicle and was grazed in the head, and was reported to be in stable condition.

The suspects on two motorcycles without license plates fled away. Investigations are underway. (Xinhua)

Lat/Am

US revokes visas from Lat/Am officials: The Trump administration is revoking the visas of 27 Latin American officials, former officials and their families, including Bolivia’s attorney general, over accusations of corruption.

The officials and their families come from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru - all nations with right-leaning leaders friendly with President Donald Trump.

Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** visited Colombia, Ecuador and Peru this month, pledging US support for their efforts to combat drug and human trafficking.

Those leaders have complained that many of those targeted by the visa revocations were hindering their efforts to fight crime.

The State Department announced the revocations Monday, saying they were being done “to fulfill the commitments to defend democratic governance across our hemisphere against corruption and narco-trafficking.”

“Undermining a democratically-elected government is a threat to security and rule of law in the Americas and will not be tolerated,” it said in a statement. (AP)



Rubio

Boat capsizes, 40 rescued in Puerto Rico: The US Coast Guard said Monday that it rescued at least 40 people in open waters after their boat capsized several miles from a tiny, uninhabited island west of Puerto Rico.

Two people were found dead, with survivors reporting an estimated 60 people aboard, the agency said.

Rescue efforts were ongoing as of Monday evening.

Survivors spent more than 12 hours in the water before a boat passing near Mona Island spotted them on Monday around noon and called authorities, helping rescue four people at that moment.

The Coast Guard said the makeshift boat capsized late Sunday following a fight in which people were severely injured by a machete, leading the group to jump into the water without life vests.

It wasn’t immediately clear where the people were from. A US Coast Guard spokesperson said she did not have that information. (AP)

Hurricane makes landfall in Baja Calif: Hurricane Polo made landfall early Tuesday in the Mexican state of Baja California with flash flooding and winds described by forecasters as “life-threatening.”

The Category 2 hurricane struck land just south of Las Barrancas, Mexico, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Cabo San Lazaro and about 70 miles (115 kilometers) south of Mulege with maximum sustained winds of 110 mph (175 kph) while moving northeast at 13 mph (20 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

On Monday, Polo was a Category 3 storm with top sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph), the hurricane center said. It was expected to produce 6-12 inches (about 15 to 30 centimeters) of rain across parts of Baja California Sur.

Forecasters had predicted Polo would hit the Mexican mainland with life-threatening winds and flash floods expected. It could bring heavy rain and flooding to parts of the U.S. Southwest later in the week. (AP)



Opposition presidential candidate Sen. Flavio Bolsonaro, right, wearing a green shirt and looking up, campaigns in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Sept 28. (AP)

Rio residents find own way to tackle gangs as crime dominates Brazil’s election

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 29, (AP): Crime is the top concern for Brazilians ahead of October’s presidential election, with candidates competing to offer the toughest - and most effective - approach to the deep-seated problem.

Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, son of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro, is seeking to defeat President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, with a promise to loosen organized crime’s grip on Brazil, particularly in Rio de Janeiro.

After Rio’s deadliest-ever police operation last year, in which more than 120 people were killed, polls indicated that the hard-line policies Sen. Bolsonaro touts are popular. Lula, meanwhile, has argued for a more prominent role of the federal government in the fight against organized crime as well as greater coordination between governmental institutions.

But while politicians trade barbs, residents in Rio de Janeiro have been designing their own responses, with ex-traffickers launching podcasts and grieving mothers stepping up to stop youth recruitment.

Many residents, community leaders and experts say that the current approach - which favors armed confrontations between police and

the groups - is inefficient and often results in indiscriminate loss of life. They’re taking on crime on their own to bridge that gap.

Here is a look at some local initiatives.

Once a week, a group of former drug-traffickers gather in a small recording studio on the outskirts of Rio to dissect their past lives of crime and those of their guests. They air the episodes of 01 Sobreviventes, or 01 Survivors, on YouTube and streaming platforms.

A painting of the four founders grinning hangs on the wall, while the podcast’s logo - a microphone breaking a chain - is projected on a screen over the desk.

“We want to propagate the idea that crime isn’t worth it,” said host Fábio Santos, a 56-year-old ex-trafficker from the Manguinhos favela who spent 25 years in prison.

“We want them to follow our current lives so that they don’t go through what we went through,” he added after recording a recent interview with a former gang member who is now a pastor.

The podcast, launched in 2024 and followed by more than 225,000 people

on Instagram, is both for those tempted by the allure of quick cash and for those who need convincing to course-correct. Crime leads to prison, a wheelchair or a coffin, they say repeatedly.

Santos says several people have said they have seen traffickers listening to the podcast and that he regularly hears about people who left the world of crime or didn’t enter thanks to their work.

Alan Duarte, 38, grew up in Complexo do Alemão, one of the two sprawling complexes of favelas targeted in Rio’s lethal police operation last year. He lost a brother, uncle and cousins - 10 family members in all - to violence.

He credits the influence of a non-profit offering martial arts classes in a nearby favela for keeping him from going down a perilous path. That insight inspired Duarte to create his own academy in his childhood neighborhood.

Since opening in 2014, Abraco Campeao, or Embrace Champions, has expanded into teaching boxing, jiu-jitsu, Muay Thai and capoeira, and providing educational talks. Duarte hopes to boost its current 600-student capacity to 1,000.

TV journalist crowned king of traditional monarchy in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda, Sept 29, (AP): A journalist on Tuesday was crowned king of a traditional monarchy that lost its onetime “boy king” last month, triggering widespread grief and a succession dispute in Uganda’s Tooro Kingdom.

The journalist is a prince who had long been employed as a broadcaster and editor with Uganda Broadcasting Corp. He picked the regnal name of Edward Rukidi Nyabongo. He performed rituals overnight, was ushered into the palace and was formally unveiled to his followers on Tuesday.

Traditional kingdoms were banned in the 1960s, after Uganda’s independence from British colonial rule, by a republican president who said that he wanted to unify the country. They were restored in 1993. Traditional leaders don’t wield any formal authority in this East African country and are legally



Mourners gather for the funeral of Tooro’s King Oyo Nyimba in the remote city of Fort Portal, near the Congo border in Uganda, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026. (AP)

barred from engaging in partisan politics. But they wield immense authority among their people as guardians of traditional culture.

The coronation ceremony in Fort Portal, a remote town in western Uganda and not far from the Congo border, was watched by thousands in person and on televised broadcasts. Speaking at the event, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni urged traditional leaders to promote local languages.

Oil price down \$2.18 to \$106.51 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price fell by USD 2.18 to hit USD 106.51 per barrel (pb) in Monday's trading, compared with USD 108.69 the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

In global markets, Brent crude went down by 96 cents to reach USD 105.28 pb, and US West Texas Intermediate crude dropped by 19 cents to USD 92.60 per barrel.

Business

Partnering with TAS to bring experiences to Kuwait's newest entertainment destination

Zain's Wonderful World races into Alshaheed Adventures



Waleed Al-Khashti, Tareq Al-Omar, and Fatima Al-Saqabi during the press conference.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Zain Kuwait announces a strategic partnership with TAS Entertainment, becoming the title sponsor of the Karting Zone at Alshaheed Adventures—the all-new entertainment destination located within Phase 3 of Al Shaheed Park.

The announcement was made during a press conference held at Zain's headquarters in Shuwaikh, attended by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait; Tareq Al-Omar, CEO of TAS Entertainment; and Fatima Al-Saqabi, Chief Operations Officer of TAS Entertainment.

The partnership reflects Zain's continued commitment to supporting experiences that enrich Kuwait's entertainment landscape and create engaging new opportunities for young people, families, and the wider community. It also brings the vibrant Zain brand into one of the country's newest destinations for entertainment, movement, and adventure.

Under the partnership, Zain is becoming the title sponsor of the Karting Zone, one of the flagship experiences at Alshaheed Adventures. Starting October 2026, the zone will offer visitors an exciting year-round karting experience built around a distinctive multi-level circuit that combines indoor and outdoor racing, welcoming everyone from first-time drivers and families to seasoned karting enthusiasts.

As part of the partnership, Alshaheed Adventures will also join the Zain Perks network, giving Zain customers access to exclusive benefits through Zain's digital rewards platform. Through Zain Perks, customers will enjoy a 15% discount across all Alshaheed Adventures activities, including the Karting Zone, ice skating, Snow Fun, and indoor skydiving, with the discount available both online and at the venue.



Signing of the partnership agreement.

The new benefit adds an exciting entertainment offering to the growing Zain Perks ecosystem, giving customers even more rewarding ways to enjoy experiences that match their lifestyles and interests while strengthening their engagement with Zain.

Throughout the season, Zain will further bring the experience to life through special activations, customer engagement initiatives, and exclusive opportunities designed to add even more excitement on and off the track.

During the press conference, Waleed Al-Khashti said: "Today's exciting announcement reflects Zain's purpose of creating 'Better Lives. Lasting Connections,' by supporting experiences that bring people together and create meaningful connections across the community. Alshaheed Adventures introduces a fresh and exciting dimension to Kuwait's entertainment landscape, and our partnership allows us to contribute to an experience that speaks directly to young people, families, and the wider community."

He added: "Zain's transformation goes beyond connectivity, bringing us closer to the digital and lifestyle experiences that matter most to our customers. Partnerships like these help us turn that vision into engaging, real-world experiences that strengthen our connection with the community and reflect how Zain is evolving as a technology and lifestyle brand."

He concluded: "We are excited about what this partnership will bring and look forward to welcoming everyone to the Zain Karting Zone at Alshaheed Adventures. We hope visitors will enjoy a dynamic and memorable experience that brings together excitement, connection, and shared moments with their loved ones."

Tareq Al-Omar, CEO of TAS Entertainment, said: "Alshaheed Adventures repre-



Al-Khashti, Al-Omar, and Al-Saqabi with officials from Zain and TAS.

sents a new chapter in Kuwait's entertainment sector, built around high-quality experiences, professional operations, and a destination that can appeal to a broad range of visitors. We are delighted to welcome Zain as a Strategic Partner and title sponsor of the Karting Zone, bringing together two brands that share an ambition to deliver distinctive and memorable experiences."

He added that Alshaheed Adventures forms part of a wider ambition to advance the concept of entertainment projects in Kuwait and establish professional models capable of developing and managing distinctive experiences locally and regionally.

A new destination for adventure and entertainment
Located within the new Phase 3 expansion of Al Shaheed Park, Alshaheed Adventures brings together a diverse range of entertainment and adventure experiences designed for different interests and age groups, with attractions including karting, ice skating, Snow Fun, and indoor skydiving. The destination has been developed as a modern environment designed around family entertainment and memorable experiences.

At the heart of Zain's partnership is the Karting Zone, featuring a distinctive multi-level circuit that combines indoor and outdoor racing sections. Its air-conditioned indoor section overlooks the ice rink before extending outdoors, allowing the experience to operate throughout the year.

Designed for everyone from first-time drivers and families to experienced karting enthusiasts and corporate groups, the circuit features 24 cars and a 560-square-meter track, creating a dynamic new addition to Kuwait's leisure and entertainment offering.

OPEC chief says Kuwait played key role in establishing OPEC+

ALGIERS, Sept 29, (KUNA): OPEC Secretary-General Haitham Al-Ghais said that Kuwait played a significant role in the initial consultations that helped bridge differences among several countries and pave the way for the establishment of OPEC+.

In a statement to KUNA during a visit to Algeria, Al-Ghais said he had closely witnessed Kuwait's diplomatic efforts in the period leading up to the Algiers Agreement in September 2016 and the signing of the OPEC+ agreement in December of that year.

He said Kuwait helped foster dialogue and understanding among oil-producing countries at a time when communication was difficult, adding that the collective efforts of Kuwait, Algeria and other countries contributed to the agreement's success and global oil market stability.

Al-Ghais, who was Kuwait's OPEC governor at the time, described the Algiers Agreement as the cornerstone of OPEC+, saying Algeria played a key role in ensuring its implementation through the establishment of a high-level committee.

He also said his meeting with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune addressed the importance of continued cooperation among oil-producing countries and maintaining stability in global oil and energy markets.

Al-Ghais is visiting Algeria to mark the 10th anniversary of the Algiers Agreement. On Sunday, he held talks with Algerian Minister of Energy and Mining Mohammed Arkab and Minister of Energy and Renewable Energies Mourad Adjal on developments in global oil markets, their outlook and challenges facing the industry.

Kuwait, Qatar sign MoU

AIIB meeting highlights on future infrastructure

DOHA, Sep 29, (KUNA): The 11th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) kicked off in Doha on Monday, with the participation of Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Refaie.

The meeting will run for two days under the theme "Infrastructure for Tomorrow: Impact and Innovation".

Qatar was among the founding members of the bank in 2015, driven by its belief that Asia needed a new institution focused on infrastructure development, Qatari Minister of Finance and 2026 Chair of the AIIB Board of Governors Ali Al-Kuwari said. 11 years later, the bank's members reached 111 with the value of approved financing totaling nearly USD 70 billion, he added.

He affirmed that Qatar's hosting of the meeting reflects its commitment to supporting international partnerships and enhancing dialogue and cooperation among countries and financial and development institutions, contributing to sustainable development efforts and the financing of infrastructure projects that promote growth and shared prosperity.

For her part, AIIB President Zou Jiayi affirmed that the bank aims to expand the scope of its development impact and nearly double its annual financing volume by 2030 to reach around USD 20 billion, with a focus on financing infrastructure for the future.

The bank's objective in the next phase is to increase its development impact through innovation and integrity, she said. She explained that achieving this goal requires increasing the bank's business volume and leveraging areas in which it has a comparative advantage, she added.

Meanwhile, AIIB Vice Chair of the Board of Governors and Chairman of

Tajikistan's State Committee for Investment and State Property Management Sulton Rahimzoda said that the AIIB was established a decade ago based on a clear understanding that Asia's infrastructure ambitions require partnership, innovation and the ability to mobilize capital on a large scale.

Headquartered in Beijing, AIIB is a multilateral development bank established through an international initiative. It currently has 111 member countries and authorized capital of USD 100 billion and holds an AAA credit rating from major international rating agencies.

Qatar and Kuwait signed on Monday a memorandum of understating (MoU) on the financial field during participation in the 11th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held in Doha.

The memo was inked by Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Yaqoub Al-Refaie and his Qatari peer Ali Al-Kuwari, in the presence of Kuwait's Ambassador to Qatar Ahmad Al-Shuraim, within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the two sisterly countries on developing economic and financial policies, Kuwait's Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

The signing of the memo showed the Kuwaiti ministry's commitment to continuing the previous steps on enhancing the economic and financial system among GCC states and shared efforts to achieve balance economic integration goals amid rapid transformations in global economy, Al-Refaie said.

He also highlighted obligation to boost financial ties with Qatar and share views and expertise in several fields.

The memo was inked on the sidelines of Kuwait's participation in the meeting which kicked off earlier in the day.



Kuwait, Qatar sign financial cooperation MoU.

KUNA photo

Continuous deposit profit throughout the financing period

KFH enhances financing options with car, boat and motorbike financing against cash collateral

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues to enhance "Car, Boat and Motorbike Financing against cash collaterals" product. The product provides customers with a flexible and swift financing method to acquire new and used cars, boats, and both marine and land motorbikes, against financial guarantees through investment deposits. This comes as part of KFH ongoing commitment to develop financing services and innovative solutions to meet the aspirations of various customers segments.

The product is part of KFH's strategy to diversify Islamic financing solutions and enhance customer experience by offering flexible options and ease procedures to meet their needs and obtain financing in a more efficient and faster way.

The Car, Boat and Motorbike Financing against cash collateral does not require salary transfer or deduction, a guarantor or lengthy documentation and procedures. Financing is granted to individuals against a full financial guarantee on the debt, with a fixed deposit held by the customer.

Financing limits against collateral are determined based on the value of the cash collateral, providing more flexibility for customers without being bound by a maximum installment or debt limit.

Furthermore, the product offers adjustable payment period of up to 10 years, along with competitive profit rates and various payment programs. The customer continues to earn deposit profits throughout the financing period, making the product ideal for deposit owners



to benefit from their financial assets while maintaining their returns.

In addition, the product enables fast processing of transactions and obtaining approvals according to the customer's financial position, helping shorten time and effort and allowing customers to acquire the vehicles they desire easily and smoothly.

Among the main services KFH provides in the auto sector through its showrooms and various sales channels is the Amanah car sale service, which allows

customers to authorize the bank to sell their vehicles through KFH Auto showrooms. Another key service is vehicle valuation, which helps customers benefit from the value of their current vehicles when purchasing new ones. The product aims to enhance the added value for the bank's deposit owners and savings account customers by linking financial services and products within an integrated system that provides additional benefits, contributing to reinforcing the long-term relationship and providing exceptional banking experience.

Settling 80% of creditor bank obligations

ACICO completes debt restructuring with two local banks

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: ACICO Group announced the completion of an agreement to restructure its outstanding debt and financing obligations with two local creditor banks, bringing completed settlements to approximately 80% of its total settlements with creditor banks. This milestone reflects continued progress in implementing the financial restructuring program approved by the Board of Directors and brings the Group closer to completing its final stages, strengthening its financial position and laying solid foundations for future growth.

The settlement and restructuring of approximately KD 56.15 million in debt is expected to significantly strengthen the Company's financial position. The transaction is anticipated to generate a positive impact of approximately KD 23.52 million on the Company's profit and loss account and reduce total liabilities on its balance sheet by approximately KD 32.67 million. The remaining restructured balance of approximately KD 23.48 million will be repaid between 2026 and 2031 in accordance with the final approved restructuring terms.

This achievement is the culmination of extensive efforts led by the Chairman and members of the Board of Directors, in collaboration with executive



Emad Abdullah Al-Essa, Chairman of ACICO Group

management and the Group's teams. These efforts have resulted in the successful completion of the Group's operational restructuring program, while financial restructuring is now nearing completion through constructive cooperation with local banks.

ACICO Group expressed its sincere appreciation to the local banks for their continued confidence in the Group and its shareholders, and for the support and cooperation that have been instrumental in reaching this milestone. This progress reflects the Group's commitment to a disciplined

and responsible approach, guided by a clear vision to strengthen its financial position, support business sustainability and growth, and safeguard the interests of shareholders, creditors, customers, employees.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Emad Abdullah Al-Essa, Chairman of ACICO Group, said: "Completing these agreements with two local banks marks a pivotal step in the Group's financial restructuring journey. We have now concluded settlements with approximately 80% of our creditor banks, demonstrating the effectiveness of the

strategy adopted by the Board of Directors at the outset of the program. From the beginning, we have pursued a balanced approach that safeguards the rights of all parties and supports the sustainability of the Group's operations. We are now approaching the completion of this process and preparing to lead ACICO Group into a phase focused on efficiency, profitability, and maximizing value for shareholders and all stakeholders. We deeply appreciate the confidence and support of our banking partners, both of which have been instrumental in achieving this progress."

ACICO Group looks to the future with confidence as Kuwait advances its development agenda, supported by major housing, urban development, and infrastructure projects. With extensive experience, integrated operational capabilities, and an established position in building materials manufacturing and construction, the Group is well positioned to contribute to these projects and support the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

ACICO will continue to develop its capabilities and expand its range of products and services, strengthening its competitiveness in local and regional markets, supporting sustainable growth, and opening new opportunities for expansion in the next phase.

Trading tops KD 100 mln

Boursa Kuwait closes lower, All-Share Index down

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's bourse closed lower on Tuesday, with the All Share Index falling 46.75 points, or 0.53%, to 8,797.63.

Trading reached 309.8 million shares through 24,033 transactions, with a total value of KD100.1 million (\$325.9 million).

The Main Market Index rose 11.62 points, or 0.13%, to 9,153.27. A total of 166 million shares changed hands through 13,734 transactions worth KD36.6 million (\$119.1 million).

The Premier Market Index declined 61.61 points, or 0.67%, to 9,178.52, as 143.7 million shares were

traded through 10,299 transactions worth KD63.5 million (\$206.7 million).

The Main 50 Index fell 65.95 points, or 0.64%, to 10,314.95. Trading totaled 98.1 million shares through 8,844 transactions valued at KD22.9 million (\$74.5 million).

AlShaheed Adventures, the newest entertainment destination in Kuwait, offering wide range of entertainment activities

stc the platinum sponsor of ‘AlShaheed Adventures’ in Phase III of AlShaheed Park

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its sponsorship of ‘AlShaheed Adventures’ in Phase 3 of AlShaheed Park. The sponsorship reflects stc’s continued focus on supporting entertainment and community destinations in Kuwait while contributing to experiences that appeal to different segments of society, particularly families. The initiative also aligns with stc’s comprehensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework, with supporting the community representing one of its key pillars.

Through the sponsorship, stc will have a dedicated presence within the ice rink at AlShaheed Adventures, complemented by promotional activities designed to create opportunities for direct engagement with visitors. Located within Phase 3 of AlShaheed Park, AlShaheed Adventures introduces a range of recreational and entertainment experiences aimed at the youth, families and visitors seeking new activities in one of Kuwait’s



Ahmad AlNowaibet and Fatima Al-Saqabi during the signing of the sponsorship agreement.



Ahmad AlNowaibet, Fatima Al-Saqabi, Tareq Al-Omar, and the work teams during the sponsorship signing.

most recognized public destinations. stc’s presence will bring together entertainment and digital experiences, creating additional opportunities to engage with visitors while contributing to the overall experience offered at the destination.

The sponsorship gives stc an opportunity to engage with the youth and families through an environ-

■ **AlNowaibet:** stc will continue its efforts to strengthen collaboration with government entities and support Kuwaiti youth initiatives and projects while contributing to the development of Kuwait’s tourism and entertainment sectors

ment that combines entertainment, sport and community interaction. AlShaheed Adventures provides a setting where stc can connect with visitors through experiences that reflect their interests, while supporting

new recreational and entertainment options in Kuwait. The sponsorship also allows stc to engage more closely with the community through initiatives and activities that extend beyond its traditional communication channels.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Ahmad AlNowaibet, Director of Corporate Communications

at stc, said, “Our sponsorship of AlShaheed Adventures reflects our commitment to supporting destinations that bring people together and provide new experiences for the community. AlShaheed Park holds a special place among Kuwait’s public destinations, and the addition of AlShaheed Adventures creates new opportunities for families to enjoy the Park in a different way. Through our presence at the ice rink and the activities we will introduce, we look forward to engaging visitors and contributing to their overall experience.”

AlNowaibet added, “At stc, we remain committed to supporting initiatives that enrich the community and broaden the range of entertainment and recreational experiences available to the public. This also aligns with our wider social responsibility efforts and reflects our ongoing approach to working with organizations across both the public and private sectors. Through these collaborations, stc will continue to support initiatives that bring people together, create new experiences and contribute positively to the development of the community.”



Jazeera Airways selects CFM LEAP-1A engines.

CFM to power Jazeera’s 9 additional ‘A320neos’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Jazeera Airways has selected CFM International LEAP-1A engines to power nine additional A320neo aircraft. In addition, Jazeera Airways and CFM have expanded the scope of their existing engine services agreement, which now covers the airline’s current and future fleet of 29 A320neo family aircraft, along with the purchase of spare engines.

“We are pleased to continue our longstanding partnership with CFM International, which has been an integral part of Jazeera Airways’ growth journey over the past two decades,” said Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways. “Our decision to choose the LEAP-1A engines for another 9 A320neo aircraft from our current order book of 26 aircraft reflects our continued confidence in CFM’s technology, reliability, and support. As we embark on our next phase of growth, this strengthened partnership will support our fleet expansion, enhance operational efficiency, and reinforce our commitment to delivering a safe, reliable, and cost-efficient travel experience for our passengers.”

Jazeera Airways became the first

LEAP-1A-powered A320neo operator in the Middle East in May 2018 and currently operates 11 A320neo aircraft powered by LEAP-1A engines. The airline also operates 13 CFM56-5B-powered A320ceo aircraft.

“We are honored by Jazeera Airways’ continued trust in our LEAP engine and in CFM’s support,” said Gaël Méheust, President and CEO of CFM International. “It is a testament not only to the quality of our engines, but also to our commitment to delivering world-class support to maximize the utilization of its LEAP engine fleet.”

In the 10 years since LEAP entered service, CFM has delivered more than 10,000 engines that have accumulated over 100 million flight hours. CFM continues to upgrade the LEAP fleet with a high-pressure turbine (HPT) durability kit to extend time on wing and a reverse bleed system (RBS) to lower airline maintenance burden. The company is focused on delivering high engine availability through exceptional MRO performance and competitive cost of ownership, with the benefits of aftermarket competition through its open MRO ecosystem.

‘Visa Direct’ enhances Al-Ansari Kuwait recognition

DUBAI, Sept 29: Al Ansari Exchange Kuwait, a Kuwait-based exchange and remittance provider operating under the Al Ansari Financial Services PJSC (DFM: ALANSARI) group, has received the “Landmark Innovation in Cross-Border Payments – Remittances” award at the MEA Finance Leaders in Payments Awards 2026 for implementing Visa Direct, recognising its efforts to enhance cross-border payment services in Kuwait.

Introduced in December 2024, Visa Direct enables customers of Al Ansari Exchange Kuwait to send funds directly to eligible Visa debit, credit and prepaid cards worldwide through VisaNet, Visa’s global processing network. The service is available through the company’s mobile app and branch network.

Mohammad Bitar, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer of Al Ansari Financial Services, said: “This recognition demonstrates the progress of our regional growth strategy. Building advanced cross-border payment capabilities strengthens our position in key markets and supports the development of a more connected regional platform.”

Vivek Nair, Group Head of International Business at Al Ansari Financial Services, said: “Visa Direct gives customers a faster and simpler way to send money internationally. This award is an important milestone for our Kuwait business and encourages us to continue developing solutions tailored to the

needs of the local market.”

Al Ansari Exchange, the UAE’s leading remittance and foreign exchange company and a subsidiary of Al Ansari Financial Services PJSC, was also named the “Best Remittance and Foreign Exchange Services Provider” for the fifth consecutive year.

The UAE recognition follows continued investment in Al Ansari Exchange’s physical and digital presence. The company operates 290 branches nationwide, while 30% of its transactions are completed digitally. Digital users and transaction volumes have grown by 32% year to date compared with the same period last year.

The company also supports broader access to financial services through the Wage Protection System and remittance solutions serving a diverse customer base. Partnerships across government, financial services, loyalty programmes, insurance and payments have further expanded its offering.

Ali Al Najjar, Chief Executive Officer of Al Ansari Exchange, said: “This honour reflects the trust of our customers and the commitment of our teams across the UAE. We remain focused on evolving our offering to meet changing customer needs while maintaining the reliability and accessibility that define Al Ansari Exchange.”

Organised by MEA Finance magazine, the annual awards programme recognises achievements in payments and financial services across the region.



Al Ansari wins payments awards in Kuwait, UAE.

Al-Sour Theatre to honor frontline heroes

NBK sponsors Al-Sour Theatre opening

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Al-Sour Theatre, Kuwait’s largest theatre, opens Wednesday, September 30, at Phase III of Al-Shaheed Park. Sponsored by National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the opening ceremony pays tribute to Kuwait’s heroes in recognition of their service.

The event will feature “Al-Sour,” a major national theatrical production paying tribute to members of the armed forces, security agencies and frontline services for their sacrifices and efforts to protect Kuwait and safeguard its security and stability.

NBK’s support for the event reflects its role as an active partner of the state in major national occasions and milestones, and its commitment to initiatives that celebrate Kuwait’s history and heritage while honoring those who have helped protect the country and contribute to its development.

The Bank is also participating in the production of this major national celebration as part of its contribution to and support for the event.

The opening of Al-Sour Theatre marks a significant addition to Kuwait’s cultural and artistic landscape. The new architectural and cultural landmark is intended to host major theatrical and artistic productions and enrich the country’s cultural scene, in keeping with Kuwait’s prominent cultural standing.

To mark the occasion, the national production “Al-Sour” will be staged, drawing on the collective efforts to build Kuwait’s historic wall. The large-scale theatrical work reflects the enduring national values that have shaped Kuwaiti society across generations, foremost among them the bond between the leadership and the people, the spirit of coming together in times of need, solidarity, belonging and loyalty to Kuwait.

The production also pays tribute to Kuwait’s heroes in the armed forces, security agencies and frontline services, in recognition of their service and sacrifices in protecting Kuwait and safeguarding its security and stability.

“Al-Sour” presents a contemporary artistic vision combining drama, music, song and movement, supported by the latest visual and audio technologies. The production offers an integrated theatrical experience that brings together Kuwaiti



heritage and modern stagecraft.

The production features leading Kuwaiti performers including pioneers who helped shape and establish the country’s theatrical movement from different generations, reflecting the continuity of Kuwaiti artistic achievement across generations.

A number of government, military and civilian entities are also participating in the production of this major national event, reflecting the spirit of partnership and cooperation among Kuwait’s institutions in bringing the celebration to life.

NBK’s sponsorship of the opening ceremony of Al-Sour Theatre reflects its continued commitment to supporting cultural and national initiatives that enrich cultural and community life in Kuwait. It also puts into practice the Bank’s vision of contributing actively to the development of society and preserving national identity, alongside its ongoing support for projects and events that celebrate Kuwait’s history and draw inspiration from its enduring values and aspirations for the future.

The opening of Al-Sour Theatre marks an important milestone for Kuwait’s cultural scene and provides a new platform for creativity and the arts. The national production “Al-Sour” pays tribute to the past, celebrates the present and looks ahead to a future in which the people of Kuwait continue their journey of development, progress and excellence.

ON Academy to develop Kuwaiti creative talent

NBK, Ooredoo empower Kuwaiti media talent

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: In a step that reflects its ongoing commitment to investing in young national talent and supporting the development of Kuwait’s media and entertainment sector, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched the first cohort of “ON Academy” in partnership with Ooredoo Kuwait, which aims to discover Kuwaiti talent, develop their capabilities, and empower them to build promising careers in media, content creation, and creative production.

The launch event was attended by participants, organizers, and distinguished media and entertainment experts, marking the start of a training journey for approximately 50 talented and ambitious participants. The specialized program combines hands-on training, professional mentorship, and practical experiences that simulate real-world work within the sector.

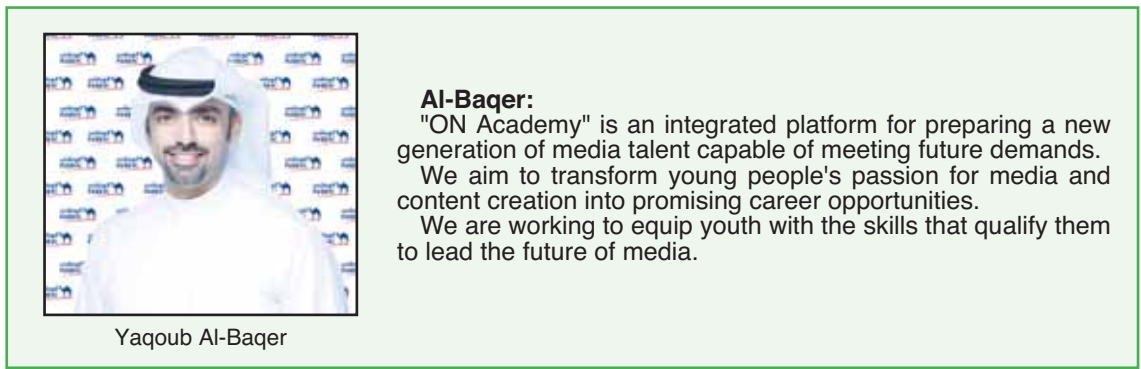
“ON Academy” embodies a shared vision between NBK and Ooredoo, centered on empowering national youth and investing in their potential in a specialized training environment that fosters skill development, enhances capabilities, and generates promising career prospects within the media and entertainment sectors.

The program aims to prepare a new generation of media talents capable of meeting future demands by equipping them with the knowledge and expertise required for diverse fields, such as film directing, TV presenting, digital content creation, and social media influencing, as well as other disciplines relevant to the modern media landscape.

Additionally, “ON Academy” features a comprehensive training curriculum that blends theory with practical application, allowing participants to benefit from the expertise of elite specialists, academics, and professionals, further enhancing their readiness for the job market and the demands of modern media and the digital economy.

Commenting on the occasion, Yaqoub Al-Baqer, Assistant Vice President - Public Relations and Event Management at the National Bank of Kuwait said: “ON Academy serves as a comprehensive platform for preparing and qualifying young media talent by combining practical training, professional mentorship, and direct experience gained from industry specialists, through which we aspire to boost the participants’ readiness and empower them to build successful careers in the media and entertainment sectors.”

Al-Baqer added: “The media and content creation sectors are currently witnessing rapid transformations that open up vast horizons for young talent, hence the importance of equipping participants with the practical skills and professional expertise needed to



Yaqoub Al-Baqer

Al-Baqer: “ON Academy” is an integrated platform for preparing a new generation of media talent capable of meeting future demands. We aim to transform young people’s passion for media and content creation into promising career opportunities. We are working to equip youth with the skills that qualify them to lead the future of media.



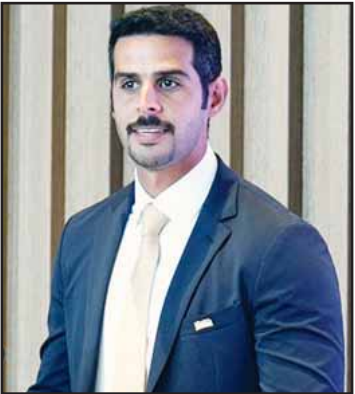
On Academy - Group Picture



Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at the National Bank of Kuwait, speaking during the ceremony.



Omar Al-Bassam, Chief Human Resources & Administration Service Officer at the Ooredoo Kuwait, delivers his speech.



Mohammad Al-Sarraf hosting the ceremony.

keep pace with these changes and to enhance their readiness for promising opportunities offered by this growing sector.”

Moreover, Al-Baqer noted: “The academy reflects the importance of collaborative efforts among private sector entities. It also serves as a model for purposeful partnerships that aim to create a sustainable social impact by providing high-quality learning and development opportunities, and by enabling young people to gain practical experience that boosts their profes-

sional readiness.”

Finally, Al-Baqer emphasized: “Supporting youth is a key pillar of the Bank’s social responsibility strategy. At NBK, we take pride in our long record of initiatives aimed at empowering young people across educational, professional, and entrepreneurial fields, driven by our belief that investing in national talent is a direct investment in Kuwait’s future and its sustainable development.”

Through its community programs and initiatives, NBK continues to in-

vest in human capital development by launching and supporting impactful projects aimed at upskilling national youth and enhancing their future readiness. The launch of the “ON Academy” comes as part the Bank’s efforts to empower younger generations and prepare national talent capable of meeting future demands and contributing effectively to the development process, further reinforcing its role as a key partner in supporting the community and building a more prosperous future for Kuwait.

PIC, ABCK-AmCham Kuwait sign MoU to advance petrochemical investment & commercial cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and the American Business Council Kuwait (ABCK–AmCham Kuwait) signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen commercial cooperation and support PIC’s growth in the United States.

The agreement will help PIC expand its network with U.S. companies and explore new commercial and strategic opportunities across the petrochemical value chain.

Nadia Al Hajji, Chief Executive Officer of PIC, said: “This agreement will help PIC strengthen its relationships in the U.S. market and explore new opportunities across the petrochemical value chain. It supports our ambition to grow our international network and create long-term value for PIC and Kuwait.”

Dr. Arezou Harraf, Chairwoman of ABCK–AmCham Kuwait, said: “PIC’s international experience and strategic vision provide



Photos during the signing of partnership agreement.

a valuable foundation for expanding business and commercial ties between Kuwait and the U.S. Through this agreement, we look forward to connecting PIC with potential business partners, customers, and investment opportunities

across the U.S. petrochemical sector, supporting its growth ambitions and creating value for businesses in both countries.”

The collaboration will connect PIC with relevant U.S. stakeholders, including investors, petro-

chemical producers, traders, distributors, industrial customers, engineering firms, and technology providers. Areas of cooperation include market insights, executive dialogue, and participation in trade missions, business delegations,

and industry forums.

By bringing together PIC’s industry capabilities and AmCham Kuwait’s business network, the agreement underscores the value of cooperation between Kuwait’s national enterprises and business

organizations in advancing Kuwait–U.S. economic ties.

About PIC:Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), is a leading petrochemical company in Kuwait with a growing international presence. PIC invests in and develops petrochemical businesses and strategic partnerships locally and globally, supporting Kuwait’s petrochemical industry and contributing to long-term value creation and sustainable growth.

About ABCK-AmCham Kuwait: About AmCham Kuwait: Founded in 1985, AmCham Kuwait is a non-profit organization composed of Fortune 500 corporations, SMEs, and prominent business leaders from both the United States and Kuwait. As a key advocate for American business interests in Kuwait, AmCham Kuwait works to strengthen the commercial and economic ties between the two nations. For more information, please visit www.amchamkuwait.org or follow us on social media.

Economy nears ‘cataclysm’

Iranian rial hits new low as talks continue

TEHRAN, Sept 29, (AP): Iran’s currency fell to a new record low on Tuesday, with traders in Tehran exchanging more than 2.5 million rials to the U.S. dollar in a stark reflection of how the war in the Middle East has steadily eroded the Iranian economy.

The latest decline came just 27 days after the rial hit its previous record low of 2.2 million to the dollar on Sept. 2. The currency has repeatedly reached new lows since the war began in February.

The Iranian economy has been under duress for years in the face of international sanctions. But a U.S. naval blockade on Iranian oil and new sanctions imposed since the start of the war have sent it into freefall.

Meanwhile, Iran’s top diplomat said indirect negotiations with the United States aimed at reopening the critical Strait of Hormuz have become “more serious,” while the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps’ chief spokesman Gen. Hossein Mohebbi on Tuesday called on Americans to take to the streets and protest the conflict.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iranian media late on Monday that the “current focus is solely on the Strait of Hormuz,” the chokepoint of the war.

Araghchi made the comments shortly before departing New York - where he attended last week’s gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly - and after meeting with Pakistani and Qatari mediators.

Araghchi said that the Qatari intermediaries were expected to soon engage with the U.S. side.

“They are set to raise the matter with the American side once more, after which the final U.S. response will be conveyed to us,” Araghchi said. “If there is a response, the Qataris will convey it to us and a decision will be made in Tehran on that basis.”

Officials, including from the U.S., have confirmed to The Associated Press that mediators are working with Iran and the U.S. on trying to broker a deal to end the fighting and open the strait.

The mediation efforts continue even after U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this week spurned an Iranian proposal to reopen the strait in seven days if the U.S. agreed to lift its blockade of Iranian ports, release frozen Iranian assets and waive sanctions on Iranian oil sales, among other conditions.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps on Tuesday made an appeal

to everyday Americans to push their government to end the U.S. war against Iran, a provocative message that comes just weeks before critical midterm elections in the United States.

Mohebbi, the Guard spokesman, read a letter during a news conference in Iran’s capital, Tehran, appealing to Americans to pressure their government and claiming that the only way for the war to end is for Washington to admit defeat and leave the Mideast.

Mohebbi’s remarks come as Trump’s Republican party faces fierce headwinds as it looks to maintain control of Congress. But polling shows the war has darkened the American electorate’s mood ahead of the Nov. 3 election in which elevated gasoline prices, a byproduct of the conflict, loom large.

Mohebbi also accused the U.S. of using Iran’s nuclear program as a ruse to “plunder Iran’s wealth” and to turn the country “back into a colony.”

He added that the U.S. and others failed in their belief that military and economic action would get Tehran to submit and that Washington “has no choice but to acknowledge defeat and leave the region.”

“This is how the war will end,” he said.

Trump and his top aides are insistent that Iran’s economy cannot sustain a conflict much longer and have expressed confidence that Tehran will be forced to capitulate.

The U.S. president predicted soon after launching the war that the conflict would last a matter of weeks. More recently, he’s said that the war will likely end after the November elections in the U.S.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a Monday appearance on Fox News said Iran was heading toward an economic “cataclysm.” Administration officials say that a combination of new sanctions and a U.S. naval blockade aimed at preventing Iranian oil from going to market are having the intended effect.

“And so when you’re denying them money through oil sales and sanctions, you’re not just punishing them,” Rubio said. “You are preventing them from getting access to money that they will use to try and kill Americans and others around the world and their own people and build weapons and threaten the world and ultimately break out to a nuclear weapon program.”

Holiday airfares hit decade high as fuel costs rise

High airfares could stick around even if jet fuel prices fall

WASHINGTON, Sept 29, (AP): Travelers could be stuck paying high airfares even if oil and jet fuel prices fall, major U.S. airlines and industry analysts say.

The price of jet fuel shot up after the Iran war began and retreated sharply in the spring before surging again as the summer went on. Such fluctuations make it harder for airlines to plan ahead and give them a reason to be cautious about lowering ticket prices, according to Brett House, an economist who teaches at Columbia Business School.

Jet fuel has risen even faster than oil during the war, reflecting both higher crude prices and tight supplies of the refined fuel that is one of airlines’ largest operating expenses. Carriers cut some less profitable flights and raised fares and baggage fees, although major U.S. airlines said higher passenger revenue initially covered only part of their soaring fuel costs.

Airfares haven’t moved in lockstep with fuel prices, however. The Argus U.S. Jet Fuel Index plunged from an early April peak of \$4.88 a gallon to a wartime low of \$2.70 in June, but average fares remained elevated.

The average fare, not including optional fees for services such as checked bags and seat selection, rose from \$405 in the last three months of 2025 to \$428 in the first quarter of this year and to \$436 in the April-June period, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

Part of the disconnect between fuel prices and airfares comes down to timing, House said. Airlines typically decide several months in advance how many flights to operate and seats to offer, factoring in expected fuel costs and other expenses. They begin selling tickets even earlier. While prices for seats on the same flight can change repeatedly, airlines can’t charge more for seats already sold if fuel prices suddenly spike, he explained.

“It’s not just the level of fuel costs that is a problem or a challenge for airlines,” House said. “It’s also the volatility.”

There are few signs of relief so far for travelers as airlines adjust their schedules and prices for the remainder of the year. In August, U.S. air-

fares were 23% higher than a year earlier, according to the Labor Department. Jet fuel prices kept climbing this month, reaching \$4.53 a gallon on Sept. 17, according to the Argus index.

At \$4.30 a gallon on Friday, the average price across the four U.S. markets the index tracks remained nearly twice the 2025 average. Travelers shopping for holiday flights already are encountering the highest airfares in a decade, travel-booker company Hopper said in a report published the same day.

The company, which tracks fares available in flight searches, estimated that during the previous week, a round-trip domestic fare averaged \$402 for Thanksgiving travel and \$452 for Christmas, 31% and 23% more than last year.

And the pressure on airlines and travelers isn’t limited to the United States. Globally, jet fuel averaged about \$99 a barrel on Feb. 27, the day before the war began, according to the International Air Transport Association’s Jet Fuel Price Monitor. Prices more than doubled to \$209 by early April, fell for nearly three months and reached \$195 a barrel in mid-September following their renewed ascent, IATA said, citing data from S&P Global Energy Platts.

The renewed pressure on jet fuel prices stems from many of the same disruptions that have sent diesel prices soaring. Fighting has curtailed refinery production and fuel exports from the Middle East, while Ukrainian strikes have damaged Russian refineries. Because diesel and jet fuel are closely related products that compete for refinery output, shortages of one can put additional pressure on the price and availability of the other.

IATA expects fuel to account for nearly one-third of airline operating expenses this year, up from about a quarter in 2025.

By the time fuel prices jumped again, about 35% of United’s tickets for the final three months of the year were already booked and the airline could not increase those fares retroactively, Chief Financial Officer Mike Leskinen said. The airline expects to recover its higher fuel costs through revenue but not immediately, he said.

Speaking about the rising price of jet fuel at a

Sept. 16 investor conference, Leskinen said, “I don’t actually care if it stays high. I just need it to stabilize.”

The time it takes airlines to recoup their costs means travelers may keep paying for a fuel spike even as prices come down. Jet fuel prices need to fall and stay down for airfares to decline on a sustained basis, said Stephen Treanor, a finance professor at California State University, Chico, who has studied airlines’ exposure to fuel price risk.

The speed with which jet fuel prices rose recently has complicated the forecasts of U.S. airlines. As recently as Sept. 10, JetBlue raised its expected average fuel price for the July-September period to \$3.96 a gallon. Prices continued climbing afterward, with the Argus U.S. Jet Fuel Index reaching \$4.53 a gallon a week later and remaining above \$4.25 with just days left in the quarter.

Every penny per gallon adds about \$10 million to American Airlines’ quarterly fuel bill, Chief Financial Officer Devon May said. Speaking at the same investor conference this month, May said the latest increases would boost the airline’s fourth-quarter fuel costs by about \$1 billion.

American, United and Southwest Airlines have said they are pruning their flight schedules further, particularly on less-profitable routes, due to higher fuel costs. United, for example, pulled some December flights and warned of further cuts in 2027 if fuel remains expensive. American said it expected to grow more slowly next year than it anticipated a few months ago.

Travelers who buy tickets at the last minute are paying a price. The average same-day fare for a one-way domestic Allegiant Air flight jumped 21% in a week, to \$280 on Sept. 18, according to a Deutsche Bank analysis of flight pricing. The comparable price for a same-day American Airlines fare was \$463, up 6%.

For travelers holding out for cheaper fares, the wait could outlast the war itself.

“The likelihood that fuel surcharges are going to be rolled back and airfares are going to be brought down is very low over the next few months,” House said.

Strait closure drives EU fuel prices higher

EU energy import bill tops 100 bln euros amid Iran war

BRUSSELS, Sept 29, (AP): European Union nations have spent over an extra 100 billion euros (\$113.5 billion) on energy imports since the outbreak of the Iran war, pushing politicians to seek alternatives to fossil fuels as prices skyrocket.

Consumers in some European countries pay nearly 50% more at the pump, equivalent to more than \$11 a gallon, following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial waterway through which a fifth of the world’s traded oil passed in peacetime.

“Times are serious,” said EU energy commissioner Dan Jørgensen during a gathering in Dublin of energy ministers from across the 27-nation bloc. Despite the additional money spent, the members haven’t received “one extra molecule of gas or oil.”

Jørgensen said the ministers would discuss plans to accelerate the shift from fossil fuels to electricity and expand electrical infrastructure across the bloc, which became highly dependent on the U.S. for direct energy imports after ending its historic reliance on Russia following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

“Europe is one of the most exposed regions - if not the most exposed one - when it comes to diesel because Europe imports a huge amount of diesel and we are entering the harsh season, the winter season,” Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency, said. About 50% of its diesel supply comes directly from the U.S.

Republicans in key U.S. states have called for a ban on diesel exports to

bolster domestic supply ahead of crucial midterm elections, casting some doubt on President Donald Trump’s 2025 deal to sell \$750 billion worth of energy to the EU.

Ireland’s minister for climate, energy and the environment, Darragh O’Brien, said the ban is “unlikely” because it would harm economies on both sides of the Atlantic, but the EU must prepare for the worst.

“We have to be guarded. We can’t be complacent,” O’Brien said.

Jørgensen said he had sent “a very clear signal” to U.S. authorities to scrap the ban while calling on EU ministers to wean the bloc off of outside energy whose supply can be rocked by war and politics.

“This, of course, shows us just how bad it is for us to be dependent, just how unsustainable it is for us to be dependent on energy sources from other places in the world,” Jørgensen said. “We need to get out of that dependency. We need to replace the fossil fuels, the imported, polluting, expensive molecules with homegrown energy: green electrons.”

Sari Multala, the Finnish environment minister, pointed to her country as an example of energy independence.

The rising concern about energy prices as winter approaches “creates a lot of pressure for us politicians to try to help our citizens to cope with the situation,” she said.

Nuclear reactors, turbines, peat bogs, and hydropower dams provide 95% of Finland’s electricity, she said, which “creates very reasonable prices for electricity.”

US ban on \$1 bln worth of Canadian imports goes into effect

WASHINGTON, Sept 29, (AP): U.S.-Canada relations, already tense, are likely to deteriorate further after the United States went ahead early Tuesday with a decision to ban nearly \$1 billion worth of Canadian imports, including alcoholic beverages, dairy products and motorcycles.

The ban amounts to barely a ripple in \$880 billion worth of a two-way annual trade between the two northern neighbors. But it marks another ratcheting up of President Donald Trump’s second-term trade war with America’s longtime ally and trading partner.

The import ban “certainly won’t do anything to help the trade tensions between the United States and Canada,” said trade attorney Patrick Childress, a partner at Holland & Knight and a former U.S. trade official.

The latest sparring began over the summer when Trump reached back to a Great Depression law to impose 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian imports, charging that Canada discriminates against U.S. dairy, auto and alcoholic beverage producers. Canada promptly counterpunched with tariffs of 15%, 25% or 50%, matching U.S. imports dollar for dollar.

To punish Canada for retaliating against his tariffs, Trump decided to ban a list of Canadian products, effective 12:01 a.m. Eastern time Tuesday.

The economic impact is likely to be minimal. Childress noted that the products on the banned list were already facing Trump’s tariffs. “For a lot of these goods, the 50% was already acting as a de facto ban by making importation from Canada into the United States uneconomical,” he said.

Jacob Jensen, director of trade policy at the center-right American Action Forum think tank, calculates that the ban would cover \$967 million worth of Canadian imports, based on 2025 numbers. Of that, 87% would be alcoholic beverages that the U.S. targeted because of some Canadian provinces responding to Trump’s provocations by banning U.S. booze from store shelves.

Also banned are some dairy products - including the milk byproduct whey. The two countries have long clashed over Canada’s attempts to protect its dairy industry from foreign competition by imposing hefty tariffs once dairy imports have exceeded a quota.

The ban also covers motorcycles. Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) in Quebec confirmed that its three-wheel Can-Am Spyder and Canyon motorcycles “will be excluded from importation into the U.S.” But BRP said the impact likely won’t be felt until next year because it has completed most production and shipments for the current season.

“This marks yet another escalation in the trade war that may result in further retaliation on the Canadian side,” Jensen said. He expects Canadian exporters and U.S. importers “impacted by these bans will be highly motivated” to demand that trade officials on both sides find some way to reach a “resolution of this whole ordeal.”

The impasse imperils efforts to renew the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a North American trade pact Trump pressured America’s neighbors into accepting in his first term and which he once declared “the most modern, up-to-date, and balanced trade agreement in the history of our country.”

The deal allowed most goods to cross North American borders duty free. But since returning to the White House last year, Trump has announced a series of tariffs that have clouded the future of trade in the region.

Trump has directed most of his ire at Canada. He is openly seeking to pull Canadian manufacturing south. And he has inflamed public opinion in Canada by repeatedly suggesting that the country become America’s 51st state.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney came to power last year on a promise to stand up to Trump. In addition to retaliating against Trump tariffs - China is the only other country to do so, with very different results - Carney

has sought to reduce Canada’s reliance on the United States, which last year accounted for more than 70% of Canadian exports.

“There is now a price to be paid for access to the United States market,” Carney said earlier this month. The Canadian prime minister wants to double Canada’s non-U.S. trade over the next decade.

Carney has embraced the prospect of Canada becoming the European Union’s first associate member.

And he said last week that trade negotiations with India are making “good progress” and that the two countries are aiming to conclude talks by the G20 summit in mid-December.

Carney also broke with the U.S. earlier this year, striking a deal with China to allow a limited number of Chinese electric vehicles into Canada at a sharply reduced tariff in exchange for China lowering tariffs on Canadian canola.

“We take note of the coming into force of the Administration’s previously announced trade measures,” said Gabriel Brunet, a spokesman for Canada-U.S. Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc. “Our first priority remains on protecting and supporting Canadian workers, farmers, families, and businesses from these unjustified actions. Our core focus is on what we can control: building strength at home, diversifying our partnerships abroad, and building Canada strong for all Canadians.”

Trump expressed confidence that the Canadians would cave in.

“They’re gonna come in and they’re gonna say, ‘Sir, we are sorry,’” he told reporters Monday. “They’ve treated the United States very, very badly. I think a deal will be made but it’s gonna be fair.”

Trade attorney Childress said the standoff is likely to continue for months, not weeks. The import bans and the tariffs so far “probably won’t cause enough economic upheaval to force either party back to the negotiating table,” he said.

MILAN

FASHION



Dolce & Gabbana



Roberto Cavalli



Dolce & Gabbana



Roberto Cavalli



Dolce & Gabbana



Roberto Cavalli



A model wears a creation part of Dolce & Gabbana women's Spring-Summer 2027 collection, presented in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026. (AP)

Cavalli puts roar in runway

J-Lo turns up

Dolce drama

MILAN, Sept 29, (AP): Jennifer Lopez brought diva wattage to Dolce & Gabbana's runway show for Spring Summer 2027 on Saturday, taking her front-row seat in a dark velvet suit with matching cap and equestrian boots while fans outside screamed to catch just a glimpse of her.

The collection treated the house's Sicilian codes as an inheritance to be updated rather than abandoned: a trousseau passed from grandmother to granddaughter, including nubby tweed suits updated with leopard trim and skirt, youthful bloomers and bra tops cut from checked tablecloth print worn with sheer stockings, and lace slips embellished with fringe and beads.

Crocheted doilies, which if not inherited can be easily found in Italian markets, became demure skirts and dresses.

Designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana courted younger customers with the generational exchange, mixing glammed-up denim with gardening boots, while preserving their signature black dresses, lingerie looks and animal prints.

Outside the showroom, fans waved signs for K-pop star Choi San and Japanese actor Hikaru Iwamoto. But it was "J-Lo" that they chanted in anticipation as guests streamed out of the runway show.

Lopez, who has a decades-old relationship with the fashion house, joined the designers at Vogue World earlier this week wearing a Dolce & Gabbana strapless black tulle gown with sequin detailing.

During the runway show, the singer and actress watched the models attentively, where one glam piece stood out as worthy of a diva: a trailing animal print hooded cape with gold detailing and trimmed with faux fur and worn over baggy jeans.

Separately, Cardi B was thronged by photographers as she arrived at the Roberto Cavalli runway show Thursday, adding star power to Milan Fashion Week.

Looking glamorous in an animal-print coat, dark sunglasses and a blowout, the rapper took her seat next to stylist Kollin Carter and the show could go on.

Fausto Puglisi turned up the volume as he evolved the Cavalli vocabulary. His Spring-Summer 2027 womenswear collection piled animal prints, florals and feathers onto the house's familiar foundation of exposed skin and embellished denim.

Flowing robes topped low-rise jeans worn with thongs and bra tops. Cropped jeans glittered with crystals and sprouted feathers, while a mesh minidress erupted into crinkled golden ruffles. Chiffon skirts fell into long shredded hemlines, and animal prints were pieced together in a mishmash suggesting a rumble in the jungle. Prints clashed joyfully in an exuberant collection that played on all the Cavalli codes of sex, glamour and animal instinct.

"What I like about Cavalli is that you have the possibility to create jeans as an object," Puglisi said backstage. "You feel them, you have them and you put them in your wardrobe, and you feel better. It's about joy."



Dolce & Gabbana



Roberto Cavalli



Roberto Cavalli



Dolce & Gabbana

Initiative turns challenges into opportunities & skills into achievements

‘Threads of Hope’ weaves stories of determination & creativity in Kuwait



Instructor provides guidance as women and young participants gather at Arab Open University for a hands-on macramé and handicraft workshop as part of the “Threads of Hope” initiative.



Handcrafted products by women with disabilities on display, showcasing resilience and excellence.



Fatima Al-Salman during her participation in the event.



A participant creates a macramé piece during the hands-on craft workshop.



Talents and abilities come together in an inclusive training environment that fosters social inclusion.



KUNA photos
Zain Ahmed, Kuwait's Special Olympics Health Ambassador and national champion, participates in the event.

Photo feature by Salman Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Hands of determination and creativity came together at the “Threads of Hope” initiative, where women with visual, hearing and physical disabilities joined their peers without disabilities in a week-long training program.

Organized by Tanmeia Charity Association in partnership with Jusour International Consulting Services and in cooperation with the Arab Open University, the initiative highlights the ability to turn challenges into opportunities and skills into achievements. The inclusive program provides a shared training environment that promotes cooperation, confidence and equal opportunities, while showcasing

participants’ talents and abilities. The initiative also highlights the importance of cooperation among public institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector in creating supportive environments that empower people with disabilities, strengthen their independence and expand their participation in society.

Not just human graduates

China’s embodied AI robots take on real jobs beyond lab

BEIJING, Sept. 29, (Xinhua): Graduation day is no longer just for humans. Thirty robots made up the first class at a robot school in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province. After more than two months of training, four have graduated and landed formal jobs. One works as a museum guide in Hangzhou. Another gives tours at the robot school. A third conducts inspections at a Nestlé production workshop in Tianjin. The fourth has traveled to the Republic of Korea for piano performances. Their deployment highlights a key challenge in bringing embodied AI into the real world: training robots may require more than individual robot makers or users can provide. It demands shared infrastructure where machines can be trained, tested and improved at scale. In Xiong’an, a “city of the future” being built about 105 km southwest of Beijing, different types of robots are learning daily tasks such as taking out the trash, organizing shelves, and moving goods at a dedicated training facility. Human instructors train robots in full-scale replicas of real workplaces and public spaces. They use virtual-reality headsets and exoskeletons to operate robots as they perform tasks in simulated environments. Preparing a human for a job is no easy task, and neither is training a robot. “It took more than 1,000 repetitions just to teach the robot the basic movement of picking something up,” said Liu Rui, an instructor with a digital-urban-technology subsidiary of China Xiong’an Group. Then came the full sequence: picking up a piece of trash, standing upright and putting it into a bin. Learning those three steps took another week. Every attempt also generates

training data. Instructors label the data, break movements down into smaller steps and identify objects in each frame. This helps robots recognize what they see and decide how to act. By the end of June, China had completed or brought into operation more than 70 robot training facilities, with over 40 others under construction or on the drawing board, according to the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology. This expanding network is increasingly part of China’s broader AI and robotics ecosystem. In 2025, more than 6,200 AI companies were operating in the country, with the core industry valued at over 1.2 trillion yuan (around 173.9 billion U.S. dollars), according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. China also developed more than 400 complete humanoid robot products in 2025, accounting for more than half of the global total, according to official data. In the first half of 2026, Chinese manufacturers accounted for 97 percent of humanoid robot shipments worldwide, according to a report released at the 2026 World Robot Conference. Jiang Lei, chief scientist at the National and Local Co-Built Humanoid Robotics Innovation Center, said embodied AI robots had moved from “zero to one,” but scaling from “one to 10” remained a challenge. The bottlenecks, he said, lie in standards, engineering management and pilot-scale testing. At the heart of it all is the ability to adapt robots to different real-world scenarios. China’s vast manufacturing base gives robot makers not only a large market, but also a wide range of real-world and simulated environments in which to train, test and refine their machines.



Robots play musical instruments during the 9th China Robotop Summit in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 17, 2026. (Xinhua)

Arts/Culture

Launching extends Sheikh Nasser Sabah’s vision

Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah opens 31th cultural season



Badr Al-Buaijan, head of the founding committee of DAI's friends.



A glimpse of the audience.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): The Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (DAI) inaugurated on Monday the 31th cultural season at Yarmouk cultural center. The activities include scientific and cultural lectures in which international and local experts participate, along with concerts, performances, specialized workshops and more. The launch of this season witnesses the attendance of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah’s Director General and Supervisor Sheikh Hussa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and some diplomats, academics, media people and those interested in culture and heritage. In a news statement, Sheikh Hussa said that launching this year’s season represents an extension of a civilized vision es-



KUNA photos
Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah's Director General and Supervisor Sheikh Hussa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah among the attendees.

Season places children and the new generation at the core of its focus. She emphasized that “building the awareness of future genera-

tions regarding their heritage and authenticity is the true investment we are working toward, confirming that our cultural mission is renewed and continuous, year after year.” Meanwhile, head of the founding committee of DAI’s friends Badr Al-Buaijan said that there are two kinds of activities: Lectures and concerns held every Monday at the DAI. He elaborated that the season includes a group of rich exhibitions, movies, activities for children and families as well as workshops. The DAI continues its message by presenting an integrated cultural experience combining knowledge and artistic enjoyment, and cementing its status as one of the most outstanding cultural institutions in the region.

Gala marks friendship

Chinese, Tanzanian artists showcase cultural heritage

DAR ES SALAAM, Sept. 29, (Xinhua): Chinese and Tanzanian artists took to the stage in Dar es Salaam on Saturday night for a vibrant Mid-Autumn Festival gala celebrating friendship between the two countries through music, dance and traditional arts. The event brought together Chinese and Tanzanian guests, performers and members of the Chinese community for a cultural journey featuring artistic traditions from southwest China’s Guizhou Province. The program included Miao ethnic dance, the Dong ethnic group’s a cappella, Tanzanian traditional dance, and traditional Chinese songs, performed by Chinese and Tanzanian artists. Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary Abdul Mhinte said the festival offered an opportunity to celebrate not only Chi-



A singer dressed in traditional ethnic attire performs at a Mid-Autumn Festival gala in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Sept. 26, 2026. (Xinhua)

nese culture but also the growing friendship and cooperation between Tanzania and China. Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian said cultural exchanges provided new opportunities to deepen ties between the two countries, particularly during the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges. “China stands ready to work together with the government of Tanzania to continue deepening exchange and cooperation in culture, art, tourism, and other fields,” Chen said. As a cultural and tourism exchange event, the China Cultural Center in Tanzania, the Guizhou Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, and the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania co-hosted the gala. It also marked the opening of the East Africa Art Center in Dar es Salaam.

Physical decline may precede major cardiovascular events by a decade: study

Genetic analysis points to possible personalized aspirin use in dementia prevention

MELBOURNE, Sept. 29, (Xinhua): A genetic analysis has found that low-dose aspirin was associated with a 70 percent lower risk of dementia among older people with a particular genetic profile, raising the possibility of a more personalized approach to dementia prevention.

The study analyzed genetic data from more than 13,500 participants in the ASPREE Trial (Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) to examine whether genetic factors influenced aspirin’s effect on dementia risk, according to a statement released Tuesday by Australia’s Monash University.

Among participants in the highest 20 percent for a genetic score linked to platelet count, 1 percent of those taking aspirin developed dementia, compared with 3.3 percent of those receiving a placebo, a difference associated with about a 70 percent lower relative risk, according to the study published in *Alzheimer’s & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association*.

However, aspirin was also associated with a higher risk of serious bleeding in this group. Major bleeding occurred in 4.4 percent of participants taking aspirin, compared with 2.1 percent receiving a placebo, the study noted.

Lead author Peter Fransquet, a research fellow at Monash’s School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said the findings suggested genetics could potentially help identify people who may benefit from preventive treatment, “rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach.”

Researchers said the finding needs to be confirmed in other studies and tested in a clinical trial designed specifically for people with the genetic profile. They cautioned that people should not take aspirin to prevent dementia based on the study without consulting a doctor.

Also:

SYDNEY: An international twin study found that genetic differences contribute to fruit and vegetable intake, highlighting the complex mix of biological, social and environmental factors that shape people’s diets.

The research challenges the idea that healthy eating is simply a matter of willpower, finding that genetics may help explain why some people find it easier than others to maintain healthy dietary habits, according to a statement released Tuesday by the Center for Healthy Brain Ageing (ChEBA) at **Australia’s University of New South Wales**.

The study, published in *Behavior Genetics*, examined 5,789 twins aged 45 to 90 from four international community-based studies.

Researchers estimated that fruit consumption was 25 percent heritable and vegetable consumption 17 percent heritable, meaning genetic differences accounted for about one-quarter of the variation between individuals in fruit intake and around one-sixth of the variation in vegetable intake.

“Dietary behavior is far more complex than people think,” said lead author **Annabel Matison**, a postdoctoral research fellow at the ChEBA, adding, “Genetics is one of many factors that may contribute to what we eat, alongside food availability, culture, cost, personal preferences and our individual life experiences.”

However, the findings showed that genetic influence should not be viewed as “genetic destiny,” noting that most of the variation in dietary intake was attributable to non-genetic influences.

The study also found a positive genetic correlation between fruit and veg-

etable intake, suggesting some genetic factors influencing fruit consumption may also influence vegetable consumption.

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MELBOURNE: Physical decline in older adults could be an early warning sign of a major cardiovascular event years before it occurs, an Australian-led study has found.

The study, led by Australia’s Monash University, tracked more than 12,000 adults aged 65 and older using 14 years of data from the Monash-led ASPREE (ASPIrin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) trial, according to a university statement released Monday.

Participants who later experienced a cardiovascular event showed a noticeable decline in their ability to carry out everyday activities, such as walking, climbing stairs and carrying groceries, with the decline accelerating sharply in the five years before the event, said the study published in *JAMA Cardiology*.

For some outcomes, including heart failure and coronary heart disease death, differences in physical function were apparent at least a decade beforehand, while they emerged later for heart attack and stroke, the study showed.

Researchers assessed four measures of functional health annually, covering frailty, overall physical and mental abilities, and the impact of physical health on everyday functioning.

The study found that a simple questionnaire that could be completed in a few minutes could help track changes in physical function over time among older people, complement established cardiovascular risk assessments, and help guide earlier intervention.



Varieties of disposable flavored electronic cigarette devices manufactured by EB Design, formerly known as Elf Bar, are displayed at a store in Pinecrest, Florida on June 26, 2023. (AP)

Newsom signs California law banning sales of single-use and battery-powered vapes

WASHINGTON, Sept 29, (Agencies): California will ban the sale of single-use, battery-powered vapes to fight plastic pollution under a law signed Monday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Vapes, sometimes called electronic cigarettes, are battery-operated devices that contain aerosolized nicotine or cannabis, often with flavorings and other chemicals. Refillable and disposable options are sold.

The ban targets single-use e-cigarettes, making it illegal to manufacture or import new or refurbished battery-embedded vapor devices starting Jan. 1, 2027. It also bans retail sales starting Jan. 1, 2028.

The measure allows local governments or the state to fine people \$500 for their first violation of the ban, \$1,000 for their second infringement and \$2,000 for subsequent offenses.

It specifically tackles disposable e-cigarettes that contain tobacco. It won’t include vaping devices containing cannabis.

Experts say part of the appeal of disposable vapes is that they are often more easily accessible and cheaper than refillable devices. The devices are so prevalent they often end up in landfills where their batteries can create a fire hazard or on the ground where they can leak toxic chemicals, including lead and lithium.

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, who authored the bill, said it will help prevent battery acid from single-use vapes from leaching into lands and waterways.

Nearly 500,000 disposable vapes are discarded each day in the United States, according to the California Public Interest Research Group, or CalPIRG, a consumer advocacy group that supported the bill.

The California Grocers Association argued against a similar 2022 proposal, saying that it could lead to increased tobacco smuggling.

Arkan Somo, who co-founded the Neighborhood Market Association, a group of California small businesses, said the new bill would burden family-

owned shops that sell tobacco products.

“If we’re going to take the environment as an excuse to keep banning these products, where is that going to stop?” Somo said. “They’re really putting California at a huge disadvantage.”

Also:

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand government has approved tougher penalties and new offenses to help tackle the illicit tobacco trade, Associate Health Minister Casey Costello said on Tuesday.

The approval of two sets of legislative changes will support Health New Zealand, the Ministry of Health, customs and police in identifying and disrupting the black-market tobacco trade, Costello said in a statement.

The proposed changes include a new infringement offense carrying a fine of 2,000 NZ dollars (1,134 U.S. dollars) for breaches of tobacco packaging regulations, as well as a strict liability packaging offense of up to 200,000 NZ dollars for manufacturers, importers and distributors.

The maximum penalty for an existing knowledge-based packaging offense would increase from 50,000 NZ dollars to 100,000 NZ dollars. The government also plans to align penalties for the sale of small quantities of tobacco with those for packaging breaches, according to the changes.

The changes to fines and offences require amendments to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 before taking effect, the statement said.

Separately, the Customs and Excise (Border Security) Amendment Bill, introduced to Parliament last week, would increase the maximum prison term for tobacco smuggling and excise evasion from six months to seven years.

Costello said the measures would strengthen the government’s cross-agency response to illicit tobacco activity.

SpaceX’s supersized Starship launched into orbit for first time but flight ends early

WASHINGTON, Sept 29, (AP): SpaceX launched its enormous Starship into orbit for the first time Monday and successfully delivered the most advanced Starlink satellites yet, but cut the flight short to ensure safety.

The spacecraft reentered over the Pacific and splashed down north of Hawaii three hours after blasting off from Texas. The company had been aiming for a 10-hour flight, spanning six full laps around Earth, to prove its readiness for NASA’s Artemis moon program.

Starship tipped over and erupted in flames upon splashdown, a dramatic end to the mission.

Founder Elon Musk’s Starship almost didn’t make it to orbit when one of its engines shut down prematurely. But with everything else working well and the bad engine no longer needed, flight controllers decided, after several tense minutes, to proceed as planned.

“Starship is orbital,” Mission Control announced to cheers.

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman congratulated SpaceX on reaching orbit and “managing every step in a safe, responsible and especially inspirational way.”

Musk’s showpiece rocket - the biggest and most powerful ever built - carried 26 of the latest Starlinks to join the 11,000 older models already providing internet service. They popped out of the spacecraft one by one, drawing more cheers from the SpaceX crowd at the Starbase launch site.

The decision to end the flight early came soon afterward. SpaceX said hours later in an online update that the decision was made “out of an abundance of caution” because of the early engine trouble.

It was Starship’s 14th full-scale launch from Texas’ southern tip in three years. Earlier test flights ventured no farther than the Indian Ocean halfway around the world, often crashing in flames and briefly skimming space.

This time, the intent was for SpaceX to circle the globe from an altitude of 170 miles (275 kilometers) - not just once but six times over almost 10 hours, ending with a Pacific splashdown near Chile. While Starship achieved the proper orbit, zipping along at 17,500 mph (28,000 kph), flight controllers opted to play it safe and bring it back several hours sooner, after just a couple of laps.

The first-stage booster was never meant to return to the Starbase launch site either, dropping instead into the Gulf of Mexico within minutes of the morning liftoff.

SpaceX wants to ensure that everything works before flying Star-



SpaceX’s mega rocket Starship makes a test flight from Starbase, Texas on Sept 28. (AP)

ship back to Starbase. If the spacecraft breaks apart over land and rains debris onto people, “our popularity would diminish very rapidly,” Musk said at a business summit earlier this month. “That’s why we’re being extremely cautious here.”

Depending on the findings from Monday’s orbital debut, the next Starship could return to the launch pad, where giant mechanical arms would grab the hovering spacecraft. If the catch works - Musk gives it even or slightly better odds - then SpaceX will refl y the spacecraft by year’s end or early next year.

The 407-foot (124-meter) rocket was designed from the start to be fully reusable, a key to lowering launch costs. SpaceX managed to salvage the last Starship from the Indian Ocean in July. Engineers modified the newly launched Starship’s heat shield based on hands-on inspections of the recovered spacecraft, which is being tugged back to Starbase.

SpaceX is pressing hard to certify Starship for orbital flight, a vital step toward moon and Mars travel.

NASA’s Artemis III mission is coming up as soon as next summer, a triple-launch docking exercise in orbit around Earth between an Orion capsule full of astronauts and competing lunar landers. Jeff Bezos’ Blue Moon would blast off first, followed by Orion - which would close in for a linkup - and then Musk’s Starship for a docking with Orion once Blue Moon is unleashed.

The next mission, Artemis IV, is slated for no sooner than 2028 and

would have astronauts landing on the moon in either Blue Moon or Starship, whichever is ready first. Subsequent moonshots will alternate between the two billionaires’ landers.

Musk originally developed Starship for Mars, intending to launch scores of them with the red planet’s first settlers. For now, he plans to focus on the moon and use Starship to haul satellites into orbit by the truckload, phasing out the company’s frailer Falcon 9 rocket within several years. A second Starship launch site is nearing completion at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center and a third is planned for Louisiana.

Also:

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla: NASA is throwing extra support and money behind Boeing’s troubled astronaut capsule to get it fixed and flying again as soon as possible.

Boeing’s Starliner capsule had so many problems in 2024 that its two test pilots were stuck at the International Space Station for nearly a year. NASA later reclassified the botched mission as a crew-endangering “Type A mishap,” its most severe ranking.

NASA Administrator **Jared Isaacman** announced Monday that Boeing should be ready to launch a new and improved Starliner to the space station - with cargo but no crew - by December. Astronauts will not strap in until 2028 because of the need for further safety redesigns that will take months, if not years, to complete.

Manager **Dana Weigel** stressed

that everyone must be confident that all of Starliner’s problems have been resolved before putting astronauts back on board.

“Bottom line: We’re on the right path,” said NASA astronaut Woody Hoburg, who will command the next Starliner flight.

Hoburg said Starliner’s original test pilots - **Butch Wilmore** and **Suni Williams**, now both retired - are “American heroes and I am deeply humbled to follow in their footsteps.”

NASA always wanted two US-based means of getting astronauts to and from orbit. The space agency shelled out billions of dollars to Boeing as well as SpaceX for ferry service once the space shuttles retired.

Elon Musk’s SpaceX became the first private business to send astronauts to orbit in 2020. His company will launch its 14th crew for NASA later this week. After struggling to carry out a pair of empty Starliner test flights, Boeing’s Starliner flew astronauts Wilmore and Williams, but they had to hitch a ride back with SpaceX nine months later.

SpaceX intends to phase out its Falcon 9 rockets and Dragon capsules in another few years and focus on its newer, larger Starship, which reached orbit for the first time Monday.

That is why NASA is so keen to redeem Boeing’s repeatedly bedeviled ride. The extra Starliner upgrades and new rocket certifications will cost NASA another \$359 million, Weigel said. Among the many fixes: new valves and seals.

How do ice cubes cool a drink?

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

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By Matthew Koss
College of the Holy Cross

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you’d like an expert to answer, send it to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

How do ice cubes cool a drink? - Helen, age 12, Boston, Massachusetts

I like to make my own iced tea. First, I steep about a quart of terrifically strong hot tea and pour it into a pitcher loosely filled with ice cubes straight from the freezer. The result is about two quarts of delicious, cold tea, with a few ice cubes floating on top.

What’s the science behind my perfect pitcher of iced tea? A simple answer is that the near-boiling tea transferred its hotness to the below-freezing ice cubes. This transfer raised the temperature of the ice cubes so that much of the ice melted. That both cooled the tea to a refreshing drinking temperature and diluted it for a proper taste.

My iced tea process reminds me of physics experiments I worked on that flew on the space shuttle Columbia in the 1990s. I was interested in how liquids turn into solids in the absence of gravity.

Both those space experiments and the making of iced tea depend on liquids or solids getting hotter or colder in just the right combination. The explanation for how it all works depends on two related concepts: temperature and energy.

The concept of temperature grew out of the sense of what feels hot and cold to human touch. Boiling water is too hot to touch safely, and a candle flame is even hotter. Ice cubes feel cold. A thermometer is a special hotness meter that more reliably and repeatedly determines the degree of hotness or coldness of substances than our sense of touch.

Eighteenth-century physicist Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit defined the point when ice melts or water freezes as 32 degrees of temperature - what we now call 32 degrees Fahrenheit in his honor. He also defined the temperature at which water boils and turns into steam to be 212 degrees F.

Energy is a more complicated concept. One way to think about energy is as a way to track what it costs nature to makes changes from one set of conditions to

another. There are many types of energy. Thermal energy is related to temperature. Kinetic energy is based on how fast stuff is moving. Other forms of energy include, to name only a few, electromagnetic energy, chemical energy and nuclear energy.

Another type of energy is called potential energy and it accounts for the energy stored by the forces acting between or within objects. It is those forces that control the transfers from one type of energy to another. Examples of potential energy that you can see are a rubber band stretched and about to snap back or a boulder sitting at the top of an incline, ready to roll. On a microscopic level, potential energy is composed of all the interacting forces between the atoms and molecules that make matter.

Once a boulder begins to roll down the hill, its potential energy from the force of gravity first transforms to kinetic energy and then maybe to thermal energy or to the work of knocking down a tree. Although energy can transform from one type to another, the total amount of energy always remains the same. Whatever amount of energy is gained in one place must be lost from somewhere else. Scientists call this rule of nature conservation of energy, or in cases involving thermal energy, the first law of thermodynamics.

As an example of the distinction between energy and temperature, compare a cup of hot tea and an iceberg. The hot tea is clearly at a much higher temperature than the iceberg, but the large iceberg has vastly more energy than the tiny cup of tea.

The tea is hotter than the iceberg because the molecules that make up the tea are moving faster than the molecules that make up the iceberg. The temperature is essentially the average energy of the molecular movements.

The speed and energy of a typical single liquid molecule are greater than for a typical single iceberg molecule. But the iceberg has many, many more molecules, all moving around, interacting with each other and transferring vast amounts of energy between their kinetic and potential energies.

Back to the question of making iced tea. When the hot tea encounters the ice cubes, the molecules of tea-flavored water collide with the molecules on the surface of the ice. The liquid’s molecules slow down. The ice’s molecules speed up, and some even leave the solid and mix in with the liquid tea. (AP)

Series challenges stereotypes about women in motorsport, says Wolff

Female racers struggle for sponsors & track time after F1 academy

ZANDVOORT, Netherlands, Sept 29, (AP): Maya Weug seemed to be doing everything right.

She was the first female member of Ferrari's young driver program, a front-runner in Formula 1's developmental series for women, F1 Academy, and a star of its spinoff Netflix docuseries.

Now Weug has spent most of 2026 on the outside looking in.

"There was a good plan coming into this year and everything was ready to go and to focus on GT (sportscar racing)," the 22-year-old told The Associated Press in a recent interview on the sidelines of the Dutch Grand Prix. "But then it suddenly all fell apart in March. Since then I've just been standing, I wouldn't say on my own, but basically on my own."

F1 Academy was launched in 2023 to give female drivers a platform to reach higher levels of competition in a sport that's always been dominated by men. But Weug's case highlights how even the academy's top drivers often struggle to bring in the sponsorship money they need to

continue racing once they exit the two-year program.

F1 Academy's managing director Susie Wolff told AP the series is challenging "perceptions and stereotypes" about women in motorsports even though it hasn't yet propelled its graduates to racing's top levels.

"I do acknowledge that it's frustrating to see that we haven't seen our champions go on to considerable success," she said, while noting that the series is only in its fourth season.

Weug had a rough landing this year after finishing F1 Academy runner-up in 2025. Despite backing from F1 Academy and Ferrari, her plan to move into GT sportscar racing failed for reasons she wouldn't specify but said were "out of their control and my control."

She only managed to arrange two races in a mostly amateur sportscar series in Belgium.

Weug described her disappointment in a heartfelt social media post in August and appealed for teams and sponsors to get in touch.

"I think I just expected that the results I put together over the past



Maya Weug poses for a photo at an F1 Academy race in Zandvoort, Netherlands, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026. (AP)

years would have counted for something," she wrote.

Since then, things have started looking up: Earlier this month Weug had a one-off race in Germany in the Euroformula Open, a racing series with cars close in performance to Formula 3, but with a relatively

small audience.

She's not the only F1 Academy graduate struggling to finance her career.

Marta García, the inaugural F1 Academy champion in 2022, went nine months without racing this year until her return to the track last

month in Belgium. The absence took a toll.

"I was like 'who am I when I'm not racing?'" Trust me, that question is terrifying," she said in a video on Instagram. "I started questioning everything, my value, my purpose. There were days where I didn't even know who I was."

Other ex-F1 Academy drivers have left motorsport, including for personal reasons, or dropped into mostly amateur events. Of the 16 drivers from the inaugural 2023 season, at least six do not appear to have raced cars competitively in 2026.

Some are still in the spotlight. F1 Academy provides career-development funding to its champions.

Last year's champion Doriane Pin was on a team challenging for a class win at the Le Mans 24-hour race, while 2024 winner Abbi Pulling tested for the Indy NXT series Monday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

When F1 announced its new developmental series for women in 2022, CEO Stefano Domenicali sought to prepare up-and-coming drivers to move through junior ranks

"hopefully to F2 and then the pinnacle of Formula 1."

So far, no F1 Academy graduate has reached Formula 2, the level below F1 on the FIA racing ladder. No woman has taken part in an F1 world championship race in 50 years.

One reason is spiraling costs. Another is that women are under-represented at the grassroots, making up just 5-7 percent of youth entries in karting, the main entry route for children dreaming of F1. A season in top-level karting can cost \$270,000, FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem told the AP this month.

A year in F3 or F2 can run into the millions. With fewer seats available at each level up the ladder, drivers -- and their sponsors or parents -- are essentially bidding against each other for spots.

People "are asking, 'Are you getting paid for it?'" No. All the money we're finding is to actually be able to race and show yourself," Weug said. "That's always been something I've been struggling with since I was 12."



WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert, left, presents the WNBA Coach of the Year award to Minnesota Lynx head coach Cheryl Reeve during a news conference in Minneapolis. (AP)

Miles gets all 74 votes

Lynx stars Miles and Reeve sweep WNBA's top awards

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept 29, (AP): Cheryl Reeve smiled as she sat in a chair on the stage with Olivia Miles to her left, as the Minnesota Lynx were presented with two major awards.

Reeve's record fifth WNBA Coach of the Year trophy, she said, would not have materialized without Miles and her performance at point guard this season that made her an unanimous selection for Rookie of the Year.

"What I was reminded of with Liv is the importance of letting greatness be great," Reeve said, "and not getting in the way."

Miles received all 74 votes for the award from a national panel of sports writers and broadcasters covering the league, after she set the WNBA rookie scoring record. The second pick in the draft out of TCU played in 40 of 44 games and averaged 19.8 points, 6.0 assists, 4.7 rebounds and 1.3 steals while shooting 49.2% from the field, 38.8% from 3-point range and 87% from the free-throw line.

Reeve, who is in her 17th season as head coach of the Lynx and fourth as president of basketball operations, was sold on Miles and her curiosity and humility during the pre-draft interview process and was pleasantly surprised by how quickly she became comfortable on the court. The coach and the player realized they see the game through a similar lens, thanks to Reeve's degree from La Salle in computer science and the mindset Miles shares with her father, Yakubu, a software engineer.

"It was important for me to have someone who was humble," said Reeve, who guided the Lynx to WNBA titles in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. "I think a lot of players come in feeling like they know and they don't need to be told or have others around them to guide them."

Miles became the sixth winner of the award in Lynx history, following Betty Lennox (2000), Seimone Augustus (2006), Maya Moore (2011), Napheesa Collier (2019) and Crystal Dangerfield (2020).

Just like Reeve became a better coach with her on the floor, Miles found the ideal place to land in the league with a core of welcoming veterans on and off the court in Collier, Kayla McBride and Courtney Williams and an accomplished coach in Reeve with such high standards.

"I truly think that her method to her madness, what she refers to it



WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert, left, presents the WNBA Rookie of the Year award to Minnesota Lynx guard Olivia Miles during a news conference in Minneapolis. (AP)

as, will lead to success if we trust in it," Miles said. "I knew it was going to be hard. I didn't know it was going to be this hard. I didn't think I'd have the opportunity I'd have right away, so I kind of just took that and ran with it. She's given me a lot of grace as well."

Reeve, who received 40 of 74 votes from media panel, previously won the award in 2011, 2016, 2020 and 2024. She became the WNBA's all-time leader in regular-season coaching wins this year. Golden State's Natalie Nakase, who won the award last year, finished second with 20 votes. Washington's Sydney Johnson was third with 14 votes.

Miles, a native of New Jersey who started her college career at Notre Dame, led all rookies in points, points per game, field goals made, defensive rebounds, assists, assists per game and efficiency rating.

The WNBA announced the awards on Monday, before the Lynx traveled to New York for an elimination game in their best-of-three first-round playoff series on Tuesday. The top-seeded Lynx lost the opener at home 91-75 to the 2024 champion Liberty on Sunday, when Miles had just 11 points on 3-for-12 shooting with four turnovers and four fouls in her postseason debut.

Even for one of the most precocious rookies to join the league lately, the playoffs are another level of competition.

"I think she's feeling it right now, but it's what we expected and it's not easy," Reeve said. "She's a smart player, and she'll figure it out."

NEW YORK, Sept 29, (AP): After being on opposite sides of an NBA Finals that ended just 3 1/2 months ago, New York guard Jalen Brunson and San Antonio center Victor Wembanyama found themselves with the exact same mindsets on Monday.

As proof, consider the descriptions offered about their summer vacations.

"It was short," Wembanyama said.

"The longest, shortest summer ever," Brunson said.

Short offseasons are the goal for every team in the NBA - because they want to play as long as possible, like the champion Knicks and runner-up Spurs did last season. And the journey toward potential title runs have now started in earnest around the league, with media days being held for most teams on Monday and practices for everybody happening on Tuesday.

"Right now, the best team in the NBA is the New York Knicks," Miami forward Giannis Antetokounmpo said at Heat media day Monday, tipping his cap to the reigning champions. "And they have one of the best players, Jalen Brunson. ... But we're going to do our job. We've got to do our job, man. If we do our job and we win games, then we'll see."

It's not an unheard-of approach, obviously, but it worked wonders for the Knicks last season when they ended a 53-year title drought for the franchise.

"Not being satisfied, I think, is the biggest take-away moving forward," Brunson said. "You still want to figure out how you can grow as a person and as a player."

There is no shortage of teams in the league with confidence that they can contend, especially in this era of parity - with eight different franchises having won titles in the past eight seasons. Among the key moves from recent months: Philadelphia loaded up by adding LeBron James and Jaylen Brown, Miami added Antetokounmpo and Klay Thompson, the Toronto Raptors brought back Kawhi Leonard, LaMelo Ball headed to Minnesota and DeMar DeRozan is set to pair up with Nikola Jokic in Denver.

James - the NBA's all-time leading scorer, entering Year 24 of his career - was asked what he can do for the 76ers.

"Whatever the team needs for me to do," James said, wearing his new 76ers uniform in public for the first time. "I think the luxury of my game is I can do everything. Literally, I can do everything."



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard speaks at the Raptors media day in Toronto. (AP)

And while the Eastern Conference is loaded with depth, it's two Western Conference teams - the Spurs and the Oklahoma City Thunder - that are favorites to win the 2027 championship, according to most sportsbooks.

Here's a good sign for the Thunder and a bad sign for the remainder of the NBA: "I feel like I got better this summer, for sure," back-to-back NBA Most Valuable Player Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said at Oklahoma City media day.

Wembanyama said the Spurs grew from the pain that came with losing to the Knicks.

"I've had a few sleepless nights; maybe not sleepless nights, but hard to find sleep sometimes or hard emotions. Haunting, sometimes," Wembanyama said. "But there's just a point where you accept that you have to go through it and you have to feel all of it."

At Golden State's media day, Stephen Curry - a perennial All-Star and the league's all-time 3-point king - said the Warriors' expectations will remain high.

"Championship mentality is always a part of who you are, but we're not putting that type of pressure on ourselves on Day 1," Curry said. "Let's figure out what good basketball looks like for this team, and we'll figure that out as we go."

Indiana, which lost Game 7 of the finals in 2025 to Oklahoma City, now has Tyrese Haliburton back after he missed all of last season with a torn Achilles, and that means the Pacers will also likely be among the many legit contenders in the East.

"I am healthy. I am 100%. There will be no restrictions," Haliburton said. "That is not news. There is no source. I am the source. I'm good. I'm ready to go for the year."

Leonard's return to the Raptors - he led Toronto to the 2019 NBA title - came after a year where the end of his tenure with the Los Angeles Clippers was overshadowed by a salary-cap-circumvention scandal that led to massive sanctions against his now-former team such as the forfeiture of five first-round picks, a \$30 million fine and a one-year banishment of owner Steve Ballmer.

"I think the best decision is to move forward and focus on my time being a Toronto Raptor," Leonard said. "I already was a distraction for the past 70 days and wasn't able to meet my teammates, do any of that minicamp stuff with them. Moving forward, I just want to talk about the Toronto Raptors. ... I just want to focus on basketball again."

'I think a lot of damage has been done'

Pochettino laments lack of 'sporting justice' for ex-Tottenham team amid Man City saga

ST. LOUIS, Sept 29, (AP): U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino expressed sadness at an apparent failure of "sporting justice" in his response to reports that Manchester City has been found guilty of almost all of the 115 charges leveled against the club for alleged financial breaches.

The alleged rule-breaking by City took place between 2009-18, during which period Pochettino was manager of Tottenham and turned the London team into a challenger for titles in English soccer despite operating on a relatively small budget.

The Premier League has yet to officially confirm the verdict that, according to several media outlets, has been passed down by an independent commission following a long-running case.

"If it's true that the 114 rules were broken, then we lived through a period of deception," said Pochettino, speaking Monday - a day before the U.S. men's team plays Chile in a friendly match.

"So, whatever the punishment ends up being ... I don't know. It's impossible to go back. I think a lot of damage has been done."



United States head coach Mauricio Pochettino walks off the field after the United States lost a World Cup round of 16 soccer match against Belgium in Seattle. (AP)

Earlier this month, Pochettino called for Chelsea to be stripped of the 2016-17 Premier League title for a total of 74 breaches of Football Association regulations covering agents, working with intermediaries and third-party investment in players. Chelsea's punishment, on ap-

peal, was a fine of 10 million pounds (\$13.4 million) and a suspended two-window transfer ban.

Chelsea won the 2016-17 Premier League by a seven-point margin over Tottenham, which finished third in the 2017-18 season when City was

champion. During this time, Tottenham was working under a far tighter budget than its title rivals in England yet still reached the Champions League final in 2019.

Pochettino, who was at Spurs from 2014-19, said that "ultimately a lot of clubs followed the rules and others didn't."

"What's going to happen - a financial penalty? Points deductions? I don't know," he said. "It's very difficult, honestly."

"It's sad. It's deeply sad. Because, in the end, we've entered into a situation where what was celebrated wasn't really what we thought it was. What seemed so good maybe wasn't so good. And what didn't seem good maybe actually was good, but it couldn't be seen as good because the other 'good' was achieved by breaking the rules. So, ultimately, we've lived through a period where sporting justice didn't exist."

City has always denied wrongdoing and its chairman, Khaldoon Al Mubarak, continued to protest the club's innocence on Saturday, a day after reports said a verdict had been reached.

‘Court should reject any attempt to influence presidential election’

FIFA claims harassment of Infantino by European soccer body in filing to Florida court

GENEVA, Sept 29, (AP): FIFA lawyers claimed UEFA is harassing Gianni Infantino, in a court filing urging a Florida judge to deny the European soccer body’s request for evidence discovery about a World Cup private investor plan that has rocked the sport.

The 21-page filing to the court in the Southern District of Florida late Monday, and seen by The Associated Press, said UEFA was wrong to suggest the FIFA president sought to profit personally from the project that provoked a furor in July and was dropped within days.

UEFA later asked for authorization of discovery with three courts - including in Manhattan, against Josh Kushner’s New York-based investment firm, and Miami, where FIFA has an office base - aiming to help prepare a criminal complaint against Infantino in Switzerland for financial mismanagement.

“UEFA’s conduct demonstrates that its (court filing) was made in bad faith and for the purpose of harassment,” lawyers for FIFA argue in the document.

The filing also notes the Nov. 18 deadline for potential candidates to enter the FIFA presidential election contest next March in Morocco, where Infantino plans to seek a fourth and final term in office through 2031.

“This court should reject any attempt to influence FIFA’s presidential election based on these grounds,” FIFA lawyers wrote in the filing Monday.

UEFA led a global backlash to the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) plan and is preparing an election challenge to Infantino, who had seemed set to win unopposed until creating the biggest crisis of his near 11-year presidency.

Infantino’s plan was to create the FFE subsidiary and sell at least 20% of nonprofit FIFA’s future commercial rights for \$4.2 billion to investors led by Josh Kushner, the brother of U.S. President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino, center, attends the Women's U20 World Cup final soccer match between Spain and North Korea in Lodz, Poland. (AP)

UEFA’s court filings one month ago claimed the value was a “fraudulently off-market price promoted by Infantino for his own benefit,” amid speculation

he eyed a CEO-like role at the subsidiary on a higher salary than his current \$6 million presidential pay package.

FIFA lawyers claimed UEFA “falsely asserts that Mr. Infantino sought to have a personal financial interest in the FFE project.”

The secretive plan was revealed July 28 by media reports and led FIFA’s now-ousted chief operating officer Kevin Lamour to criticize Infantino’s leadership. The FIFA boss’s senior adviser Carlos Cordeiro, a former Goldman Sachs partner, also resigned in protest at the deal he said was bad for soccer.

Infantino later apologized for errors in how the sell-off plan was handled, and has since offered to open an independent external review of the soccer body’s governance.

FIFA has consistently said the commercial spinoff was intended to accelerate development of soccer worldwide, outside the wealthy power base of Europe.

In a separate development Monday, Infantino wrote to the 211 member federations of FIFA accepting it could pay them more from cash reserves.

That follows a call this month by Infantino’s critics at UEFA, North American soccer body CONCACAF and the Asian Football Confederation that FIFA can afford to pay each of the 211 members a \$10 million dividend from its cash reserves of about \$6 billion.

Infantino had offered each member \$20 million, from the intended \$4.2 billion investment by Kushner and others, pending a mid-September deadline to approve the FFE project.

An Oct. 15 meeting of the 37-member FIFA Council, to be chaired by Infantino in Zurich, is set to debate proposals on finance and governance as he seeks to manage fallout from the divisive World Cup sell-off plan.

Italy bounces back, Olise gives France late victory



France's Esteban Lepaul, left, and Belgium's Nathan Ngoy fight for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Belgium and France in Brussels, Belgium. (AP)

Sweden makes it two out of two

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Sept 29, (AP): Roberto Mancini appears to have transformed Italy almost immediately.

Italy stormed to a dominant 4-1 win at Turkey in the Nations League with the Azzurri’s best performance for a long time, in Mancini’s second match in charge. In League B, Sweden made it two wins out of two with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Poland, while Bosnia-Herzegovina won 4-2 at Romania.

Both games in Group B2 ended in goalless draws. Northern Ireland drew 0-0 against Hungary, while Ukraine’s match at Georgia ended in the same scoreline.

It was a far cry from Friday’s 2-0 loss at home to Belgium when Italy looked to still be struggling, six months on from failing to qualify for a third consecutive World Cup.

Italy will no doubt face a much tougher test in its next match, however, when it plays France away on Friday.

France also has a new coach in Zinedine Zidane, and he saw his team - without the injured Kylian Mbappé - snatch a 1-0 win at Belgium.

“These boys deserved the win, especially what so many have

been saying over the past three days,” Mancini said. “They didn’t deserve that kind of talk. We are on a long journey. ... Besides the victory itself, the boys did some really good things.”

Brentford defender Michael Kayode scored one goal and set up another in an impressive Italy debut for the 22-year-old.

Italy took the lead with less than nine minutes on the clock when Zeki Celik scuffed an attempted clearance on a corner and the ball fell to Alessandro Bastoni, who swept it into the roof of the net.

It was a sort of redemption for



Italy's Pio Esposito celebrates after scoring his side's fourth goal during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Turkey and Italy in Bursa, Turkey. (AP)

Bastoni, who was sent off in the first half of Italy’s World Cup qualifying playoff against Bosnia and Herzegovina - which the Azzurri went on to lose on penalties.

Davide Frattesi doubled Italy’s lead in the 22nd minute, tapping in the rebound after Kayode’s shot had been parried by Turkey goalkeeper Altay Bayindir, following a well-worked team move by Italy.

Kayode got on the scoresheet five minutes later, following a similar move, with Pio Esposito sending him clear to fire into the bottom right corner.

It was the first time in five years that Italy scored three goals in the opening half-hour of a competitive match.

Barış Alper Yilmaz caught Italy napping to pull one back for Turkey right at the start of the second half but Esposito restored the visitors’ three-goal advantage three minutes later, nodding in a rebound after Sandro Tonali’s curled effort had come off the post.

Esposito had been joined in the starting lineup by his older brother Sebastiano, who was making his debut, marking the first time since 1915 that two brothers had started a match for Italy.

France dominated and hit the woodwork twice but needed a stunning, late goal from substitute Michael Olise to finally break the deadlock.

France was without Mbappé, who has already returned to Real Madrid, after limping off with an injury to his left knee moments after scoring a record-extending 67th goal for his country in Friday’s 1-0 victory against Turkey.

It took something special to break the Belgians down and that happened two minutes from time, when Olise - who had only come on in the 75th minute - received the ball inside his own half and sprinted down the right before cutting in and driving into the bottom left corner.

Kuwait Club’s hopes rest on Railways clash

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

BEIRUT, Sept 29: Kuwait Club’s hopes of reaching the semifinals of the West Asia Basketball League (WASL) Finals will be decided tomorrow when it faces India’s Railways in the final Group A match in Beirut.

The White Army missed the chance to seal qualification after suffering a heart-breaking 83-82 loss to Lebanese powerhouse Al Riyadi, with a free throw in the final second deciding a thrilling contest.

The two sides exchanged the lead throughout the game, with neither able to establish a decisive advantage before Al Riyadi held its nerve at the death. The victory moved the Lebanese side to four points and secured its

place in the semifinals.

Railways kept their qualification hopes alive with a 93-85 win over Saudi Arabia’s Al-Ittihad, moving to three points — level with Kuwait Club, who currently holds the advantage on points difference. Al-Ittihad, on two points, have been eliminated.

Tomorrow’s Kuwait Club-Railways showdown will determine the second semifinalist from Group A, with the winner joining Al Riyadi in the last four.

Kuwait Club will need to cut out the mistakes that proved costly against Al Riyadi and maintain its composure until the final buzzer. Its latest defeat showed how crucial the smallest details can be in a group where the semifinal race has gone down to the wire.



Kuwait Club player blocks a shot from Al Riyadi player.

Best of the Rest

Costa Rica parts ways with Batista: Fernando Batista has been sacked as manager of Costa Rica’s national team after less than seven months in charge, the country’s football federation (FCRF) said.

The announcement followed a 2-0 loss to Haiti in the CONCACAF Nations League on Sunday, Costa Rica’s fifth defeat in six games since Batista’s appointment in March.

The FCRF said former national team captain Bryan Ruiz had been named the caretaker manager.

“We made the decision to dismiss Fernando Batista from the position and decided to appoint Bryan Ruiz on an interim basis,” FCRF President Osael Maroto told reporters.

Sunday’s result left Costa Rica fifth in the six-team Group A standings ahead of its away clash with Nicaragua on Thursday.

“The results were not there. When we hired him, we were thinking about the entire process leading up to 2030 and this change is happening due to the poor results,” Maroto added. (Xinhua)

GFA disappointed by Inaki international retirement

ACCRA, Sept. 29, (Xinhua): The Ghana Football Association (GFA) expressed disappointment at Inaki Williams’ decision to retire from international football following the 2026 World Cup, GFA president Kurt Edwin Simeon-Okraku said.

Speaking on an Accra-based radio station, Okraku acknowledged the association’s disappointment but said it understood Williams’ reasons.

“I was disturbed by his decision - not only me, but the entire football association. However, when you hear him out you understand his situation. He has been playing through a lot of pain and injuries, and even at club level he is being managed,” Okraku said.

The GFA president called on football fans to recognize the sacrifices made by the Athletic Bilbao captain for Ghana.

Williams, 32, announced his retirement from the Black Stars following Ghana’s campaign at the recent World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Mallorca goalkeeper Ivan Cuellar is in hospital after suffering a serious head injury in an accident at the club’s training ground.

The 42-year-old, the club’s third-choice goalkeeper, was injured before Monday’s training session when “a large structure” in the canteen at the Ciutat Esportiva Antonio Asensio collapsed onto him, the club said.

“This morning, Ivan ‘Pichu’ Cuellar suffered a serious head injury after a large structure, which formed part of the decor in the dining room at the Ciutat Esportiva collapsed,” the statement said. “The player has been taken to hospital for treatment and will remain under observation for the next 24 hours.” The club gave no further details.

Cuellar’s career has spanned more than 20 years, with spells at Atletico Madrid, Sporting Gijon, Eibar and Leganes. He joined Mallorca in 2023 as experienced backup and has made six first-team appearances over the past three seasons. Mallorca is currently sixth in the Spanish second division as it seeks promotion back to the top flight following a 1-0 home defeat to Almeria on Sunday.

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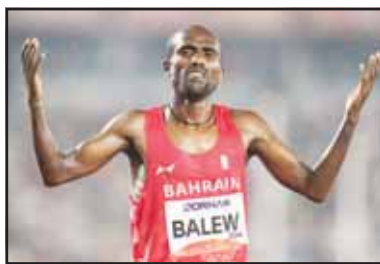
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NEWS



Bahrain's Birhanu Balew reacts after winning the men's 5000-meter final at the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait shooters light up Asian Games

Al-Mudhaf wins double gold

NAGOYA, Sept 29: Kuwait's shooters delivered a standout performance in the trap events at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026, winning two gold and two bronze medals.

Khaled Al-Mudhaf claimed individual gold and teamed up with Talal Al-Rashidi and Abdulrahman Al-Feihan to win the men's team title, giving Kuwait a double gold in the trap competition.

The Kuwaiti trio hit 355 targets to secure the team gold, underlining their consistency against the continent's leading shooters.

Al-Mudhaf then added individual gold after hitting 26 targets, completing a memorable double at the Games.

The women also made their mark, with Hajar Abdulmalek, Sarah Al-Hawwal and Shahad Al-Hawwal winning bronze in the team event after recording 325 targets.

Abdulmalek followed that achievement with individual bronze after hitting 21 targets, becoming the first Kuwaiti woman to win an individual trap medal at the Asian Games.



Double gold winner, Khaled Al-Mudhaf.

The four-medal haul adds to Kuwait's strong record in shooting at major continental competitions and rewards the athletes' preparation and determination in Aichi-Nagoya.

Kuwait advanced to the squash

team quarterfinals, keeping their medal hopes alive.

The team of Ammar Al-Tamimi, Jassem Al-Ghareeb, Khaled Al-Fawzan and Bader Al-Maghribi will face India for a place in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri



The men's and women's teams celebrate on the podium.

finished fifth in the men's 800m final in 1:45.76.

Salem Al-Abkal will begin Kuwait's golf campaign in the qualifiers at 1am.

In shooting, Talal Al-Rashidi and Hajar Abdulmalek will compete in

the mixed team trap qualifiers at 4am, with the final scheduled for 8:30am if they advance.

Amina Shah will compete in the sailing qualifiers at 5am, while Nasser Bourjeeb begins the climbing qualifiers at 6:30am.

Kuwait's men's squash team faces India in the quarterfinals at 8:30am.

Padel duo Abdulaziz Redha and Fouad Behbehani will play in the second round of the men's doubles at 12:30pm.

An defends women's singles title, China claims mixed doubles gold

Uzbekistan's lifter breaks snatch world record in men's 110kg at Asian Games

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept. 29, (Xinhua): Akbar Djuraev of Uzbekistan set a world record en route to winning the men's 110kg weightlifting title at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Tuesday.

Djuraev produced a 197kg snatch, a new world record, before adding a 226kg clean and jerk to post a 423kg total to claim gold. Turkmenistan's Shahzadbek Matyakubov settled for silver with 410kg, while China's Liu Huanhua took bronze with 405kg.

Defending champion An Se-young of South Korea beat home favorite Akane Yamaguchi to claim back-to-back women's singles titles, while China secured mixed doubles gold as the badminton competition.

An defeated Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-9 without dropping a game throughout the tournament. The victory made her the first women's singles player to win consecutive Asian Games titles.

The world No. 1 has continued her dominance this season, playing 57 matches and losing just once.

"It really does feel like a dream. I am so happy," said the 24-year-old. "Everything I put into it keeps coming back to me. It is overwhelming."

"I am going to be true to the present and do my best," she added.

In mixed doubles, China's Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin rallied from 18-13 down in the opening game to beat Indonesia's Amri Syahnawi and Nita Violina Marwah 21-19, 21-8.

"It's just down to belief, isn't it? When you're up against the wall, you just have to stand firm. Stand firm until your opponents make mistakes. The difference is that we hung on longer than our opponents," Wei said of their first-game comeback.

The victory gave China a fourth consecutive Asian Games mixed doubles title.

In men's doubles, newly crowned world champions Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang of China took the opening game 21-19, but Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin fought back to win the next two 21-13, 21-18 and claim gold.

Liang and Wang's defeat extended China's 36-year wait for the event's top place.

"It was a good and tight match," Carnando said. "We maintained our



South Korea's An Se-young plays a return against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi during their women's singles badminton final match at the Asian Games in Ichinomiya, Japan. (AP)



Gold medalist Asuma Nakai of Japan poses on the podium during the medal ceremony of men's cycling BMX racing at the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. (AP)

playing pattern and kept communication open. We had lost our recent head-to-head matches against them since our last win at the Singapore Open. It served as extra motivation for us." South Korea's Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee claimed women's doubles gold after a grueling final lasting nearly two hours against China's Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning.

Baek and Lee dropped the opening game 28-26 but bounced back to take the second 21-18. The deciding game remained close until late in the match, when Liu suffered a thigh

cramp. The South Korean pair went on to take the third game 21-18.

Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn won the men's singles title by beating Singapore's former world champion Loh Kean Yew 21-12, 21-16.

Seven badminton gold medals were awarded at the Games, with five individual events and two team competitions. China, South Korea and Indonesia each won two golds, while Thailand took the remaining one.

China struck gold in both the women's and men's team sprint

events as track cycling got underway at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Tuesday, with records falling throughout the day at the Izu Velodrome in Shizuoka Prefecture.

China defended the women's team sprint by clocking 45.370 seconds in the final, a new Asian record. Malaysia took silver in 48.566, while Chinese Taipei secured bronze.

"We performed at a level that could challenge for Olympic gold. Of course, we know that we still have to work harder to win world and Olympic titles," said Chinese rider Wang Lijuan.

Wang added that the Asian Games victory had given the team a major boost in morale and confidence ahead of the upcoming World Championships in Shanghai.

In the men's team sprint, China clocked 42.348 seconds in the first round to break the Asian Games record, then improved it to 42.152 seconds in the final to defeat host Japan for gold. Hong Kong, China took bronze.

"At the Hangzhou Asian Games, we competed at home but lost to Japan and missed out on the gold. We were quite disappointed at the time," said Chinese rider Liu Qi.

"This time, we turned that disappointment into motivation in our training and preparation. We are very happy to win the gold back on our opponent's home ground." The team pursuit events also produced a series of record-breaking performances on Tuesday.

China set an Asian Games record of 4:16.766 in the women's team pursuit qualifying session, only for Japan to lower it to 4:14.496 in the following heat. In the men's team pursuit qualifying, China clocked 3:52.412 to make an Asian Games record, which Japan then broke with 3:52.279.

In the afternoon, both China and Japan advanced directly to Wednesday's women's team pursuit final after catching their respective opponents in the first round. In the men's event, China wrote another Games record of 3:49.845, surpassing the mark Japan had established earlier in the day, to reach the final.

Gold medals in the women's and men's team pursuit and the women's Keirin will be decided on Wednesday.

Kuwait defender Falah undergoes treatment at Aspetar in Qatar



Falah dribbles past Iraqi player Baish during the teams' match last Saturday.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

JEDDAH, Sept 29: Kuwait defender Mohsen Falah has begun treatment at Aspetar Hospital in Qatar after suffering a partial hamstring tear during the national team's Gulf Cup campaign.

Kuwait Football Association medical team head Dr Abdulmajeed Al-Banai said Falah underwent the necessary examinations after being injured in Saturday's 3-2 defeat to Iraq in the second round of Group A.

"Medical examinations showed that Falah suffered a partial tear in the upper part of the hamstring," Al-Banai said. "He is currently under the supervision of the medical team and has been transferred to Aspetar to continue his treatment."

Falah was forced off during the match against Iraq and could not continue. He will undergo a rehabilitation program aimed at preparing him for a return to Kuwait Club, who

resume their Zain Premier League campaign next week. The defender is also expected to be available for the club's AFC Champions League Two campaign in mid-October, depending on his recovery.

Kuwait goalkeeper Khaled Al-Rashidi also suffered a minor health problem and remains under observation by the medical team.

The Kuwait delegation returns from Jeddah today after completing its Gulf Cup campaign. The international players will be given a short rest before returning to their respective clubs tomorrow or the following day.

Kuwait exited the tournament at the group stage after losing 1-0 to hosts Saudi Arabia in the opening round and 3-2 to Iraq in the second.

Following their elimination, the Kuwait players apologized to the fans for failing to progress.

"We apologize to our fans. We did not want these results or to exit in the group stage," promising defender Yousef Al-Haqan said.

China loses to DPRK in semifinal

SHIZUOKA, Japan, Sept. 29, (Xinhua): China lost 2-0 to DPR Korea in the women's football semifinal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games here on Tuesday.

China reached the last four after a 1-0 extra-time win over Vietnam in the quarterfinals, and head coach Ante Milicic made several changes to its line-up for the semifinal, with Zhang Linyan and Li Qingtong sidelined by injury and Wang Yanwen suspended after accumulating yellow cards.

DPR Korea threatened early, hitting the crossbar in the third minute when Myong Yu Jong's shot from the right rebounded after a cutback. Heavy rain made the remainder of the first half cagey. China's first effort on goal came only in first-half stoppage time, when Shao Ziqin nodded over.

China almost took the lead shortly after the restart. In the 47th minute Wang Shuang's free kick found Zhang Chengxue, who beat the offside trap and headed toward goal, but DPR Korean keeper Yu Son Gum saved and Zhang's follow-up narrowly missed.

DPR Korea was awarded a free

kick from a similar position six minutes later. Under pressure in the box, China defender Yao Wei inadvertently headed the ball into her own net to hand DPR Korea a 1-0 lead.

China coach Milicic brought on striker Yuan Cong as he sought to bolster the attack, but pushing forward left space at the back and DPR Korea increasingly controlled the game. They made the advantage safe in the 79th minute when a partially cleared corner fell to Myong, who was unmarked and fired into the far corner.

DPR Korea finished with 10 shots, five on target, while China managed only five shots with one on target.

"We always knew it was going to be a difficult game against a strong opponent in difficult conditions. I thought we defended well," Milicic said after the match. "Unfortunately, we conceded an own goal. We probably didn't have enough depth in our team to get back into the game." Milicic said China's missing players had made the task more difficult, noting that the squad had been reduced from 26 players at the Asian Cup to 23 at the Asian Games.

India and Pakistan advance to Asian Games cricket semifinals

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 29, (AP): Cricket heavyweights India and Pakistan advanced to the Asian Games semifinals without having to hit a ball on Monday after rain forced organizers to abandon two scheduled quarterfinal matches.

Defending champion India ad-

vanced over Afghanistan, and Pakistan advanced over Hong Kong in results determined on the basis of world rankings.

Shreyas Iyer and his India squad featuring stars such as pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah and 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi haven't had to play yet in

the tournament, although did have a friendly warmup win over Japan last week.

India has won back-to-back Twenty20 Cricket World Cup titles and is home to the sport's richest league. The Asian Games is using the T20 format, which will also be contested at the Los Ange-

les Olympics in 2028.

India will play either Sri Lanka or Nepal in the semifinals, and Pakistan will meet either Bangladesh or Malaysia. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were seeded for the tournament, and only joined in the quarterfinal stage.