

**AstraZeneca inks agreement with Massachusetts General Hospital**

AstraZeneca has entered into a collaboration agreement with Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), leveraging robust data and clinical best practices to create digital health solutions that address today's most urgent healthcare challenges. Catalyzed by the COVID-19 pandemic and a shared mission to improve care for patients with chronic illness, this novel partnership is focused on creating and clinically validating patient-centric digital health solutions and establishing a new standard of care for

chronic illness management outside of a clinical setting. This collaboration is being led by the MGH Center for Innovation in Digital Healthcare (CIDH) and will utilize AstraZeneca's new AMAZE disease management platform in studies for heart failure and asthma management. These first two studies will pilot AMAZE in a real-world setting with the goals of improving patient engagement, care-team communication and clinical outcomes while reducing healthcare costs.

Through remote monitoring, AMAZE identifies at-risk patients and delivers insights to the clinical care team at the point of care to improve the management of complex patient populations. The digital platform, including a patient app and clinician dashboard, is intended to speed up evidence-based clinical practice with the aim of continuously improving the standard of patient care and healthcare efficiency. Ruud Dobber, Ph.D, Executive Vice-President and President, BioPharmaceut-

icals Business Unit, said: "We believe the AMAZE disease management platform has the potential to transform the current healthcare delivery paradigm for patients around the world living with chronic diseases. We are incredibly proud to be working closely with Massachusetts General Hospital to utilize this digital platform to close gaps in patient care, ultimately leading to better outcomes." "This extraordinary level of collaboration between an academic medical center and a pharmaceutical company, opens a

pathway to innovative digital health solutions that place the patient at the center of care," said Peter L. Slavin, MD, President, Massachusetts General Hospital. "By embracing the tension of different perspectives and expertise, we can move faster and more efficiently while maintaining the highest levels of scientific rigor and clinical excellence. While there is no precedent for this type of deep relationship, we hope this alliance will serve as a model for future collaboration between pharma and healthcare providers." (AP)

# Asian equities mixed after Wall Street rally

**TOKYO, April 6, (AP): Asian shares were mixed Tuesday after a Wall Street rally that reflected some optimism about the economy recovering from the pandemic.**

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost early gains and fell 1.3% to finish at 29,696.63. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was up 0.8% at 6,885.90. South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.2% to 3,126.72. The Shanghai Composite inched up less than 0.1% to 3,486.22. Hong Kong trading was closed for Easter.

Yoshimasa Maruyama, chief market economist at SMBC Nikko, noted a gradual recovery in the Japanese economy had been reflected in the recent "tankan" Bank of Japan survey, which was released last week. He said a rebound was marked in electronics because of households consuming electronics goods, as the pandemic had squelched people's spending on services.

Household spending data released Tuesday showed a 6.6% decline in February, with dining, clothing, transport and entertainment falling sharply.

Deep worries remain over the pandemic, with medical experts warning Japan to brace for a "fourth wave" of surging infections and deaths related to COVID-19, as the nation has fallen behind the rest of the world in testing and vaccinations.

Similar outbreaks have flared in other countries, including India and Thailand.

France's CAC 40 climbed 0.8% to 6,153.49, while Germany's DAX surged 1.1% to 15,276.45. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.2% to 6,818.49. U.S. shares were set to drift lower, with Dow futures slipping 0.1% to 33,405. S&P 500 futures fell 0.2% to 4,061.12.

Investors appeared to take in stride an announcement by Swiss bank Credit Suisse on Tuesday that it expects a one-time charge of 4.4 billion Swiss francs (\$4.7 billion) related to a previously announced default of a US hedge fund on margin calls.

Two top executives are leaving the Zurich-based bank and it has suspended a share buyback program and reduced its dividend in the wake of the default.

Credit Suisse didn't identify the



A currency trader wearing a face mask talks with his colleague at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea on April 6, 2021. Asian shares were mixed Tuesday after a Wall Street rally that reflected some optimism about the economy recovering from the damage of the coronavirus pandemic. (AP)

**Tribune to consider \$679m buyout offer**

**CHICAGO, April 6, (AP):** The company that owns the Chicago Tribune and other major U.S. newspapers said Monday that it would discuss a \$679 million bid from hotel mogul Stewart Bainum and Wyoming billionaire Hansjörg Wyss that is higher than the \$634 million offer from hedge fund Alden Global.

The board's special committee said in a prepared statement that its decision lets Tribune "engage in discussions and negotiations with, and provide diligence information to Newslight," which is Bainum and Wyss' group. But for now it continues to recommend that shareholders choose Alden's offer.

Tribune Publishing Co. said it got a non-binding proposal from Newslight on Thursday, an offer of \$18.50 per share that was fully financed by equity from Bainum and Wyss.

The Newslight offer emerged after pushback from journalists at many of Tribune's paper against the Alden deal. Alden, one of the country's largest newspaper publishers, has a reputation for cutting costs and jobs in an industry already hollowed out by newsroom layoffs.

Alden currently owns nearly one-third of Tribune's shares.

A representative for Alden declined to comment Monday.

Bainum had previously sought to buy the Baltimore Sun as part of the Alden deal, but negotiations stalled.

**Xlife 2020 profit jumps**

**BERNE, April 6, (Agencies):** In 2020, Xlife Sciences AG (XLS) significantly increased its profit to 21.2 million Swiss francs compared to the previous year (1.03 million). The increase is based on the transaction and the capital appreciation of the portfolio companies Velabs Therapeutics and Araxa Biosciences. For the current year, the management expects again a significant increase in profits. For 2021, two exits and an IPO are planned for 2022.

Xlife Sciences AG looks back on a very successful 2020. With a lean cost structure of approximately 3.2 million Swiss Francs (2020: 1.5 million) as a result of the transaction and capital appreciation of Velabs and Araxa with a net profit of 21.2 million Swiss Francs.

**Crude oil prices gain, dollar firmer versus Japanese yen**

hedge fund or the other banks affected, or give other details of what happened. News reports identified the hedge fund as New York-based Archegos Capital Management, whose default also has ensnared Japan's Nomura.

In energy trading, benchmark US crude added 99 cents to \$59.64 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gave up \$2.80 to \$58.65 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 93 cents to \$63.08 a barrel.

In currency trading, the US dollar rose to 110.38 Japanese yen from 110.19 yen. The euro cost \$1.1816, up

from \$1.1813. On Wall Street, the S&P 500 rose 1.4% to 4,077.91 on Monday, another record high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 379 points, or 1.2%, to 33,527.19 and the Nasdaq was 1.6% higher, at 13,705.59.

The gains came after the U.S. government reported that employers went on a hiring spree in March, adding 916,000 jobs, the most since August.

Traders had a delayed reaction to the encouraging jobs report, which was released on Friday when stock trading was closed. Investors were further encouraged by a report Monday showing

that the services sector recorded record growth in March as orders, hiring and prices surged.

Both employment and the services industry have been lagging other areas of the economy throughout the recovery. Analysts have said that both need to show signs of growth in order for the recovery to remain on track. In the US, the strong rollout of vaccinations is making an eventual return to normal for many people seem clearer and closer.

"The jobs report underscored the rebound in the labor market," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strate-

gist at Prudential Financial. "The only thing that can stymie this rebound, this recovery, will be that COVID-19 launches another wave."

The gains were broad Monday, with nearly every sector rising. Companies that stand to benefit from a broader reopening of the economy and economic growth also did well. Norwegian Cruise Line jumped 7.2% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500 as it seeks permission to restart cruises out of US ports in July with a vaccination requirement for passengers and crew members. Rival Carnival rose 4.8% and Royal Caribbean gained 3.5%.

**NBK Concludes Its Participation in the Sixth Edition of "Innovation Challenge" Program**



National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has concluded its participation in the sixth edition of "Innovation Challenge" program organized by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), in collaboration with the Executive Education Center at Wharton School - University of Pennsylvania.

NBK's participating team presented the bank's project, which included new and innovative banking solutions and services. This project was discussed with the bank's executive management led by Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO of NBK - Kuwait, Mr. Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO of NBK - Kuwait, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, General Manager-Group Human Resources, and Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman, General Manager of Consumer Banking Group.

The project presented by NBK team was approved by of the management after a series of presentations and discussions, and is going into the implementation in the coming period.

The teams participating in this unique program consist of two to four members representing the participating institution. These teams engage in a real-world applied innovation journey that combines innovative learning and practical application in order to execute innovation initiatives that can provide added value to the participating institutions.

The Innovation Challenge 2020 program, which was postponed last past year due to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, aimed to develop innovation capabilities in the private sector institutions, with a view to promote the culture of creativity and knowledge growth that contribute to transforming Kuwait's economy into a knowledge-based economy.

The program covered various topics and activities including

successful execution of innovation initiatives, innovation planning, measuring the impact of innovation, as well as an innovation tournament workshop. However, due to the exceptional circumstances wrought by COVID-19 pandemic, participants' scheduled visit to the Silicon Valley companies in San Francisco, USA, was replaced by remote lectures and workshops.

The Innovation Challenge program, launched by KFAS for the first time in 2015, is one of the most prominent executive training programs held annually, bringing together a small group of selected companies to collaborate with prestigious business schools as they seek to develop new initiatives and projects that foster a culture of innovation within each company. Following the competitive application process, participants spend four months learning and training, as they explore innovative ways to make positive changes in their companies, and add great value to their customer experiences. Each team then tackles a company-specific challenge and tries to solve an issue during the training period.

The KFAS Innovation Challenge has been developed specifically for Kuwait's private sector companies, over the years in collaboration with world-class academic institutions such as University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Anderson School of Management, University of California, Berkeley, Royal College of Art-London and University of Cambridge.

NBK always strives to develop its human capital and enrich their experiences as they are the main pillar for the bank's excellence and leadership. This is accomplished through constantly providing the world's best specialized training programs that meet the highest industry international standards in order to encourage professional development and successfully position our workforce to take charge as future leaders •

Bank announces Jeep Wrangler Winner

**KFH Announces Winners of "Win with Hesabi" draw**



Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the 3rd and 4th draws of "Win with Hesabi" campaign that offers 3 Jeep Wrangler Sport cars and cash prizes worth KD250 for 10 winners each month.

KFH has also announced Rawan Al-Shubaiki as the winner of the Jeep Wrangler Sport, which is the first car of the 3 cars offered in the campaign.

The draw was held at KFH Headquarters under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The winners are: Yousif Al-Rashidi, Mariam Al-Jemaz, Mohammed Al-Mutairi, Rawan Yousif, Noor Al-Hashash, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Noorah Al-Enzi, Mariam Al-Azmi, Nawal Hussain, Abdullah Al-Sahli, Hessa Al-Otaibi, Sumew Al-Saeedi, Najat Al-Saqr, Sarah Al-Azmi, Farah Al-Hussaini, Yousif Al-Onaizi, Fatima Al-Bannaw, Hoor Al-Favaz, Dhahi Al-Hajri, Manar Al-Dhefiri.

This campaign comes as part of KFH continuing efforts to add value to Hesabi customers including advantages, discounts, prizes, and exclusive rewards. Once the social allowance is transferred to Hesabi program, customers enter the monthly draw on 10 prizes of KD250

each, in addition to 3 special draws on Jeep Wrangler Sport cars.

KFH offers "Hesabi for Youth" with a variety of privileges as part of its continued endeavor to provide adequate customer care, innovate new products and services and fulfill the needs of all customers of various age categories and interests. Services and products are tailored to suit customers' needs and provide distinguished service as per global standards regarding quality, accuracy and speed.

Hesabi" program has been designed to meet the needs of youth and aspire for their active lifestyle. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesabi prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc. KFH continues to launch marketing campaigns to reward youth customers. Hesabi for Youth represents the ambitions and expectations of youth category and copes with KFH aspirations to attract the largest portion of youth who represents the major part of Kuwaiti society. Also, the account represents KFH initiative to diversify banking services and products •